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High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

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64 Pages

SC Headed for 50 Major College Signees; 42 signed currently

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Moncks Corner—The transfer portal has not reduced the number of major college football offers extended to the 2027 Class of football prospects in the state of the South Carolina, but it has affected many other states in the Southeast, and across the nation. For sure.

“The High School Sports Report” has been tracking major college football scholarships offered in the Palmetto State very closely since the publication created “The HSSR Top 100 Program” back in 1987. The truth of the matter is that our numbers, as a state, have slightly increased since the portal hit full stride around four years ago.

Before we go any further, we always pause to thank **Mark Grainger** and the fine folks at *Modern Turf* in Irmo and Rembert for their sponsorship of this ever-popular recruiting page that is read by well over 300 colleges, large and small across the nation.

There was a very unusual recruiting tactic used by the University of South Carolina baseball program that paid off for them in early August. **Emerald High** head football coach **Tad Dubose** tells the *HSSR* his Vikings football team practiced each morning at 6 a.m.

He has a talented junior QB by the name of **Beau Hite** (6-1, 170) who is quite a two-sport star in both baseball and football. In fact, Perfect Games considered Hite to be the number one shortstop in the state of South Carolina. They also rate him among the best defensive shortstops for his age and grade in the nation.

The *HSSR* just also happens to rate Hite as the top 2028 QB prospect in the state of South Carolina and we have been following the accomplishments of Hite on athletic fields very closely for the past two years. Coach Dubose tells the story like this: “There we are at 6 a.m. starting football practice when a car load of South Carolina college baseball coaches walks up to our practice field,

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Unleashed & Untamed



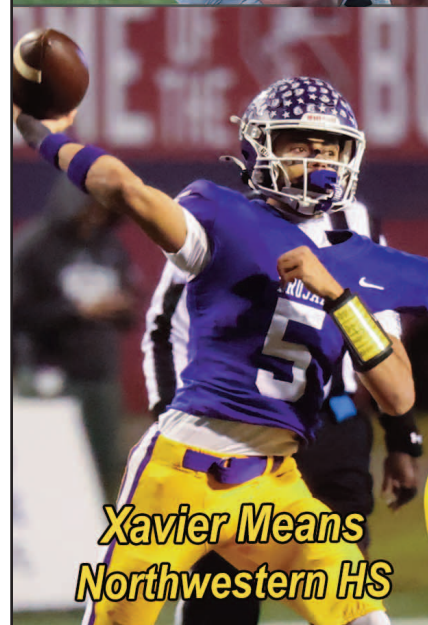
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Williamsburg Academy



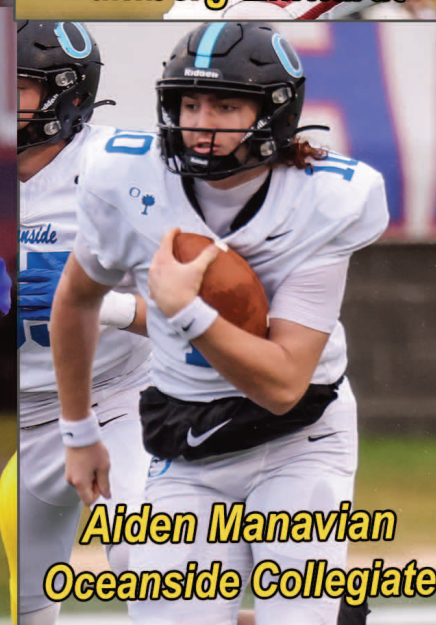
Brian McMillian
Bamberg-Ehrhardt



Joshua Staley
Ridge View HS



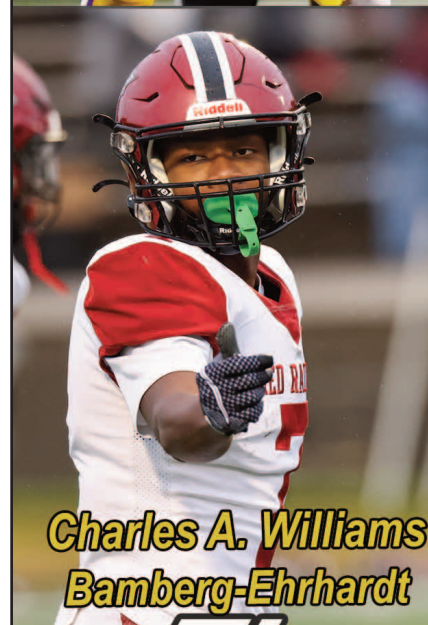
Xavier Means
Northwestern HS



Aiden Manavian
Oceanside Collegiate



Beau Hite
Emerald HS



Charles A. Williams
Bamberg-Ehrhardt



Jaiden Bryant
Irmo HS



Michael Martin
Christ Church

The Next Chapter!

A Message From The
Publisher
Billy G. Baker
email: bilrecruit@aol.com



A salute to the late John McKissick as the 2026 prep football season kicks off in South Carolina

Moncks Corner—With the beginning of each new football season, I catch myself dwelling on the close relationship I was blessed to have had with the late **John McKicick** of Summerville.

We met on my very first day of high school in 1969, as a freshman at Summerville High School, when I had to prove to my English teacher (**Janice Hilton**) that I could walk down to Coach McKissick’s office, just minutes before his important Monday afternoon practice, and schedule an appointment with him, to hopefully write my first story ever about him, and the Greenville football team. Three months later, the Green Wave would win a state title over the **Easley** Green Wave!

Ms. Hilton’s charge to me was rather blunt. “No appointment, and you are not going to be on the school newspaper,” said Ms. Hilton, who just happened to be my home room teacher, by an act of God. “I need to know that you can follow instructions and meet deadlines.”

Four days earlier, I had left the John de la Howe Children’s Home in McCormick, SC, after three years, with a deep appreciation to an older sister (**Sue George**) who answered a call from God to take me in and help direct me towards a better life.

When I knocked on “*Coaches*” office door that afternoon, I was nervous now seeing the “*The Coach*” through my eyes as a young boy, I was truly a deer in head lights. No words were coming out of mouth, but I was trying hard to say something, and just when “Coach” was about to shut the door on me, and my dreams, God intervened once again.

What I said to influence “Coach” from not closing the door completely, suddenly got his full attention. The words God put in my mouth prevented the door from being closed to me. I honesty have never

been able to recall what those words were, but they were very clear to “Coach” I can assure you. God rescued me yet again, in that moment, and I finally got some words out and “Coach” seemed stunned about what I had said. Coach asked to me to come sit at his desk and then he asked me about what he had just heard.me say.

“Young man you just said it was important for you to get to know me, because one day I am going to be the winningest coach of all time, and if you didn’t get an interview, you could not be on the school newspaper and you wanted to get to know me, and my football team better,” said Coach, still wondering about the words that God had put in my mouth.

Coach told me that what he heard come out of my mouth must stay between him and I, and that it would remain our big secret. He then called me his new little buddy. The next day he brought 16 years of scrap books his wife had started keeping on his career for me to study. He put a card table against his desk, and I was welcome to eat lunch with him any time, and I often did.

“Coach” invited me to a football practice the next day. I often rode away games with the team. No doubt in my mind that our awesome God made our relationship happen. God is great, all the time!

The next morning, Ms. Hilton called the roll and, then without hesitation, asked me if I was able to get an interview with the “Coach.” When I told her it was a struggle at first, but I was able to finally get some words out, and that “Coach” invited me into his office, and we talked so long he was late for the first time to one of his practices! I told her I was having lunch with the “Coach” that day and that he had placed a card desk against his desk and that is

where I would be reviewing 16 years of scrap books on his career. I also told her that I was now a new little buddy to “Coach.”

“Well, young man, you are now the newest member of the Pine Log school newspaper,” she said, and those words brought pure joy to my heart.

Years later, I had the honor of helping “Coach” and his late wife Joan, write two books on his historic coaching career. The other day I revisited one of the books and here is some advice that might bode well for younger head coaches, just starting their lives in the coaching profession. These are the words from “Coach” himself:

“I am convinced that good communication has played a large part in any success we have had at Summerville. The ability to communicate and teach our ideas to our players has been a key point in our success. One has to be able to explain strategy, so students can understand-not only how to execute, but why. Then we go from the chalk board inside, to the practice fields outside, and let the players execute in real live drills action what we have shown them or drawn up with the grease pen.

When they see the plan working through their own efforts in practice, they can usually successfully execute the same results in a game. I am convinced, with few exceptions, that athletes rarely perform in games what they haven’t first mastered in practice.”
—**John McKissick**.

Good luck to all 265-varsity public and independent schools playing high school football in the state of South Carolina this season. Make some memories for the scrap books of life!

If you have any questions about the HSSR, or about our mission, please call me direct at 843-200-9555.

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Florence Area, continued from pg. 23
emy.

Wilson. the other Florence school that is a member of Region 7, is also off to a 1-1 start. The Tigers, in their second season under head coach **Brian Wilson**, lost to Hartsville 55-34 in their opener. They rebounded though with a 21-0 victory over defending AA lower state champion **Hampton County**.

All of the Tigers’ points came in the second half. **Kayden Bethea** broke off a 72-yard scoring run in the third quarter. **Mark Law** ran for the 2-point conversion to make it 8-0.

Midlands Feature, continued from pg. 32
Bay Aug. 21, travel to **Spring Valley** (0-2) Friday.

Spring Valley at Irmo
Irmo bounced back from its season-opening loss to Rock Hill Aug. 21 and shut out Spring Valley 37-0 in one half of play at Harry Parone Stadium.

A lightning delay was announced at halftime, and shortly afterward both teams agreed to end the game with the Yellow Jackets declared the winner.

Irmo quarterback **Britton Davis** had touchdown passes of 20 yards to **Isaiah Minor** and 23 yards to **Ethan Singletary**.

Rick Vanderhorst had a 5-yard touchdown run and **Zay Chew** a score from one yard out. **Isaiah Moton** closed out the scoring with a 25-yard field goal just before halftime.

Defensively, **Jevonte Hill** intercepted a pass and returned it 20 yards for a touchdown.

Tyrone Jennings, Teddy Waymyers, and Jaiden Bryant each had a sack, with Bryant forcing a fumble.

Irmo (1-1) travels to **Lower Richland** (1-1) and River Bluff travels to Spring Valley Friday.

Augusta Christian at Hammond
Cade Amel threw for 148 yards and four touch-

BHP, continued from pg. 53

Crane said. “He’s a young man who has a bright future as well. Anytime you start a freshman quarterback, there are highs and lows. He’s had some really high moments, but there have been times when he was learning as well. But that’s part of the growth process. He has done a good job for us. And I’m looking forward to the next few weeks and years with him.”

Then on defense, there is linebacker **Ty Dubose**. “He has that overall speed and athleticism that

In the fourth quarter, **Taylor Brand** caught a 66-yard touchdown pass from **Nabryson Elliott**. The final touchdown came on a 5-yard run by **Zyier Lyde**. Brand kicked the extra point for the game’s final point.

The defense was led by **Quiyon Bryant** with 13 total tackles. **Jordan Davis** had seven tackles, including two tackles for loss, and **Jabron McFadden** had a team high three tackles for a loss. **Joseph Wilson** had two interceptions.

Wilson will be going on the road for the first time to face **Darlington** on September 4. The Tigers will

down passes as **Hammond** (2-0) cruised past **Augusta Christian** 49-0.

Wham Walker (four catches, 43 yards), **Caden Young** (2 catches for 30 yards), **Asher Gause** (2 catches for 24 yards, and **Colin Evans** caught Amel’s TD passes, with Evans’ only catch of the night going for 44 yards.

Mikel Corbet had 12 carries for 102 yards, while **Blaze Barnes** and **Kingston Washington** had touchdowns.

Hammond travels to **Laurence Manning Academy** (1-0), 24-6 winners over **East Clarendon**.

Gilbert at A.C. Flora (Thursday)
Gilbert improved to 2-0 on the season with a 24-14 victory over **A.C. Flora** Thursday night at Memorial Stadium.

The Indians got two touchdown runs from **Jaylen Brost** and a third from **Gavin Elliott**. Placekicker **Noah Blackwell** hit a 28-yard field goal midway through the second quarter to break a 7-7 tie.

The Falcons, 31-21 winners over **White Knoll** the week before, got two scores off of **Zion Gaddist** touchdowns runs.

Gilbert came into the game without the use of wide

open their region schedule on September 18 on the road against **Conway**.

Coach Wilson believes the best is still yet to come for the Tigers.

“We installed a whole new offense so we’re still learning it,” he said. “Defense I can see that we’ve gotten better. The players have a better idea, knowing what I expect this season. I believe they are going to be rising to the occasion.”

receiver **Chandler Guthrie**. Guthrie had six catches for 177 yards and a touchdown in Gilbert’s 21-14 win at Nation Ford Aug. 21, but was banged up after the action and missed practice last week.

“I challenged them, and I made it personal,” Indians head coach **Ozzie Exume** said. “At the end of the day, we’re either going to fold or come up and play. And they came up and played, our tight-end group especially. We knew that ... it had to happen up front, and it did today.”

The Indians offensive line was effective in helping move the ball down the field to the tune of 241 rushing yards and 335 total offensive yards.

Gilbert forced three turnovers, including **Tyson Lewie’s** interception in the closing minutes of the game. That pick sealed the win for the Indians, who took over and drained the clock with a short drive.

A.C. Flora quarterback **Riggs Scott** finished the night 19-for-21 for 179 yards and an interception. Gaddist had 76 yards and both scores on 13 rushing attempts.

Gilbert plays at **South Aiken** and A.C. Flora travels to **Midland Valley** this week.

Other contributors to watch are **McCray Pruitt, Jaxson Musuk, Cade Ford, Jonah Barras, Carter Burgess, Charlie Haynie, Sam Love** and **Emerson Goodwin**.

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Oceanside, continued from pg. 38

hard to gel, but we are learning on the go. We’re pretty inexperienced.””

Defensive backs **Michael Strickler** and **Cole Gaspar** are two key returners on the defense. Strickler, a hybrid safety, had nearly 100 tackles last

Wilson Hall, continued from pg. 46

yard line. Wisely converts 4th and 5 for the TD but the 2-point attempt fails. Another 35-yard completion Blatt set up a 3-yard TD run by Wisely and the failed 2-pt conversion put the Barons ahead 20-6.

In the second half, the Eagles found their strengths. Langhals connected for TD pass from the 20 but the 2pt conversion failed making the score 20-12 in the 3rd. Gooch connects for a 55-yard TD to make it 26-12 again missing the 2-pt conversion. HHC answers with Langhals driving his team to

Dorchester Academy, continued from pg. 55

baum (5-9,190), sophomore **Mathew Byron** (5-9,200), and junior **Jac Carn** (6-2,290). All also play along the defensive front seven.

“I’m excited about this year. The guys have been

Gaffney, continued from pg. 16

more (6-0,215) is a DE. Soph **Kiante Morgan** is a key reserve on the DL.

The linebackers are **AJ Logan**, **TY McGill**, **Peanut Bailey**, and senior **Karein Good**. The secondary is led by highly touted junior **Zion Dawkins** (5-11, 175) who currently holds offers from **Vir-**

Williamsburg, continued from pg. 44

because of weather,” he said. “Laurence Manning was going to be a very tough test for our team. You can’t fret over it too much at this point though. We won the next game, which is important.

“I think we learned a lot about ourselves in the first three weeks. We just have to continue to improve. It was kind of a gutcheck for both the players and the coaches following the jamboree. We’ve been working every day to get better since then.”

Berkeley, continued from pg. 20

have nicer things then us but our strength and conditioning program is what we focus on, and we feel like we are in great shape as a team.”

The stats leaders for Berkeley after two big wins are quite impressive. Rivers has completed 32-of-50 passes for 520 yards and seven TD’s. He has also rushed for 207 yards on 17 carries and one TD.

The top RB’s are Washington who has 13 carries

SJCA, continued from pg. 21

dent) to the Charleston area. Athletic’ has always been a part of the Jackson family and when the assistant AD position opened at SJCA he put his hat in the ring and got the job.

“When the assistant AD resigned, I was looking do something different. I had always been involved in sports so I talked with **Becky Ellison** and Shaun if they would consider me for the position. They thought I would be a good fit so I took the assistant spot”, Jackson said. “Then unfortunately some things and Shaun resigned so Becky asked if I would be interested in the AD job and I decided to take it.”

Coach said some of the biggest challenges since taking over is the many hats that he has to wear at

James Island, continued from pg. 50

the five that helped flip the field.

The Trojan offensive line is led by **Liberty** senior commitment **Isreal “Shank” Harris** (6-3, 315). “Shank is the leader our offensive line group and they all played well up-front giving Brady time to find his open receivers,” said Coach Blades.

The other Trojan OL contributors are **Demontrai Cooper** (6-2, 290) along with **Anthony Simmons**, **Ridge Smith-Cooper** (6-0,270), **Dallyce Richardson**, and center **Brennon Hammond**.

Dantzler, also a baseball stand-out, played with a lot of poise in his first career QB start. He threw touchdown passes of 82,61,80 and 33 yards during the

season while Gaspar had five interceptions.

Awesome Cull and **Will Zorn** are the starting ends, with Bean and **Jayden Gates** on the inside up front. Working at linebacker are **Tyler Stafford**, **Isiah Brock**, and **Blanton Kessinger**.

Barons 19-yard line, then a QB draw for the TD to make it 26-26 with under 4 minutes in the game.

Wilson Hall can’t keep the drive alive, punts to HHC and Langhals get the ball to Richardson for the go-ahead TD to make it 26-32. After the kick-off, an interception by HHC sets up the Eagles at the Barons 10-yard line and Langhals scores again. Final score 38-26 HHC.

HHCA Head Coach **Ron Peduzzi** shared his thoughts about the game, “the last three times we’ve

putting in the work on the field and in the weight room all summer. They have bought in, they are very coachable, and they are a hard working group. We need to take care of what we can take care of

ginia Tech, **Duke**, and **Syracuse** among others. **Money Monroe**, **Kareem Shaw**, and **Ayden Montgomery** round out the back end.

Gerado (Gu Gu) Segura is the teams place kicker while Shaw is the punter.

Coach Littlejohn also wanted to give a shout-out

Williamsburg has a tough non-region foe set up for its next game as it plays host to 3-time defending SCISA AAA state runner-up Wilson Hall on September 4. The Stallions then begin play in Region 2-AA, opening at **Greenwood Christian School** on September 11 before playing host to **Spartanburg Day School** on September 18.

Williamsburg’s other two region contests will both be on the road. The Stallions will play at **Orangeburg**

for 56 yards and two TD’s while Bryson McGee has 65 yards on 10 carries and one TD.

The Stags have five receivers with five catches or more after two games. They are McGee (7-for-96), **Elijah Mitchell** (2-93), **John Cleveland** (5-89-2 TD), **Malik Callen** (5-88-3 TD) and **Jonathan Mitchell** (5-69).

Three defensive players have 10 tackles after two

SJCA. In addition to all his athletic duties, he also teaches three gym classes at the school. Like all small schools, public or private, numbers for each sports are always the issue.

“The two biggest things are having enough hours to do everything that needs to be done and struggling with numbers in our sports. We are a basketball school and last season we had to make cuts but in the other sports we are always recruiting from the halls,” said Jackson.

Jackson has been a good fit for SJCA with its family and religious values and last year the seniors showed how much he has meant to the school despite not being from around here as they dedicated the year

game. He will certainly remember that his first three completions in the first quarter all went for TD’s that gave the Trojans a 21-0 commanding lead early.

The Trojan defense has been led by DE **Robert Grant** (6-4, 245),

The Trojan’s first touchdown against the Land Sharks came on an 82- yard bomb to junior WR **Charlie Schrecker** who used his speed to get behind the Shark secondary with 10:54 left in the first period. On their second possession of the game Dantzler found Puitu on the far sideline for a 61-yard scoring reception with 5:12 left in the opening period.

Taking over at their own 30-yard line following a

The Landsharks opened the season with two losses, falling to James Island in the season opener (41-21) and to Cannon Academy of Concord, NC (22-21).

come up here to play them, they’ve beaten us.” Being down 20-6 at half-time Peduzzi reflected, “We challenged our guys to stand up and get after it.” With only three seniors this season, he said, “Our seniors were outstanding in the second half and I’m real proud of them.”

Hilton Head Christian improved to 3-0 and after a bye week hosts **Calhoun Academy** on 11 Sept. Wilson Hall now 1-1 next travels to Kingtree to face **Williamsburg Academy** on Friday.

.We want to dominate the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball,” coach said.

to two number varsity assistant coaches. They are RB coach **Jason Winstead**, formerly head coach at Goose Creek High along with new specialty team coach **Brandon Thoms**.

Gaffney also has one of the best football stats perrons in the state in veteran **Kinnett Phillips**.

Preparatory School on October 2 and at longtime rival **Pee Dee Academy** to close the regular season on October 30.

The other three non-region contests are at **Lee Academy** on September 25, at home against **Florence Christian School** on October 9 and at home against **St. John’s Christian Academy** on October 16.

games. They are MLB **Marshaun Porchia**, OLB **Copeland President**, and LB **Tyren Odoms**. LB **Avery Everett** has 9 hits on the tackle index followed by DL **Malik Croker** with 8. DE **Chance Coleman** has six tackles, four TFL and three sacks.

book to him.

“For the senior class to recognize me and realize how much hard work I put into SJCA and how important they were to me was a humbling and rewarding feeling,” Jackson said.

Dr. **Jerry Brown** is back on the gridiron as he takes over the Cavaliers football program while **Tren-ton Eden** will be taking over the volleyball team.

The rest of the Cav’s coaching staff is **Hannah Hanks** (Cheerleading), **Mike Grazino** (CC), **Bob Winters** (BBB), **Rick Smith** (GBB), **Stuart Pierce** (B) and **Charity Dennis** (SB)

short punt, Trojan senior RB **Mykell Warthen** (5-8,200) scored on the first play to extend the lead to 21-0 with 3:10 left in the opening period after place kicker **Issac Lorentz** made his third PAT of the game. The Island Boys went on to win the game 41-14.

Some of the tackle leader son defense for JI after two games include four players with 12 are more tackles. They are senior SS **Jakayden Pendergrass** (19), LB **Bryson Bowers** (16), LB **Carter Patno** (15) and LB **Tru Wallace** (12).

2026

Football Stats

RUSHING									
PLAYER	SCHOOL	YARDS	ATTEMPTS	TDS					
JOSEPH MORSE	W W KING ACADEMY	480	22	9					
DAVID BOLDEN	PICKENS	292	18	3					
BROOKS DOW	PICKENS	267	21	6					
TRENTON LYNCH	SPARTANBURG	258	21	2					
COOPER FRANKLIN	CROSS SCHOOLS	230	7	3					
JORDAN TURNER	BETHESDA ACADEMY	205	12	5					
TYON FANNING	LUGOFF-ELGIN	200	20	2					
JEFFERY ARMSTRONG	BETHESDA ACADEMY	189	22	4					
JAVLEN LYLES	WOODRUFF	181	13	2					
PRESTON SMITH	MIDLAND VALLEY	180	20	4					
PARKER KIZER	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	171	3	1					
CHRISTOPHER DEAN	EMERALD	167	18	0					
CARTER FOUNTAIN	WEST-OAK	167	24	5					
AMIRE WHITE	GAFFNEY	163	22	1					
LONDON ROBINSON	LAKE WYLIE	160	21	3					
MARQUEL WILLIAMS	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY	159	17	1					
JACKSON HUTTO	W W KING ACADEMY	157	15	1					
B J SUITS	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	155	21	3					
JORDAN BLACKMON	DILLON CHRISTIAN	145	20	3					
JEREMY KENDALL	PINEWOOD PREP	144	24	3					
XAVIER GETER	MIDLAND VALLEY	135	19	3					
PRESTON BIVENS	EASLEY	133	14	2					
TAYLOR MURPHY	JOHN PAUL II	132	18	1					
JAYDEN PEEPLES	BLACKVILLE-HILDA	132	18	1					
JADON INABINETT	JOHN PAUL II	125	19	1					
GRAYSON SALEGO	PINEWOOD PREP	124	19	3					
ETHAN PORTER	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	122	8	2					
CALE OWENS	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	120	15	3					
KRES LANGHALS	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	113	14	1					
ANDREW GOODMAN	CROSS SCHOOLS	105	6	2					
JAVIN RISHER	HILTON HEAD	103	13	0					
OWEN GEORGE	ACADEMIC MAGNET	102	13	0					
TYSON PEPPER	SOUTHSIDE	102	19	2					
AVERY KING	BROOKLAND-CAYCE	101	13	0					
NOAH CZARNECKI	HILTON HEAD	100	16	1					
HAYNE BURDEN	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	99	1	1					
HUNTER O'NEAL	W J KEENAN	96	18	3					
CADEN YOUNG	HAMMOND	94	6	1					
JAYCE EDWARDS	LAKE CITY	93	6	1					
HENRY RIVERS	BERKELEY	93	10	1					
JAVYON RHODES	EASLEY	93	13	1					
RYLIE JOHNSON	PICKENS	93	9	0					
TREVOR TONON	BISHOP ENGLAND	92	14	0					
TYRAN GRANT	THORNWELL	86	3	1					
XAVIER MEANS	NORTHWESTERN	85	19	1					
BRODEN MITCHESON	FORT MILL	84	12	0					
DUTCH STAFFORD	ANDREWS	84	21	1					
LOGAN BRAGG	LAURENS	80	12	1					
TRUMARI KINARD-SHELTON	THORNWELL	78	9	1					
TRAVION ROBINSON	LAURENS	78	16	1					
CHARLIE LAWHHEAD	CARDINAL NEWMAN	77	8	1					
CALEB HARDY	LAURENS ACADEMY	77	10	0					
ERIC RICHARDSON	LUGOFF-ELGIN	74	2	1					
DANTE HOWSE	W J KEENAN	74	5	0					
TYLER MAPES	CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY	73	8	0					
A J YEARGIN	DIXIE	73	8	1					
TYLER GREEN	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	71	6	1					
KENDARIS BAILEY	GAFFNEY	69	9	2					
KEVIN DURHAM	EASTSIDE	66	10	1					
JAMES WILSON	BEN LIPPEN	66	14	3					
AADEN MANNING	CAMDEN	64	11	0					
TREYON WILLIAMSON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	64	15	2					
JONATHAN EVANS	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	64	16	1					
DYLAN MCKEY	GAFFNEY	61	6	0					
KAEAL OBERRY	SOUTH AIKEN	60	6	0					

RECEIVING					YARDS	RECEPTS	TDS					
PLAYER	SCHOOL	YARDS	RECEPTS	TDS								
RHYAN WATSON	LAKE WYLIE	283	8	3								
THOMAS CORBETT	COLLETON PREP	269	9	4								
EVAN WRIGHT	PACHS	246	13	3								
TRE GREEN	PINEWOOD PREP	204	11	2								
DEUCE BRADLEY JR	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	187	5	3								
MICAH MCCLINTOCK	WOODRUFF	183	8	2								
JEREMIAH WALTERS	HILTON HEAD	175	7	2								
GAVIN TAYLOR	PACHS	155	8	1								
LAVORIS LUCAS	PINEWOOD PREP	151	5	3								
CURRY GLEATON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	142	8	1								
CURTIS BELL	WOODRUFF	138	6	2								
M J SCOTT	BETHESDA ACADEMY	131	5	2								
JOSEPH HOUPPT	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	129	5	3								
ELIJAH HORNBERGER	LAURENS ACADEMY	128	3	2								
LEYTON SCOTT	EASLEY	124	4	0								
JACKSON RICHARDSON	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	121	5	2								
DARIUS CARTER	RIVER BLUFF	118	7	1								
CALEB HARDY	LAURENS ACADEMY	115	3	3								
MICHAEL TRAYNUM	BEN LIPPEN	113	8	1								
ALLEN CUMMINGS	AIKEN	113	8	0								
DEZIRN DAVIS	BETHESDA ACADEMY	106	5	1								
TUCKER MCGINTY	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	103	4	0								
MARCUS SIMPSON JR	W J KEENAN	102	4	2								
CHASE WIMPEY	EASLEY	96	10	2								
BRAYDEN PATTERSON	LAURENS	94	6	1								
ISAIAH SMITH	CAMDEN	94	3	1								
BLAKE GOODMAN	SOUTH AIKEN	91	3	2								
KALDEN KINARD	COLLETON PREP	91	3	1								
ZHIR WITCHER	BETHESDA ACADEMY	91	7	0								
HEYWARD MOORE	PINEWOOD PREP	90	8	2								
R J HUGHES	CARDINAL NEWMAN	89	4	3								
KERION BROWN	EMERALD	87	4	1								
BENNETT FLANE	BROOKLAND-CAYCE	82	3	0								

TACKLES		TOTAL	SOLO	ASSIST
JACOB BUSSEY	W W KING ACADEMY	25	10	15
KAMOND YOUNG	BETHESDA ACADEMY	21	10	11
ISAIAH JONES	BETHESDA ACADEMY	21	12	9
LUIE SOBEY	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	20	4	16
ELIAS LITTLETON	LAURENS ACADEMY	19	15	4
IVAN WATT	PACHS	17	12	5
BEN BAILEY	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	18	10	8
CHANNING DOUGLAS	PACHS	18	5	13
ELI GARRETT	LAURENS ACADEMY	17	10	7
CASH MAJAR	LUGOFF-ELGIN	17	12	5
BEN REILLY	PACHS	17	5	12
KOHNER BOUKNIGHT	PACHS	17	7	10
HAYDEN DOERFLEIN	EMERALD	16	4	12
SILAS COOK	PACHS	15	8	7
GAVIN TAYLOR	PACHS	15	2	13
LUIE HANKS	WEST-OAK	14	10	4
LOGAN BAKER	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	14	10	4
HAYNE RUDEN	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	14	10	4
ADAM MCCONNAGHY	PACHS	14	5	9
NATHAN MACMURDO	CARDINAL NEWMAN	13	10	3
LEVI GIBBONS	RIVER BLUFF	13	2	11
TYLER GREEN	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	13	4	9
CALEB HARDY	LAURENS ACADEMY	13	8	5
JACE COLEMAN	LUGOFF-ELGIN	13	6	7
NOAH BERNES	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	13	1	12
TAYLOR MURPHY	JOHN PAUL II	13	9	4
COLTON BLACK	W W KING ACADEMY	13	4	9
STONE PORTER	BEN LIPPEN	12	5	7
JAKE WILLIAMS	WEST-OAK	12	7	5
JAMON BENSON	W J KEEGAN	12	5	7
LANDER GILSON	LEE ACADEMY	12	7	5
KATHY COOK	BETHESDA ACADEMY	12	6	6
CHASE WHITE	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	12	8	4
MCCLELLY TALBERT	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	12	8	4
JAKELL JENKINS	COLLETON COUNTY	12	7	5
JAVON BESSILIE	ANDREWS	12	10	2
HARRISON ARNETT	CAMDEN	12	6	6
LAVAY PENNY	CAMDEN	12	6	6

2026 SCHSL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

REGION 1-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
JAMES F. BYRNES	0-0	1-1	28	35
MAULDIN	0-0	1-1	29	24
EASTSIDE	0-0	0-2	18	75
HILLCREST	0-0	0-2	58	85
J L MANN	0-0	0-2	44	86
WOODMONT	0-0	0-2	59	79

REGION 2-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BOILING SPRINGS	0-0	2-0	41	13
DORMAN	0-0	2-0	75	51
FORT MILL	0-0	2-0	96	24
ROCK HILL	0-0	2-0	52	14
SPARTANBURG	0-0	1-1	41	38
NORTHWESTERN	0-0	0-1	10	15

REGION 3-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
DUTCH FORK	0-0	1-0	35	13
CHAPIN	0-0	1-1	70	63
RIVER BLUFF	0-0	1-1	41	41
LEXINGTON	0-0	0-2	58	76
WHITE KNOLL	0-0	0-2	48	65

REGION 4-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BLYTHEWOOD	0-0	1-1	38	56
GRAY COLLEGIATE	0-0	1-1	48	50
SUMTER	0-0	1-1	41	55
RIDGE VIEW	0-0	0-1	13	35
SPRING VALLEY	0-0	0-2	9	75

REGION 5-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
JAMES ISLAND	0-0	2-0	75	35
SUMMERVILLE	0-0	2-0	73	35
WEST ASHLEY	0-0	0-1	3	18
ASHLEY RIDGE	0-0	0-2	14	67
FT. DORCHESTER	0-0	0-2	21	73
R B STALL	0-0	0-2	7	95
STRATFORD	0-0	0-2	18	60

REGION 6-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BERKELEY	0-0	2-0	80	15
CAROLINA FOREST	0-0	2-0	52	28
WANDO	0-0	2-0	51	23
CANE BAY	0-0	1-1	38	59
GOOSE CREEK	0-0	1-1	53	34
SOCASTEE	0-0	0-2	41	73

REGION 1-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
T L HANNA	0-0	2-0	47	21
GREENWOOD	0-0	1-1	47	28
LAURENS	0-0	1-1	65	63
WESTSIDE	0-0	1-1	60	69
FOUNTAIN INN	0-0	1-1	39	52
EASLEY	0-0	0-2	83	106

REGION 2-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
GAFFNEY	0-0	2-0	67	30
GREER	0-0	2-0	97	31
WADE HAMPTON	0-0	1-0	48	0
GREENVILLE	0-0	1-1	41	43
TRAVELERS REST	0-0	0-1	6	28
RIVERSIDE	0-0	0-2	20	67

REGION 3-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
INDIANLAND	0-0	1-0	49	0
SOUTH POINTE	0-0	1-0	56	0
LAKE WYLIE	0-0	1-0	41	35
CATAWBA RIDGE	0-0	1-1	41	44
CLOVER	0-0	1-1	34	28
YORK	0-0	1-1	49	30
NATION FORD	0-0	0-2	14	77

REGION 4-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
LANCASTER	0-0	2-0	79	44
LUGOFF-ELGIN	0-0	2-0	69	50
A C FLORA	0-0	1-1	45	45
DREHER	0-0	1-1	88	51
RICHLAND NOR'EAST	0-0	1-1	46	41
WESTWOOD	0-0	0-2	0	53

REGION 5-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
AIKEN	0-0	2-0	69	28
MIDLAND VALLEY	0-0	2-0	91	49
SOUTH AIKEN	0-0	2-0	90	20
NORTH AUGUSTA	0-0	1-1	34	37
IRMO	0-0	1-1	51	24
FOX CREEK	0-0	0-2	34	82

REGION 6-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
HILTON HEAD	0-0	2-0	63	45
BEAUFORT	0-0	1-1	54	36
BLUFFTON	0-0	1-1	49	43
LUCY BECKHAM	0-0	1-1	36	37
COLLETON COUNTY	0-0	0-1	0	33
MAY RIVER	0-0	0-1	20	33

REGION 7-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	0-0	2-0	55	24
ST. JAMES	0-0	2-0	49	40
WEST FLORENCE	0-0	1-1	63	54
WILSON	0-0	1-1	35	28
CONWAY	0-0	0-1	14	36
MYRTLE BEACH	0-0	0-2	44	111
SOUTH FLORENCE	0-0	0-2	35	62

REGION 1-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
DANIEL	0-0	2-0	87	35
PICKENS	0-0	2-0	109	47
SENECA	0-0	1-1	40	49
SOUTHSIDE	0-0	1-1	18	61
BEREA	0-0	0-2	22	61
WALHALLA	0-0	0-2	27	93

REGION 2-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
EMERALD	0-0	2-0	91	40
POWDERSVILLE	0-0	1-1	35	42
WREN	0-0	1-1	77	54
BELTON-HONEA PATH	0-0	0-2	21	62
PALMETTO	0-0	0-2	31	58

REGION 3-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
CHAPMAN	0-0	2-0	87	12
BLUE RIDGE	0-0	1-1	49	41
CHRIST CHURCH	0-0	0-2	24	37
GETTYS BROOME	0-0	0-2	45	91
UNION COUNTY	0-0	0-2	0	79

REGION 4-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
GILBERT	0-0	2-0	45	28
AIRPORT	0-0	1-1	48	38
LOWER RICHLAND	0-0	1-1	28	40
CAMDEN	0-0	0-1	25	28
BROOKLAND-CAYCE	0-0	0-2	35	76
SWANSEA	0-0	0-2	55	74

REGION 5-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BISHOP ENGLAND	0-0	2-0	45	14
HANAHAN	0-0	2-0	82	53
NORTH CHARLESTON	0-0	2-0	52	26
GEORGETOWN	0-0	1-1	49	47
OCEANSIDE COLLEGIA	0-0	0-2	42	63

2026 HSSR Football Schedules

SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN		9/25	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		8/28	THORNWELL CHARTER 17-14		9/18	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		SCISA REGION TWO 8-MAN	
(1-2) DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/9	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		9/4	AT NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN		9/25	AT DILLON CHRISTIAN		CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY (0-2)	
8/14	BEN LIPPEN 0-42	10/16	TBA		9/11	ALA-LEXINGTON		10/2	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		OPPONENT SCORE	
8/21	AT ASHEVILLE CHRISTIAN	10/23	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		9/25	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		10/9	AT THOMAS HEYWARD		NEWBERRY ACADEMY 8-33	
38-21		10/30	ORANGEBURG PREP		10/2	AT SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN		10/23	BEAUFORT ACADEMY		LAURENS ACADEMY 6-38	
8/28	WHITMIRE 6-24				10/9	ORANGEBURG PREP		10/30	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		AT COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	
9/4	AT THOMAS JEFFERSON, NC		COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		10/16	TBA					AT JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY	
9/11	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN	(3-0)			10/23	TBA			HOLLY HILL ACADEMY (1-1)		W.W. KING ACADEMY	
9/18	AT NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/30	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		AT KING'S ACADEMY	
9/25	TBA	8/14	HILTON HEAD PREP 50-6					8/21	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN 22-6		AT WARDLAW ACADEMY	
10/2	SPARTANBURG DAY	8/21	AT LEE ACADEMY 44-0			WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		8/28	CAROLINA ACADEMY 8-28		CATHEDRAL ACADEMY	
10/9	AT WILSON HALL ACADEMY	8/28	THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		(1-0)			9/4	AT DILLON CHRISTIAN		TBA	
10/16	TBA	30-13			DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/11	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		RICHARD WINN ACADEMY	
10/23	AT THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	9/4	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		8/21	LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY		9/18	AT CALHOUN ACADEMY		AT NEWBERRY ACADEMY	
10/30	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	9/11	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY		PPD			9/25	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		LAURENS ACADEMY (1-0)	
		9/18	AT BEAUFORT ACADEMY		8/28	AT TRINITY COLLEGIATE 32-14		10/2	LEE ACADEMY		OPPONENT SCORE	
	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	9/25	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN		9/4	WILSON HALL ACADEMY		10/9	AT BEAUFORT ACADEMY		DATE	
		10/2	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		9/11	AT GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		10/16	TBA		8/21	
	OPPONENT SCORE	10/9	AT PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		9/18	SPARTANBURG DAY		10/23	AT THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		50-18	
8/21	CAROLINA ACADEMY 44-0	10/16	TBA		9/25	AT LEE ACADEMY		10/30	DORCHESTER ACADEMY		8/28	
8/28	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN 12-37	10/23	CALHOUN ACADEMY		10/2	AT ORANGEBURG PREP			THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		38-6	
9/4	AT BEN LIPPEN	10/30	AT CROSS SCHOOLS		10/9	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN		(0-2)			9/4	
9/11	AT WILSON HALL ACADEMY		CROSS SCHOOLS (2-0)		10/16	LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/11	
9/18	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/23	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		8/21	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		9/25	
9/25	ALA-LEXINGTON				10/30	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY		0-27			10/2	
10/2	AT GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	8/14	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN 46-8			SCISA REGION 1-A		8/28	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		10/9	
10/9	AT CAMDEN MILITARY	8/21	ST. JOHNS HS					13-30			10/16	
10/16	TBA	8/28	HILTON HEAD PREP 56-8			CAROLINA ACADEMY (1-1)		9/4	AT PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		10/23	
10/23	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	9/11	AT THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/11	CROSS SCHOOLS		10/30	
10/30	AT FLORENCE CHRISTIAN	9/18	FIRST BAPTIST		8/21	AT THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		9/18	CAROLINA ACADEMY			
		9/25	AT BEAUFORT ACADEMY		0-44			9/25	AT HILTON HEAD PREP		NEWBERRY ACADEMY (1-1)	
	WILSON HALL ACADEMY (1-1)	10/2	AT HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN		8/28	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		10/2	AT DILLON CHRISTIAN		DATE	
	OPPONENT SCORE	10/9	CALHOUN ACADEMY		8/28	TBA		10/9	DORCHESTER ACADEMY		8/21	
8/21	ORANGEBURG PREP 22-0	10/16	TBA		9/4	PEE DEE ACADEMY		10/16	TBA		33-8	
8/28	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN 26-38	10/23	AT PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		9/11	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		10/23	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		8/28	
9/4	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	10/30	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		9/18	AT THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		10/30	AT BEAUFORT ACADEMY		9/4	
9/11	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		9/25	ORANGEBURG PREP			W.W. KING ACADEMY		CATHEDRAL ACADEMY 16-20	
9/18	AT LAURENCE MANNING				10/2	BEAUFORT ACADEMY		SCISA REGION ONE 8-MAN	AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY	
9/25	AT FLORENCE CHRISTIAN	(1-1)			10/9	CLARENDON HALL		9/18	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		9/25	
10/2	AT HAMMOND	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/16	TBA		(1-1)			10/2	
10/9	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	8/21	DORCHESTER ACADEMY 8-26		10/23	DILLON CHRISTIAN		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/16	
10/16	TBA	8/28	AT BEAUFORT ACADEMY 23-8		10/30	AT LEE ACADEMY		8/21	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY		10/23	
10/23	AT TRINITY COLLEGIATE	9/4	THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		10/30			6-14			10/30	
10/30	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	9/11	AT HILTON HEAD PREP		(1-2)	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		8/28	COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN 46-0		RICHARD WINN ACADEMY	
		9/25	BETHESDA ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/4	AT WARDLAW ACADEMY		DATE	
	BETHESDA ACADEMY (3-0)	10/2	COLLETON PREP		8/14	AT CARDINAL NEWMAN 6-12		9/11	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN		(1-1)	
	OPPONENT SCORE	10/16	TBA		8/21	AT THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		9/18	AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		8/21	
8/14	AT FREDERICA ACADEMY	10/23	CROSS SCHOOLS		27-0			9/25	AT W.W. KING ACADEMY		8/28	
55-7		10/30	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		8/28	CALHOUN ACADEMY 0-50		10/2	LAURENS ACADEMY		6-0	
8/21	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY 60-27				9/11	AT ORANGEBURG PREP		9/4	AT KING'S ACADEMY		NEWBERRY ACADEMY	
8/28	AT SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN		ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN (0-3)		9/18	BEAUFORT ACADEMY		10/16	TBA		9/11	
32-28		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/25	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		10/23	CATHEDRAL ACADEMY		9/18	
9/11	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	8/14	CROSS SCHOOLS 8-46		10/2	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		10/30	AT JEFFERSON ACADEMY		9/25	
9/18	SAVANNAH COUNTRY DAY	8/21	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY 6-22		10/9	PEE DEE ACADEMY			COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN (1-1)		10/9	
9/25	AT PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	8/28	ST. JOHNS HIGH SCHOOL 28-30		10/16	CAROLINA ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/16	
10/2	AT CAMDEN MILITARY	9/4	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		10/23	TBA		8/21	KING'S ACADEMY 22-18		TBA	
10/9	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	9/11	AT MILITARY MAGNET		10/30	LEE ACADEMY		8/28	AT ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		10/23	
10/16	TBA	9/18	HEMINGWAY			AT DILLON CHRISTIAN		0-46			10/30	
10/23	AT HILTON HEAD PREP	10/9	AT CALHOUN ACADEMY			DILLON CHRISTIAN (1-1)		9/4	CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY		SCISA 8-MAN OPEN DIVISION	
10/30	FIRST BAPTIST	10/16	TBA		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/11	WARDLAW ACADEMY			
	FIRST BAPTIST (2-1)	10/23	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		8/21	AT FLORENCE CHRISTIAN		9/18	AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY		CATHEDRAL ACADEMY (1-1)	
	OPPONENT SCORE	10/30	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		35-42			9/25	AT NEWBERRY ACADEMY		DATE	
8/14	AT PINWOOD PREP 27-62				8/28	AT ORANGEBURG PREP 45-14		10/2	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY		8/21	
8/21	AT ACADEMIC MAGNET 47-0		SCISA REGION 2-AA		9/4	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		10/9	AT LAURENS ACADEMY		14-44	
8/28	ST. ANDREWS 53-14				9/11	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY		10/16	TBA		8/28	
9/4	MILITARY MAGNET		GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN (2-1)		9/18	AT CAMDEN MILITARY		10/23	W.W. KING ACADEMY		20-16	
9/11	AT BURKE	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/25	DORCHESTER ACADEMY		10/30	AT KING'S ACADEMY		9/4	
9/18	CROSS SCHOOLS	8/14	AT NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN		10/2	THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY			JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY		9/11	
10/2	HILTON HEAD PREP	20-21			10/9	LEE ACADEMY					9/18	
10/9	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	8/21	MCCORMICK HS 28-0		10/16	TBA		(3-0)			9/25	
10/16	TBA	8/28	AT DIXIE HS 24-21		10/23	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/2	
10/23	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	9/4	CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER		10/30	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		8/14	PROVIDENCE 24-19		10/9	
10/30	AT BETHESDA ACADEMY	9/11	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY					8/21	AT ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		10/16	
		9/18	AT ORANGEBURG PREP			LEE ACADEMY (0-2)		14-6			10/23	
	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN (3-0)	10/2	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/28	AT PALMETTO CHRISTIAN		10/30	
	OPPONENT SCORE	10/9	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY		8/21	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		36-0				
8/14	AT JOHN PAUL II 12-8	10/16	TBA		0-44			9/4	W.W. KING ACADEMY		(1-1)	
8/21	BEAUFORT ACADEMY 41-0	10/23	CAMDEN MILITARY		8/28	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		9/11	CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY		DATE	
8/28	AT WILSON HALL ACADEMY	10/30	AT SPARTANBURG DAY		14-60			9/18	AT KING'S ACADEMY		8/21	
38-26					9/4	AT FLORENCE CHRISTIAN		9/25	CATHEDRAL ACADEMY		0-36	
9/11	CALHOUN ACADEMY		ORANGEBURG PREP (0-2)		9/11	CAMDEN MILITARY		10/2	AT COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN		9/11	
9/18	PINWOOD PREP	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/18	PEE DEE ACADEMY		10/9	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		AT ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY	
9/25	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	8/21	AT WILSON HALL 0-22		9/25	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		10/16	TBA		LAURENS ACADEMY	
10/2	CROSS SCHOOLS	8/28	DILLON CHRISTIAN 14-45		10/2	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		10/23	AT WARDLAW ACADEMY		9/25	
10/9	AT BETHESDA ACADEMY	9/4	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		10/9	AT DILLON CHRISTIAN		10/30	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		10/2	
10/16	TBA	9/11	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		10/16	TBA					10/9	
10/23	AT FIRST BAPTIST	9/18	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		10/23	AT CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY			WARDLAW ACADEMY (0-2)		10/16	
10/30	HILTON HEAD PREP	9/25	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY		10/30	CAROLINA ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/23	
		10/2	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY					8/21	W.W. KING ACADEMY 2-38		10/30	
	HILTON HEAD PREP (0-3)	10/9	AT SPARTANBURG DAY		REGION 2-A			8/28	AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY	
	OPPONENT SCORE	10/16	TBA					0-6			(0-2)	
8/14	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	10/23	PEE DEE ACADEMY		DATE	BEAUFORT ACADEMY (0-3)		9/4	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		DATE	
6-50		10/30	AT CALHOUN ACADEMY		8/14	OPPONENT SCORE		9/11	AT COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN		8/21	
8/28	AT ST. ANDREWS 0-48				9/25	CALHOUN ACADEMY 20-36		9/18	NEWBERRY ACADEMY		18-22	
9/4	AT CROSS SCHOOLS 8-56	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	AT HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN		9/25	AT LAURENS ACADEMY		8/28	
9/18	BEAUFORT ACADEMY	8/21	TRINITY COLLEGIATE		0-41			10/2	CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY		9/11	
9/25	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	8/28	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN 14-33		8/28	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		10/16	AT PALMETTO CHRISTIAN		9/18	
10/2	THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY	9/4	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY		8-23			10/16	TBA		9/25	
10/9	AT FIRST BAPTIST	9/11	DILLON CHRISTIAN		9/11	AT HILTON HEAD PREP		10/23	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY		AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY	
10/16	TBA	9/18	AT LEE ACADEMY		9/18	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		10/30	AT W.W. KING ACADEMY		10/9	
10/23	BETHESDA ACADEMY	9/25	AT SPARTANBURG DAY		9/25	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY			W W KING ACADEMY (2-0)		10/23	
10/30	AT HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	10/2	AT CLARENDON HALL		10/2	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/30	
		10/9	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		10/9	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		8/21	AT WARDLAW ACADEMY 38-2			
		10/16	TRINITY COLLEGIATE		10/16	TBA		8/28	KING'S ACADEMY 46-0			
		10/23	AT ORANGEBURG PREP		10/23	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		9/4	AT JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY			
		10/30	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		10/30	THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		9/11	LAURENS ACADEMY			
								9/18	AT CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY			
								9/25	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY			
								10/2	AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY			
								10/9	NEWBERRY ACADEMY			
								10/16	TBA			
								10/23	AT COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN			
								10/30	WARDLAW ACADEMY			

