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High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

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A record 50 in-state football players likely to sign college offers by National Signing Day

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Moncks Corner—As of early November the state of South Carolina has confirmed 45 senior prep football players in the Palmetto State who have committed to major college football and the HSSR strongly believes that by the final national signing say in February the state will hit a record of 50 2026 players moving on to major college football.

First and foremost, we always pause to thank **Mark Grainger** and the fine folks at Modern Turf in Irmo and Rembert for their sponsorship of this monthly recruiting page.

One significant fact the HSSR has recently researched is that while the transfer portal has greatly reduced major college football scholarships to high school seniors in the majority of the states all across the enation, the portal has not caused a reduction at all in the number of players within the state of South Carolina getting offers while high school seniors. This is certainly a positive happening with the transfer portal a popular tool for major colleges to fill immediate needs.

The South Carolina Gamecocks continue to

See Recruiting, pg. 37

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Fall Champions!



The Best in Their Sport!

First Baptist, continued from pg. 56

year head coach **Kevin Mapp**. The numbers were low this season but Mapp is establishing a positive culture and more success is likely in the future. The Hurricanes went 1-10 this season and lost in the first-round of the AAA state playoffs.

The volleyball program also is a rebuilding stage under first-year head coach **Zuri Sanford**. The Hurricanes posted a 9-18 overall record in 2025.

The roster this fall was loaded with underclass-

Laurence Manning, continued from pg. 18
CROSS COUNTRY

Sophomore **Drew Beard** finished 12th out of 118 runners in the individual portion o the SCISA AAAA boys cross country state meet on November 1 at **Heathwood Hall’s** course in **Columbia**.

Beard finished in a time of 16 minutes, 32.83 seconds, to earn a berth on the All-State team for a

McLaurin, continued from pg. 19

When asked about how the “NETC” experience helped prepare her for the next step in her education, she said, “Taking NETC classes helped my communications skills with my professors, and introduced me to the stricter schedule of college and to complete the work on time.

“The class experience with NETC was good and I have really good professors,” said McLaurin. “They helped me learn how to prepare my assign-

Jacobs, continued from pg. 19

tage of the NETC program when she was in high school.

“She recommended I can take classes now, for dual credit, because I’ll have to take them at some point,” said Jacobs. He plans to continue taking dual credit classes next semester, and has already completed English 101 and 102, plus a Personal Finance class and Public Speaking.

When asked about managing his time to be successful academically and in sports, Jacobs had this to say; “Time management can be hectic, but you just have to plan ahead and stick to your schedule,” he said. “With so many time commitments be-

Florence Area, continued from pg. 21

Quarterback **Tristen Howard** completed 12 of 19 passes for 218 yards and two touchdowns. **Davon Bowman** had eight catches for 123 yards and a TD, **Kayden Bethea** had four catches for 67 yards and a score, and **Myquan McWhite** had five catches for 77 yards.

Betha also stepped in at quarterback and completed 5 of 6 passes for 49 yards.

Zyeir Lyde rushed for 120 yards on 25 carries while scoring a touchdown.

Wilson will be trying to win its second straight game against a Region 6 team. Hilton Head won the

Florence Christian, continued from pg. 21

too many unforced errors and missed serves that shifted the momentum, but I truly believe that if we had taken the fourth set the momentum could have swung our way for a different outcome.”

After losing the first set, First Presbyterian won the next two. The Crusaders, who won their first title over FCS in 2023, had 5-point leads of 9-4 and 12-7 in the fourth set. The Eagles managed to pull into a 19-19 tie behind the serving of **Bailey Johnson**. The teams exchanged points for a 24-24 before the Crusaders scored two straight points for the win.

The Eagles finished the year with an overall record of 24-10. They won the Region 3 title with a 7-1 record. They were led by **Jada Porter**, who was

Saluda, continued from pg. 39

finishing 5-5 on the regular season,” Woerner said. “Of course, we want to win them all, especially the rivalries, but I do feel like we learned a lot of hard lessons through those five losses. We grew a lot as a football team and program over the course of this

men, along with a handful of seniors. The most experienced player wass senior **Ellie Blitch**, who is one of the top athletes in the school. Even while playing volleyball, Blitch also is competing in cross country meets. She also plays basketball and runs track.

Blitch led the team in kills. Junior **Ava Walker** led in assists while senior **Reagan Conrad** led in defensive digs.

second consecutive season.

Beard was part of a Laurence Manning team that finished 15th out of 17 squads. The Swampcats finished with 399 points.

Sophomore **Ben Clegg** was 53rd in 13:31.34. eighth-grader **Caleb Andrews** was 109th in 22:46.95, eighth-grader **Andrew Thompson** was 112th in 23:52.09, eighth-grader **Joshua Andrews**

ments, follow the discussion boards, and improve my ability to communicate at the college level. By taking these NETC online classes I will be well ahead towards my major in college.”

With all the demands for her time, between academics, sports, plus family and friends, McLaurin said, “Setting priorities is a must; school first, Marlboro Academy classes, practice, NETC classes are next, then making time for family and friends. It

tween school, sports, and having a social life, time management is very important.

“It may look a little hectic, but plan ahead and take it as it comes,” said Jacobs. “This way, you can stay ahead.” He went on to say this about the classes he’s taken, “Hopefully, this will knock out a few freshman classes, and the Public Speaking is really helping me with my ability to communicate.

“Taking online courses through the “NETC” I feel like I am being prepared for what my actual experiences could be once I get to college,” said Jacobs. “I am really enjoying the two online courses I am involved with right now, and I plan on taking

region and is 10-1.

West Florence won its third game in a row to improve to 6-5 under first-year head coach **Chad Wilkes**. The Knights have allowed just 22 points in the three games.

“I’m proud of how our defense has stepped up and gotten better over the course of the season,” Wilkes said. “The defensive coaches have done a great job and the kids have responded well.

“The offense has come through when it matters in some of our important games. We have to be more consistent on that side of the ball an start put-

selected as the Region 3 Player of the Year.

Porter was joined on the All-Region team by **Anna Kate Huggins** and **Lareen Rishmawi**. Porter, Huggins, Rishmawi and Johnson were selected to play in the **SCISA North-South All-Star matches**.

Other members of the team are **Anna Kate Brazen**, **Lily Altman**, **Jenna Prevatte**, **Susanna Lee**, **Ellison Wynn**, **Daisy Carter**, **Charleston Roeder**, **Raegan Claire Watson**, **Lyla Broach** and **Demi Greene**.

Coch Carter is proud of her team’s accomplishments.

“We beat some great teams on our journey back

season as well. We had to replace a lot of players from last year’s team that had 24 seniors, so it took some of the guys a few games to really adjust to the speed of varsity football.

“Over the course of the season, you could see

The other seniors on the roster included **Elise Smith**, **Jess Rooke**, **Emerson Osbon**, **Ellison Semken**, and **Lulu Mayo-Fletcher**.

Juniors on this year’s team were **Olivia Clum**, **Livi Fanucchi**, **Peyton Walpole**, **Lyla Hancock**, **Addison Townsend** and **Britton Lempesis**. Rounding out the roster is sophomore **Hadley Burr**.

was 113th in 24:33.98 and sophomore **Kole Squires** was 116th in 24:54.55.

LMA had two individual competitors in the girls meet. Sophomore **Meredith Coffey** finished 34th out of 89 runners in 21:10.14. Senior **Morgan Conklin** was 76th in 24:25.83.

helps that a lot of my friends are on the volleyball team.”

Nearly have way through her senior year, McLaurin was asked to reflect on a memorable moment she had experienced in sports. “At senior night, we played Lee Academy, and the game was about the great teamwork and friends on the team. I really enjoyed the camaraderie and sportsmanship of team play this season.”

two more online courses from the “NETC” next semester.”

Getting back to sports, when asked about a favorite memory, Jacobs noted that even with baseball as his favorite sport, the standout memory is this year’s Cross Country meet, partly because he last ran Cross Country in the sixth grade and did not have any expectations for this season. He noted, “In the state championship, I wasn’t expecting this, but I posted a personal best for the three-mile with a 16th place time of 20.50 time. That was special for me to do that at State.”

ting together great performances throughout four quarters if we are going to get where we want to go.”

Jeremiah Bryant and **Tristan Collins** both rushed for over 100 yards to lead the offense. Collins had 112 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries, and Bryant had 13 carries for 149 yards and a touchdown.

This will be the Knights’ second trip to Myrtle Beach this year. They lost to the 7-3 Seahawks 42-38 in their first game.

to state,” she said. “Our players worked incredibly hard during the offseason and even attended the **FMU (Francis Marion University) Volleyball Camp** together as a team. I was also blessed with two outstanding assistant coaches, **Carlie Skelton Caetano** and **Kylie Stewart**, both former FCS players who brought tremendous knowledge and passion to our program.

“Overall, we had a remarkable season,” she said. “I’m so blessed to be part of this group. Our year was filled with passion, perseverance and growth. Although we fell short the memories will last a lifetime and I couldn’t be prouder of our team.”

those guys gain knowledge and confidence in the system and how to approach the game and started to play much better down the stretch at the end of the regular season, and that growth is what you want to see over the course of the season.”

modern					2025					modern																								
turf					Football Stats					turf																								
RUSHING										RECEIVING										QUARTERBACK SACKS														
PLAYER	SCHOOL	YDS	ATT	TD	PLAYER	SCHOOL	YARDS	RECEPTS	TDS	NAME	SCHOOL	SACKS	PLAYER	SCHOOL	YDS	ATT	TD	NAME	SCHOOL	YDS	ATT	TD												
PARKER KIZER	HOLLY HILL ACAD	1933	192	31	ZAY ROBERTSON	DILLON	1206	58	13	JULIAN WALKER	DUTCH FORK	14	PARKER KIZER	HOLLY HILL ACAD	1933	192	31	JULIAN WALKER	DUTCH FORK	14	14	14												
AMADRE WOODEN	BATESBURG-LEES	1841	188	24	JAYDEN SCOTT	NATION FORD	1199	72	13	M J POSEY	EASTSIDE	14	AMADRE WOODEN	BATESBURG-LEES	1841	188	24	M J POSEY	EASTSIDE	14	14	14												
AMARI VERNER	SENECA	1719	176	22	JOSEPH HOUPIT	HILTON HEAD CHRIST	1166	60	11	I'VEON WATSON	WHALE BRANCH	12	AMARI VERNER	SENECA	1719	176	22	I'VEON WATSON	WHALE BRANCH	12	12	12												
MUNTU BROWN	WREN	1647	212	20	ASHTON KELLERMAN	PHILIP SIMMONS	1129	57	12	JADEN WUERTH	DUTCH FORK	12	MUNTU BROWN	WREN	1647	212	20	JADEN WUERTH	DUTCH FORK	12	12	12												
RYAN CAMPBELL	ASHLEY RIDGE	1629	165	17	AMIRI ACKER	CRESCENT	1081	45	14	KELVIN SMALKES,JR	BAPTIST HILL	10	RYAN CAMPBELL	ASHLEY RIDGE	1629	165	17	KELVIN SMALKES,JR	BAPTIST HILL	10	10	10												
JAYLEN SINGLETARY	HAMPTON COUNTY	1555	153	26	SAM PETRAUSCHKE	THOMAS SUMTER	1080	58	12	TRENT DYAL	WARE SHOALS	9	JAYLEN SINGLETARY	HAMPTON COUNTY	1555	153	26	TRENT DYAL	WARE SHOALS	9	9	9												
JOSEPH MORSE	W W KING ACADEMY	1505	125	25	JAI CHUESINGH	PELION	1056	54	13	JOSH BIGGER	HILTON HEAD	9	JOSEPH MORSE	W W KING ACADEMY	1505	125	25	JOSH BIGGER	HILTON HEAD	9	9	9												
JAVEN COOK	CLINTON	1426	126	27	SHAMIL SAADIQ	LUGOFF-ELGIN	1024	63	7	JOSHUA WINBUSH	WARE SHOALS	9	JAVEN COOK	CLINTON	1426	126	27	JOSHUA WINBUSH	WARE SHOALS	9	9	9												
NYCH UNDERWOOD	BEAUFORT ACADEMY	1421	144	19	TREY WIMBLEY	DANIEL	1004	48	12	TERRY RADFORD	CHESTER	9	NYCH UNDERWOOD	BEAUFORT ACADEMY	1421	144	19	TERRY RADFORD	CHESTER	9	9	9												
GRANT SMALL	WILLIAMSBURG	1415	131	22	TILDEN RILEY	ORANGEBURG PREP	1003	47	17	JACE COLEMAN	LUGOFF-ELGIN	9	GRANT SMALL	WILLIAMSBURG	1415	131	22	JACE COLEMAN	LUGOFF-ELGIN	9	9	9												
MELIQ MCGOWAN	STRATFORD	1409	148	18	JAYDEN ALEXANDER	PINWOOD PREP	995	47	13	MATTHEW POKNOW	BISHOP ENGLAND	8.5	MELIQ MCGOWAN	STRATFORD	1409	148	18	MATTHEW POKNOW	BISHOP ENGLAND	8.5	8.5	8.5												
NOAH CAFFELL	SPARTANBURG CHRIS	1363	213	12	GARRISON COPELAND	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	921	41	11	CEDRIC BARKES	NORTH CHARLESTON	8	NOAH CAFFELL	SPARTANBURG CHRIS	1363	213	12	CEDRIC BARKES	NORTH CHARLESTON	8	8	8												
HAYDEN MYERS	RIVER BLUFF	1310	195	9	COREY GLEATON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	927	35	10	ZAIRE WILLIAMS	ROCK HILL	8	HAYDEN MYERS	RIVER BLUFF	1310	195	9	ZAIRE WILLIAMS	ROCK HILL	8	8	8												
CALVIN WOFFORD	CRESTWOOD	1309	149	13	CHRISTIAN WILLIAMS	THOMAS SUMTER	915	62	10	JOSHUA MCCLURE	SOUTH POINTE	7.5	CALVIN WOFFORD	CRESTWOOD	1309	149	13	JOSHUA MCCLURE	SOUTH POINTE	7.5	7.5	7.5												
HUNTER O'NEAL	W J KEENAN	1254	192	12	RAPHAEL PUUI	JAMES ISLAND	914	37	12	BYRYEN GINN	SOUTH POINTE	7.5	HUNTER O'NEAL	W J KEENAN	1254	192	12	BYRYEN GINN	SOUTH POINTE	7.5	7.5	7.5												
TRE SEGARRA	JAMES F. BYRNES	1252	141	17	TERENCE JOHNSON	OCEANSIDE	908	44	16	MALIK DARBAY	NORTHWESTERN	7.5	TRE SEGARRA	JAMES F. BYRNES	1252	141	17	MALIK DARBAY	NORTHWESTERN	7.5	7.5	7.5												
TRISTAN DANIELS	SALUDA	1249	153	14	AMARE PATTERSON	BLUFFTON	877	48	10	MOALQUAN PIMENTAL	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	7	TRISTAN DANIELS	SALUDA	1249	153	14	MOALQUAN PIMENTAL	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	7	7	7												
SEAN MITCHELL	MAY RIVER	1233	218	15	JEREMIAH HUNTER	SENECA	865	55	13	ASHLEY RIDGE	ASHLEY RIDGE	7	SEAN MITCHELL	MAY RIVER	1233	218	15	ASHLEY RIDGE	ASHLEY RIDGE	7	7	7												
JAHCORY SUMPTER	EAU CLAIRE	1206	173	13	DESMOND WILLIAMS II	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	843	48	4	JOHN PAUL II	JOHN PAUL II	6	JAHCORY SUMPTER	EAU CLAIRE	1206	173	13	JOHN PAUL II	JOHN PAUL II	6	6	6												
COLT LAYTON	CALHOUN ACADEMY	1205	115	21	CARNELL WARREN	BLUFFTON	839	57	11	TERRY GORDON	SOUTH FLORENCE	6	COLT LAYTON	CALHOUN ACADEMY	1205	115	21	TERRY GORDON	SOUTH FLORENCE	6	6	6												
MAH'KY GREEN	CROSS	1191	116	13	MATTHEW HILLSTOCK	EASLEY	826	79	8	JOHN TRUESDELL	FOX CREEK	6	MAH'KY GREEN	CROSS	1191	116	13	JOHN TRUESDELL	FOX CREEK	6	6	6												
OWEN GEORGE	ACADEMIC MAGNET	1191	144	18	TYLIN DRAKEFORD	CAMDEN	823	50	9	NIGEL ROCK	SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	6	OWEN GEORGE	ACADEMIC MAGNET	1191	144	18	NIGEL ROCK	SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	6	6	6												
BRYSON CRAWFORD	FOX CREEK	1180	146	19	TAJEBH TOLSON-MARTIN	BELTON-HONEA PATH	802	37	9	NOAH MORRISON	YORK	6	BRYSON CRAWFORD	FOX CREEK	1180	146	19	NOAH MORRISON	YORK	6	6	6												
AIDEN GIBSON	WOODRUFF	1180	146	15	JAIDEN KELLY-MURRAY	SUMMERVILLE	796	50	11	EVERETT ULMER	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY	6	AIDEN GIBSON	WOODRUFF	1180	146	15	EVERETT ULMER	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY	6	6	6												
WILL MCNEELEY	N MYRTLE BEACH	1169	195	13	RALO WESLEY	BETHSDA ACADEMY	783	27	17											WILL MCNEELEY	N MYRTLE BEACH	1169	195	13										
JAYVEN WILLIAMS	SUMMERVILLE	1151	159	15	AYDAN HOGAN	NORTHWOOD	783	58	7											JAYVEN WILLIAMS	SUMMERVILLE	1151	159	15										
CHRISTOPHER DEAN	EMERALD	1143	139	8	KAMERON VANCE	NORTHWESTERN	781	66	10											CHRISTOPHER DEAN	EMERALD	1143	139	8										
JOHN WHETSELL	DORCHESTER ACAD	1142	134	15	R BRACEY	DILLON CHRISTIAN	780	41	8											JOHN WHETSELL	DORCHESTER ACAD	1142	134	15										
JAMOL HORTON	INDIAN LAND	1116	168	12	JAYUAN PERKINS	SOUTH FLORENCE	779	41	10											JAMOL HORTON	INDIAN LAND	1116	168	12										
SPENCER BOBIAN	WARE SHOALS	1114	170	16	KADARIUS HAINSWORTH	MOUNTAIN VIEW	776	48	10											SPENCER BOBIAN	WARE SHOALS	1114	170	16										
PRESTON SMITH	MIDLAND VALLEY	1105	131	10	LAJORIS LEE	PINWOOD PREP	772	39	7											PRESTON SMITH	MIDLAND VALLEY	1105	131	10										
CALVIN MCCOY	GREER	1100	162	12	DILLON HUGHEY	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	759	44	3											CALVIN MCCOY	GREER	1100	162	12										
D J LEE	SOUTHSIDE CHRIST	1100	202	9	ANTHONY WILLIAMS	OCEANSIDE	750	44	7											D J LEE	SOUTHSIDE CHRIST	1100	202	9										
DOR REICHLY	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	1093	119	11	DARIUS CARTER	RIVER BLUFF	715	53	8											DOR REICHLY	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	1093	119	11										
TRENTON LYNCH	SPARTANBURG	1089	126	25	ERIC RICHARDSON	LUGOFF-ELGIN	712	39	8											TRENTON LYNCH	SPARTANBURG	1089	126	25										
JACK LAMONICA	LUCY BECKHAM	1085	148	11	SEQUEL PATTERSON	INDIAN LAND	700	55	7											JACK LAMONICA	LUCY BECKHAM	1085	148	11										
CALER FEASTER	CHESTER	1078	107	14	CHARLIE SCOTT	A C FLORA	695	30	7											CALER FEASTER	CHESTER	1078	107	14										
MICHAEL MARTIN II	CHRIST CHURCH	1064	21	9	KELVIN WROHA	SOUTHSIDE CHRIST	688	34	4											MICHAEL MARTIN II	CHRIST CHURCH	1064	21	9										
LORENZO KITCHING JR	N. CHARLESTON	1062	111	9	KYSON MCLEOD	SOUTH AIKEN	657	40	6											LORENZO KITCHING JR	N. CHARLESTON	1062	111	9										
KEYLAN POWELL	WESTSIDE	1061	159	16	AKEEM SHAW	UNION COUNTY	657	42	4											KEYLAN POWELL	WESTSIDE	1061	159	16										
KAVEN FORD	NORTHWOOD ACAD	1056	139	20	BRAYDEN SIMPSON	GETTYS BROOME	656	33	6											KAVEN FORD	NORTHWOOD ACAD	1056	139	20										
TRE JACKSON	PELION	1045	197	8	KYSON MCLEOD	SOUTH AIKEN	655	41	6											TRE JACKSON	PELION	1045	197	8										
TREVON WILLIAMSON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	1031	158	16	THOMAS CORBETT	COLLETON PREP	651	31	7											TREVON WILLIAMSON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	1031	158	16										
BRANDON MACK	DREHER	1024	194	10	JEREMIAH WALTERS	HILTON HEAD	651	27	7											BRANDON MACK	DREHER	1024	194	10										
JACKSON SHEALEY	COLDER GAUD	1023	141	9	CHANNIN HARRIS	JAMES F. BYRNES	647	43	7											JACKSON SHEALEY	COLDER GAUD	1023	141	9										
CALE OWENS	COLLETON PREP	1020	132	15	JAMESON TERRELL	FORT MILL	643	41	6											CALE OWENS	COLLETON PREP	1020	132	15										
MAK ANDERSON	MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	1008	96	19	MARTRELL WRIGHT	BAPTIST HILL	637	32	6											MAK ANDERSON	MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	1008	96	19										
JAMUAJE KARIM	LIBERTY	1001	140	14	HAYDEN MORRIS	INDIAN LAND	628	41	9											JAMUAJE KARIM	LIBERTY	1001	140	14										
JORDAN CHEEVER	BETHSDA ACADEMY	981	108	12	ROMAN BENJAMIN	BLUFFTON	618	49	4											JORDAN CHEEVER	BETHSDA ACADEMY	981	108	12										
MACK RAMBO	ST. JOSEPH	978	141	16	MYLES BROOKS	ROCK HILL	615	28	6											MACK RAMBO	ST. JOSEPH	978	141	16										
ALTAVIS EVANS	WARE SHOALS	967	100	12	CHANCE JOHNSON	BLYTHEWOOD	612	50	3											ALTAVIS EVANS	WARE SHOALS	967	100	12										
TYQWON BOOKER	GETTYS BROOME	962	165	13	STONE FURREY	DUTCH FORK	609	30	4											TYQWON BOOKER	GETTYS BROOME	962	165	13										
TRISTAN HECKMAN	PEE DEE ACADEMY	943	95	9	MYQUAN MCWHITE	WILSON	608	40	6											TRISTAN HECKMAN	PEE DEE ACADEMY	943	95	9										
JAYLEN AUGUSTUS	DARLINGTON	940	147	11	SHAHEED WILLIAMS	STROM THURMOND	608	35	8											JAYLEN AUGUSTUS	DARLINGTON	940	147	11										
CAMERON JAMES	SOUTH FLORENCE	938	114	12	ELIAS MCGEE	SENECA	601	23	8											CAMERON JAMES	SOUTH FLORENCE	938	114	12										
LUCAS TANKERSLEY	EASTSIDE	912	114	12	BEN RUWE	FOUNTAIN INN	586	44	6											LUCAS TANKERSLEY	EASTSIDE	912	114	12										
JADON INABINET	JOHN PAUL II	882	99	11	JACOB LEWIS	WESTSIDE	576	30	9											JADON INABINET	JOHN PAUL II	882	99	11										
LANDYN STRONG	BLYTHEWOOD	882	114	7	CADEN RAMSEY	CROSS	564	39	8											LANDYN STRONG	BLYTHEWOOD	882	114	7										
CAEL PARLER	CALHOUN ACADEMY	869	101	14	COLE CARNES	BUFORD	564	33	4											CAEL PARLER	CALHOUN ACADEMY	869	101	14										
XAVIER MEANS	NORTHWESTERN	867	140	16											XAVIER MEANS	NORTHWESTERN	867	140	16															
ZAKHI MUNCEY	OCEANSIDE	867	140	16											ZAKHI MUNCEY	OCEANSIDE	867	140	16															
NAVIER BOYKIN	CAMDEN	867	144	11											NAVIER BOYKIN	CAMDEN	867	144	11															
JAKOREY DODD	BLUE RIDGE	861	125	13											JAKOREY DODD	BLUE RIDGE	861	125	13															
BRODEN MITCHESON	FORT MILL	860	178	9											BRODEN MITCHESON	FORT MILL	860	178	9															
THADDEUS CZAMECKI	HILTON HEAD	859	105	13											THADDEUS CZAMECKI	HILTON HEAD	859	105	13															
PASSING										TACKLES										KICK SACKS														
YARDS	COMP	ATT	TD	TOTAL	SOLO	ASST	NAME	SCHOOL	POINTS	PATS	FG	YARDS	COMP	ATT	TD	TOTAL	SOLO	ASST	NAME	SCHOOL	POINTS	PATS	FG											
AEDAN MCCARTHY	BLUFFTON	3204	213	298	29	29	MICHAEL BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	202	32	170	AEDAN MCCARTHY	BLUFFTON	3204	213	298	29	29	29	ALEX BENDT	NORTHWESTERN	84	54	10										
AIDEN MANAVIAN	OCEANSIDE	2829	166	242	28	28	WALKER WILLCOX	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	166	166	0	AIDEN MANAVIAN	OCEANSIDE	2829	166	242	28	28	28	C J FALOTICO	PHILIP SIMMONS	65	41	8										
KASON CANUPP	NATION FORD	2826	176	277	26	26	CHRISTIAN FOSTER	EMERALD	148	83	65	KASON CANUPP	NATION FORD	2826	176	277	26	26	26	NOAH HARDY	CHAZ BRELAND	63	27	12										
JACE GRASS	DANIEL	2641	170	275	29	29	ELIJAH BROWN	WARE SHOALS	141	106	35	JACE GRASS	DANIEL	2641	170	275	29	29	29	CHAZ BRELAND	BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	60	57	7										
SILAS BRAUNER	PINWOOD PREP	2593	138	218	33	33	MAC STRICKLAND	ORANGEBURG PREP	137	55	82	SILAS BRAUNER	PINWOOD PREP	2593	138	218	33	33	33	BENJI WARD	BELTON-HONEA PATH	57	51	2										
ROPER WENTZKY	A C FLORA	2485	174	269	27	27	JAMARI HAYNES	BAPTIST HILL	129	58	71	ROPER WENTZKY	A C FLORA	2485	174	269	27	27	27	EUSTON DEMARSKI	HILLCREST	57	42	5										
CONNOR DANTZIER	JAMES ISLAND	2402	146	240	29	29	J P SWEATT	GRAY COLLEGIATE	127	20	107	CONNOR DANTZIER	JAMES ISLAND	2402	146	240	29	29	29	JOHAN IGO	DANIEL	54	36	6										
GAVIN THOMA	SENECA	2196	129	177	34	34	DARIUS DIXON	W J KEENAN	124	53	71</																							

Class AAAAA Feature

AAAAA playoffs heating up in Round 2

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Moncks Corner – After the first-round of the AAAAA state playoffs went about as expected, round two may offer a few more eyebrow raising results.

However, expect most of the favored teams to move on to round three.

Upsets can and will happen but after 11 weeks of games, we all have a pretty good idea of who the best teams are this season. The only true upset of the first round was **Blythewood**’s comeback win over **Clover**.

In Division, defending state champion **Dutch Fork** had a bye in round one and should be poised for a repeat run. If we have learned anything over the last decade, it’s **Tom Knotts** doesn’t lose much after November 1.

Dutch Fork will be favored in every playoff game but the most intriguing matchup would be if **Dorman** can reach the Upper State finals against the Silver Foxes. Remember though, **Ridge View** is a sleeper and already played Dutch Fork close earlier this season.

On paper, the Lower State of Division I may be more wide open. The favorite has been **Summerville** but the Green Wave are far from a shoo-in. Summerville gets a shot at revenge when they visit **Ashley Ridge** in round two. Ashley Ridge dominated the Green Wave during the regular season meeting, 42-19. Plus, this is already a very big rivalry game.

The 9-1 **Sumter** Gamecocks host the 10-1 **James Island** Trojans in round two. Sumter eliminated James Island from last year’s playoffs so the revenge factor is alive and well.

Carolina Forest and **Stratford** are coming off byes and both are heavily favored in round two.

A dark horse in the Lower State of Division I may be **Stratford**, with a 9-1 record. The Knights have a winning quarterback in Shrine Bowl selection **Jachin Davis** and also have a big-time running back in **Maliq McGowan**.

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Division II

The Division II ranks are the deeper of the two divisions with more serious title contenders. Most of the top teams reside in the Upper state but the conversation starts with last year’s two finalists, **Northwestern** and **Irmo**. Both teams are as good as they were a year when Northwestern beat Irmo with a last second field goal.

Both teams entered the season having to replace big-time quarterbacks and Northwestern’s **Xavier Means** and Irmo’s **Devron Dobson** have not missed a beat.

Both offenses are explosive and high-scoring so some team will need a great night offensively to keep up.

Greenwood and **Gaffney**, two storied programs, will clash in the second-round with a good team packing up after Friday night. Greenwood has been good all year but can Shrine Bowl quarterback **Tristian Lewis**, a South Carolina commit as a defensive back, do enough to advance.

Speaking of **Gaffney**, the Indians went through some adversity early but seem to be hitting their stride after a quarterback change. The Indians clearly have the talent to win the Upper State.

Two teams to keep an eye on are **T.L. Hanna** and **Hillcrest** but both would be dark horses. The Hillcrest at **Indian Land** game is one to watch in round two.

The Lower State probably doesn’t have a team capable of beating Irmo. If there is team to watch it would be **Berkeley**. The Stags are very good defensively and run the football well. If the Stags can cut down on penalties, they could be around for a while.

Lucy Beckham, **Lugoff-Elgin** and **Myrtle Beach** have solid teams but taking down Irmo is a tremendous challenge.

Second-round Division I-AAAAA matchups

- Boiling Springs at Dutch Fork
- Rock Hill at Byrnes
- Spartanburg at Ridge View
- Blythewood at Dorman
- Fort Dorchester at Carolina Forest
- Summerville at Ashley Ridge
- James Island at Sumter
- River Bluff at Stratford

Second-round AAAAA Division II

- Catawba Ridge at Northwestern
- Gaffney at Greenwood
- Hillcrest at Indian Land
- Greenville at T. L. Hanna
- Lugoff-Elgin at Irmo
- Lucy Beckham at White Knoll
- West Florence at Myrtle Beach
- Westwood at Berkeley

AAAAA Div. 1 Top 10 Poll

- 1. Dutch Fork 8-1 (349-125)
- 2. James Island 10-1 (431-86)
- 3. Sumter 9-1 (419-207)
- 4. Dorman 8-2 (354-125)
- 5. Summerville 9-2 (431-192)
- 6. Stratford 9-1 (413-166)
- 7. Carolina Forest 9-1 (439-163)
- 8. Byrnes 7-3 (337-172)
- 9. Ashley Ridge 6-4 (328-206)
- 10. Ridge View 7-3 (358-134)

AAAAA Div. 2 Top 10 Poll

- 1. Northwestern 9-1 (487-259)
- 2. Irmo 9-1 (396-157)
- 3. Greenwood 9-1 (400-173)
- 4. TL Hanna 9-1 336-196)
- 5. Indian Land 9-1 (326-135)
- 6. Gaffney 8-3 (309-173)
- 7. Berkeley 8-2 (349-136)
- 8. White Knoll 7-3 (299-120)
- 9. Hillcrest 8-3 (418-189)
- 10. Myrtle Beach 7-3 (318-333)

Current Region Standings

REGION 1-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
T L HANNA	7-0	9-1	336	196
GREENWOOD	6-1	9-1	400	173
HILLCREST	5-2	8-3	418	189
GREENVILLE	4-3	7-4	264	244
MAULDIN	3-4	5-6	280	241
EASLEY	1-6	3-7	229	371
WOODMONT	1-6	2-8	163	373
J L MANN	1-6	1-10	116	452

REGION 2-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DORMAN	6-1	8-2	354	125
GAFFNEY	6-1	8-3	309	173
JAMES F. BYRNES	5-2	7-3	337	172
SPARTANBURG	5-2	7-4	329	263
RIVERSIDE	3-4	4-7	276	340
BOILING SPRINGS	2-5	5-6	244	228
EASTSIDE	1-6	4-7	348	316
WADE HAMPTON	0-7	0-10	78	397

REGION 3-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
NORTHWESTERN	6-0	9-1	487	259
INDIAN LAND	5-1	9-1	326	135
ROCK HILL	4-2	7-4	277	262
CLOVER	2-4	5-6	282	304
CATAWBA RIDGE	2-4	6-5	218	233
FORT MILL	1-5	5-6	311	222
NATION FORD	1-5	4-7	320	328

REGION 4-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DUTCH FORK	5-0	8-1	349	125
IRMO	4-1	9-1	396	167
WHITE KNOLL	3-2	7-3	299	120
RIVER BLUFF	2-3	6-5	213	242
LEXINGTON	1-4	3-8	181	285
CHAPIN	0-5	0-10	72	382

REGION 5-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
SUMTER	6-0	9-1	419	207
RIDGE VIEW	5-1	7-3	358	134
WEST FLORENCE	4-2	6-5	272	228
WESTWOOD	3-3	7-4	343	225
LUGOFF-ELGIN	2-4	6-5	303	287
BLYTHEWOOD	1-5	4-7	309	296
SPRING VALLEY	0-6	2-9	63	367

REGION 6-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CAROLINA FOREST	5-0	9-1	439	163
MYRTLE BEACH	4-1	7-3	318	333
ST. JAMES	2-3	4-7	219	379
SOCASTEE	2-3	3-8	145	353
N MYRTLE BEACH	1-4	3-8	204	293
CONWAY	1-4	2-9	164	338

REGION 7-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
STRATFORD	5-0	9-1	413	166
BERKELEY	4-1	8-2	349	136
LUCY BECKHAM	3-2	7-3	279	199
CANE BAY	2-3	3-8	223	258
WANDO	1-4	4-7	134	252
GOOSE CREEK	0-5	0-10	71	362

REGION 8-AAAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
JAMES ISLAND	4-1	10-1	431	86
SUMMERVILLE	4-1	9-2	431	192
ASHLEY RIDGE	4-1	6-4	328	206
FORT DORCHESTER	2-3	5-6	202	373
WEST ASHLEY	1-4	2-8	173	374
R B STALL	0-5	1-9	154	490

Midlands Feature, continued from pg. 36

the upper state bracket of the 5A Division 1 playoffs and had a first-round bye. The Blazers play host to No.6 **Spartanburg** (7-14) Friday. The Vikings dispatched No.11 **J.L. Mann** (1-10) 45-3 last week.

Blythewood earned a 10th seed and upset No.7 **Clover** (5-6) 42-23 last week. On Friday the Bengals travel to No.2 **Dorman** (8-2), which had a first-round bye.

Other games of note

White Knoll (7-3, 3-2 Region 4-5A) beat Chapin 42-7 Oct. 31. The Timberwolves earned a four seed in the lower state bracket of the 5A D2 playoffs and play No.5 **Lucy Beckham** (7-3). The Bengals beat No.12 **North Myrtle Beach** (3-8) 38-21 last week.

Region 4-3A champion **Newberry** (11-0, 4-0)

Lee Academy, continued from pg. 56

Bowers led the team in rushing with 574 yards in just eight games. Cain finished with 33 catches for

Williamsburg, continued from pg. 58

Senior linebacker **Jay Kellahan** had 68 tackles and 5 ½ TFLs. Junior defensive back **Hall Dukes** had a team high five interceptions to go with 39 tackles.

The only loss of the season came at the hands of undefeated and AA No. 1 **Bethesda Academy** by a

Emerald, continued from pg. 38

Wright and DB **Zarrio Chambers** had 8 and 7 tackles each. Junior DB **Desean Brewer** chipped in five tackles and senior LB **Jeremiah Ramos-Chapman** had seven tackles, recovered a fumble in the third quarter that stopped a scoring drive for Fountain Inn, and he had a key QB hurry.

The top tacklers on the season include Foster

Pinewood, continued from pg. 57

TDs. **Jeremy Kendall** has 45 carries for 208 yards and four TDs.

Swimming

Pinewood Prep swimmers had a strong showing during the **2025 SCISA A/AA Swimming Championships**.

Several Panthers placed during the state meet at the **North Charleston Aquatics Center** Oct. 11. Pinewood Prep seniors **Beckham Touchberry** and **Cameron Thrower** both won three gold medals. Touchberry placed first in the **100-yard Butterfly** with a 50.82 time and won the **100 Backstroke** with a 52.27 time. Thrower won the **50 Free** with a 22.70 time and placed first in the **100 Free** with a 50.09 time. The swimmers also teamed up with **Carson Good** and **Jake Nevin** to help the Panthers’ **400 Free Relay** team place first.

Good placed fourth in the **100 Fly** and fifth in the **100 Breast**. **Mason Beatty** placed fifth in the **200 IM** and seventh in the **100 Back**. Nevin placed sixth in the **100 Breast** and ninth in the **100 Free**. **Jace Brock** placed eighth in the **500 Free**.

Beatty, Brock, **Hayden Presley** and **Theo**

Spartanburg Day, continued from pg. 60

During the season some of the team’s impressive wins came over **Dorman** (4-2), the **Asheville School** (6-3), **Cardinal Newman** (6-3), and **Spartanburg Christian** (8-1).

The boys and girls swim teams saw their consecutive state titles streak ended with both teams finishing runner-up to **Hilton Head Prep** at the state swim meet at the North Charleston Aquatics Swim Center on October 11.

“Our swimmers really did have an outstanding state meet,” said head coach **Brigid. Duesterhaus**. “They swam personal bests, which is all a coach can ask for. We are still waiting for the All-State teams to be announced, but **Charley Wilson** was our top scorer on the boy’s team. He was our only State Champion of the meet - winning the Boys 100-Fly. Charley has swum competitively all through Middle and High School (if not longer). This gives him a competitive edge against our opponents because of his experience and knowledge of swimming.

shut out **Swansea** 43-0 Oct. 31 and are the top seed in the lower state bracket of the 3A playoffs. The Bulldogs beat No.5 **Aynor 54-16** last week and play host to No.3 **Hanahan** (6-5). The Hawks knocked out No.4 **Waccamaw** (6-5) 38-21 last week.

Swansea (8-3, 2-2) earned an eighth seed 3A lower state playoffs and fell 49-13 to No.9 **Marlboro County**.

Hammond (9-1, 5-1, SCISA Region 1-4A) beat Laurence Manning Academy 57-0 Oct. 30 and received a first round bye in the 4A playoffs. The Sky-hawks play Heathwood Hall (8-3) Friday. The Highlanders ousted **Ben Lippen** 48-14 last week.

Batesburg-Leesville (8-3, 4-1 Region 2-2A) beat **Saluda** 35-34 in overtime Oct. 31. The Panthers received a No.2 seed in the upper state bracket of the

533 yards and four TDs. Greene had just 12 catches but they accounted for 309 yardds ad five TDs.

count of 28-26.The game was added to the schedule just two weeks before it was played. Though it ended up as a loss, Furse believes it has helped the Stallions.

I definitely don’t think it hurt us,” he said. “The goal was to play our game and work on what we do.

who has 162 tackles with six TFL. Senior DE **Jalon Dunlap** (106, 11.5 TFL, 5.5 sacks), **Cloud** (84, 9 TFL, 4 sacks), junior DL **Marquise Anderson** (72, 21 TFL, 5 sacks) and soph DB **Jeremiah Johnson** (68, 5.5 TFL) have played well also. Brewer has 61 tackles to date also.

Hite, a solid three-sport athlete, has completed

Sanderson teamed up for a seventh place finish in the **200 Free Relay**.

In the girls’ meet, **Emma Jo Goodhall, Mariam Abed** and **Arianna Perry** helped two **Lady Panthers** relay teams to a medal, pairing up with **Marlie Crosby** on the second place **200 Medley Relay** team and with **Emily Petras** on the third place **400 Free Relay** team.

Perry placed fourth in the **500 Free** and fifth in the **100 Back**. Abed placed sixth in the **100 Fly** and seventh in the **100 Back**. Crosby placed fifth in the **50 Free**. **Beau Henderson** placed 10th in the **500 Free**.

Milly Kmetz, Idryss Finch, Beau Henderson and **Petras** combined on the **200 Free Relay** team that placed ninth.

Volleyball

Pinewood Prep junior **Maddie Eidson** has been named to the **SCISA Girls Volleyball All-State Team**. She also received **all-region** honors and was selected for the **SCISA All-Star Game**. Eidson led the Panthers to a 15-10 record this season.

Cross Country

“We could not have achieved runner up without all the swimmers we took to state for the boy’s team,” said Coach Duesterhaus. “They each gave max effort and contributed points for the team.”

The girl’s swim team was competing for their sixth straight state title. “Although the streak was broken, the girl’s team still had great results at the State Meet,” said Coach Duesterhaus. “There were personal bests, some lifetime bests, and some hard- fought races.

“We had multiple girls who scored the team points, led by seniors **Mary Franklin Gilman** and **Essence Olley**, along with 7th grader **Madeleine Belmont**, just to name a few,” said Coach Duesterhaus. “It truly takes the whole team to compete at a high level. Each swimmer showed up for their races and contributed points.”

Although the swim teams have a large graduating class this year, Coach Duesterhaus is confident success with both teams will continue. “We have a large graduat-

2A playoffs beat No. 4 **Eau Claire** (5-5) 42-0. Batesburg-Leesville plays at No.1 **Chester** (7-4), 50-6 winners over **Blacksburg** (1-10), in the second round Friday.

Fairfield Central (8-3, 3-1) won the Region 3-2A championship and beat **Columbia** 44-0 Oct. 31. The Griffins, who fell to eventual 2A state champion Clinton in the upper state game last year, have a No.2 seed in the upper state bracket of the 2A playoffs and beat No.2 **Chesnee** (5-5) 50-21. Fairfield Central travels to No.1 seed **Andrew Jackson** (7-4) Friday. The Volunteers beat **Ninety Six** (3-8) 34-15 last week.

Tucker Boyce led the defense with 79 tackles and six TFLs.

We only had eight gmes scheduled so we wanted to play one more. We got to play somebody who wanted to play us. Any time you practice and get to play a game hopefully you’re getting better. I think we improved with the practice, the game and the good film to look at on the game.”

128-of-228 passes for 1,817 yards and 17 TD’s. He has added 380 rushing yards and four TD’s via the run. Dean has now gained 1,395 yards rushing on the season for 12 TD’s on 164 carries. The top receivers are Moreno (34-516-6 TD’s), Logan (26-340-3 TD’s) and **Camelle Hill** (26-367-5 TD’s)

The **Pinewood Prep Girls** placed fifth during the **2025 SCISA 4A Cross Country Championships** Nov. 1 at **Heathwood Hall**.

Senior **Kiyah Morris** led Pinewood, finishing in 20:55 to place 24th. **Elizabeth Rankin, Ava House, Lilli Robinson, Abigail Chambrovich, Kiley McGill** and **Evie Windham** all placed in the Top 50.

The **Pinewood Boys** placed 11th in their state meet. Senior **Will Fields** led the Panthers, finishing in in 17:39 to place 37th. Trailing for the Panthers were **Reid Brasher, Dylan Young, Jaydan Larose, Michael Fortkort** and **Lucas Benzenberg**, who all placed in the Top 100.

In October, the Pinewood Girls won their region meet with eight runners finishing in the Top 14. Chambrovich led the way placing third and Rankin placed sixth. They both received **All-Region** honors.

Fields placed sixth in the region boys’ race to also earn **All-Region** honors.

ing class this year, but our team is still very young,” she said. “We are excited to see the growth and power the younger swimmers will show in the coming years. The future of both teams is very bright.”

Additional girl’s swim team members who represented the Griffins at the state meet included junior **McKee Kent, Eloise Frias, Ani Johnson, Madeline Saleski, Meredith Garrett, Julitte Schmitz, Chole Hujik, Tess Conrad, and Charlotte Roark**.

Wilson led the boys’ team with 24 points. **John Montgomery** and **Parker Wilson** each contributed 20 points at the state meet. Other boy swimmers at the state meet included **Murphy Garrett** (12 points) along with **Jack Conrad** (3 points), **Noah Brusch**, and **John Parrish**.

