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High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

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# North Augusta's Simeon Jones commits to Southern Cal, becoming 50th SC 2027 prospect to commit to major college football

**By Billy G. Baker**
**Publisher**

**Moncks Corner**—With the National Early Day for football signing approaching in early December, 50 prep football players from the 2027 Class in Soth Carolina have made commitments to numerous major colleges, a testimony once again to the over-all quality of football talent the Palmetto State is producing, despite the negative impact that the transfer portal has had in reducing scholarship offers to senior football players in most states across the nation.

As always, we also pause to thank Mark Grainger, and the fine folks at Modern Turf in Irmo and Rembert, for their sponsorship of the HSSR recruiting page each month.

On November, 2 North Augusta DL **Simeon Jones** (6-1, 315) became the Palmetto state's 50th football player from the 2027 class in South Carolina to make a major college commitment when he committed to Southern Cal after taking

See **Recruiting**, pg. **33**

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A Message From The Publisher
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High School Sports Report
Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

# *HSSR will be very busy with football state championships to end 2026!*

**Moncks Corner**—Over the next month the *HSSR* will once again experience its busiest time of the 2026-27 school year, as we will be covering the SCHSL and SCISA football playoffs in great detail, with the challenge of producing full color championship programs for both all the SCISA and the SCHSL participating teams.

The SCISA finals will take place at Charleston Southern University on November 10 and 21st. The AAAA teams will play at 7 p.m. on Friday November, 20. The SCISA AAA, AA and Class A teams will be played on Saturday November, 21.

The SCISA 8-man state title game will be played at a yet to be determined neutral site on Friday evening Nov. 20. Based on which two teams compete for a state title. The *HSSR* believes the two 8-man teams who will be competing are **Jefferson Davis Academy** (12-0) and **W.W. King** (one loss). These two teams met earlier in the season with JDA winning that game.

The *HSSR* has been producing Souvenir football championship programs for both SCISA and the SCHSL teams going back over 20 years. Each team receivers a separate edition with their team featured on the cover. We invite all Heads of Schools and Principals to write a courtesy Welcome Letter to their fans and teams in each individual edition.

In each program a staff writer from the *HSSR* writes a full- page feature story interviewing both head coaches from the respective teams facing each other in the state finals. Every program has a full page devoted to rosters from each opposing team, even including players moved p from the junior varsity.

Two weeks after we dive head first into producing the SCISA football championship programs we get to do it all again with the 12 teams from the SCHSL who will play for state titles on December 4-5 at South Carolina State University.

There will be three games played on Friday, Dec. 4 and three more games played on Saturday, Dec. 5. At noon on Friday the Class A Div. I teams meet to crown a champion. At 4 p.m. the two teams left in AA compete for a state title and then in the night cap at 8 p.m. the two teams left in AAAA meet to decide the state champion.

On Saturday Dec., 5 the Class A Div I title game will start at noon. The AAA state title game will begin at 4 p.m. on the 5th and in the night cap the AAAAA state title will be decided at SC State University.

One point of great benefit to some teams playing for a state football title is the fact that any team playing for a state title currently not sponsored for year- round coverage in the *HSSR* please take note that all sponsor ads in your individual program count as double credit, both in the program and for your school's statewide coverage of all varsity sports in the *HSSR* monthly publication, and our companion web site hssr.com. If this is not a deal, we do not know what a deal is.

The web site hssr.com web site currently receives one million views a year according to google analytics. We print 50,000 annual copies of the HSSR publication and more than 250 colleges from across the nation are mailed the printed version each and every moth. Okay, great schools like **Northwestern**, **Dutch Fork**, **Byrnes** etc. please know that if your school plays for a state title, please help the HSSR get the word out about your official SCHSL championship program that we produce for your school and the SCHSL. The sponsor ads from your school purchased for your championship program will count double credit.

Your year-round coverage in the *HSSR* will start from Jan, 2026 until Jan. 2027. We provide order forms to all participating schools so we encourage you to help us get the word out about your keepsake souvenir program the *HSSR* will be producing once again this year.

We encourage all fans to get behind your teams as they compete for SCISA and SCHSL football championships over the next month. Lasting memories will be made by many teams for sure!

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**Williamsburg,** continued from pg. **50**

the playoffs.

Dukes had a team high three interceptions to go with five pass breakups, which also leads the team.

The Stallions have allowed only 102 points. Ard leads the defense in tackles with 79 from his position. Junior **Wyatt Williams** had 67 stops. Caulder led in tackles for loss with eight, while Ard had seven, Williams six and junior defensive back **Gamble Wilson** 5 ½.

Dukes led in interceptions with three, but Green, Caulder and junior defensive back **Lane Patrick** had two apiece.

Furse knows his defense will have to step up against Calhoun.

"We're going to have to do the things that good defenses do," he said. "We're going to have to keep our eyes in the right places, have good leverage, be physical. . Right places, good leverage, be physical. If we do that, we'll give ourselves a chance to win. If we don't do those things, it will probably be a long night.

Our defense has done a good job and hopefully it will continue to do that."

**Gaffney** continued from pg. **16**

Bowl by OL **CJ Brooks**. DB Ayden Montgomery (5-11, 190) and DB Adreyan Kendrick Monroe (5-10, 175) will represent Gaffney in the North-South all-star game at Myrtle beach in December.

Greenville will be represented in the North-South all-star game by DL **Julian Renwick** (6-2, 225) and DB **Cayson Carson** (6-0,180).

For the game with Greenville, Taylor completed 16-of-23 passes for 182 yards and two TD's. White led the Gaffney rushing attack with 60 yards on 18 carries and one TD. The top WR's for Gaffney were **Trason Smith** (4-for-61), Davidson (two-for-210 and one TD), along with **Marquis Young** (four-for-53).

The top Gaffney tacklers on defense were DL **Marquel Smalls** (5 tackles), DB **Zion Dawkins** (four tackles), LB **Peanut Bailey** (four tackles), and DB **Money Monroe, and** LB **AJ Logan, had** three tackles each.

Entering the playoffs, Taylor has completed 97-of-147 passes for 1,384 yards and 14 TD's. White leads Gaffney rushers with 787 yards on 108 carries and 9 TD's. The top WR's are junior **Marquis Young** (20-374-3 TD;s), along with Smith (16-for-298-1 TD).

The top six tacklers for the Indians on defense include: Dawkins (40 and 3 caused fumbles), LB **Karien Good** (43), Monroe (37), Bailey (32 and five sacks), LB T. McGill (26 tackles), along with Smalls (23 tackles and three sacks).

During the regular season Gaffney finished 9-1. They began the season with a 24-20 win over **Spartanburg** and then defeated **JL Mann** (42-10) and **Lancaster** (28-13) in consecutive weeks. The Indians suffered their lone loss against **Dorman** in week four of the season (24-16).

After the Dorman loss Gaffney finished the regular season with six straight wins. They next defeated **Byrnes** (20-17) and then defeated five region foes in a row: Those teams were, **Wade Hampton** (54-7), **Greer** (48-0), **Travelers Rest** (49-0), Riverside (48-0), and **Greenville** (28-27).

**White Knoll** continued from pg. **16**

Floyd said. 6-0, 165 wide receiver/punt returner Tyler Brown is drawing interest from all levels. Crosby, at 5-11, 175 has drawn interest from FCS and Division 2 schools.

On preparing for 2027 football, the Timberwolves' preparation is going to be paramount. Floyd, who joined White Knoll last spring and did not have much time to meet and evaluate this year's team, said he and his coaches are already at work on getting the Timberwolves ready for kickoff.

"The offseason is going to be big for us. I understand the areas where we need to attack," he said. "When you have a program that has won in the past, you figure out what's going on before you make changes. I feel good about knowing where we need to get better."

**Barnwell** continued from pg. **52**

with Snelling who caught 13 passe for 232 yards and two TD's.

The defense was led by CB Snelling with 79 tackles, while MLB Pickens had 74 tackles and two picks. LB **John Huggins** had 66 tackles and four TFL while FS J Patterson contributed 60 tackles. Soph **Cameron** Rivers had 56 tackles, junior OLB **Rayshaun Pernell** had 50 tackles while Youmans had 46 tackles. DR **Carl Hines** had 41 tackles with four TFL.

There is speculation that the three schools in Barnwell County will merge into one program stating with the 2027 season. A new Barnwell County High School will open in the 2028 school year. Should this happen the county team would be made up of from players at **Williston-Elko**, **Barnwell**, and **Blackville-Hilda**. This just speculation at this point.

**Moffitt,** continued from pg. **18**

Freshman **Rutledge Wall** also contributed at QB completing 7-of-20-passes for 174 yards.

Coach Moffitt was assisted by **Chris Cormier**, **Justin Crain**, **Andrew Vaught,** and **Rick Martin** this season.

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**AAA Football,** continued from pg. **6**

yards and five touchdowns as a quarterback, has 48 catches for a team-leading 691 yards and eight touchdowns as a wide receiver, and has 326 rushing yards with three scores.

Other contributors include junior wide receiver **Chase Tonon** with 38 catches for 562 yards and five TDs, and twin brother **Trevor Tonon** who has 350 yards and four touchdowns on 83 carries in addition to 18 catches for 178 yards and a TD.

Trevor Tonon is also a defensive leader with 92 tackles, 19 for loss, and 3.5 sacks. **Matthew Ponko** has 63 tackles, 25 for loss, and a team-leading 12 sacks. Chase Tonon has two interceptions to go with 62 tackles, and senior **Jackson Radcliffe** has three interceptions and 25 stops.

Bishop England earned a No.4 seed and has a bye. The Bishops play No.5 **Loris** Friday. The Lions beat No.12 **Darlington** 42-14 last week.

**Camden**

The Bulldogs (8-2, 5-0 Region 4-AAA) clinched the region title early on with 48-33 win over **Gilbert** (8-2, 4-1), the next best team in the region, Oct. 2. Since that game Camden outscored **Brookland-Cayce**, **Lower Richland**, and **Airport** by a combined 162-67.

**Grayson Rimpf**, son of head coach **Brian Rimpf**, has passed for 2,189 yards and 27 touchdowns with just two interceptions, while the team's platoon of rushers combined for 1,881 yards and 29 TDs on the ground. Junior **Aaden Manning** leads the pack with 669 yards and 11 scores on 92 carries.

Rimpf's top targets have been senior I Smith with 37 catches for 795 yards and nine touchdowns, and junior **Bernard Green** with 36 catches for 751 yards and nine TDs.

Camden is a top seed and earned a bye in the first round. The Bulldogs play No.8 **Crestwood** Friday, as the Knights edged No.9 **Aynor** 23-22 last week.

**Hartsville**

The Red Foxes (6-3, 5-1 Region 6-AAA) got off to a 1-2 start that included back-to-back losses to **West Florence** and Camden. Hartsville rolled past region competition that included double-digit victories over Aynor, Lakewood, **Atlantic Collegiate Academy** and **Darlington**.

The Red Foxes, led by junior quarterback **Ford Wallace**, engineered a comeback from a 28-3 deficit against Loris to win 52-49 over the Lions (8-2, 5-1) Oct. 16. Wallace completed 11 of 15 passes for 204 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 48 yards and a TD. Junior **Cornell Hickmon** had five catches for 109 yards and a score. Junior running back **Trace Hillian** had10 carries for 148 yards and a score as the Red Foxes piled up 294 rushing yards and four scores on 37 attempts.

That game enabled the Red Foxes to clinch region championship after both teams were tied in the region standings.

Hartsville received a No.3 seed and a first-round bye. The Red Foxes play host to No.6 **Gilbert** Friday. The Indians edged **Atlantic Collegiate** 28-27 in the first round.

**Belton Honea-Path**

The Bears (6-3, 3-1 Region 2-AAA) are much younger from last year's 14-1 effort and second straight appearance in the AAA title game, but the season has seasoned the 2026 crew.

While falling to **T.L. Hanna** and Daniel to start the season, BHP evened things out with a 31-17 win over AAAAA **J.L. Mann** and a shutout of A power **Abbeville**. From there the Bears posted wins over **Greenwood**, **Palmetto** and **Powdersville** before losing to Wren. They capped the regular season with a 35-30 win over region rival Emerald Oct. 30.

Freshman **Rylan Crooks** took over under center from graduate **Noah Thomas** (2,221 yards and 33 TDs passing; 762 yards and 11 TDs rushing) and posted 789 passing yards and seven touchdowns. The Bears remain a rushing team, with a long list of running backs who totaled 1,341 yards and 14 scores.

BHP received a No.4 seed and a bye and play No.5 **Seneca** Friday. The Bobcats dismissed No.12 **Southside** 77-6 last week.

**Loris**

The Lions (8-2, 5-1 Region 6-AAA) finished the season strong after falling 52-49 to Hartsville Oct. 16, a game that cost Loris the region championship. The Lions took out their frustrations with a 51-6 win over Lakewood and a 42-8 win over Aynor to close out the regular season.

Junior quarterback **Ayden Scott** passed for 1,521 yards and 14 touchdowns on the season, with his top receiver being senior **Roderick Purcha** with 22 catches for 622 yards and seven touchdowns. Senior **Makel Stevens** led all rushers with 1,750 yards and 31 touchdowns.

Loris earned a No.5 seed and beat No.12 **Darlington** 42-14 Friday in the first round of the AAA playoffs. The Lions take on No.4 Bishop England Friday.

**Hanahan**

The Hawks (8-2, 2-2 Region 5-AAA) posted a 6-0 record in nonregion play, opening the season with a 33-32 victory over **Philip Simmons** in the school's heated rivalry, then reeling off wins over **Kingstree**, **Beaufort**, **Andrews**, **Timberland**, and **Colleton County**. Hanahan stumbled in the region with losses to champion Oceanside Collegiate and region runner-up Bishop England.

Junior quarterback **Tripp Gallus** led the way with 2,527 passing yards and 27 touchdowns, with junior **Quamell Grant** being the top receiver with 47 catches for 1,166 yards and 11 touchdowns. A slate of Hawks rushers piled up 1,310 yards and 25 TDs.

Hanahan received a No.7 seed in the AAA playoffs and beat No.10 Swansea 61-30 last week. The Hawks play No.2 Oceanside Collegiate Friday.

**Midlands Feature,** continued from pg. **32**

show people."

**Spartanburg upsets River Bluff 35-31**

Down 24-14 and then 31-21, No.12 **Spartanburg** put together a quick drive to cut fifth-seeded River Bluff's lead to 31-28 early in the fourth quarter, then knocked out an 83-yard scoring drive to take a 35-31 lead over the Gators with 5:22 left in the game.

Spartanburg picked off a River Bluff pass with about four minutes left to seal the win and move the 3-8 Vikings  to a matchup with No.4 **Dorman** (9-1) Friday.

The Gators finish 8-3.

**Other games**

No.7 **Fort Mill** beat No.10 **Lexington** 58-21, No.6 **Hillcrest** beat No.11 **Chapin** 40-27, and No.5 **Summerville** beat No.12 **Blythewood** 28-7.

In the AAAA bracket No.9 **Dreher** beat No.8 **Wilson** 20-19. The 8-3 Blue Devils travel to No.1 **Hilton Head Island** (9-1) Friday.

In the AAA bracket, No.6 **Gilbert** (9-2) edged No.11 **Atlantic Collegiate** (4-7) 28-27, which sets up the Indians' visit to **Kellytown** Friday to take on No.3 **Hartsville** (6-3) in the second round. No.7 **Hanahan** (9-2) knocked off No.10 **Swansea** (5-6) 61-30 to set up a second-round meeting with No.2 **Oceanside Collegiate** (6-3).

In SCISA, Hammond (11-0) knocked out **Augusta Christian** 42-7 and will play host to **Porter-Gaud** (7-4) Friday in the second round of the AAAA playoffs. Also in the AAAA bracket action, **Pinewood Prep** beat **Ben Lippen** (7-4) 49-21, and **Northwood Academy** beat **Heathwood Hall** (5-6) 35-10. In the 8-Man football playoffs, **W.W. King Academy** beat **Richard Winn Academy** (4-6) 36-14.

**BHP,** continued from pg. **58**

first-time varsity starters in some key spots. Those kids have grown up and gotten better, and we have had a really tough schedule. Hopefully that schedule has prepared us well for November."

Seneca will come into the game with a 7-4 record after smoking Southside 77-0 in the first round. Crane isn't quite sure how he feels about the bye week.

"The first-round bye? Ask me after the second-round game," Crame said with a laugh. "No, to be honest, for us I think it's probably going to be a good thing. We have had a very tough region, lots of competitive games that have gone down to the wire. "It was probably good for us to have a chance to have a week to just work on BHP and get a couple kids healed up."

Points have not been easy to come by for BHP. It is averaging just under 22 points a game, and the 198 points it has allowed is actually one more than it has scored.

Still, Crane sees improvement in the unit.

"Offensively we have made progress for sure and probably played the best we have played in the first half last week against Emerald," Crane said of the 35-30 win in the regular-season finale. "We still need to be more consistent, but we have shown the ability to be our best when our best was needed."

Freshman **Rylan Crooks** is the quarterback. He has completed 72 of 124 passes for 789 yards and seven touchdowns. Sophomore **Malachi Bohler** is the only player with more than 10 catches as he has 36 receptions for 348 yards and four scores. Junior **Judd Lowie** has 10 grabs for 232 yards.

The Bears are averaging 149.0 rushing yards a contest and are led by senior **Cam Robinson**. Hie has 583 yards and eight TDs on 136 carries. Bohler has 239 yards, and freshman **Amire Rosemond** has 129 yards.



# 2026 Football Stats

| RUSHING | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PLAYER | SCHOOL | YARDS | ATTEMPTS | TDS |
| MAKEL STEPHENS | LORIS | 1750 | 167 | 31 |
| CALVIN WOFFORD | CRESTWOOD | 1713 | 195 | 18 |
| ISAIAH SCOTT-PALACIOS | GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN | 1687 | 142 | 22 |
| NIGIL FRIPP | HAMPTON COUNTY | 1665 | 179 | 16 |
| JAYDEN PEEPLES | BLACKVILLE-HILDA | 1554 | 159 | 23 |
| JORDAN BLACKMON | DILLON CHRISTIAN | 1541 | 90 | 29 |
| REED ALMERS | DORCHESTER ACADEMY | 1529 | 197 | 22 |
| MARQUEL WILLIAMS | JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY | 1522 | 138 | 17 |
| CAMERON JAMES | SOUTH FLORENCE | 1488 | 163 | 15 |
| OWEN GEORGE | ACADEMIC MAGNET | 1474 | 146 | 19 |
| TIYON FANNING | LUGOFF-ELGIN | 1455 | 175 | 14 |
| JAYLEN LYLES | WOODRUFF | 1400 | 185 | 15 |
| JADEN WILSON | NORTH MYRTLE BEACH | 1395 | 204 | 14 |
| JAMERION MOORE | EMERALD | 1391 | 177 | 25 |
| TRENTON LYNCH | SPARTANBURG | 1361 | 148 | 12 |
| MYKELL WARTHEN | JAMES ISLAND | 1355 | 133 | 21 |
| JOSEPH MORSE | W W KING ACADEMY | 1335 | 103 | 21 |
| TONY COOPER | MAY RIVER | 1302 | 191 | 9 |
| JAYLEN SAMUELS | SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN | 1288 | 188 | 15 |
| BROOKS DOW | PICKENS | 1285 | 142 | 19 |
| JAYVEN WILLIAMS | SUMMERVILLE | 1270 | 158 | 15 |
| B J SUITS | NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN | 1234 | 166 | 24 |
| AVERY KING | BROOKLAND-CAYCE | 1232 | 168 | 8 |
| MALACHI JACKSON | CLEAR DOT CHARTER | 1212 | 117 | 10 |
| DAVID BOLDEN | PICKENS | 1208 | 147 | 13 |
| ELI BEVILLE | PALMETTO CHRISTIAN | 1206 | 116 | 19 |
| TRISTAN DANIELS | SALUDA | 1204 | 137 | 21 |
| LANDEN OLSON | LEE ACADEMY | 1193 | 169 | 10 |
| JACE DEVLIN | CRESCENT | 1163 | 85 | 17 |
| JAMARION WITHERSPOON | SUMTER | 1138 | 115 | 11 |
| MACK RAMBO | ST. JOSEPH | 1133 | 171 | 15 |
| KAI SOBEY | PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY | 1123 | 139 | 15 |
| EDDIE HEYWARD | BATTERY CREEK | 1121 | 149 | 13 |
| ANDREW PRITCHER | CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY | 1114 | 139 | 13 |
| CALEB FEASTER | CHESTER | 1107 | 92 | 12 |
| MARZAVIOUS ALLEN | CENTRAL | 1075 | 100 | 12 |
| DERRICK PORTER | FIRST BAPTIST | 1050 | 102 | 19 |
| TREVON WILLIAMSON | GRAY COLLEGIATE | 1046 | 162 | 11 |
| HUNTER O'NEAL | W J KEENAN | 1042 | 127 | 15 |
| BRYMIER MILLER | CHESNEE | 1041 | 75 | 15 |
| SINCERE LEWIS | GOOSE CREEK | 1024 | 136 | 7 |
| CHARLIE HOWELL | CHAPIN | 1017 | 176 | 10 |
| KORDELL HOLLEY | BLUFFTON | 1008 | 153 | 15 |
| JADON INABINETT | JOHN PAUL II | 1000 | 116 | 14 |
| PARKER KIZER | HOLLY HILL ACADEMY | 1000 | 157 | 7 |
| KYLAN FOYE | INDIANLAND | 997 | 135 | 8 |
| CARTER FOUNTAIN | WEST-OAK | 994 | 166 | 16 |
| ANGELO CROMER | CLINTON | 991 | 125 | 7 |
| A J PRICE | LEWISVILLE | 984 | 134 | 16 |
| JAMARIE NESBITT | BAPTIST HILL | 980 | 89 | 8 |
| DRELYN BROWN | SOUTH AIKEN | 969 | 129 | 12 |
| QUINTIN JACKSON | SCOTTS BRANCH | 968 | 107 | 11 |
| CALVIN MCCOY | GREER | 960 | 118 | 12 |
| DOMINIQUE WALKER | CARVERS BAY | 954 | 97 | 13 |
| ZY ROUSE | STROM THURMOND | 952 | 113 | 19 |
| REGGIE SHANNON | SUMTER | 933 | 147 | 18 |
| BRODEN MITCHESON | FORT MILL | 932 | 166 | 15 |
| IAN PATTERSON | LANDRUM | 930 | 170 | 14 |
| DAVID SEGARRA III | JAMES F. BYRNES | 916 | 88 | 13 |
| CALEB HARDY | LAURENS ACADEMY | 905 | 104 | 14 |
| SAM HOLLIDAY | FOUNTAIN INN | 904 | 146 | 12 |
| TORYE PICKENS | BARNWELL | 901 | 159 | 7 |
| XAVIER MEANS | NORTHWESTERN | 899 | 132 | 10 |
| MAYKEN DAILEY | WALHALLA | 898 | 161 | 9 |
| DAYLEN SHANKLE | NORTHWESTERN | 892 | 127 | 6 |

| PASSING | AT LEAST 700 YARDS | YARDS | COMP | ATT | TDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SILAS BRAWNER | PINEWOOD PREP | 2841 | 162 | 264 | 36 |
| KIISHAWN FARROW | GREENVILLE | 2584 | 156 | 262 | 21 |
| CAM WERNTZ | PORTER-GAUD | 2532 | 152 | 209 | 14 |
| CONNOR DAVIS | WOODRUFF | 2523 | 163 | 258 | 29 |
| WILL GAMBRILL | CATAWBA RIDGE | 2517 | 162 | 264 | 23 |
| DANTE HOWSE | W J KEENAN | 2496 | 155 | 257 | 22 |
| XAVIER WRIGHT | GRAY COLLEGIATE | 2493 | 161 | 281 | 16 |
| HAYES GODDARD | PHILIP SIMMONS | 2441 | 138 | 231 | 27 |
| TRIPP GALLUS | HANAHAN | 2347 | 110 | 169 | 26 |
| BRIAN MCMILLAN | BAMBERG-EHRHARDT | 2270 | 106 | 159 | 21 |
| BEAU HITE | EMERALD | 2184 | 136 | 209 | 21 |
| TANNER PADGETT | AIKEN | 2145 | 152 | 237 | 19 |
| LANDON ROBINSON | LAKE WYLIE | 2144 | 167 | 266 | 17 |
| CAMDEN DEBRUHL | MYRTLE BEACH | 2125 | 152 | 264 | 19 |
| CALE OWENS | COLLETON PREP ACADEMY | 2116 | 121 | 170 | 33 |
| JAXON KNOTTS | DUTCH FORK | 2102 | 134 | 189 | 20 |
| HARPER LOVE | FORT MILL | 2100 | 138 | 258 | 21 |
| BEAR WOODS | WESTSIDE | 2098 | 143 | 230 | 31 |
| JACK CALENDINE | BLUFFTON | 2063 | 160 | 305 | 24 |
| MATT KUCIA | INDIANLAND | 2060 | 122 | 200 | 31 |
| XAVIER GETER | MIDLAND VALLEY | 2023 | 126 | 205 | 21 |
| BRADY DANTZLER | JAMES ISLAND | 2008 | 105 | 154 | 26 |
| ETHAN COLLINS | LAURENS ACADEMY | 1996 | 115 | 162 | 23 |
| AVERY COYLE | SALUDA | 1967 | 92 | 144 | 27 |
| HOLDEN POWELL | BLUE RIDGE | 1955 | 144 | 261 | 20 |
| BRAYDEN CRESS | WHITE KNOLL | 1941 | 139 | 267 | 17 |
| HENRY RIVERS | BERKELEY | 1896 | 138 | 225 | 19 |
| KRES LANGHALS | HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN | 1879 | 112 | 177 | 23 |
| JACE GRASS | DANIEL | 1873 | 115 | 165 | 29 |
| JACOB OWINGS | WREN | 1852 | 114 | 174 | 20 |
| DERRICK RANISZEWSKI | HILTON HEAD | 1829 | 112 | 180 | 19 |
| KAMAURI JONES | FAIRFIELD CENTRAL | 1828 | 86 | 126 | 14 |
| DEREK HOWARD III | RIDGE VIEW | 1812 | 105 | 153 | 20 |
| RUSH HARVEY | WALHALLA | 1803 | 104 | 205 | 21 |
| AIDEN FITZGERALD | DREHER | 1788 | 104 | 175 | 24 |
| KEVIN JOHNSON | NORTHWOOD ACADEMY | 1770 | 120 | 211 | 25 |
| PATRICK BENNETT | PACHS | 1765 | 100 | 179 | 20 |
| TRE BLAKENEY | MARLBORO COUNTY | 1741 | 93 | 172 | 12 |
| GIBBS ISOM | FIRST BAPTIST | 1728 | 104 | 136 | 21 |
| JACOB EVANS | NINETY-SIX | 1718 | 127 | 182 | 23 |
| BRITTON DAVIS | IRMO | 1648 | 94 | 175 | 22 |
| ZY DENNY | RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA | 1648 | 102 | 165 | 10 |
| STACEY ISAAC | C A JOHNSON | 1614 | 83 | 159 | 17 |
| HOLDEN POWELL | BLUE RIDGE | 1605 | 128 | 234 | 17 |
| ANDREW FRICK | BROOKLAND-CAYCE | 1598 | 131 | 219 | 15 |
| TYLER BLACK | CHAPIN | 1583 | 133 | 199 | 14 |
| JORDAN BLACKMON | DILLON CHRISTIAN | 1580 | 75 | 122 | 20 |
| BANKS LUTON | BISHOP ENGLAND | 1569 | 111 | 192 | 15 |
| ZACH WILLIAMS | LUGOFF-ELGIN | 1568 | 119 | 185 | 13 |
| SAM HOLLIDAY | FOUNTAIN INN | 1567 | 109 | 178 | 17 |
| BROOKS DOW | PICKENS | 1567 | 96 | 161 | 22 |