2026 HSSR Football Schedules

DATE	MCBEE	(1-1)	10/22	HAMPTON COUNTY	REGION 9-A	10/30	GREEN SEA-FLOYDS	(1-0)	LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY
8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		10/30	AT WHALE BRANCH					
8/28	AT HEMINGWAY	22-8		HAMPTON COUNTY	(1-1)	DATE	ANDREWS (0-2)		DATE
9/4	AT LAKE VIEW	12-53		COLLETON COUNTY	33-0	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21
9/4	GREAT FALLS		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	LAKEWOOD 26-28		PPD
9/11	BUFORD		8/21	COLLETON COUNTY		8/28	GEORGETOWN	27-41	8/28
9/25	AT LAMAR		8/28	AT WILSON	0-21	9/4	AT WACCAMAW		9/4
10/2	CHERAW		9/4	AT SILVER BLUFF		9/11	AT HANAHAN		9/11
10/9	AT NORTH CENTRAL		9/11	AT BLUFFTON		9/18	AT LATTA		9/18
10/16	CENTRAL		9/18	BISHOP ENGLAND		9/25	AT KINGSTREE		9/25
10/23	AT CHESTERFIELD		9/25	CHRIST CHURCH		10/2	CARVERS BAY		10/2
10/30	LEE CENTRAL		10/2	AT WHALE BRANCH		10/9	HEMINGWAY		10/9
			10/9	RIDGELAND		10/23	AT JOHNSONVILLE		10/23
	NORTH CENTRAL	(0-2)	10/23	AT ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX		10/30	HANNAH-PAMPLICO		10/30
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/30	HARDEEVILLE					
8/21	DREHER	13-56					CARVERS BAY	(1-1)	
8/28	AT ANDREW JACKSON	6-19		HARDEEVILLE	(1-1)	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE
9/4	AT BUFORD		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	LATTA	27-0	8/21
9/11	MID-CAROLINA		8/21	BEAUFORT	22-20	8/28	WACCAMAW18-33		8/28
9/18	AT CENTRAL		8/28	CLAXTON, GA	12-32	9/4	AT ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE		9/4
9/25	CHESTERFIELD		9/4	AT BATTERY CREEK		9/11	GEORGETOWN		9/11
10/2	AT LEE CENTRAL		9/11	AT ST. ANDREWS, GA		9/18	MULLINS		9/18
10/9	MCBEE		9/25	BURKE		9/25	AT JOHNSONVILLE		9/25
10/16	AT LAMAR		10/2	RIDGELAND		10/2	AT ANDREWS		10/2
10/23	CHERAW		10/9	AT ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX		10/9	KINGSTREE		10/9
			10/16	WHALE BRANCH		10/23	HANNAH-PAMPLICO		10/23
			10/30	AT HAMPTON COUNTY		10/30	AT HEMINGWAY		10/30
REGION 6-A									
	BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	(1-1)		RIDGELAND (0-2)			HANNAH-PAMPLICO	(0-2)	
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE
8/21	AT HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER		8/21	NORTH CHARLESTON	12-18	8/21	LAKE CITY	7-20	8/21
6-26			8/28	AT EAU CLAIRE	6-16	8/28	AT JOHNSONVILLE	0-42	8/28
8/28	HILTON HEAD	24-35	9/4	AT R B STALL		9/4	SCOTTS BRANCH		8/4
9/4	AT BARNWELL		9/11	BATTERY CREEK		9/11	CHESTERFIELD		8/21
9/11	CALHOON COUNTY		9/18	BURKE		9/18	EAST CLARENDON		8/28
9/18	AT WOODLAND		9/25	AT BAPTIST HILL		9/25	AT HEMINGWAY		9/4
10/2	EDISTO		10/2	AT HARDEEVILLE		10/2	KINGSTREE		9/11
10/9	AT BETHUNE-BOWMAN		10/9	AT HAMPTON COUNTY		10/16	JOHNSONVILLE		9/18
10/16	BRANCHVILLE		10/16	ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX		10/23	AT CARVERS BAY		9/25
10/23	SCOTTS BRANCH		10/23	WHALE BRANCH		10/30	AT ANDREWS		10/9
10/30	DENMARK-OLAR								10/16
									10/23
									10/30
	BETHUNE-BOWMAN	(1-1)	DATE	WHALE BRANCH	(0-2)	DATE	HEMINGWAY (0-2)		DATE
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21
8/21	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	14-8	8/28	BATTERY CREEK	6-22	8/28	MCBEE	8-22	8/28
8/28	C A JOHNSON	0-52	9/4	AT BEAUFORT	14-34	9/4	AT BAPTIST HILL	0-48	9/4
9/4	AT CALHOON COUNTY		9/11	AT BLACKVILLE-HILDA		9/11	LAKE VIEW		DATE
9/12	ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX		9/18	AT BARNWELL		9/18	AT GREEN SEA-FLOYDS		8/14
9/18	AT CROSS		9/25	WOODLAND		9/25	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		8/28
10/2	AT DENMARK-OLAR		10/2	HAMPTON COUNTY		10/2	HANNAH-PAMPLICO		4-20
10/9	BAMBERG-EHRHARDT		10/16	AT HARDEEVILLE		10/9	JOHNSONVILLE		9/4
10/16	SCOTTS BRANCH		10/23	AT RIDGELAND		10/23	AT ANDREWS		9/11
10/23	EDISTO		10/30	ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX		10/30	AT KINGSTREE		9/18
10/30	AT BRANCHVILLE						CARVERS BAY		9/25
									10/2
									10/23
									10/30
	BRANCHVILLE	(1-1)	REGION 8-A				JOHNSONVILLE	(1-1)	
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	BAPTIST HILL	(1-0)	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE
8/21	WHITMIRE	38-30	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	AT LAKE VIEW	28-30	8/21
8/28	AT WAGENER-SALLEY	20-54	8/28	HEMINGWAY 48-0		8/28	HANNAH-PAMPLICO	42-0	8/28
9/4	AT CLEAR DOT CHARTER		9/4	AT NORTH CHARLESTON		9/11	AT WACCAMAW		9/11
9/18	MILITARY MAGNET		9/11	ACADEMIC MAGNET		9/18	MARION		DATE
9/25	AT CALHOON COUNTY		9/18	AT SCOTTS BRANCH		9/25	CARVERS BAY		8/14
10/2	SCOTTS BRANCH		9/25	RIDGELAND		10/2	AT HEMINGWAY		8/21
10/9	EDISTO		10/2	AT GREEN SEA-FLOYDS		10/16	AT HANNAH-PAMPLICO		8/28
10/16	AT BAMBERG-EHRHARDT		10/9	ST. JOHNS		10/23	ANDREWS		9/4
10/23	DENMARK-OLAR		10/16	AT BURKE		10/30	KINGSTREE		9/11
10/30	BETHUNE-BOWMAN		10/23	CROSS					9/18
			10/30	AT MILITARY MAGNET			KINGSTREE (0-2)		9/25
									10/2
	DENMARK-OLAR	(0-2)	DATE	BURKE (1-0)		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	AT MARION	6-33	8/21
8/20	AT BLACKVILLE-OLAR	0-36	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/28	HANAHAN	20-48	8/28
8/28	BURKE	14-28	8/28	AT DENMARK-OLAR	28-14	9/4	MULLINS		10/23
9/4	AT ST. JOHNS		9/4	EAU CLAIRE		9/11	TIMBERLAND		10/30
9/11	AT BARNWELL		9/11	FIRST BAPTIST		9/18	AT LAKE CITY		
9/17	EAU CLAIRE		9/18	AT RIDGELAND		9/25	ANDREWS		
10/2	BETHUNE-BOWMAN		9/25	AT HARDEEVILLE		10/2	AT HANNAH-PAMPLICO		DATE
10/9	AT SCOTTS BRANCH		10/2	CROSS		10/9	AT CARVERS BAY		8/21
10/17	EDISTO		10/9	AT MILITARY MAGNET		10/23	HEMINGWAY		8/28
10/23	AT BRANCHVILLE		10/16	BAPTIST HILL		10/30	AT JOHNSONVILLE		9/4
10/30	AT BAMBERG-EHRHARDT		10/23	AT ST. JOHNS					9/18
									9/25
	EDISTO (0-2)			CROSS (0-1)			GREEN SEA-FLOYDS	(0-2)	10/2
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE
8/21	LAKE MARION	6-14	8/28	AT WOODLAND	8-14	8/21	AT EAST COLUMBUS, NC	8-12	8/21
8/28	AT BLACKVILLE-HILDA	6-46	9/4	AT TIMBERLAND		8/28	AT LORIS	7-63	10/23
9/4	AT HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER		9/11	AT LAKE MARION		9/4	AYNOR		10/30
9/11	AT WOODLAND		9/18	BETHUNE-BOWMAN		9/11	HEMINGWAY		
9/18	CALHOON COUNTY		9/25	AT MULLINS		9/18	AT ST. JOHNS		
10/2	AT BAMBERG-EHRHARDT		10/2	AT BURKE		10/2	BAPTIST HILL		
10/9	BRANCHVILLE		10/16	MILITARY MAGNET		10/9	LAKE VIEW		DATE
10/17	AT DENMARK-OLAR		10/23	AT BAPTIST HILL		10/16	MARION		8/21
10/23	AT BETHUNE-BOWMAN		10/30	ST. JOHNS		10/23	AT MULLINS		8/28
10/30	SCOTTS BRANCH					10/30	AT LATTA		37-12
									9/4
	SCOTTS BRANCH	(0-2)	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	LAKE VIEW (2-0)		9/11
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	LEE CENTRAL	0-48	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		9/18
8/21	EAST CLARENDON	14-21	8/28	AT NORTH CHARLESTON	14-34	8/28	JOHNSONVILLE		10/2
8/28	AT MANNING	32-43	9/4	AT FIRST BAPTIST		9/4	MCBEE	53-12	8/28
9/4	AT HANNAH-PAMPLICO		9/11	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		9/18	AT HEMINGWAY		10/9
9/11	LAKE VIEW		9/18	AT BRANCHVILLE		9/4	AT SCOTTS BRANCH		10/2
9/18	BAPTIST HILL		9/25	ACADEMIC MAGNET		9/11	COLLETON CO		10/23
10/2	AT BRANCHVILLE		10/2	AT ST. JOHNS		9/18	AT FAIRMONT, NC		10/30
10/9	DENMARK-OLAR		10/9	BURKE		9/25	LATTA		
10/16	AT BETHUNE-BOWMAN		10/16	AT CROSS		10/2	AT GREEN SEA-FLOYDS		SCISA REGION 2-AAAA
10/23	BAMBERG-EHRHARDT		10/30	BAPTIST HILL		10/9	AT MULLINS		
10/30	EDISTO					10/16	MARION		
				ST. JOHNS (1-0)		10/30			
REGION 7-A			DATE	OPPONENT SCORE			LATTA (1-1)		
	ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX	(0-2)	8/21	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	30-28	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	DENMARK-OLAR		8/21	AT CARVERS BAY	0-27	8/14
8/21	AT CALHOON COUNTY	0-42	9/11	CLEAR DOT CHARTER		8/28	CHESTERFIELD	42-21	8/28
8/28	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	0-30	9/18	GREEN SEA-FLOYDS		9/4	LAKE CITY		9/25
9/4	AT C A JOHNSON		9/25	AT ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX		9/11	AT AYNOR		10/2
9/12	AT BETHUNE-BOWMAN		10/2	MILITARY MAGNET		9/18	ANDREWS		10/9
9/18	BLACKVILLE-HILDA		10/9	AT BAPTIST HILL		9/25	AT CENTRAL		10/16
9/25	ST. JOHNS		10/23	BURKE		10/2	AT LAKE VIEW		10/23
10/9	HARDEEVILLE		10/30	AT CROSS		10/9	MULLINS		10/30
10/16	AT RIDGELAND					10/23	AT MARION		
					</				

2026 SCHSL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

REGION 6-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
AYNOR	0-0	2-0	58	15
CRESTWOOD	0-0	1-0	27	0
LORIS	0-0	1-0	63	7
DARLINGTON	0-0	1-1	36	38
HARTSVILLE	0-0	1-1	66	63
LAKEWOOD	0-0	1-1	34	47
ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	0-0	0-1	6	28

REGION 1-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
PENDLETON	0-0	2-0	66	53
ST. JOSEPH	0-0	2-0	62	42
WEST-OAK	0-0	2-0	59	8
CRESCENT	0-0	1-1	43	41
CAROLINA	0-0	0-1	0	24
LIBERTY	0-0	0-1	21	28

REGION 2-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
WOODRUFF	0-0	2-0	83	40
CHESNEE	0-0	1-0	40	20
CLINTON	0-0	1-0	29	22
LANDRUM	0-0	1-0	32	21
SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	0-0	1-1	34	35
MVP	0-0	0-1	14	21

REGION 3-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
ANDREW JACKSON	0-0	2-0	32	18
W J KEENAN	0-0	2-0	74	67
MID CAROLINA	0-0	2-0	70	42
NEWBERRY	0-0	1-1	61	70
CHESTER	0-0	0-1	21	49
COLUMBIA	0-0	0-1	8	33

REGION 4-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
OR'BURG-WILKINSON	0-0	2-0	92	20
STROM THURMOND	0-0	2-0	54	7
ALA-LEXINGTON	0-0	1-1	15	48
PELION	0-0	1-1	24	41
SILVER BLUFF	0-0	1-1	38	73
SALUDA	0-0	0-1	33	35

REGION 5-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BATTERY CREEK	0-0	2-0	51	34
WOODLAND	0-0	2-0	42	22
LAKE MARION	0-0	1-0	14	6
ACADEMIC MAGNET	0-0	0-1	0	47
TIMBERLAND	0-0	0-1	6	18
PHILIP SIMMONS	0-0	0-2	40	69

REGION 6-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
LAKE CITY	0-0	2-0	38	13
MARLBORO COUNTY	0-0	2-0	89	26
DILLON	0-0	1-1	63	59
MANNING	0-0	1-1	70	64
WACCAMAW	0-0	1-1	44	24
EAST CLARENDON	0-0	0-1	6	24

REGION 1-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
ABBEVILLE	0-0	1-1	35	66
CALHOUN FALLS	0-0	1-1	68	42
WARE SHOALS	0-0	1-1	58	48
NINETY-SIX	0-0	0-1	21	42
DIXIE	0-0	0-2	34	42
MCCORMICK	0-0	0-2	32	63
THORNWELL	0-0	0-2	30	72

REGION 2-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
C A JOHNSON	0-0	2-0	96	0
RIDGE SPRING-MONTE	0-0	2-0	83	66
EAU CLAIRE	0-0	2-0	50	42
CLEAR DOT CHARTER	0-0	1-1	38	14
WHITMIRE	0-0	1-1	54	44
BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	0-0	0-2	35	56

REGION 3-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	0-0	1-0	34	7
BLACKSBURG	0-0	1-1	50	70
GREAT FALLS	0-0	0-1	0	48
BUFORD	0-0	0-2	18	82
LEWISVILLE	0-0	0-2	14	77

REGION 4-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BLACKVILLE-HILDA	0-0	2-0	82	0
WAGENER-SALLEY	0-0	2-0	102	20
CALHOUN COUNTY	0-0	1-0	42	0
BARNWELL	0-0	1-1	40	29
HUNTER-KINARD-TYL	0-0	0-2	12	99

REGION 5-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
LEE CENTRAL	0-0	2-0	56	0
CENTRAL	0-0	1-0	56	14
CHERAW	0-0	1-1	33	13
LAMAR	0-0	1-1	47	27
MCBEE	0-0	1-1	34	61
CHESTERFIELD	0-0	0-2	21	86
NORTH CENTRAL	0-0	0-2	19	75

REGION 6-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BAMBERG-EHRHARD	0-0	1-1	86	41
BETHUNE-BOWMAN	0-0	1-1	14	60
BRANCHVILLE	0-0	1-1	58	84
SCOTTS BRANCH	0-0	0-1	32	43
DENMARK-OLAR	0-0	0-2	14	64
EDISTO	0-0	0-2	12	60

REGION 7-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
HAMPTON COUNTY	0-0	1-1	33	21
HARDEEVILLE	0-0	1-1	34	52
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX	0-0	0-2	0	72
RIDGELAND	0-0	0-2	18	34
WHALE BRANCH	0-0	0-2	20	56

REGION 8-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BAPTIST HILL	0-0	1-0	48	0
BURKE	0-0	1-0	28	14
ST. JOHNS	0-0	1-0	30	28
CROSS	0-0	0-1	8	14
MILITARY MAGNET	0-0	0-2	14	82

REGION 9-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
CARVERS BAY	0-0	1-1	45	33
JOHNSONVILLE	0-0	1-1	70	30
ANDREWS	0-0	0-2	53	69
HANNAH-PAMPLICO	0-0	0-2	7	62
HEMINGWAY	0-0	0-2	8	70
KINGSTREE	0-0	0-2	26	81

REGION 10-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
LAKE VIEW	0-0	2-0	83	40
LATTA	0-0	1-1	42	48
MARION	0-0	1-1	40	44
GREEN SEA-FLOYDS	0-0	0-2	15	75
MULLINS	0-0	0-2	8	37

DILLON HIGH SCHOOL

Dillon ranked 5th in AA after starting season 1-1

By Billy G. Baker

Publisher

Dillon—After two games of the 2026 football season Dillon is ranked 5th in the latest *HSSR* AA rankings, after a first week loss to **Camden** (35-13) and a huge bounce back win over **Myrtle Beach** (50-24) in week two, the Wildcats are now preparing for a home game against **Cheraw**.

After the win over Myrtle Beach, head coach **Kelvin Roller** (53-11), who is starting his 6th season as the Wildcat head coach, told the *HSSR*, “The offensive line has played well in our first two games,” said Coach Roller. “As we prepare to play Cheraw, we must keep improving in everything. We are a long way from being where we want to be.

“Our quarterback (**Nibras Harrison**) is playing well for a sophomore and first year starter,” said Coach Roller. “He had a good game against Myrtle Beach, and our running back **Noah Singletary** had over 200 yards. We need for these two to keep playing like this every week.”

The offensive line has had to deal with some injuries. Senior left guard **Darian Gibbons** has been out with an injury along with guard **Ryland Martin**.

Japhia Davis (5-10,270) is now starting at left guard for Dillon. The other four starters up-front include junior left tackle **Jaylen Bacote** (6-3, 245), sophomore right tackle **Trey Copeland** (6-1, 210), and junior right guard **Lucas Butler** along with junior center **Nathan Rowell** (5-11, 270).

Coming into the season, Coach Roller called line-backer **Kelvion Manning** (6-3, 185) and running back Noah Singletary, the top seniors returning to the team, while receivers **JJ Campbell** (5-9,155) and **Zay Quan Carmichael** were the top juniors. Quarterback **Nibras Harrison** is the team’s top sophomore starting the season.

Against Myrtle Beach, **Harrison** completed 9-of-13 passes for 182 yards and a touchdown.

His top receiving targets against the Seahawks were Campbell with six catches for 130 yards while TE **Ke’Shawn Ray** and junior WR Malachi **Graham** added one catch each for 28 and 20 yards respectively.

The Wildcats, behind excellent blocking up-front, pounded out 336 rushing yards led by running back **Noah Singletary** who had 13 carries for 212 yards and a touchdown. **Trayvon** Brown rushed six times for 38 yards and **Geno Lester** added 29 yards and two touchdowns.

As a team Dillon had 518 total yards against Myrtle Beach on 64 plays.

Against Myrtle Beach, Harrison scored twice on runs of two and eight yards and he finished with 21 net yards. Lester scored twice on two-yard runs. Singletary scored on a 72-yard run in the second quarter. Ke’Shawn Ray hauled in a 28-yard scoring reception from Harrison late in the second quarter that gave Dillon a 37-10 lead at the half. Dillon’s final score of the game came on a two- yard run by Brown in the fourth period.

The *Nasty Cats* of defense limited the Seahawks to just 94 yards rushing. The top tacklers in game two were junior linebacker **Malachi Nelson** who had 12 total tackles including a sack and one TFL. Freshman SS prospect **Aerion Chavis** (6-1, 190) had seven total



Head Coach Kelvin Roller

tackles. K Manning had six total tackles from his SS position.

Three other *Nasty Cats* had six tackles each versus Myrtle Beach and they were junior FS **Geno Lester**, senior MLB **Ke’shawn Ray**, and senior OLB **Zhilmer McLaurin**. Senior MLB **Donovan Charles** also had five total tackles.

The starting defensive unit coming into the season were junior NG **Lucas Butler**, DE **Jaylen Bacote** (6-3, 245), senior DE **Jymeek Bridges**, and senior DT/DT **Levis Hatungimana** (6-3, 200).

The linebackers are **Ke’Shawn Ray**, junior MLB **Malachi Nelson**, OLB **AC Chavis**, and OLB **Kelvion Manning**, **Komari Allen**, **D’Rontae McClam**, and **JJ Campbell** start at corner backs. **Geno Lester** plays at FS.

Jayden Lester handles place kicking and **JJ Campbell** is the punter for Dillon.

After two games Harrison has completed 15-of-27 passes for 232 yards and 1 TD. Campbell is the top WR with 8 catches for 147 yards. Ray has caught 28 yards in reception and one TD.

Singletary has been the work horse in the rushing game with 30 carries for 327 yards and two TD’s. T. Brown is next with 82 yards on 13 carries with one TD. Harrison has added 71 yards and three TD’s via the ground.

On defense the *Nasty Cats* are led on the tackle index by Nelson with 29 total tackles including one sack and two TFL. Ray is next with 15 total tackles, followed by Chavis with 13, Manning with 11, and Lester is at 10. Carmichael and Allen have one interception each.

Campbell has a 38.5 punting average on two punts with a long of 47.



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2026 HSSR Football Schedules

10/16	SALUDA	10/23	PHILIP SIMMONS	10/2	THORNWELL	9/4	AT BURKE		BLACKVILLE-HILDA	(2-0)
10/23	AMERICAN LEADERSHIP	10/30	AT WOODLAND	10/9	WARE SHOALS	9/11	AT BLACKVILLE-HILDA		OPPONENT SCORE	
10/30	AT STROM THURMOND		WOODLAND (2-0)	10/16	MCCORMICK	9/18	AT DENMARK-OLAR	DATE	DENMARK-OLAR	36-0
				10/23	AT DIXIE	9/25	AT FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	8/28	EDISTO	46-6
DATE	PELION (1-1)	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE			10/2	AT RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	8/28	WHALE BRANCH	
8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	BATESBURG-LEESVILLE 28-14		DIXIE (1-1)	10/9	C A JOHNSON	9/4	EAU CLAIRE	
8/21	AT AIRPORT 7-34	8/28	AT CROSS 14-8	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/16	BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	9/11	AT ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX	
8/28	BARNWELL 17-7	9/4	AT COLLETON COUNTY	8/21	AT SOUTHSIDE	10/23	AT CLEAR DOT CHARTER	9/18	AT PORTAL, GA	
9/4	AT RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	9/11	EDISTO	8/28	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN21-24	10/30	AT WHITMIRE	9/25	AT WAGENER-SALLEY	
9/11	SWANSEA	9/18	BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	9/4	FOX CREEK			10/2	CALHOUN COUNTY	(1-0)
9/18	AT WAGENER-SALLEY	10/2	PHILIP SIMMONS	9/11	AT RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA		RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA(2-0)	10/9	ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX	42-0
10/2	AT ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON	10/9	AT BATTERY CREEK	9/18	MCCORMICK	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	8/28	LAKE MARION	
10/9	SALUDA	10/16	AT LAKE MARION	9/25	AT THORNWELL	8/21	AT WARE SHOALS	9/4	BETHUNE-BOWMAN	
10/16	STROM THURMOND	10/23	AT ACADEMIC MAGNET	10/2	AT ABBEVILLE	8/28	AT MCCORMICK	9/11	AT BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	
10/23	SILVER BLUFF	10/30	TIMBERLAND	10/16	NINETY-SIX	9/4	PELION	9/18	EDISTO	
10/30	AT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP			10/23	CALHOUN FALLS	9/11	DIXIE	9/25	AT BRANCHVILLE	
		REGION 6-AA		10/30	AT WARE SHOALS	9/25	WAGENER-SALLEY	10/2	HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER	(0-2)
DATE	SALUDA (0-1)	DATE	EAST CLARENDON (1-1)	DATE	MCCORMICK (0-2)	10/9	EAU CLAIRE	8/21	ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON	
8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	8/28	OPPONENT SCORE	10/16	WHITMIRE	9/11	BISHOP ENGLAND	
8/21	ABBEVILLE 33-35	8/28	AT SCOTT'S BRANCH 21-14	8/28	AT GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	10/23	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	9/18	AT CALHOUN COUNTY	
9/4	AT BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	9/4	AT LAURENCE MANNING 6-24	0-28		10/30	AT C A JOHNSON	10/2	AT BARNWELL	
9/11	AT NINETY-SIX	9/11	LAMAR	8/28	RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA32-35		AT BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	9/25	AT GREAT FALLS	48-0
9/18	CHESTER	9/11	AT MULLINS	9/4	LINCOLN COUNTY,GA			8/28	AT BRANCHVILLE	54-20
9/25	AT EMERALD	9/18	AT HANNAH-PAMPLICO	9/11	WASHINGTON-WILKES,GA	DATE	WHITMIRE (1-1)	9/11	HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER	
10/2	AT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP	10/2	AT MANNING	9/18	AT DIXIE	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	9/18	AT BLACKVILLE-HILDA	
10/9	AT PELION	10/9	MARLBORO COUNTY	9/25	NINETY-SIX	8/28	AT BRANCHVILLE	10/2	WAGENER-SALLEY	
10/16	AT ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON	10/16	AT WACCAMAW	10/8	ABBEVILLE	24-6	AT SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	10/30	AT BARNWELL	
10/23	STROM THURMOND	10/23	LAKE CITY	10/16	AT CALHOUN FALLS	9/4	MID-CAROLINA	DATE	HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER	(0-2)
10/30	SILVER BLUFF	10/30	DILLON	10/23	WARE SHOALS	9/11	WARE SHOALS	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	
				10/30	AT THORNWELL	9/25	GREAT FALLS	8/28	BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	6-62
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	DATE	DILLON (1-1)			10/2	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	9/4	CALVIN COOLEDGE, DC	6-37
8/21	AT SOUTH AIKEN	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		NINETY-SIX (1-1)	10/9	AT RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	9/11	EDISTO	
8/28	AT FOX CREEK	8/28	CAMDEN 13-35	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/16	AT C A JOHNSON	9/25	ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON	
9/4	HAMPTON COUNTY	8/28	AT MYRTLE BEACH 50-24	8/21	AT MID-CAROLINA	10/23	BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	10/2	BISHOP ENGLAND	
9/11	AIKEN	9/4	CHERAW	8/28	LANDRUM 28-26	10/30	EAU CLAIRE	10/16	AT CALHOUN COUNTY	
9/25	BARNWELL	9/11	MARION	9/4	AT WAGENER-SALLEY			10/23	AT BARNWELL	
10/2	STROM THURMOND	9/18	AT HARTSVILLE	9/11	SALUDA	REGION 3-A		10/30	WAGENER-SALLEY	(2-0)
10/9	AT ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON	10/2	AT LAKE CITY	9/18	CALHOUN FALLS		BLACKSBURG (1-1)		BLACKVILLE-HILDA	
10/16	AT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP	10/9	AT WACCAMAW	9/25	AT MCCORMICK	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	
10/23	AT PELION	10/16	MANNING	10/2	AT WARE SHOALS	8/21	AT BERE A 44-22	8/21	AT GREAT FALLS	48-0
10/30	AT SALUDA	10/23	MARLBORO COUNTY	10/9	THORNWELL	8/28	AT PICKENS 6-48	8/28	AT BRANCHVILLE	54-20
		10/30	AT EAST CLARENDON	10/16	AT DIXIE	9/4	CHASE, NC	9/4	NINETY-SIX	
DATE	STROM THURMOND (2-0)	DATE	LAKE CITY (2-0)	10/30	ABBEVILLE	9/11	THORNWELL	9/11	COLUMBIA	
8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE			9/18	CHESNEE	9/18	PELION	
8/28	NORTH AUGUSTA 21-7	8/21	AT HANNAH-PAMPLICO 20-7	DATE	THORNWELL (0-2)	9/25	AT LANDRUM	9/25	AT RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	
9/11	AT ABBEVILLE 33-0	8/28	AT TIMBERLAND 18-6	8/21	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN 16-55	10/2	AT GREAT FALLS	10/2	BLACKVILLE-HILDA	
9/18	BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	9/4	AT LATTA	8/28	AT SPARTANBURG DAY 14-17	10/9	LEWISVILLE	10/9	BARNWELL	
9/25	AT AIKEN	9/11	AT LAMAR	9/4	AT WARE SHOALS	10/16	BUFORD	10/16	AT CALHOUN COUNTY	
10/2	AT SILVER BLUFF	9/18	KINGSTREE	9/11	AT BLACKSBURG	10/23	AT FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	10/24	AT HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER	
10/9	AMERICAN LEADERSHIP	10/2	DILLON	9/18	WHITMIRE					
10/16	AT PELION	10/9	MANNING	9/25	DIXIE		BUFORD (0-2)	REGION 5-A		
10/23	AT SALUDA	10/16	AT MARLBORO COUNTY	10/2	AT CALHOUN FALLS	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	
10/30	ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON	10/23	AT EAST CLARENDON	10/9	AT NINETY-SIX	8/21	BARNWELL 12-33	8/21	CENTRAL (1-0)	
		10/30	WACCAMAW	10/23	ABBEVILLE	8/28	AT CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN	9/4	LEWISVILLE	56-14
REGION 5-AA				10/30	MCCORMICK	6-49		9/4	ANDREW JACKSON	
	ACADEMIC MAGNET (0-1)	DATE	MANNING (1-1)		WARE SHOALS (1-1)	9/11	NORTH CENTRAL	9/11	AT WEST STANLEY, NC	
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	9/18	HICKORY GROVE, NC	9/18	NORTH CENTRAL	
8/21	FIRST BAPTIST	8/28	CRESTWOOD 27-32	8/21	RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA34-48	9/25	ALA-LEXINGTON	9/25	LATTA	
9/4	AT R B STALL	9/4	SCOTT'S BRANCH 43-32	8/28	CAROLINA 24-0	10/2	AT LEWISVILLE	10/2	AT CHESTERFIELD	
9/11	AT BAPTIST HILL	9/18	AT FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	9/4	THORNWELL	10/9	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	10/9	LEE CENTRAL	
9/18	ALA-LEXINGTON	9/25	AT LAKE MARION	9/11	AT WHITMIRE	10/16	AT BLACKSBURG	10/16	AT MCBEE	
9/25	AT MILITARY MAGNET	10/2	EAST CLARENDON	9/18	AT LANDRUM	10/30	GREAT FALLS	10/23	LAMAR	
10/2	BATTERY CREEK	10/9	AT LAKE CITY	9/25	AT CLEAR DOT			10/30	AT CHERAW	
10/9	AT TRAVELERS REST	10/16	AT DILLON	10/2	NINETY-SIX		FAIRFIELD CENTRAL (1-0)			
10/16	AT PHILIP SIMMONS	10/23	WACCAMAW	10/9	AT CALHOUN FALLS	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	DATE	CHERAW (1-1)	
10/23	WOODLAND	10/30	MARLBORO COUNTY	10/16	AT ABBEVILLE	8/21	AT LOWER RICHLAND	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	
10/30	LAKE MARION			10/23	AT MCCORMICK	8/28	CHESTER	8/28	AT ANDREW JACKSON	12-13
			MARLBORO COUNTY (2-0)	10/30	DIXIE	9/4	MANNING	9/4	LEWISVILLE 21-0	
DATE	BATTERY CREEK (2-0)	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	REGION 2-A		9/11	AT RICHLAND NORTHEAST	9/4	AT DILLON	
8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	MYRTLE BEACH 61-20			9/18	NEWBERRY	9/11	DARLINGTON	
8/21	AT WHALE BRANCH	8/28	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE 28-6		BATESBURG-LEESVILLE (0-2)	9/25	EAU CLAIRE	9/18	AT CHESTERFIELD	
8/28	JOHN PAUL II	9/4	AT CRESTWOOD		OPPONENT SCORE	10/9	AT BUFORD	9/25	LEE CENTRAL	
9/4	HARDEVILLE	9/18	AT MONTGOMERY CENTRAL,NC	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/16	GREAT FALLS	10/2	AT MCBEE	
9/11	AT RIDGELAND	9/25	AT CONWAY	8/21	AT WOODLAND 14-28	10/23	BLACKSBURG	10/9	LAMAR	
9/18	BEAUFORT	10/2	WACCAMAW	8/28	MID-CAROLINA 21-28	10/30	AT LEWISVILLE	10/23	AT NORTH CENTRAL	
10/2	AT ACADEMIC MAGNET	10/9	AT EAST CLARENDON	9/4	SALUDA			10/30	CENTRAL	
10/9	WOODLAND	10/16	LAKE CITY	9/11	AT STROM THURMOND		GREAT FALLS (0-1)			
10/16	TIMBERLAND	10/23	AT DILLON	9/18	AT GILBERT	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	DATE	CHESTERFIELD (0-2)	
10/23	AT LAKE MARION	10/30	AT MANNING	9/25	CLINTON	8/21	WAGENER-SALLEY	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	
10/30	PHILIP SIMMONS			10/2	AT C A JOHNSON	8/28	BEN LIPPEN	8/21	C A JOHNSON	0-44
			WACCAMAW(1-1)	10/9	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	9/4	AT MCBEE	8/28	AT LATTA 21-42	
DATE	LAKE MARION (1-0)	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/16	AT EAU CLAIRE	9/11	AT HEATHWOOD HALL	9/18	LEWISVILLE	
8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	ST. JAMES 6-7	10/23	AT WHITMIRE	9/18	C A JOHNSON	9/11	AT ANSON, NC	
8/28	EDISTO 14-6	8/28	AT CARVERS BAY 33-18	10/30	RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	9/25	AT WHITMIRE	9/18	CHERAW	
9/4	AT CALHOUN COUNTY	9/4	ANDREWS			10/2	BLACKSBURG	9/25	AT NORTH CENTRAL	
9/11	CROSS	9/11	JOHNSONVILLE		C A JOHNSON (2-0)	10/16	AT FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	10/2	CENTRAL	
9/25	MANNING	9/25	AT GEORGETOWN	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/23	LEWISVILLE	10/16	AT LEE CENTRAL	
10/2	TIMBERLAND	10/2	AT MARLBORO COUNTY	8/21	AT CHESTERFIELD	10/30	AT BUFORD	10/23	MCBEE	
10/9	AT PHILIP SIMMONS	10/9	DILLON	8/28	AT BETHUNE-BOWMAN 44-0			10/30	AT LAMAR	
10/16	WOODLAND	10/16	EAST CLARENDON	9/4	ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX		LEWISVILLE (0-2)			
10/23	BATTERY CREEK	10/23	AT MANNING	9/11	AT W J KEENAN	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	DATE	LAMAR (1-1)	
10/30	AT ACADEMIC MAGNET	10/30	AT LAKE CITY	9/18	AT DREHER	8/21	CENTRAL 14-56	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	
				10/2	BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	8/28	AT CHERAW 0-21	8/28	DARLINGTON	14-19
DATE	PHILIP SIMMONS (0-2)	DATE	ABBEVILLE (1-1)	10/16	AT EAU CLAIRE	9/4	AT CHESTERFIELD	8/28	AT COLUMBIA	33-8
8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	10/23	WHITMIRE	9/11	AT CHERSTER	9/4	AT EAST CLARENDON	
8/28	AT PORTER-GAUD	8/28	AT SALUDA 35-33	10/30	RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	9/18	ANDREW JACKSON	9/11	LAKE CITY	
9/4	BISHOP ENGLAND	9/4	STROM THURMOND 0-33		AT CLEAR DOT CHARTER	9/25	LAKE WYLIE	9/18	AT LEE CENTRAL	
9/18	AT CAPE HAY	8/21	AT CRESCENT			10/2	BUFORD	9/25	MCBEE	
10/2	AT WOODLAND	9/11	BELTON-HONEA PATH	DATE	CLEAR DOT CHARTER (1-1)	10/9	AT BLACKSBURG	10/9	AT CHERAW	
10/9	LAKE MARION	9/25	CALHOUN FALLS	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	10/23	AT GREAT FALLS	10/16	NORTH CENTRAL	
10/16	ACADEMIC MAGNET	10/2	DIXIE	8/28	AT BETHUNE-BOWMAN 8-14	10/30	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	10/23	AT CENTRAL	
10/23	AT TIMBERLAND	10/8	AT MCCORMICK	9/4	BRANCHVILLE	REGION 4-A		10/30	CHESTERFIELD	
10/30	AT BATTERY CREEK	10/16	WARE SHOALS	9/11	AT ST. JOHNS				LEE CENTRAL	(2-0)
		10/23	AT THORNWELL	9/18	BARNWELL		BARNWELL (1-1)	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	
DATE	TIMBERLAND (0-1)	10/30	AT NINETY-SIX	9/25	WARE SHOALS	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	8/21	AT MILITARY MAGNET	48-0
8/28	LAKE CITY 6-18		CALHOUN FALLS (1-1)	10/2	AT WHITMIRE	8/21	AT BUFORD 33-12	8/28	MULLINS 8-0	
9/4	CROSS	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/9	AT BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	8/28	AT PELION 7-17	9/4	AT MARION	
9/11	AT KINGSTREE	8/21	WEST-OAK 8-42	10/16	AT RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	9/4	BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	9/11	LAMAR	
9/18	HANAHAN	8/28	CAROLINA MAVERICKS 60-0	10/23	EAU CLAIRE	9/18	DENMARK-OLAR	9/25	AT CHERAW	
9/25	GREENVILLE HURRICANES	9/4	AT GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	10/30	C A JOHNSON	9/25	AT SILVER BLUFF	10/2	NORTH CENTRAL	
10/2	AT LAKE MARION	9/11	GREENVILLE HURRICANES	DATE	EAU CLAIRE(1-1)	10/9	AT WAGENER-SALLEY	10/9	AT CENTRAL	
10/9	ACADEMIC MAGNET	9/18	AT NINETY-SIX	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE	10/15	HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER	10/16	CHESTERFIELD	
10/16	AT BATTERY CREEK	9/25	AT ABBEVILLE	8/28	COLUMBIA 34-36	10/23	AT BLACKVILLE-HILDA	10/30	AT MCBEE	