2025 Football Schedules & Results

	AT WILSON HALL	18-35	10/17	AT HILTON HEAD PREP	14-17	6-24		9/5	BEAUFORT ACADEMY	6-42	9/26	AT WARDLAW ACADEMY
10/24	LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY		10/24	AT LEE ACADEMY	21-50	11/7	AT BETHESDA ACADEMY	9/12	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		36-0	
20-37			10/31	BETHESDA ACADEMY	13-51	6-46		14-28			10/3	AT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
10/31	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN	20-49						9/19	AT BETHESDA ACADEMY		2-0 FORFEIT	
11/7	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN		SCISA REGION 2-AA			SCISA REGION 1-A		10-56			10/10	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY
20-42								0-56	THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		54-16	
								14-47			10/24	NEWBERRY ACADEMY 48-6
	WILSON HALL ACADEMY		DATE	CALHOUN ACADEMY (9-2)		DATE	CAROLINA ACADEMY (5-6)	10/10	AT COLLETON PREP	12-52	10/31	AT LAURENS ACADEMY 44-22
(10-1)	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	AT NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN		8/15	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	10/17	CALHOUN ACADEMY	14-42	11/14	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
8/22	AT ORANGEBURG PREP		35-6			20-7		10/24	ORANGEBURG PREP	12-48		
42-14			8/29	AT GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		8/22	BEAUFORT ACADEMY 28-41	10/31	AT ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		SCISA 8-MAN REGION TWO	
42-14	AT NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN		41-20			9/5	DILLON CHRISTIAN 48-19	26-6				
49-12			9/5	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		9/12	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	11/7	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY			CATHEDRAL ACADEMY (4-6)
9/5	BEN LIPPEN	35-14	9/12	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		9/19	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY 36-44	12-40				OPPONENT SCORE
9/12	LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY		28-34			9/26	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY		16-24	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY
13-14			9/19	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		6-34		(3-5)			8/29	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
9/19	AT CAMDEN MILITARY	42-14	41-20			10/3	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		42-20	
9/26	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN PPD		9/26	AT ORANGEBURG PREP		0-33		8/22	AT BETHESDA ACADEMY		9/5	AT CROSS SCHOOLS 36-16
10/3	PINEWOOD PREP	28-21	51-12			10/10	AT CALHOUN ACADEMY	PPD	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		9/12	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN 46-6
10/10	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	35-18	10/10	CAROLINA ACADEMY 48-12		12-48		8/29			9/19	AT KINGS ACADEMY 52-26
10/17	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN	34-15	10/17	AT PATRICK HENRY	42-14	12/26	THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY	13-30			9/26	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY 18-40
10/24	AT THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		10/24	AT SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN		30-27		9/5	ORANGEBURG PREP	27-41	10/3	AT JEFFERSON DAVIS ACAD.
42-12			42-8			10/31	AT LEE ACADEMY 34-23	9/12	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		22-58	
10/31	AT FIRST BAPTIST	35-14	10/31	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		11/7	AT THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY	15-40			10/10	CROSS SCHOOLS 26-6
11/7	FIRST BAPTIST	56-24	49-12			20-47		9/26	AT THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		10/24	AT PALMETTO CHRISTIAN
11/14	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN		11/7	HILTON HEAD PREP	26-27			CANCEL			26-44	
								10/3	AT PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		10/31	KING'S ACADEMY 14-42
	CAMDEN MILITARY	(1-7)		CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		DATE	LEE ACADEMY (2-8)	10/3				
8/29	OPPONENT SCORE		(0-10)			8/15	OPPONENT SCORE	47-14	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY			
14-20	AT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		14-34	AT SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	49-15				CROSS SCHOOLS (0-10)
9-25	AT SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN		8/22	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN		8-29	DILLON CHRISTIAN 42-25	10/17	JOHN PAUL II	21-47	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE
10/10			12-27			9/12	BEAUFORT ACADEMY 0-41	10/24	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY		8/15	AT KINGS ACADEMY 0-33
9/12	PINEWOOD PREP	6-56	27-29	AT PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		9/19	AT THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	27-30			8/22	AT JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
14-42	WILSON HALL ACADEMY		40-12			0-12		10/31	BEAUFORT ACADEMY 32-27		6-52	
10/3	AT TRINITY COLLEGIATE		9/19	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		9/26	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY 36-62	11/7	CAROLINA ACADEMY 47-20		9/5	CATHEDRAL ACADEMY 16-36
0-48			9/12	ORANGEBURG PREP 0-41		29-62	DORCHESTER ACADEMY	11/14	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		9/19	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY 18-52
10/10	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN 6-36		9/19	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY		10/10	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	SCISA 8-MAN REGION ONE			14-56	
10/24	AT HEATHWOOD HALL 12-35		9/26	AT ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		0-29	ST. JOHNS ACADEMY 50-21		CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (0-4)		9/26	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
10/31	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN 56-37		10-3	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		10/31	CAROLINA ACADEMY 23-34	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/10	KINGS ACADEMY 28-40
			0-34			11/7	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	9/12	LAURENS ACADEMY 16-42		10/3	AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY
			8-55			28-44		9/19	AT PROVIDENCE		6-26	
			10/10	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY				9/19	NEWBERRY ACADEMY cancel		10/17	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
	BETHESDA ACADEMY (10-0)		0-60				DORCHESTER ACADEMY	9/26	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		6-48	
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/24	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	(9-1)	DATE	OPPONENTS SCORE	8-50	W.W. KING ACADEMY 0-2 FOR-		10/24	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY
8/22	THOMAS HEYWARD PPD		0-48			8/22	ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY	10/3			12-56	
8/29	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN		10-31	AT CALHOUN ACADEMY		55-14		10/10	AT LAURENS ACADEMY 21-52		10/31	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN 36-56
55-28			12-49			9/5	HILTON HEAD PREP 42-0					
9/5	AT JOHN PAUL II	50-14		GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		9/12	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		LAURENS ACADEMY (8-2)		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE
9/12	AT HILTON HEAD PREP 47-0					28-14		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	CATHEDRAL ACADEMY 24-16
9/19	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY		(9-2)			9/19	AT BEAUFORT ACADEMY	8/22	NEWBERRY ACADEMY 30-14		8/29	AT PALMETTO CHRISTIAN
56-0			DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		21-8		8/29	AT WARDLAW ACADEMY		56-22	
10/3	AT BEAUFORT ACADEMY		8/15	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN 34-0		9/26	CAROLINA ACADEMY 34-6	34-8			9/12	KINGS ACADEMY 44-42
50-0			8/22	AT CALHOUN FALLS 46-20		10/3	AT LEE ACADEMY 62-29	9/5	AT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY		9/12	AT CROSS SCHOOLS 52-18
10/10	AT DILLON CHRISTIAN 40-6		8/29	CALHOUN ACADEMY 20-41		10/10	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY	42-16			9/26	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
10/17	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		9/5	AT GAITHER 20-16		60-0		9/12	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		28-6	
28-26			9/12	WHITMIRE 35-16		10/24	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	36-22			9/26	AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY
10/24	PEE DEE ACADEMY 49-0		9/19	AT ORANGEBURG PREP		28-14		9/19	AT W W KING ACADEMY		40-18	
10/31	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		34-21			10/31	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	34-60			10/3	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN 56-24
11/7	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		9/26	WEST-OAK 0-27		21-36		9/26	AT NEWBERRY ACADEMY		10/10	AT KINGS ACADEMY 58-26
46-6			10/10	AT THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		11/7	BEAUFORT ACADEMY 46-20	42-14			10/24	CROSS SCHOOLS 56-12
11/14	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		10/24	AT CLARENDON HALL 48-0		11/14	AT COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	10/3	WARDLAW ACADEMY 36-14		10/31	AT JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
			10/31	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN				10/10	CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 52-21		46-32	
	DILLON CHRISTIAN (3-7)		23-6				WILLIAMSBURG ACAD (9-1)	10/24	AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		11/7	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		11/7	DILLON CHRISTIAN 31-7		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	78-64			38-20	
8/22	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN 12-35		11/14	AT BETHESDA ACADEMY		8/22	THOMAS SUMTER 34-7	10/31	W W KING ACADEMY 22-44		11/14	AT LAURENS ACADEMY
8/29	AT LEE ACADEMY 25-42					8/29	PEE DEE ACADEMY 39-22	11/14	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY			JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
9/5	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY					9/5	AT CLARENDON HALL 40-0				(8-4)	
18-48			DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		9/12	THOMAS HEYWARD 40-15	DATE	NEWBERRY ACADEMY (0-8)		8/15	OPPONENT SCORE
9/12	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN 41-7		8/22	WILSON HALL ACADEMY		10/3	AT CAROLINA ACAD 33-0	8/22	AT LAUENS ACADEMY 14-30		8/22	AT PROVIDENCE 8-38
13-35			8/29	AT ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY		10/10	LEE ACADEMY 29-0	8/29	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		8/22	CROSS SCHOOLS 52-6
9/26	HILTON HEAD PREP PPD		27-8			10/17	AT BETHESDA ACAD 26-28	30-58			8/29	AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY
10/3	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN		36-21			10/31	AT DORCHESTER 36-21	9/5	WARDLAW ACADEMY 12-22		20-42	
39-13			41-27			11/7	PATRICK HENRY ACAD 40-12	9/12	W W KING ACADEMY 30-50		9/5	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN 50-20
10/10	BETHESDA ACADEMY 6-40		9/12	AT CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		11/14	THOMAS HEYWARD	9/19	AT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY		9/12	KINGS ACADEMY 44-26
10/17	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY 28-57		41-0					cancel			9/19	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY
11/7	AT GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		21-34	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	SCISA REGION 2-A			9/26	LAURENS ACADEMY 14-42		6-18	
7-31			9/26					10/3	AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		9/26	AT CROSS SCHOOLS PPD
	HILTON HEAD PREP (2-8)		40-16	CALHOUN ACADEMY 12-51		DATE	ANDREW JACKSON (1-8)	26-46			10/3	CATHEDRAL ACADEMY 58-22
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		10/10	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE	10/10	AT WARDLAW ACADEMY		10-10	AT PALMETTO CHRISTIAN
8/15	BARFOOT ACADEMY 0-36		10/10	AT NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN		8/29	ORANGEBURG PREP 8-27	10/24	AT W W KING ACADEMY		10/17	AT CROSS SCHOOLS 48-6
8/22	AT ST. ANDREWS, GA 0-24		28-15			9/5	AT COLLETON PREP 8-42	6-48			10/24	CROSS SCHOOLS 74-72
9/5	AT DORCHESTER ACADEMY		10/24	AT PARICK HENRY ACADEMY		9/12	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN 20-30				10/31	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY 32-46
0-42			48-12			9/19	AT CALHOUN ACAD 20-41		RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		11/7	WARDLAW ACADEMY 44-42
9/12	BETHESDA ACADEMY 0-47		10/31	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		9/26	CLARENDON HALL 34-0	(4-7)			11/14	AT W W KING ACADEMY
9/19	AT AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN		24-6			10/10	AT THOMAS HEYWARD 15-49	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE			
24-4			11/7	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY 0-27		10/24	AT BEAUFORT ACAD 8-44	8/22	CARY CHRISTIAN 16-50		DATE	KINGS ACADEMY (5-4)
9/26	AT DILLON CHRISTIAN PPD		0-44	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN		10/31	PATRICK HENRY 6-26	58-29	AT NEWBERRY ACADEMY		8/15	OPPONENT SCORE
10/10	AT JOHN PAUL II		(3-7)				BEAUFORT ACADEMY (6-5)	9/5			8/29	CROSS SCHOOLS 33-0
10/21	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN 7-17		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	9/12	W W KING ACADEMY 28-46		9/12	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY
10/21	AT DILLON CHRISTIAN 10-20		8/15	LEE ACADEMY 34-14		8/15	AT HILTON HEAD PREP 36-0	9/19	AT LAURENS ACADEMY 22-36		42-44	
10/31	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN		8/22	AT CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY		8/22	AT CAROLINA ACAD 51-28	9/26	WARDLAW ACADEMY 35-34		9/12	AT JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
21-33			27-12			8/29	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN 49-20	50-8	AT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY		26-44	
11/7	AT CALHOUN ACADEMY		8/29	AT WHITMIRE 0-18		9/5	AT PATRICK HENRY 42-6	10/3	NEWBERRY ACADEMY 46-26		9/19	CATHEDRAL ACADEMY 26-16
27-26			9/5	CAMDEN MILITARY 20-14		9/12	AT LEE ACADEMY 41-0	10/10	AT W W KING ACADEMY		9/26	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN PPD
11/14	AT PEE DEE ACADEMY		10/10	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		9/19	DORCHESTER ACAD 9-21	16-54			10/3	AT CROSS SCHOOLS 40-28
			52-55			9/26	AT COLLETON PREP PPD	10/24	LAURENS ACADEMY 64-78		10/17	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY 26-58
	PEE DEE ACADEMY (7-3)		9/19	AT NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN		10/3	BETHESDA ACADEMY 0-50	10/31	AT WARDLAW ACADEMY		40-10	AT PALMETTO CHRISTIAN
DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		14-32			10/17	AT COLLETON PREP 14-28	28-50			10/24	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
8/22	AT TRINITY COLLEGIATE		10/3	AT ORANGEBURG PREP		10/24	ANDREW JACKSON 44-8	11/7	AT HOLLY HILL ACADEMY		72-74	
14-12			16-40			10/31	AT THOMAS HEYWARD 27-32	20-38			10/31	AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY
8/29	AT WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY		10/10	TOWNS COUNTY, GA 22-29		11/7	AT DORCHESTER 20-46				42-14	
22-39			10/24	CALHOUN ACADEMY 8-42					WARDLAW ACADEMY (3-6)			
9/5	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN PPD		10/31	AT GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN		(8-2)	COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN (3-7)
0-21			6-23			DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	8/22	AT W W KING ACADEMY		8/29	OPPONENT SCORE
9/19	CAROLINA ACADEMY 44-36			THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY		8/15	AT JOHN PAUL II 22-31	8/29	LAURENS ACADEMY 8-34		9/5	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY 22-56
9/26	LEE ACADEMY PPD		(4-8)			8/22	AT ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	9/5	NEWBERRY ACADEMY 22-12		20-50	AT JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY
10/3	HILTON HEAD PREP 44-0		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE		66-24		9/19	AT RICHARD WINN ACADEMY		9/12	AT CATHEDRAL ACADEMY
10/10	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN 59-33		8/15	AT CAROLINA ACADEMY		8/29	AT THOMAS HEYWARD 30-13	34-35			6-46	
10/17	LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY		7-20			9/5	ANDREW JACKSON 44-28	9/26	W W KING ACADEMY 0-36		9/19	AT CROSS SCHO

Class AAAA Feature

Look for defending champ South Florence to face South Pointe for AAAA crown

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Sumter – As is normally the case, the first round of the **South Carolina High School League** AAAA football state playoffs, the overwhelming majority of the 16 games were blowouts.

Half of them were decided by 20 points or more with six of the eight having victory margins of at least 30 points. Four more of them came by at least 14 points. Only four games were decided by less than 10 points.

Only three games were won by the lower seeded teams. One was the 8-9 game in the upper state bracket with No. 9 **Emerald** topping No. 8 **Fountain Inn** 44-36. The other two came in the lower state. No. 10 seed **Wilson** beat No. 7 **May River** 36-28. The other was a fairly significant upset. No. 12 seed **Gilbert** knocked off No. 5 seed **Bluffton** 38-21.

A huge upset came oh so close to occurring. Perennial power, once-beaten and No. 2 seed **Daniel** had to score a fourth-quarter touchdown to beat No. 15 seed Dreher 14-10. The Blue Devils ended the year with a 3-8 record.

With all of the preliminaries out of the way, it's now time to get down to business. Let's work our way down each of the brackets and see who will be in Orangeburg on December 6 at South Carolina State's Oliver C. Dawson Stadium for a noon kickoff with the state championship on the line.

We'll start with the upper state bracket:

Second Round
(9) Emerald at (1) South Pointe
(5) A.C. Flora at (4) Seneca
(6) Wren at (3) Westside
(7) Camden at (2) Daniel

Easily the most intriguing of these four games is 8-3 Camden visiting 10-1 Daniel. The teams have a long playoff history together, meeting for the AAA state title in 2020, 2021 and 2023. The Lions won all three times with the last one coming by a 45-44 count in overtime.

Camden, the seventh seed, beat No. 10 seed Greer 38-20 to win a first-round playoff game for the eighth straight season. Bulldogs head coach **Brian Rimpf** said his team is excited for the opportunity to face Daniel again.

“Playing Daniel this year has a little added motivation for us,” Rimpf said. “We have a recent history with them and are excited to be able to play a familiar team. Like all Daniel teams, they are well-coached, play with great effort and will be a tough opponent.”

Daniel is in its first season under head coach **Chris Stone**. The Lions are led by sophomore quarterback **Jace Grass**. He has completed 170 of 275 passes or 2,641 yards and 29 touchdowns against just one interception.

This should be a fun game but look for the Lions to be victorious.

South Pointe is 10-1 and the No. 1 seed. The Stallions are led by **South Carolina** commitment **Z'zavien Currence**. He is a standout strong safety and is also the starting quarterback. They should come away with a comfortable victory over 6-4 Emerald.

In the matchup between No. 4 Seneca and No. 5 A.C. Flora, you have two 10-1 teams. Flora's only loss was to Camden while the Bobcats only loss was at the



1. South Pointe 10-1 (402-89-)
2. South Florence 10-1 (497-)
3. Daniel 10-1 (442-163)
4. AC Flora 10-1 (449-131)
5. Gray Collegiate 9-2 (450-1)
6. North Augusta 10-1 (498-1)
7. Seneca 10-1 (451-167)
8. Hilton Head 10-1 (468-194)

hands of Daniel. The Falcons have an explosive offense led by quarterback **Roper Wentzky** and will return to **Columbia** with a win.

The other game pits 2023 state champion and defending upper state champion Westside playing host to Wren. The Rams lost their first four games of the season by a combined score of 199-67. Since then, they've reeled off seven straight wins, including a 49-21 win over Pickens last week.

Wren and Westside are Region 1 foes. The sixth-seeded Hurricanes lost to Westside 21-7 on October 30. Wren beat Blue Ridge 42-28.

Westside should win again.

The quarterfinal matchups will be:
(5) A.C. Flora at (1) South Pointe
(3) Westside at (2) Daniel

South Pointe beat A.C. Flora in the regular season, so there's no reason to think it won't win again. Look for Westside's upper state reign to come to an end against Daniel.

The upper state title game will be:
(2) Daniel at (1) South Pointe.

So it will be No. 2 Daniel traveling to **Rock Hill** to face the Stallions for the upper state title. South Pointe is on a mission and should advance to the state championship game,

Here are the lower state second-round games.

(8) Bishop England at (1) South Florence
(12) Gilbert at (5) North Augusta
(6) Hartsville at (3) Gray Collegiate
(10) Wilson at (2) Hilton Head Island

South Florence is the team to beat, regardless of the success of some of the other teams still remaining. When you're the defending state champion, the 3-time defending lower state champion and the winner of two of the last three state titles and are 10-1 after a 47-7 win over **Darlington**, that's how it has to be.

The Bruins shouldn't have much trouble against Bishop England. North Augusta has only one loss, that coming to Gray Collegiate, and beat 6-5 Gilbert 56-14 in a Region 4 contest, so it should win.

Hartsville is a perennial power and has the ability to put up points. However, it has struggled defensively this year, and that's not a good thing against GCA. After losing two of their first three games, the War Eagles have won eight straight. They should make it nine in a row.

Wilson has had a bounce-back season under first-year head coach **Brian Wilson**. They are 7-4 after traveling down **Interstate 95** to beat **May River** 36-28. They'll be making a return trip to the **Lowcountry** to meet 10-1 Hilton Head Island. The Seahawks will be too much.

So for the quarterfinals, you will have:
(5) North Augusta at (1) South Florence
(3) Gray Collegiate at (2) Hilton Head Island

AAAA Top 15 Polls

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. South Pointe 10-1 (402-89) | 9. Westside 7-4 (350-284) |
| 2. South Florence 10-1 (497-139) | 10. Wren 8-3 (393-228) |
| 3. Daniel 10-1 (442-163) | 11. Hartsville 7-4 ((435-351) |
| 4. AC Flora 10-1 (449-131) | 12. Bishop England 8-2 (360-142) |
| 5. Gray Collegiate 9-2 (450-134) | 13. Camden 8-3 (386-235) |
| 6. North Augusta 10-1 (498-153) | 14. Emerald (343-274) |
| 7. Seneca 10-1 (451-167) | 15. Gilbert 6-5 (245-265) |
| 8. Hilton Head 10-1 (468-194) | |

Current Region Standings

REGION 1-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
WESTSIDE	5-0	7-4	350	284
WREN	4-1	8-3	435	256
FOUNTAIN INN	3-2	6-5	417	258
EMERALD	2-3	6-5	343	274
LAURENS	1-4	1-9	146	368
SOUTHSIDE	0-5	0-10	46	475
REGION 2-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DANIEL	6-0	10-1	442	163
SENECA	5-1	10-1	451	167
GREER	4-2	4-7	309	324
BLUE RIDGE	3-3	6-5	372	407
PICKENS	2-4	3-8	365	461
BEREA	1-5	2-8	65	394
TRAVELERS REST	0-6	2-8	171	322
REGION 3-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
SOUTH POINTE	6-0	10-1	402	89
A C FLORA	5-1	10-1	449	131
CAMDEN	4-2	8-3	386	235
YORK	3-3	4-7	183	354
LANCASTER	2-4	2-9	132	372
DREHER	1-5	3-8	153	311
RICHLAND NE	0-6	0-10	156	431
REGION 4-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
GRAY COLLEGIATE	7-0	9-2	450	134
NORTH AUGUSTA	6-1	10-1	498	153
MIDLAND VALLEY	4-3	7-4	339	298
GILBERT	4-3	6-5	245	265
SOUTH AIKEN	3-4	5-6	207	357
BROOKLAND-CAYCE	3-4	3-8	162	395
AIKEN	1-6	2-8	173	294
AIRPORT	0-7	0-10	86	470
REGION 5-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
SOUTH FLORENCE	6-0	10-1	497	139
HARTSVILLE	5-1	7-4	435	351
LOWER RICHLAND	3-3	6-5	272	231
WILSON	3-3	7-4	252	245
CRESTWOO	3-3	6-5	301	273
DARLINGTON	1-5	3-8	210	347
LAKEWOOD	0-6	0-10	49	403
REGION 6-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
HILTON HEAD	5-0	10-1	468	194
BLUFFTON	4-1	8-3	384	223
MAY RIVER	3-2	7-4	298	204
BISHOP ENGLAND	2-3	8-3	360	142
BEAUFORT	1-4	3-8	175	307
COLLETON CO.	0-5	1-9	89	380

South Florence traveled to North Augusta last year to win the lower state championship. The Yellow Jackets will return the visit this year, but the Bruins will be victorious.

Although Hilton Head has had a tremendous season, Gray will be too much to handle.

So the lower state title game will be:
(3) Gray Collegiate at (1) South Florence

This should be an offensive explosion by both teams, but until someone takes the Bruins down, you've got to go with them.

The state championship game will be:
South Pointe vs. South Florence

This is the matchup that everyone has been looking toward this season. This will be an interesting game. Both teams are outstanding offensively but have their moments defensively as well.

The Bruins will be trying to win back-to-back state titles like in 2023, and again they will come up short. Pointe will be behind South on the state championship trophy this year.

2025 Football Schedules & Results

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SCISA Football Feature

SCISA playoff battles heating up

By: Gerald Doolittle
Goose Creek, S.C. – The South Carolina Independent Schools Association has its 2025 playoffs set to start on November 7 with many hot battles expected before the finals.

All five 2024 Champions return to defend their titles. **Hammond (2A), Pinewood Prep (3A), Pee Dee Academy (4A), Thomas Heyward (1A) and Richard Winn (8 Man).** All five 2024 runners-up are back to challenge again. **Porter-Gaud (4A), Wilson Hall (3A), Bethesda Academy (2A), Williamsburg Academy (1A) and Laurens Academy (8 Man).**

In 4A can Hammond (9-1) take another title despite losing in regular season to **Northwood Academy** (9-1)? Can **Heathwood Hall** sneak in to take the Crown? In regular season the **Highlanders** were defeated 9-7 by Hammond.

The other 4A teams in the hunt are **Laurence Manning (6-4)**, **Porter-Gaud (4-6)** and **Ben Lippen (3-7)**.
passed for 507 yards 4 touchdowns and rushed for 246 yards scoring 8 touchdowns.
The Barons have six rushers with over 200

The Northwood Academy **Chargers** has been led by quarterback **Kevin Johnson** (jr) who has passed for 1876 yards and 17 touchdowns. **Kaven Ford** (sr) has led the rushing attack with 1056 yards and 10 touchdowns.

In the passing game Johnson has had three targets in **Aydan Hogan (sr), Drew Wolfe (jr) and Ja-air Medlock (jr)**. Hogan has 783 receiving yards for 7 touchdowns. Wolfe has 471 yards for 4 touchdowns and Medlock has 365 yards for 4 touchdowns.

The Hammond Academy **Skyhawks** has used a dual quarterback attack led by **Ben Muela Kiser** (sr) who has passed for 559 yards and 4 touchdowns. **Cade Amell** (fr) has passed for 562 yards and 4 touchdowns.

Kiser also leads the rushing attack with 723 yards and 5 touchdowns. **Levi Myers** (jr) has 662 yards and 7 touchdowns. **Kanye Reed** (jr) has 298 yards and 8 touchdowns.

The **Heathwood Hall** offense has been powered by **Patrick Belk**. He has passed for 1723 yards 17 touchdowns. He also has rushed for 378 yards 5 touchdowns. **Julian Hughes** (sr) has rushed for 98 yards with 3 touchdowns.

The top two pass receivers for the Highlanders as been **Keon McKinnley** (jr) and **Jamonie Batts** (sr). McKinnley has 529 yards 3 touchdowns. Batts has 408 yards for 3 touchdowns. Jackson slot. He has passed for 698 yards 6 touchdowns and has rushed for 1205 yards 21 touchdowns.

See SCISA Football, pg. 39

See **SCISA Football**, pg. 39

SCISA AAAA Top 6 Polls	SCISA AAA Top 6 Polls
1. Northwood Academy 9-1 (396-123) 2. Hammond 9-1 (281-61) 3. Heathwood Hall 8-3 (275-122) 4. Porter-Gaud 5-6 (288-180) 5. Laurence Manning 6-5 (274-212) 6. Ben Lippen 3-8 (155-295)	1. Wilson Hall 10-1 (419-172) 2. Pinewood Prep 8-3 (494-228) 3. Florence Christian 8-2 (290-159) 4. Hilton Head Christian 6-5 (340-389) 5. Trinity Collegiate 5-5-6 (289-272) 6. John Paul II 5-6 (239-328)

SCISA AA Top 6	SCISA A Top 6	SCISA 8-Man
1. Bethesda Academy 2. Pee Dee Academy 3. Greenwood Christian 4. Hilton Head Prep 5. Calhoun Academy 6. Orangeburg Prep	1. Williamsburg Academy 2. Dorchester Academy 3. Colleton Prep 4. Thomas Heyward 5. Beaufort Academy 6. Carolina Academy	1. Holly Hill Academy 2. WW King 3. Laurens Academy 4. Jefferson Davis 5. Kings Academy 6. Cathedral

Current Region Standings

NORTHWOOD	6-0	9-1	396	123
HAMMOND	6-1	9-1	281	61
HEATHWOOD HALL	5-2	8-3	275	122
LAURENCE MANNING	3-3	6-5	274	212
PORTER-GAUD	2-4	5-6	288	180
BEN LIPPEN	2-5	3-8	155	295
CARDINAL NEWMAN	1-6	1-9	69	423
AUGUSTA CHRIST	0-4	1-9	45	192
SCISA REG 1-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
PINEWOOD PREP	3-0	8-3	494	228
HILTON HEAD CHRIST	2-1	6-5	340	389
JOHN PAUL II	1-2	5-6	239	328
FIRST BAPTIST	0-3	1-10	145	448
SCISA REG 2-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
WILSON HALL	4-0	10-1	419	172
FLORENCE CHRIST	3-1	8-2	290	159
TRINITY COLL	2-2	5-6	289	275
CAMDEN MILITARY	1-3	1-7	122	294
NORTHSIDE CHRIST	0-4	3-8	200	358
SCISA REG 1-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BETHESDA ACAD	4-0	10-0	470	93
PEE DEE ACADEMY	3-1	7-3	329	254
DILLON CHRISTIAN	2-2	3-7	210	318
HILTON HEAD PREP	1-3	3-8	106	312
ST. JOHNS CHRIST	0-4	0-9	156	429
SCISA REG 2-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CALHOUN ACAD	5-0	9-2	428	186
GREENWOOD CHRIST	4-1	9-2	319	168
ORANGEBURG PREP	3-2	7-4	296	238
THOMAS SUMTER	1-3	4-8	252	347
SPARTANBURG CHR	1-3	2-8	197	279
CLARENDON HALL	0-4	0-10	59	439
SCISA REG 1-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
WILLIAMSBURG	3-0	9-1	351	126
DORCHESTER	2-1	9-1	397	141
CAROLINA ACAD	1-2	5-6	275	341
LEE ACADEMY	0-3	2-8	222	364
SCISA REG 2-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
COLLETON PREP	4-0	8-2	362	172
THOMAS HEYWARD	3-1	4-5	278	250
BEAUFORT ACAD	2-2	6-5	332	239
PATRICK HENRY	1-3	2-9	146	416
ANDREW JACKSON	0-4	1-8	169	316
8-MAN REG ONE	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
W W KING	4-0	10-0	444	158
LAURENS ACAD	3-1	8-2	406	277
WARDLAW ACAD	2-2	3-6	212	281
RICHARD WINN	1-3	4-7	383	450
NEWBERRY ACAD	0-4	0-8	144	316
CHRISTIAN ACAD	XXX	0-5	65	188
8-MAN REG TWO	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
HOLLY HILL ACAD	4-0	11-0	498	236
JEFFERSON DAVIS	3-1	8-4	438	348
KING'S ACADEMY	2-2	6-4	293	252
CATHEDRAL ACAD	1-3	5-5	304	302
CROSS SCHOOLS	0-4	0-10	142	449
PALMETTO CHRIST	XXX	3-7	238	340
INDEPENDENTS		ALL	OFF	DEF
GREENVILLE HURRICANE		5-3	174	101
PROVIDENCE		4-4	200	158
CLEAR DOT CHARTER		5-5	186	181
ORANGEBURG CHRISTIAN		2-3	116	207
ANDERSON CAVALIERS		2-8	124	275
THORNWELL		0-2	6	91

DILLON HIGH SCHOOL

Dillon defeats Fox Creek to open up AAA playoffs

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Dillon—The Dillon Wildcats are playing very good football, at the right time, as the AAA playoffs began last week when they dominated visiting Fox Creek 49-8, and they are preparing to host Silver Bluff in round two this week.

“Silver Bluff is a very physical and athletic team and we will have to play well against them at home Friday night,” said head Dillon coach Kelvin Roller. “I was pleased with our over-all performance against Fox Creek last week but we are yet to play our best game of the season.”

One strong suit of the Dillon offense this season has been the combination of freshman quarterback Khayel Fong-Talia to senior receiver Zay Robertson, who is a commitment to North Carolina and he will also play in the Shrine bowl after the season. “Yes, Khayel to Zay has been really special this season,” said Coach Roller.

“We also have received a lot of production in our running game from Domo Feltin and Noah Singletary,” said Coach Roller. “Our defense has been led by all-star linebackers Daniel Capehart and Keryien Brown and they have been good leaders for us on defense.

“We have to stay healthy and it is also good to have some breaks go your way,” said Coach Roller. “We have to focus on being 1-0 each week for the rest of the season. In Dillon, our goal will always be to compete for a state championship.”

Against Fox Creek, receiver Rike Niyongabo got the scoring going for Dillon on a 32-yard pass from Fong-Talia early in the first period and the PAT made it 7-0. Later in the first period senior running back Dominick Felton scored on a seven-yard run and Fong-Talia’s second PAT made it 14-0 after the first period.

In the second period, Dillon added three touchdowns to take a 35-0 lead at halftime. Fong-Talia scored on a 51-yard keeper on one score; receiver Nicholas Harrison caught a 280yard touchdown pass for the second score of he second period and then Felton capped off a drive with a four-0ayrd touchdown run late in the period to make it 35-0.

In the third period D’rontae McCalm returned an interception for pick six to make it 42-0 after Fong-Talia’s PAT and near the end of the third period running back Noah Singletary scored on an 83-yard run with the PAT closing out Dillon’s 49-point outburst in the game.

For the game Singletary led Dillon rushers with five carries for 106 yards and a touchdown. Fong-Talai added 70 yards on five carries and



Wide Receiver Zay Robertson is committed to UNC and will play in the Shrine Bowl at season’s end

one score and Felton rushed for 24 yards on five carries and two touchdowns.

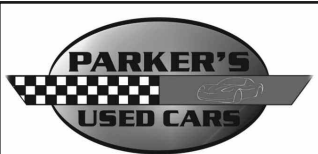
Niyongabo led Wildcat receivers with three catches for 43 yards and a touchdown while Harrison had one catch for 28 yards and a touchdown. Robertson had two catches for 18 yards and Felton added one catch for 18 yards.

The Nasty Cats of defense held the Fox Creek offense to around 200 yads of total offense on 52 plays during the game. The top tacklers on the hit index included D. Adams with 13 total tackles, while Brown and Capehart added six and five tackles respectively. K. Allen contributed five tackles while M. Nelson had seven tackles.

On the season. The top five Nasty Cats in tackles are: Adams (77), K Brown (76), Capehart (70), Nelson (49). And senior OLB Don-tavius Tanksley (48). Capehart is the sacks leader with four.

Fong-Talia just went on a visit to Clemson for their game with FSU. He has now completed 126-of-197 passes for 2.092 yards and 23 TD’s. Robertson, who leads the state in reception yardage, has caught 60 passes for 1,224 yards and 13 TD’s to date.

As a team Dillon has rushed for 1,796 yards on 258 carries and 35 rushing TD’s. They are led on the ground by Felton who has 632 yards on 90 carries and 10 TD’s. Singletary has netted 412 yards on 43 carries including 7 TD’s.



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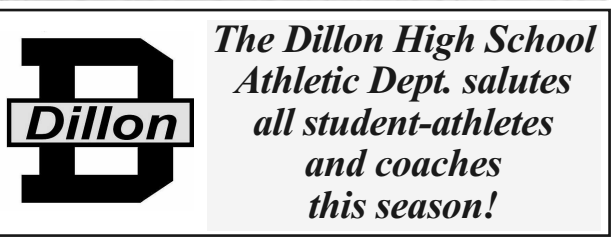
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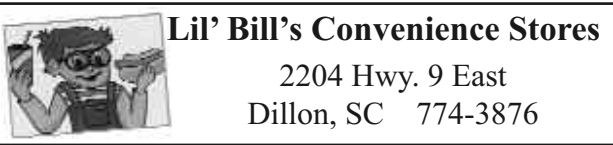
The Faculty & Staff of Dillon High School



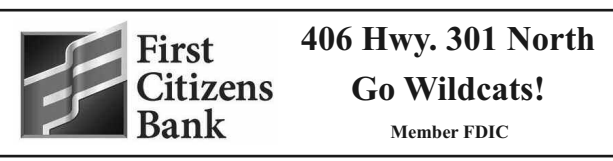
The Dillon High School Athletic Dept. salutes all student-athletes and coaches this season!

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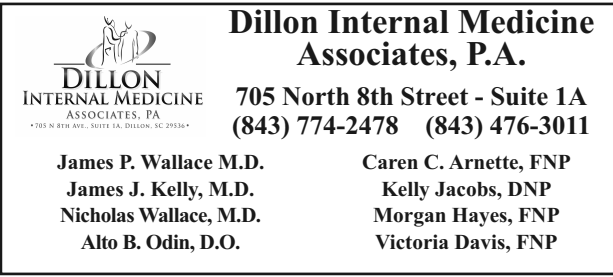
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2025 Football Schedules & Results															
REGION 1-AAAAA															
DATE	EASLEY (3-7)	OPPONENT SCORE	8/29	IRMO 32-35	9/26	CLOVER 26-27	10/31	LEXINGTON38-17	10/3	SOCASTEE 45-12					
9/22	PICKENS 56-34		9/12	AT GREER 49-9	10/3	AT ROCK HILL	16-23	CANE BAY 24-13	10/10	ST. JAMES 48-0					
10/29	AT WREN 21-60		9/19	WADE HAMPTON 45-3	10/10	AT NORTHWESTERN	40-56	AT STRATFORD	10/17	AT NORTH MYRTLE BEACH					
9/5	WADE HAMPTON 35-21	10/17	9/26	DORMAN 21-33	10/24	INDIANLAND	16-20		49-7	MYRTLE BEACH 51-20					
9/19	AT J L MANN 13-14	10/24	10/3	AT RIVERSIDE 42-27	10/20	NATION FORD	42-35	WHITE KNOLL (7-3)	10/24	AT CONWAY 49-0					
AT WOODMONT 30-22	10/31	10/10	10/24	AT GAFFNEY 16-28	11/7	CATAWBA RIDGE	3-13	DATE	8/22	AT CAMDEN 7-20	11/14	FORT DORCHESTER			
GREENVILLE 16-42	11/14			EASTSIDE 18-6				8/29	AT SUMTER28-6						
AT MAULDIN 24-49				SPARTANBURG 42-7	DATE	INDIAN LAND	(9-1)	9/5	BROOKLAND-CAYCE 49-13						
HILLCREST 13-49				AT BOILING SPRINGS 42-14	8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		9/19	AT CANE BAY 34-10	DATE					
AT T L HANNA 14-31	14-31	DATE		ROCK HILL	8/29	AT YORK 36-6		9/26	AT FORT DORCHESTER40-0	8/22	CONWAY (2-9)				
GREENWOOD 7-49	7-49	8/22	DORMAN (8-2)		9/19	AT LANCASTER	42-7	10/17	RIVER BLUFF 35-3	9/29	OPPONENT SCORE				
		8/29	OPPONENT SCORE		9/26	ANDREW JACKSON 36-0		10/24	DUTCH FORK 24-41	8/29	LORIS 4-28				
		9/5	AT GREENVILLE 34-0	OT	10/3	PARHART 48-0		10/31	AT IRMO 3-14	10/10	AT GERAW 3-13				
		9/29	CATAWBA RIDGE 30-7		10/10	ROCK HILL 33-9		10/24	AT LEXINGTON 37-6	10-12	AT MARLBORO COUNTY				
		9/19	GREENWOOD 41-42		10/24	NATION FORD 34-26		10/31	CHAPIN 42-7	9/19	AYNOR 32-23				
		10/3	RIVERSIDE 31-3		10/31	AT CATAWBA RIDGE 29-20		11/14	LUCY BECKHAM	10/3	AT NORTH MYRTLE BEACH				
		9/26	AT JAMES F BYRNES 33-22		10/24	CLOVER 35-0	20-16			35-28					
		10/3	BOILING SPRINGS 34-0		10/31	AT NORTHWESTERN	13-51	REGION 5-AAAAA							
		10/17	AT WADE HAMPTON 52-7		11/14	HILLCREST									
		10/10	EASTSIDE (4-7)		DATE	NATION FORD	(4-7)	DATE	BLYTHEWOOD (4-7)						
		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE						
		8/29	SOUTHSIDE 28-6		8/29	BLYTHEWOOD 27-34		8/29	AT MIDLAND VALLEY 36-38						
		9/12	AT CAROLINA 49-15		9/5	YORK 28-14		9/5	FORT MILL 7-33	DATE	MYRTLE BEACH (7-3)				
		9/19	AT BLUE RIDGE 56-21		9/19	AT RIVER BLUFF 20-17		9/12	W J KEENAN 41-6	8/22	OPPONENT SCORE				
		9/26	SPARTANBURG 34-48		10/10	AT RICHLAND NORTHEAST 56-27		9/19	WEST WOOD 46-0	8/29	LAKE CITY 43-19				
		10/3	AT BOILING SPRINGS 17-42		10/17	CLOVER 35-34		9/26	AT SUMTER VALLEY 46-0	9/5	WEST FLORENCE 42-38				
		10/10	GAFFNEY 35-40		10/24	AT CLOVER42-23		10/10	AT WEST FLORENCE 7-21	9/12	IRMO 27-63				
		10/17	AT RIVERSIDE 36-49		10/31	AT FORT MILL 35-42		10/31	AT RIDGE VIEW 7-39	10/3	CANE BAY 28-21				
		10/24	AT JAMES F BYRNES 41-18		11/7	AT GREENVILLE 35-42		11/14	AT CLOVER42-23	10/17	AT ST. JAMES 31-28				
		10/31	DORMAN 12-49						AT DORMAN	10/10	AT CONWAY 56-19				
		11/7	AT GAFFNEY 10-28		DATE	NORTHWESTERN	(9-1)	DATE	LUGOFF-ELGIN (6-5)	29-23 OT					
		8/22	GAFFNEY (8-3)		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	LOWER RICHLAND 28-14	11/14	WEST FLORENCE				
		8/29	INDIFFERENCE,NC 21-27		8/29	AT SPARTANBURG	39-7	8/29	AT CAMDEN 14-35						
		9/5	J L MANN 28-9		8/29	RIDGE VIEW	35-28	9/5	DARLINGTON 45-21						
		9/12	AT GREENVILLE 14-17		9/5	AT SOUTH FLORENCE 55-35		9/12	AT AIKEN 28-14	(3-8)	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH				
		9/19	BOILING SPRINGS 34-7		9/19	SOUTH FLORENCE 23-27		9/12	AT WEST FLORENCE 13-28	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE				
		9/26	AT SPARTANBURG 28-21		9/19	NATION FORD 75-21		9/26	SUMTER 42-57	8/22	AT GOOSE CREEK 7-14				
		10/3	AT EASTSIDE 40-35		9/26	CATAWBA RIDGE 56-20		10/3	AT BLYTHEWOOD 42-38	8/29	DARLINGTON 30-8				
		10/10	JAMES F BYRNES 28-16		10/3	AT CLOVER52-24		10/10	RIDGE VIEW 0-26	9/5	WEST BRUNSWICK,NC 24-12				
		10/17	RIVERSIDE 49-20		10/17	FORT MILL 56-40		10/17	AT WESTWOOD 28-34	9/12	AT LORIS 14-53				
		10/24	AT DORMAN 0-20		10/31	AT ROCK HILL 45-14		10/24	SPRING VALLEY 21-14	9/29	AT MARLBORO COUNTY				
		10/31	WADE HAMPTON 39-0		11/4	INDIAN LAND 51-13		11/14	SOCASTEE 42-6	3-21					
		11/7	EASTSIDE 28-10			CATAWBA RIDGE			AT IRMO	10/3	CONWAY 28-35				
		11/14	AT GREENWOOD		DATE	ROCK HILL (7-4)		DATE	RIDGE VIEW (7-3)	10/10	AT SOCASTEE 30-14				
			RIVERSIDE (4-7)		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE	10/17	CAROLINA FOREST 7-49				
			OPPONENT SCORE		8/29	RIVER BLUFF 31-18		8/29	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL 40-0	10/31	AT MYRTLE BEACH 23-29				
			MAULDIN 45-27		9/5	AT SOUTH POINTE 6-28		9/5	AT NORTHWESTERN 28-35	11/7	AT LUCY BECKHAM 21-38				
			GREENVILLE 0-28		9/12	LANCASTER 28-11		9/12	AT DUTCH FORK 21-28						
			AT CHRIST CHURCH 35-37		9/19	AT HARTSVILLE 38-56		9/12	CAMDEN 56-13	DATE	SOCASTEE (3-8)				
			AT DORMAN 3-31		9/26	CLOVER 35-34		9/26	AT WESTWOOD 44-0	8/22	AT WANDO 8-21				
			AT WADE HAMPTON 41-15		10/3	AT INDIANLAND 9-33		10/10	SPRING VALLEY 46-8	8/29	AT DILLON 0-41				
			JAMES F BYRNES 27-42		10/17	FORT MILL 23-16		10/17	AT LUGOFF-ELGIN 26-0	9/5	AYNOR 14-7				
			EASTSIDE 49-36		10/24	AT NATION FORD 30-14		10/24	AT SUMTER29-36	9/12	STRATFORD 12-56				
			AT GAFFNEY 20-49		11/7	NORTHWESTERN 14-45		10/31	BLYTHEWOOD 39-7	10/3	AT CAROLINA FOREST 12-45				
			BOILING SPRINGS 27-20		11/14	AT CATAWBA RIDGE 16-7		11/14	SPARTANBURG	14-30	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH				
			AT SPARTANBURG 19-20		REGION 4-AAAAA	SPRING VALLEY 47-0			SPRING VALLEY (2-9)	10/17	AT MYRTLE BEACH 13-21				
			AT HILLCREST 14-35		DATE	CHAPIN (0-10)		DATE	RICHLAND NORTHEAST	10/24	CONWAY 38-19				
			SPARTANBURG (7-4)		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		8/29	AT LOWER RICHLAND 9-41	10/31	ST. JAMES 22-21				
			OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	CATAWBA RIDGE 0-30		9/5	AT CHAPIN 7-6	11/7	AT LUGOFF-ELGIN 6-42				
			NORTHWESTERN 7-39		8/29	AT C FLORA 3-48		9/12	CATAWBA RIDGE 3-24	DATE	ST. JAMES (4-7)				
			AT DUTCH FORK 21-54		9/19	SPRING VALLEY 6-7		9/19	AT WESTWOOD 54-0	8/29	OPPONENT SCORE				
			GETTYS BROOME 50-7		9/12	AT NEWBERRY 22-45		9/26	BLYTHEWOOD 0-46	8/29	AYNOR 37-38				
			AT EASTSIDE 48-34		9/19	SUMMERVILLE 14-50		10/3	AT RIDGE VIEW 0-44	9/5	AT LUCY BECKHAM 35-28				
			GAFFNEY 21-28		10/3	AT DUTCH FORK 0-50		10/10	WESTWOOD 0-31	9/12	AT WANDO 21-14				
			AT WADE HAMPTON 56-0		10/10	AT LEXINGTON 7-29		10/24	AT LUGOFF-ELGIN 14-21	9/19	JAMES ISLAND 7-63				
			AT DORMAN 33-30		10/17	RIVER BLUFF 7-33		10/31	WEST FLORENCE 8-34	10/3	BERKELEY 0-54				
			AT BOILING SPRINGS 21-7		10/24	IRMO 6-48		11/7	AT ROCK HILL 0-47	9/26	MYRTLE BEACH 28-31				
			AT JAMES F BYRNES 7-42		10/31	AT WHITE KNOLL 7-42				10/10	AT CAROLINA FOREST 0-48				
			RIVERSIDE 20-19						SUMTER (9-1)	10/17	CONWAY 36-23				
			J L MANN 45-3		DATE	DUTCH FORK (1-17)		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/24	AT NORTH MYRTLE BEACH				
			AT RIDGE VIEW		8/29	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	AT LAKEWOOD 41-13	20-17					
			WADE HAMPTON (0-10)		8/29	SPARTANBURG 54-21		8/29	WHITE KNOLL 6-28	10/31	SOCASTEE 21-22				
			OPPONENT SCORE		9/12	RIDGE VIEW 28-21		9/12	AT MYRTLE BEACH 63-27	11/7	AT WESTWOOD 14-41				
			TRAVELERS REST 10-13		9/12	AT GRAY COLLEGIATE 42-14		9/12	CRESTWOOD 28-0						
			BLUE RIDGE 22-29		10/10	AT OCEANSIDE COLL. 20-24		9/26	SPRING VALLEY 54-0						
			AT EASLEY 21-35		10/10	CHAPIN 50-0		9/26	AT LUGOFF-ELGIN 57-42						
			AT JAMES F BYRNES 3-45		10/17	AT WHITE KNOLL 41-24		10/17	WEST FLORENCE 35-7	8/22	BERKELEY (8-2)				
			RIVERSIDE 15-41		10/24	LEXINGTON49-0		10/24	BLYTHEWOOD 47-34	DATE	OPPONENT SCORE				
			SPARTANBURG 0-56		10/10	RIVER BLUFF 37-0		10/31	RIDGE VIEW 36-29	8/29	AT ASHLEY RIDGE 35-21				
			AT BOILING SPRINGS 0-45		11/14	AT IRMO 28-21		10/31	AT WESTWOOD 52-27	9/5	WINTER PARK, FLA 52-45				
			DORMAN 52			BOILING SPRINGS			JAMES ISLAND	8/29	AT SUMMERVILLE 20-36				
			AT EASTSIDE 0-42		DATE	IRMO (9-1)		DATE	WESTWOOD (7-4)	9/26	WEST ASHLEY 39-0				
			GAFFNEY 0-39		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE	10/3	AT STRATFORD 17-21				
			REGION 3-AAAAA		8/22	AT OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE		8/29	AT A C FLORA 19-30	10/10	AT GOOSE CREEK 45-3				
			CATAWBA RIDGE (6-5)		8/29	AT JAMES F BYRNES 35-32		9/5	AT LAKEWOOD 42-0	10/17	WANDO 17-3				
			OPPONENT SCORE		9/12	BUTLER, NC 42-14		53-14	RICHLAND NORTHEAST	10/24	LUCY BECKHAM 35-0				
			AT SPARTANBURG 30-0		9/12	CAROLINA FOREST 51-21		9/12	AIRPORT 65-7	11/14	CANE BAY 35-7				
			DORMAN 7-30		9/19	AT MYRTLE BEACH 59-21		9/19	AT BLYTHEWOOD 20-17		WESTWOOD				
			CHESTER 27-24		10/10	AT LEXINGTON 35-0		9/26	RIDGE VIEW 8-46						
			AT SPRING VALLEY 24-3		10/17	AT RIVER BLUFF 56-14		10/10	AT SPRING VALLEY 31-0	DATE	CANE BAY (2-9)				
			FORT MILL 14-10		10/24	WHITE KNOLL 14-3		10/17	LUGOFF-ELGIN 34-28	8/29	OPPONENT SCORE				
			AT NORTHWESTERN 20-56		10/31	AT CHAPIN 48-6		10/24	AT WEST FLORENCE 7-17	9/5	AT ASHLEY RIDGE 23-37				
			INDIANLAND 20-29		11/14	DUTCH FORK 21-28		10/31	SUMTER 27-52	9/12	WEST ASHLEY 38-21				
			AT NATION FORD 34-41			LUGOFF-ELGIN		11/14	ST. JAMES 41-14	9/19	AT JAMES ISLAND 14-34				
			ROCK HILL 7-16		DATE	LEXINGTON(3-8)			AT BERKELEY	10/3	WHITE KNOLL 10-34				
			AT CLOVER22-21 OT		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE		DATE	WEST FLORENCE (6-5)	9/26	AT MYRTLE BEACH 21-28				
			AT FORT MILL 13-3		8/22	AT GILBERT 23-7		DATE	OPPONENT SCORE	10/10	AT STRATFORD 23-04				
			AT NORTHWESTERN		9/5	NORTH AUGUSTA 3-31		8/22	OPPONENT SCORE	10/17	AT WANDO 8-0				
			CLOVER (5-6)		9/12	MIDLAND VALLEY 17-21		8/29	SOUTH FLORENCE 6-37	10/24	AT GERAW 7-35				
			OPPONENT SCORE		9/12	AT GREENWOOD 30-36		9/5	MYRTLE BEACH 38-42	10/31	AT RIVER BLUFF 13-24				
			AT CHAMBERS, NC 34-35		10/3	LAURENS 35-0		9/19	AT MARION 51-16	11/7					
			HILLCREST 30-21		10/10	IRMO 0-35		9/19	LUGOFF-ELGIN 28-13						
		</													

Marlboro County football making the most of 2025

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Bennettsville – After the disappointment of 2024, the **Marlboro County** football team is making the most of their opportunities in 2025.