| RECEIVING | AT LEAST 475 YARDS | YARDS | RECEPTS | TDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PEYTON STEVENSON | RIVERSIDE | 1206 | 82 | 11 |
| QUAMELL GRANT | HANAHAN | 1166 | 47 | 11 |
| AMIR CHISOLM | PORTER-GAUD | 1151 | 69 | 8 |
| RAPHAEL PUIU | JAMES ISLAND | 1127 | 49 | 11 |
| COLTEN MCCAULEY | CATAWBA RIDGE | 1047 | 47 | 8 |
| JORDON BOVAIN | BAMBERG-EHRHARDT | 1034 | 31 | 12 |
| TRE GREEN | PINEWOOD PREP | 1013 | 55 | 16 |
| COREY GLEATON | GRAY COLLEGIATE | 971 | 51 | 8 |
| AMARE PATTERSON | BLUFFTON | 970 | 72 | 13 |
| TERRY CANTLOW | DREHER | 949 | 40 | 18 |
| JEREMIAH WALTERS | HILTON HEAD | 939 | 53 | 9 |
| GRAYSON MATHES | HANAHAN | 924 | 48 | 10 |
| LAVORIS LUCAS | PINEWOOD PREP | 921 | 43 | 14 |
| DREW WOLFE | NORTHWOOD ACADEMY | 891 | 44 | 15 |
| NICK BUTLER | WALHALLA | 885 | 34 | 13 |
| DARRYL HILL | SALUDA | 880 | 35 | 9 |
| CALVIN ROCHELEAU | CATAWBA RIDGE | 855 | 49 | 7 |
| CURTIS BELL | WOODRUFF | 855 | 53 | 10 |
| NICK GORDON | CHERAW | 853 | 38 | 8 |
| WILSON YARBOROUGH | PORTER-GAUD | 848 | 46 | 5 |
| TYLER BROWN | WHITE KNOLL | 847 | 54 | 9 |
| CAMRHYN MATHIS | NINETY SIX | 831 | 53 | 14 |
| KYMANI DENNY | RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA | 829 | 43 | 5 |
| TY'QUARIUS SHANNON | FAIRFIELD CENTRAL | 828 | 35 | 12 |
| MICAH MCCLINTOCK | WOODRUFF | 825 | 44 | 10 |
| MARCUS SIMPSON JR | W J KEENAN | 804 | 36 | 10 |
| ISIAH SMITH | CAMDEN | 795 | 37 | 9 |
| JACK HUGHES | WREN | 793 | 35 | 7 |
| ASHTON KELLERMANN | PHILIP SIMMONS | 793 | 37 | 8 |
| JIMMELE SMITH | BEN LIPPEN | 781 | 43 | 5 |
| JOSHUA BRADLEY | FIRST BAPTIST | 779 | 33 | 9 |
| KHRISTIAN JACKSON | RIDGE VIEW | 774 | 42 | 10 |
| DESIRAY CHRISTIAN JR | EMERALD | 768 | 46 | 6 |

| TACKLES | AT LEAST 75 | TOTAL | SOLO | ASSIST |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HAYDEN DOERFLEIN | EMERALD | 138 | 55 | 83 |
| ANGEL GOMEZ | WADE HAMPTON | 118 | 46 | 72 |
| JAMARI SMALLS | WHALE BRANCH | 117 | 29 | 88 |
| BRAYLON FULLER | MIDLAND VALLEY | 117 | 64 | 53 |
| JACOB PELIC | WANDO | 115 | 68 | 47 |
| LUKE SOBEY | PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY | 115 | 31 | 84 |
| KAMERON JOHNSON | FOUNTAIN INN | 114 | 80 | 34 |
| ISAAC JAMES | HAMPTON COUNTY | 114 | 87 | 27 |
| TYLER GINDOFF | CATAWBA RIDGE | 112 | 80 | 32 |
| DAVIS PADGETT | PALMETTO CHRISTIAN | 112 | 80 | 32 |
| BENJAMIN EIKENBERRY | WANDO | 110 | 72 | 38 |
| CHASE LUNDY | FOUNTAIN INN | 110 | 55 | 55 |
| ALLEN CHISOLM | PORTER-GAUD | 110 | 80 | 30 |
| CANAAN WILLIAMS | GOOSE CREEK | 109 | 72 | 37 |
| PARKER COLLINS | CHAPIN | 108 | 63 | 45 |
| ANGELO CRESCENZI | ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE | 108 | 49 | 59 |
| ISAIAH THOMPSON | MAULDIN | 107 | 40 | 67 |
| JAKE HARRINGTON | JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY | 106 | 67 | 39 |
| K J WHITE | LANCASTER | 105 | 63 | 42 |
| HAYDEN DENMARK | GOOSE CREEK | 105 | 78 | 27 |
| ELI SEIGLER | GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN | 105 | 42 | 63 |
| C J CURRENCE | IRMO | 104 | 71 | 33 |
| CHRIS LONG | BLYTHEWOOD | 103 | 70 | 33 |
| DONOVAN FRANKLIN | ROCK HILL | 103 | 65 | 38 |
| JACOB BUSSEY | W W KING ACADEMY | 103 | 72 | 31 |
| MAC STRICKLAND | ORANGEBURG PREP | 103 | 48 | 55 |
| STONE PORTER | BEN LIPPEN | 103 | 45 | 58 |
| KRISTIAN MCQUEEN | W J KEENAN | 102 | 44 | 58 |
| JOSEPH POHLMANN | DREHER | 101 | 85 | 16 |
| ANTHONY STRONG | CHERAW | 101 | 72 | 29 |
| GARRETT SMITH | ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE | 101 | 34 | 67 |
| R J BROWN | WAGENER-SALLEY | 101 | 67 | 34 |
| NYREN BOWMAN | SCOTTS BRANCH | 101 | 64 | 37 |
| RYAN SIMMONS | FORT DORCHESTER | 100 | 51 | 49 |
| MARKEONTE WITHERSPOON | LANCASTER | 100 | 53 | 47 |
| RICHIE MAXWELL | SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN | 100 | 53 | 47 |
| JOHNNY ROSE | ACADEMIC MAGNET | 100 | 50 | 50 |
| JAXSON WILLIAMSON | CANE BAY | 99 | 40 | 59 |
| TYREON WILLIAMS | MIDLAND VALLEY | 99 | 47 | 52 |
| LAMAR SINGLETON | BAPTIST HILL | 99 | 43 | 56 |
| BEANIE BROWN | PORTER-GAUD | 99 | 71 | 28 |
| KOHNER BOUKNIGHT | PACHS | 99 | 32 | 67 |
| KEONTAE SCIPIO | DARLINGTON | 98 | 70 | 28 |
| MALCOLM GORDON | BLUFFTON | 97 | 74 | 23 |
| CONNOR HAMILTON | SOUTH AIKEN | 97 | 61 | 36 |
| ETHAN SHAW | LORIS | 97 | 68 | 29 |
| NATHAN PERACKI | MULLINS | 97 | 40 | 57 |
| JAKELL JENKINS | COLLETON COUNTY | 97 | 66 | 31 |
| DAKARI JACKSON | BAPTIST HILL | 97 | 41 | 56 |
| PARKER RICHES | SENECA | 97 | 34 | 63 |
| TAJAH LANDRUM | BLUE RIDGE | 96 | 38 | 58 |
| M. NELSON | DILLON | 96 | 21 | 75 |
| JAEMON BENSON | W J KEENAN | 96 | 31 | 65 |
| ZI'YON EAST | AIKEN | 95 | 60 | 35 |
| JAHMAUD MOORE | YORK | 95 | 55 | 40 |
| HAYDEN ADKINS | YORK | 95 | 58 | 37 |
| CONRAD HAMPTON | W J KEENAN | 95 | 28 | 67 |
| AUSTIN WHITCOMB | CRESCENT | 95 | 24 | 71 |
| CARTER ADAMS | CRESCENT | 94 | 7 | 88 |
| QUENTIN KEARSE | WAGENER-SALLEY | 94 | 61 | 34 |
| WAYNE JOHNSON | FAIRFIELD CENTRAL | 94 | 33 | 61 |
| CALEB HARDY | LAURENS ACADEMY | 94 | 53 | 41 |
| JADYN JONES | WAGENER-SALLEY | 93 | 57 | 36 |
| TYLER GREEN | HOLLY HILL ACADEMY | 93 | 41 | 52 |
| BLAKE SEWELL | EASLEY | 92 | 49 | 43 |
| JACK HARRISON | GREENVILLE | 92 | 59 | 33 |
| NICK GREGAR | WADE HAMPTON | 92 | 33 | 59 |
| TRISTON GARRETT | MIDLAND VALLEY | 92 | 54 | 38 |
| KEVIN SIMMONS | BAPTIST HILL | 92 | 38 | 54 |
| TREVOR TONON | BISHOP ENGLAND | 92 | 45 | 47 |
| AYDEN BURTON | GREENVILLE | 91 | 48 | 43 |
| SAM HUNTER | BUFORD | 90 | 40 | 50 |
| DAVID BARNES | PALMETTO CHRISTIAN | 90 | 45 | 45 |
| HAYDEN SCHWAB | FLORENCE CHRISTIAN | 90 | 66 | 24 |
| EVAN SIMMONS | BROOKLAND-CAYCE | 89 | 72 | 17 |
| ZYMIER GORDON-MILES | ROCK HILL | 89 | 49 | 40 |

| QUARTERBACK SACKS | AT LEAST 3 | SACKS |
|---|---|---|
| TERRION LINEBERGER | LANCASTER | 22.5 |
| JAYDEN WUERTH | DUTCH FORK | 19 |
| KEVIN SIMMONS | BAPTIST HILL | 13 |
| ELI HERNDON | CHAPMAN | 12 |
| JAY'SEAN CULP | ROCK HILL | 12 |
| DILAN HAMMONDS | DENMARK-OLAR | 11 |
| JAIDEN BRYANT | IRMO | 9.5 |
| NIGEL ROCK | SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN | 9.5 |
| CROSS GEORGE | LEXINGTON | 9 |
| TYRONE JENNINGS | IRMO | 9 |
| SEAN PHALEN | JOHN PAUL II | 9 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | AT LEAST 2 | INTERCEPTS |
|---|---|---|
| KALEB BROOKS | BLACKVILLE-HILDA | 7 |
| REECE STILL | JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY | 7 |
| COREY MURPHY | LUGOFF-ELGIN | 6 |
| CADE ROGERS | WANDO | 6 |
| NAHSIR SINGLETON | BAMBERG-EHRHARDT | 6 |
| NIGEL LIGHTNER | ROCK HILL | 5 |
| REO STEVENSON | NORTH MYRTLE BEACH | 5 |
| ZACHARY WILLIAMS | SPRING VALLEY | 5 |
| DARIUS HANNA | T L HANNA | 5 |
| CADEN LACHICA | CHAPMAN | 5 |
| ROBERT AMAKER | HAMPTON COUNTY | 5 |
| BRYCE JENKINS | NORTHWOOD ACADEMY | 5 |
| LANDELL ANDERSON | W W KING ACADEMY | 4 |
| LIAM BUCHAN | CATHEDRAL ACADEMY | 4 |
| ASHTON ALEXANDER | WHITMIRE | 4 |
| BRAYDEN RITA | WHITMIRE | 4 |
| METRIN SEGARS | KINGSTREE | 4 |
| JOSHUA BRADLEY | FIRST BAPTIST | 4 |
| GRAYDON WATKINS | CLINTON | 4 |
| BRAIHLIN PAYLOR | MAY RIVER | 4 |
| ELIJAH HARPER | C A JOHNSON | 4 |
| GEE'ONTE MCCAIN | LANCASTER | 4 |
| JAYDEN QUILLEN | LAMAR | 4 |
| ZAVIER SHORT | WEST-OAK | 4 |
| CALEB RENWICK | RIVER BLUFF | 4 |
| ETHAN HUGHES | CHESTER | 4 |
| JAMES SMITH | DUTCH FORK | 3 |
| KAREEM DUPREE | DUTCH FORK | 4 |
| AIDEN WELCH | FORT MILL | 3 |
| DEVEIAN SOUTHWARD | FORT MILL | 3 |
| ANTWOINE PIERCE | IRMO | 3 |
| JAMARCUS MEANS | BOILING SPRINGS | 3 |
| AMARI FISHER | BLYTHEWOOD | 3 |
| CHRISTIAN ALSTON | GREER | 3 |
| JOSEPH WILSON | WILSON | 3 |
| JY'SEER STOVER | LANCASTER | 3 |
| SHANE HUNTER DALE | CRESCENT | 3 |
| DALLAS COLLINS | LANDRUM | 3 |
| MARSHALL LIVINGSTON | ORANGEBURG PREP | 3 |

| PUNTS | AT LEAST 3 PUNTS | PUNTS | YARDS | AVG | Long |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| XAVIER MEANS | NORTHWESTERN | 8 | 356 | 44.5 | 61 |
| NIGEL ROCK | SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN | 8 | 349 | 43.62 | 57 |
| AIDEN THORN | CANE BAY | 13 | 548 | 42.15 | 54 |
| HENRY RIVERS | BERKELEY | 7 | 290 | 41.43 | 66 |
| LIAM FLYNN | RIVER BLUFF | 6 | 247 | 41.17 | 56 |
| EMMANUEL WASHINGTON | WHALE BRANCH | 4 | 137 | 34.25 | 45 |
| ZACH REEVES | EASLEY | 4 | 137 | 34.25 | 39 |
| JOSH CRICK | CATAWBA RIDGE | 7 | 239 | 34.14 | 45 |
| IMRI LOGAN | BOILING SPRINGS | 9 | 306 | 34 | 52 |
| JACK COATS | DANIEL | 5 | 169 | 33.8 | 41 |
| TRISTAN DANIELS | SALUDA | 8 | 269 | 33.6 | 42 |
| DERRICK RANISZEWSKI | HILTON HEAD | 9 | 301 | 33.44 | 51 |
| RIGGS SCOTT | A C FLORA | 4 | 136 | 33.25 | 45 |
| JANTZEN JEFFERS | ANDREW JACKSON | 9 | 295 | 32.78 | 49 |
| THOMAS FAUST | WILSON HALL | 4 | 131 | 32.75 | 47 |
| HUNTER THIEM | PORTER-GAUD | 13 | 425 | 32.69 | 49 |
| B J SUITS | NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN | 4 | 130 | 32.5 | 42 |
| ANDY CORDOZA | BUFORD | 8 | 259 | 32.38 | 51 |
| BEN SMOAK | CARDINAL NEWMAN | 6 | 194 | 32.33 | 37 |
| LAVONTE HENDERSON | LIBERTY | 7 | 224 | 32 | 38 |
| LIAM EDWARDS | HEATHWOOD HALL | 5 | 160 | 32 | 38 |
| SUTTON SCHULTZ | PHILIP SIMMONS | 15 | 479 | 31.93 | 49 |
| GABRIEL MEDINA | DUTCH FORK | 4 | 127 | 31.8 | 42 |
| ELLIOTT PARROTT | NORTHWOOD ACADEMY | 6 | 190 | 31.67 | 44 |
| BRYCEN DAVIS | WOODRUFF | 5 | 157 | 31.4 | 43 |

| SCORING | AT LEAST 25 POINTS | POINTS |
|---|---|---|
| JORDAN BLACKMON | DILLON CHRISTIAN | 274 |
| TRISTAN DANIELS | SALUDA | 150 |
| JAYDEN PEEPLES | BLACKVILLE-HILDA | 128 |
| JOSEPH MORSE | W W KING ACADEMY | 126 |
| REGGIE SHANNON | SUMTER | 114 |
| HOLDEN POWELL | BLUE RIDGE | 108 |
| LAVORIS LUCAS | PINEWOOD PREP | 108 |
| CALVIN WOFFORD | CRESTWOOD | 104 |
| DE'ERIC DAVIS | SOUTH FLORENCE | 98 |
| JAYLEN LYLES | WOODRUFF | 98 |
| AMIR CHISOLM | PORTER-GAUD | 96 |
| DREW WOLFE | NORTHWOOD ACADEMY | 96 |
| KINGSTEN BIBB | DANIEL | 94 |
| ZY ROUSE | STROM THURMOND | 94 |
| CAMERON JAMES | SOUTH FLORENCE | 92 |
| TRE GREEN | PINEWOOD PREP | 92 |
| JADEN WILSON | NORTH MYRTLE BEACH | 84 |
| TERRY CANTLOW | DREHER | 84 |
| NICK GORDON | CHERAW | 80 |
| KADEN WIGFALL | STROM THURMOND | 78 |
| JORDAN BOVAIN | BAMBERG-EHRHARDT | 78 |
| BERNARD GREEN | CAMDEN | 72 |
| BRIAN MCMILLAN | BAMBERG-EHRHARDT | 72 |

| KICK SCORING | AT LEAST 6 POINTS | POINTS | PAT | FG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ISAAC LORENTZ | JAMES ISLAND | 69 | 57 | 4 |
| WILLIAM SUGGS | LORIS | 60 | 57 | 1 |
| NICO MILLER | NORTH MYRTLE BEACH | 60 | 33 | 9 |
| RYAN RAYLYAN | CHAPMAN | 59 | 44 | 5 |
| JOSH CRICK | CATAWBA RIDGE | 59 | 32 | 9 |
| BRAYDEN TURNER | PICKENS | 57 | 54 | 1 |
| ALEX BENDT | NORTHWESTERN | 55 | 49 | 2 |
| BECKHAM DIMMLER | CHAPIN | 53 | 29 | 8 |
| GABRIEL MEDINA | DUTCH FORK | 51 | 51 | 0 |
| CORBAN LACK | T L HANNA | 51 | 30 | 7 |
| EASTON DEMARSKI | HILLCREST | 51 | 30 | 7 |
| JULIAN IGO | DANIEL | 51 | 45 | 2 |
| JACK CAMPBELL | SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN | 51 | 36 | 5 |
| PARKER BURNS | GREER | 51 | 36 | 5 |
| RYKER WOOLSTENHULME | MID CAROLINA | 50 | 35 | 5 |

# AAAAA Football Feature



*2026 James Island Trojans football*

## Can James Island win four road games to reach AAAAA finals? We shall see!

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**James Island** – As a result of some rules violations this summer, the **James Island** football team lost the opportunity to host a playoff game this season. Not one game, but any playoff game that involves James Island will be a road game for the Trojans.



*James Island's Brady Dantzler*

James Island head coach **Jamar McKoy** also sat out the first two games of the regular season. None of that matters now. The future is now and the Trojans have set their goals high this fall.

"Home, away, the moon, it doesn't matter to this team," McKoy said recently. "We don't 2 even talk about it because it really only matters if we let it get iin our heads. We've played on the road before. Last year we went to Sumter and beat them when nobody thought we could. Good football travels and iif we play our game, we can win anywhere."

The Trojans finished the regular season at 10-0 and were never threatened. James Island scored more than 40 points in eight games. Opponents bately combined to ttotal 100 points on the Trojans defense and most of those points were against backups.

James Island has no glaring weakness. Thhey have good balance offensively with the ability to runn or pass. Senior quarterback **Brady Dantzler** has completed 68 percent of his passes for 2,006 yards amd 26 touchdowns. He also has rushed for nearly 300 yards.

"Certainly his maturity and competitive fire sets the tone for us," McKoy said

**Mykell Warthen** anchors the running game with 1,335 yards and 21 touchdowns/**Jaquoy Legare** adds 690 yards rushing and the Trojans average 9.5 yards per attempt.

Junior **Raphael Puiu** is one of the state's top underclassmen and is impossible to cover. Puiu 1,127 yards on 49 catches with 11 touchdowns.

"The best thing about Raph is how hard he works," McKoy said. "He is always doing something extra, whether its lifting, running, practicing his routes. His desire to be the best drives him."



*Berkeley's Henry Rivers*

**Charlie Schrecker** has nine touchdown grabs on 25 receptions. Tight end **Sam Crumpton** is a SC Shrine Bowl selection.

The defense is loaded with size and speed, starting with tackle **Robert Grant**, who has 21 tackles for loss and 10 sacks. Linebacker **Bryson Bowers** has 64 tackles and defensive back **Jakayden Pendergrass** has 70 total tackles.

James Island also has one of the state's top placekickers in junior **Issac Lorentz**, who has made 60 of 60 extra point attempts and all five field goal attempts.

With the bye week now gone, all of the top contenders in AAAAA will be in action on Nov. 13. IN the upper state, the top three favorites remain Dutch Fork, Northwestern and Dorman and all signs continue to point to a Dutch Fork vs. Northwestern showdown for the upper state title.James Island will certainly have some threats in the Lower State, mainly from Berkeley, Ridge View, Sumter and Summerville. Ridge View and Sumter play on Nov. 13 so that will eliminate one contender.

## Current Region Standings

| REGION 1-AAAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| JAMES F. BYRNES | 5-0 | 8-2 | 395 | 172 |
| HILLCREST | 3-2 | 5-6 | 324 | 312 |
| WOODMONT | 3-2 | 4-6 | 280 | 285 |
| EASTSIDE | 2-3 | 5-5 | 224 | 289 |
| J L MANN | 2-3 | 2-8 | 187 | 340 |
| MAULDIN | 0-5 | 1-9 | 126 | 260 |

| REGION 2-AAAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NORTHWESTERN | 5-0 | 9-1 | 505 | 128 |
| DORMAN | 4-1 | 9-1 | 282 | 198 |
| FORT MILL | 3-2 | 9-2 | 429 | 180 |
| BOILING SPRINGS | 2-3 | 7-4 | 259 | 297 |
| ROCK HILL | 1-4 | 6-5 | 241 | 195 |
| SPARTANBURG | 0-5 | 3-8 | 232 | 425 |

| REGION 3-AAAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DUTCH FORK | 4-0 | 9-0 | 363 | 89 |
| RIVER BLUFF | 3-1 | 8-3 | 346 | 225 |
| LEXINGTON | 2-2 | 5-5 | 309 | 295 |
| CHAPIN | 1-3 | 5-6 | 322 | 274 |
| WHITE KNOLL | 0-4 | 1-9 | 200 | 372 |

| REGION 4-AAAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RIDGE VIEW | 4-0 | 7-2 | 333 | 160 |
| SUMTER | 3-1 | 7-4 | 427 | 256 |
| GRAY COLLEGIATE | 2-2 | 5-6 | 357 | 369 |
| BLYTHEWOOD | 1-3 | 4-7 | 203 | 318 |
| SPRING VALLEY | 0-4 | 0-10 | 49 | 393 |

| REGION 5-AAAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| JAMES ISLAND | 6-0 | 10-0 | 484 | 117 |
| SUMMERVILLE | 5-1 | 8-3 | 398 | 159 |
| FORT DORCHESTER | 4-2 | 6-5 | 233 | 291 |
| ASHLEY RIDGE | 3-3 | 3-8 | 305 | 371 |
| WEST ASHLEY | 2-4 | 2-7 | 142 | 334 |
| STRATFORD | 1-5 | 2-8 | 117 | 371 |
| R B STALL | 0-6 | 2-8 | 84 | 458 |

| REGION 6-AAAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BERKELEY | 5-0 | 9-1 | 413 | 156 |
| CAROLINA FOREST | 4-1 | 8-2 | 356 | 199 |
| SOCASTEE | 3-2 | 4-7 | 283 | 357 |
| WANDO | 2-3 | 5-6 | 225 | 299 |
| CANE BAY | 1-4 | 3-7 | 161 | 301 |
| GOOSE CREEK | 0-5 | 1-9 | 163 | 323 |

## AAAAA Football Polls

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Dutch Fork | 6. Fort Mill |
| 2. Northwestern | 7. Ridge View |
| 3. James Island | 8. Byrnes |
| 4. Dorman | 9. Summerville |
| 5. Berkeley | 10. River Bluff |



**SJCA**, continued from pg. **25**

"Allie is eager to learn the game, constantly asking how she can improve, and her attitude has created a position where she is emerging as a natural leader," says coach Eden.

Coach said of his team, "The biggest thing that we need to work on is playing together as a team: understanding that we are not individuals on the court and when we are at our best, we are cohesive and not divisive. I think one of the most difficult things for us this season is that we have many girls across different grade levels and it has made it a challenge to communicate and form our identity as a group. The girls' have every capability and the right toolset to win. They have been prepared and they put in a lot of hard work every week.

**Florence Area**, continued from pg. **27**

**Bowman** had 21 receptions for 420 yards and five touchdowns.

**SOUTH FLORENCE OPENS WITH LUCY BECKHAM**

Despite the loss to Wilson, South Florence earned the No. 4 seed in the AAAA state playoffs and the first-round bye that came with it by winning the Region 7 title. South, which played in the last four AAAA title games under former head coach **Drew Marlowe**, will host **Lucy Beckham** in the second round on November 13. Beckham destroyed **North Myrtle Beach** 56-0 in the first round.

After starting the season with a pair of lopsided losses, the Bruins reeled off seven straight wins before falling to Wilson under first-year head coach **Scott Braswell**.

"First and foremost, I think we played two really great teams," Braswell said of the road losses to **James Island** and **Hilton Head Island**, the No. 1 seeds in the lower state for the AAAAA and AAAA playoffs, respectively. "We have a lot of guys that don't have a whole lot of experience, so they were thrown into the fire and learned and grew a lot from those losses.

"Our team mantra coming out of the first two games was "TOGETHER" and we did a lot of culture coaching to make sure that we could withstand some adversity and continue to play together as a team. Our guys did a great job of continuing to work to improve and supporting each other, and the whole program got better from the losses."

While not particularly fond of the bye, especially coming off of a loss, Braswell didn't mind that it gave the Bruins a chance to heal, in particular star running back **Cameron James**. He suffered an injury against Wilson, but is expected to play.

James has 1,488 yards and 15 touchdowns on 163 carries. Quarterback **De'eric Davis** has 586 yards and 15 scores on 83 carries, while **Jayden Allen** has 368yards and five TDs.

Davis has competed 74 of 121 passes for 1,024 yards and 11 touchdowns. **Semaj Parker** has 24 catches for 397 yards and six scores, while **Malik Robinson** has 23 catches for 281 yards and three scores.

**WEST FLORENCE MISSES PLAYOFFS**

After rebounding from a 1-3 start with three consecutive Region 7-AAAA victories, West Florence lost its final three games to finish 4-6. In so doing, the Knights also missed out on the state playoffs.

WF averaged 2584 rushing yards a game with six players running for at least 349 yards. Leading the way was **Juwan Gamble** with 511 yards and seven touchdowns. **Cory Patterson** had 458 yards and three scores, **Matthew Benjamin** 452 and eight, **Jeremiah Smiling-Waiters** with 405 and two, **Jeremiah Bryant** with 369 and five, and **Markel Scott** with 349 and two.

**Leonard**, continued from pg. **48**

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 2026-27 school year to students in the three counties they serve.