2026 HSSR Football Schedules

9/18 9/25 10/2 10/16 10/23 10/30	AT GETTYS BROOME AT NEWBERRY WREN AT BELTON-HONEA PATH AT EMERALD PALMETTO	9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/16 10/23 10/30	HARTSVILLE A C FLORA AT HILTON HEAD ISLAND SWANSEA AT GILBERT BROOKLAND-CAYCE AT LOWER RICHLAND AT AIRPORT	8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23	AT MULLINS 29-8 AT MARLBORO COUNTY 6-28 CARVERS BAY AT NORTHWOOD ACADEMY LORIS AT DARLINGTON AT AYNOR LAKEWOOD AT CRESTWOOD HARTSVILLE	DATE 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23	OPPONENT SCORE SENECA 21-28 PICKENS AT SOUTHSIDE WALHALLA TRAVELERS REST AT WEST-OAK AT PENDLETON CRESCENT AT ST. JOSEPH CAROLINA	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	WOODRUFF (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT GETTYS BROOME 51-25 FOUNTAIN INN 32-15 EMERALD UNION COUNTY AT CHAPMAN LANDRUM SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN AT CHESNEE AT MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP AT CLINTON
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23	WREN (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT DANIEL 28-42 EASTSIDE 49-12 TRAVELERS REST T L HANNA SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN AT LUGOFF-ELGIN AT POWDERSVILLE EMERALD AT PALMETTO BELTON-HONEA PATH	DATE 8/21 8/27 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	GILBERT (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT NATION FORD 21-14 AT A C FLORA 24-14 AT SOUTH AIKEN BATESBURG-LEESVILLE CHAPIN CAMDEN AT BROOKLAND-GILBERT AT AIRPORT SWANSEA LOWER RICHLAND	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	AYNOR (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT GEORGETOWN 20-8 MARION 38-7 AT GREEN SEA-FLOYDS LATTA CRESTWOOD AT HARTSVILLE ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE DARLINGTON AT LAKEWOOD AT LORIS	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	OPPONENT SCORE PALMETTO 21-11 AT EASLEY 45-42 WALHALLA AT POWDERSVILLE SENECA AT ST. JOSEPH LIBERTY AT WEST-OAK AT CAROLINA CRESCENT	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	REGION 3-AA ANDREW JACKSON (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE CHERAW 13-12 NORTH CENTRAL 19-6 AT CENTRAL AT LANCASTER AT LEWISVILLE AT W J KEENAN NEWBERRY AT MID-CAROLINA COLUMBIA CHESTER
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23	BLUE RIDGE (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE ST. JOSEPH 21-35 TRAVELERS REST 28-6 AT GREER WADE HAMPTON AT PICKENS AT CHESNEE CHAPMAN AT GETTYS BROOME AT UNION COUNTY CHRIST CHURCH	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	LOWER RICHLAND (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE FAIRFIELD CENTRAL 7-34 LAKEWOOD 21-6 IRMO AT DREHER RICHLAND NORTHEAST AT BROOKLAND-CAYCE AIRPORT AT SWANSEA CAMDEN AT GILBERT	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	CRESTWOOD (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT MANNING 32-27 GOOSE CREEK 27-0 MARLBORO COUNTY SUMTER AT AYNOR LORIS AT HARTSVILLE ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE DARLINGTON AT LAKEWOOD	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	OPPONENT SCORE AT BLUE RIDGE 35-21 CHRIST CHURCH 27-21 AT EAST RUTHERFORD, NC BEREA AT MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP PENDLETON AT CRESCENT CAROLINA LIBERTY AT WEST-OAK	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	CHESTER (0-1) OPPONENT SCORE LANCASTER 21-49 AT FAIRFIELD CENTRAL AT UNION COUNTY LEWISVILLE AT SALUDA AT MID-CAROLINA W J KEENAN COLUMBIA AT NEWBERRY AT ANDREW JACKSON
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	GETTYS BROOME (0-2) OPPONENT SCORE WOODRUFF 21-55 AT CHESNEE 20-40 AT WOODMONT AT EMERALD POWDERSVILLE AT RIVERSIDE AT UNION COUNTY BLUE RIDGE AT CHRIST CHURCH CHAPMAN	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	SWANSEA (0-2) OPPONENT SCORE W J KEENAN 34-36 AIKEN 21-38 LEXINGTON AT PELION AT FOX CREEK AT CAMDEN AT AIRPORT LOWER RICHLAND AT GILBERT BROOKLAND-CAYCE	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	DARLINGTON (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT LAMAR 19-14 NORTH MYRTLE BEACH 17-24 WILSON AT CHERAW LAKEWOOD ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE AT LORIS AT AYNOR AT CRESTWOOD HARTSVILLE	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	WEST-OAK (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT CALHOUN FALLS 42-8 AT BERA 17-0 SOUTHSIDE AT WALHALLA TRI CITIES CHRISTIAN LIBERTY AT CAROLINA PENDLETON AT CRESCENT ST. JOSEPH	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	COLUMBIA (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT EAU CLAIRE 36-34 LAMAR 8-33 CHESNEE AT WAGENER-SALLEY AIRPORT AT NEWBERRY MID-CAROLINA AT CHESTER AT ANDREW JACKSON W J KEENAN
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	CHAPMAN (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE EASTSIDE 26-6 AT WALHALLA AT SENECA CLINTON WOODRUFF AT WADE HAMPTON AT BLUE RIDGE CHRIST CHURCH UNION COUNTY AT GETTYS BROOME	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	BISHOP ENGLAND (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE PORTER-GAUD 14-7 LUCY BECKHAM 31-7 AT PHILIP SIMMONS WEST ASHLEY AT HAMPTON COUNTY AT HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER AT NORTH CHARLESTON AT OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE GEORGETOWN HANAHAN	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	HARTSVILLE (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT WILSON 28-14 WEST FLORENCE 38-49 AT CAMDEN DILLON AYNOR AT LAKEWOOD CRESTWOOD LORIS AT ATLANTIC COLLEGIAT AT DARLINGTON	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	CLINTON (1-0) OPPONENT SCORE LAURENS 29-22 AT NEWBERRY AT CHAPMAN UNION COUNTY AT BATESBURG-LEESVILLE AT SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN AT CHESNEE MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP LANDRUM WOODRUFF	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	W. J. KEENAN (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT SWANSEA 36-34 AT DREHER 38-33 AIRPORT C A JOHNSON AT RIVER BLUFF ANDREW JACKSON AT CHESTER AT ANDREW JACKSON W J KEENAN
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	CHRIST CHURCH (0-2) OPPONENT SCORE AT MAULDIN 3-10 AT ST. JOSEPH 21-27 AT ST. CHRISTOPHER,VA HILTON HEAD DANIEL AT HAMPTON COUNTY AT CHAPMAN GETTYS BROOME AT BLUE RIDGE UNION COUNTY	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	GEORGETOWN (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AYNOR 8-20 AT ANDREWS 41-27 JOHNSONVILLE AT CARVERS BAY WACCAMAW OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE AT HANAHAN AT BISHOP ENGLAND NORTH CHARLESTON	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	LAKEWOOD (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT ANDREWS 28-26 AT LOWER RICHLAND 6-21 DREHER BROOKLAND-CAYCE AT DARLINGTON HARTSVILLE AT ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE AYNOR AT LORIS CRESTWOOD	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	CHESNEE (0-0) OPPONENT SCORE GETTYS BROOME 40-20 AT BATESBURG-LEESVILLE AT COLUMBIA AT R S CENTRAL,NC AT BLACKSBURG BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP CLINTON WOODRUFF AT SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN AT LANDRUM	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	MID-CAROLINA (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE NINETY-SIX 42-21 AT BATESBURG-LEESVILLE AT WHITMIRE AT NORTH CENTRAL BROOKLAND-CAYCE CHESTER AT COLUMBIA ANDREW JACKSON AT W. J. KEENAN NEWBERRY
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	UNION COUNTY (0-2) OPPONENT SCORE AT NEWBERRY 0-27 GREER 0-52 CHESTER AT WOODRUFF AT CLINTON LANCASTER GETTYS BROOME BLUE RIDGE AT CHAPMAN AT CHRIST CHURCH	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	HANAHAN (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE PHILIP SIMMONS 34-33 AT KINGSTREE 48-20 ANDREWS AT TIMBERLAND COLLETON COUNTY AT OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE NORTH CHARLESTON GEORGETOWN AT BISHOP ENGLAND	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	LORIS (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT CONWAY 41-0 GREEN SEA-FLOYDS 63-7 SOUTH COLUMBUS, NC AT NORTH MYRTLE BEACH AT ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE AT CRESTWOOD DARLINGTON AT HARTSVILLE LAKEWOOD AYNOR	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	LANDRUM (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE WALHALLA 32-21 AT NINETY-SIX 26-28 AT POLK COUNTY,NC WARE SHOALS BLACKSBURG AT WOODRUFF AT MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN AT CLINTON CHESNEE	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	NEWBERRY (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE UNION COUNTY 27-0 AT EMERALD 34-70 CLINTON AT FAIRFIELD CENTRAL POWDERSVILLE COLUMBIA AT ANDREW JACKSON W J KEENAN CHESTER AT MID-CAROLINA
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	AIRPORT (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE PELION 34-7 SOUTH AIKEN 31-14 AT W. J. KEENAN AT CHAPIN AT COLUMBIA SWANSEA AT LOWER RICHLAND GILBERT AT BROOKLAND-CAYCE CAMDEN	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	NORTH CHARLESTON (2-0) OPPONENT SCORE AT RIDGELAND 18-12 MILITARY MAGNET 34-14 BAPTIST HILL AT FORT DORCHESTER ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON BISHOP ENGLAND AT HANAHAN OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE AT GEORGETOWN	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	REGION 1-AA CRESCENT (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE EMERALD 6-21 PALMETTO 37-20 ABBEVILLE AT SENECA AT FRANKLIN COUNTY,GA AT CAROLINA ST. JOSEPH AT LIBERTY WEST-OAK AT PENDLETON	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP (0-1) OPPONENT SCORE AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN AT CHARLOTTE COUNTRY DAY MAY RIVER AT GRAY COLLEGIATE ST. JOSEPH AT CHESNEE LANDRUM AT CLINTON WOODRUFF AT SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	REGION 4-AA AMERICAN LEADERSHIP (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT CARDINAL NEWMAN 0-34 CAMDEN MILITARY 15-14 AT SPARTANBURG DAY RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA AT BUFORD SALUDA AT STROM THURMOND SILVER BLUFF AT ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON PELION
DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	BROOKLAND-CAYCE (0-2) OPPONENT SCORE HAMMOND ACADEMY 13-31 AT CHAPIN 22-45 SOUTH AIKEN AT LAKEWOOD AT MID-CAROLINA LOWER RICHLAND GILBERT AT CAMDEN AIRPORT AT SWANSEA	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE OPPONENT SCORE AT JAMES ISLAND 21-41 CANNON 21-22 RIDGE VIEW AT ASHLEY RIDGE AT GAINESVILLE HANAHAN AT GEORGETOWN BISHOP ENGLAND NORTH CHARLESTON	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	CAROLINA (0-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT WARE SHOALS 0-24 AT TRAVELERS REST AT SOUTHSIDE AT PALMETTO CRESCENT AT WEST-OAK AT ST. JOSEPH PENDLETON AT LIBERTY	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 9/25 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE BOILING SPRINGS 0-7 AT WOODMONT 34-28 AT LAURENS J L MANN AT WREN CLINTON AT WOODRUFF AT LANDRUM CHESNEE MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	DATE 8/21 8/28 9/4 9/11 9/18 10/2 10/9 10/16 10/23 10/30	(2-0) OPPONENT SCORE FOX CREEK 50-20 R B STALL 42-0 AT HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER AT NORTH CHARLESTON ANDERSON CAVALIERS PELION AT SILVER BLUFF
DATE 8/21 8/28	CAMDEN (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE AT DILLON 35-13 AT LUGOFF-ELGIN 25-28	DATE 8/21 8/28	REGION 6-AA ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE (1-1) OPPONENT SCORE	DATE 8/21 8/28	LIBERTY (0-1)	DATE 8/21 8/28			

LAKE VIEW Wild Gators



Wide Receiver
Christopher Rice



Running Back
Jalen Clarke

Lake View looks to compete with youthful roster

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Lake View – It is not uncommon for small schools with limited numbers of students to have to rebuild football rosters on a yearly basis.

The 2025 Lake View High football team was stocked full of underclassmen, but also had some key seniors in positions. That young team managed a 5-5 record as head coach Daryl King and his staff spent the season working on developing the young talent.

King, it should be noted, is a Lake View lifer. H played football at Lake View, graduating in 1994. After college, King came back to Lake View as an assistant coach. He took over as head coach in 2007 for the legendary Jewell McLaurin. King played on a state championship team at Lake View in 1991. As head coach, King took his 2011, 2014, 2016 and 2020 teams to the state finals, winning the state title in 2016. He has more than 110 career wins as the head coach. Lake View has won 10 state football titles, which ranks fifth in state history.

King, entering his 28th season as a Lake View coach, his 19th as head coach. He will be the head coach of the South all-star team for thee North-South all-star game in December.

Much of the youth that saw extensive playing time last season is back for 2026. A year of experience has helped the players grow physically and mentally.

Lake View has opened the 2026 season with two wins, posting victories over Johnsonville (30-28) and McBee (53-12). In the win over Johnsonville, the Wild Gators rallied from a 21-6 in the third quarter.

“I think we showed some maturity in being able too stay focused and continue playing,” King said. “I don’t know if we win that game a year ago. Our kids showed a lot of heart and they continued to play with great effort. We have 13 seniors but we also play a lot of underclassmen. It was good to see us respond the way we did. If this group will play hard every week,

I think they have a chance to win some games.”

Offensively, King is pleased with sophomore Hayden Smith at quarterback. Smith has been the starter in both games, but sophomore Ty’Ty Bethea is getting reps as well.

Jalen Clarke is the most experienced running back and will be the lead ball carrier. Christopher Rice and Aiden Matthews also will get carries. The top receivers are Terrance Alford and AJ Johnson. Jashawn McCulough is the starting tight end.

Left tackle Alonzo Hamilton is the lone senior starter on the offensive line. He is joined by Zymere Wheeler, Riley McCormick, Zaiden Burroughs and Richard Thompson.

“It’s a good unit up front and they are working well together,” King said. “As long as they continue to gel they should be good.”

As is often the case, many of those same names appear as starters on defense. McCulough is a starter at end, with Thompson and Wheeler also working along the front. Aiden Blue is the fourth starter up front.

Smith is one of the starters at linebacker, joined by Gabe Lee and Desmond Owens. In the secondary are Alford, RJ Johnson and Clarke, along with Kaiden Johnson. Alford returned an interception for a touchdown in the win over Johnsonville. Smith has two interceptions and AJ Johnson has a pick early on. The Wild Gators’ defense forced six turnovers against Johnsonville, but King says his unit did not tackle well.

“I think we know what we have and that’s a group that will play hard,” King said. “ Football is about effort and execution. We have to work hard and stay focused on getting better each week..”

From the Principal, Faculty, Staff and Students
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"JUST SAY NO"

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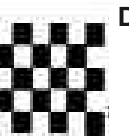
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ORANGEBURG PREP INDIANS



The Orangeburg Prep Captains march out for the coin toss in the season opener

Orangeburg Prep off to a slow start in 2026

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Orangeburg – The start of the season hasn’t gone anything like head coach **Brooks Smith** expected for his **Orangeburg Preparatory School** football team. The Indians knew they had a difficult season opener against 3-time defending SCISA AAA state runner-up, **Wilson Hall**. The result of that game was a 44-0 defeat.

Game 2 wasn’t a whole lot better as the Indians dropped a 45-14 decision to **Dillon Christian School**.

“We knew we were facing a really good team in Wilson Hall, and Dillon Christian is a good team too,” said Smith, who is in his second year as the Orangeburg Prep head coach. “Their quarterback (**Jordan Blackmon**) is the real deal.”

However, Smith said the Indians had a lot to do with the two lopsided losses as well. “We’re making a lot of mistakes,” Smith said. “We’ve been putting the ball on the ground a lot. Against Dillon Christian in the first quarter, we really dominated the quarter. You have to give credit to Dillon Christian for the way they came back.”

Orangeburg Prep took a 6-0 lead into the second quarter. However, the Warriors scored 21 points in the second quarter and took a 38-6 lead into the fourth quarter.

“We’re just inconsistent on both sides of the football so far,” Smith said. “On Thursday against Dillon Christian, we had them in third and long a couple of times and they would make a play and convert.

“On offense, we Knew we would have to get in some pace and do some things, and we did. But then we would run the wrong formation, the wrong route and it throws you off. We’ve got to be able to line up and move down the field and not make those mistakes.”

Orangeburg Prep came into the season thin on numbers with just 26 players on the roster, six of them freshmen. The Indians have already lost two starters to injury this season, so the process of moving players around to fill holes has already begun.

One of those lost is center/noseguard **Thomas Fanning**, who is in his third year as a starter. He tore meniscus in a knee. The other injured player is **Dakota Boan**, who starts at split end and safety. He broke his collarbone.

“We’re thin on numbers, thin on experience now,”

Smith said. “We’ve got to shift some things around. The learning curve is tough when you don’t have a lot of depth. With those injuries and four upper classmen who had never played varsity football before, we’re really down to 13 or 14 kids with experience.”

The Indians came into the season with two other returning starters on the offensive line in left tackle **Mac Strickland** and left guard **Parker Gray**. The right side of the line has two newcomers in guard **Colin Haig** and tackle **Cam Jolley**.

Cholly Williams is back for a second year as the starting quarterback. Lining up in the backfield with him are **Blake Innabiet** at tailback and **Mikah Gilmore** at fullback.

With the loss of Boan, Williams’ top two targets are tight end **Marshall Livingston** and slot receiver **Maxx Judy**. Both were starters last season.

Through the first two games, Williams had completed 20 of 39 passes for 150 yards and no touchdowns against one interception. Livingston had been his top target with 10 catches for 47 yards while Judy had three catches for 44 yards. Boan had three catches for 34 yards before going down with the injury.

The Indians hope to get their running game kicked into gear when they take on **Clarendon Hall** in their next game. Williams had rushed for 83 yards on 16 carries while Gilmore had 67 yards on 25 attempts.

Prior to the losses of Fanning and Boan, Orangeburg Prep had six starters returning on defense. Fanning was playing noseguard while Gilmore and Haig were both new starters at defensive end.

The strength of the defense is at linebacker with three returning starters in Livingston on the outside and Strickland and Innabiet on the inside. The new starter of the four is outside linebacker **Zawayne Robinson**.

Judy and Boan were the returning starters in the secondary, both at safety. The cornerbacks are both new starters in **Davis Dangerfield** and **Toddy McElhone**.

Livingston was leading the defense in tackles with 16. McElhone and Gilmore were tied for the lead in tackles for loss with two apiece, and Williams had an interception.

Even though he wishes he wasn’t putting him through his paces as much as he has so far, Smith is very happy with the job Williams is doing on special teams. Williams returns as both the punter and the

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placekicker.

“We’re punting the ball really well,” Smith said with a laugh but in all seriousness. “Cholly Williams is doing a great job with that. Special teams have been a bright spot for us.”

McElhone holds for Williams on both field goals and extra points, while Judy and Strickland handle the snapping duties. Livingston and Judy are handling the kick return and punt return duties.

The Indians had a team meeting following the loss to Dillon Christian. Smith said he told his players that practices were about to get more intense in order to straighten up the slow start.

However, Smith pointed out one very important thing about his team’s effort through the first two games.

“I truly believe my kids are giving me all that they’ve got,” Smith said. “Both games the opposing coaches have said your kids play hard and are more physical than last year. I can’t ask for any more of that. They’re playing with a bunch of effort and are striking people.

“I’ve seen glimpses of us being a good team. We just haven’t been consistent enough yet.”

2026 HSSR Football Schedules															
8/21	AT GREENWOOD	7-33	8/21	WESTWOOD 26-0			10/23	AT BLUFFTON		10/2	PICKENS				
8/28	BOILING SPRINGS	13-34	8/28	AT LANCASTER	23-30		10/30	AT COLLETON COUNTY		10/9	AT WALHALLA				
9/4	AT EASLEY		9/4	RICHLAND NORTHEAST		DATE				10/16	SOUTHSIDE				
9/11	EASTSIDE		9/11	FORT MILL		8/21	IRMO (1-1)			10/23	AT SENECA				
9/25	GETTYS BROOME		9/18	AT CLOVER		8/28	ROCK HILL 14-24			10/30	DANIEL				
10/2	AT TRAVELERS REST		9/25	INDIANLAND		9/4	AT SPRING VALLEY	37-0	DATE						
10/9	WADE HAMPTON		10/2	AT CATAWBA RIDGE		9/11	AT LOWER RICHLAND		8/28	OPPONENT SCORE					
10/16	AT GREENVILLE		10/16	AT NATION FORD		9/18	WILSON		9/4	MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	DANIEL (2-0)				
10/23	GAFFNEY		10/23	AT SOUTH POINTE		10/2	AT DORMAN		9/11	ST. JAMES	OPPONENT SCORE				
10/30	GREER		10/30	LAKE WYLIE		10/9	NORTH AUGUSTA		9/18	MANNING	WREN 42-28				
						10/16	AT SOUTH AIKEN		9/25	AT NORTH AUGUSTA	8/21	BELTON-HONEA PATH 45-7			
						10/23	AT MIDLAND VALLEY		10/2	AT COLLETON COUNTY	8/28	POWERSVILLE			
						10/30	AIKEN		10/9	AT LUCY BECKHAM	9/4	AT GREENVILLE			
							FOX CREEK		10/16	AT HILTON HEAD	9/18	AT CHRIST CHURCH			
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE								10/23	BEAUFORT	10/2	WALHALLA			
8/29	AT BLUE RIDGE	6-28							10/30	BLUFFTON	10/9	SENECA			
9/4	AT WREN		DATE	A C FLORA (1-1)		DATE	MIDLAND VALLEY (2-0)				10/16	AT PICKENS			
9/11	CAROLINA		8/21	WHITE KNOLL	31-21	8/21	OPPONENT SCORE				10/23	AT SOUTHSIDE			
9/18	BEREA		8/27	GILBERT 14-24		8/28	LEXINGTON 49-42				10/30	AT BEREA			
9/25	AT LIBERTY		9/4	AT MIDLAND VALLEY		8/28	AT LAKESIDE, GA	42-7							
10/2	RIVERSIDE		9/11	AT CAMDEN		9/4	A C FLORA								
10/9	GREENVILLE		9/25	AT RIVER BLUFF		9/11	RIVER BLUFF		DATE	CONWAY (0-2)		PICKENS (2-0)			
10/16	AT GAFFNEY		10/2	LANCASTER		9/18	AT GREENWOOD		8/21	LORIS 0-41	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE			
10/23	AT GREER		10/9	AT LUGOFF-ELGIN		9/25	FOX CREEK		8/28	AT CAROLINA FOREST	8/21	EASLEY 61-41			
10/30	WADE HAMPTON		10/16	RICHLAND NORTHEAST		10/2	AIKEN		9/11	AT SOCASTEE	8/28	BLACKSBURG			
			10/23	AT WESTWOOD		10/16	IRMO		9/18	WILSON	9/4	AT LIBERTY			
			10/30	DREHER		10/23	AT SOUTH AIKEN		9/25	MARLBORO COUNTY	9/11	AT PALMETTO			
						10/30	AT NORTH AUGUSTA		10/2	AT SOUTH FLORENCE	9/18	BLUE RIDGE			
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE								10/9	AT MYRTLE BEACH	10/2	AT BEREA			
8/28	SOUTHSIDE 48-0		DATE	DREHER (1-1)		DATE	NORTH AUGUSTA (1-1)		10/16	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	10/16	SOUTHSIDE			
9/4	AT PALMETTO		8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		10/23	ST. JAMES	10/23	DANIEL			
9/11	AT BLUE RIDGE		8/28	AT NORTH CENTRAL	56-13	8/28	AT STROM THURMOND	7-21	10/30	AT WEST FLORENCE	10/30	AT WALHALLA			
9/18	AT EASTSIDE		9/4	W J KEENAN	33-38	9/4	LEXINGTON 27-16					AT SENECA			
9/25	CHAPMAN		9/11	AT LAKEWOOD		9/18	GREENWOOD								
10/2	GAFFNEY		9/18	LOWER RICHLAND		9/25	AT WHITE KNOLL		DATE	MYRTLE BEACH (0-2)					
10/9	AT RIVERSIDE		10/2	C A JOHNSON		9/25	AT AIKEN		8/21	OPPONENT SCORE		SENECA (1-1)			
10/16	GREER		10/9	AT RICHLAND NORTHEAST		10/2	MAY RIVER		8/28	AT MARLBORO COUNTY 20-61	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE			
10/23	GREENVILLE		10/16	WESTWOOD		10/9	AT IRMO		9/4	DILLON 24-50	8/21	AT POWERSVILLE 12-28			
10/30	AT TRAVELERS REST		10/23	LUGOFF-ELGIN		10/16	SOUTH AIKEN		9/11	CAROLINA FOREST	8/28	AT LIBERTY 28-21			
			10/30	LANCASTER		10/23	AT FOX CREEK		9/18	AT WEST FLORENCE	9/4	CHAPMAN			
				AT A C FLORA		10/30	MIDLAND VALLEY		9/25	SOUTH FLORENCE	9/25	AT PENDLETON			
									10/9	CONWAY	10/2	SOUTHSIDE			
									10/16	ST. JAMES	10/9	AT DANIEL			
									10/23	AT WILSON	10/16	AT WALHALLA			
									10/30	AT NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	10/23	BEREA			
											10/30	PICKENS			
	</														



Manning opens 1-1 with two exciting games

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Manning – The Manning High School football team is 1-1 after its first two games of the season. The Monarchs could be 2-0, but they also could be 0-2.

And that just isn’t conjecture. The lost came in the season opener by a 32-27 count to Crestwood. The Knights held on to squeeze out the victory.

The victory was 43-32 over Clarendon County School District foe Scott’s Branch. Manning scored two touchdowns in the final 1 ½ minutes to claim the triumph.

As a veteran head coach is wont to do, the Monarchs’ Reggie Kennedy is taking the wild start all in stride.

“You’d rather be 2-0, but we’re 1-1,” Kennedy said. “We had a chance to win both games though. I’m proud that we were able to find a way to win at the end against Scott’s Branch.

“I’ve seen the team making progress over the first two weeks though. We just have to keep on doing that. If we continue to do that, I think we’re going to be pretty good down the stretch.”

The win over Scott’s Branch came about because of the legs of CJ Robinson. Scott’s Branch scored with less than two minutes remaining at Manning’s Ramsey Stadium to take the lead as it went for its second straight victory after beating the Monarchs 40-38 last season for the first time in an estimated 60 years.

Scott’s Branch chose to kick it deep to Robinson on the ensuing kickoff. Robinson, who was an All-Region 7-AA selection as a kick returner, wide receiver and cornerback last season and returned a kickoff for a touchdown against Crestwood the week before, gathered in the kick and returned it for the go-ahead touchdown with around 1:30 left.

“CJ just did a great job on the return,” Kennedy said of Robinson, who returned 15 kickoffs for 340 yards, a 22.7 per-return average, and one

Touchdown last season. As a cornerback, he had two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown, caused two fumbles, had six pass deflections and 29 tackles. On offense, he had 43 receptions for 843 yards and 13 scores.

Manning put the game away when Scott’s Branch fumbled while trying to put together a scoring drive, and the Monarchs had a short return for a touchdown.

The game against Crestwood had much of the same feel. Manning trailed by less than a touchdown with just over a minute to play, but had fourth down and goal at the Knights’ 1-yard line. Crestwood made a stand and seemingly put the game away when running back Calvin Wofford broke off a 90-yard scoring run.

However, the Monarchs weren’t done just yet. Quarterback Lovell Stevenson connected

with Isaiah Baxter for a 24-yard touchdown pass to make it 32-27 with nine seconds left. Crestwood finally secured the game by recovering the onside kick on the ensuing kickoff.

Crestwood had jumped out to a 14-0 lead when Robinson broke loose for his first kickoff return for a touchdown of the season. He took it 90 yards and that got the Monarchs back in the game at 14-6 and in gear for a wild contest.

That was the halftime score, but the Monarchs got the football to begin the second half. Manning put together a scoring drive that ended with Baxter scoring on a 24-yard run. Stevenson ran for the 2-point conversion to tie the game at 14-14.

Crestwood pushed the lead to 26-14 before Manning tried to rally for the victory. A 50—yard completion from Stevenson to A’maija Dow moved the Monarchs inside the Knights’ 10-yard line. That set up a 6-yard scoring run by Stevenson, and the extra point made it 26-21 early in the fourth quarter.

A 36-yard run on a reverse by Robinson had Manning inside the Crestwood 10 with less than four minutes remaining. That’s when the Knights made the defensive stand, holding up Stevenson on fourth down at the 1.

When Manning played Sumter in the FTC Jamboree on August 14 and lost 21-0, Kennedy said he was disappointed with his offense that night. However, he thinks it is performing better now.

“We had played pretty good prior to the jamboree, and I think we got things back into gear after the jamboree,” Kennedy said. “We haven’t changed the schemes a whole lot, if any at all. The guys just came back and we got back into our rhythm.”

Stevenson is in his second year starting at quarterback. Kennedy thinks the senior is doing a good job.

“Vell is playing well,” Kennedy said. “He’s doing a good job of managing the offense, and he is doing a good job of running the football too. I would like to see him improve a little bit more in the passing game, but I feel like he is going to make plays for us.”

Kennedy is hoping the defense will improve, mainly in limiting the number of penalties it is having called against it.

“I think we’re hurting ourselves a whole lot,” he said. “We’ve got to find a way to get off the field.”

Also, Kennedy believes the Monarchs have to get better when it comes to punting the football.

“We’ve got to turn the field and make them go farther to go score,” he said. “We can’t be giving them the short field so much.”

Manning goes on the road for the first time when it travels to Winnsboro to take on Fairfield Central on September 4.

The Monarchs will kick off their Region 6-AA schedule at home against East Clarendon on



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October 2. That will be followed by road games at Lake City and Dillon and home games against Waccamaw and Marlboro County.



2026 Dorchester Academy Volleyball
Dorchester Academy ready to take the next step

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Dorchester – The Dorchester Academy Raiders have been the SCISA class A state semi finals the last three years so as Head Coach Michael Nelson enters his fourth season his Raider are looking to take the next step and reach the state finals.

They finished 9-2/2-1 last season but lost most of their skill players to graduation but they return a solid group of players that are hungry to make their mark.

“We have new quarterback, running back, wide receivers and tight end but we return our offensive line and most of our defense. This team is hungry to get past semi’s and make it to the finals. That’s our goal every year. We set the standard high and hopefully we reach it,” said coach Nelson.

The Raiders have gotten off to a good start as they sit at 2-0 after beating Patrick Henry Academy 26-8 and Lee Academy 60-14.

Juniors quarterback Carter Beeks (5-9,140) and running back Reed Almers (5-11,180) have started the season well. Beeks has passed for 177 yards and three scores while Almers has rushed for 277 yards and five scores.

“We plan to open it up a little more this season because Beeks gives us the ability to stretch the field and we feel we have a mismatch with are receivers,” coach Nelson said.

At H-Back is senior Warren Judy (5-11,210). He also plays linebacker and is the reigning region defensive player of the year. He leads the team in tackles with 11 and is followed by junior Ryan Gaillard and Byron with 10.



2026 Carvers Bay Bears football
Carvers Bay football focused on state title run

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Hemingway—Carvers Bay had a big win over Class A opponent Latta to start the 2026 season, 27-0, and the Bears week two game was against Waccamaw but bad weather delayed that game until Monday, August, 31 HSSR as going to press earlier. Head coach Matthew Richard is starting his 8th season as the Bears head coach and his team is coming off a 12-1 record from last season.

Coach Richard calls Waccamaw a team that demands assignment football from their opponents. “They run a triple option offense that looks like a flex bone, and they come at your defense from all over the field,” said Coach Richard. “We have to limit our mistakes against them.”

Against Latta, quarterback Chris Simmons scored three rushing touchdowns and running back Dominique Walker scored the team’s fourth touchdown on a short run to lead the Bears against the

Vikings. Simmons also plays FS on defense. One of the team’s top newcomers is junior WR/SS Jayshaun Ford (6-0,170) who had nearly 175 yards in receptions against Latta. “Many of his catches against Latta either gave us first downs or got us in the red zone where we were able to run it in for a touchdown,” said Coach Richard. “Having a receiver like him will help set up our running game because the defense has to account for him on every play.”

“I feel like we can compete and win against anyone on our schedule,” said Coach Richard. “Players like Simmons, Walker, Tristan Diggs, Jayshawn Ford, and Saquan Hannah are very good players for us on both sides of the ball.”

Carvers Bay also picked up two transfers from Georgetown High who are starting for the Bears. They are RB/CB Trent Singleton and TE/LB Xavier Newbold. Newbold had an interception against Latta.

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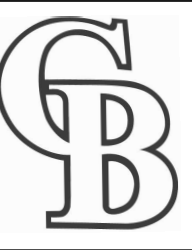
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The new receiving group is sophomore tight end Colson Williams (6-2,185), junior wide out Graham Varnadoe (6-5,195), and senior wide out Noah Risher (6,186). Risher leads the team with 8 receptions for 87 yards and two touchdowns. All three players also start in the secondary. Senior center Jack Whetsell (6-1,220) is the leader of the offensive line. Joining him are junior Clayton Zeigler (6-2,230), senior Will Quattle-

See Dorchester Academy, pg. 62

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Coach Richard said Diggs (6-2, 280) had six pancake blocks against Latta, and he helped the Bears running game have a huge night against the Vikings.

On defense, versus Latta Coach was pleased with the play of senior defensive end Jaquan Hannah (6-2, 215). “Jaquan was hurt several games last year, so it is great to have him healthy and playing well again,” said Coach Richard. “He has eight tackles and two sacks against Latta.”

The team’s top tackler against the Vikings was linebacker Dominique Walker (5-7, 210) with 10 tackles. Defensive end Xavier Frederick contributed seven tackles also.

“Our goal this season is to play one week at the time and not get too far ahead of ourselves,” said Coach Richard. “The sky is the limit for this group and with good athletes like Simmons and Walker we are confident any time we take the field.”

Dillon Christian ready for a big year on the gridiron

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Dillon – Dillon Christian went 3-7/2-2 in head coach **Chris Alphin** first season with a very young team with most of the players returning expectations are high and coach is excited to see to see how his young players have grown.
“We need to stay health and play our game. We feel like the kids that are juniors now, were going to be our corner stone to flip the culture here. They are a year older and they gained valuable experience last season so we feel really good heading into the season,” said coach Alphin.

Coach continued, “We go to camp every year. This year we did a spiritual isolation camp in the mountains of North Carolina and we did it with church. We set all of our season goals but we also had team devotions. I feel this has made our team closer together and the teams knows while we love to play the game. There is a higher purpose,” Coach said.

The Warriors evened their record at 1-1 after beating Orangeburg Prep 45-14. Blackmon had 384 yards of offense and passed for three touchdowns and ran for two more scores while the defense held OP to 204 yards of offense We
The Warriors have only five seniors led by all region kicker **Scott Bugarin**. He has already hit from 39 yards out. Middle linebacker **Ethan Moody**, defensive end **Lincoln Dial**, guard **Chandler Rogers**, and wide receiver **Rilee Martin**. Moody was the team’s leading tackler last season with 65 and a whopping 22 tackles for loss.

The junior class is loaded with talent starting with the offensive line in right guard **CJ Al-**

Moreno adjusting on the fly to coaching at Lee

By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
BISHOPVILLE – **Johnie Moreno’s Lee Academy** coaching tenure thus far has not been step by step.

It has been a two-minute drill.
Hired as the Cavaliers’ coach in late June, Moreno certainly became in charge of building a program. But before that, he had to build a coaching staff.

That’s in place. Now, Moreno waits for the same with everything else after a 0-2 start.
“We’ve just got to get a little bit more comfortable with the offense and the defense,” Moreno said. “We have that entirely new coaching staff that the boys are having to learn from. We all got here late in the summer. So, even through the first couple of games, this is still kind of new.”

Lee Academy, which lost 44-0 to **Colleton Prep** and 60-14 to **Dorchester Academy**, does have one key player to keep building around: Quarterback **Landon Olson**.

“He had quite a game (against Dorchester Academy),” Moreno said. “He’s a natural leader and the boys follow him. They listen to him. He puts them in the right positions as best as he can. He plays hard and forces the rest of the team to follow suit with him.

Olson has passed for 86 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 112 more yards.

“The sky’s the limit for him,” Moreno said. ‘He’s a big guy who runs well and is really smart and has good athleticism and can get everybody to line up and run the offense the way it needs to be run. And he’s also our middle linebacker on defense, so he’s certainly a leader on that side.”

The Cavaliers focus on a rushing attack, so pass-

ford(5-10,275), right tackle **John Walker** (6-3,235), and quarterback **Jordan Blackmon** (5-10,155). They are returning offensive starters. Blackmon accounted for over 2200 yards of offense and 19 scores.
New junior starters are defensive back **Blake Hunt (5-11, 135)**, WR/DB **Gray Easterling** (5-10,165), running backs **Terry Knight** (5-8,145) and **Mills Wallace** (5-7,140). Knight and Wallace start at linebackers also with Knight leading the team in tackles with 19.

Left Tackle is freshmen **Bradley Collins** and left guard is an eighth grader **Chase Huggins**.
While several players play both ways there are few players that play one side of the ball. Junior **Keylan Oxendine** (5-9,270) plays just defensive line and sophomore **Bentley Clark** (6-2,175) only plays defensive end.

“To challenge for the region championship, we need to stay healthy and not forgot what got us here. We do those things and give glory to God we will be okay,” said coach.



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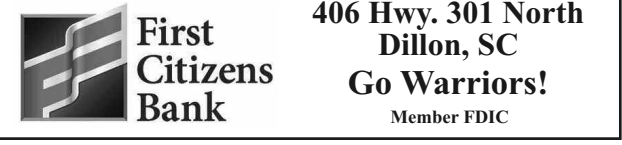
ing will happen now and then. But when the ball is airborne, so is receiver **Austin Griffin**.
“He’s not that big but he’s really fast,” Moreno said. “If he can touch the ball, we always have a chance to go somewhere with it. He has only caught four passes, but one of them was for a 64-yard touchdown. So, if he touches the ball, it’s definitely a potential for us to go score.”
On Friday, another prime defender emerged in linebacker **Ryan Morgan** after he made 13 tackles.
“Ryan had not played in a long time before this year,” Moreno said. “So, we wanted to make sure he’s acclimated. And, with the performance he had Friday, he showed that he is ready to go.”
Lee Academy has another tall task at 7:30 p.m. Friday when it plays at undefeated **Florence Christian**.
“We’ve just got to want to play hard and for each other,” Moreno said. “The last 2 games didn’t go our way, and it wasn’t the most fun stuff. But the boys are learning we’ve got to stick together.”
That will also be important with contributions from: Offensive linemen **Cannon Hopkins**, **Taylor Mitchell**, **Gavin Makela**, **Benton Blackwell** and **Wyatt Frazier**. Benton Blackwell and **Zack Blackwell**, along with Makela, are on the defensive line. And **Carter Berendzen** along with Olson are linebackers.

DILLON CHRISTIAN

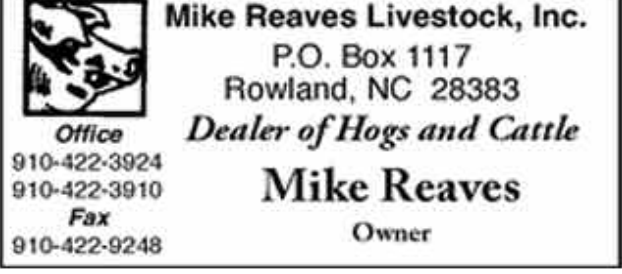
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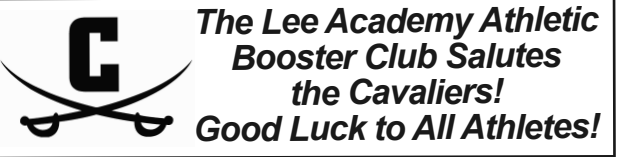
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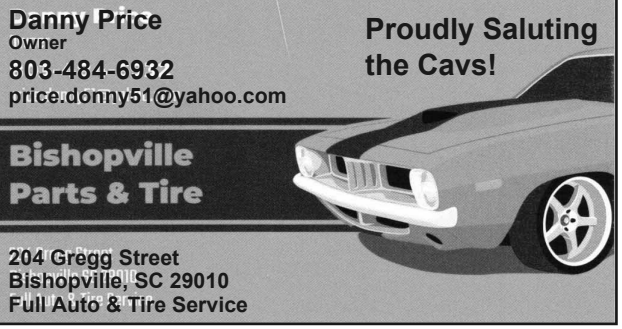
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East Clarendon shows good, bad in first two games

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Turbeville – The **East Clarendon High School** football team has been at two different ends of the spectrum through their first two games of the season.

The Wolverines opened the season with a 21-14 victory over **Scott’s Branch**. However, they followed it up with a 24-6 loss to **Laurence Manning Academy**.

East Clarendon head coach **Larry Cornelius** is still trying to get a good read on his team.
“So far we’ve played two pretty good teams,” Cornelius said. “We’ve learned a lot so far. We went into the Laurence Manning game not at 100 percent with a few guys out. But we know we’ve got to play a cleaner game than we played against them.”

The Wolverines were penalized 15 times for 155 yards against the Swampcats. They also hurt themselves a lot against Scott’s Branch, picking up over 400 yards of total offense, but hurting themselves with penalties and three turnovers.

“We can’t afford all of those penalties,” Cornelius said. “We’ve got to stay in front of the sticks. We can’t be chasing the chains all night. Our offense isn’t built for that.”

Cornelius hopes to get the offense in gear behind an offensive line that has a lot of experience. The center is **Colton Baker**, who is 5-feet-100inches tall and weighs 230 pounds. The rest of the line includes **Walker Kirby** (6-5, 270), **Koy Wright** (5-11, 230), **Johnny Boyington** (5-10, 240) and **Jesse Floyd** (6-3, 215).

Gavin White is back at quarterback. He has a slew of players to throw to and hand the ball to in the likes of **Heath Jordan**, **Easton Donlon**, **Jamal Prince**, **Shamar Graham**, **Picasso Brown**, **Pierson Kelly**, **Crosby Timmons** and the coach’s son, **Skyler Cornelius**.