Marlboro County’s absence from the playoffs last year has served as fuel to the fire for this year’s team. The Bulldogs missed the postseason last fall due to a suspension by the South Carolina High School League for the use of ineligible players.

All that mess is in the past and with a fully eligible squad this fall, the Bulldogs are sitting at 8-3 on the season after a first-round win in the AAA state playoffs over Swansea. Marlboro County’s three losses have come to top teams, Gray Collegiate, Dillon and Loris.

The second-round game for the Bulldogs will be against another top team in AAA, Oceanside Collegiate. OCA is the defending AAA state champions and has won nine straight games heading into the playoff game on Nov. 14.

In the playoff win over Swansea, sophomore quarterback **Tre Blakeney** continued his outstanding season. Blakeney completed 16-of-27 passes for 283 yards and three touchdowns. That performance raised his season total in yards to 1,560 on 63 percent completion. He has 10 passing touchdowns and 11 rushing scores with 660 yards on the ground.

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Hartsville football begins playoffs with victory

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Hartsville – Though they failed in their bid to win the region 6-AAAA championship, the **Hartsville High** football team entered the AAAA state playoffs trending up.

The Red Foxes lost just once in region play, that defeat coming to South Florence in the game that decided the region six championship on Oct. 31. After a 1-3 start, Hartsville won five straight games before the loss and entered the postseason at 6-4 overall.

Nonetheless, Hartsville had to put that loss behind them and get mentally right for a first-round playoff game on Nov. 7th against Crestwood. The teams met earlier in the season with Hartsville taking a 34-21 win.

During the 10 games of the regular season, sophomore quarterback **Ford Wallace** had 1,247 passing yards and 14 touchdowns, adding 272 yards rushing and three scores.

Bears football ready to make playoff run again

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Honea Path – The **Belton-Honea Path High School** football team rolled through the regular season undefeated. The Bears are now at the portion of the schedule that matters: the AAA state playoffs. And head coach **Russell Blackston** likes to make sure they don’t lose sight of that.

“So I just want to make sure the playoffs are different,” said Blackston, who led Belton-Honea Path to a 13-2 record and an upper state championship last season before losing to **Oceanside Collegiate Academy** 35-17 in the state championship game. “It’s not an 11th game. It’s do or die! We have been talking about this all year! Now it’s time for all the marbles.”

BHP certainly did do in its playoff opener on November 7, beating **Palmetto** 56-7 to improve to 11-0 on the season. Belton-Honea Path led 21-0

Senior **Troy Hailey** rushed for 111 yards in the playoff win, raising his season total to 864 yards and 10 touchdowns. **Cameron Smith** had a 60-yard rushing touchdown in the playoff game and senior **Lee Best** had four catches for 83 yards.

Senior **LaQuincy Leach** has caught 23 passes for 364 yards and six touchdowns. **LaBrice Purvis** has 421 receiving yards and has a 44-yard touchdown reception against Swansea.

Sophomore **Krishawn Smith** has rushed for 435 yards and **Tremayne Ashford** has 28 receptions for 365 yards.

Marlboro County’s defense has been aggressive and strong overall with several key contributors. Junior **Tehvin Easterling** has 42 tackles with 11 tackles for loss. Junior **Jaden Ashe** has 49 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, and five sacks.

Juniors **Myjae McCoy** and **Layton Chavis** lead the Bulldogs in tackles. McCoy has 107 total hits, including nine for loss, while Chavis has 80 total tackles. **Jamorie Williams** has 59 tackles, nine for loss, and **Patrick Williams** has 16 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks.

Marlon Ray and **James McLean** each have two interceptions. The secondary will be tested by OCA’s passing attack of Aiden Manavian, who has passed for more than 3,000 yards and 33 touchdowns.

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Kylif Miller finished the regular season with 1,098 and 14 touchdowns, averaging 7.9 per rush. **Trace Hillian** added 911 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns, averaging 8.3 yards per carry.

Dorian Mason had five rushing scores and caught 23 passes for 452 yards and three touchdowns.

The leading receiver through 10 games was **Tristian Spann** with 28 receptions for 496 yards and six touchdowns/. **CJ Hickman** had 19 catches for 452 yards and five touchdowns.

Rod Cranford is the leading tackler with 76 hits and six tackles for loss after 10 games. **Davaris James** had 66 tackles and **Zion Mason** totaled 61

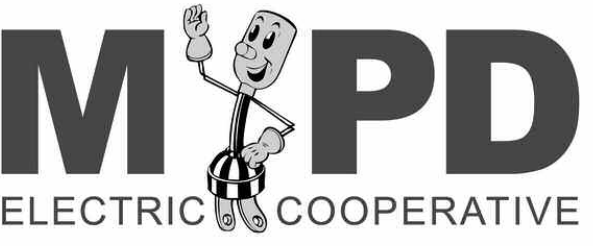
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**LAKE VIEW**
Wild Gators

Despite ups and downs, Wild Gators give effort

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Lake View – As the 2025 season was set to begin in August, **Lake View** head football coach **Daryl King** had a lot of questions about his team.

King knew his Wild Gators would be playing a lot of youthful and inexperienced players this Fall. But King felt his team could compete if they stayed focused and worked hard to improve.

While the season as a whole has been up and down in terms of the results, one thing has not changed all season.

“The one thing I can’t complain about is their effort,” King said. “I’ve said it all season. We might make mistakes and we lose a game here and there, but this team has been one of the hardest working teams I have had. They play hard. We have not had to coach effort or push them to give us more. We’re getting everything in terms of effort and that has allowed us to improve. We have made progress because this team is willing to work hard.”

Lake View won their first-round game of the Class A Lower State playoffs and will play undefeated **Carver’s Bay** on Nov. 14. Carver’s Bay is in the same region as Lake View (5-4) and won the region 5-A title this fall. The Bears beat Lake View, 32-7, in their region matchup but the Wild Gators trailed only 12-7 in the third quarter.

“They are one of the biggest teams up front I have seen at this level,” King said. “Big, fast, athletic and well-coached. They will be a big challenge but we competed the first time we played team. But, they are undefeated for a reason and we know we will have to play a perfect game to have a chance.”

The coach has seen a bevy of his own players show improvement this season. **Chase Price**, in his first season as the starting quarterback, has proven his ability to run the offense and be a leader. Price has more than 1,100 yards passing and 10 touchdown passes to go with 11 rushing touchdowns.

“Chase has been really solid, very consistent,” King said.

The running game got a boost in recent games with the return of **Jalen Clark**, who began the season as the RB1 but was injured until recently.

King says senior **Seth Deese**, a leader on defense at linebacker, has been getting carries as a running back late in the season. Deese topped 100 yards rushing in the playoff win.

Senior **Keawe Jackson** has been a versatile athlete offensively with more than 300 yards rushing and more than 200 yards as a receiver.

Now a healthy unit, the offensive line has played well as a unit, helping the offense rush more than 300 yards in the playoff win.

The lone returning starter on the line is senior **Farrion Seymore**. Also working up front are **Alonzo Hamilton**, **Riley McCormick**,



Quarterback Chase Price

Jaden Jones and **Finn Miller**.

Junior **Terrence Alford** has been one of the leading receivers.

Linebacker **Landon King** leads the defense with 94 tackles. The senior has led the team in tackles for three straight years. Freshman **Gabe Lee** has been solid at linebacker, along with Deese. Freshman **Tyron Bethea** is getting more time at outside linebacker.

Anchoring the defensive front is senior end **Tyree Fore**. Sophomores **Isaiah Blue** and **Richard Thomas** also have improved up front. Seymore has added defensive work to his load as well.

Bryce King continues to anchor the defensive secondary at safety. Clark is also playing on the back end and corners **Yuri Richardson** and **David Hiott** are playing solid football.

Volleyball team makes state playoffs

Lake View’s volleyball team earned a spot in the Class A state playoffs but lost their first-round contest to Charleston Math & Science. The team finished with an overall record of 8-10, 6-6 in region play.

Senior **Kirsten McClellan** led the team with 157 kills as a middle hitter. Freshman **Sophia Rogers** had 57 kills and **Callie Smith** totaled 52 kills. Sophomore **Sarah Price** had 44 kills and 188 digs and junior **Chloe Cox** had 151 digs. Junior **Riley Barfield** had 142 assists and 88 digs. Senior **Neveah Price** had 232 digs and freshman **Lauren King** totaled 139 digs.

Other team members include sophomore **Hanna Coburn**, junior **Madison Strickland**, and senior **Desiree Dawkins**.

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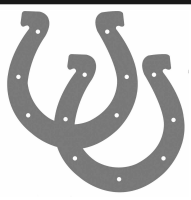
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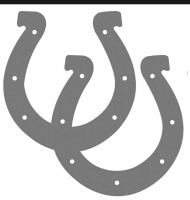
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BARNWELL

Warhorses





Coach Brian Smith will be coaching in the upcoming Touchstone Energy Bowl



Jayden Peeples

Barnwell's rare rebuilding year ends at Timberland

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Barnwell—Barnwell began the 2025 football season with back-to-back wins over **Blackville-Hilda** and **Williston-Elko** before losing their next six games, but the Warhorses rebounded in their final two regular season games with wins over **Edisto** and **Whale Branch** before concluding the season with a 46-8 loss at **Timberland** that ended the season.

After the Timberland loss, head coach **Brian Smith** shared his thoughts with the media. “This was a tough way to end our season at Timberland tonight,” said Coach Smith. “They are very good football team and are very well coached. We talked all week about how we had to win with explosive and big plays, and that did not happen tonight.

“It’s hard to win when you give up touchdowns on a kickoff return punt, return interception return, and a block punt for scores,” added Coach Smith. “We started out strong and got ahead early, and then I think the kickoff return for the touchdown, took the wind out of our sails.

“I thought our kids fought hard all year,” said Coach Smith. “We ended up losing **Jayden Peeples** and **Nehemiah Brown** to injuries during the game. That hurts us on both sides of the football.

“We are proud of all of our seniors and what all they have accomplished,” said Coach Smith. “They’ve all had great careers, including last year’s state championship game appearance. Their leadership is carried us through-out grueling and injury filled season.

“As we looked at the future, I told our kids tonight we gotta get back in that weight room, as soon as possible, and continue to work to get bigger, faster, and stronger,” said Coach Smith. “I feel like we did a good job last year, pushing **Timberland** around, and they pushed us around a little bit also tonight. We’ve gotta get back in the weight room, and get back to work so that we can become a team that’s more physical next season.”

Senior running back **Nehemiah Brown** was a bright spot on offense for the Warhorses as he came into the Timberland game leading all rushers with 861 yards on 149 carries and 8 touchdowns. **Jayden Peeples** added 672 yards on 72 carries on six TD’s before his season ending injury. **Henri Creech** stepped up and rushed for 202 yards on 45 carries with one touchdown and **Marcus Jacobs** contributed 200 yards rushing on 48 carries.

Damahjai Devore led receivers with 14 catches for 146 yards and one touchdown. Peeples had three catches for 114 yards and three touchdowns.

Veteran place kicker **Lane Evans** was perfect on his PAT’s and he made one field goal from 41 yards. Quarterback **Josiah Gibson** completed 10-of-22 passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns on the season.

The defense was led by **Fat Brown**, Devoe, **Bridgedon Youmans**, Creech, **Toryn Pickens**, **Alden Saxson**, **Jackson Beddingfield**, **Carl Hines**, and **Emmaunel Green**.

Barnwell won their last two regular season games of the year with a 20-6 win over **Edisto** and a 43-12 win over **Whale Branch** in the final two regular season game when they went exclusively to the Wish bone offense.

“We made the switch to use the Wishbone exclusively because it gave us our best chance to be successful,” said head coach Brian Smith.

In the win over Edisto the Warhorses piled up 246 rushing yards on 46 carries and three rushing TD’s. Against the Cougars, Brown rushed for 139 yards on 24 carries with three TD’s. Peeples added 104 yards on 21 carries.

Then against Whale Branch, Peeples has his best game of the season. On 16 carries he rushed for 190 yards and two touchdowns. He caught a 42-yard pass for a score. On defense he had five tackles and he also recovered an onsidess kick.

Another positive note is that two-way lineman **Jackson Beddingfield** will represent Barnwell in the North-South all-star football game at Myrtle Beach in December. Beddingfield has also earned all-region honors.

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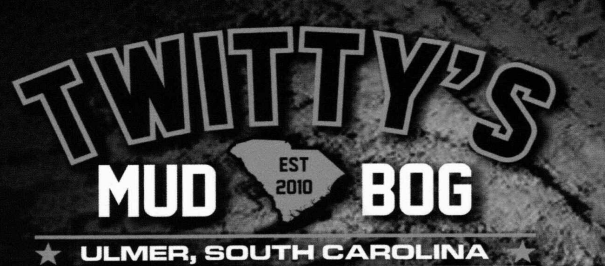
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Coach Smith will also serve as the head South coach in the North-South all-star game that will be played in Myrtle Beach in December.

In earlier comments, Coach Smith called Beddingfield a very hard worker and that it had been an honor to have coached him.

Kingstree football finishes with 4-7 mark in 2025

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Eitor

Kingstree – The **Kingstree High School** football team saw its season come to an end in the first round of the AA state playoffs. The Blazers traveled to **Pageland** on November 7 to take on once-beaten **Central** and suffered a 56-6 loss.

KHS head coach **Brandon Cantrell** said that game gave him some perspective on where he wants his program to go after his first season in charge.

“We are dealing with the difference between a program with a winning tradition and a program that doesn’t (have a winning tradition),” said Cantrell, who led Kingstree to a 4-7 record. “While their players expect to win, our players expect to lose.

“Central did a job of watching film and hurting us with some things our defense struggled with in previous games. Our players, once we got behind, do not have the mentality to keep playing for four quarters. We have to teach our players how to play for four quarters and build their confidence in what we are doing and in themselves.”

The Blazers did finish 3-3 in the jumbled-up Region 7. They actually had a chance to finish with a 4-2 record going into the final game of the season, which could have left it tied for first in some form or **fashion**. However, It lost to **Atlantic Collegiate Academy** 21-14 to finish 3-3 and gain the fifth and final from the region in the play-offs.

KHS’ top player was senior **Tyleek Dukes**. The running back/defensive back was selected to play in the **Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl** all-star game. Tyleek’s younger brother, **Maleek Dukes**, had some strong showings at outside linebacker.

Junior quarterback **Randy McFadden** had his moments on offense as did senior running back **Travis Bennett Jr.** and sophomore wide receiver **Meltrin Segars**.

Having their moments on defense were senior outside linebacker **BJ Washington** and junior linebacker **Mark Pickard** and Bennett at linebacker.

The Blazers just weren’t able to splice enough good plays together to come up with a consistent performance. “Coming into the season I had high hopes,” said Cantrell, who had served as an assistant coach at Kingstree a few years prior before moving to other jobs. “I know Kingstree has athletes, and I was hoping that athletic ability would carry us for a few games. Getting the job in June didn’t help because we had no spring practice. Trying to balance getting the weight room organized in June and then having the month of July to install an offense and defense was a challenge.”

Cantrell is hoping him having a year under his belt and the players having a year under their belts with him in charge will make a difference in 2026.

“I’m always learning and trying to figure out how to do things better,” Cantrell said. “This season as my first was definitely a learning experience. I knew I had a good plan coming in to the program. I’ve been part of enough good programs to know what’s supposed to happen and how things should operate.

“Heading into Year 2 obviously we’ll have a whole offseason to establish our protocols and systems and have more time to get our offense and defense fundamental and techniques established. I think the biggest thing we need to work on this offseason is leadership and trying to instill the confidence in these players that they have the potential to play with any team in the region. We did that at times.”



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2025 James Island volleyball - Region 8-AAAAA Champions!

James Island fall sports shining on region stage

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

James Island – The athletic trophy case at **James Island Charter** may need to expand as Trojan athletes continue to excel in a variety of sports.

The fall sports season for 2025 is drawing to a close and James Island has added to the trophy collection with region 8-AAAAA titles in girls tennis and volleyball. The football team finished in a three-way tie for first with Summerville and Ashley Ridge.

The girls cross country team was the region runner-up in their region meet while the boys team placed third in the team standings. The girls golf team also earned a spot in the AAAAA Division (state tournament).

In **tennis**, the girls team went undefeated in region play and finished with a 13-4 overall record.

The Trojans advanced to the third round of the Lower State playoffs before losing to Lexington, 4-2.

Senior **Anna Ogiba** played No. 1 singles this season, winning 13 of 14 matches. Junior **Sylvie Stein** posted a 10-4 record at No. 2 singles while senior **Addie All** was 10-4 at No. 3 singles.

Eighth-grader **Sarah Perkinson** was 13-1 at No. 4 singles, and eighth-grader **Lillian McMullen** was 9-5 at No. 5 singles. The No. 2 doubles team of **Alex Gigis** and **Tippa Sheridan** went 7-2 this fall.

The **girls volleyball** team also went undefeated in region play on their way to a title. The Trojans lost to River Bluff in the second round of the playoffs. River Bluff went on to win the Lower State title in Division I-AAAAA. James Island posted an overall record of 28-10-1.

Among the top players this season were senior

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Lily Schizas (220 kills, 136 digs), freshman **Aubree Lanham** (236 kills, 191 digs, 21 blocks), senior **Lainee Rakes** (124 kills, 26 blocks), sophomore **Madeleine Warthen** (177 kills, 39 blocks), and senior **Natalie McGeorge** (855 assists, 278 digs).

In the region **cross country** meet, James Island’s girls put four runners among the top 10 finishers, led by **Anna Gladu**’s third-place run. **Mae Moore** finished fourth and **Alice Taylor** was fifth. **Caroline Osborn** finished in seventh and **McKenzie Holmes** was 12th.

The top James Island runner for the boys team was **Alex Ciucci** in third-place. **Lee Hilton** finished seventh and **Sumter Wilson** ran in 17th. **Will Vaughn** placed 28th and **Collin Duffy** scored 37th.

The states qualifier meet is Nov. 8th with the state meet a week later.

The **football** team carried a 9-1 regular season record in their first-round AAAAA Division I play-off matchup against Wando on Nov. 7.

Senior quarterback **Connor Dantzer** finished the regular season with 29 passing touchdowns and

See **James Island**, pg. 71



2025 Spartanburg Day girls tennis - SCISA State Runner-Up

Spartanburg Day football finishes on target

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Spartanburg—It has been 42 years since the **Spartanburg Day School** fielded a varsity football team, but that drought will be over starting with the 2026 season as the Griffins recently completed a season of junior varsity football, after starting the transition with a “B” team in 2024.

Patrick Moffitt is the Football Program Head for the Griffins, and he has been pleased with the progress of the athletes on the junior varsity this season. The team was 1-4 this season with their win coming over **Blacksburg** at home on September 18.

“We are very pleased with the progress we’ve made as a program these past two years,” said Coach Moffitt. “If you would have told me after the first day of practice back in the summer of 2024 that we would have accomplished some of the things we have so far, I wouldn’t have believed you.

“The progress and development of each and every player in the program, has been amazing to watch,” said Coach Moffitt. “The way they have bought into the program is truly special, and if they continue to keep the same mindset, I think they will all have a very memorable next few years of varsity football together.

“The support from the school community has been incredible as well,” said Coach Moffitt. “Everyone is so excited for each game each week, and that excitement will only continue to grow as we get closer to playing our first varsity game next year.

“We have a really strong core group of guys who have been working extremely hard both on and off the field,” said Coach Moffitt. “Our guys have been taking the weight room seriously and the work for next football season started weeks ago for us already. I’m excited to

see how all their continued hard work will pay off for them in the future.

“We have added a few older students at the school, to the team, since the end of the season already as well, and they have hopped right on board with the culture and work ethic we are instilling in our guys here.”

In reviewing key players on offense, defense, and special teams, Coach Moffitt cited numerous players. “On offense **Heath Boyd** took the bulk of the carries for us and was our leading rusher on the year and **Charles Wilson** was our leading receiver, and he led the team in total touchdowns,” said Coach Moffitt. “Charlie Birch also chipped in with big plays in the passing game from his tight end position. Upfront, **Nick Querin** led the way on our offensive line.

On defense, Boyd and Wilson led the team in total tackles. **Tyler Fernanders** was great in the defensive back- field and he led the team with two interceptions. The defensive front was led by **Gibbes Montgomery**, **Lawson Robinson** and the trio gave opposing offensive lines problems with numerous plays during the season. Coach Moffitt cited **Armin Pader** as a force on special teams. The majority of Pader’s kickoffs were touchdowns. He was perfect on PAT’s and made one of two field goal attempts with the one miss being 49 yards. Wilson was the Griffins leading return man and he had one kick-off return for a touchdown.

“One of the best things about this past year was that a lot of guys started to get more comfortable and developed as leaders,” said Coach Moffitt. “We have a team full of guys that have all the qualities that it takes to be a captain and that is a good spot to be in as an emerging program.

“All of our guys that played this past year will be key factors for us next season,” said Coach Moffitt. “On the offensive side of the ball our offensive line made massive

Griffins’ girls tennis, swim teams finish state runner-ups in title contention

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Spartanburg—The **Spartanburg Day** girl’s tennis team finished state runner-up after compiling a 10-3 record during the 2025 season, under the direction of Hall of Fame coach **Bob Allsbrook**, while the Griffins boy’s and girls swim team also finished runners-up at the state swim meet, that ended state title swim streaks for both teams.

The girls’ tennis team went all the way to the number one doubles match before losing to **Hilton Head Prep** 13-11 in a highly competitive state finals staged at the Palmetto Tennis Center in Sumter in October.

“The state finals match lasted over five hours and it was one of the most competitive events I’ve ever coached

in,” said Coach Allsbrook. “In five hours, the winning team was determined by two points, so you know things were highly competitive.

“I am proud of my team,” said Coach Allsbrook. “We are mainly made up of home- grown girl’s who play other sports. We have everyone back next season and winning a state title will be our number one goal coming into the season.”

Coach Allsbrook is completing his 29th season at Spartanburg Day and he has coached Griffin boy’s and girl’s tennis teams to 20 state titles, and 14 runner-up finishes over that span.

Coach Allsbrook had to make adjustments to the line-up when number three singles player **Anna Couchell** tore her ACL late in the season. Eighth grader **Janie Williams**

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

improvements under the tutelage of former **Wofford** and **Toledo** offensive lineman, Coach **Andrew Vaught**. He has done an excellent job helping develop **Nick Querin**, **Cale Willoughsby**, **Lawson Robinson**, **Sammy Crain**, **Gibbes Montgomery** and **Colton Lyle** and they grew as a unit every day and it was great to see our running game get better throughout the season. They will all be big factors again for us upfront next year.

Coach Moffitt said that Boyd will be the main guy in the backfield next season. “It was his first year playing football, and from day one of practice to the last game of the season he looked like a completely different football player,” said Coach Moffitt. “He will be a tough back for a defense to tackle for four quarters.”

On the outside, the trio of Wilson, **Camden Teel** and **Tyler Fernanders** will be top targets in the passing game. **Charlie Birch** will be a factor at tight end, coming off a great season both catching and blocking. Coach Moffitt also says **Rutledge Wall** grew as a quarterback, particularly from a decision-making standpoint as the season progressed.

On defense, Coach Moffitt cited the up-front play of Querin, Montgomery, **Lawson Robinson**, and **Colton Lyle**. “They are an athletic group with very good size, and they will be even better as they continue to grow and mature,” said Coach Moffitt.

Citing the Griffins linebacking corp of Wilson, Boyd and Birch, Coach Moffitt said the trio seemed to be in on every tackle and they have a nose for the football. “They are a great linebacking corps to have out there and I am excited to see what they are able to do at the varsity level together,” said Coach Moffitt.

In the secondary, Coach Moffitt cited the aggressive play of Fernanders’ as a defensive back in both the pass game and run game. **Camden Teel**, **Kaiden Flannery**, **Trent Williams** and **Ben Visk** are all solid cover guys, according to Coach Moffitt. “This group is another strong defensive group we have a lot of faith in out on the field,” said Coach Moffitt.

Coach Moffitt concluded his team observation for next year as he praised the strong leg of combo-kicker Armin Pader. “He was able to show off his leg a little bit this past season, and we will continue to utilize him to win the field position battle, and will be huge in putting up some points on the board for us in critical situations,” said Coach Moffitt.

stepped up and played well in her place.

The tennis team was led by number one player, 8th grader **Adair Wall**, along with number two player, junior **Addie Stroud**, and sophomore **Anna Couchell** so the Griffins will have a strong team returning next year.

The team’s number four player is 7th grader **Sylvia Chung** and junior **Maddie Parker** is most often at five singles. The number two doubles team that battled HHP down to the wire are junior **Madelyn Carroll** and 8th grader **Dorothy Dobson**.

Other members of the tennis team include junior **Ella Cate Cece**, senior **Camille Cleland**, soph **Julia Couchell**, and junior **Janie Myers**.

See **Spartanburg Day**, pg. 69

Bamberg County Feature Page

Bamberg-Ehrhardt headed to second round

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Bamberg – Bamberg-Ehrhardt had one of the most dominating regular season in school history as they went 10-0/ 4-0 outscoring their opponents 532-49 with only one game where an opponent came within 15 points of the Red Raiders. That was area rival Barnwell in a 29-14 win.

The offense scored 60 or more points six times and the defense pitched four shutouts including the last three region games. They average 53 points per game on 86 touchdowns while gaining over 6200 yards of offense.

Other than the game with Barnwell the defense held every team to under 10 points. They are allowing only 4.4 points per game while giving up just 95.3 yards per game.

That success continued in the opening round of the playoffs as the Red Raiders laid waste to St. John’s 65-0. Next up will be an 8-2 Latta team that defeated Baptist Hill 34-14.

A lot of times when teams have such an easy time they can become complacent but head coach **Corey Crosby** has found a way to keep that edge his team needs to accomplish their goals, “We make practice hard so we challenge our kids every day to get better and to earn playing time. We preach that standards should never change no matter who you play each week. Practice is harder than the games. Our kids understand what we have ahead of us and that helps keep them grounded. It also keeps them focused on one game at a time.”

“Latta has a good football team and we know they are going to run the ball right at you. Coach Iseman and his staff do a good job and we know it will be a battle,” coach Crosby said when asked his second-round opponent.

Junior quarterback **Brian McMillian** has

Denmark-Olar football looking to the future

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Denmark – Heading into the 2025 season Denmark-Olar head coach **Willaim Raysor** knew his team would go through some growing pains this season with 11 sophomores among his 19 players.

He told the HSSR at media day, “the sophomore class is very talented but they are very inexperienced when it comes to playing football at the varsity level. They are going to have grow up fast if we are to have a successful season.”

The Vikings finished the year at 1-9/ 0-4 with their lone win coming on the road against Burke 22-12. Their nine losses have come against teams with experienced line ups that have taken advantage of every single mistake the Vikings have made on the field.

The season comes down to their last three games. Win two of them and they can secure a playoff spot which would be a great learning experience for this young football team.

Sophomores **Cornelius Hammond** (5-9,275), **Tyon Buckmon** (6-3,180) and **Amani McMillan** (5-7,190) have all had an impact on defense but have also shown their inexperience at times. Coach says this group has talent and they play hard.

Nyheem Brimfield (6-4,230) is one of the soph-

played spectacularly all season. He has passed for 2959 yards and 34 touchdowns to only three picks. He is completing 80% of his throws this season. He is also a threat on the ground having rushed for 602 yards and 17 scores. He is one of three runners averaging over 10 yards a carry, 10.3 ypc. He is tied for the team lead in interceptions with four.

Marcus Cann and **Jalen McGraw** are averaging over 13 ypc. McGraw leads the Red Raiders in rushing with 1015 yards and 10 touchdowns while Cann has 812 yards and 14 touchdowns. McGraw leads the team in tackles for loss with 14 and in sacks with 8.

McMillian’s top targets have been **Charles (Anthony) Williams**, **Jason Youmans**, **Jordan Bovain**, and **Rocky Walker**. Each receiver has over 14 receptions with Williams leading the team with 39 receptions for 1047 yards and 15 touchdowns while averaging 27 yards per catch. Walker has seven touchdowns on just 14 receptions.

All this is possible because of the play of the offensive line. **Michael Manigault**, **Jaden Moody**, **Simeon Bamberg**, **Pierre Fuller**, **Aaden McCormick**, and **Keegan Daff** have just controlled the line of scrimmage all year.

Darian Sease, **Christopher Washington**, and **Darius Walker** are the teams top three tacklers with Sease leading the way with 88 tackles. Washington has 74 tackles while Walker has 58. Washington also leads the team in pass break ups with 7.

Ahmad Busby and McGraw also have over 50 tackles on the season.

Chaz Breland has been solid in the kicking game. He is 73 for 77 on extra points and has a 47-yard field goal. He has 62 touchbacks on 84 kick offs and is averaging 51.3 yards on punts.

omores that gained varsity game experience as a freshman. He plays several positions on both sides of the ball.

Offensively, running back **Trevine Felder** (5-5,150), tight end **Dilan Hammonds** (6-5,208), left tackle **Chris Felder** (5-11, 272), and left guard **Blake Brown** (5-9,280) are sophomores that have had an impact. They are taking their lumps but they work hard every day in practice. Hammonds is also a two-way player as he plays on the defensive line. Two freshman that have been a surprise since the season started are defensive back **Antonio Williams** (5-7,145) and wide receiver and defensive back **Lamar Greggs** (5-7,143). Both have been fearless despite being freshman.

Coach Raysor said, “Antonio and Lamar are going to be special. They have great instincts and bring a lot to the team despite being freshman.”

A couple of juniors that have been solid are defensive back **Nyheem Williams** (5-9,145) and right Tackle **Mari Moody** (6-4,230). Both are returning starters with Moody getting looks from colleges.

The Vikings Volleyball team finished the year at 5-7/5-4 and made the playoffs. The dropped their first-round match to Carvers Bay 3-1. Junior Joy Johnson lead the team in most categories in making

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the all-region team.



Manning overcomes slow start to claim region

By Dennis Beunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Manning – Following **Manning High School's** 26-12 loss to **East Clarendon** on September 26, Monarchs head coach **Reggie Kennedy** stood in the drizzling rain on EC's **Shad Hall Field** not chastising his team, but instead offering words of comfort.

Kennedy told his players that the loss in their Region 7-AA opener didn't mean their goals were out of reach, stating no one was going undefeated in the region.

Perhaps 31 years as a head coach makes one a soothsayer. No one did go undefeated in Region 7, but one team did lose just once and that was MHS. Manning won its final five region contests and secured its second straight region title with a 40-12 victory over **Lake City** at **Ramsey Stadium** on October 31.

That set Manning up for the chance to host in the first three rounds of the state playoffs. The Monarchs got things started with a 48-7 win over **Academic Magnet** in the first round on November 7. They will take on **Timberland**, which beat **Barnwell 46-6** in the second round on November 14.

"I thought if this team every grew up we could be a good, solid football team," said Kennedy, whose team is now 8-3 on the season and finished with a 5-1 region mark. "It's probably one of the most talented groups we've had since I've been at Manning (his seventh season). We were just real young and we had to learn how to win on Fridays. Once we learned how to win, learned how to finish, we'd be a championship football team."

The Monarchs dominated the game in the trenches. They rushed for 462 yards on 61 carries. Senior running back **Jontavious Canty** led the way with 275 yards and three touchdowns on 31 carries. He also ran for two of MHS' five 2-point conversions.

LC needed just two plays to take a 6-0 lead. After that, it was all Monarchs. They answered with a 9-play scoring drive. A 20-yard completion from quarterback **Lovell Stevenson** to brother **Lovon Stevenson** set MHS up for a first down and goal at the Panthers 4. Canty scored on the next play and Lovell Stevenson threw to **Dontavious Canty** for the 2-point conversion to make it 8-6 with 7:31 left in the first quarter.

The Monarchs needed eight plays to go 70 yards and reach the end zone the next time it got the ball with Jontavious Canty scoring on a 7-yard run. He then ran for two to make it 16-6 with 3:17 to go.

On its next possession, MHS was facing fourth and two at its 47 when it decided to go for a first down. Instead, it got a touchdown as Jontavious Canty broke through the line and went 53 yards to paydirt on the final play of the first quarter. He added the conversion run to make it 24-6.

Lake City responded with a nice drive, moving to a first and goal at the Manning 7. However, on the 10th play of the drive, quarterback **Amari Hanna** was intercepted by defensive back **Isaiah Baxter**.

The Monarchs took over at their 3 and drove to the Panthers 7 before turning the ball over on

downs. Jontavious Canty ran for 95 yards on the drive on nine carries with the big run being a 40-yarder. He finished with 224 rushing yards in the first half.

Canty, who led MHS in rushing and tackles from his linebacker post last season, was sidelined for the first month with a dislocated hip. He missed the first five games of the season on offense and the first four on defense, finishing with 19 tackles at linebacker against Est Clarendon. Kennedy said there's no doubt his presence has made a huge difference.

"I've watched them grow up and really started playing well, especially when we got Jon back," the head coach said. "When we were starting to play well is when we were gelling well on both sides of the football.

"I'm just so happy for him," Kennedy said of Canty, who had rushed for 587 yards and nine touchdowns on 89 carries entering the state playoffs. "The way he bounced back from what he went through with the dislocated hip. He's a kid that does everything we ask him to do, day in and day out, on and off the field.."

Tyrell Nelson scored on a 20-yard run and Lovell Stevenson ran for two to make it 32-6 with 10:33 remaining in the game. Stevenson scored the Monarchs' final touchdown on a 14-yard run with 3:30 left. **Javonte Brock** ran for the 2-point conversion to make it 40-6.

Lovell Stevenson rushed for 70 yards on nine carries while completing 3 of 5 passes for 45 yards. **Daniel Robinson** had 44 yards on eight carries, and Nelson had 37 yards on five carries.

The Monarchs have a lot of options running the football. Robinson led with 703 yards and six TDs on 91 carries, Baxter had 481 yards and four TDs on 87 carries, and Lovell Stevenson had 284 yards and eight scores on 60 carries.

Lovell Stevenson had completed 59 of 104 passes or 1,055 yards and 14 TDs against just five interceptions. His top target has been CJ Robinson, who had 36 catches or 739 yards and 12 scores.

Linebacker **Ethan Lowder** led Manning with nine tackles. Jontavious Canty had eight tackles, two of them for a loss.

Lowder leads the team in tackles with 90 and has 12 TFLs. Dontavious Canty had 50 tackles and 6 ½ TFLs, while Jontavious had 49 tackles, returned two fumbles or touchdowns and had eight TFLs. Lovon Stevenson led in TFLs with 12 ½ and quarterback sacks with three to go with 56 stops.

Kennedy is hoping the Monarchs will be able to take full advantage of what it has accomplished. MHS certainly did that last year, winning three home games before losing to Barnwell on the road in the lower state championship game.

"It's a key to play at home," Kennedy said. "We learned that last year (when Manning reached the lower state championship game). That 12th man, playing at home. It just felt good doing it. We knew if we won region, we've got first three rounds at home. It puts us in a pretty good bracket, in a pretty good situation."



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2025 Carolina Academy Bobcats girls tennis

Carolina Academy repeats as girls tennis champs

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Lake City – Another strong season ended just as it did in 2024 for the **Carolina Academy** girls tennis team.

For the second straight season, Carolina Academy won the SCISA Class AA state championship, defeating **Lowcountry Prep**, 6-0, to claim the top prize. The Bobcats also defeated Lowcountry Prep in the finals of the 2024 state tournament.

Carolina Academy finished the season with a 12-4 record.

The Bobcats are led by three seniors at the top of the singles lineup. **Carlie Anne Smith** was the No. 1 singles player for the second straight season.

Blythe Smith played the No. 2 singles position and **Savannah McCutcheon** played No. 3 singles.

Freshman **Kaylie Lyerly** played in the fourth spot and freshman **Madelyn Matthews** played No. 5. Freshman **Scarlett Evans** played No. 6 singles with **Kiki Hanna** and freshman **Mary Kearsten Hanna** also getting some time.

Eighth-grader **Harper Drew Richardson** and seventh-grader **Ava Johnson** also competed in various roles.

The junior varsity tennis team completed its season with a 6-5 overall record. **Anne Scott Johnson** played No. 1 singles and **Maecy Gamble** played No. 2.

Peyton Prosser played three singles while **Carly Watts** was at number four. **Emily Lyerly** played five singles and **Molly McElveen** plays six singles.

Gamble and Johnson combined for No. 1 doubles and Prosser and Watts played two doubles. Lyerly and McElveen were the number three doubles.

Meanwhile, the volleyball team participated in the SCISA state tournament but came up short in

Lake City football finishes season at 3-8

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Lake City – If there was any consistency shown by the **Lake City High School** football team this season, it was in its inconsistency. So says Panthers head coach **Jamison Estep**, who saw his team go 3-8 on the season.

"We left a lot of meat on the bone this year," said Estep, whose team lost to **Hampton County** 56-22 in the first round of the AA state playoffs. "We showed flashes of how good this offense and defense could be, but we lacked series-to-series, game-to-game consistency.

"Inconsistency was our Achilles heel this year.

their bid for a state title. The Bobcats finished the season with nine wins.

Seniors leading the way this season included **Abby McCutcheon**, **Alana Altman**, **Raeley Frye** and **Jennifer Vargas**. The rest of the roster is of junior varsity age but that youth is showing a lot of growth.

Sophomores included **Lauren Sims**, **Emma Amos**, **Lindsey Ward**, **Abby Walker** and **Ella Ham**. Rounding out the roster were freshmen **Paisley McCutcheon** and **Natalie Braveboy**; and eighth-grader **Ella Grace Johnson**.

The team was coached by **Ashley McClam-Todd** in her second season as head coach.

The football team closed its regular season with wins over Thomas Heyward (30-27) and Lee Academy (34-23), which evened their 2025 regular season record at 5-5. That was good enough to earn a spot in the state playoffs where they faced a rematch with Thomas JJeeward in the first-round game on Nov. 7. The two wins at the end snapped a four-game losing streak and sent the Bobcats into the postseason with a lot of confidence. The losses this season were to Dorchester Academy, Beaufort Academy, Williamsburg Academy, Calhoun Academy and Pee Dee Academy.

Walker McCutcheon has been a solid quarterback this fall. Handling the running back duties are **Luke Cook**, **Chandler Prosser** and **Carson Hanna**. Receivers include **Cole Tanner**, **Tanner Floyd** and **Ryker Rhodes**.

Working along the offensive line are tackles **Ryan Cox** and **Dawson Daniel**, guards **John Cumbee** and **Charlie Teal**, and **Kyle Cox** sharing center duties with **Luis Vargas**.\

Working on the defensive line are Cox, Teal and **AJ McDougal**, Linebackers include **Dawson**

I'm disappointed this team didn't reach what I felt was their full potential, and that falls squarely on my shoulders."

Senior **Amari Hanna** was a 3-year starter at quarterback. He rushed for 385 yards and six touchdowns while passing for almost 1,600 yards and 17 touchdowns in the regular season.

"We went how Amari went, and when he was on his game, we were tough to beat," Estep said.

J'Mari Jones had 29 catches or 509 yards and six touchdowns, while **Anthony White** had 28 catches for 396 yads and six more TDs.

Jordan Dobson was the leading rusher with 548 yards and four touchdowns.

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Williamsburg Academy

STALLIONS

Stallions in pursuit of fifth straight title appearance

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Kingtree – The **Williamsburg Academy** foot- ball team is one victory away from playing in a fifth straight state championship game. The Stallions de- feated **Patrick Henry Academy** 40-12 in the first round of the SCISA Class A state playoffs. They will play host to **Thomas Heyward Academy**, the team they lost to in last year’s title game, in a semi- final game on November 14.

With all of that recent success, first-year head coach **Will Furse** anticipated Williamsburg being good again. However, he knew there were a lot of variables involved in just how good it could be.

I was hoping we’d have a season like we’ve had so far,” Furse said prior to the playoff opener. “They’ve worked hard and they’ve practiced hard. They’re all good football players.

“I try not to look too far ahead. I try to make it where my expectations are just on the next day of practice. Hopefully our season has a couple of more weeks in it.”