Currently, Leonard is enrolled in two dual credit online courses offered by NETC this semester and will continue with two more classes in the spring semester. When asked about what NETC did to help her, Leonard said, "With all the classes, plus earning my associates degree, this could save me a year's cost of tuition, and time which would equate to really saving money." "If I'm able to shave a year, or more, off the classes for my undergraduate degree, I'll be able to start medical school sooner."

Leonard describes her experience with NETC's online college work as "really great". "With online courses, you can take your work with you wherever you are," she said. "Being able to take my work with me, kept me up to date in classes anywhere I went."

As for a favorite sports memory, Leonard reflected. "Over the years there have been many good memories, but one thing that stands out is from basketball and our rivalry with Cheraw," she said. "We played them every year and it developed into a nice civil rivalry that I looked forward to and win or lose. It made the game more fun and fuller of energy."

**Brock**, continued from pg. **48**

Brock quickly pointed out the benefit of taking classes via the NETC dual enrollment opportunity with these comments, "It has helped with my note taking skills, which better allows me to focus on my class work and be better prepared," he said. "I'm taking many college prerequisite classes now and being able to start college with these completed, and with my Associates Degree, it will help reduce my workload once I get to college. Also, it's better prepared me for what to expect now that I've experienced the college workload."

When asked about scheduling life around sports and his two academic schedules, Brock said, "It's difficult but I find it enjoyable," he said. "It's also excellent preparation for adult life when I'm balancing demands of having a family and a job."

Brock talked about his favorite memory as an athlete. "This football season, I blocked a punt and my teammate **Jerimiah White** was able to take that ball for a scoop-six TD for us," he said.

**Hartsville,** continued from pg. **58**

Senior running back **Trace Hillian** has been a key offensive leader with more than 7000 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns, averaging 11.1 yards per carry. **Quamel Prescott** has averaged 6.0 yards per carry and **CJ Hickmon** has averaged 6.5 yards per rush. Hickman also leads the offense with 17 receptions.

Junior quarterback **Ford Wallace** has passed for more than 600 yards and six fouchdowns while adding 206 yards and four scores on the ground.

Hartsville's leading tackler has been **Jordan Benjamin** with 51 total hits, followed by **Ashton Wilson** (43 tackles), **Davaris James** (41 tackles) and **Ziyon Mason** (39 tackles).

Hartsville's defense struggled early, allowing 132 points in the first three games, but has settled in during region play.

**Porter Gaud,** continued from pg. **56**

ell led the way to Porter-Gaud's fifth-place finish in the team standings of the AAAA meet.

**Martha Bradshaw** also finished in the top 10, running to an eighth-place finish.

The boys team finished fifth in the team standings of the AAAA boys race. Freshman **Henry Sidney** was the team's top finisher in ninth-place overall, good enough for all-state honors.

**First Baptist,** continued from pg. **56**

Members of the boys cross country program recently competed in the SCISA state meet. The Hurricanes finished ninth in the team standings.

The top Hurricane finisher was **Brody Jackson**, who finished 22nd. **George Doyle** was the next Hurricane, followed by **Barron Bishop. Liam Shealy, Rigby Hurtt** and **William Askins** rounded out the Hurricane contingent of runners.

**Emerald,** continued from pg. **40**

first.

"Beau was starting at quarterback for his third season, and he just keeps working hard and improving every season," said Coach Dubose.

Emerald was led in rushing by junior **Jamerion Moore** (6-1, 190) and he had 1,391 yards on 177 carries and 25 TD's. He stepped up to lead the running game when senior RB **Chris Dean** was lost for the season in the second game due to an injury.

Junior WR **Keiron Brown** (6-1, 161) will return next season and he caught 33 passes for 564 yards and 8 TD this season. Junior WR **Gavin Quarles** (6-1, 156) will also return next season. Junior WR Coleson Moreno will also be back after catching 36 passes for 508 yards and five TD's this season.

On defense, junior LB **Hayden Doerflein** (5-10, 195) will be back and he led the team in tackles this season with 138. Junior OLB **Lazohn Mobley** (79 tackles) will also be back next season along with junior FS **Trayvion Foster** (67 tackles) and junior CB **Johnsiah Javiner** also returns.

Junior LB **Javalin Baskin** (50 tackles) and junior CB **Demetruis Childs** (43 tackles) will also return after next season. Junior DL **Jeremiah Johnson** will also return after recording 87 tackles this past season.

Several other Viking defenders played well for Emerald this season and they were **Mylik Wright,** senior DL **Tyrell Cloud** (6-3, 272), junior DB **Demetrius Childs**, senior NG/DL along with **Cam Mitchell**, and junior LB **Jadius Bennett** (5-11, 225).

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# AAAA Football Feature

## North Augusta peaking at playoff time

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**North Augusta** – The **North Augusta High School** football team has been flirting with getting to the AAAA state championship games the past two seasons.

The Yellow Jackets played host to **South Florence** in the 2024 lower state championship game, dropping a 27-20 decision to the eventual state champion. Last season, NA ran into the Bruins in the third round, falling by a 49-14 count.

Just like the two previous seasons, North Augusta will begin its run in the playoffs with just one loss. It is 9-1 overall and went 5-0 in winning Region 5.

Jackets head coach **Richard Bush** said his team isn't focused on the playoffs per se. Instead, it is focused on itself.

"Our team's mindset right now is that we have to continue to get better each and every day if we went to continue to play in the postseason," said Bush, who is in his fourth season in charge of the program. "In order for us to take the next step as a team, we have to continue to get better each day. In order for us to do that we have to attack everything with a workmanlike mentality. We also need to play well on offense, defense, and special teams."

NA is the No. 3 seed in the lower state, sitting behind top seed **Hilton Head Island** and No. 2 seed **Lugoff-Elgin**. The fourth seed is South Florence.

Each of those teams received first-round byes. North Augusta will face No. 6 seed **Irmo**, a Region 5 foe. Irmo beat No. 11 **South Aiken**, another Region 5 team, 39-0 in the first round. both region foes, in the second round on November 13.

In the regular-season matchup, NA defeated Irmo 25-16.

The Yellow Jackets have been stout on defense all season. The most points they've allowed in any game was 27 in the regular-season finale against 2-8 **Midland Valley**. It ended up as a 35-27 triumph as NA rallied from a 27-7 halftime deficit.

"Our defense is a group of guys who have played a lot of football games together," Bush said. "They work extremely hard each day and have the willingness to get better each day. The defense has answered the bell each and every week so far this year."

North Augusta has three all-stars in its front seven on defense. They are **Shrine Bowl** defensive lineman **Simeon Jones Jr.** and **Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl** defensive lineman **Joshua Simpkins** and linebacker **Javon Ryans**.

The 6-foot-1-inch, 315-pound Jones is committed to **South Carolina**. He has 19 tackles for loss on the season.

"Simeon dominates games in the middle of our defense," Bush said. "He demands a double team and can play the run and the pass."

Simpkins is a 6-3, 250-pounder with 31 tackles and five TFLs. Ryans is 5-11 and weighs in at 215. He has 95 tackles and nine TFLs.

"Josh Simpkins and Javon Ryans are two of the team's captains," Bush said. "They are both really smart football players who are explosive and make plays all over the field."

Since losing the season opener to defending AA state champion **Strom Thurmond** 21-7, the Yellow Jackets have been pretty steady offensively. They have scored 341 points with the only hiccup since the opener coming in a 10-7 win over South Aiken.

NA has a pretty balanced offensive attack as well. Senior running back **Jayden Hatcher**, who is committed to **Gardner-Webb**, is just shy of 1,000 rushing yards with 957 to go along with 12 touchdowns.

"What makes Jayden Hatcher a good running back is that he has a quick burst and has the ability to make any cut as soon as he sees the opening," Bush said.

Quarterback **Collin Tillman** has thrown for 1,533 yards and 18 touchdowns.

Lower state top seed Hilton Head is also 9-1. The Seahawks are led by senior quarterback **Derrick Raniszewkski**. He has hit on 112 of 180 attempts for 1,829 yards and 19 touchdowns. Hie's also ran for 385 yards and four more scores.

Senior **Jeremiah Walters** is far and away the leading receiver with 53 catches for 939 yards and nine TDs. Senior **Jayvin Rusher** is the top runner with 755 yards and 10 touchdowns on 94 carries.

Second seed Lugoff-Elgin is another 9-1 team and is led by a pair of Shrine Bowlers in running back **Tiyon Fanning** and wide receiver/defensive back **Eric Richardson**.

Fanning has been a workhorse with 197 carries for 1,635 yards and 17 scores. He also has 19 catches for 261 yards and another TD.

Richardson has 38 catchers for 757 yards and 10 touchdowns. He's also ran the ball 16 time for 135 yards and two scores.

The upper state No. 1 seed is **Gaffney**, which dropped down to AAAA following reclassification. The Indians are also 9-1.

Gaffney has come on offensively toward the end of the season. It is averaging 246 rushing yards a game led by senior **Amire White** with 787 yards and nine scores. Senior **Kareem Shaw** has 41 yards and four TDs, while Shrine Bowl defender **Kendaris Bailey** has 389 yards and nine touchdowns on 55 carries.

Sophomore quarterback **Corey Taylor** has shown steady progress. He has hit on 97 of 147 passes for 1,384 yards and 14 scores.

Westside is another 9-1 team as the No. 2 seed in the upper state. The Rams are led by sophomore **Bear Woods**. He has passed for 2,435 yards and 35 touchdowns by hitting on 167 of 261 passes.

He has four receivers with at least 27 catches. Shrine Bowler **Tajeh Watson-Martin** has 45 catches for 699 yards and 11 scores, sophomore **Jae White** has 39 catches for 697 yards and 14 TDs, sophomore **Kam Mattison** has 31 catches for 300 yards and five touchdowns, and senior **Elijah Lipsey** has 27 grbs for 421 yards and three scores.

Senior **Damauri Robinson** is the leading rusher with 729 yards to go with six scores.

Defending state champion **South Pointe** of **Rock Hill** is the No. 3 seed. The Stallions' two losses came to city rivals **Rock Hill** and **Northwestern**, both AAAAA schools.b

### AAAA Football Polls

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Gaffney | 6. Lugoff-Elgin |
| 2. Westside | 7. Hilton Head |
| 3. North Augusta | 8. Indian Land |
| 4. TL Hanna | 9. Irmo |
| 5. South Pointe | 10. South Florence |

### Current Region Standings

| REGION 1-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| WESTSIDE | 5-0 | 9-1 | 359 | 212 |
| T L HANNA | 4-1 | 8-2 | 329 | 147 |
| FOUNTAIN INN | 3-2 | 7-4 | 330 | 271 |
| GREENWOOD | 2-3 | 4-7 | 228 | 313 |
| LAURENS | 1-4 | 4-6 | 276 | 288 |
| EASLEY | 0-5 | 1-9 | 218 | 534 |

| REGION 2-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GAFFNEY | 5-0 | 9-1 | 358 | 118 |
| GREER | 4-1 | 7-4 | 362 | 308 |
| GREENVILLE | 3-2 | 6-5 | 378 | 243 |
| RIVERSIDE | 2-3 | 3-7 | 183 | 265 |
| TRAVELERS REST | 1-4 | 3-7 | 189 | 356 |
| WADE HAMPTON | 0-5 | 2-8 | 170 | 328 |

| REGION 3-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOUTH POINTE | 6-0 | 6-2 | 283 | 144 |
| INDIAN LAND | 5-1 | 9-2 | 404 | 171 |
| CATAWBA RIDGE | 4-2 | 6-5 | 345 | 285 |
| CLOVER | 3-3 | 5-6 | 261 | 183 |
| YORK | 2-4 | 4-6 | 238 | 303 |
| NATION FORD | 1-5 | 1-9 | 135 | 386 |
| LAKE WYLIE | 0-6 | 4-6 | 217 | 404 |

| REGION 4-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LUGOFF-ELGIN | 5-0 | 9-1 | 337 | 169 |
| LANCASTER | 4-1 | 8-3 | 301 | 237 |
| DREHER | 3-2 | 8-3 | 393 | 233 |
| A C FLORA | 2-3 | 3-7 | 196 | 259 |
| WESTWOOD | 1-4 | 1-9 | 153 | 343 |
| RICHLAND NE | 0-5 | 2-8 | 141 | 321 |

| REGION 5-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NORTH AUGUSTA | 5-0 | 9-1 | 341 | 141 |
| IRMO | 4-1 | 8-3 | 454 | 110 |
| AIKEN | 3-2 | 6-4 | 314 | 253 |
| SOUTH AIKEN | 2-3 | 6-5 | 283 | 215 |
| MIDLAND VALLEY | 1-4 | 4-6 | 366 | 375 |
| FOX CREEK | 0-5 | 1-9 | 168 | 490 |

| REGION 6-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HILTON HEAD | 5-0 | 9-1 | 348 | 150 |
| LUCY BECKHAM | 4-1 | 8-3 | 360 | 138 |
| MAY RIVER | 3-2 | 6-5 | 277 | 346 |
| BLUFFTON | 2-3 | 5-5 | 301 | 234 |
| COLLETON COUNTY | 1-4 | 2-8 | 147 | 310 |
| BEAUFORT | 0-5 | 1-9 | 188 | 416 |

| REGION 7-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOUTH FLORENCE | 5-1 | 7-3 | 361 | 226 |
| WILSON | 4-2 | 6-5 | 233 | 275 |
| CONWAY | 4-2 | 6-5 | 333 | 336 |
| MYRTLE BEACH | 3-3 | 5-5 | 310 | 374 |
| WEST FLORENCE | 3-3 | 4-6 | 244 | 319 |
| N MYRTLE BEACH | 2-4 | 6-5 | 293 | 336 |
| ST. JAMES | 0-6 | 2-8 | 177 | 321 |

# AAA Football Feature

## AAA loaded with potential champions

**By WORTHY EVANS**
**Special Writer**

**Columbia**—With the first round of the AAA playoffs in the books, most of the classification's top-10 teams remained idle. Many of the teams—defending AAA champion **Oceanside** Collegiate, AAA runner-up **Belton-Honea Path**, top-ranked **Daniel**, and **Wren**—are familiar bracket placeholders.

One team, No. two **Chapman**, completed a perfect regular season record after going 1-10 last year. One thing to be sure about, there will be some must-see matchups as the AAA competition closes in on two teams in December when the state title game is played at South Carolina State University.

Some top AAA teams include:

**Daniel**

The Lions (10-0, 5-0 Region 1-AAA) wrapped up a region championship—their eighth straight region title—in quick fashion. They outscored opponents 486-113 and with a No.2 seed in the AAA playoffs appear poised to reaching the state final for the 11th time and adding to their eight state titles.

Senior quarterback **Kolton Chapman** leads the Lions offense, completing 189 of 282 passes for 2,409 yards and 24 touchdowns to just three interceptions. Junior **Lee Turnipseed** has also seen significant time under center, going 57-for-82 for 736 yards and seven scores to just one pick.

Chapman and Turnipseed have a wide range of receivers to choose from. Senior Graydon **Nix** has 62 catches for 668 yards and seven TDs; senior **Sam Earle** has 39 catches for 619 yards and five touchdowns; junior **Jason Bish** has 29 catches for 459 yards and five scores, and freshman **Christian Chancellor Jr.** has 32 catches for 340 yards and three TDs.

Leading rusher **Jakari Bennett**, a senior, has 1,508 yards and 28 touchdowns on 164 carries. Senior **Tory Shaw** has 711 yards and 13 scores on 117 carries.

On defense junior **Spencer Conn** leads the team with 148 tackles, 15 for loss, and seven sacks. Senior **Ty Plumblee** has 100tackles, 6.5 for loss. Senior **Jaedyn Young** has 42 tackles, 3.5 for loss, and seven sacks.

The Lions open the postseason playing host to No.7 Pickens. The Blue Flame beat No.10 **Walhalla** 56-8 last week.

**Chapman**

The Panthers (10-0, 4-0 Region 3-AAA) turned the whole program around this year, finishing 10-0 and winning the Region 3-AAA championship less than a year after finishing 1-10. Along the way Chapman outscored their opponents 413-94, with their closest victory being a 23-21 win over **Christ Church Episcopal** Oct. 9. Otherwise, the Panthers' margins of victory ranged from 13 points to 55 points.

Leading the way for Chapman is sophomore quarterback **Ashton Moore**, who was 145-for-214 in passing for 2,206 yards and 28 touchdowns to just one pick. **Keilon Tucker** has been the go-to receiver with 46 catches for 724 yards and 14 TDs. Senior Taylor Rogers has 22 catches for 410 yards, and three touchdowns and senior **Eric Gaffney** has 19 catches for 314 yards and three scores.

Junior **Taegan Cantrell** has 591 yards and nine touchdowns on 130 carries to lead the Panthers, who had 1,189 total rushing yards on the year.

Chapman earned a No.3 seed and a bye in the AAA playoffs and plays No.11 Palmetto Friday. The Mustangs upset No.6 **Blue Ridge** 13-7 Friday. The Panthers won state titles in 2016 and 2019.

**Oceanside Collegiate**

The Landsharks (6-3, 4-0 Region 5-AAA) are defending two-time 3A state champion that won a 2A title in 2023. They got off to an 0-2 start in 2026 but won the Region 5-AAA championship.

The Landsharks moved past season-opening losses to AAAAA power **James Island** (10-0) and **Cannon/Concord Academy** (7-3) with a 24-17 victory over AAAAA **Ridge View**. They lost 40-22 at **Gainsville, Ga**. (7-3), but won their final four games of the regular season—outscoring opponents 179-28—to close out their eighth straight region title.

Senior four-year starter and **Davidson** commit **Aiden Manavian** continues to lead the Landsharks. This season, Manavian surpassed the 10,000-yards passing mark and was named to the **North-South All-Star Game** that will play out in **Myrtle Beach** in December.

The Landsharks earned a No.2 seed and first-round bye in the AAA playoffs and will play No.7 **Hanahan** Friday. The Hawks topped No.10 **Swansea** 61-30 last week.

**Wren 9-1, 4-0 Region 2-AAA**

The Hurricanes (9-1, 4-0 Region 2-AAA) claimed their first region championship since 2014. There only was a season-opening 42-28 defeat at Daniel, but Wren walloped nonregion and region opponents alike throughout the rest of the season, with the margins of victory ranging between seven and 61 points. The Hurricanes wrapped up the regular season with a 41-21 defeat of region foe and 2025 AAA upper state champion Belton-Honea Path.

Junior **Jacob Owings** led Wren with 1,852 passing yards and 20 touchdowns to two interceptions and rushed 39 times for 236 yards and four scores. Senior **Muntu Brown** is the team's leading rusher with 828 yards and 13 touchdowns on 154 attempts.

Junior **Jack Hughes** is the leading receiver with 35 catches for 793 yards and seven scores. Senior **Caiden Hill** is next on the list with 36 catches for 524 yards and eight TDs.

Senior **Sloan Sanders** has 74 tackles, three for loss, and senior **Jackson Greer** has 71 tackles and four for loss. Junior **Travys Woodard** has 55 tackles, 14 for loss, and five sacks, and senior **JT** Forrester has 54 tackles, 15 for loss, and a team-leading seven sacks.

Wren earned a No.1 seed and a first-round bye, and will play No.8 **Powdersville** Friday. The Patriots made light work of No.9 **Emerald** in a 56-21 victory.

**Bishop England**

The Battling Bishops (9-1, 3-1 Region 5-AAA) finished second to Oceanside Collegiate in the region, as the Landsharks beat them 42-7 Oct. 16. That game was the only bad mark for Bishop England, which went 6-0 before opening region play with a 56-0 drubbing of **North Charleston** Oct. 2.

Junior quarterback **Banks Lutton** leads the BE offense with 1,569 passing yards and 15 touchdowns, as well as 253 rushing yards and three TDs. **William Donato** is a multi-faceted athlete who has passed for 534

See **AAA Football**, pg. **62**

### Current Region Standings

| REGION 1-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DANIEL | 5-0 | 10-0 | 486 | 115 |
| SENECA | 4-1 | 7-4 | 392 | 216 |
| PICKENS | 3-2 | 9-2 | 515 | 222 |
| WALHALLA | 2-3 | 4-7 | 240 | 439 |
| SOUTHSIDE | 1-4 | 3-7 | 130 | 406 |
| BEREA | 0-5 | 0-10 | 100 | 524 |

| REGION 2-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| WREN | 4-0 | 9-1 | 373 | 170 |
| BELTON-HONEA PATH | 3-1 | 6-3 | 196 | 198 |
| POWDERSVILLE | 2-2 | 7-4 | 380 | 219 |
| EMERALD | 1-3 | 6-5 | 418 | 342 |
| PALMETTO | 0-4 | 4-7 | 266 | 312 |

| REGION 3-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CHAPMAN | 4-0 | 10-0 | 414 | 95 |
| BLUE RIDGE | 3-1 | 4-7 | 242 | 313 |
| CHRIST CHURCH | 2-2 | 2-8 | 191 | 202 |
| GETTYS BROOME | 1-3 | 1-9 | 131 | 399 |
| UNION COUNTY | 0-4 | 0-10 | 64 | 437 |

| REGION 4-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAMDEN | 5-0 | 7-2 | 403 | 204 |
| GILBERT | 4-1 | 9-2 | 340 | 215 |
| SWANSEA | 3-2 | 5-6 | 359 | 405 |
| BROOKLAND-CAYCE | 2-3 | 3-7 | 227 | 322 |
| LOWER RICHLAND | 1-4 | 2-8 | 166 | 302 |
| AIRPORT | 0-5 | 2-8 | 186 | 384 |

| REGION 5-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| OCEANSIDE | 4-0 | 6-3 | 309 | 189 |
| BISHOP ENGLAND | 3-1 | 9-1 | 300 | 112 |
| HANAHAN | 2-2 | 9-2 | 388 | 193 |
| GEORGETOWN | 1-3 | 2-8 | 209 | 282 |
| N CHARLESTON | 0-4 | 2-7 | 97 | 382 |

| REGION 6-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LORIS | 5-1 | 8-2 | 458 | 205 |
| HARTSVILLE | 5-1 | 6-3 | 394 | 275 |
| CRESTWOOD | 4-2 | 6-4 | 291 | 187 |
| DARLINGTON | 3-3 | 4-7 | 230 | 286 |
| AYNOR | 2-4 | 6-5 | 273 | 248 |
| ATLANTIC COLL. | 2-4 | 4-7 | 210 | 325 |
| LAKEWOOD | 0-6 | 1-9 | 111 | 394 |

### AAA Football Polls

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Daniel | 6. Camden |
| 2. Chapman | 7. Hartsville |
| 3. Oceanside | 8. BHP |
| 4. Wren | 9. Loris |
| 5. Bishop England | 10. Hanahan |



## Bethesda rolling as they approach semi-finals

**BETHESDA**

**By Jeff Moeller**
**Special Contributor**

**SAVANNAH - Bethesda Academy** linebacker **Troy Graham** is enjoying the ride. A senior who transferred from **Jenkins** played his role prominently with a sack and eight tackles in the Blazers' dominant 47-10 victory over **Trinity Collegiate** in a SCISA Class AAA quarterfinal playoff win on Nov. 6.

Graham was well aware of the landscape surrounding the team after last year's state championship. The Blazers (9-1) will be back home Friday night when they host **Hilton Head Christian Academy** (8-3) in a semifinal matchup.

"We understand where we are right now," said Graham. "This team lost a lot of talent from last year, but there has been a lot of growth throughout the season. We love every minute of it."

It was nearly a carbon copy of the Blazers' 44-10 region championship victory over **First Baptist** in which they had a 14-7 lead at halftime.

This time around, the Blazers also walked into their locker room at halftime with a 14-10 advantage, but that soon ballooned.

It was a night where Bethesda's defensive intensity matched their offensive explosion.

Three plays into the second half, Bethesda had a 22-10 advantage when junior quarterback **Jordan Turner** broke free on a 25-yard touchdown sprint, and **Jeffery Armstrong** followed with a two-point conversion.

Senior cornerback **Mell Flowers** then followed with an interception on Trinity Collegiate's first play after the kickoff.

Flowers' pick quickly wiped any second half momentum for Trinity Collegiate (3-6), who managed just 55 yards of offense in the second half. Titans' quarterback **Isaiah Gee**, who threw for 156 yards and a touchdown in the first half, had four yards passing and two interceptions in the second half.

Trinity Collegiate head coach **Shawn Fagan** understood his team drew a tough assignment despite a decent start.

"We did some good things in the first half," said Fagan. "Isaiah did a good job in moving the ball down the field, but we weren't able to get our running game going.

"They are a very talented and disciplined football team. They marched it right down the field to start the second half, and that set us back. They also made some key defensive plays. We just couldn't get it going."

Flowers' interception proved to be a second-half difference maker, as the Blazers responded with 24 unanswered points down the stretch.

"I saw it coming all the way," said Flowers. "We had a slow first half, but we knew we had to finish strong and not be arrogant. We came out with great intensity.

"We have great chemistry together, and we are ready to go on to states."

Junior corner Shawn Williams quickly ended Trinity Collegiate's next drive when he swiped the ball away from Trinity receiver Andre Jackson Jr. and raced down to the four-yard line.

On the next play, Armstrong, who ran for 88 yards, scooted around the end for his second score and gave the Blazers a 34-10 advantage.

Turner would cap off the game with a 15-yard touchdown strike to **MJ Scott**, and a 10-yard flip to **Zhyri Witcher**. He finished the game completing nine of 11 passes for 124 yards and rushed for 102 yards with a pair of touchdowns.

The junior quarterback was confident that his team would work out some kinks in the first half, but he and his teammates eventually found their mark.

"We didn't play our best game in the first half, but we struck back and did what we did," said Turner. "The coach gave us a great halftime speech by telling us to keep our heads up, and we knew we would be good."

It was just a matter of staying the course.

"We build on momentum, and we all trust each other," added Turner. "We feed off each other."

Turner credited his offensive line for his rushing performance as well as the overall team's showing.

"The line created a lot of holes for us to hit the holes," stated Turner. "Their defense was trying to cover the pass, so we took advantage."

Head coach **Antwain Turner** wasn't concerned about his team's slow start.

"I expect a playoff atmosphere," said Turner. "We have been accustomed to starting fast and finishing strong. Going into the second half, we made some adjustments. At halftime, I didn't yell, I didn't scream. I just told them that we have 24 minutes, and let's do what we set out to do.

The Blazers shut down Trinity lead back **Robert Mack**, who had six yards at halftime and notched most of his 39 yards against the Blazers' second- and third team players.

"He's slippery, but we had 11 hats to the football," added Turner. "If he gets by one guy, there's another guy coming. We have embraced that in practice.

The head coach was impressed with his son running the ball.

"He's a weapon," beamed the elder Turner. "At any time, he can break out. We got some key blocks for him. When the running game is going well, he is able to find the passing zones. The whole game then slows down for him."

Turner also saw plenty of positives from his defense.

"Our defense is very physical," noted Turner. "We can let our presence be known by how hard we're hitting and how fast we are getting to the ball.

"Sometimes, our speed can be deceptive. Our defense can create opportunities for our offense."

Turner doesn't expect many surprises from **Hilton Head Christian Academy**, who the Blazers defeated 30-6 Oct. 9 and have been a staple on their schedule.

HHCA is coming off a 51-21 victory over **Florence Christian**, and they are led by quarterback **Kres Langhals**, who has thrown for over 2,000 yards and ran for more than 700.