Floyd is the noseguard on defense with **Graham** and **Avery Lowery** starting on either side of him at defensive end. The only returning linebacker is on the outside in **Ke’Shaun Porter**. The other outside

Scott’s Branch still winless to open 2026

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Summerton – **Patrick Fleming** was anticipating a 15-0 season for his **Scott’s Branch High School** football team coming into the 2026 campaign. That fell by the wayside with a 21-14, opening-game loss to **East Clarendon**.

A 14=1 mark did as well as the Eagles dropped a 43-32 decision to **Manning**, their other **Clarendon County School District** rival, in Game 2. Despite that, Fleming still has a lot of confidence in his squad.

“We have a great sense of confidence in this team,” said Fleming, who is in his third year as head coach. “I feel like we can compete against anyone. Our older guys are taking the younger guys under wings and teaching them. We can’t run them out of the weight room. They’re bigger, stronger, faster, have high intensity.”

Scott’s Branch returns eight starters on offense from a team that went 9-3 and reached the second round of the Class A state playoffs a year ago.

Senior 4-year starter **Quintin Jackson** returns at halfback, while seniors **Keith Rogers**, **Nyren Bowman** and **Danny Ragin** and junior **Fra’Jon Bennett** all return as starting wide receivers. Bowman and Ragin have three years of starting experience, Rogers and Bennett two apiece.

Three of the offensive linemen are returning

linebacker is **Cade Mooneyham**, while the inside linebackers are **Timmons** and **Carsten Mellette**.

The secondary is experienced with Cornelius at strong safety, **Picasso Brown** at free safety and **Braylon Brown** lined up at one of the cornerbacks. The other cornerback is a newcomer in **Ashtin Lanier**.

East Clarendon finished the night with 422 yards of total offense against Scott’s Branch.
Coach Cornelius likes the backfield combination he has of his son, **Picasso Brown** and **Graham**.
“I think we’ve got three really good backs back there,” the head coach said. “We just like to mix and match them, and we’ll go with whoever it is that has the hot hand.”

No on had a super impressive game against Laurence Manning. Graham had 11 carries for 55 yards, Brown had 48 yards on nine carries and Cornelius finished with 12 yards on four carries.

Whie completed 10 of 22 passes for 68 yards against the Swampcats. Donlon had three receptions while Prince, Timmons and Kelly had two catches apiece.

Coach Cornelius sees a lot of good things in the defense, but there is one area that needs improvement.
“We’ve got to clean up our tackling,” he said. “There are too many open field tackles that we missed. Our practice time has been really limited because of the heat, and I think that has hurt us with tackling.”



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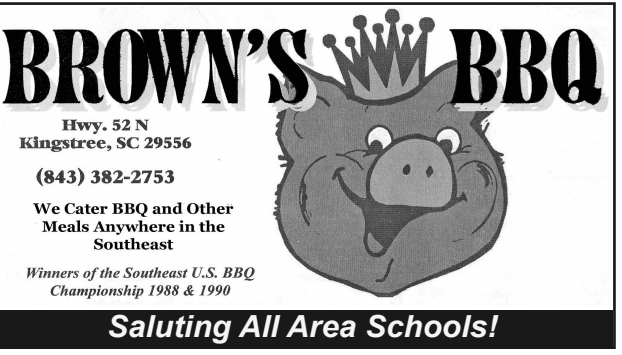
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SUMMERVILLE GREENWAVE

Business as usual for Green Wave on the gridiron

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR

Summerville – The Summerville Football team is out to a great start this season.

The **Green Wave** improved to 2-0 on the season Aug. 28 with a 45-28 win at **Hillcrest**. Summerville, ranked fifth in the **South Carolina Media Preseason 5A** poll, opened its 2026 season Aug. 21 by handing eighth ranked **Sumter** a 28-7 loss at **Memorial Stadium**.

“I thought it was a great effort,” said Summerville coach **Ian Rafferty**. “We have to clean up some things, but I thought they played hard and executed good for the most part. Sumter has a really good team, but we moved the ball on them. We scored some points with our defense and we kind of shut them down after their score.”

Running back **Jayven Williams** already has three TD runs, including a 54-yarder and an 80-yarder, and blocked a punt that led directly to a score. Junior quarterback **Ethan D’Waters** has TD passes to **Devin Garza**, **Toreyion Jackson** and **Jaelyn Pounds**. Jackson also returned a kick-off 90 yards for a TD and recovered a blocked punt and returned it for a TD.

Running back **Maxwell Grant** has two rushing TDs. Defensive lineman **Demarcus King** returned a fumble recovery into the end zone for a TD.

Looks like business as usual for the Green Wave.

“As always, expectations are high,” Rafferty said. “We have a good group of kids who work hard, enjoy football and enjoy being around each other. We did lose a lot of playmakers from last year, but we reloaded a little. We have some guys coming up from our JV team that was undefeated last season. We were also fortunate enough to have some kids move in who can help us. We feel good where we are.”

Summerville finished 2025 with an 11-3 record after falling to **Dutch Fork** in the **5A, Division 1** state championship game for the second consecutive season.

“We’ve been right there at the end the last four years,” Rafferty said. “You just have to keep knocking on the door, keep getting better. Sometimes you need a little luck and the last two years we haven’t had the luck in those state championship games. We don’t harp on it but did talk a little in the off season about things we need to do to be more successful. Now that the season is here we are kind of focusing on one game at a time.”

Summerville lost a quarterback who passed for more than 1,700 yards and 20 touchdowns last season and its leading receiver. However, the Wave returns some of the other key players who helped it make those deep playoff runs.

Williams is one of the top running backs in the state. The 5-7, 170-pound senior rushed for more than 2,000 yards last year, marking his second consecutive season doing so. Williams finished the season with more than 2,300 all-purpose yards and



Photo by Roger Lee
Senior Eli Pressley is one of the anchors for the Green Wave defense

23 touchdowns.

“We are expecting another big year out of him,” Rafferty said. “Sophomores Maxwell Grant and **Damon Smith** give us good depth behind him.”

Juniors **Teru Davis** and **Pounds**, the team’s second and third leading receivers last season, also return.

Other receivers expected to be in the mix include seniors **Raymeire Simmons** and **Jackson**. Sophomores **Caleb Davis** and **Quinten Bitting** are pushing D’Water for time at quarterback.

Senior **Naval Academy** commit **Nolan Giet** anchors Summerville’s offensive line, which is a little young.

Others likely to see a lot of action in the trenches include senior **Seth Seprish** and juniors **Quinn Cook**, **Dakota Wade** and **Aden Mena**.

Returning senior **Ethan Woods** and junior **Reid Rafferty** are the only tight ends listed on Summerville’s roster.

Summerville’s defense should once again be a force. The Wave looks to be particularly strong up front and on the second level.

“Defensively we have a lot of guys back and some new faces,” Rafferty said. “We are going to kind of lean on senior **Eli Pressley** and junior **Demarcus King**, who are two of our better players. We have the talent; we just have to put everyone in the right spot.”

Pressley is the leader for a talented group of linebackers that also features junior returner **Jaylen Pryor** and junior **Ashley Ridge** transfer **MJ Respass**.

King anchors a beefy defensive line that also features returners **David Hall**, **Carson Vaughn** and **Dexter Chavous**, though Chavous may be

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needed more on offense.

Pressley, Pryor and King were among Summerville’s leading tacklers last season.

Senior kicker **Nate Beaver** and senior punter **Hayden O’Rear** return and are both drawing a lot of college interest. Long snapper **Bryce O’Rear** also returns.

Bulldogs have talent, experience to make title run

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Bennettsville – If you are looking for a team that maybe under the radar when it comes to being a state championship contender in South Carolina, look no further than Bennettsville, home of the **Marlboro County Bulldogs**.

On second thought, don’t consider the Bulldogs because they are hardly a longshot. After a 2-0 start, the Bulldogs are not flying under anyone’s radar.

Now in his third season at the school, **Cory Johnson** has a roster full of talented nd experienced players. Not only does he have 19 returning starters from a team that finished 8-4 last season, but those players now have the confidence and the belief that they can beat any and every team on their schedule.

The Bulldogs made an early statement in the season opener, hanging 61 points on Myrtle Beach in a 41-point win. They followed that win with a 28-6 win over Atlantic Collegiate. Early indications are Marlboro County has an offense that will put points on the scoreboard, combined with a physical, athletic defense that plays with a purpose and an attitude.

Leading the offense is junior quarterback **Tre Blakeney**, who last season threw for 1,639 yards

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and rushed for 761 yards. He’s on a similar pace this season, passing for 470 yards in two games.

The run game is manned by junior **Khrishawn Smith** and senior **Tehvin Easterling**. Smith is averaging 11.3 yards per carry in two games while Easterling averages 7.8 yards per carry.

Top receivers include junior **Mikyl Littles** and freshman **Carson Roberts**. Among the players working up front are **Hayden Haywood**, **Ahmand Taylor**, **Kamarion Hepburn**, **Shaquarri Brown** and **Zirell McKiver-Barker**.

Senior linebacker **Myjae McCoy** returns as a leader on the defense. McCoy racked up 107 tackles and nine tackles for loss last season. Senior safety **Layton Chavis** totaled 80 tackles last season and senior linebacker **Jamorie Williams** had 59 hits.

Patrick Williams is a force on the interior line and had 46 tackles and 5.5 sacks in 2025. End **Jaden Ashe** had 48 tackles. **LaQuincy Leach** is capable of contributing in the secondary or at receiver, where he had more than 400 yards last season.

The Bulldogs compete in class AA this fall, down from AA, and will be competing in region 6-AA with Dillon, Waccamaw, Manning, East Clarendon and Lake City.

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Hartsville football looking to improve as they go

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Hartsville – As he embarks on his 22nd season as the head football coach at **Hartsville High**, **Jeff Calabrese** is anxiously anticipating the upcoming 2026 season.

The season has been a mixed bag in the early going as Hartsville split their first two games of the season. Hartsville opened with a 55-34 win over Wilson but suffered their first defeat in week two, falling to West Florence, 49-38.

As the early scores show, Hartsville’s offense has been productive with 93 points in two games. But a revamped defense, with several new coaches and some moving parts, has not been as successful. Hartsville has a new defensive coordinator with veteran coach Neil Smith taking over. A new system and several players in new positions has caused a slow start.

Hartsville was 7-5 in class AAAA last year but has been moved to class AAA for the 2026 season. Calabrese has more than 200 career coaching wins.

In terms of personnel, the Red Foxes have experience returning in several areas, starting with quarterback. Junior **Ford Wallace** is back as the starter and

continues to develop in his role as a leader on the offense.

“He’s a young man that continues to improve every year,” said Calabrese. “He’s a good athlete and he is learning the game.”

Returning at running back is junior **Trace Hillian**, who is off to a good start this season. Former receiver **CJ Hickmon** has moved into the back-field and will be a part of the ground attack.

Anchoring the offensive line is two-time all-region performer **Fred Turner**. Other returning linemen, who could end up on either side of the ball, include **Creighton McKnight**, **Jake Williams**, **Jaquan Samuel** and **Pat Rhode**.

Rod Cranford returns in the back seven as a third-year starter. **Zi’Yon Mason** is moving from the secondary to linebacker, as is **Jamario Scpio-Bishop**. **Devaris James** and **Deon McCall** are players to watch in the secondary.

“At a school our size, sometimes you have to move some kids around to make it all fit,” Calabrese said. “We have a good group to work with. We just need to build some depth and continue to improve. We’re far from a finished product.”

David Crane era set to begin for BHP football

By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor

HONEA PATH – First-year **Belton-Honea Path** coach **David Crane** is keeping things in perspective.

Although the Bears lost in last year’s SCHSL AAA state final, they have a lot of youth – not to mention, a challenging start to the season with losses against **T.L. Hanna** (top 10 in 4A) and a **Daniel** team that was set to take over the No. 1 spot in AAA.

“As simple as it sounds, we’ve got to accumulate game reps,” Crane said. “There’s no substitute for that Friday night experience. The past couple of Friday nights have been a big learning curve. But we’ve been making some strides.”

Sophomore **Malachi Bohler** is certainly one to watch.

“He’s a jack-of-all-trades kind of guy,” Crane said. “We can hit him on play-action passes or use him in

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Holly Hill Academy adjusting to 11-man game

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Holly Hill – After a dominant run of about a decade in eight-man football, **Holly Hill Academy** is making the move to the more traditional 11-man game in 2026.

Leading the transition is second-year head coach **Stuart Hydrick**. The Raiders won their season opener, beating St. John’s Christian, before taking a loss to Carolina Academy in their second outing. Hydrick feels his team is making the adjustment well.

“I think it’s exciting for the kids to be playing the type of football they watch on television,” Hydrick said. “It is a bit different, particularly on the defensive side of the ball. IN eight-man we pretty much play man coverage but we’ve had to learn the zone concepts. It is taking some time to make the adjustment but the kids worked hard all summer. We did some 7-on-7 stuff and that helped us. I think we’re progressing well. Just have to keep working at it.”

Injuries have been an early issue as two of the top returning players are out of action early. The hope is that **Tyler Green**, a linebacker and the leading tackler, and **Jake Kirven**, a running back and linebacker, can return to action by midseason.

One key returner that is healthy is leading rusher **Parker Kizer**, who was a terror to tackle on the eight-man level. Kizer topped 3,000 rushing yards and accounted for 52 touchdowns

last season.
“He is a major weapon offensively but we have four new starters on the offensive line,” Hydrick said.

The starter at quarterback this fall is freshman **Nathan Green**. The primary receivers are sophomores **William Thompson** and **Christian Stevens**, along with junior **Jackson Jones**.

The lone returner along the front is senior **Aarev Patel**. Other starters as the season began included **Chase Holder**, **Caleb Bell**, **Jordan Wren** and **J.P. McGriff**.

McGriff is a returner on the defensive line. Kizer, Wren and **Zack Weatherford** at working at linebacker while Green recovers. Bell and sophomore **Jaden Krier** are working up front as well.

Stevens, Jones, Thompson and Nathan Green are starters in the secondary.

“This group has a great attitude and they give great effort,” Hydrick said. “We have a lot of underclassmen on the field so the more they play and the more they learn, it’s going to benefit us in the future. It’s still blocking and tackle, no matter what level of football you play. We work hard on the fundamentals and I can see the improvement every day. Just gotta keep it going.”

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Clarendon Hall learning lessons early on

**By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor**
SUMMERTON – Clarendon Hall was on Cloud 9 in Week 1, celebrating its first win in 2 ½ years with a 27-0 win over Thomas Heyward.

After Week 2’s 50-0 loss to Calhoun Academy, Saints coach Shane Wallace looks to the next step. “We’ve got to show up more prepared, for sure,” Wallace said.

But there were plenty of positives so far this season for Clarendon Hall, such as linebacker/fullback Wyatt Simpson.

“He wants to excel on the field really bad,” Wallace said. “He gets after it and would love a look at the next level. So, he plays like that a lot. He’s a hard runner. And when he runs the ball, it’s hard to tackle him. When he’s a linebacker, he can read the offense well and play well downfield.”

The offensive line, meanwhile, is made of Davern Patel, Currin McElroy, Harrison Denny, Jacob Morris and Jake Roberson. Cole Richburg is at tight end.

Jack Wyatt Reynolds is at flex.
“He’s a freshman, but he plays at a level that’s above freshman,” Wallace said. “He’s still got a lot of learning to do, but he does really well at that position.

Joey Hatchell, meanwhile, is at quarterback/free safety.

“He’s a very smart kid, and we’re trying to utilize that,” Wallace said. “He does so many things

well with his feet. And he has done a good job of being able to read the defense and make decisions from that.”

The Saints run the ball “65-70%” of the time. So, those carries are shared by Andrew Pritcher, Caleb Poplin and Grayson Holliday.

“Grayson is still young, but he’s learning. He’s going to be good one day. He’s just a freshman,” Wallace said. “Andrew runs really well and finds the hole really well and makes something out of nothing. And Caleb was hurt the first week, but he got some playing time this past week at tailback.”

T.J. Young is at cornerback and Bobby Singleton is also at cornerback.

Wallace now plans to get the Saints back on track.

“We’re young, very young. We have four seniors on the whole team,” Wallace said. “We’ve got to learn how to recover and bounce back, and this is our week to do that (7:30 p.m. Friday at Orangeburg Prep).

“I have been on film all weekend trying to figure how we do that,” he added. “I’ve always been a coach about attitude and character. If we as coaches can get the players to follow us, then we can bounce back and get our season rolling again.”

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Patriots looking to work through growing pains

**By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR**
North Charleston - Fort Dorchester enters the third week of the season still looking for its first win, but coach **Shaun Lorenzano** isn’t panicking.
“Remember we were also young last year,” Lorenzano said. “In large part we have the same group of kids and they are a good group. I think they are competing a little now. We have eight games left and some of them are winnable so I don’t want them to freak out. We have more experience this year and I think it is going to be a good season for us.”

The **Patriots** finished at 5-7 in 2025 after falling to **Carolina Forest** in the second round of the state playoffs. This season, Fort Dorchester opened with a 29-6 loss at **Lucy Beckham**. The Fort’s lone score in that game came when defensive back/receiver **Laurez Matthews** returned an interception for a touchdown.

The competition only got stiffer the next week when the Patriots lost 44-15 to **Berkeley**. Fort junior quarterback **Mesiah Rivers** threw a 22-yard TD pass to **Aiden Rutledge** and **Liam Chapman** had a 1-yard TD plunge. Lorenzano said his defense actually did a good job limiting the Stags, but Berkeley QB **Henry Rivers** just kept making big plays on behind the sticks downs.

“Everybody is chipping in and has a role to play and they all see it so they are a brotherhood, a team,” Lorenzano said. “They are creating their culture. I like the comradery; everything is kind of lining up. We aren’t the biggest Fort team you’ve ever seen, but we are strong and tough. We are going to be an Iron Man, blue collar football team.”

Matthews is one of several juniors sure seeing a lot of action. The 6-2 wide receiver/defensive back already has offers from **Wake Forest** and **Liberty** universities.

“He can really go up and get the ball,” Lorenzano said. “He will be a big playmaker for us on both sides of the ball.”

Rutledge also returns after starting last year at wide receiver.

“As a freshman, Aiden did a real good job the entire season,” Lorenzano said. “He has really stepped up in the weight room. He’ll play some quarterback and running back in some packages and start at re-



**Photo by Roger Lee
Quarterback Mesiah Rivers**

ceiver and maybe DB. He is probably our best all-around athlete.”

Juniors **Devin Gates** and **Derrick Simpson** both played slot receiver for the Patriots last year.

“I think we have one of the best receiving corps in the region,” Lorenzano said.

Rivers and freshman **Landon Freeman** are the quarterbacks. Rivers was the varsity backup QB last year and Freeman was the starter for the Fort JV.

Chapman received some varsity experience at running back last season. However, his athleticism makes him a candidate to also lineup as a receiver or on the defensive side of the ball.

Fort Dorchester’s offensive line only returns one starter, senior **Malachi Nelson**. However, The Patriots also had some big, good-looking kids join the varsity squad. Perhaps the biggest is sophomore **Ousmane Dirra**. The 6-6, 300-pound athlete is working out as an offensive guard/tackle.

Others expected to contribute in the offensive trenches include **Korion Delesline**, **Zion Solomon**, **Aiden Smith**, **Malachi Nelson** and tight ends **Robert (Mac) Floyd** and **Myles Howey**.

“We have a young O-line, but I think they are

Ashley Ridge working through early gauntlet

**By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR**

Summerville - Ashley Ridge is working to fill holes early this season, but does have leaders.

“We are inexperienced but I think we have some talented kids,” said Ashley Ridge coach **Jeff Tate**. “When we go up against experienced groups it will be a challenge. The more these kids play the better they will get so the coaches and players are going to have to be patient. We have to figure out who is going to be able to handle the tough times.”

The team has some returners who have been in the system two or three years so the **Swamp Foxes** will lean on them to set the tone and give others time to gain experience. The good news is the team should be battle tested by the time region play rolls around.

Ashley Ridge opened its season against **West-side**, which exposed the weakness in the Swamp Foxes pass defense during a 39-14 win at Ashley Ridge.

The Swamp Foxes first score of the season came when quarterback **Mason Crout** connected with **Di-amonte Brown** for a 10-yard touchdown early in the second quarter. However, Ashley Ridge didn’t have another score until early in the fourth when backup quarterback **Jake Zamostny** had a 1-yard TD run.

The game was called before the final quarter could be completed due to a lightning storm that rolled into the area.

The next week, Ashley Ridge dropped to 0-2



**Photo by Roger Lee
Quarterback Mason Crout hopes to make the most of his senior season**

with a 52-7 loss at **Rock Hill**. Ashely Ridge plays at **South Florence** Sept. 4 and hosts **Oceanside Collegiate** Sept. 1 before opening region play against **Stratford** Sept. 18.

Westside fell in the **Class 4A Upper State**

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making progress,” Lorenzano said. “We are going to be good, it’s just a matter of time.”

The Patriots also have a mixture of experienced players and promising newcomers on the defensive side of the ball.

“On defense our schematic changed a little because our size changed,” Lorenzano said. “We have more athletic kids so we are moving guys around and bringing a lot of pressure.”

Junior **Kasamania Milo** is a returning starter on the defensive line. Others who will be key in the defensive trenches include sophomore **Isaiah Fields** and junior **Kameron Geathers**.

Junior **Derrick Simpson** returns at linebacker. Floyd, the son of Patriots’ defensive coordinator **Bobby Floyd**, and Howey split time between outside linebacker and tight end. **Ryan Simmons**, **Jay-don Oliver** and **Damone McGougan** are also expected to make an impact in the Patriots’ second level of defense.

Junior **Amari Dawson** is a returner at cornerback. Matthews and Rutledge will also see action there. Sophomore **Jaxon Ray** and Gates are the leaders for the team’s safeties.

The team’s region adds Stratford this season, which makes it even tougher. However, coaches point out the Patriots seem more cohesive this Fall.

“I think the kids expect to win and we will have a lot better team than we have had the past couple of seasons,” Lorenzano said. “These guys are a unit. They are together all the time even outside of football and that will help us improve. Some of these guys have now been in the program since I came here three years ago.”

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Championship in 2025 while South Florence fell in the third round of the **4A Lower State** playoffs. Oceanside won the **3A state championship** and Rock Hill fell in the second round of the **5A, Division 1** playoffs. The Swamp Foxes finished last season with a 6-5 record after losing to **Summerville** in the first round of the state playoffs. This season, its offense has challenges.

“I wanted to play against teams that are well coached, have a good program and good athletes,” Tate said. “Now the challenge is to go out and make some plays, create some excitement and develop some confidence.”

Crout was AR’s backup QB last year. Zamostny is also receiving snaps.

“Both have shown they can do certain things, but have work to do better in other areas,” Tate said.

They have some experienced targets. Senior receivers **Jagger Spivey** and **Josiah Mitchell**, along with tight end/H-back **Caleb Sharo** bring experience to the air attack. All three are college prospect

See **Ashley Ridge**, pg. 31

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Adams confident Colleton County finds success

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Walterboro – Rome was not built in a day and the **Colleton County** football program will need time to grow into a consistently competitive entity.
The man put in charge of the rebuilding project is **Bradley Adams**, who was hired earlier this year. He inherits a program that has struggled to find any measure of success over the last decade, posting only 22 victories since 2016.
However, the program has experienced some success before and Adams is working to instill a level of confidence, day by day.

“I feel like we have made some strides but it’s a long process,” said Adams, who has previous successes at Woodruff, Union County and Georgetown. “It’s been a lot of teaching and getting them to understand what we have to do to get the program where we want it to be. I think little by little this team is understanding and they have been working hard. Our commitment level has improved and that will continue as we have some success on the scoreboard.”

The Cougars opened the season with a loss to Hampton County. Adams says the team responded well in the practices that followed the loss.

“We did some positive things in that game and we pointed those things out,” Adams said. “I thought we came back out and practiced well, put in some good work. We’re learning how to prepare each week and just trying to be 1-0 each week.”

Offensively, Adams has handed the reins to junior **Keno Nixon** at quarterback. Working as a

trio at running back are **Christian Brown**, **Trevy Manigo** and **Ja’Kell Jenkins**. At wide receiver are **Justus Jamison**, **Keandre Allen**, **Kareem Kelly** and **Galil Frazier**.

Along the offensive line are **Chase Jones** and **Jaden Jenkins** at tackle, another **Jaden Jenkins** and **Jeremy Bright** at the guards, and center **Christopher Corbett**.

“I think the line is making good progress and the better they can become as a unit, the better we are going to be offensively,” Adams said.

On the defensive line, **Ziair Holmes** returns as an all-region performer last season. He is joined by **Melvin Ancrum** and **Jermaine Green**.

O’keefe Martin returns at linebacker, joined by **Andrew Yates** and **Shykeem Williams**. **Frazier** and **Jestin Fryar** are the starting corners, with **Christian Mitchell** and **Manigo** at safety.

“We are still a work in progress, moving guys around to get the best combinations on the field,” Adams said. “We have some underclass-



**Senior
Ty Hamilton**

Colleton Prep off to unbeaten start at 3-0

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Walterboro – Though his team is off to a 3-0 start in 2026, **Colleton Prep** football coach **Greg Langdale** is not quite sure how good his team is this fall.

The three early wins were expected, and one was a forfeit. The tougher tests will come later in the season and in the postseason, but it’s likely the Warhawks will make a good run at the state title. Last year’s team lost in the state championship game, finishing with a 9-3 record.

The Warhawks have several key returning players, which should lead to a good postseason run.

“I think we have a good group but we really don’t know how good we are just yet,” Langdale said. “We do have some experience at some key positions but we also have some new guys in some spots. We will see how much we improve and how hard we will work. That will determine the type of season we will have this year.”

Perhaps the biggest returning player is at quarterback where senior **Cale Owens** runs the show offensively. Owens accounted for 21 passing touchdowns and 19 rushing scores last season. He threw for 2,116 yards and added 1,253 yards rushing. In the two games played this season, Owens has 455 yards and six touchdown passes, adding three rushing scores.

The Warhawks also are loaded at receiver with the return of **Perry Corbett**, **Charlie Walker** and

Hartman Fisk, along with tight end **Kaiden Kinard**. Corbett caught 41 passes for 828 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2025. Fisk added 42 grabs for 494 yards while Kinard had 18 catches for 256 yards. Walker chipped in 12 catches.

Sharing duties at running back are sophomore **Jaxson Jones**, **Lucas Pellum** and **Trey Ferguson**. Their roles are primarily short yardage situations and blocking.

Speaking of blocking, the offensive line returns three starters in tackle **Aden Willis**, guard **Austin Murdaugh** (center last year), and guard **Fripp Smoak**. Junior **Ben Cain** is starting at the other tackle and **Tristan Layden** is now the center. Junior **Gray Marvin** and sophomore **Efe Bolukbasi** also get some time up front.

Kinard at end and Cain at linebacker are two leaders defensively. Working along the front also are Pellum at noseguard and end **Tylor Riesner**.

Smoak is a starting linebacker, as is **Baines Pierce**. Fisk and sophomore **Dallas Pooser** are the corners while Corbett and Jones are the safeties.

The Warhawks were scheduled to play St. John’s Christian on Sept. 4 at home. The remaining games are Carolina Academy, Beaufort Academy, Hilton Head Christian, Dorchester Academy, Patrick Henry Academy, Calhoun Academy and Cross School.

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men that are going to help us grow as a program. We are seeing positive results in the weight room and that’s going to be huge for us as we move forward in the future.”
Colleton County was scheduled to play Woodland on Sept. 4.

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Pinewood Prep seeking a AAAA championship

**By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR**
Summerville – So far **Pinewood Prep** seems to be on track for another deep playoff run.
The **Panthers** make the jump up to **SCISA 4A** this Fall and have embraced the challenge.

“We are looking forward to new challenges, but still feel like we have a good chance to keep doing what we did in **3A**,” said Pinewood coach **DeVonte Holloman**. “Just like three years ago we are adding new pieces to what we already have. We have a pretty good group of seniors to lead us.”

The Panthers captured their second consecutive 3A state championship in November. Their quest to claim a 4A title has started off well. Pinewood enters this week at 3-0 and 1-0 in its region.

The Panther’s topped **First Baptist** 62-27 in their season opener.

“Overall I’m happy with our effort,” Holloman said. “In **Week 1** your tackling can always be better and we know we have some strides to make with our O-line, but as a coach in terms of effort you can’t complain. We (topped) 60 points. First Baptist has a very good offense, but we see we need to work on tackling. The kids played hard.”

Pinewood then defeated **Heathwood Hall Episcopal** 41-14 and **Savannah Country Day** 52-13.

Pinewood returns a lot of experience including several **All-Region** athletes. Senior **Silas Brawner**, the **2025 SCISA Player of the Year** and **SCISA 3A Offensive Player of the Year**, is the quarterback who led Pinewood to the title last year. He is receiving a lot of college interest and will again have good targets as receivers **Lavoris Lucas** and **Trey Green** and tight end/h-back **Heyward Moore** return for their senior year. Sophomore **Colton Fuller** also looks to factor into the Panther air attack.

Lucas may also see action at running back and in the defensive backfield. Green is looking to play an even larger role in the offense and is off to a good start.

Senior running back **Grayson Salego** plans to continue punishing defenses out of the backfield and sophomores **Jeremy Kendall** and **Tyler Harper** return looking to get more carries this season.

With senior linemen **Jacob Sweet**, **David Harper** and **Preston Holliday** and junior **Mason Sumners** returning, the Panthers will have experience in the trenches on both sides of the ball.
Nicholas Roberts, **Carli Muckelvaney** and **Jack**



Photo by Roger Lee
Senior Silas Brawner had nearly 1,000 passing yards in the first three weeks of Pinewood Prep’s season.

Kulick give the team depth up front.

“In the past we have been able to largely keep people in their spot and just play them one way but this year we may play a lot of people on both sides of the ball,” Holloman said. “We do return all four starters up front on defense. We lost a lot in the secondary but kept **Michael Williams**. He is coming off a really good season so we expect him to lead our secondary and maybe play some offense.”

Senior **Hunter Gardner** will likely split time between defensive back and wherever the offense may need him. Senior defensive end **Brian Shelton** and junior **Gavin Spell** will also see action on the defensive front. Senior **Dana Moberg** is also vying for time on defense.

Back to lead the linebackers are senior **Jayden Parrott** and sophomore **Nathan Good**. Parrott is a four-year starter and Holloman said Good would have been the team’s **Defensive Player of the Year** in 2025 if **Will Watson**, now a graduate, hadn’t edged him out for the honor.

The team also has its entire varsity coaching staff back.

“I think we can get to where we need to be,” Holloman said. “The players are definitely excited but we understand that some of the teams we lost to the last few years, we now have to beat in order to

Hurricanes aiming for improvement in 2026

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
James Island -First Baptist head coach **Kevin Mapp** begins his second season. The Hurricanes were winless last season but improvement is expected in 2026.

“I definitely think this team is in a better frame of mind and they have been really focused on getting bigger, faster and stronger,” Mapp says. “Last year we were all new and we didn’t have any depth. We have improved that area and we have better talent across the board. We learned a lot last year and we are better prepared for this season. I think everyone sees that we are improved and now we have to prove it on the field.”

Though the Hurricanes opened the season with a blowout loss to defending AAA state champion Pinewood Prep, they were able to bounce back with

a 47-0 win over public school Academic Magnet, snapping the 10-game losing streak for the program.

Offensively, the Hurricanes have some transfers stepping in and taking on leadership roles. Junior **Gibbs Isom** is the new quarterback, beating out **Jack Norris** in a great preseason battle. Isom passed for 467 yards and six touchdowns in the first two games. Norris will assume several roles on each side of the ball.

Another transfer, **Derrick Porter** has 170 rushing yards and 60 receiving yards with three scores in the first two games. **Nakeem Hooks** at running back, and receivers **Joshua Bradley** and **Darnell Gadsen**.

Lineman **Demarcus Vinson**, a senior two-way performer, is verbally committed to The Citadel and will be a leader on both lines. Other key linemen include **Billy Minter**, **Lamarion Hardaway** and **Tyler Rhodes**, all with experience from last season.

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win a championship. Now all those losses were in competitive games.”

Brawner stands to surpass the 1,000-yard passing mark this week. He has completed 52 passes and 13 of them were for a touchdown. He has only thrown one interception.

Lucas leads the receivers, averaging 156 yards per game. Green is averaging 116 and Moore 45. Kendall leads the team’s rushers, averaging 72 rushing yards per game. Salego averages 63 and Harper averages 18.

Lucas has six touchdowns on the season while Kendall has four and Moore three.

Harrison Reynolds averages six tackles per game while Sumners and Parrott average five. Spell, Sumners and **David Harper** are the Panthers’ sack leaders.

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Those linemen will be playing on defense as well. Two leaders in the middle are linebackers **Will Miller** and **Whit Harrison**, and sophomore **Landon Nutter**.

“We have great kids here and they are working hard,” Mapp said. “We are trying to instill a process-oriented system. We talk about win the day. Go 1-0 every day and enjoy the process of getting better each day.”

Neighbors expects improvement from Cyclones

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Charleston – In his initial season as the head football coach at **Porter-Gaud**, **Matt Neighbors** guided the Cyclones to a 5-7 record.

Neighbors feels the way his team ended last season was a positive sign for the future. Despite a loss to eventual state champion Northwood Academy in the semi-final round of the SCISA AAAA state play-offs, Neighbors felt his team was showing the kind of progress he had hoped for in season one.

“We lost the game by two touchdowns, which tells me we weren’t far from being in the state finals,” Neighbors said. “We were playing our best football at the end of the season. With the number of kids we had coming back off that team, I feel like we will be a better team this year.”

The Cyclones lost their 2026 season opener to Bishop England, 14-7, but showed tremendous heart and fight against their rivals.

Make no mistake. The 2026 Cyclones will be led by a strong defense that has nine returning starters.

“We will lean on their experience and their physicality,” Neighbors said. “Having nine guys back is a huge advantage. They have a year in the system

Slay set for another successful volleyball season

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Charleston – As sure as the sun rises every day, **Franny Slay** is back for another season as the volleyball coach at **Ashley Hall**.

Slay is set to begin her 42nd year as the volleyball coach at Ashley Hall in 2026, a tenure that includes 342 years as the athletic director. Slay’s importance to the volleyball program as well as the athletic program cannot be understated.

In volleyball, the coach has amassed a career record of 863-392 heading into the 2026 season. That record includes 12 SCISA state championships and 10 state runner-up trophies. She also led the school to four championships (1988, 1989, 1991, 1993) in the Palmetto Athletic Conference prior to the school joining SCISA.

The last few years have been a little lean in terms of victories but the Panthers remain a very competitive program than cannot be overlooked. This season is off to a 2-7 start as the team battles some key in-

James Island on a roll to begin 2026 season

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
James Island—**James Island** head coach **Jamar McCoy** is starting his 7th season as the head coach of the Trojans, and after two impressive wins over **Oceanside Collegiate** (41-21) and **South Florence** (34-14) to start the 2026 season he has to be feeling good about the potential of this team.

The Trojans will be tested again this week with an away game at **Gray Collegiate**. They will have a bye week before hosting region rival **Summerville** on September, 18. The Green Wave gave the Trojans their only two losses last season when they finished 12-2.

Against South Florence running back **Mykell Warthen** had a huge night rushing for 201 yards while senior quarterback **Brady Dantzler** (6-1, 185) threw for 307 yards and three touchdowns in the win. The Trojans had 244 yards on the ground against the Bruins.

After two games Dantzler has completed 25-of-40 passes for 594 yards and seven TD’s.

Warthen now has rushed for 284 yards on 28 carries with two TD’s in two games.

In the season opener against the Land Sharks Dantzler completed 8-of16 passes for 290 yards with four touchdown receptions.

and their level of confidence is very high. We need them to be good, especially early while the offense comes together.”

Leaders defensively will be plentiful. Starting up front is returner **Daven Brown**, a senior. Sophomore **Scooter Brown** also works up front and scored a touchdown on a fumble return in the opener.

Junior **Allen Chisolm** returns at linebacker after posting 117 tackles last season. Free safety **Huck Nevin** anchors the back end after 93 tackles last season. **Hunt Barber** also returns in the secondary and senior **Julian Buxton** (73 tackles) returns at line-backer.

Offensively, **Amir Chisolm** returns to anchor the running game, having rushed for 756 yards last season. He also will play significant snaps at corner on defense.

Wilson Yarborough returns as the leading receiver. The two returning starters on the offensive line are **Alex Stiglic** and **Jackson Shirer**.

Taking over as the starting quarterback is junior **Cam Werntz**, who passed for 80 yards in the season opener.

“We have a new offense this year but it’s the type of offense I wanted to get in,” Neighbors said. “Last

injuries. But Slay feels her squad continues to improve.

“We have had a slow start to the season with two key starters being sidelined with injuries. We started the season making it to the gold round in the North-South invitational in Rock Hill. We look forward to improvement as we continue to find the best lineup.”

This year’s team is led by three veteran returners, **Liza Hood**, **Minka Tang** and Amelia Finnegan. Tang is one of the injured players early on, along with **Isabella Smith**, who also is a starter when healthy.

Hood and Finnegan remain key starters. Others who are in the rotation include **Ava Payton**, **Samantha Miller**, **Maddrey Moore** and **Clara Tylus**. Payton, Moore and Tylus are promising underclassmen.

Several other players are making an impact as well. They include **Anna Thorne**, **Chandler Thornton** and **Caroline Copenhaver**. Rounding out the squad are **Rhetta Rutledge**, **Leland Elliott**, **Carolyn Whelan**, and **Aubrey Lee**.

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year, being new, we really couldn’t do what I wanted to do. I think we have good personnel and we can be balanced. It’s going to take a little time but I think we have the guys that have success.

“I’m excited about the potential of this team/ We learned a lot last year and we had a great offseason. I think this team wants to win and they are willing to work hard.”

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Through the first nine contests, Payton leads the team with 37 kills. Hood has 24 kills and 33 digs while Miller hs 21 kills. Moore leads in assists with 92 while Tylus has 46 assists. Finnegan has 59 digs and Tang has 37 digs.

JAMES ISLAND



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tonight so I am not surprised about our success tonight against a quality opponent like Oceanside,” said Coach Blades. “We got great effort from our defense tonight and **Rob Grant** had a couple sacks from the defensive end spot and he and senior linebacker **Bryson Bowers** (5-11, 200) led our defense that put a lot of pressure on their quarterback all game and that was the plan coming into the game. (Bowers had a team leading 110 tackles as a junior).

“Our receiving corps, led by Puiu, is such an outstanding group and this allows us to spread the ball all over the field,” said Coach Blades. “**Mykell Warthen** is a tough inside runner so we feel like we can hurt you passing or running.”

Coach Blades cited the strong leg of junior combo kicker **Isaac Lorentz** who handles place kicking and punting duties for the Trojans. Lorentz had several towering punts, and he had a coffin corner boot inside

See **James Island**, pg. 62

Hanahan opens up with pair of explosive wins

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
HANAHAN - **Hanahan High School’s** football team has cranked up its fourth season under coach **Milan Turner** after going 6-6 each of the past two campaigns with a pair of second-round playoff appearances.

What does 2026 hold for the Hawks? So far, so good. The Hawks are working toward perfect execution as the season goes along. Turner said effort matters most during the early part of the season, though.

“For me, I want to see a physicality and a toughness from our kids,” Turner said. “I told them before we started. I said be violent between the whistles. We know they’re going to make some mistakes and obviously we want to try to minimize those. We want to see things like running to the football, all the things that don’t take talent. Those are the things I have to see. If I don’t see those, we’ve got a lot of work to do. I feel like we saw that.”

The Hawks opened the regular season with victories over Philip Simmons (34-33) and Kingstree (48-20), using a stop on a 2-point conversion late to edge the Iron Horses in a thriller at home. Against Kingstree, Hanahan’s big-play offense clicked on all cylinders to pull away on the road.

Junior quarterback **Tripp Gallus** (6-5, 230) went for over 340 yards through the air and hurled three touchdown passes. Senior receiver **Grayson Mathes** and junior **Quamell Grant** were the primary targets again. Grant led the way during Week 0 and Mathes was the top pass-catcher in Week 1. Mathes racked up more than 200 yards receiving and scored on receptions of 41 and 75 yards versus Kingstree, while Grant hauled in more than 90 yards in grabs and reached paydirt on a 25-yard strike from Gallus.

Against Philip Simmons, Gallus heaved a 50-yard touchdown pass to Grant and finished with 137

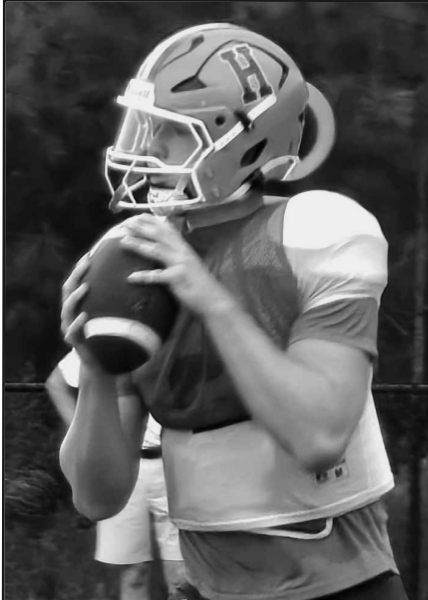
yards. The Hawks mostly rode the hot hand of sophomore running back **Nevaeus Gourdine** in Week 0. Gourdine carried 22 times for 117 yards and found the end zone three times. Senior running backs **Isaiah Snodgrass** and **Xavier Sabback**, who combined for more than 1,400 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2025, chipped in 68 yards on 13 combined carries against the Iron Horses. Sabback reached paydirt on a short run to open the scoring.

“We feel good about that running back room,” Turner said. “We feel like we’ve got four or five running backs who can do what we need them to do.”

Gourdine and junior running back **Tristen Green** broke the plane twice against Kingstree. Senior **Quinn Soler** also receives some totes out of the backfield.

On the offensive front, junior **Connor Schleizer** leads a veteran group that includes junior **Donovan Manigault**, junior **Elijah Mitchell**, senior **Brandyn Maduro** and senior **Noah Hill**. Tight ends are senior **Mason Bellamy**, senior **Julien Washington** and sophomore **Troy Davis**.

The Hawks travel to Beaufort Sept. 4 and host Andrews Sept. 11 before heading out to county rival Timberland Sept. 18.



Quarterback Tripp Gallus

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2026 Northwood Academy Chargers

QB **Kevin Johnson** (6-1, 195) completed 9- of -16 passes for 133ards and one TD. RB **Mike Polite** rushed 22 times for 167 yards and one TD. WR **Amire Simmons** caught three passes for 44 yards and one TD.

After two games Johnson has completed 18-of-42 passes for 283 yards and four TD’s. “Kevin got started a little slow last year too but he gets stronger as the season goes along and he will be just fine.” said Coach Waters,

Drew Wolfe leads Charger receivers so far this season with 9 catches for 167 yards and three touch-

downs.

Against Heathwood Hall, WR **Tourance Johnson** caught two passes for 38 yards and **Bryce Jenkins** had a 96-yard school record pick six, and he caught two passes for 25 yards.

The Charger offense produced 293 yards against the Highlanders while the Charger defense allowed just 193 yards. The defense gave up 77 yards rushing and 116 yards passing.

The defense is led by CB **Bryce Jenkins** who has five tackles to date while DE **Mitchell Lanier** and **Max Pascazio** are next on the hit index with four tackles each.

The OL consists of senior center **Kenneth Robbins**, four-year starter **Kaeden Wagner** (6-2, 270) is a prospect at LT and he gas some college offers. The RT is junior **Brayden Andy**, and the RG is senior **Justin Watson** who can also play in the DL. The LG is 6-3 senior **Jacob Harrelson**.