The Stallions are 9-1 and have outscored the op- position 351-123 They have been consistent from week to week, according to Furse.

“I say it’s been steady,” Furse said. “We’ve been tremendous on defense. We had three region games and held our opponents to 21 points. Offensively, we’ve been able to run the ball really well. When your running back is averaging over 10 yards a carry and your quarterback is averaging over 10 yards a carry, those are usually good signs.”

The aforementioned running back and quarter- back are junior **Grant Small** and senior **Micah Balder**, respectively. Small had rushed for 1,582 yards and 24 touchdowns on 148 carries entering the playoffs, an average of 10.7 yards per carry. Balder was averaging 11.4 yards on 40 carries good for 456 yards and five scores.

Sophomore running back **Eli Brown** had 456 yards and four touchdowns on 66 carries.

Williamsburg’s offensive line has junior **Michael Ard** at right guard, junior **Marlin Morris** at right tackle, junior **Mason Cribb** at left tackle, junior **Sammy Tomlinson** at left guard and sopho- more Henderson Livingston at center.

Because of the success on the ground, Williams- burg only averages eight pass attempts a game. However, Balder is making pretty good use of them, hitting on 43 of 73 passes for 841 yards and eight touchdowns against just one interception.

In the regular-season finale, the Stallions beat previously undefeated **Dorchester Academy** 36-21 for the Region 1 title. While Balder only threw nine passes, he hit on eight of them for 186 yards and three touchdowns. Junior wingback/wide receiver **Charlie Caulder** had a great game, catching five passes for 172 yards and touchdowns of 95 and 64 yards, respectively.

The 95-yard score came on a wheel route, a play Williamsburg installed just for the Raiders.

“That was the first time we’ve ran it,” Caulder said. “I got up the sideline (coming out of the back- field), and the quarterback threw one of the pretti- est passes of the year. It was an over-the-shoulder pass. I just had to stay in bounds and had to make sure that I caught it. I had about four yards on the defender.”

Was Caulder excited when he heard the play call?

“Anytime I know there’s a chance of me getting that ball I’m excited,” he said. “And it had the right result too.”

Caulder has easily been Balder’s favorite target He had 25 catches for 548 yards and six touch- downs entering the playoffs.

Furse said he and his staff aren’t using Caulder nearly as much as they should.

“Charlie had a phenomenal game,” Furse said. “He does it in practice all the time, and it carries over to the games. We probably haven’t gotten the ball to him all year the way we should. He’s a matchup nightmare for other teams, and we’ve got to be trying to take advantage of that.

“He’s a great blocker. We run behind him a ton. He’s tall, 6-(foot)-3 (inches), 6-4. He’s very fast, a 400-meter (dash) trak guy, and he has great hands. You put all that together and it makes him a very difficult matchup.”

Furse said it’s nice to have that passing option to keep defenses honest.

“We probably should throw the ball more just to become more balanced,” he said. “You’re harder to defend if you’re good at it. We’ll take hat people are giving us.”

The Stallion defense isn’t giving the opposition much of anything defensively. Ard was easily the leading tackler with 102 from his linebacker slot. Caulder, also a linebacker, is a force defensively as well . He had 52 tackles, including a team high 13 tackles for loss.

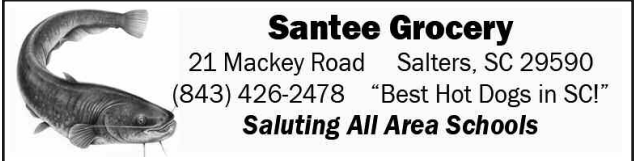
See Williamsburg, pg. 69



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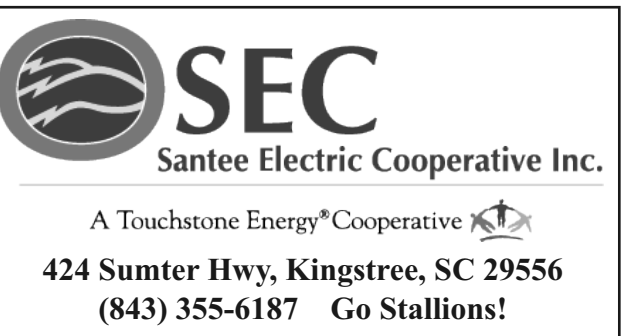


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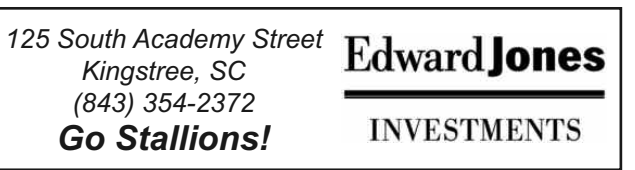
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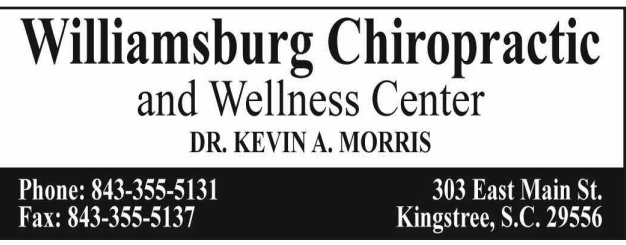


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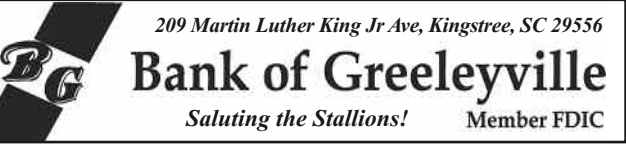


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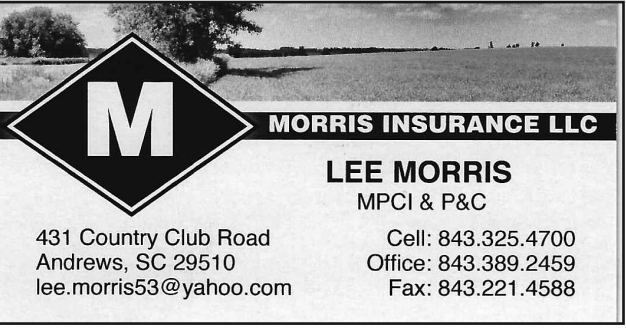
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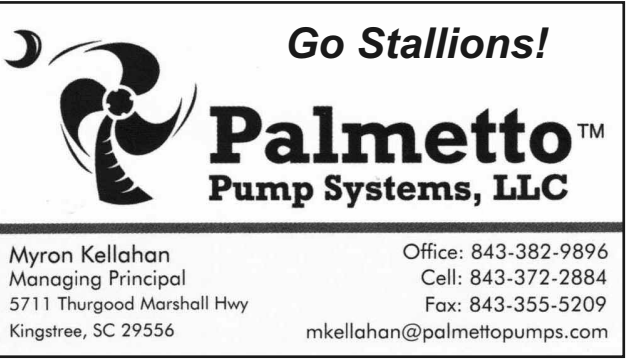
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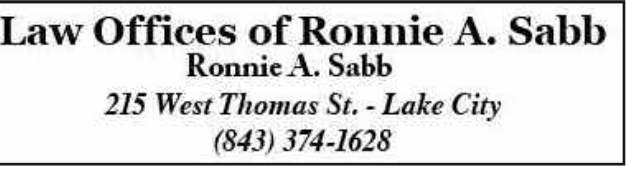
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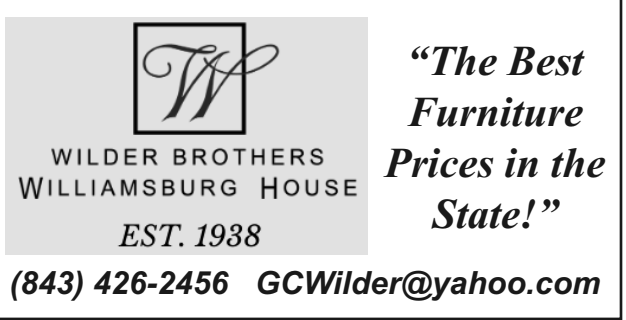


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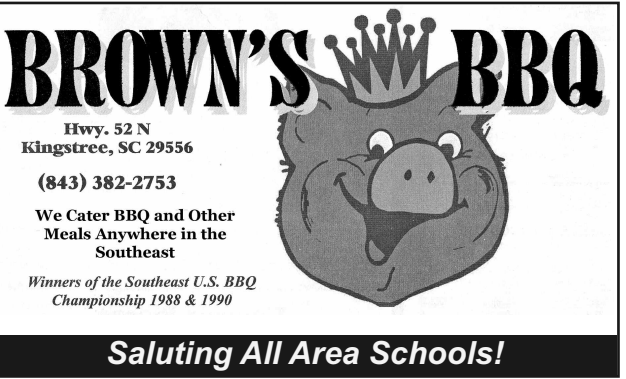
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Wolverines defense faces challenge in Central

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Turbeville – **East Clarendon High School** posted its fourth shutout of the season with a 14-0 triumph over **Lake Marion** in the first round of the AA state playoffs on November 7.

The Wolverines are 9-2 on the season and now face a major challenge in the second round. They will travel to **Pageland** to take on 9-1 **Central** on November 14.

“Central is the fastest team we’ve played all season,” EC head coach **Larry Cornelius** said. “In order to win, our defense has to show out again as offensive points are going to be hard to come by, especially with running back **Skyler Cornelius** doubt- ful to play.”

The Eagles are averaging 39 points a contest. East Clarendon has been stout defensively all year. It has allowed just 92 points with the most it has allowed all season coming in a 20-14 loss to **Lake City**.

“Our defense has been the staple of our success this year,” Coach Cornelius said. “(Defensive coor- dinator) **Brandon Carter** has done a terrific job preparing our boys each and every week. Not one kid stands out, but we play blue collar defense.”

In the shutout of Lake Marion, **Mike Woods** led the way with six tackles, one tackle for a loss and one-half of a quarterback sack. **Keshaun Porter** and **Jaylon Barron** both had five tackles and two sacks with Porter finishing with two TFLs.

Jesse Floyd had four tackles and three TFLs, **Braylon Brown** had four tackles and two pass breakups, and **Thomas Fitts** had three tackles and the other one-half of a sack.

The Wolverines managed just 201 yards of total offense against Lake Marion, 147 coming on the ground. Cornelius had nine carries for 37 yards be-

fore going out with the injury. **Tyquan Wilson** had 24 carries for 60 yards. Quarterback Gavin White ran for a score and had three carries for 40 yards, while **Picasso Brown** scored the other touchdown and had 27 yards on eight carries.

White completed 5 of 10 passes for 54 yards. **Jamal Prince** had two catches for 21 yards and **Johnny Byington** had a 25-yard reception.

EC BOYS, GIRLS WIN REGION CROSS COUNTRY TITLES

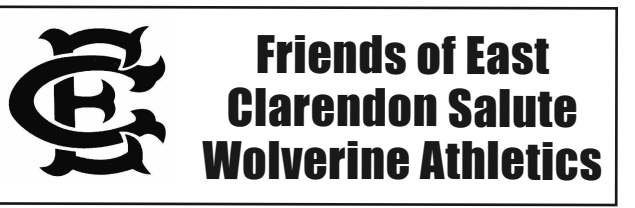
The East Clarendon boys and girls cross country both won their respective Region 7-AA meets on **October 29** in **Turbeville**.

The boys won with 28 points while the girls won with 17 points.

Junior **Braylon Hunt** finished third in a time of 19:32.88 in the boys individual. Freshman **Jeff Robinson** was fourth in 20:31.03, senior **Tryston Unerwood** was fifth in 21:00.84, and eighth-grader **Wells Epps** was sixth in 21:07.38. Rounding out the scoring for the Wolverines was seventh-grader **Baker Spring** in 10th at 22:43.32.

For the girls, East Clarendon senior **Shae Lee** was the individual winner in a time of 22:01.46. Sen- ior **Kira Owens** was second in 22:24.21, senor **Cayli Harcrow** was fourth in 24:02.40, junior **Mat- tie Kelly** was fifth in 24:03.18, and freshman **Lizzie Mims** was seventh in 25:54.39.

Hunt, Robinson and Underwood earned spots on the boys All-Region team. Making the girls All-Re- gion squad were Lee, Owens, Harcrow and Kelly.



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Scott’s Branch not satisfied with 2025 to date

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Summerton – The **Scott’s Branch High School** football team has gone from a 4-7 season in **Patrick Fleming’s** first season as head coach to 9-2 this sea- son.

So far. The Eagles opened the Class A state playoffs with a 32-14 victory over **Hannah-Pamplico** on November 7. Now they are hungry for more. They will play host to 8-2 **Johnsonville** at **Spann Stadium** on November 14.

Fleming said Scott’s Branch is happy with its season to date but not satisfied.

“We’re happy with where we’re where at, grate- ful to be 9-2,” Fleming said. “We feel like we’re building. We have a lot of kids who are excited. We want more though.”

The Eagles jumped out to an 18-0 lead against Hannah-Pamplico. However, H-P scored a second- quarter touchdown and got another at the start of the third quarter to pull within 18-14. SB responded by getting a safety to make it 20-14 and got two more touchdowns to put the game away.

Quintin Jackson had a big game for Scott’s Branch. He had 13 carries for 198 yards and four touchdowns and completed 2 of 3 passes for 34 yards. He also had one catch for 23 yards.

“We played well in spots,” Fleming said. “We

forced two turnovers on defense, and Quintin had a heck of a game all around. Other guys stepped up. It was an all-around team effort.”

The Eagles are having to make due without **Aiden Conyers** at quarterback. He is lost for the season with an injury. **Ja’Quell “JoJo” Jackson** has stepped in and led them to a 48-0 win over **Aca- demic Magnet** to clinch second place in Region 5 and the win over H-P.

JoJo completed 11 of 15 passes for 208 yards and four touchdowns against Academic Magnet. He completed 7 of 13 passes for 122 yards and a score against H-P.

“He’s stepped in and done a really good job for us,” Fleming said of JoJo Jackson. “It’s that next- man-up mentality.”

The Eagles played without another one of their key performers on both sides of the ball in **Nyren Bowman**. He is expected to be ready to go against Johnsonville.

Nazaiah Richardson led the defense with 14 tackles, one quarterback sack and one tackle for a loss. Defensive end Danny Ragin had eight tackles and three TFLs, while Fra’Jon Bennett and Kazon **Taylor** had two TFLs apiece. **Keith Rogers** and **Christian Green** each had an interception.

“They’ve done a fantastic job,” Fleming said. “I’m proud of the kids. We’re going to prepare and get ready and let the cards fall where they may.”

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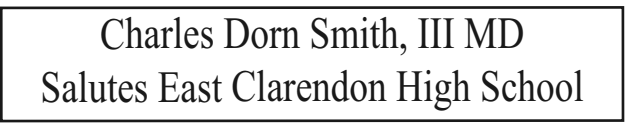


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SUMMERVILLE GREENWAVE

Summerville football looking to finish the job in '25

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR
Summerville – The Summerville Football team hit a bump in the road, but seems to be back on course.

The **Green Wave** is 9-2 this season with its only losses coming to a pair of teams ranked in the Top 10 for their division by the **High School Sports Report**. Summerville, ranked fifth for **5A, Division 1**, fell to now ninth-ranked **Ashley Ridge** and **South Florence**, which is now ranked No. 2 in **4A**. Summerville's key wins include those over **Stratford**, **Berkeley** and **James Island**.

One of the more intriguing games of the second week of the high-school football playoffs will pit Summerville (9-2) against Ashley Ridge at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14 in **The Swamp**.

"I like our chances if we don't do the dumb things at the wrong time," said Summerville **Coach Ian Rafferty**. "Our defense since the last Ashley Ridge game has been pretty solid. Outside that game this whole second half of the season we have been really good. It's rare to get a second chance to redeem yourself so I'm looking forward to it. They had a good game plan the first time and kind of stuck it to us. This time, we need to execute a little better on offense and tackle a little better."

After that loss, Summerville defeated **Fort Dorchester** and **West Ashley** handily to capture a piece of the Region 8 Championship. Ashley Ridge and James Island also grabbed a piece.

Last week, Summerville opened the playoffs with a 65-21 thumping of West Ashley. Senior running back **Cam Grayson** rushed for four TDs while a pair of Green Wave quarterbacks through for three more. The Wave also had a rushing TD from **Jayvyn Williams** and defensive back **Jakayden Pendergrass** scored on a Pick 6.

Quarterback **Max Stafford** has completed 83 passes this season for 1,255 yards and 15 touchdowns. QB **Cooper Kafina** has completed 40 passes for 666 yards and four TDs.

Their favorite target is **Jaiden Kelly-Murray** who has 50 receptions for 796 yards and 11 TDs. **Jaiden Davis** has 19 catches for 402 yards and two TDs.

Williams leads the Summerville rushers with 1,151 yards and 15 TDs on 159 carries and has 13 catches for 163 yards and two more TDs. Grayson has 43 carries for 434 yards and seven TDs.

Boys Volleyball

Summerville senior **Kerrick Pruitt** has been named the **5A Region 8 Boys Volleyball Player of the Year**. His coach, **Stephen DiPaolo**, has been named the **Region Coach of the Year**. The duo led the Green Wave to a 32-6 record and a clean sweep of its region opponents. Summerville advanced further than it ever has in the playoffs before falling to **Carolina Forest** during the **5A, Division 1 Lower State Championship** match.

Summerville's Alex Mose and Nick Beddard were also named All-Region.

Girls Volleyball

Summerville senior **Tehani Mose** has been named the **5A Region 8 Girls Volleyball Player of**



Running back Cam Grayson picks up yards for Summerville
Photo by Roger Lee

the Year. She was also selected for the **5A All-State Team** after leading the Green Wave to a runner-up performance in the region behind **James Island**.

Summerville's **Emilia Markovic** and **Molly Jackson** also received All-Region honors.

Cross Country

The **Summerville Girls** placed fourth in the **Even Division race of 5A, Division 1 State Qualifier** Nov. 8 in **Newberry**.

Green Wave senior **Taylor Blackwelder** won the race with an 18:44 time. **Kinley Brown** placed ninth with a 20:31 finish. **Eva Inness**, **Kendall Griffith** and **Rihanna Vidor** all placed in the Top 40. Trailing for Summerville were **Lacie Cinnamon** and **Ainsley Barbee**.

The **Summerville Boys** won the **Even Division** race in **Newberry**.

Junior **David Greer** led Summerville, finishing in 16:17 to place second. **Jack Alberti** finished in 17:00 to place sixth and **Nick Alberti** finished in 17:02 to place seventh. **Jacek Torkel**, **Luke Otey**, **Mekhi Champaigne** and **Jacob Bunao** also placed in the Top 50.

Summerville swept the **Region 8 Cross Country Championships** Oct. 20 at **Wannamaker County Park**.

The Summerville Boys finished with 21 team points to place first. Greer won the boys' race with a 15:57.16 time. Nick Alberti was just behind, placing second with a 16:04.67 time. Trailing for Summerville were Jack Alberti (fourth place), Champaigne (sixth), Otey (eighth), Torkel (13th) and Bunao (16th).

The Summerville Girls finished with 27 points to place first in their race. Blackwelder won the race with an 18:31.13 time. Just behind in second place was Brown with a 19:35.86 time. Trailing for the Green Wave were Griffith (sixth), Inness (eighth), Vidor (10th), Cinnamon (19th) and **Victoria Williams** (24th).

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Panthers looking to make some noise in playoffs

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR
Summerville – The Pinewood Prep Football team is riding a three-game winning streak into the second round of the **SCISA 3A** playoffs.

The Panthers claimed a 60-13 win over visiting **Northside Christian** from **Lexington** Nov. 7 during the first round. Pinewood began pulling starters at the beginning of the third quarter and held a 54-0 lead entering the final quarter.

"It was a good game for us, but I still feel we haven't played our best game yet," said Pinewood Coach **DeVonte Holloman**. "That could be a good thing, or a bad thing. We have a lot of playmakers and we are still trying to move them around and put them in spots we feel is best and I think we did a good job of that tonight."

The Panthers host **Florence Christian** (8-2) for the second round. The game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14 at Pinewood.

Pinewood quarterback **Silas Brawner** has completed 154 passes this season for 2,931 yards and nine touchdowns and has ran for two TDs. His favorite target is **Jayden Alexander** who has 51 receptions for 1,075 yards and 13 TDs. **Lavoris Lucas**

has 41 catches for 792 yards and nine TDs. **Heyward Moore** has 47 catches for 497 yards and five TDs. **Tre Green** has 26 catches for 419 yards and nine TDs.

Grayson Salego leads the team in rushing with 88 carries for 662 yards and 11 TDs. Lucas has 26 carries for 252 yards and three



Jayden Alexander
Photo by Roger Lee

See Pinewood Prep, pg. 69

P **Pinewood Prep Athletic Booster Club Salutes Our Student Athletes!**

Fall sports coming to a successful end at PG in 2025

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Charleston – The 2025 fall sports season at **Porter-Gaud** is coming to an end and the focus soon turns to basketball.

Porter-Gaud again enjoyed solid success in the fall, though there weren't as many state championships as there have been in past years.

The fall sports campaign did produce one state team championship as the girls swim team won a state championship for the 10th consecutive year. The boys team had won nine years in a row but finished second this year to Hammond by a mere four points.

Individual state championship efforts were turned in by **Harriet Kelley** (200-yard freestyle), and **Sloan Pittard** (100-yard freestyle). Kelley took silver in the 100-yard backstroke while Pittard took second in

the 100-yard breaststroke. **Anne Hyde** took second in the 200-yard individual medley and was fourth in the backstroke. **Lilah Kowalski** was third in the 500-yard freestyle and fourth in the 200 IM. **Caitlin Baden** finished third in the breaststroke.

The girls team won the 200-yard medley relay and the 400-yard free relay, while taking second in the 200-yard free relay.

LJ Leveen had a strong day for the boys team, winning gold in the 200-freestyle and the 500-freestyle. **Kyson Brown-Cobb** was fourth in the breaststroke and **Hayes Wilkes** was fourth in the 200.

Individually, freshman **Morgan Howell** won the SCISA class AAAA gold medal at the 2025 state cross country championship meet on Nov. 1. It was

See Porter Gaud, pg. 71

Ashley Hall tennis caps perfect season with title

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Charleston - There is no better way to complete an undefeated season than with a state title, and the **Ashley Hall Tennis** team did just that with a SCISA AAAA state championship victory over Trinity Collegiate on Oct. 10.

The title win capped a 23-0 season for the Panthers, who successfully defended the state title they won last season.

"Just a dream season for a group of girls who work so hard," coach **Charlotte Hartsock** said. "We beat a lot of good teams, some public schools as well. This team worked for everything they got and they deserve this."

Highlights were winning the pre-season tournament in Florence, defeating Myrtle Beach, T.L. Hanna and A.C. Flora in that tournament.

"I knew after that tournament that we had a good chance," Hartsock said. "You never know how a season will play out but I felt like we had a state championship team."

Ashley Hall also won the Bishop England tournament, posting wins over Charlotte Latin, Mauldin and Wando. The Panthers also beat Lucy Beckham, a state title contender in Class AAAA of the SCHSL, twice during the season.

Hartsock had an experienced team this fall. The starting singles lineup included seniors **Lily Sloan**, **Emma Tedford** and **Grace Taylor**. Sloan, who played the No. 1 singles position, posted a 14-6

record this season and was named the region player of the year.

"Lily was on the team for five years and played No. 1 for the last three seasons," Hartsock said. "She played every team's best player and she was such a battler."

Tedford played No. 4 singles and had a 21-0 record, while Taylor was 20-1 in the No. 5 singles slot. **Kate Streneck** was the team's fourth senior.

"We had great leadership from our seniors and they made sure we had the right chemistry," Hartsock said.

Junior **Emily Kaye** was 19-2 at No. 2 singles and freshman **Bridgette DeWolf** was 19-1 at No. 3. Sophomore **Charlotte Guffey** was 13-1 as the No. 6 singles player.

"We will miss those seniors but we should be fine next year," said Hartsock. "We have some good young players in the program and the junior varsity team has some good talent."

Swim team places second at state meet
 Ashley Hall's swim team competed in the SCISA AAAA state meet, finishing as the state runner-up in the final team standings.

Among the top individual performers was **Reves Sidebottom**, who took second in the 100-yard freestyle and third in the 50-yard freestyle. **Amelia Lennon** took third in the 200-yard freestyle and swam fifth in the 100-yard butterfly.

Amelia DeWolf placed fifth in the 200-yard freestyle and fifth in the 200-yard individual medley.

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Ella Sidebottom finished fifth in the 100-freestyle. In relay events, Ashley Hall placed second in the 400-yard relay and fifth in the 200-yard relay.

Dillon Christian finishes up 2025 regular season

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Eitor
Dillon – The **Dillon Christian School** football team saw its season come to an end with a 3-7 record following a 31-7 loss to a 9-2 Greenwood Christian **School** team in the first round of the SCISA AAA state playoffs on November 7.

Warriors head coach **Chris Alphin** would certainly have liked a better record in his first season as head coach. However, he thinks it was the start o something good.

“As a whole, I feel like the season had a lot to do with building a foundation for the future,” Alphin said. “It got better as the season went on. I feel like we were still finding our footing in those early weeks.

AS the season went on we played some really good competition, so it was good for our young guys to see the level of play they have to match, and that gave them something to focus on in the offseason.”

DCS is a member of Region 2 so that means it faced defending state champion **Pee Dee Academy** and the defending runner-up as well in **Bethesda Academy**. They lost those two games but beat **Hilton Head Prep** and **St. John’s Christian Academy** to go 2-2 in region play.

Dillon Christian was led by sophomore quarterback **Jordan Blackmon**. He completed 108 of 207 passes for 1,676 yards and 10 touchdowns. He ran for 645 yards and nine touchdowns on 102 carries.

Blackmon’s top target was senior **R Bracey**. He had 47 catches for 817 yards and eight touchdowns. Senior **Zachary Ellis** had 234 receptiosn for 387 yards and three scores. Senior **Hayden Moody** had 20 catches for 312 yards and three scores.

Bracey also ran for 263 yards and three touchdowns, while senior **Kaden Locklear** had 227 yards

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Fall sports are a wrap at First Baptist in 2025

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
James Island – The **First Baptist** fall sports season is complete and the winter focus turns to basketball.

First Baptist had a competitive spirit across the board this fall but wins were hard to come by due to youth and inexperience.

The girls golf team earned a spot in the SCISA state tournament, finishing 13th overall in the team standings. Participating in the event were **Cate Counts**, **Sophia Paulatos**, **Izzy Tracy**, **Ellison CUmmbigs**, **Kelsey Danford**, **Elin Tracy** and **Eleanor Ashcroft**.

Several members of the swimming program qualified for the SCISA AAAA state championship meet. The boys 200-yard medley relay team posted a sev-

Lee Academy finishes football season 2-8

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Bishopville – The football season came to an end for **Lee Academy** on November 7 with a 44-28 loss to **Colleton Prep Academy** in the first round of the SCISA Class A state playoffs.

The Cavaliers finished with a 2-8 record and that didn’t sit well with first-year head coach **Justin Logan**.

“The season as a whole was disappointing,” Logan said. “Our goal was certainly to win more than two games. We can learn a lot from this season. Success isn’t given, but earned over the offseason

and two scores.

Junior middle linebacker **Ethan Moody** led the defense with 22 tackles for a loss and 65 tackles. Senior defensive end **Wyatt Locklear** had 50 tackles an 16 TFLs. Locklear led the team with four quarter-back sacks.

Alphin praised his senior class for its contribution to the program.

“The seniors we will be losing played an instrumental role in the helping us develop our bread and butter,” he said. “Now we can move orward with more attention to detail now that all of our formational and executional proponents are in.

“This was definitely not a season wasted, but when a program gets flipped over sometimes that trial-and-error season is inevitable.”

Alphin hopes the Warriors can take a few steps up the SCISA ladder next season.

“We have to make sure we remember how this season felt every rep of offseason training,” Alphin said. “We have to earn our plate at the table.

There is some really good competition in SCISA, and we look forward to being in that conversation.”

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enth-place finish while finishing eighth in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Members of those relay units included **Case Cordray**, **Slate Shope**, **Banks Cordray** and **Trenholm Cordray**.

Banks Cordray also posted top 10 finishes in the 200-yard freestyle (seventh) and the 100-yard butterfly (eighth).

On the girls side, **Millie Acker** finished 14th in the 100-yard backstroke and was 15th in the 200-yard freestyle. **Blair Acker** swam to a 13th-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle.

The cross country program also competed on the biggest stage, the 2025 state meet on Nov. 1. The boys team posted an eighth-place finish in the final team standings.

Leading the Hurricanes contingent was **Miles Jackson**, who finished 34th overall. **Walker Timbes**

and during the week.

“I am proud of how our team never gave up in the midst of any game and fought to the end.”

Quarterback **Andrew Bowers** was responsible for all of LA’s touchdowns against CPA. He had 11 carries for 120 yards an three touchdowns and completed 7 of 15 passes for 159 yards and the other TD.

Paxton Greene had the TD reception, an 80-yard. **Cain June** had four catches for 64 yards.

Carter Berendzen led the defense with six tackles, 3 ½ of them a tackle for a loss.

See **Lee Academy**, pg. 69

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ran in 39th and **George Doyle** was 40th. **Brody Jackson** scored in 52nd-place and the fifth scoring runner was **Mathew Roof** in 64th. Also competing were **Tyler Katz** (96th) and **Rigby Hartt** (109).

The football team is in rebuild mode under first-

See **First Baptist**, pg. 70

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Fort Dorchester to be upset-minded this week

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR
North Charleston – The **Fort Dorchester Football** team is looking to even its record with a playoff upset this week.

The **Patriots** have struggled some this season, but improved to 5-6 on the season with a 24-21 victory over visiting **Lexington** (3-8) Nov. 7 in the first round of the **5A, Division 1** playoffs.

“We made the playoffs and we are getting better every day,” said Fort Dorchester Coach **Shaun Lorenzano**. “We are scoring more points than we did during certain stretches. It’s just hard with so many young kids, but they are learning.”

Lexington gave the Patriots a tight game with huge momentum shifts. Just when it looked like the **Wildcats** would eliminate the Patriots, Fort Dorchester covered 60 yards to score on a screen pass from **Thomas Adamsky** to **Mykell Warthen** that gained 31-yards for a TD with 1:03 remaining in the final quarter for the lead. **Thomas Wamer** and **Davion Codrey** combined for a fourth-down sack to clinch the victory.

Eric Mittag sent a kick through the uprights early in the game to give the Patriots a 3-0 lead. Receiver **Laurez Matthews** took a direct snap in the closing minutes of the first half and rushed for a 1-yard TD run to increase that lead. **Kyrome Durant** scored on a 3-yard run with 4:44 remaining in the final quarter to put the Patriots up 17-7 with Mittag’s third PAT kick of the evening.

The Patriots’ other wins this season came over **Beaufort**, **Goose Creek**, **West Ashley** and **Stall**. In their favor is the fact that all their losses (**Stratford**, **South Florence**, **White Knoll**, **Ashley Ridge**, **James Island** and **Summerville**) came to teams now ranked in the Top 10 for their division.

The Patriots will travel to **Carolina Forest** (9-1)

Volleyball
The Patriots landed multiple players on the **5A Region 8 Volleyball** all-region teams.

Fort Dorchester’s **Dawson Boutin** and **Cade Ridgway** were named to the boys’ all-region team. Fort Dorchester’s **Annamarie Picciano** and **Isabella (Izzy) Kerce** were named to the girls’ all-region

Ashley Ridge football is coming on strong

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR
Summerville – **Ashley Ridge** played some of its best football during October, winning four of its five games that month to capture a piece of the **5A Region 8 Championship**.

“We have players who can be explosive and our defense plays lights out some nights,” said Ashley Ridge Coach **Ashley Haskins**. “When we don’t make penalties, we execute well.”

Summerville and **James Island** also grabbed a piece of that title, but the **Swamp Foxes** received the region’s top playoff seed based on tiebreaker criteria so it had a bye for the first round.

Ashley Ridge is 6-4 on the season, but those losses came to **James Island**, **Berkeley**, **Oceanside Collegiate** and **Carolina Forest**, which are all Top 10 teams for their division. The Swamp Foxes enter this week ranked ninth for **5A, Division 1** by the **HSSR**. The Swamp Foxes’ biggest win of the season came on Oct. 17 when they handed Summerville (now ranked fifth in that division) a 42-19 loss.

One of the more intriguing games of the second week of the high-school football playoffs will pit Summerville (9-2) against Ashley Ridge at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14 in The Swamp.

AR quarterback **Trevor Kalisz** has completed 167 passes this season for 1,669 yards and seven touchdowns while rushing for 535 yards and a TD. His favorite target has been **Jagger Spivey** who has 41 receptions for 407 yards and two TDs. **Josiah Mitchell** has 28 catches for 348 yards and two TDs. **Jaylin Grant** has 36 catches for 326 yards and a TD.

Senior **Ryan Campbell** leads the AR rushers with 165 carries for 1,629 yards and 17 TDs and has 16 receptions for 213 yards and 3 TDs. **Camren Garner** has 78 carries for 448 yards and two TDs.



QB Thomas Adamsky
Photo by Roger Lee

team.

Warthen leads the team’s rushers with 74 carries for 562 yards and five TDs. Durant has 93 carries for 402 yards and three TDs.

Matthews lead in receiving with 19 catches for 432 yards and five TDs. Warthen, Durant and **Derick Simpson** all have more than 150 receiving yards.

Volleyball
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Ryan Campbell is the leading rusher for the Swamp Foxes this season
Photo by Roger Lee

Swimming
The Ashley Ridge swim teams had a strong performance during the **2025 South Carolina 5A Division 1 Swimming Championships in Columbia**.

The **Ashley Ridge Boys** came closer than they ever have to capturing a state championship, placing second. The Ashley Ridge Girls placed 10th.

“We have a great group of kids and watching them compete and cheer each other on was really cool,” said Ashley Ridge coach **Victoria Merritt**. “There’s something special about teaching kids their first swim lessons or watching them grow up from an 8-year-old on a summer swim team and then

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Cross Country
During the **5A, Division 1 Cross Country State Qualifier** Nov. 8 in Newberry, **Kaiya Britton** led Fort Dorchester in the Odd Division girls’ race, finishing in 22:38 to place 46th. Trailing for the Patriots were **Alyssa Davis**, **Ceanna Owen**, **Olivia Vitali**, **Violet Reidy**, **Zoe Callahan** and **Erin Wilson**.

Junior **Cade Merfeld** led the Fort Boys in their race, finishing in 17:54 to place 32nd. **Gorden Cromer** also placed in the Top 50. Trailing for the Patriots were **Samuel Fink**, **Alexander Langevin**, **Luca Sweatman**, **Mason Bates** and **Matthew Rodriguez**.

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having them on the varsity team and seeing every bit of their hard work pay off.”

Ashley Ridge senior **Grace Marsaa** broke a state record that had stood since 2016, winning the **Girls 100-yard Breaststroke** with a 1:02.82 time. She also won the **Girls 50 Freestyle** with a 24.32 time and helped two AR relay teams to a Top 10 finish.

Several members of the AR boys’ team had a role in multiple Top 10 finishes.

5A Division 1 Swimming Championships Top 5

AR Boys 200 Medley Relay (**Nathan Lindsey**, **Karter Gladis**, **Landon Berghoff**, **Jimmy Young**), 4th

Karter Gladis- Boys 100 Butterfly, 4th/ Boys 100 Breaststroke, 2nd

Nathan Lindsey- Boys 500 Free, 2nd/ Boys 200 Free, 4th/ Boys 500 Free, 2nd

Finn Routhier- Boys 100 Backstroke, 5th

AR Boys 400 Free Relay (**Nathan Lindsey**, **Landon Berghoff**, **Jimmy Young**, **Karter Gladis**), 2nd

AR Girls 200 Medley Relay (**Addie Green**, **Grace Marsaa**, **Callie Casa**, **Emily Bonacci**), 4th

Grace Marsaa- Girls 50 Free, 1st/ Girls 100 Breast, 1st/

Swampcats end regular season on hot streak

By **Dennis Brunson**
hssr.com Associate Editor
Manning – The season was anything but steady for the **Laurence Manning Academy** football team with peaks and valleys along the way. The Swampcats ended the regular season on an upward climb with three straight victories to finish with a 6-4 over-all record and earn the right to host a home game in the first round of the SCISA AAAA state playoffs. Laurence Manning beat **Porter-Gaud** 22-21 at its **Billy Chitwood Field** to secure the right to host the Cyclones on November 7 in the playoffs. Unfortunately for the Swampcats, things didn’t work out so well on the second go around. P-G came away with a 13-6 victory and was set to play **Northwood Academy** in the semifinals.

Veteran head coach **Jimmy Noonan**, who’s in his first season at Laurence Manning, has no complaints about the year. “I think it’s been a very good season,” Noonan said prior to the playoff game. “I feel like we navigated the ups and downs pretty well. We always had solid leadership throughout the season.

“Our numbers were not what they needed to be. That led to problems with injuries and we had to patchwork together a competitive team at times. I think this group is really maximizing its abilities and capabilities. The measuring stick is solid.”

The triumph over Porter-Gaud was a spine-tingling one. Sophomore placekicker **Daniel Vargas** connected on his third field goal of the contest, this one from 35 yards out with 12 seconds remaining for the 1-point win.

Vargas was a reliable part of the offense, hitting his groove down the homestretch. He finished the regular season hitting on 10 of 13 field goal attempts, including 6 of 7 in the final two regular-season contests. The final one of those seven was the first one he attempted with the game on the line, where a miss secures a loss or a make gives you a victory.

The Swampcats put together a last-second drive to put him in position with quarterback **Grainger Powell** connected with wide receiver **Scoop Dennis** for a 21-yard gain to the Porter-Gaud 18-yard line. Laurence Manning, which converted on three fourth downs on the 15-play drive, rushed to the line and spiked the ball to stop the clock with a dozen ticks remaining.

Vargas, who had delivered on a 34-yarder and a 42-yarder earlier, was true once again to secure the win. Vargas admitted the circumstances surrounding the kick affected how he approached the attempt.

“It was a little bit of a different feeling,” Vargas said. “We just had a few seconds on the clock. I was just trying to block out all the noise and focus on putting it through the uprights. I was just taking it step by step, and I knocked it through.”

If Vargas was nervous about attempting a poten-

tial game-winning kick, Noonan said he didn’t see it. “If you know Daniel, not much rattles him,” said Noonan. “He’s even-keeled, not very emotional He was just as stressful as he was at the beginning of the game. He does his job and is consistent and steady.”

Vargas also had a strong game punting. He averaged 43.0 yards a punt on five kicks with a long of 64 yards and another for 60 yards. Plus, Porter-Gaud had no return yards, so the Swampcats were consistently flipping the field.

“He’s really gotten stronger there,” Noonan said. “He hadn’t punted much before this year, and he’s gotten more and more comfortable.”

The Swampcats have had issues running the football, averaging just over 100 yards a game. A lot of that has to do with a lack of girth on the offensive line. However, Noonan is happy with its development.

“We knew going in it would be a struggle up front, but they’ve really, really competed well,” he said. “Despite the lack of physical attributes, the competitiveness of that group right now is tremendous. They don’t listen to the noise, they’re competitive and they’ve given 100 percent all year long.”

The line had junior Tristen White (6-feet-2-inches, 270 pounds) at left tackle, junior Eli Gamble (6-1, 170) at right tackle, junior **Bryson Pepper** (5-6, 170) at right guard, sophomore **Cody Taylor** (6-0, 202) at left guard and senior **Kib Newman** (5-11, 207) at center.

Zy Dennis had rushed for 238 yards and four TDs on 32 carries going into the playoffs to lead the way. **Eli Sandifer** had 218 yards and a score on 40 carries, **Payton Brown** had 183 yards and a touchdown on 34 attempts, and Powell has 132 yards and four TDs on 87 carries.

Powell had a solid season throwing the football. He’d completed 131 of 213 passes for 1,747 yards and 13 scores against just three interceptions.

His favorite targets had been Scoop Dennis and tight end **Asher Sanders** with 30 catches apiece. Dennis had 536 yards and six TD catches, while Sanders had 380 an one score.

Zy Dennis had 23 catches for 183 yards and three touchdowns, and **Rob Briggs** had 20 receptions for 301 yards and a score.

Sanders was leading the defense in tackles with 39 from his linebacker post. He is tied for the lead in tackles for loss with White with eight. White, a defensive lineman, had 29 ½ tackles as did linebacker Peyton McGee.

Shawn Thomas Moore led in interceptions with three, while the Dennis brothers had two apiece. LMA had forced 20 turnovers – 12 picks and eight fumble recoveries – and had five defensive scores.

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See Laurence Manning, pg. 70

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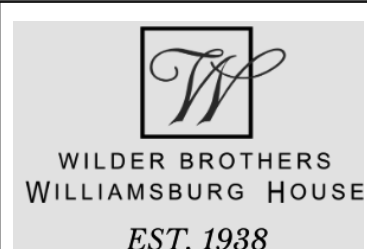
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May River completes second straight winning football season under Bonneville

By **Billy G. Baker**
Publisher
Bluffton—Since switching over to the Slot-T offense, after his first season as the May River head football coach in 2023, **Richard Bonneville’s** Landsharks have won 16 games, and made the AAAA playoffs both seasons.

This past season May River finished 7-3 after winning 9 games in 2024.

“As long as I am the head coach at May River, the Slot-T will be our offense, and all of our players and coaches are getting more comfortable with the offense more and more,” said Coach Bonneville. “It has given us a chance to be successful, and that was our main objective switching over from a spread offense my first season as head coach.”

May River concluded the 2025 season with a 36-28 hard-fought loss to **Wilson High** last Friday night in the first round of the AAAA playoffs.

“Honestly, we felt like we were the better team against Wilson but we lost two fumbles, and had a pass intercepted that just killed some scoring opportunities,” said Coach Bonneville. “Our slot-T offense had them fooled early but we failed to take advantage of our opportunities.”

In the Wilson game, senior half-back **Sean Mitchell** scored on a five-yard run, sophomore running back **Justin Head** scored on a 42-yard run, while junior quarterback **Luc Tran** added a seven-yard keeper for the team’s third score. The Sharks final touchdown was on a 40-yard run by junior fullback **Mason Sweigart** in the second half of the game.

“We just kept making too many of the same mistakes against Wilson to have a chance to win the game,” said Coach Bonneville.

May River will be graduating 16 seniors off the 2025 team. “We will miss all of them and all 16 were pretty much starters and they all made positive contributions to the team,” said Coach Bonneville.

Senior nose guard **Charlie Crace** (5-9,185) was a four- year player on the team and he was recently named all-region. “Charlie Crace gave us everything he had for four seasons and his strong character and leadership is what our program is based on,” said Coach Bonneville.

Mitchell was also a four-year performer on the team who was named all-region also. As a senior Mitchell led the team in rushing with 1,372 yards on 242 carries and he scored 17 touchdowns. As a defensive back he contributed 28 tackles. He also caught three passes for 60 yards and had two touchdown receptions.

“Sean was another four-year guy in our program that gave us everything,” said Coach Bon-



Zavier Polite

neville. “He knew where to go on every run and he knew the blocking scheme very well.”

Senior offensive guard **Cam Jordan** (6-0,225) was also named all-region this season. “Cam is an old school throw-back type lineman who gives you maximum effort on every play,” said Coach Bonneville.

Senior kicker **Erik Robertello** (6-0,175) was named all-region kicker. “He had 26 touchdowns on kick-offs this season,” said Coach Bonneville. “He has a strong leg and I feel like he deserves an opportunity to kick at the next level.”

Senior **Hudson Tanner** was also named the all-region punter after averaging 40-yards a boot. Tanner also played free safety where he had 41 tackles including two TFL.

Junior tackle **Ethan James** (6-5, 285) is a strong D-1 prospect according to Coach Bonneville. “He is already drawing some recruiting interest,” said Coach Bonneville. “He runs well, in the 5.1 to 5.2 forty range. He blocks well with flexible hips and good feet with long arm extension.”

Coach Bonneville called senior **Devin Ryan** (TE/DE/OLB) “an emotional captain on the field.” On defense, Ryan contributed 66 tackles and 8 TFL.

Senior DE **Xavier Polite** (6-3, 175) was a two- year starter for May River. “He was a dominant and disruptive out on the edge and that is what we are looking for,” said Coach Bonneville. Polite had 80 tackles and 16 TFL this past season.

“Senior **Jackson Miller** was our defensive captain until he got hurt in the Colleton County game and missed the rest of the season,” said Coach Bonneville. “He was a solid defensive back.” Miller had 20 tackles and three TFL while he played.

Wishing the Sharks
the best of luck in
the 2025 football
season!

**Go Sharks!**

Courtesy
May River High School
Boosters!

Andrew Johnson was another veteran senior that was lost to an injury during the season. “Unfortunately, Andrew suffered a herniated disc in the Brookland-Cayce game mid-way through the season,” said Coach Bonneville. “He was one of our defensive captains who always gave max effort as well.”

Johnson also played on offense where he gained 350 yards on 48 carries with five touchdowns.

Senior nose- guard **Elijah Yeager** (5-10,295) was a big run stopper up-front for the Sharks. He had 13 tackles and one TFL on the season.

Some other seniors, who all made contributions to the team include tight end **David Heitman** (6-2, 245), along with tight end **Chris Beckman** (6-3, 170). Heitman and Beckman were called “swing men” who blocked well on the edge in the running game. **Sean Zadroga McNulty** (6-1, 235) was also a swing man who also played some OG and DE. **Wesley Turtle** did a good job as the team’s senior snapper and senior **Pavin Denton** contributed at a tackle slot.