"Their quarterback is a weapon, and they will try to throw the ball deep," stated Turner. "They will try to attack us in various ways. They surprised me the first time because they controlled the clock.

"I think they will try to be who they are, and they are a five-vide entity. We have to be ready to stop them again."



# Bulldogs to face defending champs in round two

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Bennettsville –** Marlboro County has had a very good football season in 2026. The Bulldogs can make it a great one with a strong run in the Class AA state playpffs.

Third-year head coach **Cory Johnson** has assembled a talented and veteran team this fall and the Bulldogs have not had a letdown through the first 11 weeks of the season. Marlboro County made an opening statement in week one, posting a 61-20 win over AAAA Myrtle Beach and have not looked back.

The Bulldogs went 9-1 during the regular season. The only loss was a 17-14 decision to Dillon on a last second field goal. The Bulldogs opened the state playoffs with an impressive win over Waccamaw.

The second round game on Nov. 13 will be a much bigger challenge as the Bulldogs travel to defending state AA champion Strom Thurmond. The Rebels also have suffered just one defeat this season and have one of the state's most balanaced teams.

Balance also is a strength for Marlboro County. The Bulldogs are getting solid balance offensive play combined with good defensive teamwork in building their club.

The offense is led by junior quarterback **Tre Blakeney**, the returning starter from last season. Blakeney has been solid with 2,086 passing yards with 13 touchdowns. He also has rushed for 722 yards and 12 scores.

The running game has plenty of depth. Khrishawn Smith has rushed for 818 yards and nine touchdowns while Tehvin Easterling has rushed for 699 yards and 14 touchdowns. Royal Williams has rushed for401 yards as the Bulldogs have rushed for 3,098 yards as a team.

Junior **Mikyl Littles** is one of the leading receiver with 27 catches and 418 yards. **LaQuincy Leach** has 653 yards on 30 catches and Carson Roberts has 30 catches for 668 yards.

Anchoring the defense is senior linebacker **Myjae McCoy**, who had 107 tackles last season. McCoy has more than 60 tackles and was recently selected to play for team South Carolina in the annual Shrine Bowl all-star game against North Carolina on Dec 19. The game will be played at Spartanburg High School.

Other defensive leaders this season include sophomore **Jamarcus Manning** and senior **Jamorie Williams,** who leads the team with 61 tackles, six tackles for loss, and fivee sacks.

**Cleon Purvis** and **Layton Chavis** each have two interceptions early on. Labrice Purvis has four interceptions.

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# Hartsville wrapping up fall sports seasons

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Hartsville –** Hartsville High's fall sports season of 2026 is winding down with only cross country and football yet to complete their respective seasons.

The volleyball team, coached by **Parker Oldham**, recently concluded its season in the AAA state playoffs. Hartsville lost to eventual state champion Oceanside Collegiate in the second-round. The Red Foxes finished the season with a 21-3 record and went 8-2 to finish second in region 6-AAA.region play. Both region losses came to Atlantic Collegiate.

Hartsville won many of their matches with sweeps (3-0) and they received major contributios from several players.

Junio **Hannah Nesseth** is arguably the team's most versatile player. The all-state selection led the team with 315 kills while also posting 220 digs and 36 service aces.

Sister **Sarah Nesseth**, also a junior, had 161 kills, 50 aces and 14 total blocks.

Senior setter **Mya Madaris** had 353 assists, 60 kills, 150 digs and 41 aces, while senior **Ella Smith** has 70 kills, 124 digs and 11 blocks. Freshman **Claire Smith** has 144 assists and 30 aces, and senior **Emma Kate Hudson** has 125 digs and 26 aces.

Other senior contributors include **Stella Smith, Zillie Braddy**, and **Stella Gainey**. Remaining junior contributors are **Chloe Jones, Carley Clements, Stella Beasley, Jema Byrd, Kemdall Watford, and Zoe Gray**.

**Football earns first-round bye**

The Hartsville football team began the 2026 season with a win over Wilson before suffering losses to Camden and West Florence. A game against rival Dillon was canceled due to weather, but the Red Foxes have opened the region schedule with wins over Aynor and Lakewood. Hartsville finished with one region loss and with a 6-3 overall record. They earned a first-round bye in the playoffs and hosted Gilbert in a playoff game on Nov. 13.

See **Hartsville**, pg. **61**

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Saluting the Hartsville Red Foxes!

# Improved BHP opens playoffs against Seneca

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Honea Path** – In its first season under head coach **David Crane**, the **Belton-Honea Path High School** football team stumbled out of the gate a bit. Now it did so against two high-powered teams in **T.L. Hanna** and **Daniel**, but when you're a program that has played for the last two AAA state titles and have lost a combined six games in the four previous seasons, losing the first two is a stumble.

The Bears only lost to Hanna, a AAAA school which is 8-2, 17-14. It was a different story against Daniel, the undefeated top ranked AAA team, according to ***High School Sports Report***. They lost 45-0.

Since that inauspicious start, BHP has won six of its last seven and is ranked eighth in AAA The only loss came to AAA No. 4 Wren 41-21 n a game that decided the Region 2 title.

Belton-Honea Path finished second and got a first-round bye. It will play host to **Seneca** in a second-round game on November 13.

"Overall, I would say we have improved a great deal from where we were at the start of the season, which we kind of felt all along would be the case.," Crane said. "With as much experience as we had lost over the last couple seasons, we had a lot of young or

See **BHP**, pg. **62**



# AA Football Feature




*In 2025, the Strom Thurmond Rebels wore the crown. Can they repeat?*

# Class AA is wide open as many teams could have a shot at gold

**From Staff Reports**

**Moncks Corner**—Without a doubt the Class AA play-offs contain many talented teams all with a chance to compete for the state title at South Carolina State University in early December.

In the second week of the AA playoffs number one rated **Mid-Carolina** will play **Mountain View Prep** in the AA Upper State bracket. The HSSR feels like Mid-Carolina will win and advance.

Also in the upper state AA, **St Joseph's** will face vastly improved **Keenan** and the HSSR rates this contests a toss-up match.

Crescent will compete against a vastly improved Chesnee team in the upper state AA bracket this week and the **HSSR** gives the edge to **Crescent** in this one.

In the final Upper State AA playoff match Southside Christian will be without the services of RB **Michael Martin** who transferred from **Christ Church** after the 2026 season started and he is not eligible to play in the playoffs via SCHSL rule. Because of this fact we feel like **Clinton** will pull a mild upset in the game and advance.

In the lower state AA bracket, it is "Katie Bar The Door" with so many *HSSR* ranked AA teams competing each other this week. Right off the bat we favor number two ranked **Dillon** (8-1) to win a very close game over **Manning**, a region foe the Wildcats defeated during the regular season. Then you have 5th ranked **Marlboro County** competing against number four **Strom Thurmond** this week and this could be the game of the night in AA. The *HSSR* feels that Strom Thurmond will win a close game over the Bulldogs and advance.

Number seven ranked **Woodland** (9-2) lost to region foe **Phillip Simmons** (32-29) during the regular season and the costly error to the Wolverines in that game was the center snapping the ball over their punters head into the end zone that resulted in a late score by Philip Simmons that won the game. (Have to say ouch to that mistake!). The *HSSR* feels like Woodland is going on the road and will win this game in a close battle to advance.



*Woodland's Jervaze Salley*

Then you have number three ranked **Saluda** hosting **Orangeburg-Wilkinson** this week. The HSSR feels like Saluda will win this highly competitive game and advance.

There are going to be a lot of great games played amongst AA team sin round two of the playoffs. The fans of these teams are going to witness some of the best football played in the state this week.

## AA Football Polls

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Mid-Carolina | 6. Southside Chr. |
| 2. Dillon | 7. Woodland |
| 3. Saluda | 8. Crescent |
| 4. Strom Thurmond | 9. Philip Simmons |
| 5. Marlboro County | 10. Clinton |

## Current Region Standings

| REGION 1-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CRESCENT | 5-0 | 9-2 | 452 | 168 |
| ST. JOSEPH | 4-1 | 9-2 | 475 | 202 |
| LIBERTY | 3-2 | 5-6 | 305 | 336 |
| PENDLETON | 2-3 | 5-6 | 262 | 345 |
| CAROLINA | 1-4 | 2-8 | 111 | 343 |
| WEST-OAK | 0-5 | 4-6 | 236 | 316 |

| REGION 2-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOUTHSIDE CHR | 5-0 | 8-2 | 397 | 145 |
| CHESNEE | 3-2 | 8-3 | 489 | 305 |
| CLINTON | 3-2 | 7-4 | 418 | 299 |
| MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP | 3-2 | 5-5 | 340 | 320 |
| WOODRUFF | 1-4 | 4-7 | 373 | 412 |
| LANDRUM | 0-5 | 3-7 | 191 | 353 |

| REGION 3-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MID CAROLINA | 5-0 | 10-0 | 370 | 115 |
| W J KEENAN | 4-1 | 9-2 | 393 | 249 |
| NEWBERRY | 3-2 | 4-7 | 294 | 334 |
| CHESTER | 2-3 | 4-7 | 258 | 374 |
| ANDREW JACKSON | 1-4 | 4-7 | 207 | 284 |
| COLUMBIA | 0-5 | 1-9 | 134 | 445 |

| REGION 4-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SALUDA | 5-0 | 8-2 | 473 | 216 |
| STROM THURMOND | 4-1 | 10-1 | 453 | 118 |
| ORANGEBURG-WILK. | 3-2 | 8-2 | 415 | 166 |
| SILVER BLUFF | 2-3 | 4-7 | 215 | 380 |
| PELION | 1-4 | 3-7 | 180 | 293 |
| ALA-LEXINGTON | 0-5 | 2-8 | 80 | 399 |

| REGION 5-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PHILIP SIMMONS | 5-0 | 8-3 | 452 | 271 |
| WOODLAND | 4-1 | 10-2 | 410 | 192 |
| BATTERY CREEK | 3-2 | 8-3 | 335 | 199 |
| LAKE MARION | 2-3 | 5-5 | 142 | 224 |
| TIMBERLAND | 1-4 | 3-7 | 152 | 300 |
| ACADEMIC MAGNET | 0-5 | 4-7 | 312 | 329 |

| REGION 6-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DILLON | 5-0 | 8-1 | 329 | 136 |
| MARLBORO CTY | 4-1 | 10-1 | 435 | 136 |
| MANNING | 3-2 | 6-5 | 294 | 288 |
| WACCAMAW | 2-3 | 4-7 | 171 | 297 |
| EAST CLARENDON | 1-4 | 3-7 | 202 | 250 |
| LAKE CITY | 0-5 | 2-8 | 138 | 318 |

# Class A Football Feature

## Griffins chasing first state title since 1997

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Correspondent**

**Winnsboro – Fairfield Central's** mission is precise: Get through its quadrant to reach SCHSL Class A Division I football's semifinals.

Then, reach the state championship game and hopefully win its first state title since 1997.

But first, head coach **Demetrius Davis'** Griffins will host **Whale Branch** in Friday's first round at 7:30 p.m.

"We had a pretty good season; we were able to go 10-0," said Coach Davis in quite an understatement. "But now, you don't get rollover minutes in the playoffs – whether you're 10-0 or 5-5. Right now, everybody enters the playoffs at 0-0.

"It only takes one bad night, and the season is over," he added. "So, we'll work on us. We'll work on the little things and pay attention to details. And, hopefully, we'll win our game each week."

One key will be first-year starter **Kamauri Jones** at quarterback. He passed for 1,960 yards and 17 touchdowns.

"He matriculated through the program, from junior varsity to varsity, and he has really been the engine that keeps us going," said coach Davis. "He does a good job distributing the ball. I think he's one of the better quarterbacks in the state, but not many have seen him play since he's a first-year starter. But once you see him, you'll realize he's a big-time quarterback."

Obviously, Jones has talented receivers. One of them is Shrine Bowler and Gardner-Webb commit **Ty'Quarius Shannon** (35 catches for 828 yards, 12 TDs) and another is **Scott Young** (33, 686, six scores).

"(Shannon) is a big-play threat and he can really stretch the field," said Coach Davis. "And when defenders take him away, we have Scott, and they both have done such a good job at catching the ball."

Running backs, meanwhile, are **Kenyan Douglas** (872 yards, 14 TDs) and **Wayne Johnson** (336, 12).

"(Douglas) is a fast-running back who is also a nice-sized running back," said Coach Davis. "He not only runs the ball well, but he protects well. He's a major part of the offense as well.

"He's also a North-South all-star."

Davis also had great things to say about Johnson.

"Wayne is also our starting linebacker," said Coach Davis. "He also does a good job of coming in and running the football well for us."

The offensive line is made of **Germayel Murphy, Antron Woodard, Marcus Wadlington, Grant Bredon** and **Yusuf Muhammad.**

"(Murphy and Woodard) do a good job together," said Coach Davis. "This is Germayel's second year playing football; we convinced him to play as a junior, and now he has started for us for 20-something straight games. And (Woodard) is a great at center, doing a good job getting us where we need to be."

The defensive line **includes Kingston Peay, Murphy, and Logan Watkins**. And the starting linebackers are **Johnson, Cayden Donaldson, Joey Jamison,** and **Chris Perry-Jenty.**

"We are pretty much senior driven at linebacker," said Coach Davis.

The secondary includes **Kaylin Culp** (offered by Coastal Carolina as a freshman), **Martez Harrison, Lorenzo Cole,** and Spur **Josiah Siebles.**

"We're not very big at that position, our players are tough and fast," said Coach Davis.

Now, it's time to look at some of the possibly compelling playoff matchups this coming week in Class A Divisions I and II.

**DIVISION I**

**LATTA 6-4) at CHERAW (7-3)**

Both teams received first-round byes in Quadrant 1.

Key players for the Braves include quarterback **Kobi McDonald** (1,439 passing yards, 13 TDs), running back **Darryl Hersey** (856 yards, 10 TDs) and receiver **Nick Gordon** (853 yards, 8 touchdowns).

Key players for the Vikings, meanwhile, include running back **Kayden Rogers** (1,346 yards, 12 scores) and **Josiah Durant** (79 tackles, two interceptions).

This will be their first football matchup since September 22, 2023, when Latta won 28-14.

**BATESBURG-LEESVILLE (6-4) AT NINETY-SIX (6-4):**

Once again, both teams had byes last week. Considering their seedings, this could be an interesting game down the stretch. B-L won 49-14 over the Wildcats during the 2025 regular season.

**NORTH CENTRAL (4-6) AT HAMPTON COUNTY (8-2)**

Hampton County has won five straight games, including a 21-14 triumph to end the regular season against Hardeeville. The Knights, meanwhile, have lost 2 in a row after winning 3 in a row before that.

This will be their first football matchup ever.

**WHALE BRANCH (3-6) AT FAIRFIELD CENTRAL (10-0)**

Whale Branch has won its past two games, including a 53-0 decision to end the regular season against **Allendale-Fairfax**. But visiting the homefield of a formidable Fairfield Central squad could prove daunting.

**DIVISION II**

**CALHOUN COUNTY (6-4) AT C.A. JOHNSON (7-3)**

Continuing the trend, both teams had byes last week. Calhoun County has won two in a row, and the Green Hornets have won four in a row since losing 56-18 against B-L in early October.

**H-K-T (4-5) AT WAGENER-SALLEY (7-3)**

Both teams are coming off byes. The Trojans won four straight games before losing 44-8 to

See **Class A Football**, pg. **31**

### Class A Div. 1 Football Polls

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Fairfield Central | 6. Cheraw |
| 2. Bamberg-Ehr. | 7. Central |
| 3. Abbeville | 8. Batesburg-Lees. |
| 4. Hampton Co. | 9. Latta |
| 5. Carvers Bay | 10. Ninety-Six |

### Class A Div. 2 Football Polls

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Blackville-Hilda | 6. Johnsonville |
| 2. Cross | 7. Hardeeville |
| 3. Lake View | 8. CA Johnson |
| 4. Lamar | 9. Calhoun Co. |
| 5. Scott's Branch | 10. Wagener-Salley |

### Current Region Standings

| REGION 1-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABBEVILLE | 6-0 | 8-2 | 396 | 104 |
| NINETY-SIX | 5-1 | 6-4 | 314 | 248 |
| DIXIE | 4-2 | 4-7 | 257 | 242 |
| MCCORMICK | 3-3 | 3-7 | 200 | 279 |
| CALHOUN FALLS | 2-4 | 3-7 | 212 | 335 |
| WARE SHOALS | 1-5 | 2-8 | 106 | 406 |
| THORNWELL | 0-6 | 0-9 | 76 | 405 |

| REGION 2-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BATESBURG-LEES. | 5-0 | 6-5 | 368 | 231 |
| C A JOHNSON | 4-1 | 7-3 | 416 | 231 |
| EAU CLAIRE | 3-2 | 6-4 | 308 | 267 |
| CLEAR DOT CHARTER | 2-3 | 4-7 | 206 | 282 |
| RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA | 1-4 | 4-7 | 258 | 497 |
| WHITMIRE | 0-5 | 3-8 | 252 | 400 |

| REGION 3-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FAIRFIELD CENTRAL | 4-0 | 10-0 | 450 | 81 |
| LEWISVILLE | 3-1 | 3-8 | 263 | 354 |
| BLACKSBURG | 2-2 | 5-5 | 188 | 291 |
| BUFORD | 1-3 | 3-7 | 141 | 325 |
| GREAT FALLS | 0-4 | 1-9 | 142 | 279 |

| REGION 4-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BLACKVILLE-HILDA | 4-0 | 9-1 | 420 | 99 |
| HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER | 3-1 | 4-5 | 168 | 294 |
| CALHOUN COUNTY | 2-2 | 6-4 | 278 | 161 |
| WAGENER-SALLEY | 1-3 | 7-3 | 394 | 184 |
| BARNWELL | 0-4 | 2-9 | 160 | 384 |

| REGION 5-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CENTRAL | 5-1 | 9-1 | 434 | 161 |
| LAMAR | 5-1 | 8-2 | 321 | 137 |
| CHERAW | 5-1 | 7-3 | 317 | 195 |
| NORTH CENTRAL | 3-3 | 4-6 | 206 | 257 |
| LEE CENTRAL | 2-4 | 7-4 | 319 | 233 |
| CHESTERFIELD | 1-5 | 2-8 | 138 | 288 |
| MCBEE | 0-6 | 1-9 | 66 | 352 |

| REGION 6-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BAMBERG-EHR | 5-0 | 9-1 | 458 | 75 |
| SCOTTS BRANCH | 4-1 | 7-2 | 321 | 178 |
| BRANCHVILLE | 2-3 | 6-5 | 288 | 287 |
| DENMARK-OLAR | 2-3 | 5-6 | 196 | 261 |
| EDISTO | 2-3 | 3-8 | 132 | 329 |
| BETHUNE-BOWMAN | 0-5 | 2-9 | 42 | 417 |

| REGION 7-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HAMPTON COUNTY | 4-0 | 7-3 | 305 | 123 |
| HARDEEVILLE | 3-1 | 7-3 | 254 | 171 |
| WHALE BRANCH | 2-2 | 3-6 | 133 | 235 |
| RIDGELAND | 1-3 | 2-8 | 156 | 273 |
| ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX | 0-4 | 2-8 | 64 | 308 |

| REGION 8-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CROSS | 4-0 | 5-4 | 277 | 23 |
| BAPTIST HILL | 3-1 | 7-4 | 421 | 198 |
| MILITARY MAGNET | 2-2 | 2-8 | 118 | 455 |
| ST. JOHNS | 1-3 | 2-7 | 174 | 326 |
| BURKE | 0-4 | 0-9 | 48 | 461 |

| REGION 9-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARVERS BAY | 5-0 | 9-1 | 335 | 78 |
| JOHNSONVILLE | 4-1 | 8-2 | 333 | 168 |
| ANDREWS | 3-2 | 3-8 | 186 | 293 |
| HANNAH-PAMPLICO | 2-3 | 2-8 | 181 | 366 |
| KINGSTREE | 1-4 | 3-7 | 176 | 242 |
| HEMINGWAY | 0-5 | 1-9 | 60 | 453 |

| REGION 10-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAKE VIEW | 4-0 | 9-1 | 406 | 199 |
| LATTA | 3-1 | 6-4 | 280 | 232 |
| MARION | 2-2 | 4-7 | 198 | 335 |
| GREEN SEA-FLOYDS | 1-3 | 5-6 | 300 | 351 |
| MULLINS | 0-4 | 1-9 | 112 | 326 |



## Panthers football refocusing for playoff run

**By Roger Lee**

**Summerville** – After suffering a loss in its final game of the regular season, **Pinewood Prep** got back on track with a playoff victory.

The **Panthers** improved to 9-2 on the season with a first-round victory over visiting **Ben Lippen** Nov. 6. Their only losses of the season came to **Northwood Academy** by a 44-43 score in overtime Oct. 9 and to **Porter-Gaud** by a 31-21 margin Oct. 30.

"We've been very up and down, but our losses have taught us a lesson," said Pinewood Prep coach **DeVonte Holloman**. "We have to be able to finish games. In both losses we were up almost three scores. We just can't beat ourselves and do silly things. Now we showed we are capable of getting back to what we had been doing."

Pinewood defeated Ben Lippen 49-21.

Quarterback **Silas Brawner** completed 14 of 19 pass attempts for 211 yards and four TDs. **Lavoris Lucas** led all receivers with eight receptions for 148 yards and three TDs.

Pinewood running back **Jeremy Kendall** rushed for 158 yards and a touchdown. Senior **Grayson Salego** rushed for 46 yards and a TD.

"We had a really disappointing loss last week and haven't been finishing the big games," Holloman said. "Tonight we went up big early and preached in the locker room at halftime to keep going and the boys did just that."

Brawner has already thrown for more than 3,000 yards and 40 touchdowns this season. Lucas and **Tre Green** both have more than 1,000 receiving yards and more than 15 TDs.

Kendall has approximately 800 rushing yards and nine TDs. Salego has nearly 700 rushing yards and eight TDs. Lucus also has three rushing TDs.

**Nathan Good** is the Panthers' leading tackler with 77 tackles including 30 solo stops and 4.5 tackles for a loss. **Mason Summers**, **Jayden Parrott** and **Jacob Sweet** all have more than 40 tackles.

**Gavin Spell**, Sumners and Sweet are the team's sack leaders with a combined 26. **Harrison Reynolds**, **Mikey Williams** and **Tyler Harper** all have two or more interceptions.

Pinewood plays at Northwood Academy Nov. 13 for a rematch in the second round of the **SCISA football playoffs**.

The teams both won a state championship last season, Northwood the 4A title and Pinewood the 3A title, so when the cross-town rivals first met this season expectations were high. Fans weren't disappointed Oct. 9 as the rivals duked it out at Pinewood until the **Chargers** finally rallied to claim a 44-43 overtime win.



*Photo by Roger Lee*
*Lavoris Lucas is one of Pinewood Prep's top weapons this season.*

Pinewood moved up to 4A this season, making that October win even more important. Their November game will decide which squad is eliminated from the playoffs and which gets the opportunity to continue chasing a 4A championship.

**Swimming**

Pinewood had some success at the SCISA 4A state swim meet.

**Marlie Crosby** placed third in the 100 Breast and fourth in the 200 IM. **Barbara Hackett** was just behind in the 200 IM, placing fourth. Hackett also placed fifth in the 100 Fly. **Ari Perry** placed sixth in both the 500 Free and 100 Back. **Gardner Leigh Parvin** placed 10th in the 500 Free. **Mariam Abed** placed ninth in the 100 Fly.

Abed, Hackett, Perry and Crosby also helped the Pinewood 200 Free Relay team place third. The Pinewood 400 Free Relay team also placed third. The Pinewood 200 Medley Relay team placed second.

## Porter Gaud volleyball ascends back to the top

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Charleston –** After four years since their last championship, **Porter-Gaud** won the SCISA Class AAAA state championship with a 3-0 sweep of four-time defending state champion Cardinal Newman,

Porter-Gaud is no stranger to state championships. Their win on Oct. 27 marked the eighth title for head coach **Megan Crouch**. Crouch also was an assistant on three state championship teams.

But, it had been since 2021 when the Cyclones last won a title and Crouch says it was time for a return to top of the mountain.

"I have known this group of girls for a long time and have watched them grow together," Crouch said. "Knowing their determination, I knew we had a great opportunity this year, but you never know. This team showed incredible focus and came to work and improve every day. They deserved to be state champions."

Porter-Gaud had just one senior, libero **Kylie Pure**, Junior **Malaya Singletary** led the team with nearly 500 kills, and sophomore **Eliza Coker** had more than 300 kills, Junior **Harriett Matenaer** had more than 700 assists as the setter.

"We should return most of this team so our goals will be to repeat," Crouch said. "As we found out the last few years, it's not easy. We have to enjoy this one but then get back to work and shoot for another one."

**Howell wins gold at state cross country meet**

Porter-Gaud senior **Morgan Howell** won her third consecutive gold medal in cross country, winning the 2026 championship at the state meet. How-

See **Porter Gaud**, pg. **61**

## Hurricanes notch eight regular season wins

**By David Shelton'**
**Senior Writer**

**James Island** – Anytime a new coach takes over a struggling football program, the new coach wants immediate success. That doesn't always happen.

The growing process can take a few years but in the new age of transfers,, coaches can rebuild programs a lot faster than before.

**Kevin Mapp** inherited the program at First Baptist prior to the 2025 season. With drastically low numbers, the Hurricanes struggled to find meaningful success. But Mapp had a plan.

Aided by an influx of talented transfers, Mapp was able to reshape and remold his roster this fall. The result was a regular season that saw the Hurricanes win eight games and qualify for the state playoffs.

First Baptist opened the SCISA state AAA playoffs against Northside Christian on Nov. 6 and came away with the win. A win on Nov. 13 would put First Baptist in the state championship game.

Onne of the key transfers to the roster is junior quarterback **Gibbs Isom**. Isom passed for 1,919 yards and 23 touchdowns during the regular season.

Another transfer is running back **Derrick Porter**, who leads the team in rushing with 1,079 yards and 19 touchdowns.

The team's leading receiver through the regular season is **Joshua Bradley** with 33 receptions for 774 yards and five touchdowns. **Darnell Gadsen** has 29 receptions for 484 yard

The girls tennis team has concluded its season. The team members included **Alyssia Gibson, Anson Crady, Eloise Shayda, Grace Schaffer and Kessler Domresse.**

See **First Baptist**, pg. **61**

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# Holly Hill Academy concludes fall sports

**By David Shelton**
**Semior Writer**

**Holly Hill** – In some cases, success was hard to come by during the fall sports campaign at **Holly Hill Academy** in 2026.

While there were victories and positive accomplishments along the way, it can be said that the future would appear to brighter than the present.

The volleyball program may be on the edge of big things after putting together back-to-back winning seasons with a bevy of underclassmen. The Raiders were 13-7 a year ago and finished with a 14-9 record this season. They qualified for the SCISA state playoff tournament as well.

Coaach **Dani Kern** had some seniors on the roster but a lot of underclassmen played a key role this season. Eighth-grader **Tinsley Kern**, the coach's daughter, proved to be one of the state's top up and comers this fall. Kern led the Raiders with 201 kills while also compiling 153 defensive digs and 272 assists

Junior **Lucy Oliver** finished the season with 50 kills and sophomore **Caitlyn Crisp** recorded 139 digs. Sophomore **Bailey Stanley** had 117 assists and 87 digs.