The Chargers have two newcomer freshman players who will contribute right away. They are WR C. **Johnson** and WR **Amire Simmons**.

Top ranked Gaffney focused on bringing home title

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Gaffney—After two impressive Gaffney wins, to start the 2026 season, over Spartanburg (24-20) and J.L. Mann (43-10) it just felt right to rank the realigned Class AAAA Indians number one until further notice.

This week the Indians are hosting Lancaster (2-0) team who have wins over Chester (49-21) and York to start the season (30-23).

“Lancaster is on a roll having defeated two quality teams,” said head Gaffney coach Donnie Littlejohn, starting his second season as the head coach at his alma mater. “We are anticipating a very competitive game with them. “

Coach Littlejohn is a native of Gaffney and former outstanding player for the Indians. “We know what the expectations are from our very supportive community and it is our goal to win the class room first and foremost, win in the weight room, and then go win on the football field,” said Coach Littlejohn. “It is our strong goal to keep working hard and getting our 19th state championship trophy on display at Gaffney High School is our focus this season. We just need to stay healthy and keep believing.”

Coming into the season Gaffney was looking for a new QB due to graduation losses. Coach Littlejohn has been very pleased with sophomore Corey Taylor (6-0,170) who transferred from Goose Creek to Gaffney two years ago. “He is doing a great job managing the game and while he is more of a drop back passer, he does run a 4.7, and he can use his feet when he needs to,” said Coach Littlejohn. “We have playmakers around him so we are not asking him to feel like he has to win a game by himself. We just need for him to not put us in negative plays and to not do something that will cause us to lose a game.”

The transfer of former Irmo RB Amire White (5-11, 200) filled a need in the back field for the Indians. After two games White has rushed for 212 yards on 32 carries with two TD’s.

Coach Littlejohn is the chairman of the Kendar-

Despite tough losses, WKHS taking the next step

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Lexington - The Next Step for the White Knoll football program came as a 31-21 season-opening loss to A.C. Flora at Columbia’s Memorial Stadium Aug. 21, but longtime head coach Victor Floyd, who is in his first year at the school, said that the Timberwolves will use that loss to keep moving forward.

“It was a tough loss, but we’re going through some growing pains and the kids are upbeat,” he said. It will be a big jump from game one to game two, and hopefully we’ll be better.”

White Knoll trailed the Falcons 10-7 at half-time and 17-14 going into the fourth quarter. A.C. Flora scored on a pass play to go up 24-14, but Timberwolves quarterback Brayden Cress hit running back Christian Chisolm for a 70-yard touchdown pass play to cut the lead back to three.

The Timberwolves got the ball back late in the game on a Falcons’ missed field goal attempt, but could not muster a scoring drive and turned the ball over on downs inside their 10-yard line.

A.C. Flora scored on a 2-yard TD run in the closing seconds for the final score.

Last week the Timberwolves traveled to Sumter and fought hard but fell short in a 34-27 loss to the Gamecocks.

White Knoll’s home opener against T.L. Hanna comes next, followed by a home game against North Augusta Sept. 11, a trip to



2026 Gaffney Indians standouts

ius “Peanut” Bailey (6-0,215) appreciation club. “I am getting ready to nominate him for the AAAA Defensive Player of the Week for his play against JL Mann last week,” said Coach Littlejohn. “He makes plays on either side of the football. When he makes up his mind to shut you down, on either side of the ball, he is going to blow up plays. I still say he is the best football player in the state of South Carolina.” Bailey is a running back on offense and a LB on defense. Against J.L. Mann, Bailey had four solo tackles, two assists, 1 pile on –got to the ball on every play, 1.5 sacks, q pass break-up, 1 QB KO, 1 Big hit, 4 QB pressures, 0.5 Big play for a total of 29 defensive points.

Gaffney’s top WR’s after two games are junior with TE Hank Davidson with four catches for 89 yards and two TD’s. Senior HB-TE Trason Smith has three catches for 27 yards and junior RB Dylan McKey has 9 catches for 40 yards.

The Gaffney OL is anchored by senior LT CJ Brooks (6-5, 320) who is committed to UAB. The RT is senior Landon Bailey, and the RG is junior Raashad Fitzpatrick. The LG is junior Derrius Littlejohn (6-0,250) who has been a three-year starter. The center is senior and three- year starter Tre Dawkins. Sophomore Tripp Peltry also sees a lot of action in the OL.

The defensive line is a three- man front. Senior Marquell Smalls (6-5, 260) is one DT, Jeronte Kimbrough is a nose guard, while Sidney Latti-

See Gaffney, pg. 62

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WHITE KNOLL



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Athletic Director Shane Fiddler join the
WKHS Athletic Booster Club in Wishing
the Best of Luck to the Timberwolves!
Be the Best You Can Be!

punter. “Young and eager,” Floyd described the team at a practice leading up to the A.C. Flora game. “That’s the exciting part of it. When you get a young group that hadn’t played a lot, they’re eager, they do what you tell them, they’re working extremely hard because there’s the unknown for them. When you get an older group, they feel like they’ve arrived, they know what’s going on. The excitement of the unknown is what’s really good about this group.”

Cress is also the team’s placekicker and

2026 HSSR Media Day



CA Johnson Hornets



Gaffney Indians



Columbia Capitals



Carvers Bay Bears



Heathwood Hall Highlanders



Denmark-Olar Vikings



Blythewood Bengals

2026 HSSR Media Day



South Carolina's Finest - Seniors with at least one Division I college offer
Front Row (L-R): Northwood Academy's Drew Wolfe, Heathwood Hall's John Thompson and Keon McKinley, Gaffney's Money Monroe and Amire White, Blythewood's Amari Fisher and Dillon Hutchinson, Northwood Academy's Kevin Johnson.
Back Row (L-R): Gray Collegiate's Royce Williamson and Corey Gleaton Jr., Blythewood's Joshua Reaves and Reed Paolucci, Gaffney's Calvin Brooks, Carvers Bay's Jaquan Hannah and Triston Diggs, Gray Collegiate's Trevon Williamson and Jack Armstrong.



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Head Coach Patrick Moffitt addresses his team

Varsity football is back at Spartanburg Day! Griffins claim victory over Thornwell 17-14

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Spartanburg—For the first time in forty -seven years, the **Spartanburg Day** Griffins won a varsity foot- ball game on August 28, and you could never guess how they scored the 17 points that gave them a three-point win over the **Thornwell Charter** School at home.

According to **Gerald Doolittle**, the *HSSR* historian, who has kept records on high school football in South Carolina since 1965; the last time Spartanburg Day won a varsity football game, prior to August 28, was a 23-0 win over **Camden Military** on November 9, 1979.

One can just imagine how this new thrill of victory must have overcome Spartanburg Day players, coaches, and fans when the Griffins won their game 17-14 and they got their 17 points in a lot of different ways.

“We scored our 17 points on three field goals by **Armin Pader**, a 72-yard punt return by **Charlie Wilson**, and we converted a two point play off of a bad snap on a PAT play,” said **Spartanburg Day** head coach **Patrick Moffitt**, who was hired two years ago to start a “B” team football program with the goal of working up to a varsity program by August 2026.

“When the clock hit zero it was so exciting to see our team run over to our student section and celebrate with the students, who were cheering for them throughout the game,” said Coach Moffitt. “The other team dominated time of possession with their running game. We feel fortunate to have won the game.

“It’s been two years of building the program from “B” team, junior varsity and we now have a varsity football program competing for the first time in over 40 years,” said Coach Moffitt. “We have no senior starters on the team. We start with 8 juniors, 9 sophomores and five freshmen. We may or may not win another game this sea- son, having to play in more experienced teams AA SCISA, but this is one win we will enjoy and cherish for a long time.”

At one time in the game, the Griffins were up 11-0 against Thornwell Charter, on a 72-yard punt return by sophomore **Charlier Wilson** (5-8,160) and after a bad snap on the extra point snap Pader ran in for two points to make it 8-0 last in the first quarter. Then Pader hit the first of his three field goals in the second period to make it 11-0.

In the third period Pader nailed a 49-yard field goal to put the Griffins up 14-0. Then Thornwell Charter fought back to make it 17-6 entering the final period. Then early

in the final period Pader made the score 17-6 on a 40- yard field goal. The Griffins held on for dear life the rest of the way as Thornwell scored again to make it a 17-14 late when the game was finally over.

Pader is a 6-2 junior and he also plays soccer. He might just be a college prospect as a combo kicker. He has punted three times this season for a 38.7-yard aver- age. He will be remembered as “*Mr. Clutch*” in the big win he delivered against Thornwell Charter.

Spartanburg Day began the season on August 14 with an away game at the Asheville Christian School. They lost that game 39-6 and they had been scheduled to play at **Calhoun Academy** the next week, but they forfeited the game.

“We had some injuries in our first game, and the weather forecast was calling for thunder and lightning in the area where Calhoun Academy is located,” said Coach Moffitt. “We made a decision, with the input from our school administration, to forfeit our second game and get ready for our first home game against Thornwell Charter.

“We hope to make up the game with Calhoun Acad- emy later in the season if we can both find a common date to play the game,” said Coach Moffitt.

The first touchdown by a Griffin varsity football player, since 1979, was scored by sophomore receiver **Charlie Teel** against Asheville Christian on a 32-yard touchdown pass thrown by freshman quarterback **Charlie Birch** (5-10,175) on August 14.

The Griffin’s are now preparing to play at the North- side **Christian School** in the Lexington area on Septem- ber 4.

Last week, against Thornwell Charter, the game was delayed until 8:05 due to weather issues. “We had some rain and in effected some tail gating plans for our first home game in quite a while,” said Coach Moffitt. “Our fans didn’t leave. They stayed around despite the weather, and our student section was live and proud of the entire game.

“The last six seconds of the game seemed like an eter- nity,” said Coach Moffitt. “We had the ball, and it was 4th down, so I told our quarterback (Birch) to just run around and to throw the ball into the ground near one of our re- ceivers. It felt great to see the clock go 0.00.

“Our players immediately ran to our student section, and they were greeted warmly after the hard-fought win,” said Coach Moffitt. “It was unreal moment to see the fans celebrating and everyone was congratulating each other. Football is certainly a rallying point for the school com-

Spartanburg

DAY SCHOOL

The alma mater of NBA star Zion Williamson is proud to be joined by our athletic booster club, athletic department and the Spartanburg Day School Administration in proudly recognizing the hard work of our student athletes in the High School Sports Report.

The Spartanburg Day Griffins athletic program is on the move with varsity football coming in 2026

munity. It was a big deal moment in the history of our school I can tell you that.”

The rest of the 2026 schedule will get tougher, and you wonder if the Griffins should have been allowed to start out as a SCISA Class A team, or even an 8-man program for the first two years. However, SCISA teams are placed in classifications based on male enrollment in grades 8 through 11, so the numbers are what they are.

After playing at Northside Christian this week, the Griffins will host the American Leadership Academy on September 11 before they have a region game at Williams- burg Academy in Kingstree on September 18. Then they host Pee Dee Academy on September, 25 to close out the month of September.

On October 2 the Griffins travel across town to play their arch-rival **Spartanburg Christian** and seven of their 22 players are seniors while the Griffin’s have no senior starters.

Coming into the season, the starters for the Griffins were listed as Birch at QB. Junior Heath Boyd (5-10, 175) is the starting RB. The three starting receivers are Wilson, sophomore **Tyler Fernanders** (5010, 145) and Teel. The TE is listed as Pader (6-2, 180) with the great kicking leg.

The OL consists of top sophomore tackle **Nic Querin** (6-1, 240), along with junior RT **Cale Willoughby** (6-4, 260), while the RG is sophomore **Charlie Martin** (5-11, 225). The LG is freshman **Sammy Crain** (5-9,230) and the center is junior **Ben Brown** (6-0, 210).

The defensive line is anchored by Querin who flips from offense along with junior **Gibbs Montgomery** (6-0, 180), junior **Adi Enuica** (5-9, 200), and freshman **Law- son Robinson** (6-0,200).

The three linebackers are Wilson, Boyd, and Birch who all flip from offense. The four deep secondary is comprised of Fernanders and Teel who flipped from the offense along with junior **Kaiden Flannery** (5-9, 150) and freshman **Rutledge Wall** (5-8, 145).

Pader is a nest level kicking prospect without a doubt. Some stats were made available on the team after two games. Birch has completed 19-of-37 passes for 243 yards and one TD. Hall is the back-up and he has completed two passes for 18 yards.

Boyd is the top rusher after two games with 81 net yards on 22 carries. Reserve RB **Gabe Montgomery** has netted seven yards.

Teel leads the receivers with five catches for 118 yards and one TD. Pader has caught five passes for 53 yards and Wilson has five receptions for 36 yards. Fernanders has three catches for 22 yards.

On defense, the Griffin’s have been led by Birch, Boyd, and Wilson with four tackles each after two games. Fernanders, and DL **Colten Lyle** have three tackles each. Pader has the team’s only interception thus far.

Other hard-working members of the new varsity team include Sophomore WR **Ben Visk**, junior WR/DB **Con- nor McGrath**, freshman OL/DE **Corbin Martin**, lone senior **Gennia Tesler** OL/DT, freshman OL/DE **Lawson Robinson** and sophomore OL/DT **Sagan O’Brien**.

Over the summer, Griffin’s added **Rick Martin** as an assistant coach. The other assistant coaches, who have been on board for a while, include **Chris Cormier**, **Justin Crain**, and **Andrew Vaught**.

The *HSSR* congratulates the team on their first SCISA varsity football win since 1979.

Green Acres Turf Farm Prospects Page



HSSR Top Football Prospects - Class of 2027

- (Nominate A 20027 Player- hsreport@aol.com)
1. Jaiden Kelly-Murray-Oceanside Collegiate-WR/DB-5-10,170-COLORADO
 2. Jaiden Bryant-Irmo-DE-6-4,246-MIAMI
 3. David “Tre” Segarra-Byrnes-RB-5-01,204-LSU
 4. Tai Phillips-Irmo-RB-5-11,180-Alabama
 5. Nate Carson-Irmo-OL-6-5,285- South Carolina
 6. Aiden Manavian-Oceanside Collegaite-QB-6-0,185-
 7. Anthony Williams-Oceanside Collegiate-WR-6-1, 170-NORTH CAROLINA
 8. Aiden Gibson-Woodruff-RB-6-1,212-AUBURN
 9. Jaden Werth-Dutch Fork-DL-6-2,170-CLEMSON
 10. Jackson Ross-Hammond-LB-6-4,215- South Carolina
 11. Ty Johnson-Lucy Beckham-OL-6-5,300-GEORGIA
 12. Amare Patterson-Bluffton-WR-6-1, 190-NORTH CAROLINA
 13. Franklin Richardson-Sumter-Ath-RB-6-2-220-
 14. Jayen Williams-Summerville-RB-5-7,170-JAMES MADISON
 15. Seth Tillman-South Pointe-DL-OL-6-4,300- Clemson
 16. Kaiden Watkins-Rock Hill-DB-5-9,180-James Madison
 17. Kevin Johnson-Northwood Academy-QB-6-1-195-
 18. James Ross-Ridge View-OL-6-5,290-SC
 19. Trey Wimberly-Daniel-WR-6-0,175-CLEMSON
 20. Israel “Shank” Harris-James Island-OL-OL-6-3, 270-LIBERTY
 21. Peyton Bishop-Dutch Fork-DE-6-4,230-
 22. Tajeh Watson-Martin-Westside-WR-5-10,170-VIRGINIA
 23. Christian Chancellor-Daniel-DB-5-9,162-CLEMSON
 24. Aidyn Wiggins-Byrnes-DB-6-1, 183-AUBURN
 25. Maleek Miller-Dutch Fork-WR-5-11,175-
 26. Carter Hawkins-Timberland-Ath.-6-0,177-WAKE FOREST
 27. Chanin Harris-Byrnes-WR-6-1,170-SYRACUSE
 28. Alex Johnson-Catawba Ridge-DE-6-4,230-BOSTON COLLEGE
 29. Xavier Means-Northwestern-QB-Ath-6-0,165-ECU
 30. Malik Ratliff-Northwestern-WR-6-0,165-COASTAL
 31. Trenton Lynch-Spartanburg-RB-5-9,185-RUTGERS
 32. James Porter-Dorman-DL-6-2,265-ECU
 33. Eric Richardseon-Lugoff-Elgin-WR-6-0,165-Coastal
 34. AJ Veal-Westwood-DL-6-4,225-ECU
 35. Jamar Grissette-Irmo-FS-6-3,195-APP ST.
 36. Dennis Glenn, Jr.-Boiling Springs-DL-6-1,285-RUTGERS
 - 37.Dai'Shian Watkins-Hymes-Dorman-WR-6-1.190
 38. Jackson Connor-Indian land-LB-6-0,215-MARSHALL
 39. James Smith-Dutch Fork-FS-6-1,180-LIBERTY
 40. Mah'Ky Green-Cross-RB-5-10, 178-
 41. Darius Carter-River Bluff-WR-5-11,160-COASTAL
 42. Oliver Coleman-Lugoff-Elgin-DB-6-2,175-COASTAL
 - 43.. Calvin “CJ” Brooks-Gaffney-OL-6-5,320-UAB
 44. Kadin Vassel-Northwestern-WR-5-11,160-UNC-C
 45. Kendarious Bailey-Gaffney-LB-6-0,215
 46. Calvin Wolford-Crestwood-RB-5-11,195-UNC-C
 47. Brian McMillian-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-QB-6-2, 190
 48. Charles Anthony Williams-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-WR/DB-5-11,175-DELAWARE
 49. Jaxon Knotts-Dutch Fork-QB-6-0,210
 50. Jaylon Richardson-Northwestern-DB-5-11.165-C. Southern
 51. Jack Armstrong-Gray Collegaite-OL-DL-6-2,265- The Citadel
 52. Will Haunert-Camden-TE-6-4,210-Wofford
 53. Brooks Abernethy-Daniel-OL-6-2, 265-ARMY
 54. Michael Strickler-Oceanside Collegiate-FS-6-1,210
 55. Kyson McLeod-South Aiken-WR-6-4,205-APP STATE
 56. JaQuan Samuel-Hrtsville-DT-6-2,290
 57. Trevon Williamson-Gray Collegaite-RB-6-2,210
 58. Caleb Sharo Ashley Ridge TE 6-3,220-
 59. Jatavevion Wilson-Blythewood-DB-6-2, 170- Missouri ST.
 60. Julian Brown-Myrtle Beach-WR-6-3, 175
 61. Marques Skinner-Riversaide-TE-6-2,265-
 62. MiCah McClintontok-Woodruff-TE-6-3, 215-
 63. Judd Windham-Christ Church-QB-6-4,215
 64. Christian Sullivan-JL Mann-OL-6-1,300
 65. Angelo Cromer-Clinton-RB-5-10,170
 66. Rhett Gilliam-Clinton-RB-6-1,200
 67. Kelvion Manning-Dillon-WR/SS-6-3.185
 68. Jason Youmans-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-WR/DB-6-1,180
 69. Peyton Vining-Northwestern-WR-5-10,165
 70. John Campbell-St Joseph's Catholic-DB-5-9,181
 71. AJ Hillary-Strom Thurmond-QB-6-2, 185
 72. Reid Hipp-Christ Church-TE-6-4, 215
 73. Dontavious Griffin-Newberry-DE-6-1, 235
 74. Nyren Bowman-Scott's Branch-WR-6-0,180
 75. Sam Holiday-Fountain Inn-QB
 76. Nasir Waldrop-Powdersville-WR/RB-5-7,175
 77. Dwayne Louallen-Central-QB-6-1,205
 78. Owen Glenn-Clinton-QB-6-1, 175
 79. Jervaze Salley-Woodland-QB-6-2, 190
 80. Trace Selfridge-Swansea-RB-6-0,180
 - 81.Keandre Allen-Colleton County-WR-6-2, 195
 82. Jaiden Williams-Green-Darlington-OL-6-0,350
 83. Silas Browner-Pinewood Prep-QB-6-4,205
 84. Nick Means-Dorman-RB-5-8,175
 85. Ty'Quavion Jones-Hampton County-OL/DE-6-5,265

86. Xavier Geter-Midland Valley-QB
87. Kyson McLeod-South Aiken-WR
88. Nolan Giet-Summerville-OL-6-3,270-NAVY
- 89 Simeon Jones-North Augusta-DL-6-1,305
90. Keon McKinley-Heathwood Hall-WR-5-8,175-
91. Brandon Streater-Central-OL-6-1,265
92. Avery Durham-Andrews-QB-6-4,180
93. Caleb Feaster-Chester-RB-Ath-5-11,185
94. George Perry-Woodland-Ath.-5-10,170
95. Rese Boinke-Batesburg-Leesville-QB-
96. Kamarion Glenn-BHP-DT-6-0,290
97. Worth Thomasson-Camden-OL-6-0,315
98. Deion Suber-Boiling Springs-WR-6-3,185-ETS
99. Corey Gleanon-Gray Collegiate-WR-5-9,165
100. Marques Skinner-Riverside-TE/DE-6-3,255
101. De'Eric Davis-South Florence-QB-6-4,225
102. Tristan Diggs-Carvers Bay -DL-6-2,280
103. Dejay Leak-Boiling Springs-DB-5-9,176
104. Grayson Rimpf-Camden-QB-6-2, 190
105. JaQuan Hannah-Carvers Bay-TE/DE-6-2,215
106. Jaiden Williams-Green-Darlington-OL-6-0,250
107. Nicholas Gordon-Cheraw-WR-6-0,165
108. Rob GrantJames Island-DE-6-3,240
109. Rahim Saunder-Whale Branch-DL-6-2,275
110. Tyrone Jennings-Irmo-DT-6-2, 285
111. Luke Penland-JL Mann-OL-6-2,265
112. Crawford Poole-Cheraw-Ath-5-11, 195
113. Sam Gadsen-Woodland-OL-MLB-6-3, 230
114. Malcolm Gordon-Bluffton-OLB-6-1,205
115. Owen Glenn-Clinton-QB-Ath-6-1,175
116. Gavin Elliott-Gilbert-DB-6-0,180
117. Charles Breland-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-PK-5-10,165
118. Mari Moody-Denmark-Olar-6-4,240
119. Amire White-Gaffney-RB-5-11,200
120. Grainger Powell-Laurence Manning-QB-5-11, 170
121. Grant Small-Williamsburg Academy-RB-6-0,180-
122. Marquell Smalls-Gaffney-DL/DT-6-5,265
123. Tristian White-Laurence Manning-OL/NG-6-3,290
124. Elii Herndon-Chapman-DE-6-5,200
125. Semaj Wilson-Atlantic Collegiate-MLB/RB-6-2,200
- 126.Henry Rivers-Berkeley-QB-Ath-5-10,175
127. Clint Gentry-Chapin-DT-5-11,225
- 128.. Xavier Huggins-Powdersville-WR-5-10,170
129. Kordell Holley-Bluffton-RB-6-0,225
130. Roman Hood-Phillip Simmons-G/G-6-0,205
131. Nyren Bowman-Scott's Branch-WR-OLB-6-0,210
132. Braydon Simpson-Broome-WR-5-9,160
133. Charles “CJ” Williams-Hampton County-DT/T-60,245
134. Emani Welch-Chesterfield-Ath.-5-9,190 1
135. Angelo Cromer-Clinton-RB-5-10,170
136. Drew Wolfe-Northwood Academy-WR-6-1, 165
137. Deondre Allen-Colleton County-WR-6-2,190
138. Xavier Geter-Midland Valley-QB/FS-6-1,190
139. Larkin Powell-Johnsonville-QB-5-11, 175
140. Christian McDowell-Eastside-DB-5-9,155
141. Ja'Mere Ross-Johnsonville-WR-5-7,155
142. Logan Martin-Laurence-MLB-6-0,190
143. Eric Richardson- Lugoff-Elgin-WR-6-0,175
144. Kaydin Green-Natrimon Ford-DL-6-1, 280
145. Dorian Jones-Silver Bluff-RB-5-9,185

HSSR Football Prospect All-State Nomination Form

Athlete’s Name:_____

Sport: _____

School: _____

Position: _____

Key Stats: _____

Reason for Nomination:_____

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Wilson Hall rebuilding through youth in 2026

By Larry Gamble
Contributing Writer
Sumter – The **Wilson Hall** Barons graduated 18 seniors from their championship run team in 2025. This year Head Coach **Adam Jarecki** is still searching for the right combination of players, positions, and schemes to create that winning formula. Plus, a couple of banged up players already and Jarecki’s task is even tougher.

After a road trip and win against **Orangeburg Prep** last week, hosting 2-0 **Hilton Head Christian** for the home opener was going to be a great match up with two good SCISA teams. For the Barons, senior playmaker, RB/DB **John Land** was sidelined, still recuperating from an injury over the summer. Coach Jarecki commented after the game, “I’m proud of the way we played, we knew they were going to be a good club.” With the heat and a few drive stopping penalties, Jarecki put it in perspective, “We are playing hard and some guys had to set up. I’m proud of that.” Looking forward this early

in the season coach said, “Hat’s off to them, the last two years, we beat them to go to the state championship, and they came to play.” Then added, “This will help us get back on track and get ready for next week.”

The first quarter started slow for the Barons even with a forced Hilton Head fumble inside the red zone that senior DL **Braelen Lewis** covered for Wilson Hall to stop the Eagles first threat to score. Starting at the five-yard line, the Barons went three and out, the punt gave the Eagles good field position on their 45-yard line. HHC senior QB **Kres Langhals** hits 32-yard completion to **James Richardson** to put the Eagles on the board first, but the extra point was no good.

The Barons owned the second quarter. **Nolan Gooch** connected on a 42-yard TD to **Blane Blatt** with **Cameron Wisely** carrying in the two-point conversion to go up 8-6. An interception by **Shep Vincent** give the Barons the ball at the Eagles 12-

See **Wilson Hall**, pg. 62



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Good luck to the Wilson Hall Barons



2026 Heathwood Hall Highlanders football

Highlanders working to stay focused on goals

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Columbia - With **Heathwood Hall**’s season-opening 41-14 loss at **Pinewood Prep** Aug. 21, last year’s run to the SCISA AAAA state championship game is cast far into the past.

The Panthers, who finished 10-3 last year, scored all of their points in the first half, going into intermission with a 41-7 lead.

“We finished the game strong. We came out in the second half totally different,” head coach **Tymere Zimmerman** said. “But that first half was still a part of the game. That’s how that goes.”

It was a good sign that the Highlanders stopped the bleeding in the second half even though the game was lost. The team has just nine seniors but many on this year’s team saw a lot of action last year.

While quarterback **Patrick Belk** and other players graduated, the Highlanders have a solid core of players returning, including standout wide receiver **Keon McKinley**, who had 56 catches for 756 yards and three touchdowns last year. Also returning is running back **Heyward Belser**.

Five offensive linemen return, **Hill Belser**, **Dub Taylor**, **Levi Glass**, **Oliver Logson** and **A.J. Morgan**.

Succeeding Belk at quarterback is **Harrison Hartley**, who transferred from **Gray Collegiate Academy**.

Heathwood Hall’s defense also returns many. Glass and **Cole Moore** return to anchor the line, and **Evan Johnson** returns healthy at defensive end after missing most of last year to injuries.

Cornerback **Liam Edwards** returns to lead the secondary and will also be kicker and punter.

While depth will be at issue this year, Zimmerman feels like this year’s team can go far in carrying on the standard set by the team in 2025.

“One thing I tell the guys is that it’s a testament to the program that if we control our attitude and our effort, those are things we absolutely can control,” Zimmerman said. “We didn’t play our best football and it was because we lost our effort and attitude in the first half. We left with our heads down, but one thing I know is that you can’t win a championship in one game.”

Zimmerman knows his team has left last year far behind, and that it’s up to the team to determine its own identity among the opponents to come.

Last week the Highlanders traveled to **Northwood Academy**, which beat them 61-7 in the AAAA state final last year. Heathwood Hall made the game much more competitive than last year’s showing, but fell 21-14.

Next on the schedule comes an improved Cardinal Newman (2-0), which went 1-9 last year, followed by a home game with **Great Falls** Sept. 11. Further down the schedule the Highlanders play at **Florence Christian**, face **Ben Lippen** at home, **Porter Gaud** on the road, **Trinity Collegiate** at home, **Augusta Christian** on the road, and a regular-season finale home game against arch-rival **Hammond**.

“With SCISA, you get a measuring stick with the teams we play,” he said. “If you want to play in the playoffs, you have to beat those teams.”

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Knights leaning on defense for 2026 season

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
Goose Creek - **Stratford High School**’s 2025 football season was one to remember. With a squad full of talented veterans, the Knights posted a 10-2 mark and lit up scoreboards all over the Lowcountry with their potent offensive attack.

They finished up in the third round of the Class 5A playoffs.

The 2026 Knights, though, are more experienced on defense and may need some time for the offense to begin clicking. A lot of new faces on offense are running out there onto Stackley Field this fall and the Knights opened up the season with a pair of losses to Berkeley and Cane Bay high schools.

“We had some plays where we broke down in some stuff,” Stratford coach **Dennie McDaniel** said. “We’ve just got to get out of our feelings and play the next play. That’s a young team for you. We’ve got some maturing to do. We’ll do that in the early part of the season.”

The Knights bring back two all-region players on the defensive side of the ball, senior defensive back **Jonah Coleman** and senior linebacker **Bryce Clemons**. The two combined for 19 tackles in the season opener against Berkeley and Coleman picked off a pass, picking up where they left off last fall.

Clemons led the Knights in tackles as a junior and Coleman was third on the squad. In between, senior linebacker **Cameron Gibbs** was second.

Senior linebacker **Jarrett Hearne** and junior defensive lineman **Kermit Davis** are two more notable tacklers returning.

“Defensively, the strength of our team is going to be the front seven,” McDaniel said.

Offensively, the Knights are going to battle with two young quarterbacks in sophomores **Caleb Lott** and **Dathan Haywood**. Most of the players along the offensive front are brand new, too. They do return senior **Micah Adams** at tight end, though, and talented senior **Jayden Lee** is a returning starter at



Senior Running Back
Malachi Breland

receiver.

Against Cane Bay, Lott completed 12 passes for 293 yards and a 31-touchdown to junior receiver **Zayvon Grant**. Haywood scored Stratford’s other touchdown on a 1-yard run. Lee made five grabs for 148 yards versus the Cobras and Grant tallied four receptions for 72 yards. Adams grabbed two passes for 60 yards.

Senior running back **Malachi Breland** led the way on the ground with 16 carries for 57 yards.

On special teams, kicker **Renzo Gorritti** is a returning all-region selection.

The Knights go to Northwestern Sept. 4 and host crosstown rival **Goose Creek** Sept. 11. They go to **Ashley Ridge** Sept. 18 and host **James Island** Sept. 25.

Fordham feels Gators will be improved in 2026

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Goose Creek – It did not take long for **Goose Creek**’s first-year head coach **Jamie Fordham** to earn his first win as a head coach.

Fordham and the Gators opened the 2026 season with a 53-7 win over Stall on Aug. 21. The former **Goose Creek** tailback waited for his opportunity and is excited about rebuilding the program. **Goose Creek** was winless last season.

“I feel great for these kids. This win is for them,” said Fordham. “It’s great, after what many of these guys went through last year, to see the success and see the smiles on their faces. But this is just the first step. We have to learn from the mistakes we made in game one and try to be even better in game two. We’re going to enjoy this for a day or two and get right back to it.”

Fordham’s first team is quite young with numerous underclassmen seeing extensive playing time early on. One of those is junior running back **Sincere Lewis**, who burst on the scene last season with some solid outings. Lewis rushed for 153 yards and three touchdowns in the season opener.

Sophomore **Tyler Holmes** is starting at quarterback and added 83 yards rushing and a touchdown in the early win. Junior **Bryson Ford** also will factor into the ground game as the seas progresses.

Freshman receiver **Jo Jo Randolph** will be an

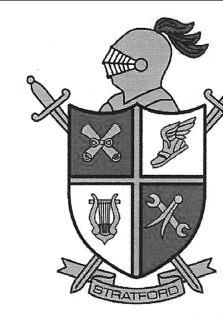


Quarterback Tyler Holmes

impact player on special teams. He caught a touchdown pass and returned a kick for a touchdown in the win over Stall.

Three up and coming receivers include **Josh Bing**, **Reggie Dozier** and **Troy Smalls**. Up front are leaders **Blaine Beulanger** and **Jadon Pringle-Jack-**

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son.

Defensive leaders will include end **Donovan Brown**, backs **Chris Brown**, **Guy Simmons**, and **Teandre Burgess**. Linebacker **Sukari Wright** tallied 11 tackles in the opener. Freshman **Tre Simmons** is a solid player on the line, and **Josiah McNeil**, a sophomore, is working at free safety.

Fordham realizes his team is a long way from where they will eventually be, but with each success comes more confidence.

“Trust me, I know what type of teams we have to face this season,” the coach said. “This is a good region and our non-region schedule has some tough teams on it. It’s important that we learn each week and work hard every day in practice to correct the mistakes. I’m looking forward to watching us grow each week.”

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2026 Berkeley Stags football

Berkeley football showing great potential in 2026

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Moncks Corner—The Berkeley Stags have served notice, with their back-to-back wins over Stratford (36-0) and Fort Dorchester (44-15) that they are a strong contender to compete for a Region 6-AAAAA title this season, and they should also have a deep play-off run as head coach **Eric Lodge** enters his 4th season as the head football coach of the Stags.

This week Berkeley is on the road to play against **St. James High** located just south of Myrtle Beach. Berkeley built a 14-0 first quarter against Stratford in the first game of the season on a four-line TD run by running back **LJ Washington** and a 14-yard run by QB **Henry Rivers**. Berkeley went on to compile 447 yards of total offense in their most dominating win over their county rival in recent memory.

“Football wise, I felt like we came out and played pretty well tonight against Stratford,” said Berkeley head coach **Eric Lodge**, beginning his 4th season with the Stags after a long coaching stint in Florida. “There are a few things, here and there that we need to clean up, especially the penalties that are not to my liking,” said Coach Lodge from his office after the game. “Over-all I am pleased with our performance. Anytime you shut a team out I feel like that is a complete team accomplishment in all three phases of the game.”

Coach Lodge was pleased with the Stags balanced offensive attack in the season opening home game. Rivers, who recently committed to the **C of C** for baseball, completed 12-of-21 passes for 253 yards while the Stags also compiled 193 rushing yards on 34 carries in the game against the Knights.

Rivers also rushed for 93 yards on 10 carries with two rushing touchdowns against Stratford. Senior RB **LJ Washington** added 46 yards on 10 carries with two touchdowns. Junior **Dylan Howard** added 29 yards on two carries in the win over Stratford.

The Stags top receivers against Stratford were senior **Ashton Hyche** (6-1, 182) who caught three passes for 43 yards and a TD along with junior **Bryson McGee** who had two catches for 40 yards and a touchdown.

Cane Bay football looking to get back on track

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Summerville – The last two football seasons have been sub-par for the **Cane Bay Cobras** but veteran head coach **Russell Zehr** believes the pieces are in place for a potential resurgence.

The Cobras finished the last two seasons with three wins each but did win a region championship in 2024. Zehr, now in his 16th year at Cane Bay, and his staff have worked hard in the offseason to develop some up and coming talent. They did so through the weight room and spring practice. “We had a good offseason overall,” Zehr said. “We worked hard to get stronger and to develop some depth. The kids we have are hard-working kids. We all want to be better than we have been but

“We have really capable receivers, and really capable running backs, along with a very capable quarterback who can make all the throws, plus make plays with his feet, so I think our balance comes from our various ways we can attack a defense,” said Coach Lodge.

Coach Lodge also cited the play of the Stag’s offensive line. “Our left tackle is senior **Caden Freeman** (6-4,332) and he is like the elder statesman of our offensive line with leadership and experience,” said Coach Lodge. “We have a little rotation going with our guards. Sophomore **Elijah Pennie** (6-0, 286) started at left guard tonight and we have a very bright future with him being able to play all five spots, and we are excited to have him for another three seasons.

“Junior **Jaxtin Gibson** (6-0,306) is our center and junior **Sy’ion Holmes** (6-2, 213) is starting at right guard and junior **Connor Finley** (6-2, 302) is our right tackle,” said Coach Lodge.

On defense, against the Knights, the top three tacklers were senior DL **Aiden President** (5-10, 210) with seven tackles, including two TFL. He can play on the edge or nose. “Aiden is a little under-sized and we are known for that,” said Coach Lodge. “He is super quick, fast and hard to block,” said Coach Lodge.

Junior DE **Chance Coleman** (5-11, 209) had five tackles, while junior OLB/FS **Copeland President** contributed five tackles Also. DB’s Hyche and senior **Jessie Brown** each had one interception on defense. “We really like our defensive front,” said Coach Lodge. “We feel like we have 8 guys who we can rotate in-an-out of the defensive front. When you have a shut-out I consider it a complete team effort. Someone might not have an eye- popping stats but everyone played well together as a unit, and I am proud of their efforts for sure.”

The Stags also have an effective place kicker in senior **Ryland Kirkland** who barely missed two field goal attempts during the game in the 40-yard range. Coach Lodge said that the Stag’s off-season program has been a key to his team’s success. “I will put our off-season program up against anyone else’s in the country,” said Coach Lodge. “Some of team’s might

See **Berkeley**, pg. 62

to be better we have to put in the work. We’ve got some holes to fill but hopefully we have guys ready to step in and take advantage of their opportunity.

The Cobras will have a new quarterback this fall. Zehr says senior **Coran Houpe** is moving from running back to run the option offense this season. Cane Bay has reworked the offense and defense a bit this season.

“Houpe has adjusted very well and we think he will do a good job in the offense,” Zehr said. Returning in the backfield are **Mayson Samuel** and **Sam Rolston**, with some talented backs coming from the lower levels. The offensive line returns two starters, **Isaac Siefken** and **Eli Taylor**.

Junior **JJ Rose** is back as the leader along the defensive front, with ends **Devin Cobbs** and **Brennen**

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Shokes also returning. Other linemen competing for time along both lines include **Brennan Shokes**, **Cam Long**, **Tyrus Graham**, **Christian Holloway**, **Brice Dehaan**, **Brayden Theodore**, **Josh Walsh**, **Tavish Moore**, **Luis Sanchez**, and **Brady Schauer**. The linebackers will be new starters with only **Jackson Williamson** returning with experience. The secondary could be a strength with returners **Zion Bryant** and **Caeden Wilson**. The kicking game is a solid strength with senior **Aiden Thorne** returning. Thorne is a deep threat on kickoffs and field goals. “He’s got a leg and can be a real weapon for us,” Zehr said.

Bobcats get McClam his first career win as coach

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Lake City – After failing to get his first win as a head coach in the season opening game, **Carolina Academy’s** first-year head football coach **Tyler McClam** was able to claim that victory in week two of the 2026 season.

The Bobcats lost to Thomas Sumter, 44-0, in the opener but bounced back with a 22-8 win over Holly Hill Academy on Aug. 27. McClam, a former assistant who replaced David Rankin when the former head man left for Laurence Manning, was never worried much about when his first win would come. He was more happy for his young team to experience early success.

“I’m just happy for these kids to get rewarded for all of the hard work they put in over the summer,” McClam said. “We were sort of shell-shocked in the opener. Thomas Sumter was a lot more experienced and really took it to us. We weren’t ready to play. We have so many new guys on the field and they just needed to get some experience.

“In the second game, we played much better, more relaxed. We executed better and we were physical. Holly Hill is a good team and we did a good job overall. We were just ready to plod to see.”

The Bobcats are indeed a very young team. McClam says only two seniors start and the third senior on the roster is injured for the season. Most of the players that see the most action are sophomores.

One of those sophomores is starting quarterback **Holden Carsten**. Junior **Luke Cook** and senior **Carson Hanna** will handle most of the running game. Senior **Ryker Rhodes** and **Tanner Floyd** are the leaders at receiver with sophomore **Kingston Cox** working as the tight end. Along the offense line are tackles **Cole El-**



Head coach
Tyler McClam

more and **Connor Mixon**. Elmore is a freshman and Mixon is a sophomore.

Working at guard are sophomore **Matthew Beard** and junior **Raylen Parkhurst**, while sophomore **Kyle Cox** is the starting center.

Most of the same names appear as starters on the defensive side of the ball. Beard, Mixon, and Parkhurst are on the front, with **Collin Nail** and **Kyle Cox** working in a rotation as well.

Kingston Cox and **Hanna** are the starting linebackers. **Carsten**, **Rhodes**, **Floyd** and **Britton Johnson** are in the secondary. **Burlen Frye** and **Cook** are at outside linebacker.

“We’re looking forward to the rest of the season. I think we are going to be a team that improves each week,” McClam said. “I’m sure we will have some tough battles along the way but I like this team’s competitive attitude.”

Lake City young but ready to take the next step

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Lake City – Head coach **Jamison Estep** begins his second season at the helm of the Lake City football program looking to build on the momentum that Panthers gained in the second half and region play last season so with a strong core group returning and some young talent the Panthers are poised to take the next step.

“We have a lot of young talent in the sophomore class that saw a lot of playing time as freshmen so we need them to continue to mature and become more consistent in all areas,” said coach Estep. “We have some good senior and junior leaders especially along the defensive front seven.”

The Panther have gotten off to a good start as they won their first two games of the season beating Hannah Pamlico 21-7 and then knocking off a ranked Timberland team on the road 18-6. Both wins were on the road and part a four-game road trip to start the year. The Panthers first home game will be against rival Kingstree on 9/18. They will be showing off the renovations at their stadium.

The defense has played well early led by their front seven. Seniors **Ser’Roy Murry** (6-1,245), **Kapp Caulder** (6,330) and **De’Von Baines** (6,350)and junior **Evan McClam** (6-2,190) have caused havoc along the line scrimmage allowing senior linebackers **Niquan Flemming** (5-10,190) and **Alex Rendo** (5-10,170) to get to the ball. Sophomore linebacker **Jorrell McClary** (5-9,160) rounds out the front seven and is one of four sophomores

starting on defense.

Senior Jordan Dobson (5-7,160) is the leader of the secondary with three sophomores in **Terrence Williams** (5-6,145), **Ziyre McFadden** (6,196) and **TJ Hickson** (5-9,150).

Offensively, the Panthers are led by sophomore quarterback **Jayce Edwards** (5-11,175). He is a dynamic that has gotten off a solid start for coach Estep. He has thrown for 249 yards and two scores while rushing for another 123 yards and two more touchdowns. Joining Edwards in the backfield are running backs Dobson and sophomore **Derrin Myers** (5-5,165). The Panthers have used five other ball carriers led senior **Catlin Anderson**.

Senior **DJ Singletary** (6-1,170) and Williams are at wide out while McClam lines up at tight end. Sophomore **Xykenan Hickson** has been the target early in the year with five receptions for149 yards.

The offensive line is manned by three juniors in left tackle **Jaylen Brown** (6-2,250), right tackle **Mahki Nero** (6,235)), and left guard **Ryan Keve Jr** (5-10,285). Sophomore starters are right guard **Eas-**



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Jamison Estep

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ton Prosser (5-9,235) and **Derrick Croker** (5-10,245). As this group matures and comes together offensive production will go up for the Panthers.

Williamsburg Academy STALLIONS

Williamsburg football off to hot start in 2026

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Kingtree – When **Will Furse** walked off the field of **Manning High School's Ramsey Stadium** on Friday, August 14, the **Williamsburg Academy** football head coach wasn't disappointed. Disgusted was probably the more appropriate word.

The Stallions, the defending SCISA Class A state champions, had just lost to **East Clarendon** 28-0 in the **Fifth Annual FTC Jamboree** – in a scrimmage of two 15-minute quarters with a running clock.