One of the top sophomores around would have to be May River linebacker **Michael Poole** (6-3, 18). Poole led the team with 163 tackles and 9 TFL. “Poole has a high motor and a bright future in the sport of football,” said Coach Bonneville.

Numerous other sophomores made major contributions to the team in starting roles. Ethan Seabrook had a very good year at corner back with 23 tackles and two TFL. **Justin Head** (5-10,165) played both at running back and defensive back during the season. He rushed for 364 yards on 62 carries and scored three touchdowns. “He’s big, tough, and strong,” said Coach Bonneville. Soph DB **Braihlin Paylor** (5-9,160) had 39 tackles as a corner back also.

Junior quarterback **Luc Tran** (5-10,160) will also be back next season. Tran completed 4-of9 passes for 92 yards on the season and three touchdowns. He also rushed for 455 yards on 92 carries with five touchdowns.

Most important of all the Sharks will return three other offensive linemen to play beside James. They include current junior center **Jacob Doshier** (6-2, 245), junior **Leo Naser** (6-3, 255), and junior tackle **Jayden Page** (6-0,240).

“We’ll get back in the weight room right away and start getting stronger for next season,” said Coach Bonneville. “We were in every game we played this season and our kids never quit. We are already looking forward to next season.”

SCISA Top 60 Football Prospects

HSSR Top 60 SCISA Football Prospect List

(all grades considered, non- seniors noted)

Note: SCISA Head Coaches Can Nominate Players At hsreport@aol.com,

Please include stats any grade 9-12)

(As of 11-5-2025)

- 1. Tony O’Bammer-Thomas Heyward-RB/LB-6-0,210
- 2. Tilden “T” Riley-Orangeburg Prep-TE-6-5,203-Vandy
- 3. Kevin Johnson-Northwood Academy-QB-6-1,185 (JR)
- 4. Garrison Vaughn-Laurens Academy-OL/DL-6-4,255
- 5. Davidson Lynch-Trinity Collegaite-QB-6-1,200
- 6. Jackson Ross-Hammond-LB-PK-6-3-210 (JR)
- 7. Grant Small-Williamsburg Academy-RB-6-0,185 (JR)
- 8. Ford Wilder-Wilson Hall-QB/WR-6-4,195
- 9. Lavoris Lucas-Pinewood Prep-S-WR-5-11,170 (JR)
- 10. Aydan Hogan-Northwood Academy-WR-6-1,170 -E Tenn St.
- 11. John Stokes-Hammond-OL/DL-6-1,265 (JR)
- 12. Will Watson-Pinewood Prep-FS-6-3,190-
- 13. Ralo Wesley-Bethesda Academy-WR-5-10,160-
- 14.Kaven Ford-Northwood Academy-RB-5-10,185
- 15. Michael Ard-Williamsburg Academy-LB-6-0,190 (JR)
- 16. Connor Morris-Williamsburg Academy-OL-6-1,300
- 17, Allen Chisolm-Porter-Gaud-6-1, 185- RB-CB (SOPH)
- 18. Andrew Howle-Wilson Hall-DE-6-0,225
- 19, Tristen White-Laurence Manning-OL-6-2,265-(JR)
- 20. Kaeden Wagner-Northwood Academy-OL-C-6-2,265 (JR)
- 21. Jayden Alexander-Pinewood Prep-WR-6-0,155
- 22. Scoop Dennis-Laurence Manning-WR-6-2, 180 (SOPH)
- 23. MJ Davis-Northwood Academy-FS-6-0,165
- 24. Charlie Caulder-Williamsburg Academy- TE/WR-6-3,185 (JR)
- 25. Grainger Powell-Laurence Manning-QB-5-11, 165 (JR)

- 26. Heyward Belser-Heathwood Hall-MLB-6-2,185-(SOPH)
- 27. Nych Underwood-Beaufort Academy-RB-5-9,175
- 28. Isaiah Redmond-Bethesda Academy-DE-6-0,215
- 29. Joseph Morse-WW King-RB-6-0,200 (SOPH)
- 30. Colt Layton-Calhoun Academy-RB-5-6,140 (JR)
- 31. Julian Buxton-Porter-Gaud-LB-SS-5-11,180 (JR)
- 32. Milling Galloway-Wilson Hall-RB-5-11, 185
- 33. Cooper Taylor-Calhoun Academy-ILB-8-1,185
- 34. Tristan Heckman-Pee Dee Academy-RB-5-10,180
- 35. Jordan Turner-Bethesda Academy-5-11,165 (SOPH)
- 36. Parker Kizer-Holly Hill Academy-RB-5-6,135 (JR)
- 37. Rob Minton-Florence Christian-QB-6-0,160-(Soph)
- 38. Hall Sease-Andrew Jackson Academy-QB-FS-6-4,185
- 39. Daniel Vargas-Laurence Manning-PK/P-5-7,181-(SOPH)
- 40. Judson Martin-Pee Dee Academy-LB-6-0,180- (JR)
- 41. Reece Still-Jefferson Davis-RB/CB-6-0,170-(JR)
- 42. Cade Amell-Hammond-QB-6-0,190 (9th)
- 43. Patrick Belk-Heathwood Hall-5-11,190-
- 44. Dawson Drew-Thomas Heyward-OL/DE-6-6,230 (JR)
- 45. Jacob Bussey-WW King-LB-6-0,185
- 46. B. Muela Kiser-Hammond-QB-5-01,165
- 47. Grayson Salego-Pinewood Prep-RB-5-10,180-(JR)
- 48. Cole McLeod-Northwood Academy-P-49.6
- 49. Jacob Bussey-WW King-LB-5-11,175 (9th)
- 50. Jace Williams-Thomas Sumter-QB-6-2,170 (JR)
- 50. Drake Porter-Ben Lippen-LB-6-1,187
- 51. Sam Petrauschle-Thomas Sumter-WR-5-10,150
- 52. John Thompson-Nen Lippen-LB-6-3,210-(JR)
- 53. Caden Morris-Williamsburg Academy-WR-5-11,168-(9th)
- 54. Elijah Hutto-WW King-QB-FS-5-10,160) (JR)
- 55. Peyton Gilley-Wilson Hall-LB-5-11,175 (JR)
- 56.-60 Looking for (5) more SCISA players!

NETC Student Athletes of the Month

Marlboro Academy’s Sumner McLaurin

Bennettsville — Sumner McLaurin is a senior who plays volleyball and soccer at Marlboro Academy.

McLaurin said she started playing volleyball in the seventh grade, which is her favorite sport, and she also began playing soccer in the 9th grade. Being a two-sport student athlete, McLaurin said,” My favorite part is being on a team with friends.”

After high school, she plans to focus on education, and she will pursue a degree in health sciences. Her first choice for college is Clemson and possibly playing at the club sport level.

Taking two classes from two schools, plus sports, she had this to say about making it work; “It helps me with planning my study time, and practice time,” she said. “Taking online courses from the “NETC” helped me to develop my time management skills.” McLaurin’s has done well managing academics and athletics in her life and she currently carries a 5.220 GPA.

For all her athletic and academic accomplishments, McLaurin has been chosen the “NETC” Female Student Athlete of the Month.”

This honor is bestowed through a partnership between the Northeastern Technical College and “The High

School Sports Report” with the publication communicating with athletic directors at high schools in the counties of Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield, where NETC serves the needs of high school students seeking to earn dual credits in various subjects that can be transferred to colleges after a student’s high school graduation.

The “NETC” is currently offering over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2025-26 school year to students in the three counties they serve. Currently, McLaurin is enrolled in two dual credit online courses offered by NETC. She started taking classes in her junior year. She has already completed many basic requirements for her freshman year of college like Spanish and English. She says she took Music Appreciation first to get an idea about the online learning experience.

See McLaurin, pg. 70



McLaurin

Marlboro Academy’s Beckham Jacobs

Bennettsville — Beckham Jacobs is a senior four-sport athlete at Marlboro Academy, where he earned all-region honors and All State honors this past baseball season. He just finished competing at the SCISA State Cross Country meet and he also played on the boys Volleyball team.

He is looking forward to the start of basketball season, and in the Spring, he will participate in baseball.

As a student athlete, he ran on the Marlboro Academy Cross Country team this year, played on the inaugural boys’ volleyball team, and looks forward to the basketball season. In the Spring, baseball will close out his high school athletic career.

When asked about a favorite sport, Jacobs said, “Baseball is my favorite since I starting played T-Ball when I was big enough to swing a bat,” he said. Last season he earned All Region and All State honors playing baseball. “This was our first year having a boys volleyball team and that was fun also.”

In terms of the opportunity to play baseball at the next level, Jacobs replied, “If the opportunity arises that would be great.”

In the classroom, he carries a 4.5 GPA, and he plans to major in Electrical Engineering at the University of

South Carolina.

For all his athletic and academic accomplishments, Jacobs has been chosen the “NETC” Male Student Athlete of the Month.”

This honor is bestowed through a partnership between the Northeastern Technical College and “The High School Sports Report” with the publication communicating with athletic directors at high schools in the counties of Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield, where NETC serves the needs of high school students seeking to earn dual credits in various subjects that can be transferred to colleges after a student’s high school graduation.

The” NETC” is currently offering over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2025-26 school year to students in the three counties they serve. Jacobs is currently enrolled in two dual credit online courses offered by NETC. He started taking classes after a conversation with his sister who took advan-

See Jacobs, pg. 70



Jacobs

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Gaffney football moving on to second round

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Gaffney—The Gaffney Indians football team got the Div. II AAAAAA playoffs started off on a positive note last week with a 28-10 win over Eastside, and the Indians now face a huge challenge in having to Greenwood for a second-round battle with the Eagles.

“Against Eastside we were able to get our running game going early and that was a major key in our win,” said Gaffney head coach Donnie Littlejohn. “Zion Dawkins returned the opening kick-off to the one-yard line and then we got in our jumbo package and Kadarius “Peanut” Bailey scored to get us off to a great start on offense.”

This week Gaffney is on the road to Greenwood. “I am sitting here right now watching the Greenwood quarterback on film with my defensive coaches and we do not know how we are going to stop him Friday night, but we do hope to slow him down a little,” said Coach Littlejohn in reference to Tristen Lewis, who has committed to South Carolina and he will play in the Shrine Bowl.

“He can beat you with the pass and he runs really well,” said Coach Littlejohn. “The keys to us winning the game this week is to contain him as much as possible. We must keep their offense off the field as much as possible and get our running game going early. We also need not beat ourselves with stupid penalties or mental mistakes either.”

Senior running back Josiah Hill rushed for 142 yards on 24 carries against Eastside and he scored three touchdowns to lead the Indians offense. Senior quarterback Banks Bouton managed the offense very well as he rushed 10 times for 46 yards and completed 5-of-8 passes for 98 yards.

Justin dawkins rushed for 41 yards on four carries while Bailey had 33 yards on five carries. The top receivers versus Eastside were Chas Smith with three catches for 49 yards while Brady Smith and Quantis Hines each caught a pass for 26 and 23 yards respectively.

“Our defensive Player of the Game against Eastside was Peanut Bailey,” said Coach Littlejohn. “He had two solo tackles, three tackles for a loss, six total tackles, one pile on, two quarterback hurries and two big hits.”

Coach Littlejohn also cited the defensive play of junior MLB/DE Kamari Williams along with junior DB Adreyan “Money” Monroe for their play on defense against Eastside.

For the season the Gaffney tackle index is led by east Carolina commitment OLB Zyon Ratchford who has 88 tackles and four TFL to date. Monroe is next with 53 tackles including 4.5 TDL. Kamari Williams is next with 51 total tackles including seven TFL.

Top soph DB prospect Zion Dawkins has 47 tackles, one TDL, and three interceptions. “Zion has everything you are looking for in a defensive back,” said Coach Littlejohn. “So far, he has



Left Tackle Scotland Dover

major college offers from Virginia Tech, Syracuse, Georgia Tech, Duke, Appalachian State, Central Florida and Coastal Carolina.”

Other leaders on defense include LB Peanut Bailey with 42 tackles including 15 TFL along with junior LB Ty McGill who has 35 tackles including 2.5 TFL. East Carolina DL commitment Kelton Smith has 25 tackles and 6.5 TFL. DL Jaleel Tate has contributed 20 tackles including four TFL and four sacks.

The Gaffney offensive line is led by Appalachian State commitment Scotland Dover at left tackle. The starting left guard is soph Derrius Littlejohn, along with junior center Corderian Dawkins and right guard Cameron Shippy. Junior right tackle CJ Brooks (6-5,331) is considered a major college prospect, and he just picked up an offer from Liberty last week.

The Gaffney three-man defensive front consists of Willaims and junior Marquel Smalls on the ends with Smith at nose. The four linebackers are Peanut Bailey, Ratchford, McGill and senior Chanson Mickles.

The secondary is patrolled by junior Ayden Montgomery and junior Kareem Shaw at the corners. The double free safeties are Monroe and the speedy Dawkins.

On the season, Hill leads all rushers with 835 yards on 149 carries and 17 TD’s followed by Bouton who has rushed for 661 yards and 9 TD’s. Justin Sawkins has netted 345 yards rushing on 23 carries with three TD’s.

Bouton has completed 85 of 148 passes for 1,174 yards and five TD’s. His top receiving targets include Chas Smith, Brady Smith, and Quantis Hardy with 358 yards, 268 yards and 210 yards in receptions respectively.

Gaffney has out-scored teams 309-173 this season. They have rushed for 2,084 yards and passed for 1,318 yards on the season.

“We use the running game to set up our passing game,” said Coach Littlejohn. “We are having a good game any time we can get our running game going because we are able to eat the clock also.”



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Green Acres Turf Farm Prospects Page



HSSR 2025 Top 100 Senior Football Prospects

HSSR Revised & Updated Top 100 2026 Senior Football Prospects In SC (As of October 30, 2025)
(Coaches Only: Nominate 2026 Top 100 Nominee, with stats: hsreport@aol.com)
Note: Once you pledge to a college, or flip to a new one, please let us know via e mail at hsreport@aol.com Please also let us know if we have your name misspelled.

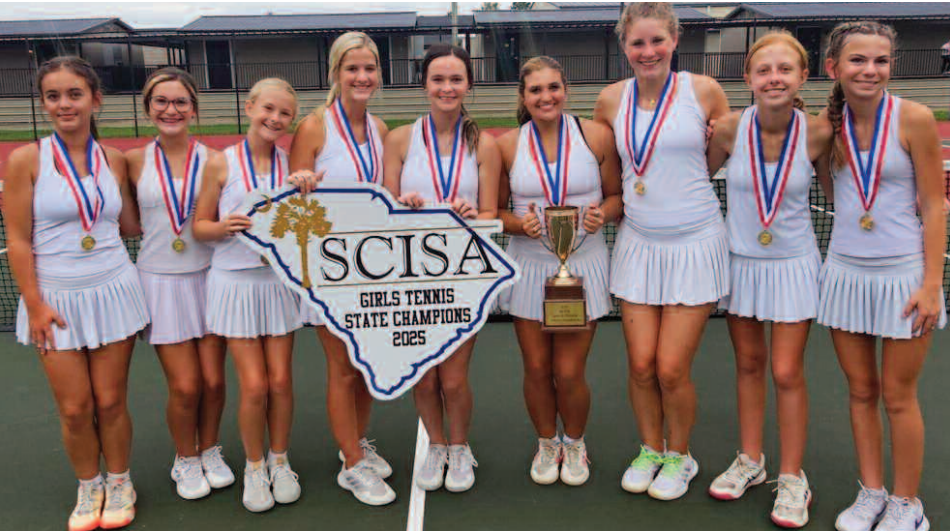
HSSR TOP 100 2026 Class In SC

1	Desmond Green - Timberland-OL-6-5,333 - Florida	57	Keriyon Brown - Dillon-LB-5-11,210-
2	Tony O'Banner - Thomas Heyward- RB-Ath-6-1,215	58	Kam Vance - Northwestern-WR-5-8,170 - Lafayette
3	J'zavien Currence - South Pointe DB-6-3, 205 - South Carolina	59	Mike Jones - Oceanside Collegiate-OL/DL-6-2,285 - Wofford
4	Zyon Guiles - Carvers Bay-OL-6-4,295 - South Carolina	60	Terry Radford - Chester-DE-6-1-230
5	Zay Robertson - Dillon-WR-6-0,165 (4.4) - North Carolina	61	Bryson More - Irmo-OL-6-2,305 - CSU
6	Julian Walker - Dutch Fork-DE-6-6,220 - Michigan	62	Bryson Connor - Indian land-DB-5-10,180 - Hampton
7	Kentavion Anderson - Dorman-FS-6-2,181 - Clemson	63	Jarrell Turner - Richland Northeast-WR-6-0,185 - UNC Charlotte
8	Tristian Lewis - Greenwood-QB/DB-6-4,200 - South Carolina	64	Ashten Wilson - Batesburg-Leesville-RB-5-11,205
9	Carnell Warren - Bluffton-WR-6-4,196 - North Carolina	65	Amandre Wooden - Batesburg-Leesville-RB-5-11,205
10	Anthony Baxter - South Pointe-OL-6-3,330 - South Carolina	66	Jakari Holloman - Central-LB-6-1,2-5
11	Sequel Patterson - Indian Land-WR-6-0,165 - South Carolina	67	Cameron McMillon - Keenan-QB-6-2, 187
12	Jamel Howze - Newberry-TE-6-3,215 - South Carolina	68	Azel Banag - AC Flora-DB-6-0,170
13	Michael Boulware - Gray Collegiate-MLB-6-2,205 - STUD	69	Gray Patterson - Fort Mill-OLB-6-3,210 - UNC-Charlotte
14	Scotland Dover - Gaffney-OL-6-5,305 - App State	70	Bryson Ginn - South Pointe-LB-6-2, 215
15	Jaiden McDowell - Gaffney-RB-5-10,165 - Mercer	71	Messiah Jackson - South Florence-QB-6-1,220
16	Malcolm Gaston - North Augusta-OL-6-5, 330	72	Dsa'Shan Scriven - Crestwood-DB-5-10,175
17	Tamarion Watkins - DB-Northwestern-6-4, 200 - Texas A&M	73	Jordan Sullivan - JL Mann-LT-6-4,270 - Army
18	Jeremiah Favorite - Boiling Springs-CB-5-10,170- Michigan St	74	Michael Doe - North Augusta-RB-5-9,180 - Gardner Webb
19	Jude Hall - Christ Church-WR-6-3,185 - Memphis	75	Dallas Williams - Greer-OL-6-4,275-
20	Caden Ramsey - Cross-WR-FS-6-5,200 - Ga. Tech/SC Offer	76	Terry Gordon - South Florence-ILB-5-11,225
21	Somad Eaddy - Riverside-Ath.-6-0,165 - Wake Forest	77	JT Williams - Summerville-OLB-6-0,200
22	Jayden Boyd - Fairfield Central-WR/DB - Duke	78	Josh Singleton - Northwestern-DB-6-2,170
23	Kelton Smith - Gaffney-DT-6-5,290 - East Carolina	79	Tylin Drakeford - Camden-WR-5-9,165
24	Tre Aiken - Clinton-OL-6-4,265 - NC State	80	Nehemiah Brown - Barnwell-RB-5-11,173
25	Tilden "T" Riley - Orangeburg Prep-TE-6-5,203 - Vandy	81	Ethan Offing - Dutch Fork-QB-5--,182-
26	Franklin Whitley - Greenville-DL-6-5,265 - Florida State	82	Jaden Baylor - Abbeville-DB/WR-6-0,170
27	Jayvon Gilmore - Ridge View-QB-6-5,200	83	Kenshon Speaks - Beaufort-OL-6-3, 295
28	Trevor Kalisz - Ashley Ridge-QB-5-11, 215	84	Kemori DeWeese - Summerville-WR-5-11,170
29	Kam Taylor - Woodruff-TE-6-6,230 - Liberty	85	Jaylin Baylor - Abbeville-WR-6-1, 170
30	Jachin Davis - Stratford-QB-6-1,185 - Liberty	86	Cody Peterson - Ashley Ridge-OL-06-5,315
31	Amiri Acker - Crescent-WR-6-2,185 - Liberty	87	Brayden Williams - Saluda-RB-5-11,175
32	Trey Burke - Spartanburg-QB-6-3,205 - East Carolina	88	Bristol Biegenzahn - West Ashley-DE/TE-6-5,240 - Elon
33	Caden Muskus - Chapin-OL-6-5,280 - App. State	89	Kylif Miller - Hartsville-RB-5-10,180
34	Chris Doyle - Bluffton-DL-6-1,29 - App State	90	Kaleb Sutton - Hillcrest-QB-6-3,185-
35	Jordyn Best - Ridge View-DB-5-11,180 - NC State	91	Chris Coleman - Northwestern-OL-6-3, 280
36	Jordan Avinger - Orangeburg-Wilkinson-LB-6-3,222 -	92	Alec Belk - Fox Creek-OL/C-6-1,280
37	Jaemin Pinckney - Woodland-WR-6-5,217-S - Florida	93	Nick Sapp - Denmark-Olar-DL-6-0,300
38	Zyon Ratchford - Gaffney-LB-6-4, 200 - East Carolina	94	Damais Seegars - Andrew Jackson-RB-5-11,175
39	Connor Dantzler - James Island-QB-6-0,205-offer-Tulsa	95	Jadyn Rice - JL Mann-DB-WR-5-9,180
40	Kadarus Hainsworth - Mountain View Prep-WR-6-1,161 - UNC Charlotte	96	Bryce Seaborn - Greenwood-DB-RB-5-11,190-
41	Chris Stewart - Andrews-DE-6-4,230 - Western Michigan	97	Kamyrn Jones - Abbeville-OL/DL-6-2, 280
42	Marcus Cann - Bamberg-Ehrhardt-DB-6-2,280	98	Jason Brigham - Johnsonville-DL-6-0,230
43	JT King - Pinewood Prep-DE/TE-6-4,240	99	Quashaun Hampton - Keenan-OL-6-4,290-
44	Nyerrious Greer-Harrison - Crescent-WR/FS-6-0,170	##	Tyleek Dukes - Kingstree-RB-6-0,190
45	Sawyer Arnold - Oceanside Collegiate-DE-6-4,220 - App State	##	Terrence Wilson - Lake City-RB-5-10,200
46	Jamaron McKinnley - Greenville-CB-5-11,175 - offer Wake Forest	##	David Rogers - Lakewood-OL-6-2, 280
47	Romello Patterson - West Florence-LB-6-3,224 - Coastal Car.	##	Zori Pierce - Lamar-QB-Ath.-6-0,170
48	J'Qwan Crosby - Stratford-TE-6-4,215 - Georgia Southern	##	Marquis Copeland - Laurens-WR-DB-6-0,165
49	Kaleb Simpkins - Strom Thirmond-DB-6-1,175 - offer - Wake Forest	##	Jordan Roseborough - Dutch Fork-OL-5-11, 215
50	Reid McCollum - Hilton Head-LB-6-4,215 - Navy	##	Jordan Jenkins - Conway-WR-6-4,190
51	Walker Kelly - TL Hanna-TE-6-5,220 - Wofford	##	Domonick Felton - Dillon-RB-5-11,170
52	Ryan Campbell - Ashley Ridge-RB-5-9,182	##	Lucas Tankersley - Travelers Rest-MLB-6-1, 205
53	Anthony Atkins II - Christ Church--Ath-6-1,180 - Navy	##	Jaylon Davis - Union County-OL-6-0,290
54	Daniel Capeheart - Dillon-OLB-RB-6-1, 200-	##	Chase Price - Lake View-QB-6-1,205
55	Will Love - Spartanburg-PK-6-2,205 - Va. Tech	##	Harris Stone - Wando-QB-6-2,280
56	Garrison Vaughn - Laurens Academy-OL/DL- 6-4,251 (Sleeper)	##	Jordan Strong - Lewisville-DB-5-8,160

2025 Fall Championship Photos



Abbeville Panthers Volleyball



Carolina Academy Bobcats Girls Tennis



Hilton Head Prep Dolphins Girls Tennis



Wando Warriors Girls Tennis



Oceanside Collegiate Landsharks Girls Tennis



West Florence Knights Girls Tennis



AC Flora Falcons Girls Tennis



Pickens Blue Flame Gils Volleyball

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Florence Area Feature Page

South, West, Wilson victorious in playoff openers

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Florence – It was a very successful first round of the high school football state playoffs for **Florence** schools **South Florence**, **West Florence** and **Wilson**. South Florence began defense of its AAAA state title with a 47-7 victory over **Darlington**, while Wilson went on the road to beat **May River** 36-28. West Florence opened the AAAAA Division II playoffs with a 42-7 victory over **Conway**. The Bruins, the No. 1 seed in the lower state bracket, will play host to **Bishop England** in the second round. Wilson, the No. 10 seed, will hop on Interstate 95 and head south again to take on No. 2 seed **Hilton Head Island**.

West Florence, the No. 6 seed, will be taking on an old region foe for the second week in a row as it travels to No. 3 **Myrtle Beach**. Those games are set for November 14. South Florence, which is after its third title in four years, led 21-0 after one quarter and 41-0 at halftime against its Region 5 foe. “It was a good win,” said South head coach **Drew Marlowe**, whose team improved to 10-1 on the season. “I thought we came out and dominated the first five drives of the game on offense and defense, then we were able to get a lot of young guys in there to gain some experience.”

Florence Christian volleyball returns to AAA finals

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Florence – After a 1-year hiatus, the **Florence Christian School** volleyball team found itself in a familiar place: the SCISA AAA state championship match. The Eagles put together a run to reach the championship match for the third time in four years. The only problem was, like the first two times, they came up short. FCS lost to 3-time defending champion **First**

Lamar football enters playoffs hitting stride

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Lamar – Things started slow for the **Lamar High School** football team in its first season under head coach **Tyler Boyd**. The Class A Silver Foxes lost two of their first three games, even though they came against AAAA **Darlington** and once-beaten AA power **Central**. However, LHS has hit its stride, having reeled off eight straight victories. It beat **Lewisville** 21-14 in the regular-season finale to win the Region 2 title and followed it with a 49-0 triumph over **Calhoun Falls** in the first round of the state playoffs. “I think as a whole we kind of finally began to trust each other to do our own jobs,” said Boyd, the son of former Lamar head coach **JR Boyd**. “Especially defensively, we’ve gotten a lot better throughout the season. Everybody understands their role, their job, their assignments. We’re starting to play fast on defense.” The Silver Foxes dominated Calhoun Falls without the services of quarterback **Zori Pierce**. Boyd held him out to recover from some minor injuries and to be ready for the later rounds. Pierce has completed 69 of 115 passes for 1,157 yards and seven touchdowns while rushing for 671 yards and 15 touchdowns on 105 carries. In Pierce’s stead was sophomore Jaylen Morris. He completed 3 of 5 passes for 71 yards. LHS relied on its running game, rolling up 291 yards. Leading the way was **Nygel Eaddy**. He rushed for 126 yards and two touchdowns on 10 carries. **Torin Carraway** had 49 yards on five carries and

Quarterback **Messiah Jackson** completed 7 of 9 passes for 157 yards and three touchdowns while rushing for 24 yards on three carries. **Malik Robinson** had two TD catches for 47 yards, while JayAun **Perkins** had the other TD reception among his three catches for 96 yards. **Cameron James** was the leading rusher with 91 yards on five carries. **Gabe McLaughlin** ran for 31 yards and two scores on four carries. **Jayden Allen** had 48 yards and a TD on 11 carries. Defensively, **Amare Reaves** returned an interception 25 yards for a score. Bishop England, which beat **Lower Richland** 24-7, is 8-3. After winning just one game last year, Wilson improved to 7-4 under first-year head coach **Brian Wilson**. “It was a great team win with guys stepping in for others,” said Wilson. “It was good to get the program a playoff win.” The Tigers won a playoff game for the first time since 2019.

See Florence Area, pg. 70

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Presbyterian of Shannon Forest 3-1. The Crusaders won by the scores of 23-25, 25-18, 25-15, 26-24. While being cordial in offering praise to First Presbyterian, Florence Christian head coach **Denise Carter** expressed disappointment in coming up short. “Congratulations to Coach **David (Thompson)** and his team,” Carter said. “They are well-coached and made the adjustments needed to win. We had

See Florence Christian, pg. 70

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Berkeley football looks forward to playoff run

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Moncks Corner – After a regular season schedule that included eight wins in 10 games, the **Berkeley High** football program turns their collective focus to the state playoffs.

Berkeley will play in the AAAAA Division II playoffs. After earning a first-round bye on Nov. 7, the Stags will begin their state championship chase on Nov. 14, at home.

Third-year head coach **Eric Lodge** is pleased overall with the team’s performance this season but says the true test begins with postseason play. “We’ve had a good year so far. I’m proud of this team,” Lodge said. “But a lot of people won’t remember what we did during the regular season. The playoffs mean a lot. Our team will need to raise their level of play even higher. The stakes are higher and the teams are better.”

Lodge is thankful for a week off before beginning the playoffs. “I think every team, at this point, can use a little time to refocus and heal up any nagging injuries,” he said. “We will make the most of it.”

Berkeley posted six wins in each of the last two seasons but made a big jump this fall. The most noticeable improvement came on defense. The Stags were one of the top units in AAAAA through 10 games.

“We have several three-year starters and their experience has been important,” Lodge said. “When they were sophomores we knew we had a good group but physically they weren’t ready for this level. They worked hard, got stronger, and their knowledge of the system and how we want to play is much better. They’ve become a strength for us.”

Linebackers **Gehad Sneed**, **Marcus Henderson** and **Kevin Rivers** have been key in their performance. Up front, **Landon Jackson** and **Jahmir Heyward** have been among the best in the state. Sneed was selected to play in the 2025 Shrine Bowl game in December.

Jackson racked up 55 tackles, eight sacks and 18 tackles for loss in the regular season. Henderson had 59 tackles and has more than 300 career tackles. Heyward had 57 tackles, 13 for loss, during the regular season.

Cane Bay wraps up 2025 fall athletic seasons

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Summerville – The 2025 fall sports season is drawing to a close at **Cane Bay High** with only the state cross country meet left on the docket/

The football team finished off a 3-8 record with a loss to River Bluff in the AAAAA Division I Lower State playoffs. It was the second consecutive 3-8 record for the Cobras.

Among the key losses in personnel will be running back **Tyler Meyers**, quarterback **Colby LaRocca**, and linebacker **Brody Thacker**.

The girls golf team posted a solid sixth-place finish in the Division I state tournament, Leading the way was sophomore **Julia Gressette**, who finished in a tie for second-place, one shot off the lead.

The girls volleyball team made the Lower State field of teams in the state playoffs but were eliminated 3-0 by James Island. The team finished with a 17-9-1 overall record.

Several underclassmen were among the top players this season, which bodes well for next season. The team leader in kills was junior **Rylie Frier** with 189. Two sophomores, **Amelia Watkins** and **Alaina Paige**, topped the 100 mark in kills. Watkins finished with 169 kills and Paige had 107.

Junior **Savanna Hammond** posted 34 service aces and 318 defensive digs while sophomore **Jor-**

Cam McCue, with three interceptions, is a leader on the back end. Offensively, Berkeley’s strength has been the running game with Lodge using a bevy of backs to share the load. Senior **Zion Britt** is the leader up front as a third-year starter.

Junior quarterback **Henry Rivers** has rushed for 557 yards and 12 touchdowns while passing for 851 yards and seven touchdowns. **LJ Washington** rushed for 648 yards during the regular season while **Bryson McGee**, **K’den Foxworth** and **Jessie Brown** have all contributed in the run game. Heyward also gets time as a running back and has eight touchdowns.

Girls tennis enjoys successful season
The Berkeley **girls tennis** team recently concluded their 2025 season and proved once again to be among the top programs in the Lower State. Though Berkeley lost to West Florence in the third round of the AAAAA Division II state playoffs, the Stags posted a 17-8 overall record. The starting singles lineup included two seniors. **Hannah Giannelli** played No. 1 singles and **Kaylen Bradshaw** played No. 4 singles. Another senior, **Addison Metts**, played No. 2 doubles.

Coach **Courtney Salisbury**, who moved up to head coach this season after serving as an assistant coach, says Giannelli was a true team leader. “We had a great season led by Hannah Giannelli, a six-time all-region player whose leadership and consistency set the tone for our success,” the coach said. “Even though we will greatly miss our seniors, including three from our top seven, the future continues to look bright for this team. We have a talented group of juniors who continue to improve, along with sophomore Esther Giannelli and two 8th graders.”

Esther Giannelli played No. 2 singles and was an all-region selection with her sister. Junior **Caroline Guerry** played No. 3 singles and junior **Charlotte Mueller** played No. 5 singles. Metts’ doubles partner was junior **Lillian Elliott**.

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dan Flores had 30 aces and 151 digs. Two seniors, **Leanna Boscana** and **Ellie Karan** also were key contributors. Boscana had 46 aces and 111 digs while Karan, the primary setter, had 468 assists and 179 digs.

The boys volleyball team continued their growth process and finished the season with a 10-9 overall record.

In cross country, the boys team posted a second-place finish in the region 7-AAAAA meet. Senior **Jax Kelly** was the top finisher in sixth-place. Kelly also finished fifth in the state qualifier and will run in the AAAAA state meet on Nov. 15.

Nicholas Quiles-Carter finished 11th in the region meet, followed by **Jackson Novak** in 19th place. **Devon Long** scored in 22nd place and **Christian Agnew** finished in 28th.

The girls team had a fourth-place team finish in the region meet. Their top runner was **Amelia Santos**, who finished 14th. **Kinley Stevens** finished in 31st and **Zelia Shook** was 36th. **Tessa Lane** ran in 53rd and **Isabelle Johnson** finished 54th.

As the weather cools outside, the heat in the gym will rise with the start of basketball and wrestling season. The boys basketball team is expected to be a region title contender and will be a top 10 team statewide in Division I-AAAAA.

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Holly Hill Academy volleyball has solid season

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Holly Hill – Led by a solid group of senior leaders, the **Holly Hill Academy** volleyball team enjoyed a successful 2025 season.

The team ended with a 15-8 record and lost on day two of the SCISA Class A state tournament but coach Danielle Kern was pleased with the overall play of her team this fall.

Kern attributes the success to her seniors – **Peyton Strickland**, **Kaley Bell**, **Abbygail Burleson**, **McKenzie Ferguson** and **Shelby Hinson**. Strickland and Bell were the team co-captains and provided leadership in different ways.

“No doubt having great leadership is a big key,” Kern said. “We also have good talent, and our younger players contribute a lot, but nothing can replace leadership.

“Peyton is the motivator, keeps everyone loose, while Kaley is a more serious type. This group followed their lead and played well as a team.”

Juniors included **Essie Wolpert**, **Kloie Mizell**, and **Kaylee Cuttino**.

Rounding out the team are freshman **Caitlyn Crisp**, eighth-grader **Molly Kate Prescott** and seventh-grader **Tinsley Korn**.

Clarendon Hall gains valuable experience in ‘25

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Summerton – **Shane Wallace** didn’t have grand aspirations coming into his first season as the football head coach at **Clarendon Hall**. After all, he was taking over a team that had gone 0-10 the year before and had scored just 42 points.

However, the veteran coach was looking for improvement, and he had it through the first two games. The Saints lost to **Spartanburg Christian Academy** 27-12 in their season opener and then narrowly missed pulling out a victory the next week, falling to **Patrick Henry Academy** 29-27.

It was all downhill from there though. CH was shut out in six of its final games and scored just 20 points over that stretch, finishing with its second straight 0-10 season.

Needless to say, it was hard for Wallace to find a lot of positive points with the season’s outcome, but the fact a lot of very young players gained a lot of experience under fire is what he is banking on for future improvement.

“We really grew a lot,” Wallace said. “My sophomores got a lot out of it, and that’s important, for them to learn from a sophomore perspective.”

The Saints had seven seniors on the roster and just three juniors. The sophomore class had 12 players and there were three freshmen. Wallace likes the talent he has returning in the two lower classes as well as the eighth-graders who competed on the junior varsity team.

“Watching my JV players and my sophomore class, they’re going to be fine in two years,” Wallace said. “They’ll be competitive and tough. They just have to get used to playing varsity ball, the speed of the game.

“My eighth-grade class is full of talent. We went

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Football team posts 10-0 regular season
The Raiders football team completed the 2025 regular season with a perfect record, winning all 10 of their contests. Now the team turns their focus to the state playoffs, which begin on Nov. 7 against Wardlaw Academy. The state championship game will be played on Nov. 21.

Junior running back **Parker Kizer** has been a terror offensively all season. After 10 games, the 5-5, 140-pounder has rushed for 2,962 yards and 46 touchdowns. Kizer rushed for at least 300 yards in five games and had at least 200 yards in every game. His season-high was 362 yards and he had one game with seven touchdowns. He Averages 11.3 yards per carry and the Raiders average 9.5 yards per carry with 59 rushing touchdowns. They attempted just 13 passes during the regular season,

Sophomore **Jake Kirven** has rushed for 428 yards and seven touchdowns.

Tyler Green, a junior, leads the defensive effort with 103 tackles, and 20 tackles for loss while sophomore **Kaz Brown** has 13 tackles for loss among his 30 total tackles. Junior **JP McGriff** has 61 tackles through 10 games and senior **Takobe Sweatman** has 50 tackles and three interceptions.

5-3, and I was confused on JV at the beginning of the year as to who could play. In games where we played eighth-graders only, we dominated, and we were competitive in the other games. We’ll be fine.” Wallace said his best performers on the season were senior **Tommylei Atkinson** and sophomore **Wyatt Simpson**. Atkinson was a standout on both sides of the line while Simpson played fullback after starting on the line on offense. He started on the defensive front.

“Tommylei Atkinson, he was our team leader,” Wallae said. “He played almost every position for us on the line. Wyatt was our fullback. They both produced, they were good. I’m happy to have Wyatt back, and I wish I had Tommylei for another year.”

As is always the case in football, injuries can take away the promise of a season in quick fashion, and Wallace believes that is what happened to CH.

“We had a lot of injuries, some that took out some of our key players,” Wallace said. “One of those was Joey Hatchell, who we lost in the second game of the season.”

A sophomore who played primarily at quarterback last season, Hatchell was moved to wide receiver this year. Before going down with the injury, Hatchell had six catches for 123 yards—a 20.5 yards-per-catch average – and one touchdown.

Wallace hopes a year under the belt for his returning players will begin to pay dividends.

“We got down and out when we’d get behind,” he said. “We just really need to continue to learn the fundamentals of football. We’ve got a lot of young players, a lot of youth, that is still learning the speed of the game. It’s a lot faster than at the JV level.

“We’re going to get after it. We’re hitting the weight room next Monday (November 10) to start getting ready for next year.”

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Hammond football continues to get better

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Columbia - The action on the field at Edens Stadium Oct. 30 was typical of regular-season finales. The **Hammond** football team was clicking on all cylinders, up 23-0 on **Cardinal Newman** after the first quarter en route to a 57-0 shutout after three quarters of a running clock.

Head coach **Jon Wheeler** spoke after the game about a couple of scoring plays that were called back on penalties, and small things that needed to be addressed before the Skyhawks (8-1, 4-1 Region 4A) take on **Heathwood Hall** (8-3) which beat **Ben Lippen** (3-8) 48-14 last week, in the second round of the SCISA 4A playoffs Friday. “It was good. We executed on offense but we’ve got to eliminate penalties and hurting ourselves,” he said. “We hit **Kanye Reed** on a touch-down pass but we weren’t lined up correctly. It starts with me, so I’ve got to coach better and get them ready to rock and roll to where we’re not hurting ourselves.”

That night’s result was far removed from the season’s opening kickoff, when a world of questions packed the brains of Wheeler and the Skyhawks’ coaching staff about an extremely young team. With six seniors and just one seasoned re-turning starter in **Jackson Ross**, the 2025 Hammond roster was untested compared to the seasoned, veteran teams that crafted unbeaten streaks and state championship seasons of the past.

In the preseason Wheeler and the coaching staff took special care in getting the team on the same page with football fundamentals on offense, defense, and special teams. By the time the Skyhawks went on the road to Greenville and shut out 3A public school **Christ Church Episcopal** 17-0 Aug. 22, the teachings had sunk in.

“We’re just getting better. They keep coming to work, which I’m proud of,” Wheeler said. “We

came into this thing with a lot of new starters, especially on offense, and defensively on the back end. They just keep coming to work and keep getting better and trusting the process.”

The Skyhawks won their first five games of the season, including a thrilling 9-7 victory over Heathwood Hall that featured a game-winning 36-yard Ross field goal.

Northwood Academy’s 23-10 victory over Hammond Sept. 26 was the team’s only stumble. Since that game the Skyhawks went 4-0, outscoring opponents 155-8.

Wheeler said he hopes the team can continue to play on a high level as it goes through the post-season.

“We’ll need to, because there’s some teams that, coulda-shoulda, were maybe one play away from beating us (Heathwood Hall), and teams that beat us (Northwood) that will be in that playoff, and we’ll see where we lie,” he said.

Wheeler heaps credit on the coaching staff that worked extra hard in getting the team ready to play, including offensive coordinator **G.A Mangus**, running game coordinator/athletic director **Jeff Barnes**, defensive coordinator **Austin Daniel**, special teams coordinator **Wynne Thomas**, kickoff return coach **Jay Frye** and others.

He also gives praise to the nine seniors who, after the Northwood defeat, took their leadership up a notch to finish the season.

“The seniors have really stepped up,” he said. “It was tough for them because there’s not so many of them (9), we’re used to having 15 or 18 seniors. We were squeaking by early on, and when the Northwood game hit, they beat us, outplayed us, outcoached me, and the seniors really stepped up (after that) and we need to step up and lead this team ad they have progressively gotten better as leaders. That’s what I’m most proud of. Those are things they can take on in life.”

Wilson Hall boys cross country defends title

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Sumter – When the Wilson Hall boys cross country team won the SCISA AAAA state meet last year, it came as a bit of a surprise. With six of the seven runners back from that team, the Barons weren’t going to get the slip on anyone in 2025. “We were under the radar last year, but we had the target on our back all the time this year,” said WH head coach **Reid Schwartz**. “That was a concern. We would always tell the team it had to handle expectations.”

Wilson Hall responded in dominating fashion. Four of the the five runners who scored for Wilson Hall finished in the top 10 individually as the Barons won with 31 points while second-place **John Paul II** had 62 in the meet on November 1 at Heathwood Hall in **Columbia**. The other two runners may not have scored points, but their times were good enough to earn All-State honors with their teammates.6

Just how dominant was WH’s performance? Each runner finished in under 17 minutes. The average time for all seven runners was 16 minutes, 2 seconds. That is not only a Wilson Hall record and not only a SCISA state meet record, it is an all-time SCISA record.

Wilson Hall sophomore **Trip Hunt** was the overall individual winner in a time of 15:26.20, besting Heathwood’s

Jack Willcox by just over six seconds. Juniors **Caulder Williamson** and **Abel Ayres** finished third and fourth, respectively, Williamson in 15:45.97 and Ayres in 16:05 45.

Sophomore **Gavin Getz** finished 10th in 16:22.98. Senior **Ben Rabon** rounded out the scoring for the Batons, finishing 13th in 16:33.88.

Sophomore **Cordin Finley** finished 14th in 16:37.08, and sophomore **Aiden Bradford** took 18th in 16:49.00.

“This team has a lot of confidence,” said assistant coach **Dustin Smith**. “The team had a target on its back and that motivated them to train really hard. They were really focused on letting go with all of the training they were doing.”

In the girls meet, Wilson Hall finished third with 78 points, just three behind **Hammond**. Heathwood Hall won with 42.

Freshman **Emmie Williamson** had the best finish for the Lady Barons, coming in seventh in 19:11.00. Eighth-grader **Jane Foley** was ninth in 19:12.02. Senior **Mary Ellen Thorne** was right behind her, taking 11th in 19:13.77 They were separated by less than three seconds.

Sophomore **Mary Foley** was 21st in 20:16.31 and eighth-grader **Cecilia Ayres** was 30th in 21:07.45.

Eighth-grader **Elisa Getz** was 33rd in 21:07.77, and eighth-grader **Sutton Shook** was 43rd in 22:03.73.

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Timberland football cruises in playoff opener

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
St. Stephen – The **Timberland Wolves** rolled past visiting Barnwell in the opening round of the Class 2A football playoffs Nov. 7.

Coach **Greg Wright’s** team scored the last 46 points to coast by Barnwell, 46-8.

Timberland (9-2) finished second in Region 6-2A behind champion Philip Simmons. The Wolves have won two straight since falling to Phillip Simmons in the region title game, including a 38-0 win over Woodland in the final regular season game Oct. 30.

“We had to fix some things after the game against Philip Simmons (Oct. 24),” Wright said. “We didn’t execute like we should have. We had a lot of missed assignments and some miscues. We broke a lot of runs but they didn’t allow us to put it in the end zone after we got in the red zone. Those are the things we went to work on correct-ing and it showed up on Friday.”

Against Woodland, quarterback **Malyk Goodman**, one of 13 Timberland seniors, connected on 10 of 11 passes for 136 yards and two scores to receiver **Carter Hawkins**. He also rushed for 38 yards and another touchdown.

Running backs **Antaun Faison** and **Montez Addison** chipped in 83 yards and 56 yards, re-spectively, and each scored a touchdown. Hawkins finished with seven receptions for 122 yards.

On defense, strong safety **Javion Jenkins** made a team-high 13 tackles, including four for lost yardage. He also recovered two fumbles. Jun-ior linebacker **Latrell Smalls** took an interception back 80 yards for a defensive score, while Hawkins and Addison combined for 20 stops.