Other underclassmen on the roster included sophomore **Ariel Stanley**, **freshman MK Prescott**, freshman **Ashlynn Bouquet**, and junior **Alli Thomas**.

Seniors **Essie Wolpert, Kaylee Cuttino** and **Kloie Mizell** were leaders on the team. Mizell tallied 130 kills and 67 digs while Wolpert added 90 kills.

The football team made the jump from eight-man football to traditional 11-man football. The program was a dominant force in eight-man but found 11-man tough to adjust to. The Raiders finished with a 2-9 record this fall.

Senior running back **Parker Kizer** wrapped up his amazing career by rushing for 1,000 yards this season. He rushed for mote than5,000 yards over the last three seasons.

Freshman **Mason Green** gained valuable experience at quarterback this fall, and junior **Tyler Gree**n was the team's top receiver and leading tackler on defense. Green had 93 tackles and 11 tackles for loss.

**Zack Weatherford, JP McGriff and Christian Stephens** also rated among the top tacklers this season.

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# It's on to semifinals for Clarendon Hall football

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Summerton** – At this time a year ago, **Shane Wallace** really didn't have the words to describe his first season as the football head coach at **Clarendon Hall**. The Saints went 0-10, extending a losing streak to 21 games, and were outscored 439-59.

Now?

Clarendon Hall owns a 5-6 record and is coming off of a 34-0 win over **Thomas Heyward Academy** in the first round of the SCISA Class A state playoffs. They are preparing to go on the road and face Dorchester Academy in a semifinal game on November 13.

Wallace has plenty to say now.

"It's awesome. Me and my wife were talking about it this morning," he said. "we're going to the second round after not winning a game last year. We've been trying to right the ship and I feel like we've almost got it."

The Saints face a tall task going up against Dorchester. The Raiders are 9-2 after beating **Carolina Academy** 55-6 in the first round. The No. 1 team in the ***High School Sports Report*** Class A rankings, Dorchester beat Clarendon Hall 60-16 during the regular season.

Wallace believes the Saints are better now than they were for the September 18 meeting. He is asking for maximum effort from his players and to see where the chips fall.

"We want to win each play, one play at a time," Wallace said. "That's what we're trying to do. We want to go out and give our best that play. We want to win one play at a time, and I need all 11 of them to give it to me."

Clarendon Hall is a run-heavy team with 280 rushes compared to just 141 passes going into the playoffs. Getting most of the carries is junior **Andrew Pritcher**. He had rushed for 1,114 yards and 13 touchdowns on 139 carries going into the playoffs

Junior **Talon Dymond** had 136 yards and two touchdowns on 33 carries.

"We live and die on running the ball," Wallace said. "The great thing about that is they know that's what we're going to do, so they try to stuff the middle. That allows me to throw the ball.

"The offensive line has made some of the biggest improvements. It was a major weakness last year, and it has come a long way this season."

Junior quarterback Joey Hatchell has thrown for 778 yards and six touchdowns, hitting on 60 of 138 attempts.

"Joey has just become a brilliant young man," Wallace said. "He manages the game very well. We call plays together. I ask what he feels when he comes and talks to me. He gets smarter and smarter with each play. He can tell me what's going on on the field. He's seeing things he used to not see."

Freshman **Jack Wyatt Reynolds** is his top target with 18 receptions for 134 yards. Sophomore **TJ Youn**g is the big play receiver with his 15 catches going for 347 yares and three TDs. Senior **Cole Richburg** has eight grabs for 112 yards and one TD.

Defensively, Clarendon Hall has Thoams He3yward's number. The Saints beat THA 27-0 in the season opener, their only other shutout.

"Our defense bent, but didn't break," Wallace said. "We scored a little bit and that made up for it. I'm proud of them and the way they played."

The leading tackler was junior **Caleb Poplin** with 53 stops. Pritcher was next with 43 tackles. Reynolds had a team high four tackles for loss among his 26 stops. Young also had 26 tackles to go along with three TFLs.

Hatchell has been a standout in the secondary with five interceptions.

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# SCISA Football Feature

## SCISA coming down to the wire

**BY: Gerald Doolittle**

**Goose Creek, S.C. -** At this writing on 11/4 the **South Carolina Independent Schools Association** 2026 Football Playoffs in five classifications will start with 40 schools fighting for Titles.

**Northwood Academy** (8-2) will try to defend their **Class 4-A** title and **W.W. King Academy** (8-1) will try to defend their 8-Man title. Class **3-A, 2-A** and **1-A** will crown new Champions as their 2025 champs all moved up in Classification.

**Pinewood Prep** (8-2) last year's 3-A winner is now in 4-A. **Bethesda Academy** (7-1) last year's 2-A winner is now in 3-A. **Williamsburg Academy** (8-1) last year's winner is now in 2-A.

**Hammond** (10-0) will be trying to reclaim the **4-A** title. **Northwood Academy** (8-2) and Pinewood Prep (8-2) will be strong contenders. **Ben Lippen** (6-3), **Laurence Manning** (6-3) and **Porter-Gaud** (6-4) come in as spoilers. **Augusta Christian** (5-5) and **Heathwood Hall** (5-5) would love to pull sneak attacks on Hammond and Northwood Academy.

**Class 3-A** is now wide open for the taking. Bethesda Academy (7-1), **First Baptist** (8-2) and **Northside Christian** (8-2) are the top three contenders. **Florence Christian** (7-3), **Wilson Hall** (7-3) **and Hilton Head Christian** (7-3) will try to stop the top three. **Spartanburg Christian** (4-6) and **Trinity** (3-5) would love to be the big spoilers.

**Class 2-A** is also wide open for the taking. **Colleton Prep** (10-1), Williamsburg Academy (8-1) and **Calhoun Academy** (9-2) are the top three contenders. **Greenwood Christian** (7-3), **Patrick Henry Academy** (6-3) and **Pee Dee Academy** (6-4) will work hard to win over the top tier teams. **Orangeburg Prep** (3-7) and **Cross Schools** (3-7) would love to be spoilers.

**Class 1-A** will have all eight schools in the playoffs. **Dorchester Academy** (8-2) and **Dillon Christian** (8-2) were the only two teams with winning records. **Clarendon Hall** (4-6) and **Thomas Heyward** (4-6) are the second tier contenders. **Beaufort Academy** (3-7), **Lee Academy** (3-7), **Holly Hill Academy** (2-8) and **Carolina Academy** (1-8) all will work hard to be competitive.

The **8-Man** playoffs will have **Jefferson Davis Academy** (11-0), **W. W. King Academy** (8-1) and **Laurens Academy** (8-1) in the top tier of contenders. **Newberry Academy** (5-4) and **Richard Winn** (5-5) with a few breaks could be spoilers. **Wardlaw Academy** (2-7), **Andrew Jackson** (2-8) and **Cambridge Academy** (2-8) will work hard to be competitive.

**The top 15 SCISA rushing stars are : Isaiah Scott-Palacious (Greenwood Chr.) 1713 yds, Jordan Blackmon (Dillon Chr.) 1541 yds, Reed Almers (Dorchester) 1529 yds, Marquel Williams (Jefferson Davis) 1522 yds, Joseph Morse (W W King) 1335 yds, Landen Olson (Lee Academy) 1193 yds, Kai Sobey( Patrick Henry) 1123 yds, Andrew Pritcher (Clarendon Hall) 1114 yds, Parker Kizer (Holly Hill) 1000 yds, Caleb Hardy (Laurens Ac.) 905 yds, Michael Polite (Northwood) 847 yds, Cale Owens (Colleton Prep) 823 yds, Jordan Turner (Bethesda) 821 yds, Mills Wallace (Dillon Chr.) 777 yds, Judson Martin (Pee Dee) 743 yds.**

**The top 15 SCISA Quarterbacks are: Silas Brawner (Pinewood) 2841 yds, Cam Werntz (Porter-Gaud) 2532 yds, Cale Owens (Colleton Prep) 2116 yds, Ethan Collins (Laurens) 1996 yds, Kres Langhals (Hilton Head Chr) 1879 yds, Kevin Johnson (Northwood) 1770 yds, Gibbs Isom (First Baptist) 1728 yds, Jordan Blackmon (Dillon Chr) 1580 yds, Cade Amell (Hammond) 1543 yds, Harris Janik (Augusta Chr.) 1436 yds, Jordan Turner (Bethesda) 1352 yds, Cholly Williams (Orangeburg Prep) 1257 yds, Caden Morris (Williamsburg) 1202 yds, Carter Beeks (Dorchester) 1179 yds, Tyler Mapes (Cambridge) 1010 yds.**

**The top 10 SCISA pass receivers are: Amir Chisolm (Porter-Gaud) 1151yds, Tre Green (Pinewood) 1013 yds, Lavoris Lucas (Pinewood) 921 yds, Drew Wolfe (Northwood) 891 yds, Wilson Yarborough (Porter-Gaud) 848 yds, Joshua Bradley (First Baptist) 779 yds, Jimmele Smith (Ben Lippen) 781 yds, Caleb Hardy (Laurens) 736 yds, Thomas Corbett (Colleton Prep) 726 yds, Gentry Phillips (Cambridge) 723 yds.**

**The top 10 SCISA leaders in tackles made are: Luke Sobey (Patrick Henry) 115, Allen Chisolm (Porter-Gaud) 110, Jake Harrington (Jefferson Davis) 106, Jacob Bussey (W W King) 103, Mac Strickland (Orangeburg Prep) 103, Stone Porter (Ben Lippen) 103, Beanie Brown (Porter-Gaud) 99, Caleb Hardy (Laurens) 94, Tyer Green (Holly Hill) 83 and Jensen Tarver (Laurens) 83.**

### SCISA AAAA Football Polls

1. Hammond
2. Northwood Academy
3. Pinewood Prep
4. Porter-Gaud
5. Laurence Manning
6. Ben Lippen

### SCISA AAA Football Polls

1. Bethesda Academy
2. First Baptist
3. Wilson Hall
4. Hilton Head Christian
5. Florence Christian
6. Northside Christian

### SCISA AA Football Polls

1. Colleton Prep
2. Williamsburg
3. Calhoun Academy
4. Pee Dee Academy
5. Greenwood Christian
6. Patrick Henry

### SCISA A Football Polls

1. Dorchester Academy
2. Dillon Christian
3. Clarendon Hall
4. Beaufort Academy
5. Thomas Heyward
6. Lee Academy

### SCISA 8-Man Football Polls

1. Jefferson Davis
2. WW King Academy
3. Laurens Academy
4. Newberry Academy
5. Richard Winn Academy
6.. Wardlaw Academy

### Current Region Standings

| SCISA 1-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HAMMOND | 4-0 | 11-0 | 480 | 72 |
| BEN LIPPEN | 2-2 | 6-4 | 281 | 203 |
| HEATHWOOD HALL | 2-2 | 5-6 | 244 | 245 |
| AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN | 1-3 | 5-6 | 225 | 333 |
| CARDINAL NEWMAN | 0-4 | 3-8 | 86 | 365 |
| CAMDEN MILITARY | XXX | 0-7 | 40 | 306 |

| SCISA 2-AAAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NORTHWOOD ACAD | 4-0 | 9-2 | 361 | 227 |
| PINEWOOD PREP | 2-2 | 9-2 | 488 | 257 |
| LAURENCE MANNING | 2-2 | 6-4 | 327 | 212 |
| PORTER-GAUD | 2-2 | 7-4 | 269 | 142 |
| JOHN PAUL II | 0-4 | 2-8 | 220 | 353 |

| SCISA 1-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| WILSON HALL | 5-0 | 8-3 | 337 | 264 |
| FLORENCE CHRIST | 4-1 | 7-4 | 310 | 248 |
| NORTHSIDE CHRIST | 3-2 | 8-3 | 369 | 233 |
| TRINITY COLL | 2-3 | 3-6 | 227 | 263 |
| SPARTANBURG CHR | 1-4 | 4-7 | 269 | 376 |
| THOMAS SUMTER | 0-5 | 2-7 | 204 | 298 |

| SCISA 2-AAA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BETHESDA ACADEMY | 3-0 | 8-1 | 381 | 112 |
| FIRST BAPTIST | 2-1 | 9-2 | 452 | 208 |
| HILTON HEAD CHR | 1-2 | 8-3 | 409 | 281 |
| HILTON HEAD PREP | 0-3 | 1-9 | 73 | 394 |

| SCISA 1-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| COLLETON PREP | 4-0 | 11-1 | 473 | 164 |
| CALHOUN ACADEMY | 3-1 | 10-2 | 525 | 196 |
| PATRICK HENRY | 2-2 | 6-4 | 264 | 263 |
| CROSS SCHOOLS | 1-3 | 3-8 | 274 | 355 |
| ST. JOHNS CHRIST | 0-4 | 1-9 | 133 | 388 |

| SCISA 2-AA | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| WILLIAMSBURG | 4-0 | 9-1 | 370 | 102 |
| PEE DEE ACADEMY | 3-1 | 7-4 | 337 | 259 |
| GREENWOOD CHR | 2-2 | 7-4 | 378 | 274 |
| ORANGEBURG PREP | 1-3 | 3-8 | 202 | 377 |
| SPARTANBURG DAY | 0-4 | 1-9 | 59 | 322 |

| SCISA 1-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DILLON CHRISTIAN | 3-0 | 9-2 | 513 | 131 |
| CLARENDON HALL | 2-1 | 5-6 | 265 | 361 |
| LEE ACADEMY | 1-2 | 3-8 | 171 | 359 |
| CAROLINA ACADEMY | 0-3 | 1-9 | 90 | 346 |

| SCISA 2-A | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DORCHESTER ACAD | 3-0 | 9-2 | 460 | 174 |
| THOMAS HEYWARD | 2-1 | 4-7 | 124 | 267 |
| BEAUFORT ACAD | 1-2 | 4-7 | 229 | 344 |
| HOLLY HILL ACAD | 0-3 | 2-9 | 112 | 414 |

| SCISA 8-MAN REG. 1 | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| JEFFERSON DAVIS | 4-0 | 12-0 | 477 | 78 |
| W W KING | 3-1 | 9-1 | 350 | 68 |
| WARDLAW | 2-2 | 2-8 | 155 | 406 |
| ANDREW JACKSON | 1-3 | 2-9 | 174 | 340 |
| COMMUNITY CHRIST | 0-4 | 1-9 | 46 | 350 |

| SCISA 8-MAN REG. 2 | REG | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAURENS ACAD | 2-1 | 9-1 | 394 | 141 |
| NEWBERRY ACAD | 2-1 | 6-4 | 344 | 210 |
| RICHARD WINN | 2-1 | 5-6 | 246 | 287 |
| CAMBRIDGE ACAD | 0-3 | 2-9 | 173 | 464 |

| SCISA 8-MAN INDEPENDENTS | ALL | OFF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|
| CATHEDRAL ACADEMY | 7-3 | 270 | 223 |
| KING'S ACADEMY | 4-5 | 174 | 211 |
| PALMETTO CHRISTIAN | 4-5 | 281 | 283 |

# DILLON HIGH SCHOOL

## Wildcats preparing to play Manning in 2nd round

**By Billy G. Baker**
**Publisher**

**Dillon—Dillon** (8-1) closed out the regular season with a 29-13 region win over **East Clarendon** on October, 30 and the number two AA ranked Wildcats drew a first-round bye in the AA playoffs last week.

Dillon will face region foe **Manning High** for the second time this season when they host the Monarchs on November, 13. Dillon defeated Manning (37-22) on October, 16 in a very competitive game.

"It is certainly a challenge playing any team twice in the same season, especially a team like Manning," said Dillon head coach **Kelvin Roller**. "Manning presents a big challenge because they are well coached and they have some big, physical athletes who can beat you in numerous ways.

"I think the best thing about the bye week was having a chance to get some of our injured and dinged up athletes a chance to heal," said Coach Roller. "Like we said early on this season we have a number of skilled guys at WR and RB capable of making big plays for us.

"Coach **Will Clark,** and the rest of our defensive coaches have worked hard with our defensive unit and they have continued to improve all year long and we are going to need that to continue," said Coach Roller. "Coach **Bill Young** and the rest of our coaches have gotten our special teams to improve and we also hope that continues," said Coach Roller.

"Coach Parker and Coach Spivey have done an excellent job improving our OL/TE play considering the injuries they have had to deal with," said Coach Roller. "We won't and need to continue to improve so that we can play a complete football game in all three phases of the game.

"Anyone can win or lose at this point of the season so it is very important to prepare the right way to limit mistakes and make explosive plays when it's provided," said Coach Roller.

Against East Clarendon, RB **Noah Singletary** scored on a 78-yard run and a 73-yard run for Dillon and he finished with 172 yards on 11 carries in the game. Lester had 138 yards on 22 carries against EC.

Jamarion Campbell scored on a 66-yard pass from soph quarterback **Nibras Harrison** and RB **Geno Lester** scored the team's final TD in the fourth quarter on a five- yard run. PK Jose Betancourt made all four of Dillon's PAT's. Campbell led all Wildcat receivers against EC with five catches for 136 yards and one TD.

The *Nasty Cats* of defense have been led by six players with 41 or more tackles coming into the game with Manning this week. Junior MLB **Malachi Nelson** is the top *Nasty Cat* with 105 tackles to date. Senior LB **Ke'Shawn Ray** has 74 tackles and freshman SS **Aerian Chavis** has played well with 67 tackles to date. Senior DB/LB **Kelvion Manning** has 55 tackles while **Levis Hatungimana** has 47 stops and senior DB **D'rontae McClam** has contributed 41 tackles.

The HSSR was on hand for Dillion's region clinching 17-14 win over rival Marlboro County on October, 23rd.

After that huge win, Coach Roller told the *HSSR*, "The fact that winning tonight gave us a region title makes it a very special win over a quality opponent," said Coach Roller. "I just can't enough positive things about the win the night. "Our kids come into every season expecting in win a region title with a goal of competing for a state title. We are happy that we achieved one of our goals tonight."

Coach Roller complimented all three players directly involved in the field goal that won the game in the final seconds. "On that play it was important for our snapper (**Jayden Hunt**) to snap the ball properly to our holder (**JJ Campbell**) and then our kicker (Betancourt) had to kick it through," said Coach Roller. "So, it took teamwork on that final play, just like it took teamwork from our coaches and players during the game.

"Our coaches did a really good job on instilling our game plan into our players and I told the team before the game we would be to bring our "A" game with us to win the game and I felt like we played our best game of the season," said Coach Roller.

Coach Roller complimented the play of sophomore quarterback **Nibras Harrison.** "He came into the game a little banged up, but he was able to tough it out and keep going," said Coach Roller. "He hit some timely passes and made good reads and good decisions for the most part. I was very proud of his play tonight.

"This was a solid team win tonight for our players, coaches and fans," said Coach Roller. "We play at East Clarendon in our final region game next week. I have no idea who we might be playing in the first playoff game, or if we might get a first-round bye. We'll just have to wait and see but we are very proud of this win tonight."

On the season Harrison continues to improve at QB with each game. To date he has completed 71-of-124 passes for 932 yards and 9 TD's. Singletary leads rushers with 1,018 yards on 106 carries and 10 TD's. Lester has 723 yards on 94 carries with 13 TD's. The top WR is Campbell who has caught 40 passes for 549 yards and six TD's.

Dillon has received exceptional play from their offensive line all season. Some of these hard-working players include **Trey Coward**, **Jaylen Bacote**, **Zamir Drawhorn**, **Japhia Davis** and **Lucas Butler**. Junior **Jasper McIntyre** (6-6) is having an outstanding season also at T/S.


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*The Dorchester Academy girls cross country team recently finished third overall at the SCISA State meet*

## Dorchester looking for trip to Class A title game

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**St. George** – For three straight seasons, **Dorchester Academy** has found its way into the semifinal round of the SCISA Class A football state playoffs. And, in each of those years, the Raiders came away with a loss.

Well, DA is once again back in the semifinal round, and it is ready to not only take the next step, but the next two, in fact.

"We've got several guys who are tired of just getting to the semifinals," said Dorchester head coach **Michael Nelson**. "They're hungry for a state championship, and hopefully that all works out for us."

The Raiders, the No. 1 team in the ***High School Sports Report*** Class A rankings, rolled over **Carolina Academy** 55-6 in the first round. DA, which is 9-2 on the season will play host to 5-6 **Clarendon Hall** in the semifinals on November 13.

Dorchester put up 28 points in the first quarter against Carolina and led 41-0 at halftime. The second half was played with a running clock.

The Raiders ran for 256 yards with junior **Reed Almers** continuing his impressive season with 156 yards and three touchdowns on just six carries while returning a kickoff 76 yards for a score. Almers now has 1,685 yards and 25 touchdowns on 203 carries and has had 10 100-yard games.

Junior **Warren Judy** had three carries for 64 yards and two scores. Junior quarterback **Carter Beeks** completed 6 of 9 passes for 84 yards and two TDs. Senior **Noah Risher** had three receptions for 33 yards, Judy had two catches for 13 yards and a touchdown, and junior **Colson Williams** had a 38-yard catch.

Senior **Will Quattlebaum** led the defense with seven tackles, an interception, two tackles for a loss and one quarterback sack. Junior **Boone Gruber** also had an interception while freshman **Levi Headden** had six tackles.

Clarendon Hall advanced with a 34-0 win over **Thomas Heyward Academy**. The teams faced each other during the regular season with DA winning 66-13.

Nelson has been busy reminding his team that none of that matters now.

"Everybody is 0-0 come playoff time," he said. "It's a fresh start, everyone is 0-0, the winner moves on and the loser goes home. We have to have that kind of mentality."

Beeks has continued to improve as a passer. He has completed 80 of 138 attempts for 1,263 yards and 22 scores. Risher is his top target with 28 catches for 497 yards and eight TDs, while junior **Graham Varnadoe** has 24 receptions for 353 yards and five touchdowns. Williams has 13 catches for 277 yards and three more TDs.

"We're actually throwing the ball really well right now," Nelson said. "We've got guys who can make some plays for us."

## Carvers Bay looks to "bear down" in playoffs

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Correspondent**

**HEMINGWAY –** Only a 25-19 loss to **Atlantic Collegiate** in early September kept the **Carvers Bay Bears** from a second straight regular season of perfection.

But now winners of seven straight games, head coach **Matthew Richard's** Bears are ready to enter the postseason after a first-round bye. At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Carvers Bay will host **Blacksburg**.

"We've started developing that playoff mindset during the last two weeks of the regular season so our kids can feel that urgency," said Coach Richard. "There's no second chance to do it over. We want to take it one game at a time. We don't have to be the best team in the state; we just have to be better than our opponent on each Friday night.

"And if we take it one game at a time, good things will happen. He just lets the ball fly and makes the right decisions for us."

**Dominique Walker,** meanwhile, will play at running back.

"He has rushed for more than 1,000 yards for us this season, so we're excited to see what he can do at this stage," said Coach Richard. "He is making the right cuts, and lately he has scored on a touchdown run on the first touch. He's seeing the hole and is making the right cut.

"And when he sees the hole and he breaks open, he can also break tackles along the way."

Receivers include **Mekhi Bromell, Acari Williams** and **L.J. Miller.**

"(Miller) is certainly one to watch because he can run by everybody no matter what level he's on," said Coach Richard. "I'm excited to see what he can do going forward. But he's not the only one. There is Jayshaun Ford, and he's among those who has taken our wide-receiver position to the next level."

On the offensive line, it includes Citadel commit **Triston Diggs** at center, **Xavier Fredrick, Ethan Young** and **Jakai Cohen.**

"(Cohen) has been rock solid at left tackle," said Coach Richard.

The defensive line includes North-South selection **Jaquan Hannah,** who leads the Bears in sacks.

"He has been a constant threat and defender who makes it into the opposing team's backfield all season," said Coach Richard.

Others include Young, Davis and Fredrick.

"(Young and Davis) have been strong inside," said Coach Richard. "We have had good, steady rotation along the line all season to keep key players fresh."

And lately at linebacker, that group includes **Xavier Newbold** and **Jaydon Hooks-Manigault**. The secondary, meanwhile, includes **Trent Singleton, Jaden McFadden** and Richarson and **Kamryn Richardson.**

"Trent has been a lockdown kid and he's a tough defender; he's relentless in the secondary," said Coach Richard.


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# Dillon Christian says they're not done yet

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Dillon** – The **Dillon Christian** Warriors won 55-0 last Friday over **Holly Hill** in the first round of the playoffs.

Up next for coach **Chris Alphin's** team is a home contest this Friday at 7:30 p.m. against **Beaufort Academy.**

"I told the team not to change anything from what we've been doing all year," said coach Alphin. "If we make a huge run, it comes from the foundation that got us here. Don't do anything spectacular. Just keep doing what you're doing."

And what the Warriors did now is raise their record to 9-2.

"I told the players to remember five years ago when we got here and the hard and work and energy we put in to get this program to where it is now," said Coach Alphin. "Take pride in the playoffs; it's not like we got a lot of transfers. These players have been here all along."

With that in mind, Coach Alphin reminded his players that everything is still in front of them.

"The end goal is not just the region championship," said Coach Alphin. "While I have to remind them that winning region is great, this isn't the main goal we set. So, we've got to get back to doing what we do."

Quarterback **Jordan Blackmon** will be one key reason if the Warriors continue to roll.

"I would say it's his ability; but his biggest critic is Jordan himself," said Coach Alphin. "I'm sure he appreciates being recognized for the hard work he does. But he's not a spotlight guy. If he throws a deep ball and it's caught by **Gray Easterling** and he scores, Jordan is more excited for the team scoring rather than how pretty his pass was."

Blackmon has also grown from a 22-15 loss to Dorchester Academy when he was stopped at the 1-yard line from scoring a what could have been a tying or go-ahead TD.

"Now, he goes and sits at the 1-yard line before every game after that," said Coach Alphin. "What has impressed me is his maturity; I watched grow up a lot this year."

This season, Blackmon has passed for 1,885 yards and 23 touchdowns. On the ground, he has rushed for 1,589 yards and 31 more scores.

Of course, Easterling is another big-time player as he has 36 catches for 657 yards and six touchdowns. Teammate **Blake Hunt**, meanwhile, has 21 catches for 577 yards and eight scores.

Dillon Christian's offense line includes freshman **Jacob Hunt, Chase Huggins, Eli McColl, C.J. Alford, Jon Walker** and tight end **Jackson Shooter.**

Also running behind them is RB **Mills Wallace** with 879 yards and nine scores.

And **Lincoln Dials** anchors the defensive line.

"He's had a huge impact," said Coach Alphin. "it's almost like you have to game-plan to go away from him."

And **Ethan Moody** leads the Warriors with 94 tackles, including four sacks. Teammate **Bentley Clark** leads Dillon Christian with nine sacks.

# Lee finishes season in heartbreaker to Beaufort

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Bishopville** – The **Lee Academy** football team saw its first season under head coach **Johnie Moreno** come to an end in the first round of the SCISA Class A state playoffs on November 6. However, the Cavaliers went out in a doozy of a fashion.

LA scored with less than a second remaining in the game to pull within a point and went for the 2-point conversion and the win. It came up short though, dropping a 35-34 decision in Beaufort.

"It was a really good game," said Moreno, whose team finished with a 3-8 record. "Hats off to Beaufort. They're well coached and did a great job. In a game like that it's a shame somebody is getting a crappy loss, and it stinks that it would be us."