"It was embarrassing," Furse said immediately following the scrimmage. "We just didn't play our standard of football. East Clarendon's a good football team, not taking anything away from the way they played. We couldn't do anything on offense. We just didn't play our brand of football tonight."

Williamsburg had to wait basically two weeks before it got back on the field. It was supposed to start its regular season on August 21 against **Laurence Manning Academy**, but inclement weather led to the ultimate cancellation of the game.

The Stallions finally got to kick off the season on Thursday, August 27, against **Trinity Collegiate in Darlington**. They trailed 6-0 after one quarter before getting things rolling in the second quarter and going on to a 32-14 triumph.

While he no doubt knew his team had upped its performance in a big way, Furse wasn't about to get too excited about the season opener.

"We played one game, we won that game, so we're 1-0," said Furse, who is in his second season at Williamsburg. "It certainly could be worse. We didn't play great against Trinity. We had too many turnovers and had too many penalties. Those are things we can't continue to do and expect to win. Those are things we need to improve upon."

The Stallions rolled up 402 yards of total offense, 305 of them coming on the ground. Leading the way was senior running back **Grant Small**, a 2,000-yard rusher from last season. He rambled for 155 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries.

Fellow senior **Eli Brown** had a strong game as well, running for 129 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries. Sophomore quarterback **Caden Morris** had two carries for 13 yards.

Morris, who played wide receiver as a freshman, was making his first start at quarterback. He completed 5 of 12 passes for 97 yards with two of the completions going for scores.

"Offensively I thought we ran the ball well at times, and I thought our quarterback threw the ball well," Furse said. "He made a lot of good throws, and we only expect him to get better."

"I think we did a good job running a lot of our base plays."

Senior **Charlie Caulder** had three of the receptions for 76 yards and a touchdown. Another senior, **Michael Ard**, also had a TD catch for 25 yards.

Williamsburg has each of the five players who started on the offensive line in the 36-14 championship game win over **Colleton Prep Academy** returning. They are Ard at right guard, senior **Marlin Morris** at right tackle, senior **Mason Cribb** at left tackle, senior **Sammy Tomlinson** at left guard and junior **Henderson Livingston** at center.

"I thought our offensive line did a good job blocking for the most part," Furse said. After struggling like it did in the jamboree, Furse was very happy with the performance of the defense. "I thought our defense played tremendously," Furse said. "Trinity only had around 100 yards of total offense. They tried to spread us out and throw it around a lot, but we did a very good job of making them 1-dimensional offensively."

Williamsburg had tackles spread out all across the unit. Ard, junior **Wyatt Williams** and junior **Lane Patrick** led the way in tackles with five apiece. The Stallions got a lot of pressure on the Trinity quarterback as Marlin Morris had four quarterback hurries and sophomore **Gavin Matthews**, Williams and sophomore **Jack McGill** had two apiece.

The Stallions also had four interceptions, two of them by Patrick and one apiece from Caulder and junior **Bryson Wheeler**. Junior **Gamble Wilson** and senior **Hall Dukes** each broke up a pass.

Furse wasn't sure how much of a factor, if any, not getting to play the opener against Laurence Manning affected the Stallions.

"I don't think it's ever a good thing to lose a game

See **Williamsburg**, pg. 62



Quarterback Caden Morris

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Burnette begins tenure as head coach at THS

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

St. Stephen – As a graduate and former football player of **Timberland High**, no one wants to bring the program back to a championship level more than **Brooks Burnette**.

Burnette is getting that opportunity this fall as he begins his role as the head coach. It is his first head coaching experience after several seasons as an assistant at Woodland.

"I feel like I have been preparing for this opportunity since I started coaching," he said. "I've always wanted to come back and be the head coach at Timberland. This is home. This is where I want to coach and I'm going to give it all I've got to bring this program back to a championship level."

Burnette and his 2026 Wolves lost their season opener to Lake City on Aug. 27 but it was a game the Wolves could have won. The game was 6-6 at the half but mistakes in the second half led to 18-6 defeat.

"We did some good things but we made some bad mistakes that cost us," the coach said. "We had close to 300 yards rushing. We're pretty young. I would guess about half the guys were playing in their

first varsity game. The mistakes we made are things we can correct. This team has a good mindset and they will put in the work."

Offensively, the Wolves have a first-year starter at quarterback in **Gavin Harwell**, a freshman. Working at running back are seniors **Eric Johnson** and **Josh Brown**. Johnson also is the top linebacker on defense.

The team's top player is senior receiver/safety **Carter Hawkins**, who has committed to Wake Forest.

"We have to get the ball in his hands and let him make plays," Burnette said.

Demari Mathis and **Kamren Foster** also give Harwell options in the passing game.

Anchoring the lines are **Joshua Goodman** and **Dereon Jones**. Leaders at linebacker are **Caylen Jones** and **Anthony Peeples**.

"We have 13 seniors but we're playing quite a few sophomores and some freshmen," Burnette said. "We just need some time to gel, to get on the same page. Some of the guys are experienced but we're doing some new things as well. We're just trying to take one day at a time and be 1-0 each week. Our goal is to bring the program back and that starts



The Cavaliers take the field vs. St. John's last Friday night

Cavaliers, Dan Jackson look to be a good fit

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Moncks Corner – To say that St. John's Christian Academy athletic director **Dan Jackson** has been learning the job on the fly is an understatement as he was thrust into the job when AD **Shaun Welch** suddenly decided to step down last fall.

Cross football aiming for title run in 2026

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Cross – Having firmly established themselves as one of the premier football programs on the Class A level, the 2026 **Cross High** Trojans are looking to take the next step.

Cross has been a true state championship contender for the last several years but they have yet to finish the job. The Trojans were 11-2 last season and are 46-10 since the 2022 season.

With some experience back this fall, head coach **e're looking forward** sees championship potential in his team.

"Like everyone else on this level, we have to stay as healthy as we can," Wright said. "With all of our key guys on the field, we can play with team in class A. We have a lot of potential if we can fill some holes."

Wright and the Trojans entered preseason practices in August in the right frame of mind.

"The commitment level has been good," Wright said. The attitude and work ethic of the guys has been on point. I'm pretty pleased. I think they are mentally ready to have a great season."

Offensively, Wright will look to quarterback **Tyler Harris** to lead the way. This season will be

Jackson is a former football player, baseball player and wrestler at Becton Regional High School in East Rutherford, NJ as well as 20+year retired Police Officer at the Port Authority in New York and New Jersey. He started at SJCA as the security officer after he and his wife followed their youngest daughter (CofC student) to SJCA.

See SJCA, pg. 62

his third as a starter and his experience cannot be overstated. Harris passed for 1,619 yards and 17 touchdowns last season.

"He's very smart and he sets a great example," the coach said. "He prepares more than any player I have coached. Nothing rattles him."

Senior **Mah'ky Green** is back for his third season as well and should be among the leading rushers in Class A this season. Green topped 1,600 yards with 16 touchdowns last season. Leading the receivers are **Corinthian Wilson** and **Bernard Middleton**.

The Trojans also return four offensive linemen, led by **Jailyn Broughton**. Broughton is the lone returner on the defensive front. Other starters on the offensive line will include **Andrew Hockett**, **Dakari President**, **Marquis Pringle** and **Gus Davis**.

Wright says the strength defensively will be at linebacker where **Kahlil Levine**, **Jimmy Smith**, **Jakobe Jones** and **Keyawn Wilson** return. All four also will spot time at running back.

Broughton, Davis and Hockett are the starters on the three-man front. Wright, Wilson, Middleton and **Jerry Sweatman** form the starting secondary.

"We have experience but not a lot of depth so the

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Courtesy Matthew Bradberry, Athletic Director

same guys are having to play a lot until we develop some guys," Wright said.

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Edward Jones
INVESTMENTS

LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY SWAMPCATS

LMA tops East Clarendon 24-6; end of crazy start

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Manning — It was quite a start to the season for the **Laurence Manning Academy** football team, and it had nothing to do with the Swampcats beating **East Clarendon High School** 24-6 in the season opener on Thursday, August 27, at LMA's **Joey Chitwood Field**.

First, the season didn't start on time. Laurence Manning was scheduled to open the year on August 21 against **Williamsburg Academy**. Two bad weather days led to the cancellation of the game.

While this was going on, Swampcats head coach **David Rankin**, in his first season at the school, was placed in the hospital with a major medical scare involving sepsis in a hip that would require several surgeries.

The game against East Clarendon was moved up a day, again because of the threat of inclement weather. Leading up to that, Laurence Manning seldom got to actually practice football because of the brutal heat and humility leading up to the game.

Yet, when all was said and done, the Swampcats had put together an 18-point victory against a team that opened its season with a 21-14 victory over **Scott's Branch** the week before.

"It was really a weird two weeks of practice," said interim head coach **Brock Miller**. "We only had one full practice because of the wet bulb (protocol, which says when it's safe for a team to be able to be active on the field). We were able to get in just one practice on special teams.

"We had to spend a lot of time in the gyms, and because of the number of teams that we have, there wasn't a lot of room to do things. We mainly just did drills in shorts, but we went out and played well. I'm very proud of them."

One thing that worked in the Swampcats' favor was having a 4-year starter Grainger Powell lining up at quarterback with a standout wide receiver to get the ball to in junior **Scoop Dennis**. The duo combined for many big plays.

The first of significance that withstood the penalty flags from the officials came early in the second quarter. Powell connected with Dennis, and he took the ball to the Wolverines 11-yard line. Laurence Manning was unable to get into the end zone, but the strong-legged placekicker Daniel Vargas booted a 28-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead with 9:14 remaining in the second quarter.

The next time Laurence Manning got the football it put it in the end zone for a touchdown. After starting at the East Clarendon 43, Dennis took a quick touch pass and went 36 yards for the score. Vargas' extra point made it 10-0 with 5:25 left in the first half.

The normally sure-footed Vargas missed on field goals of 36 and 30 yards, respectively, in the third quarter. The score was still 10-0 going into the fourth quarter when the Swampcats put the game away.

A 22-yard run by running back **Pierson Gamble** and then a 34-yard gain on a screen pass follow-

ing a couple of penalties had Laurence Manning set up at the East Clarendon 30.

Powell completed passes to wide receiver **Rob Briggs**, Dennis and tight end **Asher Sanders**. After an 11-yard pass to Dennis moved the ball to the 8, Powell connected with Sanders for a touchdown to make it 17-0 with 9:14 to go in the game.

The Swampcats' final touchdown came on their next possession. Gamble took a screen pass and shot pass the East Clarendon defenders for a 50-yard touchdown.

Miller said Dennis, Gamble, Powell and Sanders all bring different aspects to the offense, but they complement each other very well.

"We've got some talented players," said Miller, a longtime head coach in SCISA like Rankin. "Scoop has a chance to make a big play every time he touches the ball. Pierson just gives you all he has. He had a lot of carries, and he's just going full bore all the time.

"Asher is so talented. He would be the top playmaker on just about any other team. Then you have Grainger, who knows how to run the offense, who to get the ball to and when they need to get it. He's just a great leader."

Rankin had a chance to talk to his team before the game from his hospital room at MUSC in Florence. While he may not have been there physically, Miller believes Rankin had a lot to do with how the Swampcats performed in their opener.

"I told the guys after the game that I believe Coach Rankin's spirit played a big role in how they played," said Miller, who was an assistant at Atlantic Collegiate Academy last season. "It's amazing what Coach Rankin has done with these young men in the short time he has been here. They are all in on what he has been telling them.

"When he got here, he sat down with each of the players and talked about everything but football. He talked about their likes and dislikes and other things going on in their lives. I think that's where he got them. They found out he was worried about more than just football, even though that is the main job."

Miller is hoping Rankin will be able to return to work in the next couple of weeks, but in the meantime, the season marches on. Up next for the Swampcats is perennial power **Hammond**, which for the first time in several years isn't the defending state champion.

Miller is paying no attention to that fact. Instead, he still sees the Skyhawks as the measuring stick for SCISA AAAA.

"The way I see it is this is a non-region game for us, but if we're going to win a state championship we'll probably have to go through them again," Miller said. "We get to play them and see how we stack up against them. This will definitely tell us what we need to do to win a state championship."

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Barnwell focused on rivalry with Bamberg-Ehrhardt

Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Barnwell—After two games of the 2026 season the **Barnwell** Warhorses are 1-1, having defeated **Buford** (33-12) in the season opener, while falling to **Pelion** 17-7 in game two of the season.

The team is now preparing to host **Bamberg-Ehrhardt** this week with the Raiders ranked number one in Class A Div. I.

After his team's 17-7 loss against Pelion, head coach **Brian Smith** commented, "It was a tough loss against Pelion Friday night and I was excited to come to the ball game because we had a great week of practice," said Coach Smith. "It was good to actually get out a few days and work on things we needed to fix and improve on.

"I felt like Pelion was the more physical team and they made fewer mistakes," Coach Smith. "We lost the turnover battle and the penalty battle against them. We had some specialty team mistakes also. When you do this, it makes it hard to win football games.

"I thought our kids fought hard against Pelion and their effort was there throughout the game," said Coach Smith. "I never questioned that with our bunch because they play hard every second of every game. We made several trips inside the red zone, and we came away empty because of penalties and a couple loss yardage plays.

"We are looking forward to getting back out next week and preparing for a very good Bamberg-Ehrhardt club," said Coach Smith. "We talked to our players after the game last week about fixing certain mistakes this week in practice, so they don't happen again. We just need to make sure that we continue to work hard and fix these mistakes.

Against Pelion. RB **Torye Pickens** rushed for 103 tards on 19 carries. In his first two games Pickens has now rushed for 320 yards, 45 carries and one TD. Quarterback Josiah Gibson has rushed 72 yards on 16 carries in the first two games and Derrick Daniels has added 55 net rushing yards on 8 carries. Gibson has completed 12-of-25 passes for 164

yards and two TD's after two games. The team's top receivers are **Zavion Salley** (3-79-1 TD), **Jax Mead** (5-55-1TD) and **Jayden Patterson** (3-for-75 1 TD).

On defense there are seven Warhorse players with 10 or more tackles after two games. Junior line-backer **Case Davis** currently has 16 tackles with two TFL. Corner back **Zavien Snelling** also has 16 stops, as does Pickens who plays a MLB slot.

Jax Mead (5-10,170) is a senior FS with 14 tackles and sophomore MLB **John Huggins** has contributed 14 tackles and two TFL thus far. Sophomore Cameron Rivers has 11 tackles, and senior Joe Huggins has 10 tackles over the first two games.

The offensive line is comprised of three returning starters in **Traven Wilson**, **Carl Hines** and **Davion Williams**. **Brycen Carnahan** and **Brandon Beasley** are newcomers to the offensive front.

The three starting receivers are **Jayden Peoples**, **Jaiden Patterson**, and **Bridgedon Youmans**.

The team's top newcomers include sophomore H-back/LB **Marquel Williams**, sophomore H-back/LB **John Huggins**, and junior LB **Case Davis**.

On defense, the DL is comprised of **Adrain Saxon**, along with Hines and Williams who flip from offense. The linebackers are Pickens, John Huggins, Peoples, and Case. Patterson, Youmans, Ky-Mani Buxton, and Caiden Roland patrol the secondary.

Kyle Sanders is the combo kicker, and **Joe Huggins** is the long snapper.

After the Warhorses week one win over Buford, Coach Smith commented, "We had a strong performance by the Warhorses to open our season," he said. "Torye Pickens ran the ball well all game. I thought Josiah Gibson did a great job moving the offense at quarterback and he had two rushing touchdowns and he passed for two more scores.

"We got banged up in the second half that really hurt us from putting the game away," said Coach Smith. "We need to continue to work hard towards next week's game with Pelion and try to create depth where they is not depth. Next week we will have a challenge against the double wing slots they run with lots of motion in different directions. We need to get

Camden hosts Hartsville in early season showdown

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Camden—With the every two-year SCHSL realignment complete, the **Camden** football team will be competing as a AAA member during the 2026 season, as veteran head coach **Brian Rimpf** (124-67) begins his 10th season with the Bulldogs football program.

The '26 season got off on a high note with a 35-13 win over **Dillon** with the Bulldogs playing mistake free football while their defense forced three Dillon turnovers in the first half of that game.

Then one week later the Bulldogs played rival **Lugoff-Elgin** and Coach Rimpf described the 28-25 loss with these comments, "It was a tough one," said Coach Rimpf. "In our first 13 plays we ran on offense we had four missed assignments, and two turnovers, and even with all going on we were only down 14-6 at the half.

"Then in the final seconds of the game we missed a field goal that would have tied the game so there are times things are just not meant to be," said Coach Rimpf. "Lugoff Elgin is a vastly improved team no doubt and they are going to win their share of games this season."

This week the Bulldogs are preparing to host

Hartsville. "We have played Hartsville 8 times since I have been at Camden and the series is tied 4-4," said Coach Rimpf. "They are a physical come right at you kind of team. We expect them to be ready to give us a very competitive game."

Camden entered the season led by a core group of seniors. They include quarterback Greysen Rimpf (6-2, 190), TE **Will Haunert** (6-4, 215), OL **Worth Thomasson**, OL **Kenneth Lawson**, along with RB **Jaden Manning**.

The junior class is led by LB **Lamey Penny** (6-1, 15), and WR **Bernard Green** (5-9,175). The sophomore class is led by FS **Ethan Drakeford** (5-10, 190) and DL **Marcus Hall** (5-10, 260).

"WE have 12 returning starters, 8 on offense," said Coach Rimpf in late July. "We are a team with a lot of speed."

Coach Rimpf said some inexperience at certain spots on defense would need to be addressed. "You always need to create depth," he said.

Quarterback Rimpf is starting for the third season. "He was made to play the position," said Coach Rimpf, who just happens to be his proud father. "He is very even keeled and he does not get rattled easily."

Coach Rimpf is also very high on WR Green.

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some guys healthy quickly so we can stand up to the challenge that Pelion will present to us."

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"He had six catches and two for touchdowns against Lugoff-Elgin and he also played well at free safety on defense," said Coach Rimpf.

The Camden DL is led by senior DE **Cayden Ferguson**, and DE **Javion Richardson**, along with sophomore DL **Marcus Hall** (6-0,270). In the OL junior **Tyler Atkinson** (6-4, 275) returns as well.

"Our goals will always be to win the region title, then win the lower state championship, and then go get the state title," said Coach Rimpf.

Hampton County is now “Hurricane Nation”

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Varnville – The Hampton County Hurricanes will hit a milestone this season, a year after playing in their first ever AA state championship game, that has head coach Rob Hanna very excited not only for his football team but the entire school.

“I have really been looking forward to year four of our program because this will be the first class that started as Hurricanes and will leave as Hurricanes,” said coach Hanna. “When we started three years ago combining the two schools we were fortunate to have a group of seniors that knew we could have a special year. We didn’t have any ‘I’m Estill, I’m Wade Hampton’, the kids bonded and established standard for our program to follow.”

That standard is “next man up”. In two of their three years, the Canes have had the top rusher in the state and this season junior Nigel Fripp (5-7,170) steps into the top running back slot for the Canes. In his first start he ran for 187 yards and a score. Sophomore Bob Amaker will also get carries this season.

Take over at quarterback is junior Roderick Loadholt. He is athletic but lacks game experience.

The strength of the Canes offense lays within their veteran offensive line. Four seniors lead the in left tackle Charles “CJ” Williams, right tackle Ty’quavian Jones, left guard Lonzo Johnson, and right guard Cautey Taylor. Junior center Will Cobb is the lone underclassmen in the staling five. The seniors paved the way

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Patrick Henry football starts out 2026 season 1-1

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Estill – After leading Patrick Henry Academy to the SCISA Class A state championship in his first season as head coach in 2023, Joe Gray Peeples has seen the Patriots struggle the past two seasons.

PHA went 4-7 in 2024 and just 2-9 last season. However, Peeples believes Patrick Henry is going to take an upward turn this season.

The Patriots are off to a 1-1 start. They lost to Dorchester Academy 26-8 before rebounding with a 23-8 triumph over Beaufort Academy.

“When we were 4-7 we just couldn’t quite finish,” Peeples said. “I expected a little fall off. Injuries were a big deal last year. They really hurt us.

“We wanted to try and narrow the gap to where we were last year to this year. We lost a lot of games by big scores last year, and we want to let the other teams know that we were in a football game tonight and give them all they can handle.”

That will start on the offensive side of the football. The Patriots will have brothers Luke Sobey and Kai Sobey doing most of the work running the football. Luke is a senior and is a 3-time state champion in his weight class in SCISA wrestling. Kai is a sophomore who is a runner-up in his wrestling weight class.

“We think that’s going to be what everything is

for over 4200 yards rushing last season. Jones is one of the teams captains. Jones has committed to Charleston Southern.

The receiving group is H-back junior Kendell Williams, wide receiver junior Jamar Housey, wide receiver senioe Deondre Duncan and tight end senior Ja’Shon Williams.

Defensively, the Canes have to replace one of the best secondary’s in the state and while this years group light on experience they are all athletic and fly to the football. They are led by senior captain Tre Crittington. Rounding out the secondary are junior Damien Priester and sophomores Terrick Moore, and Jaiden Anderson

The defensive line is young and active, led by junior captain Jayden Frazier with sophomore Craig Sanders and junior Cleavon Maxwell finishing out the front three.

Senior Henry Crittington is the leader of the linebacking corps. He is joined by freshmen Isaac James, sophomore Kaveon Tyler and Williams.

Freshmen Isaac James leads the team in tackles while Crittington leads in tackles for loss with three.

Sophomore Bryton Sauls and senior Ryon Ford will fill Rafe Sullivan’s shoes this season.

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telling us to do,” Peeples said of running the football. We’ve got eight linemen (on a 24-man roster), and we think all of them can play, including the freshmen. When you’ve got that and you’ve got the Sobeyes, that’s telling you to run the football.”

Patrick Henry hasn’t been dominant running the football so far though. Kai has 99 yards and a touchdown on 27 carries, while Luke has 47 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries.

Freshman Aiden Johnson is starting at quarterback He has completed 6 of 16 passes for 103 yards and a touchdown. Kai Sobey has three catches for 20 yards while Owen Shaffer, a transfer from Hampton County High School, has two catches for 77 yards, one of them Johnson’s TD pass.

“Aiden’s our guy at quarterback,” Peeples said. “You’re going to have a lot of ups and downs with a freshman, but we feel like je can throw the football pretty well. He’ll be able to keep people out of the box and keep them honest.”

Claude Terry is the defensive coordinator this year. Peeples felt good about him calling the defense entering the season, and the Patriots have done nothing to change his thinking.

“We’re going to be a lot more aggressive on defense,” Peeples said. “We’re going to send folks and have people not knowing where they’re coming from.”

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Florence Area Feature Page

Football season underway in the Florence Area

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Florence – The football season for South Florence High School under first-year head coach Scott Braswell hasn’t started in any shape, form or fashion like it was hoped.

The Bruins, who played for four consecutive AAAA state titles under former head coach Drew Marlowe and winning two, are off to a 0-2 start. South Florence lost to Hilton Head Island 38-21 and to James Island 34-14, both coming on the road.

Senior running back Cameron James has been the leader of the offense. James has rushed for 267 yards and three touchdowns on 26 carries. Senior quarterback De’Eric Davis has completed 14 of 27 passes for 122 yards while rushing for 82 yards and a score on 19 carries. The top pass catcher was senior Malik Robinson with seven receptions for 60 yards.

Thomas Wilson returned an interception for a touchdown for one of South Florence’s touchdowns against James Island. Another interception by Sammy Milton set up a touchdown run by James.

South Florence will be trying to get in the win column in its home opener against Ashley Ridge on September 4.

The Bruins will then face their archrival, West Florence, on September 11 in the Region 7-AAAA opener.

Florence Christian undefeated to start 2026 season

By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
FLORENCE – Florence Christian made one thing clear during its 2-0 start. No matter what opponents throw the Eagles’ way, coach Neil Minton’s team has an answer.

The Eagles scored two touchdowns during the final minute to win 42-35 over Dillon Christian. In Week two, Florence Christian’s “quick start” set the tone for a 33-14 victory.

“We’ve shown a lot of different things, and I’m really, really excited about moving forward,” Minton said.

Trailing Dillon Christian 35-28, junior quarterback Riley Minton completed a TD pass to Ben-

Silver Foxes in familiar spot as season gets going

By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
LAMAR – Lamar lost its 2025 opener to Darlington before going on to reach the SCHSL Class A final.

After losing this year’s opener to the Falcons, coach Tyler Boyd’s Silver Foxes hope to repeat that feat.

Lamar lost 19-14 to Darlington and then won 33-8 this past Friday over Columbia. In Friday’s win, Lamar running back Jaquez Dargan rushed for 146 yards on 14 carries and scored a TD. D.Q. Green and Torin Carroway also rushed for scores.

And at receiver, Mont Williams caught three passes for 45 yards and a score of his own.

After Zori Pierce’s graduation, Lamar has a new quarterback in Jaylen Morris.

“I expect us to get better there,” Boyd said. “We need confidence, and everybody trusts in the process. Zori had been the starting quarterback for these guys forever. And now, they’ve got to understand it’s next man up.”

On Friday, Morris completed 6 of 13 passes for 66 yards and that touchdown.

“(Morris) makes the checks at the line; he did it one time in the first game, and I know he did it more than one time against Columbia,” Boyd said. “That’s improvement. He’s trying to get us in the right play.”

Boyd is most proud of his defense, which scored two touchdowns on Friday. Kenile Johnson returned

Braswell came to South Florence after serving as the defensive coordinator at perennial power Dutch Fork for several years under head coach Tom Knotts.

The Knights are 1-1 to open the year. They lost to Carolina Forest 16-14 in the season opener before rebounding with a 49-38 triumph over Hartsville in Week 2.

In the road win over Hartsville at Kelleytown Stadium on Thursday, August 27, Matthew Benjamin rushed for four touchdowns.

Jeremiah Bryant added two more rushing scores, while Corey Patterson pulled down a TD toss form Markell Scott.

On defense, Evan Deas, Isaac Green and Jawaun Gamble all had interceptions for the Knights.

Before taking on South Florence, West Florence will go up against the Bruins’ former head coach in Marlowe. The Knights will visit Sumter on September 4.

West Florence is in its second season under Chad Wilkes’ leadership. Wilkes won a state championship while the head coach at Oceanside Collegiate Acad- See Florence Area, pg. 63

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jamin Sims Jr. with 40 seconds left. After Andrew Miller’s two-point run, teammate Hayden Schwab scored on an interception return.

Against PDA, the Eagles built a 20-0 lead and never looked back.

“I think the key for us right now is we’ve just been very balanced and we have a lot of capable weapons on offense,” said Minton, whose team hosts Lee Academy at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

One primary weapon is junior quarterback Riley Minton, a third-year starter and the coach’s son. He has passed for 154 yards (15 of 23) this season along with that dramatic touchdown.

“You can just see his confidence right now; he al- See Florence Christian, pg. 25

a fumble 46 yards for a score, and Robert Cooper recovered a fumble in the end zone.

And on special teams, Jeremiah Moses broke loose on a kick return and raced 75 yards for a touchdown.

Williams and Green help set the tone on defense. “(Williams) does a good job of providing pressure and making big plays. And D.Q. is the same – he’s always around the ball,” Boyd said. “He’s our leader out there on defense and makes a lot of the calls. We can move them both around to a lot of different places on defense.”

When it comes to the running game, Dargan will have to continue the tone.

“We weren’t great at it on Friday, but he was,” Boyd said. “He hit the holes; he’s a stocky guy who likes to run behind his pads. He did a great job hitting the holes and getting what he got.”

On Friday at 7:30 p.m., Lamar will play at East Clarendon.

“I want our team to build on last week; I feel we stalled out a good bit

See Lamar, pg. 35

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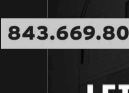


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Mullins adds Darryl Page to football staff

By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
MARION – The Aundres Perkins era is well under way at Marion High School. Now joining him is state championship coach Darryl Page (Wilson, 2007).

The two had long served together as assistants at West Florence, and now they are trying to turn around a Swamp Fox program that went 1-19 during the previous two seasons.

Last year? Winless, and it cost then-coach Brian Hennechy his job.

But Perkins, a former Coastal Carolina star, wants to turn things around.

“Marion has been in a lot of growing pains of late,” Perkins told the HSSR after he was hired. “I’m a hard worker, and I believe these young men are hungry. Marion has always had athletes. I’m glad I was lucky enough to get it.”

The Swamp Foxes’ results so far have been mixed. After a 33-6 win against Kingstree to open the season, Marion lost 38-7 to Aynor.

While Marion prepares for its next opponent, Lee Central (7:30 p.m. Friday at home), let’s look at some of the Swamp Foxes’ highlights.

Quarterback Amari Green has passed for 304 yards and a touchdown. He has also rushed for a score.

Joshuaun Grant leads the Swamp Foxes’ running game with 74 yards, followed by Jaydin Reed with 67 yards and two touchdowns.

Looking ahead, of course, the goal is to get Marion back to its first state championship game since 2020 under then-coach Randall State.

Things don’t get any easier for Marion after the Lee Central game. The Swamp Foxes then play at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at Class 2A power Dillon.

Then, Marion faces off against a traditionally strong team in Johnsonville on the road on Sept.

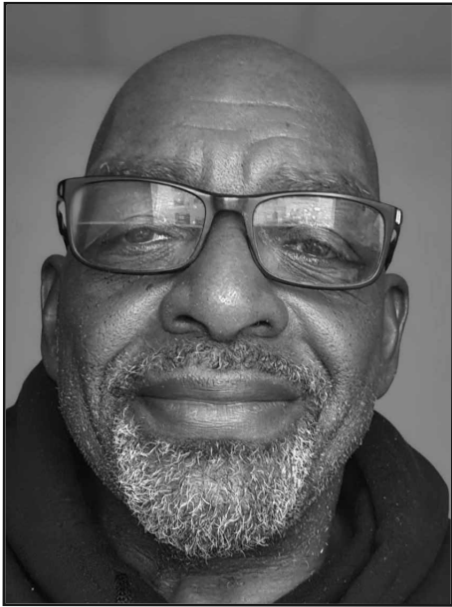
18. Perkins, who was once a head coach before at Hannah-Pamplico, now has Page – a Hall of Famer — to help him turn this program around. “Marion is still Marion; they still have athletes,” Perkins said before the season. “We’re not going to dwell on what happened in the past. We’re just going to get out there and change the culture to where the kids believe in themselves and just get a win.”

While Page serves as offensive coordinator for the Swamp Foxes, Perkins is coaching the linebackers and calling the defense.

“I’m a football guy,” Perkins said. “I don’t emphasize one side over the other. I’m a student of the game. I’m always learning, trying to come up with new ideas.”

One of Perkins’ strengths is bolstering a team’s morale with his enthusiasm. And he knows the road ahead will be a challenge.

But that’s what he enjoys.



Former state champion head coach Darryl Page joins the Swamp Foxes coaching staff

Auctioneers searching for the right play caller

SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
MULLINS – The Mullins Auctioneers had a dynamic quarterback in Dakarai Worley entering this season.

He took snaps during the spring, as well the summer.

But he’s even more dynamic as a basketball player, so that’s where his sole focus will be this school year.

That leaves coach Marc Lowery’s Auctioneers having to find the next signal caller.

For now, there are two: Sophomores Ji’lon Reaves and Justin Rowell.

“They shared snaps in the first game, and Justin got all the snaps in the second game,” Lowery said. “Justin showed some things with his legs but made some mistakes with his arm.”

Therefore, after an 0-2 start, Mullins’ quarterback quandary continues.

“Both are really good athletes and have good feet,” Lowery said. “Justin (5 feet 10, 180 pounds) is the better runner and is a bigger young man. And Ji’lon (5-7, 150) has a good arm, and the receivers trust him and they like what he can do.”

The Mullins’ rushing attack, meanwhile, features Michael Coleman and Anthony Campbell.

“(Campbell) hits the hole very fast, 100 miles per hour the whole time,” Lowery said. “He’ll get yards. And Anthony is more of a methodical runner. He looks for his hole to burst through, and he’s gone. He’s probably more athletic in space and is a better receiver.”

At times, Mullins looks to go to a two-tight end package and feature freshman Bryson Grice (6-0, 214).

“He’s obviously a good-sized freshman,” Low-

ery said. “He already starts for us on the defensive line and will also play the halfback/fullback position or us. He didn’t get to play in the opener against Atlantic Collegiate. But as he gets more reps at running back, he can certainly be a good one. He’s more of a load than the others.”

Mullins, which lost 29-8 to Atlantic Collegiate and 8-0 to Lee Central, features linebacker Nathan Peracki on defense.

“He’s a senior who has been starting for us since his freshman year,” Lowery said. “He’s one of the original dudes that has been here since I got here. He had been the team’s leading tackler except for last year.

“He has a good nose for the football,” he added. “He’s a gym rat and incredible leader. When we run a 3-4 and have two inside linebackers, he and Dequavius Smith are solid.”

As Mullins prepares for its next game at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Kingstree, he wants the Auctioneers’ focus on themselves.

“We’ve definitely got to get more mentally focused,” Lowery said. “We want to have more of a flow on the offensive side of the football. We just played a really good football team. But we had to play them PLUS us. If we can take away the mistakes, then we’ll be OK.”

Here are more players who can help with that: Receivers Keith Bridgett and Jaylin Mills. The offensive line is made of Lashawn Hughes, Deon Stackhouse, Vahshawn Waters, DeAndre Stackhouse and Chris Henderson. The defensive line includes Tyler Kelly and Eric Murphy. Arnez Brewton is at outside linebacker as well as a senior team captain who led the team last week with 10 tackles (4 solo).

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Lampkin joins Kingstree as offensive coordinator

BY SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
KINGSTREE – The Kingstree Blazers are starting to show signs of light after a 33-6 season-opening loss against Marion.

Second-year coach Brandon Cantrell’s program lost 48-20 on Thursday against Hanahan and he saw many things his program can build upon.

First of all, he likes the camaraderie on the sideline.

“I challenged them in between the first and second games to be positive with each other and play as a team and just be positive on the sideline and positive on the field and play four quarters as hard as you can,” Cantrell said. “And then, we’ll see what happens.”

What happened were four Kingstree touchdowns –plus another that was called back.

Jaward Cooper scored on a long TD run, and quarterback Randy McFadden threw scoring passes to Landon Hannah and Maleek Dukes. And McFadden scored the Blazers’ final TD by running the ball into paydirt.

Cantrell said he wants to keep seeing McFadden get better.

“He has the tools to be a region player of the year,” Cantrell said. “If he throws like he’s capable of, the sky’s the limit. He threw more good footballs in one game than I had seen the whole time I have been here.”

Dukes also has had a great season so far.

“He’s just a gamechanger out on that side of the ball, making plays and also making an impact from his position on defense,” Cantrell said. “He wreaks havoc in the backfield and causes all kinds of problems for offenses.”

Cantrell said he also wants to transform the program’s mindset.

“We had a full offseason, and all our players want to learn more about the importance of summer conditioning,” Cantrell said. “Some of the teams we face, they do this year-round. We all need to be here and make as much progress as we can.”

Cantrell said he can especially see progress with his offense.

“Although we still lost last Thursday, we moved the ball pretty well and ran the ball much more effectively,” Cantrell said. “We scored 20 points after scoring 6 the week before. And we had one touchdown on Thursday called back. I thought the kids played the way they’re capable of playing.”

After going 4-7 last season, the Blazers’ goal in 2026 is to win at least one more game. But after last spring’s graduation of star running back Tyleek Dukes, Kingstree must keep finding a way to move forward.

In the trenches, the Blazers will get help from offensive linemen Lazarus Moyd, Maurice Burgess, Kinnard Irving, Tor’Cari Smith and Charleek Nesmith. On the defensive line, help will also come from Datwon McElveen.

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Chesterfield football working out the early kinks

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Chesterfield - The 2026 season is year two for Chesterfield High football coach Nick Dixon. Despite an 0-2 start to the season, Dixon remains positive about the potential of his team.

“We lost a few players in key spots but we have a good group returning that I think will be competitive,” Dixon said this summer. “I think we have been able to establish the culture that we want here and the kids are excited about football. We’re going to need some time early on to iron out the kinks but we will be competitive. We had a good spring and summer so we just need to build off that.”

The Rams lost their season opener to C. A. Johnson (44-0) and lost to Latta, 42-21, in week two. They were scheduled to play Lewisville on Sept. 4, Anson County (NC) on Sept. 11, and Cheraw on Sept. 18.

While there are eight returning starters on offense, one of the holes to fill this season was at quarterback where the Rams lost a three-year starter. One of the top receivers last season, Emani Welch, has moved into the position and is learning the ropes on the go. His top receivers

are Holden Lowery and Justin Gaskins, with Ryan Moten working at tight end.

The running game is solid with the return of Jullian McClain and Greg Rushing, the top two ground gainers in 2025.

The run game is only as effective as the guys along the front can be. Chesterfield’s starting tackles are Levi Jones and Will Evans, while Ma’Qwan Blount and Jaheim Long are the guards. Ronnie Guinn returns as the starting center.

The defense has been shaky early on against two good offenses but Dixon feels the unit as a whole has solid potential.

There are seven returning starters on defense. Leading the defense is returning linebackers Savion Hubbard and Owen Faulkenberry. Jackson Dalton and Jameson Dalton are filling the other two linebacker spots.

Along the three-man front are Jones, Averay Moore and Kent Beaver. Brayden Melton and Zymir Bennett are the starting corners, while Welch is a strong safety and Mark Moten is at free safety. Sophomore Wallace Herring should see a lot of time at linebacker.

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Woodland focused on region title with many three-year starters back on the team

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Dorchester—The Woodland Wolverines were awarded a 14-8 win over Cross last week after a fight broke out between both teams on the Cross sideline, midway through the second period.

The best accounts of the altercation, which have been seen on social media, began after a Woodland defensive player was penalized for a late hit on a Cross ball carrier near the Cross sideline on the field. With the Woodland defender walking away, the tackled player from Cross, appears to spear the Woodland defender in the back upset about the late hit, and shortly afterwards seven players on defense for Woodland were confronted by the entire Cross team consisting of 25 players when they all came on the field.

“I have never encountered anything like this in my 28 years in coaching,” said head Woodland football coach **Eddie Ford**. “My guy made a late hit, no doubt about that, and the official rightfully threw a flag on him. Then when he was walking away, as I was yelling at him, the Cross player confronted my player with a hit to his back, and suddenly, we had a problem on our hands.

Coach Ford is very clear that only seven of his players were involved in the altercation, with his other four defensive starters coming off the field as the altercation started. Coach Ford is also certain that all of Cross’ 25 players came on the field during the altercation.

“The whole thing only lasted around two minutes, but a lot of things happened in those minutes,” said Coach Ford. “Once we got matters restored the officials said it was no way the game could continue. Because we were winning at the time of the incident we were declared the winner of the game.”

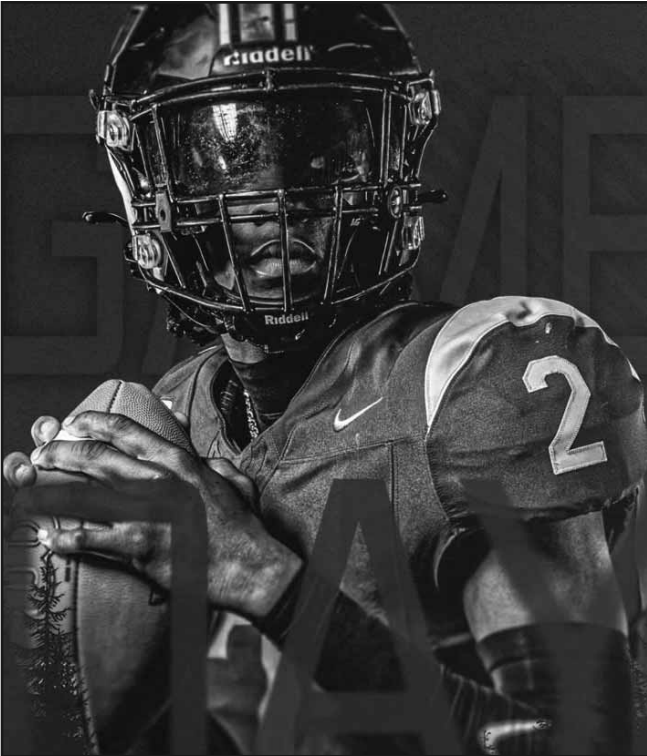
Just which players will be suspended, from either team, will be decided by the SCHSL on Monday, August 31 with the HSSR going to press with this issue earlier on that same day.

This week, Woodland is scheduled to play at Colleton County while Cross has a game scheduled with Timberland.

“We have 43 players on our roster, and none of our offensive players were involved at all in the incident,” said Coach Ford. “We will likely lose some defensive players because of the incident, and we will have to place some of our offensive players on defense this week.”

Woodland scored two touchdowns against Cross on a two-yard run by sophomore **Khalin Bryant** and on a 15-yard run by sophomore **Kaiyan Thompson**. **James Moorer** made both PAT’s.

Coach Ford is very high on senior quarterback **Jervaze Salley** (6-2, 190) who is starting for his third season. “He is the best dual threat quarterback



Quarterback Jervaze Salley

we’ve had at Woodland since **Suderian Harrison** played for us four years ago,” said Coach Ford. “He has been a good leader, plus he has a strong arm with quick feet.”

Woodland prepared for the 2026 season with a controlled scrimmage against **Batesburg-Leesville** at home on August 21. “It had all the appearances of a real football game,” said Coach Ford. “We had a paid gate, paid officials, a live band with cheerleaders and a really good home crowd,” said Coach Ford. “We won that scrimmage 48-10 and it helped get us ready for the season.

“Salley had a real good game against Batesburg-Leesville, and our receiver **Jeremie Jean** (transfer from **Stall**) had a good game at wide receiver also,” said Coach Ford. “On defense, our sophomore defensive end **Ray Smith** (5-11, 200) played well also.”

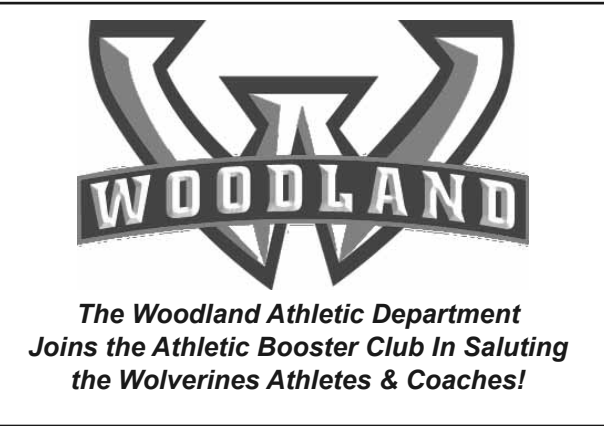
Woodland has numerous three-year starters on their current team. Some of them include defensive lineman **Kolby Doctor** (5-11, 270) who is a three-year starter, along with senior LB **Kye White**, ILB **Chandler Fogle** and senior LB **George Perry**, all three-year returning starters.

Offensive left tackle **Sam Gadsen** (6-3, 230) is another three-year starter who also plays LB. “The Citadel likes Gadsen a lot as a linebacker,” said Coach Ford.

Senior offensive right tackle **Owen Messex** (5-10,225) is starting for his third season also.

The starting LG for Woodland is sophomore **Machi Singletary** while the RG is junior **Jordan Ford**, and the center is first year freshman starter **Grady Baggott**.

Joining Doctor in the Wolverines defensive line is junior **Payton Harrison**, sophomore **Ray Smith**,



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and senior **Cross Batton**. The secondary is made up of sophomore **Kymonte Goodwin** (5-11, 175), senior **Trey Gilbert**, senior **Majia Wolfe**, and FS **Duke Williams** (6-0, 165).