2025 SJCA senior football players and cheerleaders

SJCA volleyball makes deep playoff run in 2025

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Moncks Corner – Heading into the stretch run of the regular season the St. John’s Chris-tian Academy Cavalier volleyball team is sitting at 14-9/4-2 and firmly in second place in SCISA region 4 AAA.

Head coach in **Casey Tharp** team went to 2-2 in the SCISA state tournament. They beat Williamsburg Academy and Christian Academy in their two wins.

Leading the Cav’s are three seniors who have been on the varsity team for the past three



Quarterback Malyk Goodman

The Wolves kept it rolling against Barnwell, dominating on both sides of the ball. Addison scored on an 80-yard run and Faison chipped in 80 yards and 11 tackles. Hawkins returned a punt for a touchdown. Jenkins took an interception back 65 yards for a touchdown and blocked a punt and recovered it in the end zone for a score.

Goodman rushed for 40 yards and scored a rushing touchdown.

Anthony Peebles (19), **Eric Roberts** (13) and **Smalls** (12) combined for 44 stops on defense.

The Wolves got to Manning in the second round Nov. 14.

“Our goal is to play in December,” Wright said. “... It’s all about us now. It’s about how we prepare.”

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gories. The outside hitter/ defensive specialist has 16 kills, 24 aces, 7 blocks and 23 digs. The rest of the Cavaliers line up consists of senior **Reagan Ashby**, and **Addison Law**, sophomore **Raleigh Jackson** and freshman **Aly McCoy**. McCoy has shown her abilities as she has 10 kills, 13 aces, to go with 9 blocks which is second on the team.

Hawks pull away for opening round playoff win

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
Hanahan – The Hanahan Hawks sparked a postseason run with a 38-21 victory over visiting Waccamaw Nov. 7 in the first round of the Class 3A playoffs.

Sophomore quarterback **Tripp Gallus** threw for three touchdowns in the first half and junior running back **Isaiah Snodgrass** reached paydirt three times on the ground. The Hawks finished off the Warriors with two scoring drives over 80 yards in the second half. Junior receiver **Quamel Grant** hauled in two touchdown passes.

“We finished the game with two massive drives that ate up maybe two-thirds of the second half and kept the ball away from them, which is what you want to do,” said Hanahan coach **Milan Turner**, whose team finished third in Region 6-3A behind Oceanside Collegiate and Orangeburg-Wilkinson. “We’re really proud of our kids on the offensive line. That was outstanding. Our running backs were physical and took care of the ball.”

It marked a successful return for Gallus, who missed the previous two games with an injury. He finished 10 of 14 for 138 yards and added some key yards on the ground.

“It was really nice to get Tripp back in there,” Turner said. “He had a great week of preparation. He was hungry, and I think you saw that tonight. This was his first time out there in three and a half or four weeks. He was gritty and tough.”

In addition to Snodgrass’s 152 yards, Hanahan got 87 yards rushing from **Xavier Sabback**. Grant caught seven passes for 101 yards. **Grayson Mathes**, a junior receiver, grabbed the other touchdown.



Wide Receiver Quamel Grant

The Hawks outscored the Warriors 24-7 after they tied the game 14-14 in the second quarter.

Hanahan (6-5) takes on top-seeded Newberry on the road Nov. 14. The Hawks have won three straight games.

Volleyball: Eighth-grader **Makenna Gallus**, junior **Juliette Owens** and sophomore **Caitlyn Manus** earned All-Region 6-3A honors for the Hanahan Hawks’ girls volleyball team.

All three players led the Hawks in at least one statistical category this fall. Hanahan capped the season in the third round of the Class 3A playoffs.

Cross football turns focus to state playoffs

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Cross – The 2024 high school football season ended with a loss in the Class A state championship for the **Cross High** Trojans.

From the final whistle in that loss to Abbeville, the returning members for 2025 have set a goal to reach the finals again, but win the title this time around.

The Trojans finished off the regular season with a 9-1 record, winning the region 6-A title with a perfect run through the region schedule. Cross was scheduled to face Green Sea Floyds in the first round of the Class A Lower State playoffs but Green Sea Floyds opted out of the postseason due to a lack of healthy players.

Cross head coach **Shaun Wright** feels his team is as ready as they can be for the playoff run.

“We’re in a good place and ready to go make a run,” Wright said. “The week off is a good thing for us. We can get some guys healthier and get refocused on our goals. We had a good regular season and I am proud of the guys. We have done a great job of being ready to play every Friday night.”

Junior quarterback **Tyler Harris** had a great regular season. He finished with 1,277 yards and 15 touchdowns in 10 games. He completed 68 percent of his passes and threw only three interceptions.

Junior **Mah’ky Green** finished the regular season with 1,191 yards and 13 touchdowns.

“Green has really improved in a lot of ways this season,” Wright said. “His vision and his toughness just continues to grow.”

William Grant has added 282 yards on the ground. Senior **Caden Ramsey** is the top receiver with 42 receptions for 604 yards and eight touchdowns. Junior **Jeremiah Smith** has 20 receptions as the No. 2 receiver.

On defense, linemen **Michael Bennett** and **Jailyn Broughton** have been the leaders. Bennett has 71 tackles, 19 tackles for loss and seven sacks. Broughton has 60 tackles, nine for loss, and three sacks.

Smith has 94 tackles and two interceptions while Ramsey has 40 tackles and five interceptions. William Grant has 49 tackles, seven for loss.

Cross’ defense has racked up 55 tackles for loss and 17 sacks.

“We are blessed here to have kids who love football and they love to compete,” Wright said. “That love for the game trickles down to our rec league team and those guys are building their own foundation to bring with them in the near future.”

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Courtesy Matthew Bradberry, Athletic Director

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Camden has playoff showdown with Daniel

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Camden – With a 38-20 victory over Greer High School at Zempf Stadium in the first round of the AAAA football state playoffs on November 7, Camden extended an impressive streak. The Bulldogs won their first-round game for the eighth straight season.

“Anytime you can win a playoff game, it’s a good thing,” said Camden head coach **Brian Rimpf**, who is in his ninth season at Camden. “We played good enough to win. There are some things we can improve on, but defense created turnovers, offense ran the ball well, and we’re able to get a lot of players playoff experience.”

Now the Bulldogs are looking to extend an even more impressive streak. Camden will be trying to win a second-round game for the seventh straight year. It won’t be an easy task though as the Bulldogs will travel to **Central** to face **Daniel** on November 14.

The Lions are 10-1 on the season and the No. 2 seed in the upper state playoffs. They survived a major scare in the first round, needing a touchdown in the fourth quarter to beat 3-8 Dreher 14-10.

Camden and Daniel have major playoff history together. The teams played for the AAA state title in 2020, 2021 and 2023 with the Lions winning each time. Daniel won the ’23 game 45-44 in overtime, stopping the Bulldogs on the 2-point conversion.

Rimpf knows his team has to play well to get the win.

“We’ve got to take care of the football, stop their

run game and not allow any explosive plays n their passing game in order to make the long trip back to Camden a good one after the game,” he said.

Camden is 8-3 on the season and has scored 424 points. Leading the way is junior quarterback **Greyson Rimpf**. The head coach’s son had completed 123 of 199 passes for 2,050 yards and 25 touchdowns against just six interceptions entering the playoffs

His favorite target has been senior **Tylin Drakeford**. He had 54 catches for 871 yards and nine touchdowns. Junior **Isaiah Smith** had 23 catches for 374 yards and two scores, junior **Will Haunert** had 17 catches for 351 yards and seven scores, and sophomore **Bernard Green** had 16 catches for 333 yars and five TDs.

Senior Navien Boykin is the leading rusher. He had 1,017 yards and 14 touchdowns on 157 carries. Smith had 396 yards and six scores on just 21 carries, and Drakeford had 289 yars and two touchdowns on 16 carries. Green had 30 carries for 243 yards and one TD.

”At this point, we know who we are as a team,” Rimpf said. “We have explosive offensive players on the perimeter that can score anywhere on the field. We’ve been very balanced this year between the run and the pass, and we hope that offensive production will replicate in the playoffs.”

Coach Rimpf has been pleased with the defensive play all season.

“They’ve been able to create turnovers in every game and play fast, which we are hoping will translate to the road game this week against Daniel,” he

Bears football moves into the second round

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Hemingway – Carvers Bay came into the season with high expectations as head coach **Matthew Richards** returned to a veteran squad that still had a bad taste in their mouths after being upset at home by Denmark Olar (22-16) in last season’s first round playoff game.

The Bears took out their frustrations out on their 10 regular season opponents. Thie first four opponents were against higher classification schools with every game being a one score game. The Bears made enough plays to win each game behind their ground and pound running game.

Region played began with a game against Hanah Pamlico which proved to be the only close region contest on the year as they hung on to beat the Raiders 20-14. **Jaden Bell** had a 93 yard for a touchdown, **Kenard Heyward** had 57-yard touchdown run and **Zyrion Reed** had a two-yard touchdown run to lead the team to the win. The Bears turned the ball over several times, helping to keep the game close.

The rest of the region schedule saw the Bears run over the rest of teams as they outscored them 205-36. They finished the regular seasonm10-0/ 6-0 and ranked third in the latest HSSR class A football poll just behind perennial powers Bamberg-Ehrhardt and

Abbeville.

The Bears opened the class A playoffs with a 59-0 win over Allendale Fairfax. They jumped out to a 52-0 lead by halftime and played with a running clock the entire second half. They will host region rival and perennial state power Lake View, 28-6 winner over Hardeeville, in the second round. The Bears won the first match up 32-7. The Raiders jumped on top of the Bears 7-0 before they scored 32 unanswered points. **Christian Simmons** and **Marvin Young Jr** got things started by connecting on a 40-yard touchdown pass. Heyward and Reed each rushed for two touchdowns in the game.

While Heyward and Reed have led the team in the running game with both showing the ability to score from any where on the field. The play of the offensive line has been stellar. Led by South Carolina commit **Zyon Guiles** at right tackle this road grading bunch has paved the way for the running game. The center is **Tristan Diggs**, left tackle **Robert Miller**, left guard **Javion Palmer** and right guard **Jakai Cohen**. They are a nasty bunch that thrive on being more physical than their opponents.

Guiles is also the teams kicker and is the biggest place kicker in the state.

The defensive front has that same mentality with Diggs being joined by **Jasius Davis**, **Ky’Jaen Moore**, and **X’Zavier Stafford**. They do a great job

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said.
Senior **Tyler Edwards** had a team high 13 tackles for loss to go with 56 tackles. Senior defensive end **Thomas Bishop** had 62 tackles and 12 TFLs, senior defensive end **Dontrell Wilson** had 45 tackles and 11 TFLs, and senior outside linebacker **Evan Presbot** had 50 tackles and 10 TFLs.
The leading tackler was sophomore middle line-backer **Lavay Penny** with 107.

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of taking away the run and forcing offenses into being one dimensional.

Other standouts on the Bears’ defense are line-backers **Dominique Walker** and **Sammy Milton**. They led the team in tackles and make plays from sideline to sideline.

Heyward, Young Jr and Reed have been solid in the secondary and in run support.

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White Knoll looking for strong postseason again

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Lexington - White Knoll head football coach **Nick Pelham** left his team’s Region-opening 35-3 victory over **River Bluff** Oct. 3 with a worry about the Timberwolves’ discipline going into region play and into the postseason.

“I don’t know how, I don’t know what we’re going to do differently, but we’re going to have to be able to control ourselves, control our emotions,” Pelham said. “The penalties led to them being in the game at the very end. Somehow we’ve got to improve if we want to be state champions.”

While the scoreboard looked clean—just three Gators points—and the defense held River Bluff to 136 yards, seven penalties for 59 yards in the first two quarters was a cause for consternation.

As region play bore out, White Knoll cleaned up its on-field emotions. The Timberwolves (7-3, 3-2 Region 4-5A) finished third in the region behind state powers **Dutch Fork** and **Irmo**, but earned a No.4 seed in the lower-state bracket of the 5A Division 2 playoffs. They had a first-round bye and play **Lucy Beckham** (7-3) 38-21 winner over **North Myrtle Beach** (3-8) last week, Friday night.

The week after beating the Gators, the Timberwolves led defending 5A Division 1 champion **Dutch Fork** 24-20 before the Silver Foxes knocked out three quick scoring drives and won 41-24.

Defending 5A Division 2 lower state champion **Irmo** was the next challenge, and while the Timberwolves put that Oct. 17 game in the loss column, White Knoll made the Yellow Jackets’ 14-3 win

look ugly. Irmo’s two offensive score came on a rushing play late in the first quarter and another late in the second quarter, but the Timberwolves defense forced two turnovers and shut out the Yellow Jackets in the second half. Unfortunately, White Knoll’s only score was a 32-yard **Brayden Briscoe** field goal in the first half.

The Timberwolves closed out the regular season with convincing wins over rivals Lexington and Chapin.

At Wildcat Hollow, **Caleb Geronomi** opened the scoring with a 70-yard punt return for a touchdown, Briscoe hit a 25-yard field goal. Four rushing touchdowns later, White Knoll closed out a 37-6 victory Oct. 25.

In the final week of the regular season, **Tiyon Fanning** had two touchdown runs including a 96-yarder as White Knoll breezed past the Eagles 42-7. **Jhais Mckiever**, **Jordan Keith** and **Christian Chisolm** also had TD runs for White Knoll.

The Timberwolves volleyball team closed out its season with an 8-19-2 record and a 3-7 mark in the region standings. They fell to **Chapin** in the first round of the 5A Division 2 playoffs Oct. 22.

The boys basketball team under head coach **Willie Thomas**, coming off a 13-14 season in 2024-2025, is set to open the 2025-2026 season with a Thanksgiving tournament at River Bluff High School Nov. 24-26.

The girls basketball team under first-year head coach **Martel Luster**, which finished 17-10 last season opens the season with **Aiken** Dec. 1.

Chargers prepare to face Porter Gaud in playoffs

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Summerville—The **Northwood Academy** (9-1) football team had a first round bye as the SCISA AAAA play-offs began this past week, and they are now preparing to host **Porter-Gaud**, who advanced after beating **Laurence Manning** 13-6 in the first round.

Northwood Academy closed out the regular season with a 39-20 win over **Heathwood Hall** that gave the Chargers a region championship. The offense was paced against the Highlanders by junior quarterback **Kevin Johnson** who completed 14-of-21 passes for 153 yards and one TD. Senior running back **Kaven Ford** led Charger rushers with 164 yards on 23 carries with three TD’s and **Jacair Medlock** led the receivers with three catches for 79 yards and a TD.

Northwood head coach **Johnny Waters** had some surgery after the **Pinewood Prep** game, and he coached the team from the press box during the Heathwood game. He is expected to be on the sideline for the game with Porter Gaud this week. “I am on my way to a full recovery with no complications,” said Coach Waters.

Northwood has a potent offense led by Johnson who transferred to Northwood from Fort Dorchester this season. “Kevin has been everything he was advertised to be,” said Coach Woods. “He has a strong arm and steady feet. He was actually enrolled at Northwood through elementary and middle school.”

Johnson will come into the game against P-G

this week having completed 143-of-230 passes for 1,876 yards and 17 TD’s.

Ford (5-10, 185) has been the Chargers leading rusher to date with 1,056 yards on 139 carries and 20 TD’s. **Jordin Carter** had added 480 rushing yards while **Michael Polite** has added 411 yards.

“Ford does a great job keeping his feet moving and he has very good vision,” said Coach Waters.

As a team Northwood has rushed for 2,229 yards on 306 carries with 34 rushing TD’s.

The top three receivers are senior East Tennessee State commitment Aydan **Hogan** who has 58 catches for 783 yards and seven TD’s while junior **Drew Wolfe** has caught 24 passes for 474 yards and four TD’s and Medlock has 27 catches for 365 yards and four touchdowns.

“In all honesty, I feel like Aydan is the best wide receiver in the state,” said Coach Waters. “He runs great routes and has great hands.”

Coach Waters calls junior **Kaeden Wagner** (6-2, 265) the captain of the offensive line. “Kaeden is a D-1 prospect with good size, and his work ethic is off the charts,” said Coach Waters. “He is fundamentally sound with good technique.”

The top six tacklers on defense are senior LB **Dominic Russell** (67, 8.5 TFL, and 4.5 sacks), senior FS **MJ Davis** (55, and 4 TFL), senior LB **Cody McCleary** (44 with 8 TFL), senior DB **Antwaun Henderson** (42 and five TFL), senior LB Quincey Lingard(38 and five TFL), along with senior **Hammer White 38** with 11 TFL and 5.5 sacks. Junior DB **Bryce Jenkins** contributed five interceptions

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and 16 tackles.

“Two of our most improved players over last season is our inside receiver Shooter Medlock and our outside linebacker Quincey Lingard,” said Coach Waters. “They both have a great work ethic.”

Coach Waters said the main goal for the team right now is to keep working hard and be the last team standing when the season is over. “We do not stress winning a state championship, but it is always one of our main goals,” said Coach Waters. “We need to stay focused and keep working hard.”

Knights enter playoffs at 9-1, looking for deep run

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR

Goose Creek – The **Stratford** football team received a bye for the opening round of the Class 5A Div. I playoffs, a reward for winning the Region 7-5A crown and becoming a top four seed in the Lower State.

The Knights crank up their playoff journey Nov. 14 in the second round against visiting River Bluff, which edged Cane Bay 24-13 in the first round.

As for the bye, Stratford coach **Dennie McDaniel** might have preferred his team to get a game under its belt. He said he would know more after the River Bluff game.

“I think there is good and bad,” said McDaniel, whose team is 9-1 and winners of nine straight. “The good part is you get a chance to get healthy and get your legs back under you, reset yourself a little bit. But, on the negative side, momentum is a thing. I like the way we’re playing right now. I don’t want anything to obstruct that mindset... We’re going to try to spin it as an advantage for us.”

The playoffs mark the final moments in a Stratford uniform for 30 seniors. McDaniel credits the group for catapulting Stratford into the conversation about potential state champions next month. Their region crown this fall was the second in three seasons.

“Our senior leadership has been what has set us apart,” McDaniel said. “Obviously, we’re very talented on both sides of the ball. We’ve got really good players. Our mental makeup and approach to the game and practice, they want to be the best they can be.”

On the season, senior quarterback **Jachin Davis** is 85-of-132 through the air for 1,527 yards and 17 touchdowns. The Liberty commitment and Shrine Bowl selection has also rushed for 668 yards and reached paydirt 12 times with his legs. Senior run-



Quarterback Jachin Davis

ning back **Meliq McGowan** has tallied more than 1,400 yards and 18 touchdowns on the ground. He’s also hauled in three touchdown passes. Running back **DJ Grant** has added 335 yards and four touchdowns.

Crosby leads the receivers with 32 catches for 527 yards and five scores. Junior **Jayden Lee** is second with 16 receptions for 231 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensively, junior linebacker **Bryce Clemons** leads the way with 95 total tackles. Senior linebacker **Mason Morris** and junior linebacker **Cameron Gibbs** have 71 and 68 stops.

The Knights have advanced to three state championship games over the years, winning it all in 1999 and finishing runner-up in 2004 and 2013.



The Gators take the field

Youthful Goose Creek Gators made gains in 2025

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR

Goose Creek – The **Goose Creek Gators** football program didn’t rack up loads of victories this fall, but a youthful group is much better prepared for future seasons.

Coach **Jason Winstead’s** club was hit hard by transfers before the season began and then injuries mounted as the campaign progressed. His team kept showing up and working hard.

“I thought the kids played really hard,” said Winstead, whose program captured four straight region titles from 2019-22. “It was a good group of kids. At no point was it miserable. The effort was there. Practices were good. They got better at football as the year went on. Considering everything that was going on around them, their effort was phenomenal. The good news is

they’re all going to be back. We only started three seniors.”

Winstead was proud of their effort despite being outmanned most weeks against fellow Class 5A program. In the final game of the regular season, Winstead said the Gators started 11 sophomores and one freshman versus a talented Stratford squad that captured its second region championship in three seasons.

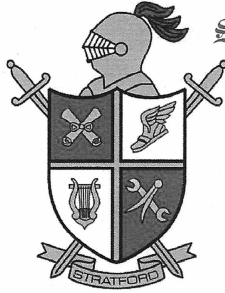
“That’s 12 kids who maybe could be playing JV football,” Winstead said. “That’s tough at the Class 5A level, dang near impossible.”

On offense, the Gators were led by three sophomores. **Zayvon Grant**, **Sincere Lewis** and **Derrick Porter** combined for more than 1,300 yards rushing and eight touchdowns on the ground. The entire offensive line can return, too.

On defense, junior linebacker **Canaan Williams**

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Courtesy of Goose Creek High Faculty & Staff



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made a team-high 84 tackles and junior defensive lineman **Elijah Mack** was in on 62 stops and scored twice.

Sophomore linebacker **Hayden Denmark** was third on the team with 56 tackles despite missing the last four games. Senior defensive lineman/long snapper **Braedyn Reeves**, a Touchstone Energy Bowl selection, tallied 54 tackles.

“If they stick together, there is no telling what they can accomplish,” Winstead said. “We’ve got athletes. We’ve got some football players. They were just extremely young and probably weren’t ready for 5A football... They’re capable of getting Goose Creek back competitive and capable of winning the region.”

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Jefferson Davis rallies for wild victory

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Blackville – The **Jefferson Davis Academy** volleyball team didn't finish its season in the way it had hoped, but that doesn't mean it didn't have a historic season.

The Raiders advanced to the final four teams of the SCISA Class A state tournament for the first time in school history before falling to eventual 2-time state champion **Cambridge Academy**.

"I think we accomplish our goals of winning the regular-season region title and the region tournament championship and for the first time making it to the final four," said Jefferson Davis head coach **Bart Owens**. "So I think we had a great season."

The Raiders won the Region 1 title with a 9-1 record. They were led by senior **Rynn Fickling**, who was selected as the Region Player of the Year.

Fickling led the team in kills with 240 to go with 70 service aces, six blocked shots and 151 digs.

She was joined on the All-Region team by junior **Mattie Morris**, junior **Abby Deering** and senior **Avari Yongue**.

Morris had 168 kills, 175 digs, 50 aces and eight blocks. Deering led the team in assists with 468 and had 112 kills, 163 digs, 59 aces, and three blocks. Yongue led the team with 254 digs to go with six aces and 20 kills.

Fickling, Deering and Morris played in the **SCISA North-South All-Star matches**.

"This team did a really good job of replacing key seniors we lost from last year's team," Owens said. "All the girls did a great job on teamwork, and at the end of the season we played really well."

JDA FOOTBALL ADVANCES TO 8-MAN SEMIFINALS

The Jefferson Davis football team trailed **Wardlaw Academy** 30-6 at halftime of its 8-man first-round state playoff game on November 7. Season over, right?

Not so fast, my friend.

The Raiders rallied in the second half to win the game 44-42 in overtime. They will play undefeated **W.W. King** in a semifinal game on November 14.

Jefferson Davis head coach **Anthony Reitenour** said a halftime "discussion" made the difference in the turnaround.

"I just gave them a good butt chewing and then they came out and played a great second half," said Reitenour, whose team improved to 8-3 on the season. "They fought hard and didn't give up. We made a few adjustments and it worked out for us."

The Raiders put themselves in the hole with four turnovers in the first half. They rallied to actually take a 36-30 lead in regulation. However, Wardlaw tied the game at 36-36. Another Jefferson Davis turnover gave Wardlaw a chance to win the game, but it was denied on fourth down and goal from the Raider 3-yard line with three seconds remaining in regulation.

"The defense really played great in the second half," Reitenour said, pointing out the play of defensive end **Connor Sandifer** in particular. "We made some adjustments, simplifying what we did. They really stepped up on fourth and goal."

Jefferson Davis won the game in overtime when quarterback **Dalton Nix** threw to wide receiver **Reece Still** for the 2-point conversion. Reitenour credited Nix for his leadership behind center in the second half after throwing three first-half interceptions.

"Dalton really had a great game," he said. "He bounced back every time."

Reitenour said the Raiders are going to have to clean things up to come away with a win over 10-0 King.

"We have to be disciplined," he said. "We had 100 yards in penalties, and you can't be having that in the 12th week of the season. We've got to make tackles. They're a good team that can run and throw and has lots of weapons."

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Latta ready for showdown with Bamberg-Ehrhardt

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Latta – **Latta High School** opened the Class A football state playoffs with a 34-14 victory over **Baptist Hill** on November 7. That win sets the Vikings up for a second-round showdown against undefeated **Bamberg-Ehrhardt** on November 14.

LHS head coach **Brandon Iseman** said his 8-2 team is looking forward to the challenge.

"I don't think anything really changes with what we do," Iseman said about facing B-E, which is 11-0 and ranked No. 1 in the *High School Sports Report* **Class A poll**. "We're going to put our game plan together and execute on a high level, then we'll be alright."

"They're a good team and we view ourselves as a good team."

Latta controlled the game against Baptist Hill,

Lackey sees progress in Predators football in '25

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

North Augusta – The 2025 football season was definitely a tale of two seasons for **Fox Creek High School**.

The Predators won their first five games. The sixth game was against then undefeated **Orangeburg-Wilkinson**. The teams battled before O-W came away with a 21-13 triumph.

Region 3-AAA play followed and FC went 0-4. It still made the state playoffs and lost to **Dillon** 49-8 in the first round to end the year with a 6-game losing streak.

Still, head coach **Lemuel Lackey** thinks it was a good season.

"The season as a whole was a huge step forward in terms of the way the community met each week," Lackey

jumping out to a 26-0 halftime lead.

"I thought we performed really well in the first half," Iseman said.

"We executed well in all three phases. I think we may have relaxed a little too much at halftime."

Running back **Fischer Reichardson** scored four touchdowns and had around 190 rushing yards, according to Iseman. He had rushed for 1,308 yards and 20 touchdowns in the regular

See Latta, pg, 71

said. "The loss to O-W was good because that gave us the fuel and rationale that our kids were definitely getting better. However, the obvious details were also denoted because we lack the numbers to sustain the AAA level for 48 minutes."

Fox Creek only had 22 players on the roster. The top three offensive performers were all juniors – running back **Bryson Crawford**, quarterback **Brandon Wallace** and wide receiver **Mekhi Quiller**.

Crawford ran for 1,248 yards and 20 touchdowns while Wallace passed for 732 yards and six touchdowns and rushed for 589 yards and eight TDs. Quiller had 17 catches for 353 yards and two scores.

Sophomore middle linebacker **Gabriel Reyes** had 69 tackles and 12 tackles for loss, while sophomore defensive lineman **Kamal Grant** had 52 tackles,



2025 Chesterfield volleyball

Chesterfield wrapping up fall sports seasons

By David Shelton

Senior Writer

Chesterfield – The 2025 fall sports season at **Chesterfield High** is wrapping up with several teams earning state playoff berths in Class AA.

While no state championships were captured, the fall athletes competed at a high level within a very good and balanced region 4-AA.

The **girls golf** team earned the right to participate in the SCHSL Class AA state golf tournament and posted an 11th-place finish in the team standings.

Chesterfield's top golfer in the state meet was eighth-grader **Kinsley Hardwick**, who finished 20th overall. Hardwick will be a name to watch over the next four years.

Senior **Ashton Watford** and junior **Aubrey Moss** tied for 47th overall, while junior **Savannah Gunter** finished 54th and sophomore **Jacquelyn Tomberlin** was 58th overall.

The **volleyball** team made an appearance in the Class AA state playoffs but lost to Chesnee in the first-round. Chesterfield finished 5-6 in region play and 8-13 overall.

Sophomore **Reagan Rivers** was among the top players this season. Rivers finished with 167 kills and 15 total blocks in 2025.

Senior **Kathryn Johnson** posted 85 kills and 164 defensive digs, while junior **Hayden Wood** had 79 kills.

Sophomore setter **Madison Vanderpool** finished with 357 assists and 166 digs. Freshman **Ashton Cassidy** lead the team in digs with 420 and junior **Brylie Harpe** had 148 digs.

Allison Floyd and **Mattie Griggs** were the other seniors on this year's roster. Rounding out the roster were juniors **Jenna Kelly**, **Jamison Miles** and **Camryn Horton**.

The **football** team finished the regular season

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five quarterback sacks and 14 TFLs. Quiller had five interceptions as a defensive back.

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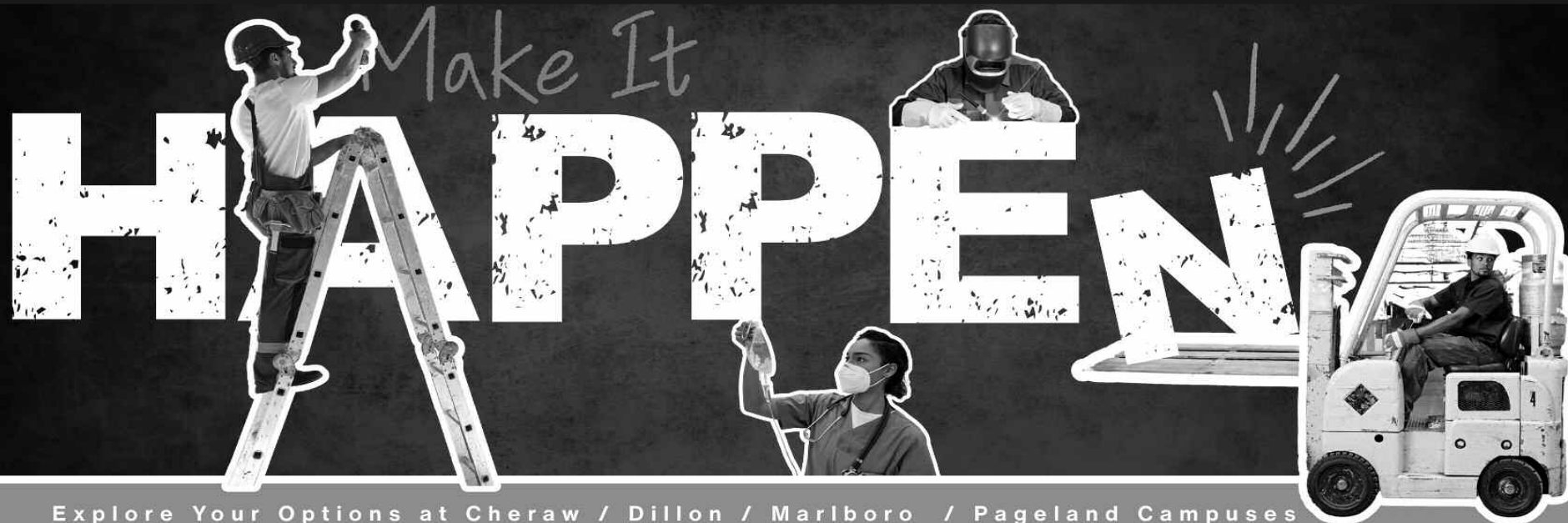
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with
a 4-6 record but went 1-4 in region play. Nonetheless, the Rams earned a spot in the Class AA state playoffs and played at No. 1 ranked Strom Thurmond in the first round on Nov. 7. Results of the game were not available by press time.

Senior quarterback **Bryce Adams** finished the regular season with 1,553 passing yards and 11 touchdowns. The leading rushers were freshman **Greg Rushing** (679 yards, eight touchdowns) and **Julian McClain** (491 yards, eight touchdowns).

Holden Lowery and **Emani Welch** were the top receivers, each with 30 catches. Lowery totaled 504 yards and five scores while Welch had 482 yards and two touchdowns.

Leaders defensively include senior **Sincere Hubbard** (97 tackles), senior **Jayden Wallace** (54 tackles) and sophomore **Levi Jones** (50 tackles).



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ORANGEBURG PREP INDIANS



Orangeburg Prep volleyball team recently wrapped up another successful season

Smith happy with first season as football coach

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Orangeburg – Even though the season came to an end in the first round of the AA State playoffs, **Orangeburg Prep** football head coach **Brooks Smith** is happy with how his first year in charge turned out.

“I think that this season was a successful one,” said Smith, whose squad lost to defending state champion **Pee Dee Academy** 27-0 to finish with a 7-4 record. “Obviously we wanted to make a deeper run in the playoffs, but the kids played hard and improved each week of the season.

“We have laid out the vision for where we want this program to go, and the kids understand what it takes to build a successful program and that was evident by the effort and intensity that they displayed during practices and games.”

The Golden Eagles limited the Indians to just 201 yards of total offense. Senior standout wide receiver **Tilden “T” Riley** had eight catches for 47 yards and four rushes for 47 yards.

“Obviously we are disappointed in the outcome of the game, but our kids played hard,” Smith said. “We got inside the (Pee Dee) 25-(yard line) three times and we just couldn’t put it in the end zone. I give a lot of credit to the players and coaches at Pee Dee. They were kinda bend but don’t break defensively.

“I was very proud of our effort on defense. Pee Dee had averaged over 44 points a game in their previous six outings and we held them in check for most of the night.”

Riley, the 6-foot-5-inch senior who is committee to **Vanderbilt**, had a tremendous season. He caught 55 passes for 1,059 yards and 17 touchdowns while carrying the ball 30 times for 309 yards and three more scores.

Sophomore quarterback **Cholly Williams** had a solid season in his first year as a starter. He completed 104 of 185 passes for 1,739 yards and 22 touchdowns against just three interceptions. He also rushed for 292 yards and four scores on 53 carries.

Junior running back **J’syri Parker** was the leading rusher with 554 yards and six touchdowns on 99 carries.

Sophomore wide receiver **Council Burroughs** had 15 catches for 242 yards and three touchdowns, junior wide receiver **Maxx Judy** had 14 catches for 187 yards and two scores, and junior tight end **Marshall Livingston** had 12 catches for 186 yards and a touchdown.

“Offensively our passing game improved tremendously from Day 1 to the end of the season,” Smith said. “Cholly Williams really progressed as a quarterback, and I want to thank (assistant coach) **Kyle Crab**,

who worked with our quarterbacks this season because it made a huge difference.

“T Riley did T Riley things and he made a ton of special plays throughout this season, but our other receivers and running backs really stepped up to catch a lot of balls, and we are excited about the future with Cholly coming back and guys like Marshall Livingston, Council Burroughs and Maxx Judy returning next season.”

Smith was happy with the way his defense improved. In a 4-game winning streak to close out the regular season, Orangeburg Prep allowed just 49 points.

“I felt that defensively as a unit we improved greatly throughout this season,” he said. “Whenever you bring in a new coordinator there is going to be a learning curve, but Coach (**Michael**) **Heath** worked his tail off and was forced to make adjustments with personnel due to injuries along the way and he had us playing great defense by the end of the season. As the reps increased the players got more comfortable with doing their jobs and holding each other accountable and as that trust improved Coach Heath was able to dial up some blitz packages that really allowed our players to be in great positions to make plays and they had a lot of fun with it.”

As a safety on defense, Riley had 68 tackles, four tackles for a loss and two interceptions.

Sophomore defensive lineman **Mac Strickland** led Orangeburg Prep in tackles with 150 and tackles for loss with 15. Junior linebacker **Blake Inabinet** had 115 tackles an eight tackles for loss, while defensive back Livingston had 86 tackles, outside linebacker Parker had 61 tackles and seven tackles for loss, and junior linebacker **Chris Jackson** had 68 tackles and 10 tackles for loss.

The Indians had 20 quarterback sacks spread out amongst 11 players. Mac Strickland, senior defensive lineman **Jonathan Marcellana** and Parker led the way with three sacks apiece. Like Riley, Judy had two interceptions playing in the secondary.

Along with Riley and Marcellana, Orangeburg Prep will be losing **Ger’maury Robinson**, **Jackson Strickland**, **Steivin Sonny**, **Cooper Pound** and James Williams to graduation. Smith believes they made a major contribution in moving the program forward.

“I am grateful to this senior class, because they bought into that vision and helped to lead our younger guys to do things the right way,” Smith said. “Unfortunately, we lost three seniors due to injuries early in the season, but that made some underclassmen have to step up and play. That will pay dividends in the years to come.”

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DELANEY VOLLEYBALL REGION
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Orangeburg Prep’s **Mary Legare Delaney** was selected as the Region 1-AAA Player of the Year.

Delaney, a junior, was joined on the All-Region team by senior **Hannah Lambrecht**, senior Jayme Culler and senior Kate Holstein.

The Indians won the region title and went 2-2 in the state tournament. They were eliminated by eventual 3-time state champion **First Presbyterian of Shannon Forest**.

AJ ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY WARRIORS

AJA football focused on improvement in 2026

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Ehrhardt—With 15 of their 23 varsity players eligible to return for the 2026 football season, one should expect positive growth in the **Andrew Jackson Academy** varsity football program, that experienced an 1-8 rebuilding season in 2025, under veteran first year head coach **Andy Palmer**, who built winning programs at **Edisto, Orangeburg Prep**, and **Holly Hill Academy** before joining the Warriors program at the start of the summer.

The Warriors had been a tradition rich 8-man football program, with many state titles, before moving up to 11-man, two seasons ago.

The team’s lone win was an impressive 34-0 win over **Clarendon Hall** at home on September 26. In that game, senior quarterback **Hall Sease** (6-4, 175) rushed for 149 yards on 10 carries, and he scored two TD’s to pace the offense. Everette Ulmer added 55 yards rushing and one TD on 8 carries while **Ollie Barnes** and **Landon Johnson** added 33- and 27-yards rushing, respectively. Senior TE **Elizuh Davis** rushed for 76 yards and scored one TD while contributing two receptions.

As a team, the Warriors rushed for a season high 264 yards on 32 carries.

Against the Saints, numerous players recorded double digit tackles. They were junior DE **Eli Mathys**, soph **LB Everett Ulmer**, senior **LB Grayson Hay**, freshman **LB Noah Riddle**, soph **LB Bryson Riddle**, senior **DL Walker Terry**, and senior **LB Cooper Hiers**.

For the season, Sease completed 16 passes for

335 yards and five touchdowns. Sease was also the tam’s top rusher with 615 net yards on 129 carries with seven rushing touchdowns.

Other top rushers were Barnes who gained 335 yards on 70 carries. Ulmer added 206 net yards on 512 carries while Johnson contributed 112 yards on 19 carries.

As a team, the Warriors rushed for 1,399 yards on 304 carries with 11 rushing touchdowns during the 2025 season.

The top tacklers on the team were Mathys (96, 16 TFL, 5 sacks), Ulmer (89,15 TFL and 8 sacks, senior **LB Cooper Hiers** (56, 14 TFL), Noah Riddle (46 tackles and 4 TFL) senior **LB Grayson Hay** (44, 8 TFL, 5 sacks), D. Riddle (37 tackles and 5 TFL) along with senior **DL Walker Terry** (35 tackles and 11 TFL).

Ulmer punted 23 times for a 36.4 yards average per boot. The top three scorers on the team were Sease (49), while Barnes and Johnson were tied at 24 each.

Additional players on the varsity included: Junior TE/DE **Jaxon Tucker**, junior TE/DE **Nathan King**, junior **Brad Hightower**, freshman DE/DB **Cody Grider**, soph SE/DB **Mason Braxton**, freshman OL/DE **Landon Ramsey**, senior OL/DE **Tanner Chassereau**, senior OL/DE **Colton Chavis**, soph OL/DE **Waylon Davis**, senior OL/DE **Connor Mount**, senior TE/DE **Tres Mixon** along with freshman TE/DE **Evan Mathys**.

Coach Palmer was assisted by **Randy Rentz** and **Cade Wiles**.

AJA volleyball sets school record with 27 wins

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Ehrhardt—The **Andrew Jackson Academy** (27-10) varsity volleyball team won a school record 27 wins during the recently completed 2025 season, and with 14 of their 15 players returning for next season, head coach **Zach Boltin** says competing for a state title will be a day one goal next season.

“We made it to the semi-finals of the state tournament in Myrtle Beach, before we lost out to **Oakbrook Prep** (2-1) in highly competitive matches,” said Coach Boltin. “I am proud of the fact that we had five players named all-region, and three of our players also made the post-season SCISA all-star game.”

The Lady Warrior all-region player list is led by junior *Region Player of the Year* **McKinnley Beard** (5-11) who was also chosen for the SCISA all-star team at the end of the season. Beard, an outside hitter, led the state of South Carolina in kills (581) and Aces (126) and she is also a talented basketball and softball player.

“I am very proud of the entire team, and while McKinnley is a talented three-sport athlete, I think when you lead the state in kills and aces, the sport of volleyball might just end up being your best next level opportunity,” said Coach Boltin. “We are thankful to have her back for next season for sure.”

The four other all-region players include sopho-

more outside hitter **Harlo Sease** who finished with 155 kills, 113 digs, and she had an ace percentage of 18.6 per cent. Sease was also named to the post-season all-star team. Junior setter **Bella Carrigg** was also named all-region, and to the all-star team, after an incredible 882 assists during the season.

“Bella is the quarterback of the team,” said Coach Boltin. “You can’t have a kill unless someone has an assist, and she does a great job of putting the ball where it needs to go.”

Junior middle-hitter **Carrigan Moore** was also named all-region after leading the team in blocks (58), and she also had 47 digs, and 44 kills, along with a 93.4 serving percentage. “Our two most improved players from last season to this season, are Harlo Sease and Carrigan Moore,” said Coach Boltin. “Carrigan is a good all-around athlete who plays multiple sports, but she is really a tremendous softball player with versatile skills, and we all hope she can play softball at the next level after high school.” (Moore is a strong- armed catcher behind the plate and a gold glove center fielder who rarely makes an error.)

See **Andrew Jackson**, pg, 32

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Marion boys hoops looking for strong season

By **Dennis Brunson**
hssr.com Associate Editor
Marion – Although the **Marion High School** boys basketball team has only two starters returning from a team that went 12-15 last year, head coach **DJ Kelly** believes big things await the Swamp Foxes.

“We believe that when it’s all said and done, we love our chances and the opportunities that are ahead,” said Kelly, whose team went 6-6 in Region 7-AA last year to finish fourth. “We expect consistent growth daily and a deep playoff run.”

Marion did make the playoffs last year. It went out in the first round but it gave **Burke** everything it could handle. Burke came away with a 69-67 triumph.’

The returning starters are senior **Charles White II** and freshman **Jayden Nowlin**. White was a consistent performer, averaging 12.8 points a game to go with 5.2 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 2.4 steals.

Kelly has yet to determine who his other starters will be, but several are in contention. They include sophomore Ian Gause, junior **Joshawn Grant**, sophomore **Rodrick Dickerson**, sophomore **Jacaurie Brown**, senior **Willie Cross** and sophomore **Kamarie Reddick**.

Kelly likes the way his team looks physically. “With this particular team, our glaring strengths are athleticism and size in position,” Kelly said. “These two are ones I believe are recognized early and will play in our favor throughout the season once we put it all together.”

Other members of the team are junior **Jacarree’ Graves**, junior **Benjamin Watford**, sophomore **Kantri Watson** and junior **Derreon Legette**.

Kelly believes the toughness of Region 7 will help the Swamp Foxes once they begin the playoffs.

“No doubt about it, we play in the toughest region in AA across the state,” Kelly said. “We have the defending AA champion (**Atlantic Collegiate Academy**) in our region and they haven’t even been projected to win the region in the preseason rankings.

Mullins boys basketball brings back experience

By **Dennis Brunson**
hssr.com Associate Editor
Mullins – **Eric Troy** only has two returning starters from his **Mullins High School** boys basketball team of a season ago. That doesn’t mean though the Auctioneers will be lacking firepower or experience in the upcoming season.

“This team’s strength this year will be experience, with the majority of my guys having two to four years of experience playing varsity,” said Troy, whose team finished 19-6 overall last season and 8-4 in Region 7-AA, which was good for third place.

Leading the way for Mullins is its two leading scorers from a year ago in senior **Deyon Ford** and junior **Dakari Worley**. Ford average a team high 16.6 points and 3.4 assists per game to go with 3.0 rebounds and 3.0 steals while splitting time between shooting guard and point guard.

Worley is a jack of all trades, with Troy listing him as available to play any of the five positions on the floor. He averaged a double-double of 14.7 points to go with a team high 10.2 rebounds. Worley also led the team in steals at 3.8 and had 2.4 assists.

Troy has always made significant use of his bench. The Auctioneers had 12 players who played in at least 19 of their 25 games last season. Nothing will change this year.

“Contending for playing time? The whole team,” Troy said. “I will say that **Braden Hughes**, **Andre Littlejohn**, **KJ Ford**, and **Keith Bridgett** are all returning from last year and are expected to do the heavy lifting.”

Hughes, a senior post player, averaged 2.4 points and 3.0 rebounds in 19 games. Littlejohn, a senior forward, averaged 2.9 points and 1.9 rebounds in 21 games, Ford, a junior point guard, average 2.7 points 24 games and junior point guard Bridgett averaged 1.5

“We are picked to finish fourth and will allow that to fuel us. There are solid coaches and stiff competition in this region which only prepares us for a deep playoff run. There are no cake games, you have to come to play every night.”

MARION FOOTBALL GOES WINLESS
After going 1-9 last season, the Marion football team went winless this season at 0-10. The Swamp Foxes are riding an 18-game losins streak.

MHS head coach **Brian Hennecy** doesn’t sugar-coat the struggles his team has had after a great run of success prior to that. Yet he’s not all doom and gloom. “In some ways, yes, we made progress,” Hennecy said. “The kids got better at the game. We lerend a little bit more about what players could do what. There were games where we were in them in the third quarter.

“We were hurt by inexperience and injuries. We ha 11 season-ending injuries, and we had many more players who missed multiple games due to injuries. We also played a really strong schedule. Seven of the teams we played are going to the second round (in the state playoffs).”

