



Staff photo by Chet White

Gretna freshman quarterback Nick Miller (10) threw for eight TDs.

## Gretna freshman QB has record night

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APPOMATTOX — The Civil War ended in Appomattox with a peaceable surrender by Robert E. Lee and his confederate army nearly 250 years ago.

On Monday night, Gretna High's football team showed the Raiders no such mercy in a 58-9 massacre as freshman quarterback Nick Miller unleashed an aerial assault that ranks as one of the premier passing performances in Virginia High School League history.

Appomattox was hoping to get into a

**Prep Football**  
**Gretna 58**  
**Appomattox 9**

ground battle with the high-flying Hawks in the Dogwood District duel on its home field. Instead, Miller dropped the bomb on the Raiders' 5-2 defensive secondary.

"They gave us that 52 straight-man coverage all night long," Gretna coach Chris Thurman said. "They took our run away, but they manned us up on the outside and obviously, the pass was there. With no free safe-

ty in the middle, the middle of the field was open all night."

Subbing in for senior Tyon Bennett, who started the first series, Miller completed 13 of 17 passes for 439 yards and eight touchdowns.

Miller, who also rushed 11 times for 65 yards and Gretna's ninth touchdown, established new Gretna school standards for passing yardage and touchdown passes in a game, surpassing Vic Hall, now a starting defensive back at Virginia, in both categories.

His single-game touchdown total ranks him second in Virginia High School League. Please see **GRETNA**, Page D5

# THE FUTURE AMHERST COUNTY FOOTBALL STARTS NOW

*'We run the same offense and defense as the varsity. It's watered down. It's not as complex.'*

Brian Wilson,  
Monelison Middle  
School coach

Derrick McCoy,  
18, plays varsity  
at Amherst High

Lancer success is  
a tier-based system

By Laura Clark  
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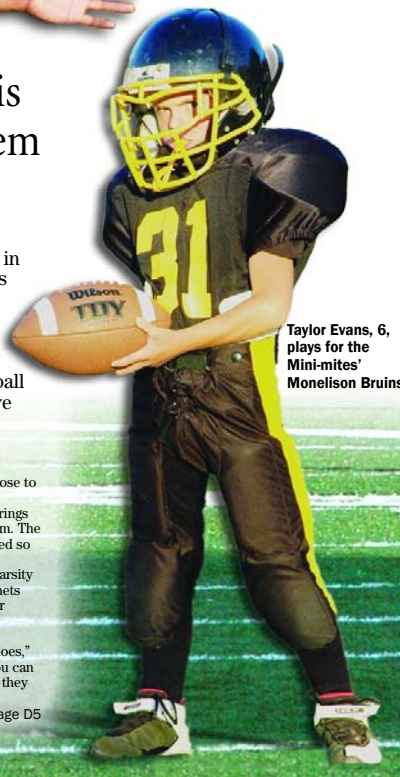
**A**MHERST — Fall Fridays in Amherst County find cars snaking down Main Street to the lights of Lancer Stadium. People tailgate in the upper parking lot with all the anticipation of a college football game. By the thousands, they have come to support last year's state champions.

The bleachers are filled with kids like Kody Tatlock, 10, who sit near the front row to be close to the players. Tatlock plays quarterback for the Amherst Wolverines, and is one of the many springs that flow into the high school's football program. The Amherst County High School team is undefeated so far this year.

On Saturdays, Tatlock plays for the junior varsity team. By the dozens, boys in bobble-head helmets take the fields. Whether Amherst Wolverines or Monelison Bruins, they aren't pretending to be NFLers Peyton Manning or Randy Moss.

"They love high schoolers. I know my boy does," said Karl Tatlock, Kody's father and coach. "You can hear it when the kids play. They'll call out that they want to be Rose or McCoy."

Please see **FUTURE**, Page D5



Taylor Evans, 6,  
plays for the  
Mini-mites'  
Monelison Bruins

Photos by Terry Todd

**230**  
Youth players

**69**  
Middle school players

**49**  
Junior Varsity players

**54**  
Varsity players

### WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

**Baseball**

Joe Girardi has been offered the Yankees' coaching job  
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**College Football**



The Hokies are still not sure if Tyrod Taylor will play against Georgia Tech  
Notebook, Page D5

**NASCAR**

Dale Earnhardt Jr. takes his first laps in a Hendrick car in preparation for 2008  
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Today's  
**TOP**  
TV games



Hockey: Penguins @ Wild  
7 p.m., VS  
NBA: Rockets @ Lakers  
10:30 p.m., TNT