Lee led 28-21 entering the fourth quarter. The Eagles scored to pull within 28-27 but missed the extra point. BA scored again and added the 2-point conversion to make it 35-28.

The Cavaliers drove down the field to set up a 40-yard halfback pass from senior **Tucker Rodgers** to senior **Austin Green** to make it 35-34. Moreno decided to roll the dice and go for the win, but LA couldn't convert on the conversion.

"I said to myself that I don't really want to go to overtime," Moreno said. "So I decided to go for it and we didn't get it."

Senior quarterback **Landen Olson** had a big game in his final game for Lee. He rushed for 213 yards and two touchdowns on 31 carries while completing 4 of 6 passes for 83 yards.

Rodgers had 44 yards on four tcarries to go with the TD pass. Carter Berendzen had 29 yards and the other score on seven carries.

Griffin finished with three catches for 48 yards while **Luke McCathern** had two receptions for 76 yards.

Olson had a monster game on defense as well, finishing with 15 tackles, two tackles for a loss, a caused fumble and a fumble recovery.

Olson finished the season with 1,406 yards and 13 touchdowns on 200 carries while completing 52 of 95 passes for 630 yards and five more scores.

Rodgers had 288 yards and one score, senior **James Watson** had 277 yards, and Berendzen had 270 yards and five TDs.

McCathern was the leading receiver with 17 catches for 327 yards and one score. Griffin had 11 receptions for 144 yards and two TDs, and Watson had 10 catches for 77 yards and another score.


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# LAKE VIEW Wild Gators



*Sophomore Hayden Smith (17) leads the Lake View offense*

# Lake View football eyeing long playoff run

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Lake View** – - The time is now for the Lake View High football team. The quest for a state championship begin in earnest on Nov. 13 when the Wild Gators host Baptist Hill.

Lake View went through the regular season with a 9-1 record and a region championship. Heading into the playoff game, Lake View has had two weeks off over the last three weeks. They had an scheduled bye week late in the year, then played their final game of the regular season. Having won the region title, Lake View received a first-round bye, thus a long break.

"We made the most of the time we had by working on what we do," Lake View coach Daryl King said. "There are always things we can work on and we want to make sure we have the attention of our players and that we are always working on things. We watch ourselves on films and pick out things that we can do better. They players respond very well. We prepared ahead of time and had a plan. Hopefully it helps us."

The Wild Gators don't have many glaring issues. They are executing their run-oriented offense at a high level and their defense has been on point all season. And this team is winning with a lot of youth.

"We play a lot of young kids and they are improving each day," King said. "We have young skill people and we start one senior on the offensive line. We have worked to build some depth as we move along."

Lake View's only senior lineman is Alonzo Hamilton. Doing solid work along the offensive line are **Zymere Wheeler, Riley McCormick, Zaiden Burroughs** and **Richard Thompson** Sophomore **Gabe Lee** leads the team in rushing with nearly 1,000 yards and is also the leading tackler at linebacker. King says the top five tacklers on the defense have between 50 and 69 tackles.

Senior **Jalen Clarke** aids in the running game and has rushed for more than 700 yards. Sophomore **Hayden Smith** continues to play well at quarterback. Terrance Alford and AJ Johnson are the leading receivers and key defenders.

"What I love about this team is their effort," King said. "These kids play hard. They work hard. We're not always perfect but we are going hard on every play and we work hard to improve in practice."

The Lake View volleyball team put together a nice season in 2026. Lake View finished with a 13-7 overall record and a 10-2 record in region play.

The team earned a spot in the state playoffs for Class A Division II but had thir season ended by Whitmire in the postseason.

.Coach **Angela King** has a veteran squad this fall, using the experience of several upperclassmen to compete with a solid group of underclassmen.

Junior **Sarah Price** is one of the top players with 61 kills, 270 digs and 67 service aces. Sophomore **Sophia Rogers** leads the team with 90 kills and has 122 digs.

Freshman **Callie Smith** has 80 kills, 153 digs and 57 assists. Senior **Chloe Cox** has recorded 182 digs and 215 assists while sophomore **Lauren King** has 43 kills, 156 digs and 39 aces.

Two other seniors include **Riley Barfield, Maddison Strickland** and **Zy'Kiara Waters**. Rounding out the roster are junior **Hanna Coburn**, freshman **Lilly Hatcher**, freshman **Summer Hillburn**, freshman **Emma Hayes**, and eighth-grader **Savannah Olmos**.


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ORANGEBURG PREP INDIANS

# Orangeburg Prep football finishes at 3-8 in 2026

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Orangeburg** – The **Orangeburg Preparatory School** football team was within sniffing distance of **Colleton Prep Academy** in the fourth quarter of its first-round game in the SCISA AA state playoffs on November 6 in **Walterboro**. The Indians were in a 2-score game with the once-beaten War Hawks, trailing 26-12.

However, things got sideways for the Indians in quick fashion. CPA scored 29 points in the final stanza, including the final 23, for a 49-12 victory. That ended OP's season with a 3-8 record.

"The final score wasn't indicative of the game," said Orangeburg Prep head coach **Brooks Smith**, who just completed his second season. "We just let it slip away in the fourth quarter."

Defense was a major issue for the Indians from the start of the season to the end. They gave up at least 37 points in every game with the exception of a 37-8 victory over **Carolina Academy**.

Despite that, Smith could find no fault in the effort put forth by his players.

"We wish our record would have been better obviously, but I'm proud of the kids, they never quit," Smith said. "Some games we let things get away from us early and leads get big because of turnovers, which were a bugaboo for us this year. But our kids were playing hard in the fourth quarter every game.

"Our goal was to try to instill in them work ethic, and they've been phenomenal workers."

One thing Smith knows the Indians accomplished this season was establishing its offensive identity. After struggling offensively in the first two games, Orangeburg Prep went from a balanced attack to a run-heavy veer triple-option attack.

"That's who we are," Smith said. "You go from having a player like (wide receiver) **T (Tilden) Riley** (who is now at **Vanderbilt**) and you're throwing it around everywhere. You're trying to find your identity after losing a piece like that. That's who we're going to be."

The Indians are hoping basically a season of running the offense coupled with an offseason of work will have a profound effect next season. The two leading rushers entering the playoffs, running back **Micah Gilmore** and quarterback **Cholly Williams**, will be seniors.

Gilmore had 426 yards and three touchdowns on 88 carries. Williams had 418 yards and three scores on 77 rushes.

Williams had passed for 1,251 yards and 12 touchdowns by connecting on 85 of 167 attempts. His top two receivers were both seniors, tight end **Marshall Livingston** and wide receiver **Maxx Judy**. Livingston had 41 receptions for 518 yards and four TDs, while Judy had 23 catches for 484 yards and four touchdowns.

Livingston and Judy are just two of seven seniors on the roster. The others are **George Albergotti**, **Blake Inabinet**, Parker Gray, **Malachi Woodard** and **Thomas Fanning**.

Inabinet had 67 stops and six TFLs from his linebacker slot, while Livingston had 78 tackles, three interceptions and four TFLs in the secondary. Judy had 43 tackles and six TFLs as a linebacker.

"I told them last night after the (Colleton Prep) game that I could not have asked for a better senior class," Smith said. "They worked hard both on and off the field. They lead by example with their attitude and effort and do the right things."

Somer key defensive performers were underclassmen. Junior linebacker **Mac Strickland** was leading in tackles with 103 to go with four tackles for a loss, Sophomore defensive lineman **Cam Jolley** and junior defensive lineman **Landon Cook** were tied for the team lead in TFLs with seven, Jolley's among 38 tackles and Cook's from 33.

Also, Williams had 78 tackles and two TFLs in the secondary and Gilmore had 42 stops and five TFLs on the defensive front.

Smith said his players need to continue to be diligent in their offseason work. Also, there needs to be more of them.

"We've just got to continue to stay in the weight room," he said. "We did a great job last season in getting bigger, stronger and faster. We've got to keep that going.

"We have to get more kids out too. The biggest thing is to increase our numbers. We need to get some of the kids back to playing football who haven't played the last couple of years for whatever reason."

**OP VOLLEYBALL FINISHES 13-13**

The Orangeburg Prep volleyball team finished the season with a 13-13 overall record and was second in Region 1-AAA with a 5-3 mark.

The Indians went 1-2 in the state tournament played in **Myrtle Beach**. They lost to **Hilton Head Prep** 2-0 in their first match by scores of 25-13, 25-10. They bounced back for a 2-0 victory over Colleton Prep by the scores of 25-22, 25-18 before again losing in two games to HHP by the scores of 25-20, 25-20.

Orangeburg Prep was led by senior **Mary Legare Delaney**. She led the team in kills with 149, blocks with 61 and digs with 54 and was second in service aces with 48 and second in serves received with 242.

Sophomore **Blakely Garrick** had 118 kills, while senior **Morgan Gue** had 117. Junior **Harlo Sease** had the most aces with 55, while eighth-grader **Olivia Williams** had 47 and Garrick 40. Junior **Ziva Reyter** had 44 blocks and Garrick had 37, Sease had 35 digs and Gue 34, sophomore **Marisa Griffith** had 200 assists, while Williams had 154. Sease led in serves received with 298.

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# Wilson Hall facing First Baptist in semifinals

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Sumter** – There was no complacency for the **Wilson Hall** football team in its first-round game of the SCISA AAA state playoffs against **Spartanburg Christian Academy** on November 6 at **Spencer Field**.

The Barons, who beat SCA 63-35 in the regular season, dominated from the get-go this time around. WH led 13-0 after one quarter and pushed the advantage to 35-0 at halftime on the way to a 49-0 triumph.

Wilson Hall, which has been the AAA state runner-up for three consecutive seasons, will be looking for a fourth straight trip to **Charleston Southern University's Buccaneer Field** in **North Charleston** on November 21. To get there though, the Barons will have to knock off **First Baptist** in a home semifinal game on November 13.

"It was a good night for us," said WH head coach Adam Jarecki, whose team is now 8-3 on the season. "The defense played really well. I'm very proud of the way we responded and took care of our business."

The Barons, who led by just one point in the third quarter of the previous meeting, took away any thoughts of an SCA upset very quickly.

On the second play from scrimmage, the Barons' **Shep Vincent** went 40 yards for a touchdown. A 53-yard scoring run by **Harian Hughey** less than two minutes later made it 13-0 and the race was on.

Vincent needed just three carries to pick up 111 yards and score twice while pulling in a 44-yard reception as well. Hughey had 90 yards and a touchdown on eight carries while adding a 35-yard touchdown catch. **Jack Gratz** had three carries for 54 yards and a score.

Quarterback Nolan Gooch finished 4 of 6 passing the ball for 141 yards and two touchdowns while adding 28 yards on the ground**. Blaine Batt** caught two passes for 62 yards.

The Baron defense was dominant. WH came up with two turnovers, one an interception by **Griffin Jones** and the other a fumble recovery by **Luke Still**.

**Peyton Gilley** led the team with six tackles and a tackle for a loss. **Michael Hunter** added five stops. **Reese Wilson**, **Braelen Lewis** and **Landon Young** each had a TFL, while **Wyatt Meyers** added a quarterback sack.

Wilson Hall will be facing First Baptist for the first time this season. The Hurricanes are 9-2 after beating **Northside Christian Academy** 57-35 in the first round. The Barons beat NCA 34-9 in the regular-season finale to clinch its region title.

"They're very good, very explosive," Jarecki said of First Baptist. "They can make big plays and have a lot of athletes who can score a lot of points quickly. They'll be a big challenge for us."

# Highlanders football wins every day

**By WORTHY EVANS**
**Staff Writer**

**Columbia - Heathwood Hall's** win-loss record did not match last season's 9-4 mark that ended with a loss to **Northwood Academy** in the SCISA AAAA state championship game.

That's all right for head coach **Tymere Zimmerman**, whose Highlanders (5-6) fell 35-10 to the Chargers (9-2) in the first round of the playoffs Friday night.

"We lost a lot of close games this year and we haven't been healthy the whole year, but we're going into this game full force," Zimmerman said before the game last week. "The morale of this team is great. They're pushing each other, they're going hard in practice, and that speaks a lot about the program in itself."

Leading the way has been all-purpose player **Keon McKinley**. McKinley has significant stats at quarterback, running back, and defensive back in addition to being the team's top receiver and punt returner. Going into Friday's game, he has 25 catches for 389 yards and one touchdown, is 20-for-36 in passing for 293 yards and four TDs, and three interceptions and 12 pass defenses as a defensive back.

"Keon might be the most serviceable athlete in the state regardless of High School League or SCISA," Zimmerman said. "He has interceptions on defense, thrown touchdowns, caught touchdowns, returned punts, everything, man."

McKinley has offers from **Newberry**, **Presbyterian College**, **Brevard**, and **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** in addition to interest from **Appalachian State** and other Division One Schools.

Beyond statistics, McKinley has also made his mark on his teammates and future Heathwood Hall stars.

"He's the ultimate teammate in practice," Zimmerman said. "He's encouraging those young guys to keep working hard and just go out and give everything they've got and do everything they could do. I'm proud of him. They're attuned to his voice and body language from school to practice to the locker room. He's their trail blazer."

Other players have made significant contributions to the team as well. Top rusher **Jayson Bolton**, a sophomore, has 86 carries 514 yards 8 TDs. On defense, junior **Heyward Belser** 84 tackles 15 for loss and two sacks, and junior **Charlie Taylor** 60 tackles 11 for loss and two sacks.

"They've been constant workers on defense," Zimmerman said about Belser and Taylor. "Heyward, you can see it, man, he's 6-3, 220, he's a freak of nature. He was at **Duke** recently for a visit, went to **Georgia Tech** and will be going to **UVA** in a couple of weeks. He's a diamond in the rough."

Another standout has been freshman **Jackson Dickerson**. A highly regarded basketball player for the Highlanders, Dickerson has made his mark in football as well, with 314 yards and two touchdowns on 41 carries.

"His footwork is elite. I can't put it into words," Zimmerman said. "I guarantee it, once I submit his highlight tape with his runs, interceptions, tackles, he'll be called the best sophomore in the state. He's outrageous."

Whether or not the Highlanders reach the championship game this season, Zimmerman said the team doesn't prove its greatness with a trophy, but rather in the act of good practicing, good teamwork and communication, and helping each other on and off the field—in other words, winning every day.

"Like any other sport there's going to be one champion, but you can't base the success of your whole season to winning or not winning a championship," he said. "I just want us to go out and play to the best of our ability, and if we do the result is never failure. If we control the controllables, win the effort battle and have our best attitude, the rest of it will take care of itself."

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# Smith out as football coach following 2-9 season

**By Billy G. Baker**
**Publisher**

**Barnwell** –**Barnwell** High head football coach Brian Smith has informed the *HSSR* that he was fired following the Warhorses football season recently.

"I am very thankful for my time at Barnwell," said Coach Smith. "There have been lots of memories like our run up to the state championship in 2024, and that was definitely a highlight.

"There have been so many positives with a great group of players and coaches to work with," said Coach Smith. "I loved coming to work every day at Barnwell."

Coach Smith had coaching stints at **Strom Thurmond**, **Riverside**, **North Greenville University**, **Seneca**, **Ridge Spring-Monetta** and **Barnwell**.

Coach Smith said he did not resign. "I would never quit on these kids," he said.

Barnwell closed out the season in the first round of the AA playoffs with a 28-26 OT loss at **Edisto.**

The Warhorses two wins came over **Buford** (33-12) in the season opener. They also beat **Denmark-Olar** 42-18 earlier in the season.

After the tough loss against Edisto, Coach Smith said, "Proud of this group of young men," said Coach Smith after the two-point season ending loss. "They fought their tails off tonight and played a great game. We had an opportunity to win late but didn't get it done.

"These guys had ever opportunity to throw in the towel with all the adversity we've been hit with all year and then again this week," said Coach Smith. "They never quit. They never quit working hard at practice and they always represented our school and community with class.

"I was very proud to coach these guys this season," said Coach Smith. "I hated for the season to end the way it did. They should be commended for staying around and embodying what it means to be a Warhorse all year long."



*Brian Smith*

Barnwell had two players named to the all-region team. They were RB **Torye Pickens** and senior DE **Carl Hines**.

In the game against Edisto Pickens rushed for 125 yards and 25 carries and he scored two rushing TD's. QB Vincnet Gibson rushed for 36 yards on 12 caries with one TD. Gibson also completed seven passe sin the game.

Against Edisto, **Jaiden Patterson** caught three passes for 51 yards and John Huggins caught two passes for 21 yards.

Against Edisto, the Barnwell defense was led by J Patterson with 9 tackles while John Huiggins contributed 8 tackles and B Young had seven tackles while R Purnell contributed five tackles.

For the season Pickens led the team in rushing with 1,164 yards on 225 carries and 8 TD's. Gibson added 216 rushing yards along with six TD's. Gibson also completed 69-of-142 passes for 708 yards and five passing TD's. The top two receivers were Patterson with 27 catches for 280 yards and 1 TD along

See **Barnwell**, pg. **63**

# Camden football looking for more playoff magic

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Camden** – The **Camden High School** football team is about to embark upon its favorite part of the season: the state playoffs.

The Bulldogs are 9-2 overall and are the No. 1 seed in the lower state bracket of the AAA state playoffs. They were able to achieve that after going 5-0 in winning the Region 4 championship.

A first-round bye came along with that for CHS, as well as the opportunity to see who they will face in the second round. Camden will play host to Crestwood, which advanced with a 23-22 win over **Aynor**, on November 13.

"We have high expectations every year, and with 11 returning starters we thought we would have a good chance to win the region and be one of the top seeds in the playoffs," said Camden head coach **Brian Rimpf**. "We were able to accomplish those, which is a compliment to the players for their hard work and determination."

While Camden has never won a state title under Rimpf's guidance, it has played for a championship three times. With a win over the Knights, it can extend an impressive streak to eight years in which it has won nine games and reached at least the quarterfinals of the state playoffs.

"We talk about that often," Rimpf said. "We think the players need to know how well this program has done and need to be challenged to continue that success. We've played in at least the state quarterfinal for seven consecutive years. In order to get there and further this year we have to take it one game at a time and play the way we've played the last half of the season, which has included taking care of the ball and making plays on special teams and defense that have contributed to the wins."

Crestwood and Camden are far from unfamiliar to one another. They were in the same region in 2023, and the last time the Knights played at Camden's historic **Zemp Stadium**, they beat the Bulldogs for the region title.

The Bulldogs have been strong offensively all season, but appear to have taken it to a different level recently.

"We have really hit our stride on offense over the last three games as we've (averaged) over 50 points in each game and haven't punted," Rimpf said of victories over **Brookland-Cayce** (52-27), **Lower Richland** (41-13) and **Airport** (69-27). "Coming into the season we knew we could be explosive on offense, and with a returning starter at quarterback going into his third season, we felt confident we could also be an efficient offense.

"Our players have had great seasons and it has shown on the scoreboard."

The veteran QB is someone close to the head coach's heart, his son, senior **Greyson Rimpf**. In the win over Airport, Greyson completed 11 of 15 passes for 277 yards and five touchdowns. On the season, he has completed 115 of 188 passes for 2,189 yards and 27 scores.

"One thing he does well is lead our offense through his consistent demeanor with his teammates on the field," Rimpf said of his son. "He gets us in the right play, makes good decisions, and his receivers know where the ball is going to be. His ability to draw on his wealth of experience and make the plays we need as an offense and as a team has gained the full confidence of his teammates. They expect to win when Greyson is taking the snaps."

Senior **Isaiah Smith** and junior **Bernard Green** have almost identical receiving numbers. Smith has 37 receptions for 799 yards and nine scores. Green has one less catch for 751 yards and nine TDs.

Senior tight end **Will Haunert** has 26 grabs for 469 yards and six touchdowns.

CHS averages 188.1 rushing yards a contest. Junior **Aaden Manning** leads the way with 669 yards and 11 scores on 92 carries. Senior **Jaden Manning** has 391 yards and seven scores, and Green has 231 yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries.

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# Bamberg County Feature Page

## Bamberg-Ehrhardt ready to defend class A title

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Bamberg** – The Red Raiders of Bamberg-Ehrhardt finished the regular season at 9-1/5-0 winning the region 6A title but they enter the playoffs with a bit of a chip on their shoulders courtesy of the HSSR as the HSSR has them ranked third in the Class A Division I poll.

Of course, those type of things do not mean a lot to head coach **Corey Crosby** and his team, "We do not worry about things outside of our program."

Coach continued, "I feel like we prepare our kids so well that we don't really play against an opponent, we play against ourselves. We try to make ourselves better every time we step on the field."

The Red Raiders lone loss in their last 25 games was to AAAA Hilton Head High 35-24. After falling behind 14-0 the Red Raiders outscored the Seahawks 24-21. They did leave the game a little banged up but they are getting everyone healthy for the playoffs.

"We knew Hilton Head was going to be a challenge and get us ready for the playoffs. They were big upfront and we knew that would be a challenge for us bit it would get us ready for a playoff run. There are some good teams in the division I playoffs like Abbeville, Cheraw, Latta and Hampton County so we knew a game like Hilton Head would be good for us," said Crosby.

BE has been dominate on defense all year especially against class A competition where they have given up only 12 points all year. They allow only 130 yards a game It all starts up front with senior **Simeon Bamberg** (6,305). He is joined up front by junior **Hunter Ackiss** (6,250) and **Malachi Still** (6,285). Bamberg leads the group with six sacks and 12 TFL's.

Senior defensive end **Jordan Williams** has been a terror oof the edge. He leads the team in sacks with 18 while also notching 27 TFL's (2nd) and 68 tackles. He also has two fumble recovery's and two interceptions. He also the teams top rushing threat with 1056 yards and six touchdowns.

Senior linebackers **Darian Sease (5-11, 190)** and **Ahmad Busby** (5-11,185) have played their usual solid football. Sease is the team leader in tackles with 105 and TFL's with 32 while Busby is second in tackles with78 and third in TFL's with17.

The secondary is led by senior **Brian McMillian**, who leads the secondary with 72 tackles with 13 TFL's. Offensively, he is the top threat in the state. He has thrown for over 2600 yards and rushed for over 1000 yards. He has accounted for 39 touchdowns this seasons.

Sophomore **Nahsiir Singleton** has been a surprise on both sides of the ball. Against Hilton Head he came in for an injured McMillian and completed 3-4 for 205 yards and two touchdowns. On defense, he has a team high 8 picks to go with 31 tackles and four pass break ups.

Seniors **Charles (Anthony) Williams**, **Jason Youmans**, and **Jordan Bovain** have played well on both sides of the ball with Bovain leading the team in receiving yards with 1034 and touchdowns with 12. Youmans has 33 catches for 676 yards and two scores to go with three picks and 42 tackles

Senior **Charles Breland** has also been a defensive weapon as he has 46 touchbacks in his 64 kickoffs making teams travel 80 yards against that "D". He has made 8 of 10 field goals with a long of 37. He has a 37.6 yards punting average as well.

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## Denmark-Olar moving on to second round

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Denmark** – The Denmark-Olar Vikings have had a up and down season especially on the offensive side of the football and Friday night it appeared that the trend would continue as they trailed Lewisville 20-8 entering the second half; however, the Viking offense woke up and scored 26 unanswered points to defeat the Lions 32-20.

The win moved them into the second round of the Class A division II playoffs. They will travel to region 8A champion Cross (5-4/ 4-0) next Friday night.

"The offensive line played very well in the second half. They opened some nice holes to give our running backs some room to run," said head **William Raysor.** "I'm just proud of the whole team with the way they came together. To see the team come back and fight, claw, and scratch to get that win."

Coach continued, "We preach to believe in yourself every day and to do the little things to do your job. Friday night in the second half I saw our team start to believe in itself and they played with heart. We stuck with what knew and what the we are good at."

The Vikings are lead by one of the top juniors in the state in **Nyheem Brimfield** (6-3,250). Brimfield, who has offers from East Carolina and Charlotte, has been the leader of the team on both sides of the ball. He leads the team in tackles with 77, tackles for loss with 33 and is second in sacks with 9. He also has three blocked punts and has caused a team high four fumbles. Offensively, he leads the team in rushing with over 900 yards 13 scores.

"Nyheem was worried the first couple of games about his knee but once he got over that he has played like a wild man," said Raysor. "He has stepped up to be a leader on and off the field. He is playing at a high level but he excels in the classroom. He has a 4.0 GPA, 26 credits as a junior, and he does a lot around the school to show his leadership abilities."

Another junior who is playing at a high level is **Dilan Hammonds** (6-3,215). He leads the team in sacks with 14 while being second in tackles with 63 and tackles for loss with 29.

"Dilan has played very all year. He has a motor that never stops and he makes a lot of chase down plays from the back side," Raysor said.

Freshman safety **Ashton Williams** has already made his mark and leads the team with five interceptions to go with 35 tackles while sophomore **Ny'kheem McClain** has 62 tackles and 10 tfl's.

Freshman **Jamari McMillan** has made an impact on offense and is second in rushing on the team with 532 yards and 7 touchdowns. He also has a pick on defense.

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MANNING HIGH SCHOOL MONARCHS

# Stevenson brothers lift Manning in playoff game

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Manning** – The sport of football is filled with the lore of a coach having a play that he sticks in his back pocket and is waiting for just that perfect moment to use it.

**Manning High School** football head coach **Reggie Kennedy** now has a story he can reminisce over a few years down the road with anybody and everybody.

Trailing **Battery Creek** 24-21 with nine seconds remaining in their first-round game in the AA state playoffs on November 6, Monarch senior quarterback **Lovell Stevenson** threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to his little brother but fellow senor, tight end **Lovon Stevenson**, with three seconds left to clinch what would be a 30-24 triumph at the BCHS field in Beaufort.

"It was a tight end delay," said Kennedy, whose team improved to 6-5 with the victory and will be back on the road to face **Dillon** in the second round on November 13. "It's a play that we work on in practice every day, but this was the first time we've used it all year. We'd been holding it back, waiting for the right time. But I had told the guys, 'When we run this, it will be for the win.' "

And so it was.

It wasn't completely a do-or-die situation for MHS. The winning score wasn't on fourth down so Kennedy told his left-handed throwing quarterback if the play wasn't there to throw the ball away and junior placekicker **David Leon** would get a chance to boot a game-tying field goal from about 30 yards out.

It didn't come to that.

"It's just a little throwback to the tight end," Kennedy said. "The tight end is selling the pass blocking and then at the last second Lovon stepped out and went backside. He was wide open."

Leon added the extra point and Manning came up with a safety on the game's final play for the final count as Battery Creek tried some tomfoolery to get someone free for a game-winning score.

"This time of year you just want to survive to play another week," Kennedy said. "It felt good to get a win, especially with the way that we did it, scoring after they went ahead with 1:41 left in the game.

"It says a whole lot about our kids. That was a heck of a drive for us to score that touchdown with just three seconds left in the game."

The possession got off to a good start when junior **A'majai Dow** returned the kickoff to the Monarch 45-yard line. Manning later picked up a first down when Lovell Stevenson connected with senior wide receiver **Jordyn Thompson** for a 15-yard gain to the Battery Creek 20.

Stevenson had a big night spinning the football. He connected on 14 of 19 passes for 234 yards and two touchdowns. He only rushed for five yards on five carries, but he did run for one score.