Freshman running back **Sar’mani Grampua** joins Thompson as a starter in the back field. The two starting receivers are Jean and sophomore **Jahlin Herring**. Senior **Zane Williams** is the starting tight end. **Jayson Clifford** handles punting duties.

“Th strength of our team this season is that we finally have depth on both sides of the football,” said Coach Ford. “We have a lot of depth in both our offensive and defensive lines.

“We have a strong goal of competing for a region title, and we also hope to make a deep playoff run,” said Coach Ford. “It will be very important for he team to stay healthy.”

Woodland had been scheduled to play Fort Dorchester on August 14 in the Dorchester County Jamboree, but that event was cancelled due to severe weather.

Coach Ford lost four coaches from last season. One of them was former offensive coordinator, **Brooks Burnette**, who returned to his alma mater as the head coach this season.

“We are delighted with the two new coaches we hired from **Goose Creek High**,” said Coach Ford. “**Grady Baggett** is our offensive line coach, and his brother **Knox** is our wide receiver and strength coach. They both get along well with our offensive coordinator **Kelly Bryant** who played at Clemson and this is a chief reason we feel like our offense will be very productive this season.”

Coach Ford has also been chosen as a Shrine Bowl assistant coach this season. He will coach defensive backs in the all-star game slated for Spartanburg in December.

“It is a big honor for me being selected as a Shrine Bowl assistant coach and this is something that all coaches put on their bucket list of goals when they get into coaching,” said Coach Ford. “I am thankful for the opportunity. We have already met seven or eight times as a staff over the past four months.”

Woodland is in a new region with realignment this year. “We traded **Andrews** and **Burke** for **Lake Marion** and **Battery Creek**,” said Coach Ford. “It will be a very competitive region once again.

Pee Dee football battling out the gates in 2026

By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
MULLINS – The first half of Friday’s season opener did not go according to **Pee Dee Academy’s** plan.

“Early on, it looked like we had not played a game yet and had not gone against anybody since the jamboree in Week Zero,” said **Jonathan King**, PDA’s coach. “We couldn’t get lined up right at times and made several mistakes.”

Pee Dee Academy’s **Judson Martin** scored the Golden Eagles’ first touchdown Friday after **Florence Christian** built a 20-0 lead. Then, FCS pulled back away.

“When you are playing a team that is that well-coached and has a really good program, they don’t really need many advantages at all because they’ve got so many advantages,” King said. “They caught us early and made some big plays on us.”

King still found plenty of positives after the 33-14 loss to Florence Christian.

One was his team’s resilience. “Trailing 20-0 on our home field in Week 1 could have gone sideways for us, and it didn’t,” King said.

That resilience is based on an expectation to win. After all, PDA has won two state championships since 2022.

“We continued to fight,” King said. “We might not always have the fastest players. But our kids play hard. We continued to battle until the very end.”

King certainly praised Martin (5 feet 9, 208 pounds), whose nickname is “Mongo.”

Andrews taking flight on the gridiron in 2026

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Andrews – Since 2020 the one thing you could count on when football season began for **Scott Durham’s** Andrew Yellowjackets was that they would have a returning All State running back to headline their offense but with the graduation of the school’s all-time leading rusher, **AJ Lee**, which has changed this season as the strength of team lies at quarterback and wide receiver.

Instead of ground and pound you now have “**Air Durham**” as the offensive attack

“We are young up front and the strength of our team on offense is at QB and wide receiver. Also, we have struggled to run the ball during preseason and in our first game,” Coach said.

Coach continued, “ We have to grow up quickly on the OL. We have kids that are capable, but they lack experience. We expect to grow each week and compete for the region championship and a playoff spot at the end of the season.”

Leading the “**Air Durham**” attack is senior quarterback **Avery Durham**. He is coming of a season where he passed for over 1100 yards 10 touchdown. In two games he has completed 60% of his throws for over 450 yards and five scores. He is hearing from Mercer, Furman, Wofford, and Ander-

son. “He’s our dude; he’s a senior and he has played a lot of football for us,” King said. “He is the one who really shows up on film. He looks like a football player, and he IS a football player. He runs hard and he is tough to tackle. He has big, strong legs and catches the ball well. He makes good catches out of the backfield and certainly made a couple of them on Friday. He’s a rambler, for sure.”

As the Golden Eagles progress after star QB **Tristan Heckman’s** graduation, PDA is trying to solidify that position after starter Jesse Smith suffered a sprained ankle in the second scrimmage. He has not practiced since.

Wide receiver **Miles Wiggins**, meanwhile, has been on the rescue at quarterback.

“He has been a starter all over the field for us since his freshman year,” said King, whose team plays at 7:30 p.m. on Friday at **Carolina Academy**. “He’s our best defensive back and wide receiver. He was a backup quarterback for us last year, and I can’t say enough good things about him.”

Looking ahead, King is confident. “We’ve got to get more in game shape. But I think right now our goal is to stay the course,” King said. “Week 1 was not a region game. Did it go the way we wanted it to? No. But the sky’s not falling. “We’re not treating it like that.”

Helping in the process are offensive linemen **Gavin McGill**, **Holden Lane**, **Walker Trussell**, **Cadyn Price** and **Cayden Elliott**. And defensive linemen McGill, Lane, Trussell and **Rivers Tucker**. And also, **Brayden Lewis** (special teams/line-backer/running back).

Seniors **Colby Marlowe** and transfer **Michael Pembleton** are **Durham’s** top targets add in junior **Caiden Greene** he has several choices on each play. Against Georgetown, Pembleton had 10 receptions for 143 yards and a touchdown. He has offers as a defensive back from Norfolk St, Elon, Army, Akron, Hampton, Howard, and Morgan State.

Greene had touchdown catch versus Georgetown as did sophomore tight end **Javon Besselieu**. Besselieu also starts at defensive end where he had 17 tackles for loss as a freshman.

Senior running back **Dutch Stafford** is ready to carry the mail and he will be used in the passing game. He will run behind an offensive line with no senior starters: in juniors **Daylin Nixon**, **Dontavias Dollard** and **Johnathan Lawrence**, sophomore **Kadyn Pushia**, and freshman **Caiden Thomas**. Joining Besselieu and Nixon on the defensive front are senior Adam Mitchell and junior Johnny Lawerance. The linebackers are senior **Dontavias Dollard** and sophomores **Jaden McCullough** and **Marvin Weston**.

Stafford and Pembleton have junior **Jachi Grant** and sophomore **Ky’on Bryant**.Levi Sullivan will handle the kicking duties.

Florence Christian, continued from pg. 23 ways feels good about the playbook,” Minton said. “And he has a good connection with our receivers. We feel like if people try to take something away, we have answers. And we feel like Riley sees those answers.”

The Eagles not only have the 6-foot-2 Sims at receiver (7 catches for 84 yards), but also 6-1 **Jaxon Nealey** (7 for 58).

“We feel like both receivers are tall and athletic enough to where they can run good routes and go up and high-point balls and do some things that we really had not been able to do in the past,” Neil

Minton said. Florence Christian also has more than one threat at running back, giving Miller more time to excel at linebacker. **Rashod Park** has rushed for 173 yards (13.3 per carry) and three touchdowns, and **William Hicks** has 101 yards (11.2 per carry) and three scores of his own.

“If we have two guys like that playing well at running back and Andrew isn’t one of them, we feel really good about that type of balance,” Minton said. “We can share the ball and not put all the burden on just one person. As a result, we can keep him

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a little fresher. And that helps our defense because they all can play defense and rotate on offense – which is nice.”

Schwab leads the Eagles’ defense with 13 tackles (10 solo), followed by Park (seven solo) and Miller (six solo) with 10.

The Eagles also have other heroes: Offensive tackles **Preston Fowler** and **Landon Simmons**, guards **Brody Cariati** and **Mason Altman** and center **Kirk Jordan**. There are also defensive ends **Hayes Hamilton** and **Landon Simmons**, and defensive tackles Cariati and **Jayce Johnson**.

Jefferson Davis’ defense shines on Friday nights

By Dean Ray
Special to the HSSR
Ehrhardt - The old saying goes, “defense wins championships.” It’s a statement that is tried and true.

Week one, a nemesis came to Blackville. The PAC Panthers rolled into town. Last season, PAC had JDA down 38-8 at halftime and thankfully the game was called at halftime due to a thunderstorm. PAC could have truly embarrassed a solid Raider football team that night. However, one year later and almost to the day, the result was totally different. JDA had a 24-7 lead in the fourth quarter and held on after a late surge from PAC. The game ended 24-19 and a Raider victory to start of the 2026 season.

Week two, the Raiders traveled to Ehrhardt. The Andrew Jackson Warriors were looming. AJA recently dropped down to 8-man football after giving 11-man a try. I’m sure this experiment left a sour taste in their mouth. Their first 8-man game wasn’t any better. The Raiders defense dominated AJA. When the horn sounded AJA had a goose egg on the scoreboard. The Raiders won 14-0. Jake Harrington (LB/FB) led the Raiders on defense with thirteen tackles and a fumble recovery. Also, Jake was a key ingredient on the offensive side of the ball. He’s a John Riggins type of runner. It’s north south and he punishes anyone in his path.

With two wins under their belt, JDA had a date with Palmetto Christian Academy on the last football Friday in August. Neither team looked crisp on the first couple of drives. However, once JDA finally found the end zone it never looked back. They built a 28-0 halftime lead and cruised to a 36-0 win. The majority of the fourth quarter saw back-ups getting their first real game action of the season. Once

Fox Creek seeks improvement as season goes on

By SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
NORTH AUGUSTA – Just wait.

That is the **Fox Creek Predators’** motto after a 0-2 start.

What complicated that start was a preseason fight resulting in five starters’ suspensions from the first two games.

“But even with those guys out, we’ve been super close,” said first-year coach **David Sammons**, who was promoted from offensive coordinator in early June. “It’s hard to replace a starting left tackle, starting center, starting running back, starting middle linebacker and a starting receiver. But when you play two pretty good opponents and we’ve been right there, that’s what we’ve got to take away as a positive.”

Fox Creek lost 50-20 to **Orangeburg-Wilkinson** and 32-14 to **Silver Bluff**.

But at 7:30 p.m. Friday at **Dixie**, the Predators will be reunited.

“We’ll have **Bryson Crawford** back at running back,” Sammons said.

Never has one sentence meant so much to an offense.

“He’s a difference-maker,” Sammons continued. “In the first two games, we had to play receivers at running back. But you can’t replace a 1,300-yard rusher who scored 23 touchdowns for you.”

There’s a reason Crawford has those kinds of sta-



Quarterback Jake Harrington fights for extra yardage against Andrew Jackson Academy

again, the Raider defense dominated. I truly believe that PCA did not gain one single yard on offense. The statistics come out on Monday, so we will know then. They did manage a few first downs, but it was via Raider defensive penalties.

The 2026 Raiders are no doubt a defensively led group. The offense is playing catch up but did show a few flashes against PCA. Currently, Jake Harrington and Harrison Ray lead the team in tackles. Also, Harrington has two fumble recoveries and Ray has one interception. Stance Youngblood is third on the team in tackles and leads the team in QB sacks. Reece Still once again is a ball hawk in the secondary, leading the team with three picks.

The next game for the 3-0 Raiders is against King Academy. King is the defending 8-man state champion and currently own a 15-game winning streak. This is an early season battle of two of the best in 8-man football.

tistics.

“He does everything really well,” Sammons said. “He can outrun you. He’s tough to tackle and he’s physical and catches the ball really, really well. There’s a cliché saying, ‘He’s the total package.’

“But he is,” he added. “When you’ve built your entire offense around him for the past 3 months, that says a lot. He’s a kid who loves the game and means a lot to our program.”

Once Crawford is back, that’s also one more key teammate for quarterback **Julian Abro**.

“He’s an absolute freak at quarterback for us,” Sammons said. “He has blown expectations out of the water. He only played two varsity snaps last year against **Williston-Elko**. And now, for all intents and purposes, this is his first time playing regular football for us. To see what he did during the first two games – even after missing two offensive linemen – is proof he’s capable of taking things to the next level.”

On the defensive side, inside linebacker **Blake Wilson** is one to watch.

“He’s physical, about 150 pounds soaking wet,” Sammons said. “But he throws all that at you. He’s fast to the ball and tackles really well and flies around and strives to stick his nose on up in there. He’s not afraid of tackling. He’s not afraid of contact. He’s well undersized, but he just flies to the ball.”

Now, Sammons hopes to use the game against Dixie as a springboard.

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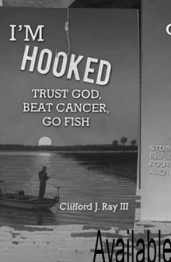
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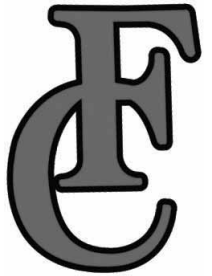
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the reward.’ We talk about playing our best football as much as possible,” Sammons said. “I think a win would be a big, mental release for us and help us realize we can go win some football games and beat a lot of good teams.”

Helping in the trenches are offensive linemen **Benaiah Wixson**, **Johnathan Tyler**, **Tommie Tucker**, **Sean Williams** and **Caden Lehman**. And also from defensive linemen **Jaiden Smith**, **Pete Taylor**, **Kurt Wells** and **Bryce Gunter**.

Patriots drop season opener 38-2

By: Gerald Doolittle
Last week the Wardlaw Academy Patriots opened their 2026 season by hosting the W.W. King Academy Knights. The Knights are the SCISA 8-Man defending Champions after a 12-0 undefeated 2025 season.

For Wardlaw this is the beginning of a new coaching era as Wardlaw Alum Marsh Stark takes over the program with hopes of bringing the Patriots back to be a winning powerhouse in SCISA 8-Man football.

Coach Stark is building his 2026 team around his seven seniors. The seniors are Evan Bryan, Cooper Davis, Jake Winn, Chandler Thorne, Kale Henderson, Randall Thompson and Thomas Proctor.

Henderson and Winn were the play makers against the Knights. Henderson had 19 passing

W.W. King opens title defense

By: Gerald Doolittle
Batesburg-Leesville, S.C. – The **W.W. King Academy Knights** coached by **Brian Kneece** opened the 2026 football season with a 38-2 victory over the **Wardlaw Academy Patriots**.

The Knights are working hard to defend their 2025 **SCISA 8-Man Championship** where they posted the schools first undefeated season with a 12-0 record.

“We are excited about the 2026 season,” said Coach Kneece. “Our guys have put in a lot of work over the summer. We have the approach that we are attacking everything and are going to do our best to be the best WKA that we can be.”

Joseph Morse (jr) who led the 2025 offense with 2018 rushing yards started the 2026 season with 235 yards on 9 carries scoring 4 touchdowns. One of those was an 85- yard romp to the end zone. Last season he scored 33 touchdowns for 244 points.

Laurens Academy out to unbeaten start in 2026

SCOTT CHANCEY
Special Contributor
LAURENS – **Jolly Doolittle** has a lot to be jolly about after his **Laurens Academy Crusaders** have built a 2-0 record.

They won 50-18 over **Richard Winn** and 38-6 in a weather-shortened game against **Cambridge Academy**.

Quarterback **Ethan Collins** has passed for 488 yards and nine touchdowns. Receivers **Caleb Hardy** (4 catches for 178 yards and 4 touchdowns), **Elijah Hornberger** (6 catches for 178 yards and 3 scores) and **Riley Whitaker** (5 catches for 100 yards and a score) have been Collins’ primary targets.

Hardy also leads Laurens Academy’s rushing attack with 171 yards on 14 carries for a score.

“We’re playing hard; we’re playing with great effort,” Doolittle said. “We’re not executing at a high level right now; we’ve got a lot of stuff to clean up from the last three weeks. But that’s through no fault of our guys. We just haven’t been able to put cleats in grass a whole lot because of the heat.”

Doolittle certainly likes Collins’ play behind center.

“It starts between his ears, between his breastbone and his backbone,” Doolittle said. “He’s a very smart, very tough and relentless competitor. And then there is Caleb, who is just a very dynamic

yards and Winn had 41 rushing yards and 10 receiving yards.

The Patriots had 96 rushing yards and 19 passing yards. However, the 2 lost fumbles and the 2 intercepted passes fired up the Knights to a 38-2 win over the Patriots.

Despite the loss Coach Stark and his staff will work hard to get the team in a more competitive mode to make the 2026 season a success.

Rounding out the Patriot roster is Jon Rodgers (jr), Ben Hodo (so), Camden Bracco (so), Liam Fields (so), Conroy Gauthier (fr), Charlie Stark (fr) and Ed Stark (fr).

The Patriots will journey to Richard Winn Academy for game two. Their next home battle will be against Andrew Jackson Academy on 9/4.

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Gray Collegiate football standouts

War Eagles bounce back from loss in season opener

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Columbia - Gray Collegiate Academy head football coach De’Angelo Bryant didn’t waste time talking about Chambers, N.C.’s 50-21 win over the War Eagles in the season opener Aug. 21. “They killed us,” Bryant said. “They did a good job with extended plays and once they got us to a point where their offense was on the field longer than we were. They did a good job of sustaining drives and taking big chunks of the field.”

The Cougars put up 478 rushing yards and five touchdowns on the ground, and a whopping 637 yards of total offense.

Gray only mustered 60 total rushing yards, but sophomore quarterback **Xavier Wright** had a decent passing night, going 16-for-30 for 216 yards and a touchdown. He had two interceptions.

Wright, who passed for 2,202 yards and 28 touchdowns to eight interceptions in his freshman year, returned under center after having limited practice since sustaining an off-field injury over the summer

“He’s not really taken any snaps in a month and a half, and last week he was shaking off the rust,” Bryant said. “He made plays throughout the course of the game, and in time he’ll be able to do all of the different things to be successful.”

Bryant added that Wright is working hard to avoid a literal sophomore slump.

“It’ one of the hardest things to avoid,” he said. “But he’s still humble and still hungry. A wonderful young man.”

Wright connected with the team’s top receiver, senior **Corey Gleaton**, eight times for 142 yards and a touchdown. Gleaton had 52 catches for 1,243 yards and 12 TDs last year.

Last week the War Eagles notched a 27-0 shutout over **River Bluff**. **Trevon Williamson** had 227 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries, and **Xavier Wright** was 8-for-17 in passing for 140 yards and a

touchdown. **Royce Williamson** had three catches for 54 yards and a score, and **Gleaton** caught a 54-yarder.

The schedule isn’t getting easier. With the Gators game in the books, this week Gray Collegiate faces Lowcountry power **James Island** (1-0) which reached the AAAAA lower state championship game last year.

Besides Wright working hard at getting his play back on track, Bryant said the offensive line is a little banged up, but the team as a whole is dedicated to getting better game by game.

“It’s one of those deals where we don’t use the word ‘losing,’ we use the word ‘learning.’” He said. “We’re trying this week and every week to focus on us and not our opponents: to do the things we can do to get better. This week (preparing to face River Bluff) the guys have responded well. We’ve changed a couple of different things and we practiced a lot of high-pressure situations this week as well.”

Next on the schedule comes Spartanburg academy **Mountain View Prep** Sept. 11, defending AAAAA defending lower state champion **South Florence** Sept. 18, and defending AAAAA state champion **Dutch Fork** Sept. 25 to round out the non-Region 4-AAAAA slate.

“That’s a really good James Island football team coming to us, and we’re looking at a coming rivalry between us and Mountain View, and then Dutch Fork. The next three weeks are going to be a great opportunity to challenge us before we get into the region.”

In getting through the season, Bryant said he is glad to have this bunch of War Eagles rather than any other team.

“We have a great group of young men. When you talk to the character of the team, it’s no question,” he said. “Some teams have better athletes and more stars, but I wouldn’t trade these guys for the world. They’ve seen every challenge and they are just as eager to win.”

Oceanside football setting sights on four-peat

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Mt. Pleasant – Oceanside Collegiate Academy, winners of three consecutive state titles coming into the 2026 season, are as inexperienced as they have been at any time during their successful run..

Despite an 0-2 start, Oceanside Collegiate Academy enters the 2026 football season as a strong candidate to win the AAA title this fall. While the Landsharks did suffer considerable personnel losses along the trenches, there is an abundance of talent and experience in most every other area on the field.

Head coach **Brent LaPrad** says much of the focus during the offseason was not only to find players that were ready to be starters but also to build some depth.

“We lost a bunch of linemen on both sides of the ball and we all know its hard to win if you aren’t good up front,” the coach said.

Skill position players is not an issue. Back to run the high-powered offense is senior **Aiden Manavian**, who took over as the starter during the play-offs of his freshman year and has been at the helm for all three of the state title runs. Manavian is nearing 10,000 career passing yards and threw 42 touchdown passes last season,

The passing game will feature a pair of Power 4 receivers in seniors **Jaiden Kelly-Murray** (Colorado) and **Anthony Williams** (North Carolina). **Cooper Webb** was a key factor last seson and newcomer **Marquis Muhammad** will be involved as well.

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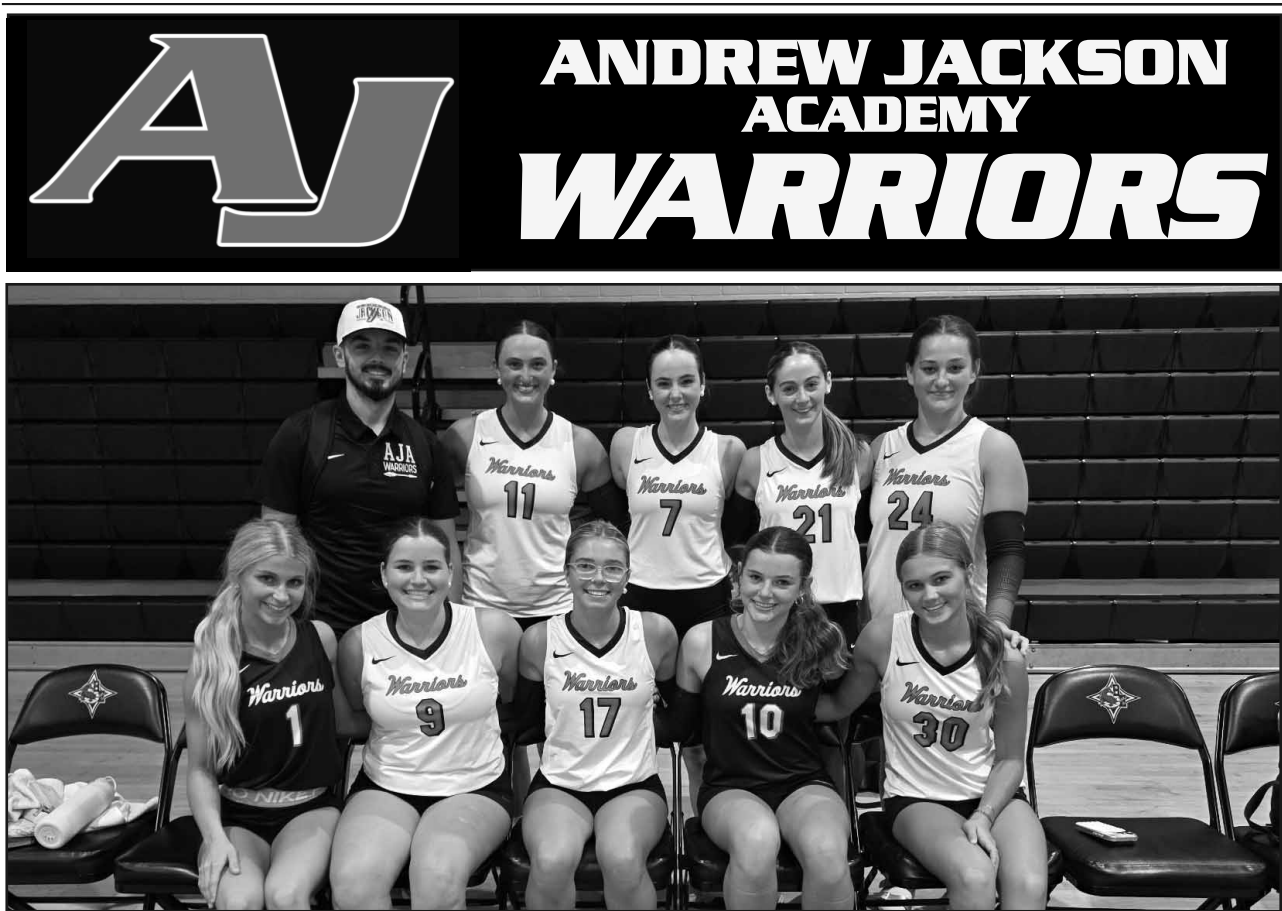
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Senior **James O’Connor** has returned from injury and will be the RB1 entering the season. Senior **Jaxson Bean** is a returning linemen with potential to play on either line. Junior **Parker Lee** also has some experience and will play tackle. **Noah Anderson** is starting at left guard and **Grayson Stutsman** is the starting center. Bean is at right tackle and **Will Hunt** is the starter at right guard

“We feel good about the guys we have identified up front but they need time to gel as a unit,” LaPrad said. “We have more questions on the defensive line. We have good kids and I know they will work

See Oceanside, pg. 62



2026 Andrew Jackson Academy volleyball

Warriors football out to 1-1 start; Volleyball off to 6-0 start, focused on deep playoff run

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Ehrhardt—After two games of the 2026 season the **Andrew Jackson** Academy Warriors are 1-1 as they prepare to compete against **Wardlaw Academy** on September 4.

The Warriors opened up the season with a 14-0 loss to **Jefferson Davis Academy**. They bounded back with a 46-0 over **Coastal Community Christian** on August 28 in week two.

The two deep roster for AJA roster entering the season consisted of **Will Barnes** and **Braedon Wilcox** at quarterback while **Everett Ulmer** and **Brad Hightower** were the running backs. **Ollie Barnes** and either **Landen Johnson** or Hightower shared time at the tailback position. The full backs are rotating between Ulmer and Hightower.

The Warriors have two sets of tight ends. **Jaxon Tucker** is a returning starter at one TE slot, along with Johnson at back-up. On the other side you have **Bryson Riddle** and **Gage Fisher** sharing the TE position. **Ely Mathys** was a returner at right guard backed up by **Mitch Ott**. The starting center coming into the season was **Evan Mathys** backed up by **Robert Stephenson**. The left guard is **Nathan King** backed up by Stephenson.

On defense, one of the defensive end positions is shared by **Eli Mathys**, Stephenson or Ott, while on the other side you have King, Stephenson, or Ott. The two deep nose guards are **Evan Mathys** and Stephenson. There are two “contain positions” on defense. Riddle and Risher share one contain position while Hightower, Johnson and **Braedon Wilcox** hold down the other contain.

The Mike linebackers are Ulmer, or Hightower and the team employs double free safeties. On one side in the back is Barnee or **Cody Grider**, and on the other, Tucker and **Will Barnes** share a FS position.

The long snappers are Riddle or **Eli Mathis** while Ulmer and Johnson are the punter and place kickers. **Ollie Barners** and Johnson are the return men.

The AJA Volleyball Team 6-0 To Start 2026

Season
When the *HSSR* caught with the AJA volleyball team having a pre-season scrimmage against **Bamberg Ehriahrdt**, we were impressed with the ball skills of all their players as they dominated the scrimmage.

The team is head coached by **Zach Boltin** entering his third season as the head coach. “Our goals are sky high with this veteran team,” said Coach Boltin. “We just want to win the day and keep moving on. We want to win a region title and ultimately compete for a state championship at the end of the season.”

As of August 28, the Warriors are 6-0 having lost just one game in competition thus far. They have defeated: **Cathedral** (2-1), **St Johns Christian** (2-0), **Thomas Heyward** (3-0), **Colleton Prep** (3-0), **Patrick Henry** (3-0) and **Jefferson Davis** (3-0).

The team has been playing together now for several years and their communication on the court stands out.

Senior **McKinley Beard** (5-11) is back for her fifth season better than ever. Through six games she has a team leading 50 kills as an outside hitter along with 8 blocks and a serving percentage of 97.3. “McKinley is a 5th year starter and our vocal leader on the court,” said Coach Boltin. “

Senior middle hitter **Carrigan Moore** has 63 serving aces along with 45 points and a serving percentage of 92.1 over the first six games. “Carrigan is a big-time player at the net, and she contests hits coming over the net very well,” said Coach Boltin. “She also does a great job on the back row passing the ball to our setter.”

Senior setter **Bella Carigg** has 63 aces, 62 asists, a 95.2 serving percentage and she has scored 44 points after six games. “Bella is the quarterback of our offense, and she does an excellent job of spreading the ball around,” said Coach Boltin.

Senior **Kinslie Carson** is a senior RS, and she has 16 kills and has scored 27 points this season. “Kinslie is our right-side hitter and she is left-handed, so she does a great job of playing the ball on the right side of the court,” said Coach Boltin.

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“She rarely leaves the court, and she plays with a lot of heart.”

Junior outside hitter **Peighton Jones** has 13 kills and she has scored 31 points to contribute to the team’s success. “She plays all around the court and she is one of our top hitters,” said Coach Boltin. “This is her year on the varsity, and she brings a lot of energy to the team.”

Sophomore Harper **Bessinger** is the team’s Libero, and this is her first year on the varsity. She leads the team with 18 digs. “Harper pretty much takes charge of the back row,” said Coach Boltin. “She passes well to Bella allowing her to set up our hitters.”

Abby Ayer is a middle blocker on the team, and it is her first year on the varsity. “She protects the ball at the net, and she is getting more confident with every game she plays,” said Coach Boltin.

Senior MH **Braelyn Hall** suffered an ankle injury in a pre-season scrimmage, and she will miss the first six weeks of the season. Senior **Mary Gray Hiers** is a DS who has a 95-percentage serving percentage while senior **Delanie Bessinger** is a DS also.

The team will compete at **Heathwood Hall** (Sept 1), at **Cathedral** (Sept 3) before hosting home matches against **Patrick Henry** (Sept 8) and **Calhoun Academy** (Sept.9).

Coach Bolt has been assisted by **Carmen Mixon** for the past three seasons.

Eagles football looks to be exciting in 2026

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Pageland – 2025 was an exciting year for the Eagles of Central as they finished the season 11-2/4-1 making the lower state championship game for the first time since 2011, (when they were in their fourth consecutive state championship game), where their season ended in Varnville with the loss to Hampton County.
“The game with Hampton County was the first time the team had been in that type of game and I think the moment was a little big for them but it was also a learning experience. We lost 25 seniors from that team but the younger guys now know that feeling now and they are ready to take the next step,” said head coach **Johnthan Eason**.

This will be coach Eason and his staff’s third year in Pageland where they have compiled a record of 21-7/ 8-2 while earning a share of the region championship last season. This years they have a good mix of seniors (16) and underclassmen with a talented sophomore class.

“Our expectations are to win every time we step on the field so the experience of making it to the lower state championship was valuable for our program. It made the kids hungrier and ready to take that next step. To that you have to put the work in and take care of the little things,” coach said.

The Eagles got off to a good start opening week beating Lewisville 56-14. The offense rolled to over 500 yards for total offense and the defense did not allow a first down until late in the third quarter.

Back to lead the Eagle offense is senior quarterback **Dwayne Louallen jr** (6-2,215). This is his third year as a starter. He has thrown for over 3000 career yards and accounted for 44 touch-

Seahawks hoping young defense can improve

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Myrtle Beach – The **Myrtle Beach** Seahawks football program had a successful move from one of the toughest AAAA regions into Class AAAAA in 2024, creating high expectations for 2025. The Seahawks ended last season with eight wins.
The Seahawks have been a model of consistency under head coach **Mickey Wilson**. The coach, entering his 18th season at the helm, has guided the program to 17 winning seasons and three state championships (2010, 2013, 2018).

Myrtle Beach has averaged 10 wins per season and has won 10 or more games nine times during Wilson’s tenure as head coach. The only losing campaign came during the 2022 season but the Seahawks bounced back to post a 9-3 record in 2023, losing to Irmo in the second-round of the AAAA state playoffs.

When the SC High School League realigned schools in the spring of 2024, it created a larger AAAAA classification. Class AAAAA grew from 42 schools to 54 and that move pushed Myrtle Beach into the state’s largest classification.

The move up to AAAAA also ended the highly competitive region 6-AAAA.
However, another realignment by the SCHSL has pushed Myrtle Beach back into Class AAAA for the

downs. He threw for two touchdowns and ran for another against Lewisville

“Our offense runs through Dwayne. He can throw it, is a good runner and our leader,” coach said.

Senior running back **Marzavious “Z” Allen** will tote the mail. Against Lewisville he rushed for 121 yards and two scores. Junior **Jayden Robinson**, sophomores **Martell Ruben** and **Daleyon Fair** will also carry the rock. Robinson rushed for 99 yards and a score versus Lewisville in his first varsity game.

Senior left tackle **Brandon Streeter** (6-4,265) is a three-year starter and the leader of the offensive line. He is a college prospect.

Cody Branham is another returning starter for the Eagles. He plays H-back on offense and safety on defense. Coach describes him as a Swiss army knife because he does a little of everything for the team. He is also one of the top baseball prospects in the state. Last season he hit .492 with 25 RBI’s, six homers and 16 stolen bases.

Defensively, d-line senior **Timmy Tyson** (5-10,185) and junior **Tahir Wise** returning starters. Junior **Cohen Phillips**, senior **Kee- lan Meadows**

Linebackers are led by sophomore middle linebacker **Jaylen Davis**. He started as a freshmen where he totaled 50 tackles. The outside backers are Fair and Ruben.

In the secondary the leaders are returning starters seniors **Dylan Tomberlin** (6,176) and **Aidan Welch** (6,160). Tomberlin had a receiving touchdown and interception in week one.

“I really like our team and the approach they have taken since the start of the practice. We still have a lot of work to do and things to work on but we will get better each week,” said coach.

2026 and 2027 seasons. The region also is different with Socastee and Carolina Forest staying in AAAAA. The new region includes North Myrtle Beach, Conway, St. James, Wilson, West Florence and South Florence.

As for the 2026 team, the Seahawks appear to be loaded with potential on the offensive sides of the ball but the defense has struggled mightily in the first two games of the season.

Myrtle Beach opened this season with losses to Marlboro County (61-20) and Dillon (50-24). Myrtle Beach allowed nearly 1,000 yards in those first two games.

The Seahawks returned very little experience on defense, particularly up front. It has been a learn as you go process on that side of the ball with several different combinations getting looks.

Among those working along the line are **Jayden Brown**, **DP Jordan**, **Sachin Sharma**, **CJ Johnson**, **Caleb Crosby**, **Brayden King**, and **Dylan Schneider**.

The offense is in the capable hands of junior quarterback **Camden DeBruhl**, who has quality receivers in **JJ Brown**, **Tyler York** and **Amare Brown**.

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Saluda looking to win the close games this year

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Saluda – The 2025 season for the Tigers of Saluda (6-6/2-3) was a season of near misses in region play as they were 11 points away from winning the region 2 AA crown and receiving one of the top seeds in the upper state playoffs instead they finished third and had to go on the road for their two playoff games head coach **Greg Woerner** is looking to change that this season.

“Last year we lost a lot of close games that we had chances to win. I think that will help us this year to draw from those tough experiences and be better this year. I am excited about the opportunities we have to compete in the non-region and believe that will only help us as we get into region play and prepare for a playoff run,” coach said.
“We just need to continue to get better each day and take care of the little things.”

The Tigers dropped their opener to top ranked class A Abbeville 35-33. The Tigers jumped out a 13-7 halftime only to fall behind in the third quarter and then their rally fell just short. New quarterback senior **Avery Coyle** passed for 216 yards and four touchdowns. Senior running back **Tristan Daniels** had 109 yards of offense and scored three times.

“Abbeville is a really good program with a lot of winning tradition. I was proud of how hard our guys played and battled all game. We had moments in the game where we had chances to make big plays and just missed them, so we are just focusing on being consistent offensively and defensively as the season progresses,” said coach.

Coyle (5-10,160)transferred from Lexington to

Saluda and has moved into the quarterback and a leadership role for coach Woerner. Daniels (5-10,185), one of the top backs in AA, joins him in the backfield and he is coming off a year where he rushed for 1500 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also handles the punting duties.

Senior wide receiver **Mekhi Linton** (6,154) and senior tight end **Jahmeer Myers** led the receiving group. They are joined by sophomore **Darryl Hill** (5-11,170) and junior **Ceddion Springs**. Springs had a team high 72 yards receiving and a score against Abbeville.

Two juniors are the leaders of the offensive line in **LJ Sanders** and **Zayden Couch** and they will be joined in the starting lineup by senior offensive linemen **Jordan Padgett** and **Trent Skinner**. They will all see time on the defensive line as well.

Two other seniors that will battle for playing time along the offensive and defensive fronts are **Noah Stoudemire** and **Tyler Gantt**.

Defensively, the Tigers are returning a lot of guys who played a lot last year. Seniors **Jahmeer Myers** (6,180) on the defensive line and his brother **Jayden Myers** (5-10,195) at middle linebacker who will lead the charge defensively for us. Jayden makes plays from sideline to side line.

Juniors **Cash Martin** and **Landon Hicks** are at the outside linebacking positions.

Junior **Ericson Vasquez** will handle the kicking and punting for the Tigers.

Coach said he has a lot of young talent that played on JV last season and will get the opportunity play on Friday nights. A couple of those newcomers are **Corbin Shaw** and **Jakaile Stevens**.

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HUSTLE AND HEART WILL SET US APART

Nickles says Panthers have work to do in 2026

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Abbeville — As the head coach of the program, no one knows Abbeville football better than head coach **Jamie Nickles**. After all, he is the winningest coach in the program's long, rich history.

Nickles enters the 2026 season with 246 career wins and has guided the program to nine state championships. When it comes to winning football, few know the subject better than Nickles.

So, when Nickles talks about his 2026 team, he does so honestly and frankly.

"We have work to do, lot of work to do," said Nickles. "We certainly have potential to be competitive but we haven't shown much early on."

Abbeville opened the season with a split of their first two games. The Panthers won their season opener, edging Saluda, 35-33. In that game, Abbeville showed great offensive potential with their patented running game. The Panthers totaled 436 rushing yards in the win.

Defending state AA champion Strom Thurmond was the opponent in game two and the result was a lot different. The Rebels beat Abbeville, 33-0, marking the first time Abbeville had been shut out since 2014. Abbeville's offense committed two turnovers that led directly to touchdowns for the Rebels.

"We played two good teams and you can't have the big mistakes against the good teams," Nickles said. "We have a lot of youth playing and they just have to learn and correct the mistakes."

Red hot Vikings start out unbeaten at 2-0

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Greenwood—The **Emerald Vikings** (2-0) have become a much talked about team early on in the state of the South Carolina with their 21-6 opening season win at Crescent (21-6) and then their offense when on full blown steroids in week two when they defeated **Newberry** 70-34.

In the Newberry win, junior QB **Beau Hite** (6-1, 170) lit up the score board completing 18-of-35 passes for 381 yards and three touchdowns. Hite's favorite target was Greenwood WR transfer **Desiray Christian** who caught seven passes for 183 yards and one TD.

Hite has now completed 36-of-64 passes in his first two games of his junior season for 607 tards and six TD's. (He might just be getting started). Christian has two game stats of 12 catches for 201 yards and a TD.

This week **Emerald** will be preparing to playing Woodruff and the over and under in this game might be well over 100 points.

Okay, we need share a story that was brought to the attention of the *HSSR* by Emerald head coach **Tad Dubose** recently involving Hite and why he likely committed to the South Carolina baseball program recently.

There was a very unusual recruiting tactic used by the University of South Carolina baseball program that paid off for them in early August. Coach Dubose tells the *HSSR* his Vikings football team practiced each morning at 6 a.m. to get ahead of the heat wave sweeping the state.

He has a talented junior QB by the name of **Beau Hite** (6-1, 170) (see his stats above) who is quite a two-sport star in both baseball and football. In fact, Perfect Games considered Hite to be the number one shortstop in the state of South Carolina. They also rate him among the best defensive shortstops for his age and grade in the nation.

The *HSSR* just also happens to rate Hite as the top 2028

Abbeville's offense will lean heavily on the run. Anchoring that effort are juniors **Jamiere Killingsworth** and **Jamerion Williams**. Williams rushed for 173 yards and three touchdowns in the win over Saluda. Killingsworth added 91 yards and a score.

Sophomore **Jakob Wilson** has earned the starting nod at quarterback this fall. The top receiving threats are sophomore **Aden Harrison** and senior **Dee Brown**. Junior **DeWilliam McCuller** is the starting tight end.

A leader on the offensive line is left tackle **Tre Jackson**. **Antavian Jordan** is starting at left guard and **Connor White** is the right guard. **Antoine Gray** is the right tackle and **Carson Harrison** is the center.

Nickles feels like the defense has the potential to be a solid unit as they gel. Working along the defensive line are **Devin Brown**, **Jay Ford**, **Jahari Thomas** and **Kentarious Cole**.

Working at linebacker are **Collins Brown** and **Zack Jordan**. Among those seeing time in the secondary are **Jovareon Dixon**, **Jayden Ross**, **Khari Gary**, **Corde Hadden** and **Cory Calhoun**.

Abbeville's tough non-region schedule will continue to test the Panthers. The Panthers are scheduled to play Crescent on Sept. 4, followed by Belton-Honea Path on Sept. 11.

After a bye week, Abbeville opens region play against Calhoun Falls on Sept. 25. The other region contests are **Dixie** (Oct. 2), **McCormick** (Oct. 8), **Ware Shoals** (Oct. 16), **Thornwell** (Oct. 23) and **Ninety Six** (Oct. 30).

QB prospect in the state of South Carolina and we have been following the accomplishments of Hite on athletic fields very closely for the past two years. Coach Dubose tells the story like this: "There we are at 6 a.m. starting football practice when a car load of South Carolina college baseball coaches walks up to our practice field, and they start watching Beau in football drills for two hours with keen interest," said Coach Dubose. "I had never seen such interest from a group of college baseball coaches watching a kid throw a football and working out as a football player. It takes long for the news to travel all over town either."

Just because Hite would commit to the Gamecocks in baseball, a couple days later, is no reason for the *HSSR* to remove him from our 2028 football number one quarterback prospect list. The tactic certainly proved what one college baseball program was willing to do to show Hite some love and attention. It is going to be interesting to see if the football people across the nation quit recruiting Hite or not. We think not from our end.

"While it is possible for a two-sport athlete like Beau to play two sports in college I feel like the demands of an SEC baseball program might just be too much to try and balance out with playing football also," said Coach Dubose. "We know how much Beau loves baseball and he has spent the last few summers going all over the Southeast attending Showcase camps and he has a lot of himself invested in baseball and that is why he plays the sport at an elite level."

"Beau is also a great quarterback and we are tickled to death that **Desiray Christian** has come over to join our team this season, and he is going to be something special before he leaves Emerald High also," said Coach Dubose. "He and Beau are a winning combination."

Emerald has a solid group of defensive players also. Against Crescent, **Hayden Doerflein** had 12 tackles. **Jermiah Johnson** followed up with six stops and **Tyrell**

Maryland, Miami, and the Tigers.

A relative newcomer to Dutch Fork, Wuerth notched 147 tackles, 38 for loss, and 13 sacks in his sophomore year at Aquinas, Ga. He transferred to the Silver Foxes before his junior year and helped the team win its fourth straight AAAAA Division I state championship in 2025. His stat line for the season was 62 tackles, 12 for loss, four sacks and three caused fumbles. With his college future set, Wuerth looks to make the most of his senior year and maybe earn a second state title.