Hennecy and his staff made the decision to play a lot of freshmen and sophomores. He thinks more work in the weight room will help the development of his players.

“Until we get stronger in the weight room, we’re going to have problems,” Hennecy said. “That’s why we had these injuries. It was the walking wounded. We’re just young. We’re asking ninth- and 10th-graders to go against 11th- and 12th-graders.”

Jayden Nowlin was the starting quarterback. Other people Hennecy thought played well were defensive back Benjamin Watford, defensive end **Derion Bac-cous**, defensive back Ka’Mari Watson an linebacker **Kaleb Moore**.

points in 22 games.
Newcomers to the team are sophomore center **Markell Davis**, junior point guard **Kevin Gerald**, junior shooting guard **Chase Gerrald**, junior wing **Jaylin Mills**, sophomore wing Demari Nichols and junior shooting guard **Fabian Smith**.

The Auctioneers have been a consistent program over the last few years, having success in the AA state playoffs. Troy doesn’t see anything changing in that regard.

“I expect us to compete at a high level and make a run in the playoffs,” he said.

Mullins finished behind 11-1 **Atlantic Collegiate Academy** and 9-3 **Manning**. Troy thinks the region, which also includes **Lake City**, **East Clarendon**, **Marion** and **Kingstree** is the top AA region in the state.

“All the teams in our region are strong and I predict a team from our region will win it all,” Troy said.

MULLINS FOOTBALL FINISHES 3-6

The Mullins football team finished with a 3-6 overall record and went just 2-4 in region play to miss out on the state playoffs. The Auctioneers finished sixth out of seven teams.

Senior quarterback **Kanazzon Bethea** led the team. The 3-year starter completed 79 of 162 passes for 1,179 yards and 14 touchdowns. Bethea was easily the leading rusher, picking up 876 yards on 124 carries and scoring six touchdowns.

Junior Keith Bridgett was the leading receiver with 22 catches for 365 yards and three touchdowns. Senior Amir Lee ha 417 yards and seven touchdowns on 19 catches.

Andre Littlejohn led the defense in tackles with 96 and tackles for loss with 22. Junior **Nathan Peracki** had 85 tackles and 12 TFLs. Deyon Ford had four in-terceptions

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Hampton County gearing up for deep playoff run

By **Neill Kirkpatrick**
Special to the HSSR
Varnville – The Hampton County Hurricane’s had just dropped their third game in a row to Christ Church 40-35 and while they played a solid game against a quality opponent head coach **Rob Hanna** was frustrated with his team because of their lack of discipline and attention to detail.

The Canes got the message as they ran over their region opponents by a combined score of 211 -12 to secure the top spot in region 5 AA and earn the right to host the first two rounds of the playoffs.

“I feel like after our loss to Christ Church, the focus and preparation of the players has been much better,” said coach Hanna. “We had some new starters that hadn’t had a lot of game experience but I feel they are caught up now.”

Coach continued, “Anytime you get to host two playoff games, bring excitement for the postseason and we hope we can stay healthy, continue to improve and obviously get a little luck go our way and maybe make a long run to after Thanksgiving and into early December.”

The Canes finished the regular season at 7-3 with the three losses coming against teams that will host first round playoff games and a combined record of 24-6. Coach Hanna feels those teams are the type of teams you face the further you go in the playoffs and he wanted his squad to be prepared for the challenge.

One of the main reason for the Cane’s success has been the play of the offensive and defensive lines. They have controlled the line of scrimmage each with the offensive line paving the way for over 2900 yards on the ground. That road grading group of junior left tackle **Charles “CJ” Williams**, and sophomore left guard **Cleavon Maxwell** where the only two retuning starters. They were joined by first year starters senior center **Hunter Lawson**,

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Patrick Henry volleyball finishes season 21-6

By **Dennis Brunson**
hssr.com Associate Editor
Estill – The **Patrick Henry Academy** volleyball team had another strong season, only not as good as the one it had last year.

After playing for the SCISA AAA state championship last year, the Patriots came up short of that goal. They lost their first match of the state tournament to **Spartanburg Christian Academy** 2-1. They rebounded to sweep both **Colleton Prep Academy** and Hilton Head Prep 2-0 in elimination matches to advance to the second day. However, they fell to **Pee Dee Academy** 2-0 on the second day to finish the season with a 21-6 record.

PHA won the Region 4-AAA title with a perfect 6-0 record. Senior **Sophie Westerdorf** was selected as the Co-Region Player of the Year and was joined on the All-Region by senior **Emilee Stanley**, sophomore **Kinsley Cook** and sophomore **Maura Mathis**. Stanley and Cook both played in the SCISA North-South All-Star matches.

Westendorf led the team in kills with 291 to go with 75 service aces, 194 digs and 13 blocked shots. Patrick Henry had 727 assists for the season and 654 of them belonged to Stanley. She also had 163 digs, 45 aces, 43 kills and 11 blocks.

Cook led the team with 210 digs to go with 221 kills and 76 aces, while Mathis had 126 kills an 33 blocks

Sophomore **Sara Guty** led the team in aces with 86 an in blocks with 33 and also had 121 digs.

junior right tackle **Ty’Quavian Jones** and sophomore right guard **Jayden Frazier**.

Senior **Jazmir Goines** along with Williams and Maxwell have been very good at holding the line of scrimmage. Seniors, linebacker **Malik Terry**, and safety **Tyler Davis** have been solid in run support as they are two of the team’s top tacklers with 76 and 58, respectively.

“They are a group that takes pride of being the most physical group on the field on Fridays. Also, with only 1 senior, a 10-game season goes a long way to the development of a unit when they are young, “ said coach Hanna.

Senior **Jaylen Singletary** has been the major beneficiaries of the play of the offensive line as he has rushed for 1555 yards and 24 touchdowns. He is a very patent runner, who can reach max speed in two steps. He has been all state the past two years, once on defense and once on offense.

Quarterback **Tarell Grant** has been a dual threat all year. He has thrown for 676 yards and 10 while rushing for 496 yards and another five scores. He had two runs of over 50 yards against Christ Church. On defense, he, and Singletary form one of the best cornerback combos in the state.

Seniors **Karinton Sabb** and **Desmond Mathis** have been Grants top targets, each with 14 receptions for over 250 yards and four touchdowns. Mathis has also rushed for 205 yards and another four scores.

The Hurricanes opened the playoff s with a 56-22 win over Lake City. Singletary led the way with 279 yards rushing and five touchdowns. The Cane’s will host Cheraw a 17-7 winner over Andrews.

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Rebels overcome adversity to have solid season

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Ridgeland – If nothing else, members of the 2025 football team at **Thomas Heyward Academy** have learned how to fight through adversity. The defending state champions in SCISA Class A have seen plenty of ups and downs during the 2025 season. New head coach **Daniel Bryan** was hired late and the Rebels had only a two quarter jamboree scrimmage before opening the season. A slow start, a few injuries, and some game cancellations prevented the Rebels from finding an early rhythm.

However, things slowly came together and the Rebels ended the regular season with a win over Beaufort Academy and then posted a playoff win over Carolina Academy. The Rebels face Williamsburg Academy in round two on Nov. 14 with the winner advancing to the Class A state championship game. Thomas Heyward enters that game with a 4-5 record.

“We’ve been through a lot but I am proud of how the kids responded,” Bryan said. “We’re playing our best football at the end of the season. All the early distractions, we were able to overcome. It’s a credit to the kids. We have had great leadership from our seniors.”

Bryan says senior leaders **Tony O’Banner**, **Dodge Peoples** and **Josh Gibson** rallied the troops and the team responded. Other seniors include **Jace Bessinger**, **Owen Palazzo**, **Jayden Powell**, **Mackie Bowers**, **Tanner Reed**, **Miles Stanley**, **Antonio**

Grether, **Tyler Hymon** and **Drew Willis**. O’Banner, one of the state’s top running backs, has topped 1,300 yards (eight games) and also is a leader at linebacker. He scored eight touchdowns in the team’s win over Beaufort Academy and the play-off game against Carolina Academy. Gibson is a top receiver but has been at quarterback, and a defensive leader in the secondary. Peoples is a two-way starter along the lines, as is Palazzo, who had 14 tackles in an early season game against Williamsburg. “We were 0-3 and then had two byes, but during those bye weeks our seniors just decided they wanted more out of their final year,” Bryan said. “It’s a credit to them. They wanted more.” Bryan also praises the efforts of offensive coordinator **Leon Etheridge** and defensive coordinators **Brandon Bishop** and **J.D. Tuten**. “They’ve been great and have really worked hard to make us right,” he said. “Their effort and our kids just playing hard have turned our season around.”

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Fall sports season wraps up at Beaufort High

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Beaufort – Overall, the 2025 fall sports teams at **Beaufort High** were pretty competitive in region 7-AAAA. While no team was able to win a region title, several qualified for postseason play, which is always a goal of every team when a season begins.

The **football** team struggled with consistency on their way to a 3-7 regular season. The Eagles drew an at-large berth in the AAA state playoffs and played No. 1 ranked South Pointe in a first-round game on Nov. 7.

The **volleyball** team also qualified for the AAAA state playoffs and won a first-round match against Bluffton before losing in the second round to Bishop England. Ironically, both playoff opponents were fellow region members.

The volleyball team posted a respectable 16-8-1 record overall and a 6-4 record in region play.

Among the top players this season was senior **Alyson Dennison**, who finished with 127 kills, 303 assists and 135 defensive digs

Sophomore **Erin Crosby** led the Eagles in kills with 162 and also tallied 236 digs. Junior **Samantha Graves** added 122 kills and senior **Carson Crosby** had 105 kills 22 blocks.

Senior **Camille Giblin** had 219 assists, and senior **Sarah Anderson** had 232 digs. Junior **Olivia Byrne** finished the season with 91 kills and 21

blocks while junior **Saniya Lee** contributed 19 blocks. Freshman **Jaedyn Couch** tallied 144 digs. The **girls tennis** team qualified for the state play-offs but lost to Gray Collegiate in a first-round matchup. The team posted a 6-11 record overall and was 2-8 against region foes. **Addison Norris** and **Margaret Brown** occupied the top two positions in the singles ladder. **Sophie Brown** and **Collins Sanders** swapped off and three and four singles, while **Virginia O’Kelley** and **Paige Fosberry** rounded out the singles ladder. The No. 2 doubles team in most cases was **Avery Davidson** and **Mary Carlyle Musselmann**/ In cross country, the boys and girls teams competed in the region championship meet in late October. The top runner on the girls team was **Yzeult Antia**, who finished 23rd overall. The top male runner was **David Barr**, who ran in 23rd place as well. Each team had four runners so Beaufort did not figure into the team standings. Other female runners were **Jamie Simmons** (33rd), **Savannah Stokes** (36th) and **Halle Krese** (46th). Other male runners included **Henry Petit** (30th), **Max Gibbons** (39th) and **Frederick Waddell** (46th).

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Good Luck, Eagles!

Pee Dee hosting semifinal at The Lon

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Mullins – The fact that **Pee Dee Academy** is playing in the semifinals of the SCISA AA state playoffs doesn’t come as a shock. The Golden Eagles are the defending state champions and were 6-3 coming into the postseason. They shut out **Orangeburg Prep** 27-0 in a first-round game on November 7.

That PDA is going to get to play that game at **The Lon** – also known as **Lon M. Spivey Field** – is a surprise. However, 2-8 **Hilton Head Prep** upset 9-1 and No. 1 seed **Calhoun Academy** 27-26. That means HHP will be rolling into Mullins on November 14.

“Playing at home on The Lon with a chance to advance to the AA state championship is an exciting opportunity for our players and also our school community,” said head coach **Jonathan King**, who is trying to lead Pee Dee to a third state title in four years. “We have tremendous support here at our home stadium and we expect a big crowd.

“From a team standpoint, not having a multi-hour us ride an being in our normal game day routine is big. Plus, our seniors will get one more home game in their career.”

The Eagles and the Dolphins are Region 1 foes. PDA traveled to the **Lowcountry** earlier in the sea-

son and came away with a 44-0 triumph. King is having none of the talk on this being an easy game.

“They are playing really well right now,” King said. “Being very physical up front and running the ball effectively, Coach (**Doug**) **McFadden** and his staff do a great job and you can tell his players have bought in to what he’s teaching.”

“We will need to play another strong defensive game to win. We need to be tough and physical on the line of scrimmage.”

Pee Dee limited OP to just 201 yards of total offense – 124 on the ground and 77 through the air – while posting the shutout.

Senior **Tristan Heckman** led the defense with nine tackles, while junior **Judson Martin** had eight tackles, sophomore **Cayden Elliott** had six and sophomore **Avery Robinette** had five.

“Our guys were locked in all week at practice, from film on Monday to walk-through on Thursday,” King said.

Heckman led the Eagle offense, running for 159 yards and three touchdowns on 16 carries. Martin rushed for 77 yards and the other score on 13 carries.

Ryan Small had 37 yards on five carries.



The Andrews Volleyball team celebrated it’s senior players earlier this month

Andrews ends year with first round playoff loss

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Andrews – Since head coach **Scott Durham** and his staff took over the Andrews football program in 2013 they have had only one losing season and have established themselves as one of top-class AA teams in the low country but the 2025 seasons did not meet the standard set by previous Yellowjacket teams.

“Finishing 4-7 is not up to our expectations or standards. I don’t feel like we’ve played a complete four quarters of football in all three phases all year. We just haven’t been able to put it all together and it showed in all our games,” said coach Durham.

The Yellowjackets season ended Friday night in the first round of the class AA playoffs when they fell to the Cheraw Braves 17-7 on the road.

“We have played a tough schedule. Two of our non-region opponents won their region (Carvers Bay and Andrew Jackson), Waccamaw had the best team I have seen them have, and Hanahan hosted them in a playoff game. You add those to our region schedule, and we certainly played some tough teams,” Durham said.

Despite the up and down season, there were a few highlights. Senior running back **AJ Lee** became the first running back in Andrews history to rush for over 4000 yards with a school record 4304 yards. He has also rushed for a school record 53 rushing

touchdowns. The All State running back burst on the scene as a sophomore when he replaced All State and Touchstone North/South All Star **Lavon White** and he rushed for 1175 yards and 15 touchdowns. He followed that up with a school record 1432 yards and another 17 touchdowns. He capped his career with another school record with 1697 yards and 21 touchdowns. He is starting to get looks for colleges and has several visits scheduled. He is a hidden Gem.

It’s hard to understand how he was left off the rosters for the Shrine Bowl or the Touchstone North/South All Star game. Before the season coach Durham said for the Yellowjackets to be successful AJ just had to be AJ and I would say he accomplished that in a big way.

Western Michigan commit **Chris Stewart** had another stellar season for the Yellowjackets despite people running away from him or double/ triple teaming him. He still found ways to make plays as he led the team in tackles with 76, tackles for loss with 19, sacks with 10 and pass breakups with five. He was selected to play in the Touchstone North/ South All Star game in Myrtle Beach. For his career, he had over 200 tackles to go with 63 tackles for loss, 27.5 sacks and 11 pass break ups.

Joining Stewart at the Touchstone North/Sout All Star game will be offensive linemen **Da’Viyon Mc-**

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Nair. He is a three-year starter and is the unquestioned leader of the Yellowjackets offensive line. He and the rest of the line paved the way for AJ’s school record rushing yards.

Riley Jordan played well on both sides of the ball while quarterback **Avery Durham** had a solid year throwing for over 1000 yards and 10 touchdowns.

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Central defeats Kingstree in playoff opener

By **Dennis Brunon**
hssr.com Associate Editor
Pageland – After going 8-1 during the regular season, the **Central High School** football team opened the AA state playoffs with a resounding 56-6 victory over **Kingstree** on November 7. The Eagles, will be at home again in the second round against **East Clarendon** on November 14.

“I think our focus has gone up a notch,” said Central head coach **Jonathan Eason**, whose team led 49-0 at halftime. “Our guys are doing everything they can do to make sure we keep playing.” Quarterback **Dwayne Louallen Jr.** completed 5 of 6 passes for 66 yards and two touchdowns. Running back **Aiden Short** threw a 60-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **Taveon Moore**. Moore had two catches for 85 yards, the other one a 25-yard scoring pass from Louallen. **Blake Sowell** caught the other scoring pass, a 9-yarder.

Ashten Wilson led the rushing attack, carrying the ball four times for 97 yards and two scores. **Jakari Holloman** had four carries for 26 yards and a score, and Short had a touchdown run.

“Our offensive line is playing really well and that is giving our playmakers a chance to make plays,” Eason said. “Ashten Wilson, Jakari Holloman and Aiden Short ran the ball well. Dwayne Louallen has also been playing really well at quarterback.”

The Eagles’ offensive line is made up of stand-out junior left tackle **Brandon Streater**, senior right tackle **Jared Moore**, senior right guard **Jordan Caldwell**, senior left guard **Dom Deese** and senior center **Brandon Rollins**.

Kingstree didn’t score until the fourth quarter. Holloman returned an interception for a touchdown, had six tackles and one tackle for a loss. **Marques “MJ” Allen** led the Central defense in

tackles with seven and had a quarterback sack and a tackle for loss. Defensive lineman **Tahir Wise** had two TFLs. “Defensively, we have set a tone physically,” Eason said. “We are very fast and our guys pursue the ball. MJ (Marques) Allen and Jakari Holloman do a really good job for us at inside backer.”

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY WINS REGION

The Central boys cross country grabbed three of the top five spots and five of the top 12 to win the Region 4-AA meet it hosted on October 28. Sophomore **Angel Martinez** led the Eagles with a second-place finish in a time of 18 minutes, 52.27 seconds. Senior **Lusvin Cruz** was fourth in 19:51.10 and freshman **Donald “Trace” Templeton III** was fifth in 19:56.48. Each of them made the All-Region team.

Rounding out the scoring for Central was sophomore **Jordan Miller** in 10th in 20:37.69 and senior **Jordan Sowell** in 12th in 21:15.01.

Eighth-graders **Brighton Gordon** and **Hunter Sims** finished 23rd and 26th, respectively.

“The boys set a goal of winning region and worked toward that all season,” said Central head coach **Joel Dale**. “It was nice to see them accomplish it. Angel Martinez was a pleasant surprise for us this season.”

The girls team finished third with 57 points. The Eagles were led by senior **Gracen Tucker**. She earned All-Region honors by finishing seventh in a time of 23:30.95.

Tucker was an All-Region performer as a freshman but had fallen short the past two seasons.

“Gracen said at the start of summer workouts that she wanted to make All-Region again,” Dale said. “She worked hard to attain that goal.”

Myrtle Beach fall sports make splash in playoffs

By **David Shelton**
Senior Writer
Myrtle Beach – Late October and November is playoff time for the fall sports of the South Carolina High School League and, as usual, the athletes at **Myrtle Beach High** is getting a good taste of the postseason.

In cross country, both the boys and girls teams competed in the region 6-AAAAA meey, each placing fourth in the team standings.

For the boys team **Kell Trinini** was the top finisher, placing 16th overall. **Justin Vo** finished 19th and **Thomas Smith** ran in 20th place. **Salvador Gonzalez** finished in 25th and **Lucas Neagles** was 26th. **Adam Prochaska** finished in 33rd and **Mark Hayek** was 39th.

Anchoring the girls team are **Julia Gual Suriol** with a sixth-place finish. **Brynn Roland** finished 15th and **Adelade Flint** ran in 20th.

Riley Clements was 23rd and **Madelyn Thompson** was 25th. **Franchesca Lawes** finished 27th and **Siena Trinini** was 28th.

The **girls tennis** team swept through the region schedule with a perfect 10-0 record. The team advanced all the way to the AAAAA Division II Lower State finals before losing to West Florence to end the season with a 17-4 record..

Junior **Mary Hannah Morrison** played No. 1 singles and posted a 14-3 record. Eighth-grader **Vera Sheffer** was 11-4 at No. 2 singles.

At No. 3, junior **Mary McKay Gunter** was 11-3 and junior **Ava Anthony** was 10-3 at No. 4 singles.

Rounding out the singles lineup at No. 5 is senior **Blake Sparks**, who went 7-4. Sophomore **Riley Casterline** and senior **Nadiya Patel** formed the No. 2 doubles team and went 5-3. Morrison and Sheffer played No. 1 doubles when needed.

The volleyball team finished with a record of 16-4-2, winning eight of 10 region battles. The season ended with a playoff loss to Conway.

The football team finished its 2025 regular season with a 29-23 overtime win over rival North Myrtle Beach on Oct. 31. The win secured second-place in the region 6-AAAAA standings and the Seahawks earned a first-round bye in the Division II-AAAAA state playoffs, thus their playoff journey will begin on Nov. 14.

The Seahawks finished the regular season with a 7-3 record, losing to Irmo, Sumter and Carolina Forest.

Senior **Tanner Gaddy** has been productive this season as the starting quarterback, with Antonio Brown and Michael Cohen putting in solid work at running back

Gaddy’s favorite targets in the passing game have been a strong combination of **Jon Kelly**, **JJ Brown**, **Amare Brown** and **Tyree Cauthen**.

Players included among those working to

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form a solid offensive line include **Zack Kontos**, **Blake Coffey Cam Fisher**, **Austin Scratcher**, **Sachin Sharma** and **Nathan Arroyo**.

2025 Dorchester Academy Raiders football

Dorchester to face Colleton Prep in semifinals

By **Dennis Brunon**
Hssr.com Associate Editor
St. George – The **Dorchester Academy** football team didn’t play as well as it could have in its game against **Beaufort Academy** in the first round of the SCISA Class A state playoffs on November 7, according to head coach **Michael Nelson**. The important thing though is it ended in a victory for the Raiders, who came away with a 36-20 triumph.

That allowed Dorchester to move on to the semifinals where it will travel to Walterboro to face **Colleton Prep Academy** on November 14. The winner will advance to the state championship game.

“We didn’t play our best against Beaufort,” said Nelson, whose squad topped Beaufort 21-8 in a regular-season matchup. “We’ve got to sustain blocks longer and tackle better on defense. We played well enough to win but not up to our standards.”

Dorchester, which improved to 9-1 on the season, also played without star senior running back **John Whetsell**, whom Nelson said is day to day with an injury he sustained in the second quarter of a 36-21 loss to **Williamsburg Academy** in the regular-season finale. Sophomore **Reed Almers** stepped up in big fashion, rushing for 170 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries.

Sophomore Warren Judy also scored two

Eagles cross country continues improvement

By **Neill Kirkpatrick**
Special to the HSSR
Goose Creek – The Palmetto Christin Academy boys and girls cross-country teams had a first at the SCISA AAAA state meet on November 1st at Heathwood Hall as both teams finished in the top ten with boys at number six and the girls at number ten.

Coach **Dale Hoover** continues to build the program from within as he gets runners to join the program at a young age and he teaches them to love the sport of running.

“The leadership and character of the kids are the basis for our year after year progression and success. Every single kid is an absolute joy to coach and they get along incredibly well. There is a real feeling of family despite the large age range,” said coach Hoover. “I am encouraged about the future with our youngest kids. 8th grader **Will Crews**, 6th graders **Sims Layton** and **Grey Elmenhurst**, and 5th grader **Miles Mercer** all performed well in their first year of XC. 6th

touchdowns while gaining 51 yards on 13 carries. Senior quarterback John Quattlebaum completed 7 of 11 passes for 89 yards and a touchdown. Junior wide receiver **Noah Fisher** had the touchdown reception on the way to finishing with three catches for 54 yards. Senior tight end **Abe Shuler** had three catches for 32 yards.

Judy led the Raiders defensively with six tackles. Junior **Will Quattlebaum** had a big game with five tackles, one tackle for a loss and an interception. Sophomore **Clayton Zeigler** also had an interception.

Dorchester will be trying to beat a team for the second time this season against Colleton Prep. The teams faced off on October 24 in St. George with the Raiders coming away with a 28-14 triumph.

Nelson said Dorchester needs to have another strong defensive performance to come away with another win against Colleton Prep, which is 8-2 and is hosting the game because it won the Region 2 title.

“CPA is an explosive team offensively, and we’ve got to ensure we are assignment sound against them,” Nelson said. “They can put up points in a hurry if you have miscues, so we have to avoid the penalties like we had the first time we played them and play sound on defense.”

grader **Russell Crews** shows some promise as well.”

One of the other signs for the Eagles was the girls team’s fielding a full team after only having two girls last season. The girls were led at the state meet by seventh grader **Evelyn Mercer**. She had the best finish of all the Eagle runners as she placed fifth with a time of 19:01.89. She is the school record holder in the 5K with a personal best of 18:40.00 which she ran at last years state meet to finish with a bronze medal.

Sophomore **Mary Margaret Wagner** was the other runner returning from last years team. **Josie Hurley**, **Norah Lowry**, **Croft Harper**, and **Caton Newbern** are the newcomers. Hurley, Harper, and Lowry all ran in the state meet for the first time.

“I really didn’t know what to expect from our girls team this year. We were blessed to be able to field a full girls team this year after only having 2 girls run last year. They showed great improvement which made for a fun year with a lot of potential,” Hoover said.

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“On the boys side, I expected us to improve on our 9th place finish at state last year since we only lost 1 senior. I expected great things from our lone senior, **Trey Wilson**, and our large group of sophomores, **Will Terry**, **Heyward Neely**, **Alex Avinger**, **Miles Johnson**, **Adam O’Hanley**, and **Wyatt Campbell** and they did not disappoint,” said Hoover.

Freshmen transfer **Ty Allenspach** was a great addition to the team and had the top boys finish at the state coming in at 21st. He set a new personal record of 17:07.74. He won the team’s Most Outstanding award and coach said he fit right in from day one.

Terry, Neely, and Avinger all finished in the top 50: Terry at 31, Neely at 33 in a new personal best of 17:29.28, and Avinger at 50 also with a new personal best of 18:13.34. These three young people typified the growth of the program as all finished higher than they did in 2024 with Neely leading the way as he was 60th in 2024.



2025-26 Woodland Girls Basketball

Wolverines girls hoops focused on improvement

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Dorchester—The main goal for the Woodland High girls’ basketball team coming into the 2025-16 season, according to head coach **Austin Jeffries**, is to improve their region record from last season, and to win at least one play-off game, after a quick exit from the Class AA play-offs last season.

The Lady Wolverines (6-17, 4-6) lost in the first round of the play-offs as a four seed last season. “By working hard to improve our region record this year, we should earn a higher seed for the play-offs, and one of our goals is to compete for a region title,” said Coach Jefferies. “We graduated four seniors, so this year’s team will be a mix of some older players, and some younger players, moving up from the junior var-

sity.”

The team will be led by all-region returner **Jalina Goodwin**, a shooting guard, who averaged 5 points and 2.1 rebounds a game last season. Eighth grade point guard **Essence Walker** also returns after averaging 4.6 points and 2.6 rebounds last season. Other starters returning include freshman power forward/center **Lenaya Ross** along with senior guard **Carmen Allen**.

Ross was tied as the top rebounder on the team last season at 4.4 per game and she also averaged 2.5 points a game.

Other returning players include junior wing/forward **Brazil Nelson** and junior post player **Makaila Adger-son**. Nelson averaged 1.1 points and 1.3 rebounds a year ago while Adgerson averaged 1.3 rebounds per game in the post.

Woodland football closes out 2025 season with several on all-region lists

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Dorchester—Woodland (5-6) head football coach **Eddie Ford** closed out his 7th season with the Wolverines with a 14-0 loss in the first round of the AA playoffs, on the road at **Atlantic Collegiate**, a charter school located in **Myrtle Beach**.

“I thought the defense played well for the most part last week, but we could not convert on offense the several times we made it into the red zone,” said Coach Ford. “They scored on their first two possessions and then our defense shut them down the rest of the game.”

Coach Ford, a Bamberg-Ehrhardt graduate, now has a 109-49 career record and he has spent 26 years coaching high school football, 13 as a head coach.

The **HSSR** asked Coach Ford to salute the players on his team who were named all-region for the 2025 season. “It starts with our North-South linebacker **Jaemin Pinckney** (6-5,220) who is committed to **South Florida**,” said Coach Ford. “He was a returning all-state player from last year and he has made all-region for the past two seasons. Jaemin was a tremendous player for us, and he is still picking up late offers.

“**Florida State** and **West Virginia** have made recent offers, and we feel like **Tennessee** is close to making an offer,” said Coach Ford. “Jaemin has a huge wingspan, and he is so athletic with great speed that gives him superior coverage range.”

Another 2025 all-region pick is right tackle

Tyreron Summerson (6-2, 300) who has started for three years. He has a junior college offer from **Northwest Oklahoma State**. “Tyreon is big and strong with great feet,” said Coach Ford. “His above average arm extension makes him a good pass blocker also.”

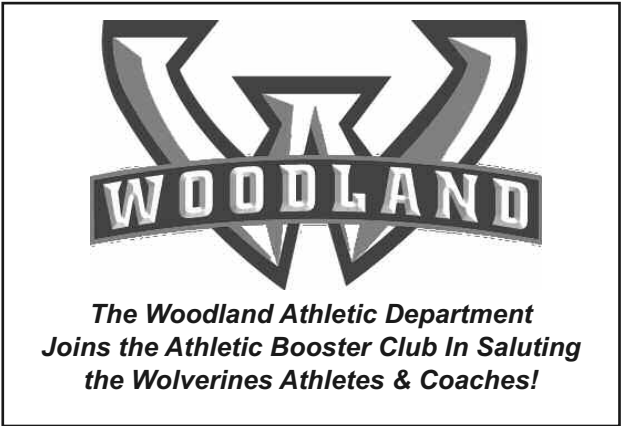
Senior **Donovan Miles** is a 6-2,235-pound DL who was also named all-region. This past season he had 77 tackles, 8sacks and 12 TFL. “Donovan has decided he has no interest in playing college football, but I think he would do well at the next level,” said Coach Ford.

Junior LB **Chandler Fogle** (5-11, 219) was also named all-region linebacker after making 87 tackles, 12 TFL, with one interception and two forced fumbles.

Junior **Duke Williams** made the all- region team as a punt/kick-off returner. “He averaged 26 yards on kick-off returns and 11 yards on punt returns,” said Coach Ford. “He returned one kick-off for a touchdown and one punt return for a touchdown. We are excited about having him back next season.”

The 2025 Woodland football team only had 12 seniors on the team. “I am very optimistic about next season, with all our players coming back, especially our skill players on offense,” said Coach Ford. “Our junior varsity team had a winning season, and we also expect to get help from numerous players moving up.”

Woodland also has a middle school football program that competes against AAAAA programs else-



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Some key newcomers expected to contribute early are 8th grade guard **Latariah Calhoun**, junior guard **Shmya James**, soph center **Brianna Simmons** and junior guard **Deamana Johnson**.

“We will need some players to step up their games early and make a name for themselves sort to speak,” said Coach Jefferies. “While we have a few experienced players returning we will rely on four to five newcomers to step up and help us win games.”

At the current time, Woodland is not scheduled to play in a Christmas tournament, but Coach Jefferies indicated he is looking around to see if an opportunity might be available.

Junior varsity head coach **Todd Martin** assists Coach Jefferies.

The Lady Wolverines will begin the season at **Branchville** on December 3. They play at **Lake Marion** on Dec. 5 before hosting **Bethune-Bowman** on the 6th. They are at **Orangeburg-Wilkinson** on Dec. 10 before hosting **Cane Bay** on the 12th.

Lake Marion visits Woodland on Dec.,13 and the team is at Cross on Dec. 15. The Lady Wolverines host O-W on the 17th and they close out December play on the 20th with a home game against **Bethune-Bowman**. The team will start playing in 2026 with a game at Cane Bay on January 3.

where in Dorchester County and that team had 35 players in the 6th and 7 grade.

Woodland will return quarterback **Jervaze Salley** (6-1, 205) for his senior year in 2026. Salley passed for 1,200 yards and 8 touchdowns this season while rushing for 412 yards.

Dorian Britt will return for his senior year at fullback after rushing for 816 yards and scoring six TD’s this past season. Running back **Kam Howell** also returns after rushing for 647 yards and four touchdowns as a junior. **Duke Williams** will also be back as a key WR, and he also plays DB.

Every offensive lineman, but Summerson returns is expected back also. They are LT **Sam Gadson** (6-1, 240), LG **Owen Messex** (5-11, 190), RG **Kolby Doctor** (5-10,305), and center **Jordan Ford** (5-10,290).

Some key players back on defense not prior mentioned will be DL **Lakye White** (5-10,235) who had 58 tackles and three sacks this season. Fogle is back at LB and DB George Perry will join Williams in the secondary after he made 51 tackles this past season including two interceptions.

Current soph combo kicker **Gibson Kepley** will also be back next season.

“Our focus now is to get in the weight room and work hard to become physically stronger,” said Coach Ford. “If we put the work in, we can be a much-improved team next season and that is our goal.”



2025 North Myrtle Beach Chiefs volleyball - 2025 AAAAA Division II Runner-up

NMB wrapping up successful fall sports seasons

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Little River – The fall sports campaign is winding down at **North Myrtle Beach** as several fall teams earn their way into the AAAAA Division II state playoffs.

The closest run to a state championship this fall came in girls volleyball where the Lady Chiefs were seeking a repeat as state titlists. North Myrtle Beach had an outstanding regular season and cruised through the Lower State playoff bracket, winning the Lower State title.

That Lower State title put North Myrtle Beach in the state championship contest against Upper State champion Woodmont.

The championship match was very competitive with both teams enjoying their own successful runs. The Lady Chiefs won the first set but Woodmont rallied to win the next two sets in the best-of-five format. Facing elimination, the Lady Chiefs rallied to win the fourth set.

The fifth set was a race to 15 points and was the tightest set of the day. Woodmont was able to pull out the 15-13 win, ending North Myrtle Beach’s season with a 36-6 record.

North Myrtle Beach had several underclassmen playing key roles this fall, which bodes well for the future. Fans should expect their team to contend for a state title next season.

One of the key seniors this year, and in year’s past, was outside hitter **Clara Cloninger**, who will play collegiately at East Carolina. Heading into the state finals, Cloninger had totaled 396 kills, 46 blocks, 63 aces and 478 digs. She finishes her career with more than 1,225 kills, 70 blocks and nearly 1,100 digs.

Two other key contributing seniors were **Raphaella Nunes** (108 kills) and **Katlyn Powers** (456 digs, 42 aces).

North Myrtle Beach’s junior catalyst was **Lilly Loeswick**, an all-state player as well. Entering the final match, Loeswick had totaled 471 kills, 59 blocks, 61 aces and 489 digs. Loeswick will go over 1,000 career kills early next season. She also has more than 400 career

digs.

Junior **Mikayla Altena** finished the season with more than 1,100 assists, 44 aces and 230 digs. Junior **Harlow Horton** had more than 241 kills and junior **Madison Johnson** had 192 kills and 109 blocks in the middle.

Expectations are to contend for a title in 2026.

The Chiefs football team also qualified for the state playoffs. The Chiefs finished the regular season with a 3-7 record and lost a first-round playoff game to Lucy Beckham, 38-21. The game was tied at 21 at halftime but Beckham’s defense posted a second-half shutout.

Like volleyball, the football team had a bevy of underclassmen starters this season. One key performer was junior **Will McNeeley**, who was the team’s leading rusher with more than 1,200 yards. He finished with 16 touchdowns, scoring three in the playoff game.

Jayden Wilson added 355 rushing yards and freshman **Mason Walker** passed for about 400 yards in the run-oriented offense. Sophomore placekicker **Nico Miller** connected on all seven of his field goal attempts with a long of 41 yards.

Junior **Reo Stevenson** and freshman **Taron Scott** were two underclassmen at receiver and tight end **Matt Sadler** was a junior as well. Three of the starting offensive linemen were underclassmen. Juniors **Mike Jezleiski** and **Collin Vreeland** were on the left side and **Kaedyn Smith** was the center.

Dustin Clement was a junior that saw a lot of action at defensive end and running back. Junior **Jonathan Evans** also was a running back.

Among the leading tacklers this season were **Jasaun Bellamy**, **Bricey Gore** and **Mike Cavallini**.

The girls golf team earned a trip to the AAAAA Division I state tournament. The Chiefs posted a seventh-place finish in the team standings.

Senior **McKayla Owens** finished in a tie for

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14th-place with teammate **Storm Williams**, a sophomore. Seventh-grader **Scarlett Williams** finished 34th and eighth-grader **Hadley Thompson** was 47th. Sophomore **Kherington Sistare** finished 75th.

The girls swim team finished ninth in the state meet while the boys team finished 11th in the team standings.

The girls tennis team finished 9-9 this fall. Senior **Claire Kingston** played No. 1 singles and sophomore **Anna Brown** played No. 2 singles. Junior **Emma Ferry** was at No. 3 and sophomore **Lyla Cosgrove** played No. 4. Eighth-grader **Stella Cornett** was the No. 5 singles player.

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Johnsonville fall sports compete in playoffs

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Johnsonville – As expected, the **Johnsonville High** football team is among the best in Class A. The Flashes are getting an opportunity to prove that point as they take part in the Class A Lower State playoffs. Johnsonville opened the postseason with a 48-14 win over Branchville, improving their record to 8-2. They went 4-1 in region 5-A play, losing only to Carver’s Bay, an undefeated team and state title contender as well.

Round two of the playoffs will commence on Nov. 14 with Johnsonville taking on Scott’s Branch, a 9-2 team in their own right. Head coach **Ken Cribb** expects the competition to get tougher each week. Quarterback **Larkin Powell** is having a solid season as a leader offensively. He had two long touchdown passes in a key win over Lake View. Anchoring the running game are **Zaghe Davis** and **Bricen Howell**. **Tahkari Ross** and **Skylar Montgomery** have been key receiving threats for Powell. Davis is the RB1 with more than 1,100 rushing yards and averaging over 100 yards per game. He had 190 yards and four touchdowns in the playoff win over Branchville. A successful running game starts up front and Johnsonville’s line play has been consistent. **Dylan Smith** is the starting tight end. Starting tackles are **Jason Brigham** and **Mykal Hanna**. The guards are **Daniel Ortiz** and **Brayden Baxley** while the center is **KC Davis**.

Howell also is a leader on defense at linebacker. Ross, Montgomery and **Jamire Ross** also factor in as key defenders. Johnsonville’s volleyball team also had a successful season, finishing with an 11-5 record. The girls advanced to the third round of the state playoffs before losing to eventual Lower State champion Latta. Three of Johnsonville’s losses came to Latta. The Cross Country teams recently competed in the class A state qualifier, hoping to earn a chance in the state meet on Nov. 15.

On the girls team, the top finisher was **Alissa Carter** in 20th-place overall. **Jadon Miller** finished 29th and **Cloe Woodberry** finished 30th. **Naz Tagoon** finished 31st and **Abby Lambert** was 33rd. **Ben Eaddy** finished 25th in the boys meet. **Emery Harris** finished 29th and **Ja’Morie Braghton** was

32nd. **Colt Grier** finished 61st and **Richard Threatt** finished 58th. **The Johnsonville** girls team has been one of the more competitive teams in the Class A ranks. But, due to a lack of class A schools fielding girls tennis teams, class A schools are combined with class AA schools in the playoffs. Johnsonville was a part of the playoff field and posted a win over McBee, a Class A school, in the first round. Round two, however, put the Flashes against AA Academic Magnet and Johnsonville was eliminated in a 6-0 loss. Academic Magnet went on to win the state championship. Under the leadership of coach **Brian Welch**, the Flashes put in extra effort and play the game with a great attitude. A hallmark of Welch’s teams are strong team chemistry, which he develops through team building activities.

The 2025 roster is a mixture of upper and lower classmates with strong leadership from the senior class. The team is led by four seniors and all four compete for time on the court. Anchoring the squad is No. 1 singles performer **Lilly Margaret Driggers**, who is in her second season at No. 1.

“All of them have contributed thus far this season. The core of seniors has been the strength of the team,” Welch reports. “My one, two and three have not changed throughout the season, and that stability is key.” Sophomore **Julianna Owens** is strong at No. 2 and junior **Sophia Cook** holds down the No. 3 spot. Seniors **Ada Howell**, **Lucy Truesdale** and **Lexi Hanna** have battled all season for a spot in the singles lineup.

“The two captains (Lilly Margaret and Lexi) provide daily leadership to our program on and off of the court. They both go above and beyond what is required of them to make the program better.” **Layla Newell** is the team’s other sophomore and **Haidyn Carter** is the lone freshman. Rounding out the roster are eighth-grader **Sarah Boyd** and seventh-grader **Sawyer Powell**.



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Andrew Jackson, from pg. 27

“Harlo is just a sophomore, with above average all-around ball skills on the court,” said Coach Boltin. “She is a very versatile player.” Junior RS **Kinslie Carson** was also named to the all-region team this season. Carson had 127 Kills, 35 blocks, 70 digs and she finished with a 92.7 serving percentage. Junior Libero **Ginny Ott**, a transfer from **Branchville High**, led the team in digs with 163 while also contributing 57 assists. Junior **Izzie Brandt** is a DS who had 53 digs and 27 kills for the season while also having a 92.7 serving percentage. Sophomore outside-hitter **Peighton Jones** was the team’s best server with a 96.4 serving percentage with a 14.3 per cent ace serving average. Junior middle hitter **Mary Gray Hiers** had five blocks during the season, while junior DS **Delanie Bessinger** had 24 digs and a 91.7 serving percentage. The team’s only senior was **Alex Johnson** who contributed 18 points and 29 digs over the season. Other hard-working members of the team include sophomore DS Nala Tuten, freshman DS Harper Bessinger, freshman setter Amiah McClung, along with sophomore MB **Abby Ayer**. “Just about our entire volleyball roster plays

some form of year-round volleyball in outside competition,” said Coach Boltin. “Eight members of the volleyball team will be joining me on the varsity girls’ basketball team also. “Many of our female student athletes will also play softball in the Spring, and then we will start conditioning and working on fundamentals for volleyball in early June,” said Coach Boltin. “At one point of the season we were 16-3, and one thing that I am proud of is that we came back and beat the three teams later in the season that we had lost to (**Patrick Henry**, **Cross Schools**, and **Branchville**).” Over the past two summers, in early July, the team has also benefitted from attending a skills camp hosted at **Wofford College**. “Going to the team camp at Wofford helps to give us an early spark,” said Coach Boltin. “It also helps us to work on our fundamentals, and we also get to compete against top teams at the camp. Also, going away to camp helps with team bonding and unity also.” Coach Boltin has help lead the AJA volleyball program to 45 wins over the past two seasons. The team won 18 games in 2024 before improving to 27 wins this season.

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“We are learning how to communicate better with each other on the court and that is so important in the sport of volleyball,” said Coach Boltin. “We truly have a close-knit hard-working team. We are already looking forward to next season where we hope to be the last team standing at the end of the season.” Former HSSR All-State player Gabby Sease assists Coach Boltin. **Carmen Mixon** heads up the very successful junior varsity and B teams at AJA. Coach Mixon helped lead the jayvee volleyball program to a 20-3 record this past season. Talented outside hitter Peighton Jones, middle blocker Abby Ayer, and first choice setter Amiah McClung led the team’s success. All three of these players were moved up to the varsity once the playoffs started. “It was an awesome season for our younger players,” said Coach Mixon.” The highlight of our season was our jayvee beating the **Curtis Baptist** varsity team on September 23rd and that was a super impressive accomplishment by the team.” Coach Mixon is assisted by her sister **Brittany Mixon**.



The Cougars senior captains await the coin toss vs. Hilton Head

Colleton County fall athletes finish up 2025

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Walterboro – Once again, the **Colleton County** fall sports teams found the going rough as they worked hard to compete in region 7-AAAA.

Region seven is especially strong in fall sports with athletic powers like Bishop England, May River and Hilton Head annually contending for state titles across the board.

Colleton County hired **Chris Myers** as the county-wide athletic director last December and Myers’ stated goal is the upgrade the competitiveness of the athletic programs by making them more attractive to students. “I am very excited about being back in Colleton County and I look forward to the challenges ahead,” said Myers, who received his Doctorate of Education in Sports Management from the US Sports Academy. “It has been an easy transition for me since I had strong previous relationships with the coaches here. Athletic success and motivating our student-athletes to excel on and off the field is something I take very seriously.” Colleton County’s football program went 1-9 this season, their third season under head coach **Adam Kinloch**.

Colleton Prep enters playoffs with 7-2 record

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Walterboro – **Colleton Prep** head football coach **Greg Langdale** felt his 2025 team would be playoff worthy and his team responded positively to the challenge.

The Warhawks earned a spot in the SCISA Class A state playoff bracket after finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record. Colleton Prep lost their season opener to John Paul II then won seven straight games before losing to Dorchester Academy in the regular season finale.

Colleton Prep had a bye on Oct. 31 and opened the state playoffs against Lee Academy (2-7) on Nov. 7. Two playoff wins would land the Warhawks in the state finals on Nov. 22.

“That’s always the goal, to win a state championship,” Langdale said. “You work every day to improve and you hope you improve every Friday night. If you do, you have a chance. That’s our goal.”

There have been many contributors to the regular season success, none bigger than junior quarterback **Cale Owens**. Owens finished the regular season with 1,663 yards passing, throwing 17 touchdown passes and completing 69 percent of his attempts. He also leads the team in rushing with 1,020 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Senior **Tanner Wolf** is the second-leading rusher with 553 yards and 10 touchdowns, while junior **Thomas Corbett** has 123 yards rushing, but also has 31 receptions 657 yards and seven touchdowns. Junior **Charlie Walker** has eight carries but has scored three touchdowns while also catching a pair of touchdown tosses from Owens.