Thompson was Stevenson's top target with five catches for 39 yards. However, he did spread the wealth. Senior wide receiver **CJ Robinson** had two catches for 89 yards, one of them a touchdown.. Sophomore running back **Destin Thames** had two catches for 56 yards, Dow had two catches for five yards, junior running back **Cameron Green** had a 24-yard reception, senior running back **Daniel Robinson** had a 9-yard catch, and Lovon "Duck" Stevenson had the game-winning snag.

Manning ran the ball effectively, picking up 148 yards to finish with 382 yards of total offense. Thames was the leading rusher with 15 carries for 79 yards, while Daniel Robinson had 52 yards and a score on nine attempts. Junior running back **Isaiah Baxter**, who had missed the last few games with an injury, returned and had four totes for 12 yards.

It was no surprise that senior middle linebacker **Ethan Lowder** was the leader of the defense. He finished with a team high 12 tackles to go with one quarterback sack and one tackle for a loss.

Senior defensive end **Ethan Morales**, junior cornerback **Derahjae Wheeler** and senior cornerback **Malachi Rankins** had six tackles apiece. Rankins also broke up a pass.

Junior free safety **Jaden Woods** had an interception and four tackles, junior noseguard **Vijay Donaldson** had three tackles, two of them for a loss, and Lovon Stevenson had four tackles and a sack from his defensive end slot.

Manning will be making the 76-mile drive north on **Interstate 95** to take on Dillon, its Region 6 foe, for the second time this year. In the first meeting at **Dillon Memorial Stadium** on October 16, the Monarchs led 14-10 at halftime but a bad third quarter helped the Wildcats gain control and go on to a 37-22 triumph.

Dillon, the No. 1 seed in the lower state portion of the bracket and the No. 2 team in the ***High School Sports Report*** AAA rankings, will bring an 8-1 record into the contest after getting a first-round bye.

"The last time, we played really well for two quarters," Kennedy said. "We kind of let it get away from us in the quarter (giving up a long scoring drive then fumbling the ensuing kickoff to set up a short scoring drive to make it 24-14).

"I felt like we kind of beat ourselves and let it get away from us in the third quarter. We've also to get past this hurdle of the second round and advance in the playoffs."

Baxter had a big game against the Wildcats, the last time he was completely healthy. Baxter ran for 115 yards on 22 carries and also had a 35-yard reception. Thames also had a solid game with 59 yards on 12 carries.

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*2026 Carolina Academy Bobcats volleyball*

# Carolina Academy girls tennis wins another title

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Lake City** – Fall sports are traditionally strong at **Carolina Academy** and 2026 is no exception. The fall sports season has officially come to an endd and once again the school produced a state champion.

For the third consecutive season, the Carolina Academy girls tennis program is the SCISA AA state champion. The Bobcats defeated Lowcountry Prep, 6-0, to win the championship. The win capped a 12-4 season record.

**Harper Drew Richardson** won a tie-breaker aat No. 1 singles. **Kiki Hanna** won 6-4, 6-0 at No. 2 and **Madelyn Matthews** won 6-0, 6-1 at No 3. **Ava Johnson** won a tie-breaker at No. 4. **Scarlett Evans** won 6-1, 6-3 at five singles and **Maecy Gamble** won 6-2, 6-0 at six singles.

The volleyball team, coached by **Trey Parker**, finished 22026 with an 18-11 overall record and went 6-6 in region play. The Bobcats made the state playoffs but were eliminated in two games.

With a relatively young roster this fall, the future looks bright as the team continues to bond and adhere to a winning culture. There are no seniors listed on the roster.

The top two performers this season have been junior **Ella Ham** and sophomore **Natalie Braveboy**. Both players work in the middle of the net primarily with Ham also playing on the outside and Braveboy rotating around the sets.

Ham has posted 152 kills, 75 blocks and 57 service aces while Braveboy has 139 kills, 58 aces, 60 blocks and 70 digs.

Eighth-grader **Carter Blue Altman** is the Libero and has recorded 224 digs and 29 aces. Junior outside hitter **Emma Amos** has 31 aces and 26 kills while sophomore **Paisley McCutcheon** has 34 service aces.

Junior **Lauren Sims** is a defensive specialist, as is junior **Lindsey Ward**. Junior **Abbey Walker** is a setter and right side with 37 aces. Freshman **Ella Grace Johnson** is an outside hitter and sophomore **Katie Toucberry** is a right side.

# Estep steps down as Lake City football coach

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Lake City** – Despite the **Lake City High School** football team going 2-8 in the just completed season and missing out on the AA state playoffs, **Jamison Estep** believes a bright future awaits the program.

Only Estep won't be sharing in it, at least as the Panthers' head coach.

Estep resigned his post following the conclusion of the season, ending his 4-year tenure in charge.

"There was a lot of effort put into this from the staff and the kids," Estep said. "Unfortunately, the effort didn't show up in the results. I thought we were better than what our record said. There were three or four games we could have won, should have own. At the end of the day, the results were what they were.

"I think big things await this program, whoever it is in charge."

The first two years Estep was the interim head coach after longtime head coach **Ronnie Baker** was seriously injured in an automobile accident. Estep was officially named the head coach for the 2025 season after Baker's legal issues were cleared up.

The Panthers were 13-30 in Estep's four years. They went 4-7 each of the first two year and 3-8 in 2025.

Three of Lake City's losses were by eight points or less. The Panthers struggled putting points on the scoreboard as they only managed to score 138.

Lake City was breaking in a new quarterback in sophomore **Jayce Edwards** after the graduation of 4-year starter **Amari Hanna**. Through the first nine games, Edwards completed 70 of 145 passes for 928 yards and eight touchdowns. He had also rushed for 228 yards and two scores on 40 carries.

However, in Lake City's season-ending 40-24 loss to **Waccamaw**, Edwards easily had his best night. He connected on 20 of 31 passes for 257 yards and three touchdowns. He also had 23 yards on nine carries.

"Jayce is a gamer, a 3-sport athlete," Estep said. "Everything he does, it's about being a competitor. He competes his tail off. Sometimes he's his own worst enemy.

"I think over the next two years he's going to be one of THE guys in the Pee Dee."

Sophomore **Ziyre McFadden** had three catches for 61 yards and a score, sophomore **Xykerian Hickson** had four receptions for 49 yards and a TD, and senior running back **Catlin Anderson** had a 14-yard scoring reception.

Hickson finished the season with 38 catches for 588 yards and five touchdowns.

Estep has been on the coaching staff at Lake City since 2008. He isn't sure what the future holds, but he is not averse to being an assistant on the new head coach's staff.

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Williamsburg Academy
STALLIONS

# Williamsburg football looking for another title

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Kingstree** – The goal this season for the **Williamsburg Academy** football team was to win a state title for the second straight year. The program has never won state in back-to-back seasons.

The Stallions claimed the SCISA Class A title last season. This year they are playing in AA after reclassification and got off to a good start in the state playoffs.

After going 8-1 during the regular season and winning the Region 2 title, Williamsburg beat Cross Schools 42-7 in the first round on November 6.

"We played really well," said Stallions head coach **Will Furse**. "We ended the last drive of the first half with an interception but other than that we had a pretty good half. We led 36-0 at halftime and scored on the the first drive of the second half. It was a running clock from there."

If Williamsburg is to play in its sixth straight state championship game and keep hope alive for two in a row, it will be taking a step up from 4-7 Cross in the semifinal game. The Stallions will be playing host to 8-2 **Calhoun Academy** on November 13.

"We're playing well, but we have a really big challenge coming up," Furse said of the Cavaliers, who beat **Greenwood Christian Scho**ol 78-46 in their first-round game after topping **Orangeburg Prep** 69-12 in their regular-season finale. "We need to have good practices on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and be ready to go on Friday.

"They put up a bunch of points, They're opportunistic on both defense and special teams. Getting stops is going to be a key for us. It's going to be a very tough game, but I'm looking forward to it."

Williamsburg has shown an ability to put up points as well, just maybe not to the extent of Calhoun. The Stallions are averaging 37 points a game and have become a more balanced offensive unit as the season has progressed.

Williamsburg's bread and better is the running game. It was averaging 219 rushing yards a game entering the playoffs. Passing-wise, it was at 134 yards with that number jumping quite a bit after sophomore quarterback **Caden Morris'** performance in a 56-7 win over **Pee Dee Academy** in the regular-season finale that gave it the region title.

Morris hit on 8 of 10 passes for 245 yards and four touchdowns. The scoring passes went for 72, 63, 50 and four yards. Morris had passed for 1,202 yards and 18 TDs while completing 61 of 90 passes.

While Furse has been pleased with Morris' play behind center, he thinks the improvement of the receiving corps may be an even bigger factor in the passing upgrade.

"I think the area we definitely improved the most at was wide receiver," he said. "Our receivers are catching the balls they should catch, and that has opened up things for the rest of the offense. We're trying to be balanced, and we're slowly getting there."

Senior tight end **Charlie Caulder** is the top pass catcher with 22 receptions for 530 yards and eight touchdowns. Junior **Jordan Green** was next with 13 catches for 209 yards and one score. Senior **Al Casselman** is a big play waiting to happen. He only had seven grabs, but they accounted for 224 yards – a 32.0 per-catch average – and four TDs.

Senior running back **Grant Small** is nowhere close to the 2,000-yard season he had a year ago, but he's still an integral part of the offense. He had 727 yards and 11 touchdown on 106 carries to go with three 100-yard games.

Junior **Eli Brown** wasn't far behind him with 690 yards and a team high 13 touchdowns on 80 carries. Junior **Ryder Langdon** had 222 yards and two scores.

Opening holes and protecting Morris is a veteran offensive line. They are senior **Michael Ard** at right guard, senior **Marlin Morris** at right tackle, senior **Mason Cribb** at left tackle, senior **Sammy Tomlinson** at left guard and junior **Henderson Livingston** at center.

Williamsburg is healthy heading into the Calhoun contest with the exception of senior defensive back Hall Dukes. he injured a knee during a practice prior to the Pee Dee contest and is lost for the rest of the season. The same fate befell Dukes last season when he suffered a knee injury in the final regular-season game and didn't get to play in

See **Williamsburg**, pg. 63

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# East Clarendon football finishes with 4-7 record

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Turbeville** – The **East Clarendon High School** football team saw its season come to an on November 6 with a 34-3 road loss to **Woodland** in the first round of the AA state playoffs. That left the Wolverines finishing with a 4-7 overall record after going 1-4 in Region 6.

EC head coach **Larry Cornelius** said his team was hindered by the same problem against Woodland that it had encountered most of the season.

"Our performance was disappointing because we played **Dillon** very well," Cornelius said of East Clarendon's 29-13 loss in the regular-season finale to the Region 6 champion and the No. 1 seed in the lower state playoffs. "We had over 400 yards of total offense. The defense played well with the exception of three explosive plays.

"I didn't feel the same intensity from the team against Woodland. There was a lack of intensity from Play 1 to the last play of the game. Moving forward we're going to have to learn to be more mentally tough."

Cornelius said Woodland controlled both lines of scrimmage.

"We couldn't get our footing offensively, whether it was the run game or the pass game. They loaded the box on us and did a good job defending us.

"It was the same thing on the defensive side. They were able to establish their running game. Usually, the first contact was coming from our safety."

Heading into the playoffs, the Wolverines were averaging 175 rushing yards a game and passing for 113 yards. **Shamar Graham** was the leading rusher with 749 yards and eight touchdowns on 130 carries. **Picasso Brown** had 518 yards and six scores on 88 carries, and **Skyler Cornelius** had 263 yards and three TDs on 56 rushes.

Quarterback **Gavin White** had passed for 1,134 yards and 10 touchdowns while completing 83 of 174 passes. **Crosby Timmons** was the leading pass catcher with 17 receptions for 235 yards and three scores, **Pierson Kelly** had 15 catches for 262 yards and three TDs, and **Easton Donlon** had 16 grabs for 180 yards and one touchdown.

Safety **Jamal Prince** was the leader of the defense. He had 53 tackles, forced three fumbles and recovered three fumbles while coming up with one tackle for a loss.

Outside linebacker **Keshaun Porter** was close behind with 47 tackles to go with 10 TFLs. Avery Lowery led in TFLs with 12 and quarterback sacks with three to go with 36 tackles.

After going 17-7 the past two seasons, the Wolverines struggled this season. EC lost center **Colten Baker** at the start of the season, and Cornelius felt that had a ripple effect.

"Injuries here and there earlier in the season hurt us," Cornelius said. "At a smaller school, a couple of injuries can really hurt.

"Colten Baker was our center who had 20-somethjing starts. It's hard to establish your offensive line and its blocking when you have to replace someone like that. It was just one of those years where we didn't sync sometimes."

Despite the setback this year, Cornelius is excited about the future.

"We've got a lot coming up in the sophomore class. We should have a good mix next year. We'll have to replace a couple of offensive linemen, and the Browns, Picasso and Braylon, who were 3-year starters. That's part of football though. You lose seniors and you reload.

"I'm proud of this senior class. This was the first group I'd had at East Clarendon since they were freshmen. They're a great group of young men."

# Scott's Branch looking for deep playoff run

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Summerton** – The season hasn't gone quite the way **Scott's Branch High School** football head coach **Patrick Fleming** had hope for, as the Eagles didn't go undefeated and came up short of winning the Region 6-Class A title.

However, the ultimate goal is still out there: the Class A Division II crown. Fleming likes where his team is at it prepares to face **Lee Central**, a 68-30 first-round winner over **Whitmire**, in the second round on November 13 at SBHS' **Spann Stadium**.

"I feel good about where we are," said Fleming, whose team received a first-round bye as the No. 5 seed. "In the regular season we played some quality opponents, and we had three or four games that were playoff-type games. We feel like we've ironed out some wrinkles. Regardless of who we play, we're going to play Scott's Branch football."

The Eagles are 7-3 and finished 4-1 in

Region 6, the only loss coming by a 39-0 count to defending Class A state champion **Bamberg-Ehrhardt**. They won't have to worry about the Red Raiders though since they are in Division I.

The teams seeded in front of SBHS are No. 1 **Blackville Hilda**, No. 2 **Lake View** – which it beat 32Sophomore quarterback **Kaleb Minger** will come into the playoffs off of his best performance of the season. The 6-foot-4-inch Minger completed 23 of 33 passes for 270 yards and four touchdowns in a 42-8 triumph over **Edisto**.

For the season, Minger has completed 134 of 218 passes for 1,675 yards and 18 touchdowns.

Minger has a group of seniors around him who are capable of explosive plays. Running back **Quintin Jackson** has rushed for 1,040 yards and 13 TDs on 119 carries while catching 32 passes for 344 yards and five more scores.

**Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl** selection **Nyren Bowman** is the top catcher with 37 for 712 yards and nine scores. He's also ran the ball 14 times for 187 yards and a touchdown.

**Keith Rogers** has 30 catches for 468 yards and four TDs. Rogers is a major special teams weapon, having returned three kickoffs for touchdowns and one punt.

Bowman is the defensive leader at linebacker with a team high 109 tackles. He also has 11 tackles for loss and three fumble recoveries.

Senior **Danny Ragin**, who just made the move from defensive end to outside linebacker, has team highs in TFLS with 13 and quarterback sacks with eight to go with 77 stops and two interceptions.

'They just fly around and make big stops," Fleming said. "We've tackled well all season. Nyren Bowman has been excellent. He's an sideline-to-sideline guy."

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# Gaffney rallies for 28-27 win over Greenville

**By Billy G. Baker**
**Publisher**

**Gaffney**—It is not often that the top AAAA ranked **Gaffney** Indians trail a team 14-0 in the first half at The Reservation, but the **Greenville Red Raiders** came on October 30 with the Region 2-AAAA crown on the line. and top seeding in the playoffs, hanging in the balance for both teams.

Gaffney came back to win the game, 28-27, in the final 22 seconds of the game. The Indians now host the winner of the **Catawba Ridge** versus **Fountain Inn** in round two of the playoffs on November 6.

Gaffney fought back from the 14-0 deficit with a six-play 76-yard scoring drive that resulted in a four-yard TD run by top RB **Amire White** with 1:37 to go before the break. **Collin Allison** added the PAT for Gaffney.

After Greenville went up 21-13, Gaffney needed to answer and they did. It took the Indians just four plays to cut the deficit to 21-13 after the PAT was no good. **Kendarius "Peanut" Bailey** broke several tackles on a 24-yard run with 4:18 left in the third period to cut the deficit to 8 points.

Over the final 8 minutes of the game the Gaffney defense stiffened while their offense came alive to overcome a 27-13 deficit and win the game. On the ensuing kick-off, after a great return by **Ayden Montgomery**, Gaffney took over at the Raider 35-yard line. On second down Taylor passed 35-yards to **Quentis Hines** for a TD with Allison's PAT cutting the deficit to 27-20 with 7:55 left in the game.

With the Gaffney crowd cheering them on the Indians forced a punt and took their final possession of the game at their own 32-yard line with around four minutes left in the contest. A pass interference call kept the drive going. With 22 seconds on the left Taylor passed to a wide-open TE **Hank Davidson** for a touchdown. Peanut Bailey ran the two-point conversion in to give the Indians a dramatic come=from-behind 28-27 win that also gave the Indians the Region 2-AAAA title and a bye in the first round of the AAAA playoffs starting this week.

After the game, head coach **Donnie Littlejohn** shared his feelings with the *HSSR*. "Ever since we got a bitter taste in our mouths after losing to **Northwestern** (58-40) late in the playoffs last year, we have been focused as team of players and coaches, at working hard towards competing for a state title this season," said Coach Littlejohn. "Our first goal was to make sure we won the region title, and hopefully we will have a high enough RPI so we can host the upper state championship if we keep winning. These kids understand the legacy of Gaffney football, and we always have a chance, and they have been bred and raised to be Gaffney Indians, just like I was.

"There are a lot of great things I can say about my town and community, and we love football and football loves us, so I feel good about where we are right now," said Coach Littlejohn. "We are going to have some time to get our people healed up and make some corrections going into the play-offs and we are focused at being the best we can be."

Trailing at the half, what were Coach Littlejohn's adjustments. "I'll be honest with you, my half-time adjustments included a lot of screaming and yelling," said Coach Littlejohn. "As far as game planning, I feel like we have the best coaching staff in the state of South Carolina and they are here for a reason. My job is to hire men of faith, character, integrity, and passion to get the job done and as you saw tonight, they eventually got the job done.

"The message was to trust the game plan and get the kids to execute better and do what they were supposed to do," said Coach Littlejohn. "I felt like we played much better in the second half."

Coach Littlejohn describes his Shrine Bowl LB **Kendarius "Peanut" Bailey** as the best all-around football player in the state. "Peanut is a Mr. Football Finalist for a reason," said Coach Littlejohn. "We just knew he was going to make the two- point conversion at the end of the game, and we have confidence in him as a leader of this team. He is the best football player in the state as far as I am concerned."

Coach Littlejohn is also high on the play of soph QB **Corey Taylor.** "I keep forgetting that he is just a sophomore, but after 10 games now I consider him a junior," said Coach Littlejohn. "He made some good throws to night, and he had several runs that helped us with his feet also."

Gaffney will also be represented in the Shrine

See **Gaffney**, pg. **63**

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# Lessons learned, experience gained for WK football

**By WORTHY EVANS**
**Staff Writer**

**Lexington** - The football players and coaches at **White Knoll** underwent much adversity in the 2026 season.

The Timberwolves went 1-9 in head coach **Victor Floyd's** first season, but the former **Chester High** head coach, who led the Cyclones to a 15-0 record and the 3A state championship in 2018, said that through all the ups and downs of the season, he, the coaches and players have built the foundation of a team.

"I think we're in pretty good shape," Floyd said. "We only had nine seniors in the program and seven played JV last year. We were extremely young but the first half of the schedule we played with everybody."

Indeed, just about 18 players remained from the 2025 roster, as kids transferred or no longer wanted to play. Notably, running back **Tiyon Fanning** transferred to **Lugoff-Elgin**, where he led the Demons in rushing yards with 1,633 and in touchdowns with 17.

With those who remained, junior-varsity players moved up to fill the ranks, along with walk-ons. Floyd in his staff worked to bond the team together, preaching the Wolf Way that emphasized a total commitment to the program and to academics.

Through the first four games the Timberwolves competed hard at **A.C. Flora,** at **Sumter**, at home against **T.L. Hanna** and **North Augusta**. The first three losses were by 10 points or less. While North Augusta won 35-7 in the Sept. 11 game, the Yellow Jackets led 14-7 with eight minutes left.

"The kids handled it well," Floyd said. "It's not what we wanted or expected, but barring injuries you're looking at our first nine games we're probably eight plays away from being 7-2 as opposed to 1-8."

The team's only victory came on the road Sept. 18, a 41-16 rout of **Goose Creek**. Losses to non-region **Ridge View** and Region 3-AAAAA rivals **Lexington**, **Chapin**, and **River Bluff** followed.

**Dutch Fork**, the defending 2025 AAAAA Division I champion ended the Timberwolves season with a 49-7 win Oct. 30.

While the losses were heavy and the win total was light, Floyd said he and his coaches and players alike fared well in the storm that was 2026.

"We competed all year but injuries piled up," he said. "I think that even though it was a tough year the kids were encouraged. We lose just nine guys in the program, and I don't foresee any guys transferring out. We're going to return a lot of guys and get to work for next year."

The Timberwolves were not without leaders.

Junior **Brayden Cress** took over the starting quarterback job and was 139-for-267 for 1,941 yards and 17 touchdowns. Junior receiver **Tyler Brown** had 54 catches for 847 yards and nine TDs.

On defense, sophomore linebacker **Adrian Ellsworth** had 119 tackles and four sacks. Senior defensive end **Jah'Mari Davis** had 75 stops, 10 for loss, and eight sacks. Junior free safety **Cl'Menta Crosby** had 72 tackles, 12 for loss, two sacks and three interceptions.

Among college prospects **Kentrell Bonnette**, a 6-3, 225-pound athlete who found a home as a tight end "will have Power 4 offers before Christmas,"

See **White Knoll**, pg. **63**

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



# 2026 Volleyball State Championships , Cont'd

**Volleyball Champs**, from pg. **49**

this," Siebert said. "It was a tough match but we expected it to be that way and so we were ready for it."

Powdersville head coach **Brooke Passini** surmised that her team was not ready.

"I think we took a few things for granted this year for being here last year," Passini said. "And not a single one of our players had a good game tonight, to be honest with you, and they would tell you the same thing."

She added that Powdersville had won eight consecutive games in straight sets, and that streak may have set the team up for

"We did have a tough schedule, but these past few games we didn't lose a set," she said. "It's hard when you do lose a set when you haven't done it in a while to really bounce back mentally and I think that's what hurt us in this game."

Passini, whose team won five state titles in the school's history, added that the team shouldn't be disappointed.

"I don't want tonight to define their season. They had a great season and I'm so proud of them," she said. "I hate it for our seniors because they've given so much to this program. I hate that they had to go out like this, but knowing that they made it to state, it's not too shabby of a year."

**AA**
**Philip Simmons takes second straight crown**
**By WORTHY EVANS**

In its first state championship appearance, the **Liberty** volleyball team did everything it could to get past 2A defending champion **Philip** Simmons Saturday night at **Dreher High School**.

The Iron Horses edged Red Devils in the first set, but Liberty stayed ahead of Philip Simmons in the third set and downed them 25-15. While Liberty led briefly in the fourth set, the championship-seasoned Iron Horses controlled the late volleys and closed out a 25-19 win to secure a 3-1 victory for its second straight AA state championship.

"I'm so lucky that we brought back six of our seven starters from last year, they've been playing together for three and four years," an exasperated Philip Simmons head coach **Jay Watterworth** said walking off from the awards ceremony. "Honestly, the biggest thing I did this year was get the heck out of the way and just let them play and I just gave them the encouragement when they needed it."

The six seniors on the team have gone through back-to-back state championship losses before winning the team's first title last year and closing out their Iron Horses careers with Saturday's title win.

While new to competition in the finals, Liberty did not shy from challenging the Iron Horses on every volley. Philip Simmons led slightly throughout the first set before closing out a 25-22 win.

The Iron Horses eventually built a 15-8 lead in the second set, but before they could add to it Liberty pulled even and led 16-15 as Natalie White served.

Philip Simmons closed down the rally as **Maribelle Macatol** served for the Iron Horses, taking a 19-17 lead. As **Sarah Ryan** served, Philip Simmons went from a 21-18 lead to a 24-19 lead and scored the match point when Liberty blockers' effort trapped the ball in the net.

Red Devils server **Reagan Swofford** got her team off to a 4-1 lead on Philip Simmons in the third set and with timely hitting from Swofford, **Kobi Wilson**, **Claire Bivens**, and others, Liberty stayed alive.

In the fourth set, both teams battled through six lead changes in the first half of action. Liberty tied the set at 13, but Philip Simmons scored three straight points and kept that cushion the rest of the way to set up **Catherine Futche's** ace that closed the set and sealed the win for the Iron Horses.

When asked to compare the feeling of winning this year versus last year's championship win over Landrum, he noted, "Exact same. It's just euphoria, this is something we've been working for ever since I got the job, and I don't say any one (championship) feels any better than the other. It's just awesome to win."

While Liberty was on the losing side of Saturday night's action, the team's poise in the grittiest part of the action indicated that the Red Devils' first state title appearance won't be their last.

"These girls just don't have any quit in them. They are so resilient and so gritty, and they love to play together, and they have no quit," Liberty head coach **Carla Simpson** said. "Several games this season we have had to fight back, against **St. Joes**, the battle of **West-Oak**, we fought back after a first-set loss against **MVP (Mountain View Prep)**. These girls just won't quit. They always know that if the other team doesn't have 25, they still have a chance. That's what make them so great."

**A D1**
**North takes out Buford for 2nd title in three years**
**By WORTHY EVANS**

The **North Central** volleyball team visited **Dreher High School** Saturday afternoon and about 90 minutes after they took the court, the Knights walked out of the gymnasium holding their second state championship in three years.

North (25-3) took out **Buford** (16-7) in three straight sets to win the single-A Division 1 state championship with relative ease.

"We did our homework as far as preparing for Buford, head coach



*2026 Branchville Yellow Jackets volleyball*

**Andy Johnson** said. "We talked about some tendencies that we've seen and had them prepared as far as the match along with the distractions of it being a state championship. We settled in a little bit as far as doing our routine, and I'm just glad that we came out on top."

North took the first set quickly with a 25-15 finish. In the second set, the Knights led 12-10 midway through the second set, but after Buford narrowed it to 12-11, North stretched its lead to 17-11 with **Kara Grace McManus** serving and **Ella Tucker** making three kills on the run. North Central closed out the set 25-11 for a 2-0 lead.

The Yellow Jackets fought hard in the third set, pulling even four times, but both teams erred with net serves while North Central hitters kept on killing. **Catie Bittner** ended the set and match with a kill for a 25-21 set win and a completion of the sweep.

"It was kind of rough, we had to work to become more together and not work selfishly," Buford head coach **Adrianna Bowers** said. "The girls really put in the work this year and started trusting in each other's abilities, and that's what really drove them to play for each other and play for the seniors."

**A D2**
**Branchville earns first title since 2019**
**By WORTHY EVANS**

Two familiar volleyball rivals battled out their differences in the single-A Division 2 state championship match. The **Governor's School For Science and Math** team took the first and third sets, and **Branchville** won the second and fourth sets.

In the fifth and deciding set, the Eagles rallied from a 3-0 deficit to take a 10-5 lead on the Yellow Jackets, getting four service points from **Elon Mack** and a kill from **Eliza Privette**.