"We definitely look to the championship game," Wuerth said. "The expectation here is to win championships, but I think also the expectation is to win practice every day. If we're not winning practice every day, we're not winning on Fridays, and it doesn't mean anything."

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Cloud, **LaZohn Mobley**, and **Edmond Jennings** each had four tackles.

"This is the most play makers we've on this Emerald team since I have been here," said Coach Dubose. "It's going to be a fun bunch to watch."

Another Clemson commit, **South Pointe** lineman **Seth Tillman** (6-4, 300) is 15th. Tillman had 61 tackles, 27 for loss, 12 quarterback hurries and 8.5 sacks to help the Stallions win the AAAA state championship in December.

Tillman said that the team is purposely forgetting the state title win, the team's eighth in South Pointe's history since the school opened in 2005.

"We're keeping our head forward, acting like we lost it so we're trying to get another one even though we knew we won," Tillman said in early August. "We're still trying to get another one."

Next month we take a look at some HSSR 2028 prospects from the state of South Carolina.

Woolbright back in charge of Chiefs football

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Little River — More than a decade after he left his post as the head football coach at **North Myrtle Beach High**, **Perry Woolbright** has made his way back to the program.

Woolbright's first head coaching job was at North Myrtle Beach when he took on the challenge in 2010. His first two seasons were far from memorable as the Chiefs posted back-to-back 0-10 seasons.

But things changed in year three as the Chiefs won four games. The following year, North Myrtle Beach arrived, posting a 9-3 record and winning a playoff game.

Woolbright drew interest from other schools and opted to leave for Batesburg-Leesville in the spring of 2014. After three seasons with the Panthers, Woolbright was hired at Lexington High, running that program for six seasons before moving over the Clover High. After three years at Clover, Woolbright saw the opportunity to return to Little River and took it.

His second tenure at North Myrtle Beach is off to a much better start than his first. The Chiefs have opened 2026 with two wins, beating Socastee in the opener and Darlington in week two.

"It feels good to be off to a good start but as a coach, I see a lot of things that we need to do better," says Woolbright. "We're far from perfect but the kids are playing hard, having fun playing. Hopefully the success will make them hungry for more

and the work will continue. We've played physical and we haven't given up the big plays so far. We need to continue to do those things."

The Chiefs overcame four turnovers in the win over Darlington.

"I thought that we showed some maturity to get past those but certainly we have to clean that up," the coach said.

The starting lineup is a mixture of seniors and underclassmen. At quarterback, Woolbright is playing two sophomores — **Mason Walker** and **Evan Barrett**. Each has shown potential and the coach anticipates using both throughout the season.

"They are splitting the time pretty evenly right now and I could see that continuing all season," he said. "They're both young and they need the reps. They are pretty similar in the way they play so we don't have to change anything."

Senior **Jonathan Evans**, **Jaden Wilson** and junior **Warren Broomer** handle most of the running game. Wilson has 168 yards through two games.

Working at receiver are sophomore **Taron Scott**, senior **Jalen Chestnut**, sophomores **Anthony Cimino** and **Justin Brown**, and senior **Reo Stephenson**, who also plays defense and has a kick return for a score this season. The tight ends are **Max Dunn** and **Matt Sadler**.

Starting at left tackle is junior **Owen Grall**, while the left guard is **Robert Haltiwanger**. Senior **Wyatt Shemanskis** is the starting at center. **Michael Jezierki** is the right guard and **Kaedyn Smith** is the right tackle.

See North Myrtle Beach, pg. 31

Cheraw comes down to Class A, focused on playoff run while being led by four veteran seniors

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Cheraw—Four talented senior football players have been playing together, on various teams in the Cheraw community, since they were 8 years old; so finding a way to close their "brotherhood closeness" with a Class A state football championship at the end of the '26 season would be a dream fulfilled.

Cheraw will travel to **Dillon** this week for a non-region game and head coach **Andy Poole**, who is starting his 10th season at Cheraw, said it has been six years, or so, since the Braves played against the Wildcats, who he describes as a very talented football team.

Cheraw began the season with a gut wrenching 13-12 loss to **Andrew Jackson**. They bounced back in week two with an impressive 21-0 win over **Lewisville**.

Now let's meet the four senior leaders of the team through the eyes of their head coach. These four men are wide receiver/DB Nick **Gordon** (5-10, 178, 4.3), WR/DB **Derrick Isaac** (5-7, 145), DL **Crawford Poole** (5-10,212), and DL **Anthony Strong** (6-4, 245) and they are all committed Cheraw Braves football players. who have playing on the varsity since the 9th grade.

We asked head coach **Andy Poole**, beginning his 19th season as the head coach of the Braves, to comment on these committed players and he no problem handling the request.

"First of all, these four guys are very competitive and they started playing rec basketball together on the same team when they were 8 years old," said Coach Poole. "It seems like they have been plying on the football team for 10 years, but time goes buy fast and this will be their final season together, so you hope the stars align and they can all go out

with a championship ring on their fingers."

First up is **Nick Gordon**. "At a skills combine camp put up by the Football Coaches Association since last season, Nick ran a 4.31 laser time in the forty making him the fastest football player on the field in South Carolina every night this season," said Coach Poole. "He can take it to the house whether he is on offense or defense, on any given play. He is also an all-state baseball player and he runs a 6-4 sixty which is big time for a baseball player."

Next up in "Mighty Mite" **Derrick Isaac**. "Derrick has a quick first step as a slot receiver and on defense he is a lock down corner back who can shorten the field in a hurry," said Coach Poole. "He is equally impressive on either side of the ball but I feel like he makes some great plays on defense. He is an honor roll student on top of everything else also."

Now we bring **Crawford Poole** into the conversation. "Right off the top, I will say that Crawford is my son, but I think everyone on the team knows that he is the heart and soul of our defense," said Coach Poole. "Barring injury, Crawford will likely finish his senior season as the all-time sack leader, and TFL leader, in the history of our football program. When you think of all the great defensive players that have come through Cheraw High that will be quite an accomplishment."

"Craford is a hybrid DE and we call it a "jack position," said Coach Poole. "He is honesty like having a coach on the field. He and Anthony are so competitive and they have a friendly rivalry as to who can have the most tackles or the most sacks in a game every Friday night."

Drum roll for **Anthony Strong** please. "Anthony is also a four-year starter with a high motor and he has a wing span like I have never seen," said

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Coach Poole. "He has some firm offers from smaller schools like **Anderson**, **Newberry** and even **Miami of Ohio**, but I feel like he can play at a power four school. As I was saying he and Crawford feed off each other during a game."

Sophomore QB **Kobi McDonald** is under center for the Braves this season. **Justyn Joint** returns for his senior year at RB. Senior **Kamari Cue** is a WR along with senior **George Little**.

The offensive line is made up of junior LT **Winston Davis**, RT **Charlie Holter**, LG **Jayden Horne**, RG **Lemonte Brown** and junior center **Easton Quick**. **Sam Phillips** is the combo kicker.

Senior **Jayden Horne** and senior **Tristen Marquiss** join Poole and Strong up-front in the DL. Seniors **Brenden Pace** and **Austin Adams** are the two linebackers. Joining Gordon, Isaac, and Little in the secondary, are sophomore **Jarmarcus Frazier**, and freshman **Darryl Hersey**.

Recruiting, continued from pg. 33

mental thing."

Bryant added that both his and his team's goal is to finally notch a win in the final game and win a state championship.

"We take it one week at a time, our goal is to get the championship ring and get it over with."

Ninth on the list is **Dutch Fork** lineman and **Clemson** commit **Jaden Wuerth** (6-2, 270). He committed to the Tigers in April.

"Clemson is just different," Wuerth said on his commitment. "Wouldn't want to be anywhere else, and I truly believe Clemson is going to take me where I want to go."

Wuerth, like Bryant, has been one of the most sought-after line players, receiving 19 offers from NCAA Division I schools, including **Duke**, **Georgia Tech**,

Flashes gearing up for championship run in 2026

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Johnsonville – Since taking over the football program in 2018, **Johnsonville** head football coach **Ken Cribb** has established a winning culture.

After a few lean years in terms of success, Cribb has built the program into a state championship program. The Flashes appeared in back-to-back state championship games in 2022 and 2023.

It has become an expectation that Johnsonville will be in state title contention. That remains the expectation in 2026 as the Flashes have enough talent and experience to make a run at the crown. Johnsonville won nine games in 2025 and Cribb has a good number of experienced players.

Earlier in the summer, Cribb assessed his potential; team.

“We have a good group back and they are working hard,” Cribb said. “Our guys expect to compete and they put in the work. We have some holes to fill in some spots but we do have some good experience back at key positions.”

Johnsonville opened the season against another perennial state contender in Class A, Lake View. The Flashes were able to build a lead but mistakes in the second half allowed Lake View to rally for a comeback win, 30-28.

Looking to erase the disappointment, the Flashes posted a 42-0 win over Hannah-Pamplico to even their early record at 1-1. The Flashes were scheduled to play Georgetown on Sept. 4 and Waccamaw on Sept. 11, both on the road.

If experience at quarterback is a key factor in successful teams, the Flashes are in good shape this season. Back for his fourth season of varsity action is senior **Larkin Powell**, who threw for more than 1,000 yards as a junior.

“He’s a hard worker and he has improved each year,” Cribb said. “He’s a smart kid and he takes his role as a leader on this team very seriously.”

In Cribb’s offense, which focuses on being physical up front and running the football, Powell is asked



Running Back
Rondrell Livingston

to distribute and manage the game. Returning to pace the running game is **Zaghe Davis**, who topped more than 1,100 yards last season. Davis is an explosive player and had three rushing touchdowns in the win over Hannah-Pamplico. He also returned a punt for a touchdown.

Powell looks to work the ball through the air to three capable receivers. **JeMere Ross** is one of the most explosive players in Class A. **Skylar Montgomery** is a third-year starter and sophomore **DeReon Livingston** is another weapon on the outside.

Sophomore **Brice Ellison** is the starting tight end. Senior **KC Davis** and senior **ZyiKel Cooper** are the starting tackles, with junior **DeVon Sanders** and senior **Chance McDaniel** starting as the guards. The center is junior **Carson Graham**.

The defensive line is an area that enters the season lacking experience. The four starters along the front are Cooper, seniors **Parker Baxley** and **Shawn**

See Johnsonville, pg. 36

Latta ready to battle for the region 6 A title

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Latta – The Vikings of Latta finished 8-3/3-2 and made the playoffs for the fourth consecutive year and while they lost some key seniors head coach **Brandon Iseman** has a strong core group returning so expectations are to battle for the region championship and return to playoffs for the fifth consecutive year.

“Every year is a new year and you would like to take any momentum from year to year but it doesn’t necessarily happen. It’s about getting all the right pieces in the right place. Everything is a process and that is what we tell the kids. It’s about us finding ourselves and getting better every week so we take it week to week,” said coach.

Coach Continued “The plan is to compete for a region championship. We are preaching to our kids not to get to caught up in the first 6 games. They matter but if you win the region you end up with a top seed going into the playoffs. The games matter for development, getting better and getting us ready for region play.”

Latta opened the season in week zero where they fell to Carvers Bay 27-0. They evened their record at 1-1 when they beat Chesterfield 42-21.

The Vikings return six starters on offense and six on defense with several newcomers ready to make their mark this season.

Returning offensive linemen are seniors tackles **Dustin Parker** and **Javonte Kollock**. Sophomore

quarterback **Luke Huggins** and junior running backs **Kayden Rogers** and **Irangabiye Johnson** are also returning starters. They are the leaders of the offense and coach is expecting big seasons from them all.

Sophomore wide receiver **Malik Grice** has shown big play ability and is ready to become one of the teams playmakers.

Defensively the Vikings have more experience and their strength lays within the front 7 with returning seniors linebacker **Noah Alford** and defensive ends **Anthony Williams** and **Brayden Butler**.

Juniors that are returning starters are linebacker **Ryion Gurley** and junior linemen **Cayden Herring**. In the secondary juniors **Joe’Maurie Galloway** and **Josiah Durant** return to give the Vikings returners at every level of the defense.

Coach is excited about some of his younger in juniors **Quamar Jones** and safety **Lyndon Hayes** and sophomore safety **Danny McDowell**.



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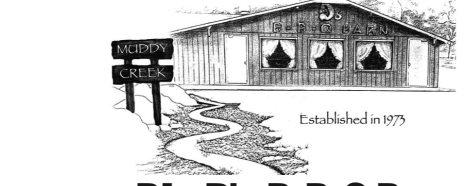
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THA football rebuilding with low numbers this fall

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Ridgeland—When the *HSSR* visited a **Thomas Heyward Academy** (0-2) football practice in early August, head coach **Tyler Malprus** had only 15 players working out in drills with two more players sidelined with injuries.

The team’s huge loss to graduation was from five-year starter **Tony O’Banner** who rushed for 3,000 yards in his five year career with the Rebels. He was also a run stopper at linebacker on defense. O’Banner is now at **Presbyterian College** where he is hoping for playing time as a true freshman.

“This is going to be a rebuilding season, and we need to get our numbers up, because one or two injuries can really hurt you with most of your players going both ways,” said Coach Malphrus, after returning to the team after spending a year away with the **Hampton County** football team.

“We need improvement in all our skill positions,” said Coach Malphrus who is a graduate and former player at Thomas Heyward. “The strength of our team coming into the season is the play on both offensive and defensive lines.”

In week one THA lost to **Clarendon Hall** 27-0 and in week two injuries caused the Rebels to have to forfeit their game with **Colleton Prep**. They are scheduled to play **Patrick Henry** on September 4.

Lybrand begins 7th season as Beaufort coach

By Jeff Moeller
Special Contributor

Beaufort—Beaufort head coach **Bryce Lybrand** will be looking for stability from his team in the 2026 season.

The Eagles began this year’s campaign off a 3-8 season in 2025. They did advance to the postseason, but ran into Class 4A Region 6 state champion **South Pointe** and suffered a 63-13 defeat in the playoffs.

Coach Lybrand, who will begin his seventh season at the controls, has five starters back on offense, and plenty of new faces on the other side of the ball.

Their opening two games were a reflection of what Lybrand will be seeking this season.

The Eagles were upset by **Hardeeville**, 22-20, in their season opener, before they rebounded with a 34-14 victory over **Whale Branch** in week two. They will host undefeated **Hanahan** (2-0) on Sept. 4.

“We just have to be consistent,” stated Coach Lybrand. “We didn’t play well in our first game, but we played much better in our second. We were more physical. We have to keep working hard.”

The Eagles will look to senior quarterback **Braydon Moyd-Small**s, who also looms as a dual threat to run the ball. He’ll be joined in the backfield by returnee senior running back **K’Mari Mizell**.

Beaufort’s main attack will revolve around their deep receiving corps.

Senior **Qualeek Isnar** has heard from several schools at the FCS level, but he hasn’t received any

Prior to the season starting, **KW Arnold** and **Hayden Hair** were listed as the team’s quarter-backs. The two running backs are senior **Tyler Young** and junior **Hunter Disbrow**. Junior **Colt Hunt** is the anticipated starting run back. The top receivers coming into the season are junior **Brennan Cribb** and senior **Hudson Rex** along with a pair of freshman receivers, **Joey Woodward** and **Tristan Mims**. The tight end is senior **Owen Palazzo**.

The key returning all-region player on the team is **Ben Gibson** (6-2, 205) who plays at left tackle on offense and linebacker on defense where he leads the team sin tackles. Gibson’s older brother is now playing at PC along with O’Banner.

Senior **Dawson Drew** starts at right tackle. While Disbrow (LG) and senior **Winston Twenge** (RG) hold down the guard spots. The starting center starting the season was sophomore **Nolan Smith**.

Coach Malphrus is assisted by **Brandon Bishop**, **Leon Etheridge**, **Kelan Fripp**, **Kenny Herndon**, and **Bill Smith**. The school’s athletic director is **Logan Thomas**.

Drew, Smith, Twenge, and **Harrison Disbrow** flipped to the defensive line. Gibson, Hunter Disbrow, Palazzo, and Hunt flip to start as linebackers, while Hair, Cribb, Rex, and Arnold comprise the secondary. Arnold is the team’s combo kicker.

offers yet. Fellow senior **Keandre Jenkins** is back along with senior **Javon Brunson**.

Another target can be junior tight end **Hall Schoen**.

Senior **Andrae Ellison** is lone returner to the offensive line. Filling out the remainder of the spots are junior left guard **Zyir Owens**, sophomore center **Banks Killen**, junior right guard **Matthew Mayer**, and freshman right tackle **Eli Wardlow**.

Defensively, senior **Bryce Young** is up front with junior **Rakeem Owens** and sophomore **LJ Smith**.

Senior **K’Mari Mizell** will be at one linebacker spot, and juniors **Jack Harrelson** and **Cameron Posey Jr.** will be at the other spots.

In the secondary, junior **Josh Best** is the elder statesman with sophomores **Stephen Mader**, **Fabian Allen**, and **Josh Best Jr.**

Harrelson, **Allen**, **Posey**, **Best Jr.**, and **Mader** all had good camps, and expectations are high for them.

Sophomore **Wade Keyserling** will be the kicker, and sophomore **Tayvion Lundy** will be the punter.

The Eagles’ roster has a heavy mix of 23 juniors and 11 sophomores, many of whom are on the varsity field for the first time. There are 12 seniors on the roster.

Besides facing Hanahan next week, the Eagles will have more challenges ahead down the road facing **Hammond**, **Lucy Beckham**, **Bluffton**, and **Hilton Head Island** down the road in region play.

It will all come down to the Eagles all staying on

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the same page.
“We have a lot of inexperienced guys,” said Coach **Lybrand**. “They need to get game experience. If we can develop and mature along the way, we can be a consistent team throughout the season.”

Johnsonville, continued from pg. 30
Wilson, and junior **Jordan McFadden**.
Starting linebackers include **Ellison**, **Logan Lewis** and **Lucas Thaxton**. Ross and Montgomery

Lamar, continued from pg. 23
in the first half. But in the second half, we had maybe one bad drive,” Boyd said. “We want to start fast on offense. That is something we have been

start in the secondary, along with senior **Rondrell Livingston** and senior **Edmund McClary**.
Luke Squires handles the placekicking and

emphasizing.”
Other important contributors for Friday include **Messiah Simes**, **Trevionne Goodson**, **Antwan**

punting duties this season.

Mack, **Roy Vest II** and **Tavion Bell**.

McFadden beginning third season at HHP

By Jeff Moeller
Special to the HSSR
Hilton Head - Head coach **Doug McFadden** begins his third season at the helm of the Dolphins' program with some reasonable expectations.

Even though his team produced three wins in each of the first two seasons, the Dolphins were in the post season. In fact, they advanced to the second round last season in the SCISA Region 2 Section 1 bracket.

But **McFadden**, who previously was an assistant at Colgate, knows his aspirations have to be tempered with the loss of 10 seniors. The Dolphins lost four starters from their line.

So far this season, the Dolphins have seen the results of a rebuild. They began the season with losses to Colleton Prep (50-6), St. Andrew's (48-6), and Cross (56-8). They are scheduled to host Beaufort Academy Sept. 4.

McFadden is taking it step-by-step. The Dolphins have seven freshmen, two sophomores, and an eighth-grader on their limited roster.

"We have 19 players and are extremely young," stressed **McFadden**. "I lost 10 seniors from last year who had the majority of our stats."

The Dolphins have three returning starters in junior center/defensive lineman **Tuggle Daly**, junior offensive lineman/defensive lineman **Cooper Hofmann**, and senior running back **Oliver Barricks**.

Along with **Daly**, **Hofmann**, and **Barricks**, senior defensive lineman/tight end **Kaden Jack-**

The plan remains the same at HHCA after 25 years

By Jeff Moeller
Special to the HSSR
Hilton Head - Entering their 25th year of the program last year, Hilton Head Christian Academy didn't deviate off their course.

The Eagles once again were in the postseason, this time advancing to the state semifinals. They fell to Wilson Hall, 50-29 in the SCISA Class 3A Region 1 bracket. Overall, the Eagles finished the year 6-6.

This season under veteran head coach **Ron Peduzzi**, who will begin his ninth in charge, the Eagles will be in the hunt for the postseason and also to capture their first state title since 2023. **Peduzzi** previously won titles in 2020 and 2021.

Through the first three games, the Eagles soared to convincing victories over John Paul II (42-8), Beaufort Academy (41-0) and also avenged their defeat to Wilson Hall (38-26).

Their mettle will be tested with early October meetings with defending champion Bethesda Academy as well as perennial power First Baptist School. Both of them are in the Class 3A division this year.

The Eagles have 37 players on their roster, and **Peduzzi** knows he has to make the most of it. They have just three seniors and 16 juniors.

"We wanted to give our yung guys a lot of reps early on," said **Peduzzi**. "We wanted to get them acclimated to the program, and they have responded well."

son returns on defense.

Sophomore **Cole Rogers** has taken over at quarterback. Others expected to be contributors in the backfield are seniors running back/defensive lineman **Quinn Strauss**, running back/defensive back **Casey Signorello**, and eighth-grader wide receiver/defensive back **Finley Thompson**.

Daly will anchor the line, and he will be joined by newcomers freshman **Aidan McElveen** and sophomore **Roby Horner** at tackles, freshman **Britt Gunzel** and **Hofmann** at guard.

Junior **Cody Wilbert** will handle the kicking duties.

Among those who can make an impact are junior wide receiver/running back/linebacker **Ramsey Stanyard**, junior offensive lineman/defensive lineman **Barrosa-Ferrerira Pietro**, and freshman running back/defensive back **Henry Burbage** and wide receiver/tight end/linebacker **Peyton Marra**.

McFadden is confident his budding squad can adjust. **Blake Henry**, a former college lineman, will handle the offense, and **John Britschge** will guide the defense.

"It's a matter of getting the young kids to a point where they are comfortable," stated **McFadden**. "In the beginning, everything was faster and bigger. They have to realize whatever they did in middle school, they can do the same thing and even better in high school."

He is optimistic that his returnees can benefit from their postseason experiences. The Dolphins avenged a 42-27 loss to Calhoun Academy two

Senior quarterback **Kres Langhals** is off to a good start, and he also is the Eagles' leading rusher. He is joined in the backfield by senior **Joseph Haupt**, and juniors **Chase White** and **Hayne Burden** along with sophomore **Max Zwilsky**.

"**Kres** has been a leader," said **Peduzzi**. "He has been a leader since the summer, and he has helped make it an easier transition. He is a dual threat with his ability to run the ball."

Senior **Jackson Richardson** returns as the primary receiving target, and others expected to be in the mix are sophomore **Wes Langhals** and **Charlie Wilson**.

Up front, juniors **Josh Koepke**, **Jacob Herrera**, **Caleb Altizer**, **Austin Marshall**, and **Damani Wright** are back, and all of them will play both ways.

Juniors **Roland Settle** and **Jack Barrs** are returnees at linebacker. In the secondary, juniors **Sam Strum**, **Ryder Maffei**, and Anthony **Kruswicki** all saw prominent time last season.

Houpt will handle the punting duties, while sophomore **Tripp House** has taken on the kicking duties.

One major challenge for the Eagles will be to develop their depth. With their first two games being blowouts, **Peduzzi** had the chance to play some of his younger talent.

"Our young guys have been stepping up," added **Peduzzi**. "We have a handful of seniors and

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years ago with a 27-26 victory last year in the first round of the playoffs. Their season ended with a 34-33 loss to Pee Dee Academy.

"Some of these kids have been to the postseason," added **McFadden**. "It really comes down to confidence. We came back after we got trounced (against Calhoun Academy) and beat a good football team.

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many juniors who got a lot of time last year as sophomores. We'll be looking to keep our sophomores and freshmen ready to play."

In spite of his team getting off to a fast start, **Peduzzi** wants to keep everything in its proper perspective.

"It still comes down to blocking and tackling," he stated. "We still want to work on and stress the basics and fundamentals. We'll take it one game at a time, and we hope we can improve as the season goes on. We've always strived to peak at the end of the season."

Woodberry fighting inexperience at HP

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Pamplico – The 2026 football season could be a long one for the Raiders of **Hannah-Pamplico** as head coach **Trey Woodberry** battles a ton of inexperience this fall.

After a few transfers and a handful of returning seniors opting not to play this season, the Raiders have one of the youngest rosters in Class A football. Throw in the fact that the Raiders play some of the top teams in Class A and it's easy to see why Woodberry sees the potential for a long season.

"It's tough, no doubt, but we will do what we can to overcome our weaknesses and try to compete as best we can," Woodberry said. "We are playing a lot of young kids, more like a jayvee roster. Several starters were on the b-team last year so jumping up to varsity football is a lot to ask of them. We're just going to work every day and do the best we can."

The Raiders opened the season with losses to Lake City (20-7) and Johnsonville (42-0).

"We were in both games at halftime but we're having to play a lot of guys both ways

Batesburg-Leesville will be young but talented

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Batesburg – Batesburg-Leesville finished last season at 8-4/4-1 advancing into the second round of the playoffs and while the last loss always hurts for head coach **Greg Lawson** the loss of 24 seniors and a couple of other starters have left the Panthers short on experience.

The Panthers will look to JV players from last year and varsity player who are just waiting for their chance to continue their winning ways. When you have won 7 state championships you are one of those programs that reload not rebuild.

The Panthers lost their opener to a Mid-Carolina squad 28-21 that is the polar opposite of Batesburg-Leesville as the Rebels have 22 seniors and 18 returning starters.

Sophomore **Terrence Cook** (5-9,145) steps into the quarterback roll. He is athletic but lacks experi-

and we just run out of gas in this weather," Woodberry said. "I thought we gave good effort but the mistakes hurt us. We have so many kids that are still learning the game."

Woodberry is using two freshmen at quarterback with each getting reps. **Jacari Dimery** was a b-team running back last year and **Tucker Daniels** was the b-team quarterback.

Senior **Quan Carmichael** is playing running back but is a first-year player. Sophomore **Zack Raines** is also getting carries. Freshman **Carter Collins** and senior **Matt Richardson** are the top receivers, with senior **Jonah Poston** returning with experience at tight end.

The most experienced area on the team is the offensive line, led by center **Dewey Kimbrough**. Sophomore **Robert Weaver**, and seniors **Avery Lowery**, **Austin McNeil** and **Khishaun Brown** round out the starting unit. Kimbrough, Weaver, McNeil and Brown also play on the defensive line while Lowery is a linebacker.

Carmichael, Richardson, Dimery and Collins are working in the secondary. Raines and sophomore **Zach Turner** are working at linebacker.

ence. Joining him in the backfield will be running backs junior **Mario Waters** (5-8,175) and sophomore **De Coleman**.

Cooks top targets will be juniors **Trey Smith** (6-2,150) and **Tyler Parrish** (6,165) and sophomore **Henry Bouknight**. Smith also handle the kicking chores for then Panthers.

The offensive line ahs the most experience with senior **Demarcus West** (5-10,220) , **Korey Logan**, and **Cameron Jay**. Rounding out the line will be juniors **Shapelle Morris** and **James Sawyer**.

The front four on defense has senior **Robert Mathews** (6-4,215). The leader of the group. He is joined by junior **Dontarious Dennis** (5-11,249) and sophomores **Dakota Quattlebaum** and **Landon Derrick** (6,170).

At linebacker are seniors **Mattox Bolen** (5-9,155) and **Pace Rikard** (5-8185) and Coleman.

The secondary consists of juniors **Levi Pridgen**

Ashley Ridge, continued from pg.13

and Sharo is rated as the **No. 2 senior tight end** in the state by the **High School Sports Report** behind **Camden's Will Haunert**.

The defense also has some seasoned play makers.

"**Shaun Fields** has been with us for four years and been on some good teams," Tate said. "He has helped us have some success and had a good off-season. We expect him to be the leader of the second-

North Myrtle Beach, continued from pg. 29

Others who see time on the line include **Collin Vreeland**, **Nate Paulson**, **James Halloran**, and **Logan Wilson**.

On the defensive line, senior **Dustin Clement** starts at one end and senior **Matt Sadler** is the other end. Junior **Jeremiah Wythe** is the starter at nose tackle. **Logan Wilson**, **Jamarius Skeeter** and **Tashawn Durham** also see action up front.

At outside linebacker, starters are **Cam Jordan** and **Kam Goodwin**, while the inside backers are

ary."

Senior **Mario Pringle** is an experienced linebacker expected to anchor the second level of defense.

Up front, junior **Uriah Puckett** and senior **Zakhari Johnson** are returning starters expected to lead the younger defensive linemen.

Senior **Zach Woods** and junior **Wyatt Carter** return to handle the kicking.

Jimmy McCullough and **Immanuel Bellamy**. Backups seeing time include Evans, **Max Dunn** and **Kingston Paige**.

Starting corners are Broomer and Stephenson, while the starting safeties are **Bannon Hill** and **Braden Pagan**. **Nico Miller** handles the placekicking and punting duties. Miller did not miss an extra point or field goal last season and has made nine kicks in nine attempts through two games.

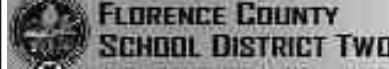
The Chiefs were scheduled to play West

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(5-8,160)and Parrish and sophomores **Jayvior Hill-Nelson** Jayvior (5-9,155) and Bouknight.

"Zach has a big leg," Tate said. "We feel like he has a good range and is accurate. He's put in a lot of extra work and gone to multiple camps. Wyatt is also accurate. I think he was 41 of 42 on PATs last year. They both handle the role well. We graduated a really good long snapper so we are looking at a few guys for that position."

Brunswick off North Carolina on Sept. 4., followed by Loris on Sept. 11. Region 7-AAAA play begins on Sept. 18 against St. James.

Other region games include Wilson, Conway, West Florence, South Florence and Myrtle Beach.

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Seawell’s Midlands Feature Page

Not even bad weather can stop Midlands prep football action

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Columbia - With week two in the books, high school football is in full swing. In the Midlands, that means several powerhouses finally got to hit the gridiron and show the crowd what they’ve been practicing for the previous year—if only for a couple of quarters.

Lightning in the area forced one game to be ended after almost two quarters of play—**Dutch Fork** at **Ridge View**, the biggest game in the Midlands thus far into the 2026 season. The Silver Foxes led 35-13 with 2:08 left in the first half when a lightning strike in the area put the game in a delay. A second delay was called as the teams were warming up and the game was postponed. Shortly afterward both teams agreed to end the game with Dutch Fork declared the winner.

Another matchup, **Spring Valley** at **Irmo**, ended similarly. With the Yellow Jackets leading 37-0 at halftime, the game went into a lightning delay and both teams agreed to end the game.

Lugoff-Elgin’s battle against **Camden** underwent two lightning delays as well, but play resumed and the Demons improved to 2-0 with a 28-25 victory over the Bulldogs.

Dutch Fork at Ridge View
The Silver Foxes, the last AAAAA Division 1 champion until further notice (under the latest SCHSL realignment, there are no split divisions at 5A), had a bye in week one.

Ridge View on the other hand, had a game scheduled at AAAA defending state champion **South Pointe**. Neither team could settle on a date when thunderstorms prompted the Aug. 21 game to be moved up a day, then moved to Saturday, so both the Stallions and Blazers sat out their opener.

Both teams’ inaction at the start of the high school football season put the emphasis on Friday night’s game. To the delight of fans that packed a sold-out Ridge View Stadium, both teams electrified the crowd in the first quarter.

Dutch Fork showed its ability to sustain drives with **Jaxon Knotts’** arm and legs. Knotts fired passes of 15 and 20 yards to **Corey Miller** and **Jalen Montgomery** on the Silver Foxes’ 7-play, 65-yard opening drive. Knotts broke free on an 11-yard run, and later capped the drive with a 3-yard touchdown run.

With that drive in the books, Ridge View showed its big-play potential. After **Spencer Bobian** took the ball for a 7-yard gain on the first play from scrimmage, **Trey Howard** threw a short pass to **Khristian Jackson**, who burst through a tackle on the right side and bolted 73 yards for a score.

Dutch Fork blocked the extra point attempt, but Ridge View had another big play coming up.

On the next series Knotts took the snap and shovel-passed the ball to a Silver Foxes runner, but as he bobbled the reception **Raymond Jones** grabbed hold of it and bolted 75 yards to the end zone to make it 13-7 Blazers.

Dutch Fork picked up a quick touch-

down on a 21-yard Knotts run on its next possession to take a 14-13 lead. As the on-field electricity of the first quarter died down, the Dutch Fork machine fired up and went into cruise control.

The Silver Foxes defense stiffened, holding Ridge View to a 3-and-out. Defensive end and **Clemson** commit **Jaden Wuert** finished off the series with a sack.

Knotts and the Dutch Fork offense knocked out a 53-yard drive with Knott’s 17-yard TD pass to **Anderson Bean** at the 8:51 mark of the second.

The Silver Foxes stopped the Blazers on another 3-and-out and turnover on downs, and Knotts took the offense into the end zone again on a short drive that **Kyle Henry** finished off with a 1-yard TD run at the 5:07 mark.

The Silver Foxes stopped the Blazers again, and shortly afterward **Maleek Miller** caught a short Knotts pass and broke through Ridge View defenders to complete a 29-yard TD pass play that gave the Dutch Fork a 35-13 lead with 2:45 left in the half.

That’s when the real lightning flashed.

A lightning delay at the 2:08 mark stopped the game and sent the fans to their cars or to the Blazers’ gym.

After about 45 minutes, players returned to the field and warmed up. The game was to start at the third quarter without a halftime break, with a stadium empty of fans, who were told not to reenter the stadium.

As the players were stretching, another lightning delay was announced and not long after that it was announced that the game would be postponed. About an hour after that announcement both teams agreed to end the game with Dutch Fork winning 35-13.

The Silver Foxes travel to **Spartanburg** (1-1) Friday. The Vikings beat **Greenwood** 21-14 Friday.

Midlands Football Top Ten

1. Dutch Fork (1-0)
2. Irmo (1-1)
3. Gray Collegiate (1-1)
4. Lugoff-Elgin (2-0)
5. Gilbert (2-0)
6. Ridge View (0-1)
7. A.C. Flora (1-1)
8. Camden (1-1)
9. River Bluff (1-1)
10. Hammond (2-0)

Ridge View hits the road to **Oceanside Collegiate** Friday. The defending 3A champion Landsharks (0-2) fell 22-21 to **Cannon/Concord Academy**, N.C., Friday.

Camden at Lugoff-Elgin
Lugoff-Elgin quarterback **Zach Williams** scored a late touchdown for the Demons to take a 28-25 lead over Camden, and the Bulldogs’ field-goal try in the closing seconds missed its mark. Lugoff-Elgin walked off the field with its first victory over its county rival since 2017.

The Bulldogs and the Demons both won their season openers Aug. 21. Camden whipped **Dillon** 35-13, and Lugoff-Elgin eased past **Chapin** 42-25.

On Friday night the Demons jumped out to a 14-0 lead on two touchdown runs from **White Knoll** transfer **Tiyon Fanning**.

Jaden Manning put the Bulldogs on the scoreboard on a 2-yard TD run in the second quarter, but early in the third quarter Williams connected with **Jace Coleman** for a long pass to put the Demons at the 10-yard line.

Fanning ran the ball in from 10 yards out for his third score of the game

to put the Demons up 21-6

Quarterback **Greyson Rimpf’s** long touchdown pass to **Bernard Green** cut the lead to 21-13. A second Rimpf strike, this time a 12-yarder to **Will Haunert**, got Camden to within 21-19. The Bulldogs’ 2-point attempt failed.

Shortly after that score came the game’s first lightning delay. Play resumed in the fourth quarter until a second delay with a little over than eight minutes to play came down.

When play resumed, Camden took the lead on Rimpf’s 50-yard touchdown pass to Green. Another 2-point conversion attempt failed, but the Bulldogs led 25-21.

On Lugoff-Elgin’s final possession Fanning got sprung for a long run to the Camden 15-yard line. That set up Williams’ 7-yard touchdown run that proved the game winner.

Camden plays host to **Hartsville** (1-1), which is coming off a 49-38 loss to **West Florence**. Lugoff-Elgin plays host to **Nation Ford** (0-2), 56-0 losers to South Pointe, Friday.

Gray Collegiate at River Bluff
In the teams’ first meeting, **Gray Collegiate** shut out **River Bluff** 27-0 in a game that missed out on weather delays.

Trevon Williamson had 227 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries, and **Xavier Wright** was 8-for-17 in passing for 140 yards and a touchdown. **Royce Williamson** had three catches for 54 yards and a score, and **Corey Gleaton** caught a 54-yarder.

The victory puts the War Eagles’ 50-21 loss at **Chambers**, N.C., Aug. 21 in the rear-view mirror. Next on the schedule is a home game against **James Island** (2-0), which beat **South Florence** 34-14 Friday.

The Gators (1-1), who opened the season with a 41-14 victory over **Cane**

See Midlands, pg. 62

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Modern Turf Farm Recruiting Feature

Recruiting, continued from cover

HSSR SC 2028 Football Prospect List (Nominate A '28 Player: hsreport@aol.com)

1. Zion Dawkins-Gaffney-DB/WR-5-11,181
2. Michael Martin-Christ Church-RB-5-10,180
3. Beau Hite-Emerald-QB-Ath.-5-11,170
4. Jace Grass-Daniel-QB-
5. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
6. Christian Webb-Scott-Westrside-DL-6-6,250
7. Ryan Bruchu-York-QB-6-4,220
8. Brody Lorenzo-Dutch Fork-OL-6-3,330
9. Nasir Walker-AC Flora-DE-6-5,250
10. Teru Davis-Summerville-WR-6-0,170
11. Michael Martin-Christ Church-RB-5-9,185
12. Raphael Puii-James Island-WR-6-1, 190
13. Heyward Belser-Heathwood Hall-LB-6-3,220
14. Desiray Christian-Greenwood-FS-6-0,190
15. Mont Williams-Lamar-DE/WR-6-7,200
16. Matt Kucia-Indian Land-QB-6-2,185
17. Riggs Savage-Powdersville-TE-6-5,225
18. DeMarius Arrington-Dutch Fork-WR-6-0,175
19. Jackson Miller-Powdersville-OL-6-6,270
20. Phillip Savage-Powdersville-OLB/WR-6-3,200
21. DJ Johnson-North Augusta-DB-6-2, 180
22. Kenneth Wilson-Indian Land-WR-6-2,185
23. Lavy Penny-Camden-LB-6-2,215
24. Ian Jones-Woodruff-OL-6-4,260 24.
25. Kermit Davis-Stratford-DE-6-4,235
26. Cooper Patterson-Dorman-QB-6-0,185
27. Nick Sargent-BHP-TE-6-5,215
28. Tyler Murray-Kingstree-DB-6-1,185
29. Warren Prew-South Florence-LB-5-10,190
30. Jeremiah McGowan-Dutch Fork-OL-6-4,290
31. Jordan Logan-Orangeburg-Wilkinson-DB-6-1,195
32. Will Hunt-Oceanside Collegiate-TE/OL/DL-6-3, 275
33. DeMarcus King-Summerville-LB-
34. Emerson James-Byrnes-WR/DB-5-11, 180
35. JJ Campbell-Dillon-WR- 5-9,155
36. Darryle Washington-Gray Collegiate- OL-6-2, 270
37. Malachia Thompson-Woodruff-DB-5-10,170
38. Ian Jones-Woodruff-OL-6-4,270
39. Landon Guyton-Gilbert-TE/WR-6-3, 205
40. Elijah Sanders-Newberry-T/DT-6-1, 275
41. Jackson Sumney-Oceanside Coll-PK-5-11,190
42. Scoop Dennis-Laurence Manning-WR/DB-6-2,180
43. Brandyn Miller-Laurence Manning-OL/DT-6-1,275
44. Avery King-Brookland-Cayce-RB-5-9,180
45. Brayden Andy-Northwood Academy-OL-6-2, 265
46. Eli Sanders-Newberry-OL-DL-6-1, 275
47. Tahia Wise-Central-DL-5-9,210
48. Jeremiah Hunter-Seneca-WR-5-9,155
49. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
50. Samaj Parker-South Florence-WR-5-11, 170
51. Jaydon Pringle-Jackson-T-DE Goose Creek-6-0,245
52. Bryce Collins-South Pointe-OL-6-1,265
53. Jayden Wheeler-JL Mann-DT-6-0,235
54. Ziggy Offord-Lakewood-WR/DB-6-0,175
55. Holden Lowery-Chesterfield-WR-5-9,170
56. Willie Hiil-Silver Bluff-OL-603,245

and they start watching Beau in football drills for two hours with keen interest,” said Coach Dubose. “I had never seen such interest from a group of college baseball coaches watching a kid throw a football and working out as a football player. It takes long for the news to travel all over town either.”

Just because Hite would commit to the Gamecocks in baseball, a couple days later, is no reason for the *HSSR* to remove him from our 2028 football prospect list. The tactic certainly proved what one college baseball program was willing to do to show Hite some love and attention. It is going to be interesting to see if the football people across the nation quit recruiting Hite or not. We think not from our end.

As of August, 29th there are 42 young men in the 2027 Class of football players from the state of South Carolina committed to major colleges. There are 138 major colleges who make up the FBS highest division of college football.

Here is the break- down: Clemson (4), East Carolina (4), South Carolina (3), Coastal Carolina (3), UNC (2), James Madison (2), App State (2), Liberty (2), Rutgers (2), UNC-Charlotte (2), LSU (1), Alabama (1), Georgia (1), Colorado (1), Marshall (1), Wake Forest (1), Delaware (1), Syracuse (1), Auburn (1), Boston College (1), Virginia (1), Miami (1), NC State (1), Army (1), Navy (1), Missouri State (1).

Let’s have a chat with several top prospects: The *HSSR* No.11 2027 prospect is **Lucy Beckham** OL and **Georgia** commit **Ty Johnson** (6-5, 300). An enormous tackle with an 81.75-inch wingspan, Johnson said he’s always looked toward Georgia ever since he can remember.

“I grew up a Georgia fan, those roots were always in me, he said. “I used to go to Georgia football camps growing up and I think it’s going to be a little different relationship as I’ll be playing for them next year.”

Line play appeals to Johnson because he knows it’s critical for a team’s success.

“I think offensive line is sometimes an overlooked position but I think it’s knowing that you’re the backbone of the team,” he said. “It’s pretty awesome and



Irmo’s Jaiden Bryant



Oceanside’s Aiden Manavian

it’s pretty fun putting people in the dirt.”

Another South Carolina commit is **Ridge View’s James Ross** (6-5, 290) who is 18th on the 2027 list. Ross said he was impressed with the Gamecocks coaching staff enough to say yes for 2027.

“I liked (offensive line) coach Clem (**Randy Clements**) and Coach (**Jason**) **Smith**. I like their relationship with each other, I like how they talked to their players and how they respond to them,” Ross said. “It’s a good family between the players and coaches. They want to see me playing Center, but they also want me to be able to play the other positions.”

At number two on the list is **Irmo** DE and **Miami** commit **Jaiden Bryant** (6-4, 246). Bryant, a 5-star recruit, originally committed to **LSU** in January but flipped to the Hurricanes in June.

A four-year starter on the line, Bryant helped lead the Yellow Jackets to back-to-back appearances in the AAAAA Division 2 state championship in his sophomore and junior years. As a sophomore edge rusher, he notched 85 tackles, 10 for loss and an incredible 14.5 sacks in 15 games. The next year he posted 75 tackles, 16 for loss and 10 sacks.

This year Bryant is focused on his intensity at the line as well as his leadership role on the team.

“I’ve grown mentally,” Bryant said at practice last week. “I’ve always been strong and fast, but I had to be mentally tough. To be able to lead guys in tough situations, it’s hard to calm a whole team down by yourself, I have to prepare for that and college. It’s a big

See Recruiting, pg. 36

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