Colleton Prep rushed for more than 2,200 yards

and 32 touchdowns in the nine games, averaging 8.3 yards per carry.

Junior **Hartman Fisk** has been a favorite target of Owens. Fisk caught 33 passes for 371 yards and three touchdowns during the regular season. Freshman **Kaiden Kinard** caught 14 passes for 210 yards and three scores in the first nine games. The offensive line was a concern coming into the season with only one returning starter, senior **Steven Crosby**. But the unit has improved weekly and has become a solid unit. Other starters include **Fripp Smoak**, **Austin Murdaugh**, **Aden Willis** and **Tyler Riesner**. **Grayson Catterton** is in the rotation along both lines.

A lot of the offensive players also play key roles defensively. In addition to the two-way players, others working on defense include **Brayden Hiers**. Linebackers **Ben Cain** and **Everett Teague** and **Trey Ferguson** form a solid group at the second level. **Cross Country teams compete at SCISA state meet**

The cross country teams from Colleton Prep closed out their 2025 season by competing in the SCISA AAA state meet. The top finisher from Colleton Prep in the girls race was **Cameron Kinard**, who ran 12th overall. **Kelsey Rizer** finished 27th and **Emerson Polk** was 45th. **Sarah Branam** ran 46th, followed by **Annaleigh Tomlinson** in 59th and **Emalyn Joyner** in 55th.

The top CPA finisher in the boys race was **Braylon Smoak** in 14th place. **Braeden Sheppard** finished 18th and **Hase Blakeley** was 39th. **Bradley Harrison** (44th), **Michael Gamsey** (49th) and **Sheldon Kearse** (67th) rounded out the Warhawks’ competitors.

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ham (67th) and **Steven Sansone** (68th). The girls tennis team competed well overall with leadership coming from **Madysen Myers** and **Brooklyn Stuard**, the two most experienced players. The team is coached by **Kendrick Hiers**, now in his third season. Hiers was recently inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame for his success as a player. Also inducted into the athletic Hall of Fame were **Donald Robinson** (football), **Ronald Robinson** (football) and graduate **Jim Ringer**, who went on to be a successful coach with more than 200 wins and two state titles at Rock Hill.

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Gray Collegiate flying high in the postseason

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Columbia - With a 41-27 victory over **North Augusta** Sept. 26, the **Gray Collegiate Academy** football team began to put a hurt on Region 4-4A. That win featured a sensational quarterbacking performance from 5-11 Freshman **Xavier Wright**, who passed for 376 yards and five touchdowns. Since that game, which essentially determined the region championship, as the War Eagles (9-2, 7-0) finished at the top with the Yellow Jackets (9-1, 6-1) taking second, Gray mowed down the next five region opponents with a total score of 259-14. “It was definitely a boost of confidence to know that we’ve been that successful in the region, and winning the region was the icing on the cake,” second-year head coach **De’Angelo Bryant** said. “To know we did it in dominant fashion is a remarkable feat.”

After dispatching Gilbert 44-0 Oct. 30 in the region finale, the War Eagles entered “season three”, the playoffs. “I told the guys there are 32 teams that want to get their hands on the trophy, and we have to continue to be at our best if we want to put our hands on that trophy.”

Gray opened the postseason with a 63-7 defeat of region foe **Brookland-Cayce**. The War Eagles play host to **Hartsville** (7-4), 45-8 winners over **Crestwood** (6-5), Friday.

Wright has solidified his role as the starter, having passed for 1,428 yards and 18 touchdowns with just one interception through eight games. He also has 188 yards and two touchdowns on the ground.

Senior **Tyler Waller**, who passed for over 1,000 yards and 11 TDs last year and 657 yards and five scores as the starter this year, is ready and able to contribute

“Xavier’s done a great job and a tip of the hat to Tyler Waller as well,” Bryant said. “With he and Tyler, it’s a great feeling to have when you have two guys who can get it done.”

Oceanside football begins championship quest

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Mt. Pleasant - After an 0-2 start to the 2025 season, the **Oceanside Collegiate** football team won their eighth straight game on Oct. 31, defeating Orangeburg-Wilkinson, 49-13, to claim the region 6-AAA championship.

The Landsharks enter the Class AAA state playoffs with home field advantage for as long as they stay alive in their quest for a third consecutive state championship. Their playoff opener was against Georgetown on Nov. 7.

“When we were 0-2 a lot of people sort of forgot about us but I always knew what type of team we had,” first-year head coach **Brent LaPrad** said. “Then we beat Ashley Ridge and Dutch Fork and people started paying attention again. But for me, I knew we had the potential to go on a good run.”

AAAAA state contender Irmo was OCA’s first loss in the season opener. They also lost to Calvary Christian of Georgia before their eight-game winning streak.

Junior quarterback **Aiden Manavian** continues to be among the state’s leading passers. He finished the regular season just shy of 3,000 yards, posting 2, 829 yards and 28 touchdowns. He completed 68 percent of his attempts.

Junior **Corey Gleaton** leads all receivers with 927 yards and 10 touchdowns on 35 catches. Junior **Royce Williamson** has 28 catches for 511 yards and seven TDs.

Add junior **Trevon Williamson’s** 1,031 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns to the totals and the Gray Collegiate offense becomes difficult to stop. The War Eagles have been equally prolific on defense.

Senior Linebacker **Michael Boulware** leads the team with 202 tackles, 16 for loss. His leadership has the whole linebacking corps playing on a high level.

“The way he practices is the same way he plays,” Bryant said. “He’s all over the field whether in front of or behind the line of scrimmage. It’s been remarkable. But our whole linebacking corps has been remarkable. (Senior) **J.P. Sweatt** has been all over the field and (senior) **Ty Rivers** has been a guy who’s really come on and really has a chance to lift our defense because of what he does.”

Also whom Bryant said are “playing great” are Williamson and Gleaton, who have combined for 12 interceptions and eight pass breakups in the secondary.

The defensive line, which Bryant said “doesn’t meet the eyeball test, but they play hard and physically they’re very scrappy.”

While the Eagles are flying high, it’s important in the postseason to play one opponent and one game at a time, Bryant said. Opponents such as No.6 seed Hartsville, No. 2 seed Hilton Head, and lower state top seed South Florence may be on the horizon, but Gray has to focus on the team in front of them.

“The challenges are definitely there and we understand the mission is to advance,” he said. “I know those messages going on with all the potential schools we should line up against, but any given Friday anything can happen. We have to take one game at a time and focus on the details.”

Senior **Terence Johnson**, a SC shrine bowl selection, had 44 receptions for 908 yards and 16 touchdowns during the regular season. Junior **Anthony Williams** had 44 catches for 760 yards and seven scores, while **Cooper Webb** and **Ethan Ranew** combined for 40 catches and more than 500 yards. Sophomore **Ty Garner** posted 26 catches for 460 yards and four touchdowns.

Zahki Muncey was the leading rusher for the regular season, finishing with 867 yards and 10 touchdowns while averaging better than six yards per carry.

Leaders on defense during the regular season included defensive back **Michael Strickler**, linebackers **Rhys Meredith** and **Joey Harriott**, and linemen **Mike Jones** and **Sawyer Arnold**.

In **girls volleyball**, the Landsharks are one of the final teams in the AAA state playoffs and played Powdersville for the state title on Nov. 8.

The **boys volleyball** team captured their second straight state championship with a 3-1 win over Traveler’s Rest in the AAAA title match. OCA finished with 23-3 record.

The **girls swim** team had a strong showing in the 2025 AAA state meet, finishing fourth in the final team standings. The boys team finished 17th overall.

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The **girls tennis** team beat Waccamaw in the AAA Lower State finals. They were set to play in the state finals on Nov. 8. Results were not available at press time.

The **girls golf** team finished fifth in the team standings at the AAA state tournament in late October. **Sarah Hoffman** earned all-state honors with her eighth-place finish overall. **Grayson Cassell** finished 26th, **Carson Chavis** was 35th and **Piper Sweatt** finished 54th.

Raiders girls tennis has strong showing this fall

BY David Shelton
Senior Writer
Pamplico – When it comes to competitive tennis, the **Hannah-Pamplico** girls team makes the most of every match.

Hannah-Pamplico is one of a handful of Class A schools that have a girls tennis program. The Raiders often are playing against schools from higher classifications. When the state playoffs roll around, the Class A schools are joined in the bracket by Class AA schools. That can make for a tough go for sure.

But Hannah-Pamplico coach **Walt Hyman** says his team enjoys competing against any and all comers but admits the competition gets tougher as the field of teams dwindles.

“It’s unfortunate that we don’t have enough teams in Class A to have our own playoffs but that’s where we are now,” said Hyman, who just completed his first season as head coach but has been a part of the program for several years. “We hold our own pretty well. We have girls who love to compete and they will give it their best shot every time we play.”

The 2025 season ended for Hannah-Pamplico in the third round of the AA/A playoffs. After posting wins over Green Sea Floyds and Governor’s School,

Panthers volleyball makes run to quarterfinals

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Batesburg-Leesville – The **Batesburg-Leesville High School** volleyball team finished the just completed season with a mediocre-sounding 19-19-1 record. However, the Panthers’ best play came in the final quarter of the season..

They won six of their final seven regular-season games and then won their first two games in the AA state playoffs. B-L’s season came to an end with a 3-1 loss to **Landrum** in the quarterfinals. Landrum reached the state championship game against **Philip Simmons**.

Batesburg-Leesville head coach **Eric Shick** is proud of the team’s finish.

“Our team was very pleased to make it to the third round,” Shick said. “We were playing our best volleyball for the last two to three weeks of our season. It always feels good as a coach to see your team peaking at the end of the season when you need it the most. Our young team learned a lot about the need to play your best when it is needed the most.”

The Panthers beat **Strom Thurmond** 3-0 in a special game to earn Region 2’s No. 2 seed. They then beat **Eau Claire** 3-0 in the first round and got to host and defeat **Liberty** 3-1 in the second round. “Our third-round game against Landrum was a great learning experience for our team,” said Shick, whose team lost by the scores 25-17, 23-25, 14-25, 20-26. “We played great in the first set and showed them that we belonged in the game. The second set could have gone either way and we ended up losing by two points. The fourth set was back and forth at 19-20 until we had some errors that cost us in the last five points.”

both class A programs, the Raiders ran into one of the top AA programs in the state, Academic Magnet, and lost by a 6-0 score. Academic Magnet went on to win the Lower State championship.

Hannah-Pamplico finished the season with a 15-3 overall record.

“We had a great season,” Hyman said. “This was a great group of young ladies and it was a real pleasure to coach them. This team got along so well and their work habits were outstanding. They love tennis and they loved practicing and making each other better.”

Layla Cooper played No. 1 singles this season. **Abby Farmer** played No. 2 singles while **Tilly Bass** played No. 3 singles. **Madison Newton** competed at No. 4 singles and **Landon Lee** played in the No. 5 slot. The next two in the ladder were **Cameron Poston** and **Addison Johnson**.

Rounding out the roster were **Lyndsey Wilson**, **Aurora Montgomery**, **Jocelyn France** and **Temperance Smith**.

“I definitely think we can continue to be a really strong team. A lot of younger girls are already playing and working to improve. I think we will always be able to compete,” Hyman said.

B-L was led by sophomore outside hitter **Kate Shealy**, who was the Region 2 Player of the Year as well as an All-State selection. Shealy led the team in kills with 310 to go with 341 digs, 37 service aces, 25 assists and 14 blocked shots. Shealy received 493 serves and had just 56 receiving errors.

Shealy was joined on the All-Region team by eighth-grade setter **Molly Price** and eighth-grade libero **Carley Soper**. Price led the team with 683 assists to go with 232 digs, 73 kills, 37 aces and 32 blocks. Soper had team highs in digs with 425 and aces with 52 to go with 54 assists and 13 kills. Soper also received a team high 584 serves and had just 34 errors.

B-L BLASTS EAU CLAIRE IN AA FOOTBALL PLAYOFF OPENER

The Panthers rolled to a 42-0 victory over Eau Claire in the first round of the state playoffs on November 7 to improve to 8-3 on the season. They will go on the road to face **Chester** in a second-round game on November 14.

Senior running back **Amadre Wooden** is now the leading career rusher in B-L’s storied history. Wooden broke the school record in a game against **Pelion**, surpassing the record of his uncle, **Terrence Wilson**.

Wilson had 4,692 career yards when he graduated in 2015. Wooden had 4,917 yards heading into the playoffs. For the season, Wooden had 1,841 yards and 24 touchdowns on 188 carries. He’s had a school record nine games with at least 200 yards.

Senior athlete **KD Whitt** has had another big year as well. The **Touchstone Energy Cooperatives**

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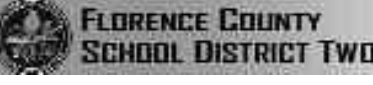
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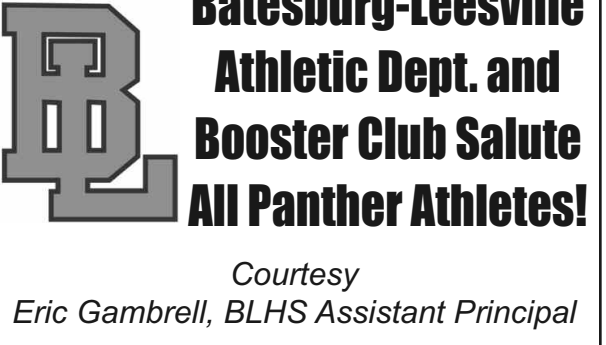
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Bowl selection had 31 catches for 553 yards and 10 touchdowns, 14 carries for 233 yards and four scores, returned two kickoffs for touchdowns, one fumble return for a score and one interception return for a score.

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2025 Hilton Head Prep - SCISA Girls Tennis Champions

Hilton Head Prep wins titles in three sports

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Hilton Head – What a fall sports season is has been for the athletes at **Hilton Head Prep**. The fall sports teams have combined for state championships in girls tennis, swimming (boys and girls), and girls cross country.

Also, Prep finished fourth in the state cross country meet for boys and the girls golf team posted a state runner-up finish at the state tournament.

Led by No. 1 singles player **Mika Shimada**, a sophomore, the Dolphins won their fourth consecutive state championship with only two seniors. “As a returning state champion, Mika brings more than just skill to the court—she brings experience, composure, and a winning mindset,” he said. “I rely on her for leadership every day. “

Kate Baumgardner and **Carly Dowe** are the only seniors in the starting singles ladder, playing No. 2 and No. 3 singles, respectively. Freshman **Reese Shaughnessy** played No. 4 and freshman **Riley Crocker** played No. 5. Eighth-grader **Ashley Kay** rounded out the singles ladder. Juniors **Lucy Yellon** and **Thayer McLaughlin**

formed the No. 2 doubles team. Rounding out the roster this fall are seniors **Harper Yellon** and **Madeline Schlieman**; and juniors **Zoe Biles**, **Emily Stambaugh**, **Anna Steinhoff** and **Tilly Wirth**.

Arnold says the strength of this year’s team may be the way the team supports each other.

“One of our biggest strengths this season is our chemistry. The girls genuinely support one another, and that energy shows up in every match,” he said..

In **swimming**, the girls finished with a 244, 20 points better than Spartanburg Day to win the AAAA.AA.A tite. The boys finished with 173 points, 27 points better than Spartanburg Day.

Gia Blok won the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle while **Samantha Fenstermaker** won the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly. **Isabel Lossada** won the 100-yard backstroke and was second in the 200-yard individual medley. **Halle Robinson** won the 100-yard breaststroke and was second in the 100-yard freestyle.

Piper Lossada was second in the 100-yard breaststroke and **Caroline Litchfield** third in the 500-yard freestyle. The girls team also won the 200

Hilton Head Christian football into AAA semifinals

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Eitor
Bluffton – The **Hilton Head Christian Academy** football team found itself in an unusual position – for it – a month ago. The Eagles were one loss away from their first losing record since 2016 with a 2-5 record.

Fast forward four games and HHCA is 6-5 and assured of a non-losing season. More importantly, it is just one victory away from doing something that is more common: playing for a state championship.

Hilton Head Christian defeated **Trinity Collegiate** 42-20 in the first round of the SCISA AAA state playoffs on November 7. It was scheduled to play at **Wilson Hall** in a semifinal game on November 14.

Eagles head coach **Ron Peduzzi** said the team just maintained its focus through the difficult start. “When we were 2-5, we had some unfortunate injuries at the time, which we’ve had all year long,” said Peduzzi, who has won three state titles at HHCA. “We also had some situations within the team that were a challenge. Our guys showed great toughness and teamwork. We truly were playing for an audience of one.

“We just stayed the course and battled every play to get us to 5-5, to get a home playoff game and to end up in the state semifinal against a great Wilson Hall football team. I’m so proud of the effort of the boys and what they have done to climb that Mount Everest of a challenge and be there bat-

ting every day.” In the triumph over Trinity, junior quarterback **Kres Langhals** threw touchdown passes to wide receiver **Joey Houpt** and **Jackson Richardson** and also ran for a touchdown. Langhals became the starting quarterback when **Reid McCollum** left the school six games into the season.

Entering the playoffs, Langhals had completed 74 of 122 passes for 1,342 yards and 13 touchdowns against 11 interceptions. He ha rushed for 365 yards and six touchdowns on 73 carries.

Whether Langhals or McCollum was delivering the ball, Houpt has had an outstanding season. He had 60 catches for 1,166 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Richardson and **Sam Strum** both had 29 receptions, Strum for 401 yards and five touchdowns and Richardson for 449 yards and four scores. **Thomas Gehm** had 24 catches or 359 yards and three TDs. Running back **Hudson Baker** had 12 catches for 171 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 326 yards and three TDs on 57 carries.

The biggest change has been on the defensive side of the ball. After giving up 321 points in the first seven games, the Eagles have allowed just 68 in the winning streak.

“Defensive coordinator **Matt Smith** has done a great job putting the right people in the right position and slowly and surely we kind of figured out where we should play them so it made a big difference,” Peduzzi said.

Sophomore defensive tackle **Hayne Burden** led the team in tackles with 84 and tackles for loss with

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and 400 freestyle relays and 200-yard individual medley relay.

In the boys’ championship meet, **Peter Fenstermaker** won the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke. **Cass Tokarski** won the 200-yard freestyle and was second in 500-yard freestyle.

Kellen Tokarski finished second in the 100-yard backstroke and third in the 100-yard butterfly. The Dolphins won the 40-yard freestyle relay and were second in the 200-yard individual medley relay.

In the **girls golf** state tournament, the top scorer for Hilton Head Prep was **Lexi Polazzo**, who earned all-state honors with a third-place finish. **Abigail Kell** also earned all-state honors with a seventh-place overall finish. **Chandler Salita**, **Stephanie Zhu** and **Ella Jones** also competed in the state tournament,

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Sophomore middle linebacker **Chase White** had 64 tackles, and senior linebacker **Finn Usery** had 64 tackles as well.

Richardson had three interceptions, while Langhals had two.

Peduzzi knows HHCA faces a big challenge against Wilson Hall. The Eagles lost to the Barons in the semifinals last year after beating them in the title game in 2023.

“Wilson Hall is big, strong, experienced, 19 seniors,” he said. “I’d imagine they’re MAD and real hungry (after finishing as runner-up two years in a row).

Saluda faces showdown against Clinton Friday

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Eitor
Saluda – Getting to the AA football state playoffs and out of Region 2 was a good thing for **Saluda High School**, at least for one week.

The Tigers went 2-3 in region play, losing to both **Strom Thurmond** and **Batesburg-Leesville** in overtime and dropping a 1-point decision to **Ninety Six**. They opened the playoffs on the road against Mid-Carolina and came away with a 33-13 victory.

SHS improved to 6-5 on the season and needed 20 points in the fourth quarter to put the game away. “Yeah, it was a grind ending the region play against three really good opponents,” said Saluda first-year head coach **Greg Woerner**. “Those games were definitely hard, but we learned a lot of lessons through them that will hopefully help us on this playoff run.”

After heading east down **Interstate 26** to reach **Prosperity**, the Tigers will go west up I26 to take on defending state champion **Clinton** in the second round on November 14.

“Clinton is a really, really good football program,” Woerner said of the Red Devils, who are 8-3 on the year. “They are coming off a state champion season and have been playing really good football this season. They are big, fast and physical and are really good at what they do. We are going to have to match their physicality and play with a lot of intensity and effort.

?Defensively, we are going to have to fly around

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SCISA Football, continued from pg. 9

Cael Parler (jr) follows Layton with 869 yards 14 touchdowns and **Joseph Lyons** (so) has tallied 600 yards 9 touchdowns.

The **Greenwood Christian Hawks** has used a balanced offensive attack this season. Quarterback **Leland Reed** (jr) has passed for 754 yards 12 touchdowns.

The Hawks rushing attack has been led by **Leighton Davis** (fr) with 469 yards 5 toucdowns. **Holden Poole** (sr) has 148 yards 1 touchdown and **Isaiah Scott-Palacios** (jr) has 113 yards 2 touchdowns.

Ty Kennedy (sr) and **Bryson Dixon** (sr) have been top targets for Reed in the passing attack. Kennedy has 311 receiving yards with 6 touchdowns and Dixon has 181 yards 4 touchdowns.

Cholly Williams has sparked the **Orangeburg Prep Indians** from the quarterback slot. He has passed for 1662 yards 22 touchdowns. He has also rushed for 254 yards 4 touchdowns.

The top receiver has been **Tilden Riley**(sr) with 1003 yards 17 touchdowns. **Council Burroughs** (so) has 242 yards 3 touchdowns. **Maxx Judy** (jr) has 287 yards 2 touchdowns and **Marshall Livingston** (jr) has 176 yards 1 touchdown.

In Class 1A the **Williamsburg Academy Stallions** has been led by **Micah Balder** (sr) who has passed for 841 yards 8 touchdowns and rushed for 456 yards 5 touchdowns. His top receiver has been

and stop the running attack. Offensively, we will need to execute the game plan and protect the ball. On both sides, again we just have to play fast, physical football. It’s a great matchup and I am excited for Friday night and to watch our team compete at a high level.”

The Tigers had one of their best offensive showings of the season against Mid-Carolina, rushing for 393 yards and passing for 98 to finish with 491 yards of total offense.

Quarterback **Brayden Williams** has 171 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 13 carries while completing 5 of 9 passes for 98 yards and another score.

Running back **Tristan Daniels** had 21 carries for 195 yards and one touchdown. **CJ Springs** had three receptions for 53 yards and a touchdown. **Darryl Hill** had tw catches for 25 yards and also had a 27-yard run.

Devyn Dunn had an interception to lead the defense.

Regardless of what happens against Clinton, Woerner hopes his team has had abig learning cure this year.

“The season did not go as we would have liked, See **Saluda**, pg. 70



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Charlie Caulder (jr) with 548 yards 6 touchdowns. The Stallions rushing attack has been led by **Grant Small** (jr) with 1582 yards 24 touchdowns. **Eli Brown** (so) has rushed for 440 yards 4 touchdowns.

The **Dorchester Academy Raiders** offense has been led by quarterback **John Quattlebaum** (sr) who has passed for 817 yards 12 touchdowns.

The Raiders rush game has been led by **John Whetsell** (sr) with 1142 yards 15 touchdowns. **Reed Almers** (so) has rushed 157 yards 4 touchdowns and **Warren Judy** (so) has 130 yards 3 touchdowns

The top two receivers has been **Abe Shuler** (sr) with 344 yards 3 touchdowns followed by **Noah Risher** (jr) with 264 yards 5 touchdowns.

The **Colleton Prep Academy War Hawks** has been led by dual quarterback **Cale Owens** (jr). He has passed for 1661 yards 17 touchdowns and rushed for 1029 yards 15 touchdowns. **Tanner Wolf** (sr) has rushed for 553 yards 10 touchdowns and **Thomas Corbett** (jr) has rushed 123 yards.

Corbett has been the top receiver with 651 yards 7 touchdowns. **Hartman Fisk** (jr) has 376 receiving yards 3 touchdowns.

In 8-Man the **W W King Academy Knights** have been led by a strong running game. **Joseph Morse** (so) has 1505 yards 25 touchdowns. **Blake Rabar** (fr) has 332 yards 3 touchdowns and **Ty**

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Doolittle has 120 yards 4 touchdowns. **Elijah Hutto** (jr) has passed for 956 yards 19 touchdowns. **Dallas Hill** (sr) has been the top receiver with 375 yards 11 touchdowns. **Landell Anderson** (jr) has 386 yards 6 touchdowns and **Luke Harvey** (jr) has 150 yards 1 touchdown.

The **Laurens Academy Crusaders** offense has been sparked by their passing and rushing quarterback **Ethan Collins** (jr). He has passed for 1657 yards 23 touchdowns and rushed for 449 yards 11 touchdowns.

The rushing has also been led by **Caleb Hardy** (jr) with 1206 yards 12 touchdowns. **Mason Cooper** (so) has 678 yards 6 touchdowns. Hardy also has 835 receiving yards 14 touchdowns.

Other receivers has been **Riley Whittaker** (fr) and **Nathan Bell** (sr). Whittaker has 380 yards 4 touchdowns and Bell has 200 yards 2 touchdowns.

The **Holly Hill Academy Raiders** has been led by **Parker Kizer** (jr) who has been involved in 50 touchdowns. He has rushed for 2962 yards 46 touchdowns and passed for 136 yards 4 touchdowns.

Jake Kirven (so) has rushed for 428 yards 7 touchdowns and **Jayden Krier** (fr) has rushed for 165 yards 2 touchdowns.



2025 Abbeville Panthers volleyball - Class A State Champions

Abbeville volleyball wins Class A state crown

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Abbeville – Some teams dream of winning a championship, and some teams turn those dreams into reality. **Abbeville High’s** 2025 volleyball team was able to realize their dream for real.

On Nov. 8, Abbeville defeated **Latta**, 3-1, to win their first-ever state championship in the Class A finals at Dreher High School. Abbeville’s championship was the perfect ending to a 23-3 season.

“I thought at the start of the season that we had a team capable of winning a championship but you just never know,” said second-year head coach **Sara Wojtkowski**. “We knew we had a great group that would work hard. My goal was to get past the third round and once we got to the finals, we had a chance to win.”

The Panthers had just two starting seniors, **Ella Atkins** and **Lucy Kollman**, but their leadership was a key factor.

“Ella was our energy player and Lucy was like our team mom,” the coach said. “Both were so important because we had a lot of younger girls. We will miss them greatly but I’m so happy they could win a championship.”

Other members of the team included middle hitter **Laurn Murray**, freshman setter **Maddy Beiler**, senior defensive specialist **Kaylee Bundrick**, sophomore setter **Bella Evans**, freshman OPP **Sarah Guley**, sophomore defensive specialist **Reese Jones**, senior OPP **Tielle Killingsworth**, freshman Libero **Rylee Tiller**, and junior hitter **Laylan Yates**.

Abbeville’s trek to the title game was a familiar path. They had to get past Lewisville, the team that

Emerald honored to be playing in second round

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Greenwood—The **Emerald High** football team, under the direction of head coach **Tad Dubose**, made school history with their first football playoff win since 2017, avenging an earlier season loss to **Fountain Inn**, to come away with a hard-fought 44-38 win.

“Our kids competed and they did what we asked them do against a very good Fountain Inn team,” said Coach Dubose. “They have a real deal junior quarterback named **Sam Holiday** and he should be on everyone’s recruiting list.

“The big difference in playing them for a second time was we did a little better job containing Holiday in this game, versus the first time we played them,” said Coach Dubose. “He can beat you with his arm or his feet.”

This week the Vikings on the road to face highly

eliminated them from the playoffs last season, and ended up playing region rival four times. They beat Dixie in three of the four meetings, including the Upper State championship game.

“Beating Lewisville was huge for our confidence,” Wojtkowski said. “Once we got past them, I think our girls started to believe.”

In every postseason contest this season, Abbeville lost the first set before rallying to win. In the championship match, the Panthers lost the first set to Latta before sweeping the next three sets.

“It maybe was nerves but we settled down, like we always do,” Wojtkowski said. “I told the girls one day at practice that we needed to stop losing the first set or it would catch up to us. We still lost the first set but this team was amazing in how they fought back every time, When we the first set to Latta, I felt like we were right where we needed to be. You could see it their eyes.”

No longer the hunter but now the hunted, Abbeville should be a title contender again next season. But, allow the Panthers to enjoy their title for a little while before talking 2026.

“We are definitely excited about the future,” Wojtkowski said. “Hopefully we will have the same desire as we had this year.”

Abbeville’s football team (9-2) opened their 2025 playoff run with a first-round win. The Panthers are set to play Lewisville in round two on Nov. 14.

“We’ve got a very tough challenge ahead of us,” coach Jamie Nickles said. “Lewisville has size, speed and they are well-coached. When you get this far, you expect every opponent to be really good.”

regarded South Pointe in the second round of the upper state AAAA playoffs. “The way we look at this game is that both teams are going to roll out 11 players on both sides of the football and we will see what happens,” said Coach Dubose. “South Pointe has great athletes at every position and we are having a hard time finding a weakness anywhere on their team.

“We are just honored to have the opportunity to go play such a tradition rich team and we are looking forward to the challenge we face this week,” said Coach Dubose.

The man of the hour for Emerald last week was junior running back **Chris Dean** who rushed for 256 yards on 25 carries and four touchdowns. Dean also caught two passes for 35 yards and one reception touchdown.

Sophomore QB **Beau Hite** completed 14-of-22 passes for 180 yards and two touchdowns through

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the air. Hite also rushed for around 60 yards on seven carries. He also kicked a 31-yard field goal.

The three top receivers last week included soph **Coleson Marino** (6-0, 160) who caught six passes for 85 yards and a touchdown. Junior TE **Rykevious Logan** (6-2, 285) caught three passes for 42 yards along with soph **Keirion Brown** who had three receptions for 20 yards.

“Our offensive line played really well as we rushed for 350 yards in the game,” said Coach Dubose. “We have a freshman guard by the name of **Messiah Simpkins** (6-3, 350) who is pretty special,” said Coach Dubose. “He moves very well to be 350 pounds.”

The defense against Fountain Inn was led by senior LB **Christian Foster** (5-11, 195) who had 14 total tackles. Junior DL Tyrell Cloud (6-2, 262) contributed 11 tackles, while senior DB **Karson**

Patriots on winning streak going into playoffs

By: Gerald Doolittle
Staff Writer

Johnston, S.C. – The **Wardlaw Academy Patriots** coached by **Mark Rodgers** will enter the **SCISA 8-man** playoffs on a two- game winning streak after closing out the regular season with a 50-28 win over **Richard Winn Academy**, the defending 8-man Champions.

The Patriots entered the 2025 season in a rebuild mode after being hit hard losing over 4000 yards of fense from the 2024 team that finished 8-3.

The Patriots will enter the playoffs on a two-game winning streak. They ended the regular sea-

Knights enter playoffs with unbeaten record

By: Gerald Doolittle
Staff Writer

Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.- The **W.W. King Academy Knights** coached by **Brian Kneece** are working hard to keep their dream season going as they will carry a 10-0 record into the **SCISA 8-Man** playoffs.

Kneece, a Knight alum, is in his first year as a head varsity coach. Most of his current roster played for him at the middle school level that included one undefeated season. With a few transfer players this group has exploded into a powerful force.

The Knights have used a balanced offensive attack. The passing attack has been led by quarterback **Elijah Hutto** (jr) and the ground attack by explosive runner **Joseph Morse** (so). Hutto has completed 40 of 51 passes for 956 yards with 19 touchdowns. Morse has rushed the ball 125 times for 1505 yards scoring 25 touchdowns.

Laurens Academy volleyball just misses on title

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Laurens – It is said that all good things must come to an end and that’s what happened with the **Laurens Academy** volleyball team. The Crusaders saw their run of consecutive state championships come to an end at three, but they didn’t go down without a fight.

After losing the first two sets of the **SCISA AA** championship match against **The King’s Academy**, LA bounced back to win the next two to force a 15-point fifth set. However, the Lions recaptured the magic of the first two sets to win 3-2 by the scores of 25-21, 25-21, 20-25, 22-25, 15-9.

Laurens head coach **Shannon McGee** could offer up noting but praise for her team despite coming up just short.

“They really fought really hard,” said McGee, whose team finished with a 27-6 overall record. “We put everything we had on the court, and we just came up short. Those first two sets were really close. The score was tied most all the way before they won. The next two sets we were leading by five to seven points most of the way.”

The Crusaders were trying to defend the title they won in 2024 in their first season in AA. In the two seasons prior to that, they won the Class A championship.

Leading the way for Laurens in the title match was senior **Campbell Sherman**, who had 25 kills and 17 digs. Senior **Madisyn Graham** had two aces, two kills, seven digs and three blocks, sophomore **Mackenzie Runyans** had five aces, 11 kills

son with wins over **Newberry Academy** (20-12) and **Richard Winn** (50-28).

The win over Richard Winn was led by Juniors **Kale Henderson**, **Chandler Thorne** and Jake Winn. Henderson from the quarterback slot passed for 317 yards for 5 touchdowns. Winn scored 2 touchdowns and Thorne scored a touchdown.

Judah McClendon also scored a touchdown.

“The team as a whole played well on both offense and defense,” said Coach Rodgers. The two weeks off helped in preparing for Richard Winn.

The 3-5 Patriots will battle the 7-4 **Jefferson Davis Academy Raiders** in the first round.

Hutto’s top three receivers has been **Dallas Hill (sr)**, **Landell Anderson (jr)** and **Luke Harvey (jr)**. Hill has made 14 receptions for 375 yards scoring 11 touchdowns. Anderson has 13 receptions for 386 yards scoring 6 touchdowns. Harvey has 9 receptions for 150 yards scoring 1 touchdown.

The Knights defense has recorded 574 tackles, 10 quarterback sacks and 10 interceptions. Six players led by **Jacob Bussey** (fr) have over 40 tackles. Bussey has 110 followed by **Casen Buzhardt** (jr) with 79. Anderson has 48, **Joshua Oswald** (so) has 45, Dallas Hill (sr) has 44 and Harvey has 43.

Hill has recorded 3 sacks followed by Morse, Buzhardt and **Greyson Rikard** (so) with 2 each.

Tucker McGinty (fr) leads the interceptions with 4. **Jackson Hutto** (fr), Harvey, Buzhardt, Elijah Hutto, Bussey and **Brady Goff** (fr) all have 1.

The Knights drew a first round bye in the playoffs and will face the winner of **Jefferson Davis vs Wardlaw** game in the semi-finals on 11/14.

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Seawell’s Midlands Feature Page

Pair of top AAAAA teams duke it out in Irmo on Halloween

By **WORTHY EVANS**
Special to the HSSR
Columbia - Region play and the regular football season came to an end last week in the Midlands, and no finer representation of a regular season finale played out than that of the crosstown rivalry of **Dutch Fork** and **Irmo**.

The Silver Foxes, defending 5A Division 1 state champions, traveled to W.C. Hawkins Stadium on Halloween night to take on the defending 5A Division 2 lower state champion Yellow Jackets for the Region 4-5A championship.

Dutch Fork held a 28-7 lead with eight minutes to go.

“There’s eight minutes left, and we were over there celebrating,” Dutch Fork head coach **Tom Knotts** said. “And I got a queasy feeling in my stomach. I said ‘they’re too fast, they could score in a New York second.’”

Irmo backup quarterback **Britton Davis**, replacing starter **Dre Dopson**, engineered a 6-play, 80-yard drive capped with his 42-yard touchdown pass to **Corey Miller** to make it 28-14.

“He provided a spark,” Irmo head coach **Aaron Brand** said. “He came in, he ran the ball hard, he threw the ball well and he made some plays down the stretch to keep us in it.”

On the Silver Foxes’ next possession, the Yellow Jackets defense swarmed in for a 15-yard sack of **Jaxon Knotts**, and stripped the ball from him. Two plays later Davis found **Maleek Miller** for a 19-yard touchdown strike with 4 minutes left.

The Irmo defense forced a Dutch Fork punt, and Davis led the Yellow Jackets from their own 22-yard line to a third-and-1 situation at the Silver Foxes’ 4 in the final minute of the game for a touchdown and a 2-point conversion for the win.

“In the grand scheme of things we were going to go for two, we weren’t going to go to overtime,” Brand said.

The Dutch Fork defense held on the final two plays, holding Davis to two incompletions and a turnover on downs.

“With 20-something seconds, right? Fourth and one, third and one, you get to move the chains and the clock stops with no times outs,” Brand said. “You get a chance to run two more plays. It’s just alarming that I was unaware.”

For that, the Irmo head coach took the blame for it.

“It’s alarming that when we get down here and we preach accountability, and the head coach is unaware of the situation,” he said. “I’m going to take that one on the chin, and I want the world to know that this group fought like crazy, the head coach has got to hold himself accountable and I will.”

One Jaxon Knotts kneel down at the 2-yard line later, and the Silver Foxes rang up another region championship.

“They’re just dynamic. We can’t match their speed,” Tom Knotts said of Irmo. “They can go, they can get vertical on you. We’ve had a little issue with that sometimes, but I’m just real proud of the way our guys responded when their backs were against the wall down there.”

Jaxon Knotts was 17-for-25 in passing for 105 yards and two touchdowns, and also had 18 rushing yards and a score. **Kyle Henry** had 17 carries for 96 yards.

Davis finished the night completing four passes for 125 yards and two TDs, with Dopson completing 3 of 12 passes for 86 yards and a score. Miller had three catches for 169 yards and two touchdowns.

Both teams received a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Dutch Fork (8-1, 5-0) earned the top seed in the upper state bracket of the 5A Division 1 playoffs and plays No.9 **Boiling Springs** Friday. The Bulldogs (5-6) beat No.8 **Mauldin** (5-6) 16-14 last week.

Irmo (9-1, 4-1) earned the top seed in the lower state bracket of the 5A Division 2 playoffs and plays host to No.8 **Lugoff-Elgin**. The Demons (6-5) beat No.9 **Socastee** (3-8) 42-6.

A.C. Flora 40, Camden 28
South Pointe wrapped up the Region 3-4A title, but **A.C. Flora** and **Camden** battled it out for second place. At Memorial Stadium Oct. 30, The Falcons (10-1, 5-1) got off to an early lead and held a 34-21 lead on the Bulldogs (7-3,4-2) late in the third quarter.

Midlands Football Top Ten

- 1. **Dutch Fork** (8-1, 5-0 Region 4-5A)
- 2. **Irmo** (9-1, 4-1 Region 4-5A)
- 3. **A.C. Flora** (10-1, 5-1 Region 3-4A)
- 4. **Gray Collegiate** (9-2, 7-0 Region 4-4A)
- 5. **Ridge View** (7-3, 5-1 Region 5-5A)
- 6. **White Knoll** (7-3, 3-2 Region 4-5A)
- 7. **Newberry** (11-0, 4-0 Region 4-3A)
- 8. **Camden** (8-3, 4-2 Region 3-4A)
- 9. **Swansea** (8-3, 2-2 Region 4-3A)
- 10. **Hammond** (9-1, 5-1, SCISA Region 1-4A)

Camden quarterback **Grayson Rimpf** found **Tylin Drakeford** for a 55-yard touchdown pass to cut that lead to 34-28, but a Falcons score in the last minute put the game on ice.

A.C. Flora quarterback **Roper Wentzky** completed 13 of 22 passes for 225 yards and two touchdowns to one interception. **Jalen Simmons** had 22 carries for 125 yards and two touchdowns as well as two catches for 38 yards. **Azel Banag** also had a touchdown run.

Rimpf finished 11-of-21 for 233 yards and two touchdowns. Drakeford had seven catches for 113 yards and a score. **Navier Boykin** had 13 carries for 91 yards and a TD.

A.C. Flora earned a fifth seed in the 4A playoffs and knocked out No. 12 **York** (4-7) 49-14 last week. The Falcons travel to No.4 Seneca (10-1) Friday. The Bobcats eliminated No.13 Lancaster (2-9) 28-21 last week.

Camden has a seventh seed and beat No. 10 **Greer** (4-7) 38-20 last week. The Bulldogs travel to No.2 Daniel (10-1) Friday. The Lions eliminated No.15 Dreher (3-8) 14-10 last week.

Gray Collegiate 49, Gilbert 0

With the Region 4-4A crown long secured, **Gray Collegiate** (8-2, 7-0) rolled past **Gilbert** 44-0 Oct. 31. Quarterbacks **Xavier Wright** and **Tyler Waller** both saw action, with Wright passing for 130 yards and a touchdown and Waller passing for

115 and a score.

Corey Gleaton had six catches for 112 yards and a touchdown. **Hiszari Gantt** had three catches for 42 yards and a TD.

Trevon Williamson had eight carries for 63 yards and eight touchdowns. **Nate Dixon** and **Royce Williamson** also rushed for scores.

The War Eagles have a third seed in the lower state bracket of the 4A playoffs and defeated No.14 **Brookland-Cayce** (3-7, 3-4) 63-7. Gray plays host to No.6 Hartsville (7-4), 45-8 winners over No.11 Crestwood (6-5) last week.

Gilbert (6-5, 4-3) has a No.12 seed in the lower state bracket and upset No.5 **Bluffton** (8-3) 38-21 last week. The Indians travel to No.4 North Augusta (10-1), 44-6 winners over No.13 Midland Valley (7-4).

Ridge View 39, Blythewood 7
The **Blazers** (7-3, 5-1 Region 5-5A) fell at region champion **Sumter** a Oct. 24, but bounced back to stride past the **Bengals** Oct. 24. **Ashton Chapman** and eighth-grader **Bijon** See Midlands, pg. 69

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Recruiting, continued from Cover

focus a lot of attention at retaining in-state talent. To date the Gamecocks, have commitments from seven in-state players. They include **South Pointe** DB **J’zavien Currence** (6-3, 205), carvers Bay of-fensive lineman **Zyon Guiles** (6-4, 295), Greenwood quarterback/defensive back **Tristen Lewis** (6-4, 200), South Pointe offensive lineman **Anthony Baxter** (6-3, 330), **Newberry High** tight end **Jamel Howze** (6-3, 215), and Cross receiver **Caden Ramsey** (6-5, 200) who has committed as a tight end.

East Carolina has in-state pledges from four Palmetto State 2026 recruits. They are Gaffney DT **Kelton Smith** (6-5, 290), along with Spartanburg quarterback **Trey Burke** (6-3, 205), Gaffney line-backer **Zyon Ratchford** (6-4, 200), and Indian Land DE **Michael Foster** (6-3,230).

Appalachian State has also been a very active recruiter of South Carolina prep football with four players currently committed to the Mountaineers. They include Gaffney OL **Scotland Dover** (6-5,305), Chapin OL **Caden Muskus** (6-5, 280), Bluffton DL **Chris Doyle** (6-1, 290), and Ocean-side Collegiate DE **Sawyer Arnold** (6-4, 220).

North Carolina has landed two of the top wide receivers from the 2026 class in South Carolina. They are Dillon WR **Zay Robertson** (6-0,165) along with **Carnell Warren** (6-4, 196) from Bluffton.

Liberty has also helped push the recruiting numbers in South Carolina this year and they are making numerous offers in the 2027 class as well. To date **Jamie Chadwell** has in-state commitments from North Augusta OL **Malcolm Gaston** (6-5,330), Stratford QB **Jachin Davis** (6-1, 185), Woodruff TE **Kam Davis** (6-6,230), and Crescent WR **Amiri Acker** (6-2, 185).

UNC Charlotte has landed the commitments of several in-state players also. They include Mountain View Prep WR **Kadarus Hainsworth** (6-1, 161), Richland Northeast WR **Jarrell Turner** (6-0,185) and Fort Mill OLB **Gray Patterson** (6-

3, 210). NC State has landed two in-state players so far. They are Clinton OL **Tre Aiken** (6-4, 265) and Ridge View DB **Jordyn Best** (5-11,180).

Florida gained the commitment of Timberland OL **Desmond Green** (6-5, 333) in July, and Green was the most offered in-state player with 25 confirmed offers. **Michigan** is holding firm with a pledge from Dutch Fork DE **Julian Walker** (6-6, 220), Clemson has only one in-state player committed at this time in the 2026 class and he is Dor-man FS **Kentavious Anderson** (6-2, 185).

Texas A&M is holding firm on the in-state commitment from Northwestern DB Tanarion Watkins (6-4, 200) and **Michigan State** has a pledge from in-state DB **Jeremiah Favorite** (5-11, 175) of Boiling Springs.

Memphis has a pledge from Christ Church WR **Jude Hall** (6-3, 185) while Duke is holding firm on a DB commitment from **Jayden Boyd** of Fair-field Central. Wake Forest has a commitment from Riverside athlete **Somad Eaddy** (6-0,165). Or-angeburg Prep TE **Tildren “T” Riley** (6-5, 204) is headed to **Vandy**. Greenville DL **Franklin Whit-ley** (6-5,265) has committed to **Florida State**.

Arkansas has landed a pledge from Orange-burg-Wilkinson LB **Jordan Avinger** (6-3, 222). Spartanburg place kicker **Will Love** is committed to Virginia Tech. Woodland LB **Jaemin Pinckney** (6-5, 217) is committed to South Florida but schools like **Florida State**, **West Virginia** and **Tennessee** are working hard to flip him. Greenville DB **Jamarion McKinnley** is a recent commitment to Cincy. The Naval Academy has obtained strong commitments from Hilton Head LB **Reid McCollum** (6-4, 215) along with Christ Church athlete **Anthony Atkins** (6-1, 180). Coastal Carolina has a pledge from West Florence LB **Romello Patterson** (6-3, 225) and Western Michigan has a commitment from Andrews DE **Chris Stewart** (6-3, 230).

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