When Branchville came out of a timeout at 10-5, the Yellow Jackets took control, winning 10 out of the next 11 points to win the set 15-11, win the match 3-2, and capture the team's first state championship since 2019.

"They were determined. They put in a lot of hard work and just wanted it a lot," first-year head coach **Kelsey Hackworth** said. "They kept pushing and I kept telling them to speak it out, that we're going to get it. They kept encouraging each other with positive talk and we made it happen."

Branchville (19-3) and GSSM (14-4) met in the final match in 2018. That year the Eagles topped the Yellow Jackets for the state crown. Branchville has made seven state title appearances, winning in 2016 and 2019.

GSSM took an early lead in the first set, but Branchville rallied to even the score at 15. With Privette serving, the Eagles took an 18-16 lead and eventually closed out the first set 25-21.

In the second set, GSSM led 4-1, but the Yellow Jackets took control and led the rest of the way to a 25-19 win. (the moment coach Hackworth talked about)

The third set was all Eagles, who took a 10-3 lead and kept ahead of Branchville for a 25-16 win and a 2-1 advantage.

With their backs to the wall, the Yellow Jackets responded in the fourth set from a 5-1 deficit to a 25-15 win that forced the final set. GSSM held a five-point advantage, but Branchville rallied and closed out the championship victory in dominating fashion.

"We have three seniors. I'm losing my libero, one of my outside hitters, and a really good dominant server," Hackworth said. "But we still have a bunch of underclassmen, a few sophomores, a few freshmen, who are going to dominate too and make up for what we're losing."

GSSM coach **Hugh O'Connor** said the teams' familiarity with each other fed into the tough play.

"We expected it. That's a very good ball team, well coached. It just didn't go our way today." O'Connor said. "I look forward to next year, I hope I can bring the team back (to the final) and play Branchville again. We've faced each other numerous times, sometimes it goes our way, sometimes it goes their way."

# NETC Student Athletes of the Month

## Chesterfield's Kaylee Leonard

**Chesterfield — Kaylee Leonard** is a senior and a multi-sport athlete at **Chesterfield High School,** where she plays basketball, softball, golf and cheers.

She's been playing basketball and softball since she was about 8 years old in the local rec league, and YMCA league, which continued into high school. She joined the cheer team her junior year and just started playing golf this summer which motivated her to joined the golf team at her high school this fall.

Leonard said she enjoys all the sports, but basketball is her favorite. She explained that "basketball is a contact sport and to play it well, it requires playing with a strong mental game mindset." She also said that she enjoys "the mental challenge of basketball."

With all extracurricular activities and those demands on her time for school, family, friends, and sports, Leonard gives her father credit for teaching her organization skills. "My Dad taught me early about being organized and setting priorities," said Leonard. "I owe it to him for teaching me the importance of getting my work done and with my NETC and high school schedule, I focus on getting my tech work done before it is due."



*Kaylee Leonard*

In the classroom Leonard carries a 5.1 GPA, and she has taken NETC classes every semester and summer session since her freshman year. She will graduate with an Associate's Degree in science at the same time she receives her high school diploma. As for continuing sports at the next level, she says her priority after high school is her education. She plans to attend **USC** in Columbia where she will pursue a degree in Medicine and eventually specialize as an OB/GYN.

For all her athletic and academic accomplishments, Leonard 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,

See **Leonard**, pg. **61**

## Chesterfield's Trey Brock

**Chesterfield — Trey Brock** is a junior two-sport athlete at **Chesterfield High School,** where he participates in the sports of golf and football.

Brock also takes time to participate in the Academic Bowl. Even with these demands, he's been taking Dual Enrollment classes with NETC since his freshman year. He's completed Psychology, Sociology, Macro Economics and is currently taking two online courses this semester. Brock plans to continue taking online courses next semester to help lighten his course load once in college. He has now completed enough course work for an Associate's Degree in science when he finishes high school in May, 2028.

Brock has been playing golf at Chesterfield High since the 7th grade. He started playing football in the 10th grade where he played both the center and nose tackle positions. When asked about which sport is his favorite, he said, "It's football."

Brock carries a 4.7 GPA in the classroom. He is open to playing sports at the college level if the opportunity presents itself. Of course, the sport of choice would be football, and he plans to visit **Coastal Carolina** in the near future. He is also considering **North Greenville**, and the **College of Charleston** as possible locations to pursue his college major. After high school, he plans to major in Marine Science with the goal of continuing his studies to earn a PhD in the field.



*Trey Brock*

For all his athletic and academic accomplishments, Brock 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 2026-27 school year to students in the three counties they serve.

See **Brock**, pg. **61**






# 2026 Volleyball State Championships

## A look back at the SCHSL Volleyball Championships

**AAAAA**

**Woodmont takes crown in battle of the 'W's**

**By WORTHY EVANS**

The hard-hitting **Woodmont Wildcat** volleyball team clashed with a **Wando Warrior** team hungry for its first state championship since 2020 Saturday night at **Dreher High School**.

While the Warriors took the first set, the Wildcats (41-2) grinded out three straight sets to for the 3-1 victory and a AAAAA state championship to go with last year's AAAAA Division Two title.

"When you look at our season compared to last year, it's so similar, but we were just so much more consistent," Head coach **Haleigh Horgan** said. "The fact that they wanted more, I'm so incredibly proud of them."

Horgan added that this year's effort through a tough region and four intense in-season tournaments arose from a personal tragedy. Horgan lost her father before the Wildcats' season began.

"He was my best friend, my biggest fan," she said. "He was sitting in the stands (last year), and it's just tough. I came back to the girls and they just said we're going to do it again. And I said of course you are, you were meant to be there. This senior class, you couldn't ask for a better senior class."

Wando (37-6) built a 13-9 lead in the first set and closed it out strong with a 25-19 finish.

The second set was hotly contested, with the Warriors and Wildcats exchanging leads seven times. A Woodmont kill late in the set gave the Wildcats a 20-19 edge.

From that moment, **Diana Gonzalez'** ace, and **Avri Broughton's** kill gave Woodmont a 22-19 lead, and a short time later Wando hit a ball out of bounds for Woodmont's 24th point, and another Broughton kill gave the Wildcats the match point in a 25-20 win.

With the game tied 1-1, Woodmont powered by **Riley Gross** at service powered to an 8-0 lead. The Wildcats held a 19-11 advantage, but Wando rallied hard and cut the deficit to 22-21. The Wildcats held down the rally enough to win 25-22 on another Wando ball that landed out of bounds.

In the fourth set Woodmont built a 12-9 lead and carried it to a 22-17 advantage before Wando cut that lead to 24-22. On match point the Warriors could not get a ball over the net and the Wildcat players rushed the floor in celebration.

"I think Wando is just an incredibly talented team and they were giving us their best," Horgan said. "That's what I told my team. In the first set when we lost I told them that they were giving you their very best, and I said we have to push back on them a little bit. So after that third set I said you're right there, no more after this."

Wando, was looking to add to its seven state championships, the last one coming in 2020. Woodmont proved too stubborn a team to go down.

"I'm super proud of the team and I'm proud of our seniors too," Warriors head coach **Alexis Glover** said. "We've had a long hard battle to get here, and I know they're super upset right now, but they've got to understand that there's just two of us left, it's still a big honor to come in second and hat's off to Woodmont, I thought they played really well."



*2026 Woodmont Wolverines volleyball*

**AAAA**

**Bengals stop Nation Ford to win team's first state title**

**By WORTHY EVANS**

The **Nation Ford** volleyball team was well on its way to winning its third state championship in school history, having won back-to-back sets after dropping the first set to **Lucy Beckham**.

The Bengals had a different idea. Lucy Beckham, powered by hitters **Aubrey Branham**, **Avery Sauer**, **Sophie McCain** and others, stopped the Falcons' momentum and won the fourth set, then won the tiebreak to secure the school's first AAAA volleyball state championship Saturday at **Dreher High School**.

"We have a team of believers," head coach **Adria Elliott** said. "They're such a joy to coach, they all want to get better, they all come in every day and try to do something different to challenge themselves and they push each other so much. I know there a lot of individual accolades in volleyball it's just such a team sport and they truly, truly believe that."

The Bengals (35-6) won the first set 25-18, but Nation Ford (30-5), which won state titles in 2010, 2018, and 2019, settled in and won the second set 25-23 and third set 25-22.

The Falcons gained a slight advantage in the fourth set and held a 12-10 lead before Lucy Beckham reversed its fortune. The Bengals rallied to a 17-14 lead and held on to close out a 25-21 set victory as Nation Ford servers hit the net several times and its hitters overhit volleys out of bounds.

"We lost some focus on our serves, but we're an aggressive serving team and we win or lose on that a lot," Nation Ford head coach **Craig Brown** said. "But give some credit to Lucy Beckham for the pressure they put on us."

In the fifth set Lucy Beckham evened the score at 3-3 and won four straight points for a 7-3 lead. The Bengals kept on track and won the tiebreak 15-7 for the victory.

Nation Ford loses four seniors but Craig said that their teammates will work to fill in what is lost.

"The players are going to go to work in their club season and they'll hit the weights during the offseason," he said. "We'll come back to it in the summertime and come back strong."



*2026 Lucy Beckham Bengals volleyball*

Lucy Beckham loses just two seniors. Those remaining have a good understanding about what the championship this year means to the program, Elliot said.

"It's been seven years and we've been losing in the lower state almost every year," Elliott said. "It was just amazing (to win). I just felt like we're such a well-rounded team. We weren't one-sided in anything, they just pushed through and they did their job out there. We talk about composure all the time in practice and also in games. We were built for tough moments and while I knew we were getting down on ourselves, I looked at them and said we have to believe. I believe you are the better team out there, just show them that you are, and they did."

**AAA**

**Oceanside Collegiate takes out Powdersville in three sets**

**By WORTHY EVANS**

The third straight year in the state finals proved to be the charm for **Oceanside Collegiate**.

That, and a first-year coach who breathed new life into a volleyball program that already was one of the best in the state.

**Allie Siebert** took up where former head coach **Jennifer Fort**, who led the team to a state championship in 2021, left off and brought the Landsharks right back to the state final.

**Powdersville** bested Oceanside for back-to-back state championships in 2024-2025, but under Siebert Thursday night at **Dreher High School**, the Landsharks took out the Patriots in three straight sets.

"We prepared for this. We knew it was going to be a tough team, we knew it was going to be point-for-point so we were ready," Siebert said. "We talked a lot about this game in preparing for this moment, that we've been here before, and we're going to rely on our game and focus on us and not worry about anything else."

Oceanside (26-1) worked quickly and aggressively at the net, winning the first set 25-19 and then the second set 25-16.

On the third set, Powdersville (32-5) led 9-2 and later 12-7, but the Landsharks gradually crept back. Oceanside pulled even at 15-15 as **Poppy Boylston** served, then tied the set at 18-18 with a **Payton Moorman** kill. Another kill from **Amiyah Stevens** gave the Landsharks a 19-18 advantage, and they continued to hammer away at the nets. Another Moorman kill brought the game to match point, and another Stevens kill closed out the win and clinched the team's first title since 2001's AA crown.

"We definitely wanted to get back at them," Moorman said. "I think all of our chemistry is still the same but with a new coach it definitely helped us do better."

What Siebert said helped the team a lot was to be reminded that the postseason brings about tougher matches, and in the thick of action the team has to focus on each other more.

"They're going to be point-for-point, there's going to be times when they're down, but we prepared for

See **Volleyball Champs**, pg. **49**

Spartanburg DAY SCHOOL

*Home of the Griffins*



*The Griffins getting ready to take the field*

# Spartanburg Day's Moffitt finalist for "Driving Greatness" National Coaching Award

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Writer**

**SPARTANBURG—** Spartanburg **Day School** varsity football head coach **Patrick Moffitt** has been named one of five national finalists for *Charter UP's 2026 "Driving Greatness"* campaign, an award recognizing coaches who make a lasting difference in the lives of young athletes both on and off the field.

CharterUP announced the five finalists on Tuesday, Nov. 3, following a nationwide nomination process celebrating coaches who demonstrate exceptional leadership and dedication to their student-athletes.

A Spartanburg Day School parent nominated Moffitt for the award, which led to him being named one of the five finalists from across the nation.

The national recognition comes as Moffitt completes a milestone season at Spartanburg Day School, where he has led the return of varsity football for the first time in more than 40 years.

Since joining the school in 2024, Moffitt has played an instrumental role in rebuilding the Griffins' football program from the ground up. Beginning with a Middle School team in 2024, the program expanded to junior varsity in 2025 before returning to varsity competition this fall.

While bringing varsity football back to Spartanburg Day School represents a significant achievement, Moffitt's influence extends well beyond the scoreboard. His coaching philosophy emphasizes personal responsibility and the development of young men who understand the importance of commitment to something greater than themselves.

Before arriving at Spartanburg Day School, Moffitt spent nine years as head football coach at St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Delaware. He previously played quarterback at Williams College in Massachusetts, where he was a three-year starter and earned New England Small College Athletic Conference Player of the Year honors.

His experience as both a player and coach has helped shape his approach to developing the Griffins' program, with an emphasis on building a foundation that will benefit Spartanburg Day School student-athletes for years to come.

"What Coach Moffitt has accomplished at Spartanburg Day School goes far beyond bringing varsity football back to our campus," said **Dave Skeen**, Head of School. "He has built a program that our students and school community can be proud of, but more importantly, he is making a lasting difference in the lives of the young men he coaches. Patrick genuinely cares about his players and the people they are becoming. To see his commitment recognized on a national stage is a tremendous honor for him and for Spartanburg Day School."

CharterUP's second annual "Driving Greatness" campaign recognizes coaches across the country who go above and beyond to inspire young athletes and positively influence their communities.

Moffitt joins four other finalists representing schools and athletic programs in Texas, Illinois, New York, and California.

The national winner will receive a $10,000 cash prize, while the winning coach's school will receive $10,000 in CharterUP transportation credit, bringing the total prize package to $20,000.

Public voting is now open and will continue through Nov. 16 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. Members of the Spartanburg Day School community, alumni, families, and supporters are encouraged to cast their votes for Moffitt at www.CharterUP.com/Live. The national winner is scheduled to be announced Nov. 18.



***Football Coach Patrick Moffitt***

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.*

**Go Griffins!**

**About Spartanburg Day School:**

Established in 1957, Spartanburg Day School is a nationally accredited independent school serving students from 2K through 12th grade. Located in Spartanburg, South Carolina, the school offers a challenging academic program complemented by opportunities in athletics, fine arts, and extracurricular activities. For more information, visit www.spartanburgdayschool.org.

**About CharterUP**

CharterUP is a transportation technology company that connects schools, athletic teams, businesses, and organizations with charter bus transportation services nationwide. Its annual Driving Greatness campaign recognizes coaches who make a meaningful impact on young athletes and their communities.

The Griffins football team returned to establish a varsity football program for the first time in over 40 years this season under the direction of Coach Moffitt.

The team was a member of the SCISA AA region, and they team only had one senior on the varsity team that finished 1-8 on the season.

The Griffins win came over Thornwell **Charter School** on August 28 in a 17-14 win. They concluded the 2026 win with a loss against **Greenwood Christian** on October 30.

Junior place kicker **Armin Pader** made two field goals in the win while **Charlie Wilson** scored on a 72-yard punt return to help key the school's first win in varsity football since they defeated **Camden Military** 23-0 on November 9, 1979.

While the team experienced first year varsity growing pains this season, the Griffins should be vastly improved for the 2027 season with nearly every player returning to the team.

Some of the stats leaders for the 2026 season include freshman QB **Charlie Birch** who completed 44-of-92 passes for 573 yards and three TD's. Birch also had an interception on defense along with 17 tackles.

Junior RB/LB **Heath Boyd** was the team's top rusher with 134 yards gained on 65 carries. On defense he had 30 tacklers. Soph WR/LB **Charlie Wilson** was the team's top WR with 21 catches for 176 yards and three TD's. On defense he was tied for the most tackles with 33.

Pader, a highly regarded soccer prospect, made 4-of-4 field goals with a long of 49 yards. He scored 15 points for the team this season.

Several other players had excellent seasons as first year varsity players on defense. Soph DB **Tyler Fernanders** tied for the most tackles on the team with 33. Junior RB/DE **Gibbes Montgomery** had 28 tackles on defense, while junior DT **Ben Brown** had a sack and four tackles. Soph DE **Nick Querin** had 27 tackles also. Freshman DE **Coltin Lyle** had 17 tackles.

See **Moffitt**, pg. **63**



# Green Acres Turf Farm Prospects Page

GREEN ACRES TURF FARM, LLC

## HSSR Top Football Prospects - Class of 2027

**As of November, 9, 5 2026)**
**(Nominate A 2027 Player- hsreport@aol.com)**

**1. Jaiden Kelly-Murray-Oceanside Collegiate-WR/DB-5-10,170-COLORADO**
**2. Jaiden Bryant-Irmo-DE-6-4,246-MIAMI**
**3. David "Tre" Segarra-Byrnes-RB-5-01,204-LSU**
**4. Tai Phillips-Irmo-RB-5-11,180-Alabama**
**5. Nate Carson-Irmo-OL-6-5,285- South Carolina**
**6. Aiden Manavian-Oceanside -QB-6-0,185-Davidson**
**7. Anthony Williams-Oceanside-WR-6-1, 170-Lean To Liberty**
**8. Seth Tillman-South Pointe-DL.OL-6-4,300- Clemson**
**9. Jaden Werth-Dutch Fork-DL-6-2, 270-CLEMSON**
**10. Jackson Ross-Hammond-LB-6-4,215- South Carolina**
**11. Ty Johnson-Lucy Beckham-OL-6-5,300-GEORGIA**
**12. Amare Patterson-Bluffton-WR—6-1, 190-UNC**
**13. Franklin Richardson-Sumter-Ath-RB-6-2-220-Maryland**
**14. Simeon Jones, Jr-North Augusta-DL-6-1, 320-Southern Cal**
**15.Jayen Williams-Summerville-RB-5-7,170-JMU**
**16 Christian Chancellor-Daniel-DB-5-9,162-CLEMSON**
**17. Kaiden Watkins-Rock Hill-DB-5-9,180- JMU**
**18. Kevin Johnson-Northwood Academy-QB-6-1-195-**
**19. James Ross-Ridge View-OL-6-5,290-SC**
**20. Trey Wimberly-Daniel-WR-6-0,175-CLEMSON**
**21. Israel "Shank" Harris-James Island-OL-6-3, 270-LIBERTY**
**22. Peyton Bishop-Dutch Fork-DE-6-4,230-**
**23. Tajeh Watson-Martin-Westside-WR-5-10,170-UVA**
**24. Xavier Means-Northwestern-QB-Ath-6-0,165-ECU**
**25. Aidyn Wiggins-Byrnes-DB-6-1, 183-AUBURN**
**26. Maleek Miller-Dutch Fork-WR-5-11,175-**
**27. Carter Hawkins-Timberland-Ath.-6-0,177-WAKE**
**28. Chanin Harris-Byrnes-WR-6-1,170-SYRACUSE**
**29. Alex Johnson-Catawba Ridge-DE-6-4,230-BOSTON COL.**
**30. Malik Ratliff-Northwestern-WR-6-0,165-COASTAL**
**30. Trenton Lynch-Spartanburg-RB-5=9,185-RUTGERS**
**32. Ty'Quirius Shannon-Fairfield Central-WR-6-1, 190**
**33. James Porter-Dorman-DL-6-2,265-ECU**
**34. Eric Richardseon-Lugoff-Elgin-WR-6-0,165-Coastal**
**35. AJ Veal-Westwood-DL-6-4,225-ECU**
**36. Jamar Grissette-Irmo-FS-6-3,195-APP ST.**
**37. Dennis Glenn, Jr.-Boiling Springs-DL-6-1,285-RUTGERS**
**38.Dai'Shian Watkins-Hymes-Dorman-WR-6-1.190**
**39. Jackson Connor-Indian land-LB-6-0,215-MARSHALL**
**40. James Smith-Dutch Fork-FS-6-1,180-LIBERTY**
**41. Mah'Ky Green-Cross-RB-5-10, 178-**
**42. Darius Carter-River Bluff-WR-5-11,160-COASTAL**
**43. Oliver Coleman-Lugoff-Elgin-DB-6-2,175-COASTAL**
**44.. Calvin "CJ" Brooks-Gaffney-OL-6-5,320-UAB**
**45. Kadin Vassel-Northwestern-WR-5-11,160-UNC-C**
**46. Kendarious Bailey-Gaffney-LB-6-0,215**
**47. Calvin Wolford-Crestwood-RB-5-11,195-UNC-C**
**48. Brian McMillian-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-QB-6-2, 190**
**49. Charles Anthony Williams-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-WR/DB-5-11,175-DELAWARE**
**50. Jaxon Knotts-Dutch Fork-QB-6-0,210**
**51. Jaylon Richardson-N'western-DB-5-11.165-C. Southern**
**52. Jack Armstrong-Gray Coll.-OL-DL-6-2,265- The Citadel**
**53. Will Haunert-Camden-TE-6-4,210-Wofford**
**54. Brooks Abernethy-Daniel-OL-6-2, 265-ARMY**
**55. Michael Strickler-Oceanside Collegiate-FS-6-1,210**
**556 Kyson McLeod-South Aiken-WR-6-4,205-APP STATE**
**57. JaQuan Samuel-Hartsville-DT-6-2,290**
**58. Trevon Williamson-Gray Collegaite-RB-6-2,210**
**59. Caleb Sharo Ashley Ridge TE 6-3,220-**
**60. Jatavevion Wilson-Blythewood-DB-6-2, 170- Missouri ST.**
**61. Julian Brown-Myrtle Beach-WR-6-3, 175**
**62. Marques Skinner-Riversaide-TE-6-2,265-**
**63. MiCah McClintontok-Woodruff-TE-6-3, 215-**
**64. Judd Windham-Christ Church-QB-6-4,215**
**65. Christian Sullivan-JL Mann-OL-6-1,300**
**66. Angelo Cromer-Clinton-RB-5-10,170**
**67. Rhett Gilliam-Clinton-RB-6-1,200**
**68. Kelvion Manning-Dillon-WR/SS-6-3.185**
**60. Jason Youmans-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-WR/DB-6-1,180**
**70. Peyton Vining-Northwestern-WR-5-10,165**
**71. John Campbell-St Joseph's Catholic-DB-5-9,181**
**72. AJ Hillary-Strom Thurmond-QB-6-2, 185**
**73. Reid Hipp-Christ Church-TE-6-4, 215**
**74. Dontavious Griffin-Newberry-DE-6-1, 235**
**75. Nyren Bowman-Scott's Branch-WR-6-0,180**
**76. Sam Holiday-Fountain Inn-QB**
**77. Nasir Waldrop-Powdersville-WR/RB-5-7,175**
**78. Dwayne Louallen-Central-QB-6-1,205**
**79. Owen Glenn-Clinton-QB-6-1, 175**
**80. Jervaze Salley-Woodland-QB-6-2, 190**
**81. Trace Selfridge-Swansea-RB-6-0,180**
**82.Keandre Allen-Colleton County-WR-6-2, 195**
**84. Jaiden Williams-Green-Darlington-OL-6-0,350**
**85. Silas Browner-Pinewood Prep-QB-6-4,205-PC**
**86. Nick Means-Dorman-RB-5-8,175**
**87. Ty'Quavion Jones-Hampton County-OL/DE-6-5,265**
**88. Xavier Geter-Midland Valley-QB**
**89. Kyson McLeod-South Aiken-WR**
**90. Nolan Giet-Summerville-OL-6-3,270-NAVY**
**91. Keon McKinley-Heathwood Hall-WR-5-8,175-**
**92. Brandon Streater-Central-OL-6-1,265**
**93. Avery Durham-Andrews-QB-6-4,180**
**94. Caleb Feaster-Chester-RB-Ath-5-11,185**
**95. George Perry-Woodland-Ath.-5-10,170**
**96. Rese Boinke-Batesburg-Leesville-QB-**
**97. Kamarion Glenn-BHP-DT-6-0,290**
**98. Worth Thomasson-Camden-OL-6-0,315**
**99. Deion Suber-Boiling Springs-WR-6-3,185-ETS**
**100. Corey Gleaton-Gray Collegiate-WR-5-9,165**
**101. Marques Skinner-Riverside-TE/DE-6-3,255**
**102. De'Eric Davis-South Florence-QB-6-4,225**
**103. Tristan Diggs-Carvers Bay -DL-6-2,280**
**104. Dejay Leak-Boiling Springs-DB-5-9,176**
**105. Grayson Rimpf-Camden-QB-6-2, 190**
**106. JaQuan Hannah-Carvers Bay-TE/DE-6-2,215**
**107. Jaiden Williams-Green-Darlington-OL-6-0,250**
**108. Nicholas Gordon-Cheraw-WR-6-0,165**
**109. Rob GrantJames Island-DE-6-3,240**
**110. Rahim Saunder-Whale Branch-DL-6-2,275**
**111. Tyrone Jennings-Irmo-DT-6-2, 285**
**112. Luke Penland-JL Mann-OL-6-2,265**
**113. Crawford Poole-Cheraw-Ath-5-11, 195**
**114. Sam Gadsen-Woodland-OL-MLB-6-3, 230**
**115. Malcolm Gordon-Bluffton-OLB-6-1,205**
**116. Owen Glenn-Clinton-QB-Ath-6-1,175**
**117. Gavin Elliott-Gilbert-DB-6-0,180**
**118. Charles Breland-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-PK-5-10,165**
**119. Mari Moody-Denmark-Olar-6-4,240**
**120. Amire White-Gaffney-RB-5-11,200**
**121. Grainger Powell-Laurence Manning-QB-5-11, 170**
**122. Grant Small-Williamsburg Academy-RB-6-0,180-**
**123. Marquell Smalls-Gaffney-DL/DT-6-5,265**
**124. Tristian White-Laurence Manning-OL/NG-6-3,290**
**125. Elii Herndon-Chapman-DE-6-5,200**
**126. Semaj Wilson-Atlantic Collegiate-MLB/RB-6-2,200**
**127.Henry Rivers-Berkeley-QB-Ath-5-10,175**
**128. Clint Gentry-Chapin-DT-5-11,225**
**129. Xavier Huggins-Powdersville-WR-5-10,170**
**130. Kordell Holley-Bluffton-RB-6-0,225**
**131. Roman Hood-Phillip Simmons-DE/G-6-0,205**
**132. Nyren Bowman-Scott's Branch-WR-OLB-6-0,210**
**133. Braydon Simpson-Broome-WR-5-9,160**
**134. Charles "CJ" Williams-Hampton County-DT/T-60,245**
**136. Emani Welch-Chesterfield-Ath.-5-9,190 1**
**136. Angelo Cromer-Clinton-RB-5-10,170**
**137. Drew Wolfe-Northwood Academy-WR-6-1, 165**
**138. Deondre Allen-Colleton County-WR-6-2,190**
**139. Xavier Geter-Midland Valley-QB/FS-6-1,190**
**140. Larkin Powell-Johnsonville-QB-5-11, 175**
**141. Christian McDFowell-Eastside-DB-5-9,155**
**142. Ja'Mere Ross-Johnsonville-WR-5-7,155**
**143. Logan Martin-Laurtence-MLB-6-0,190**
**144. Eric Richardson- Lugoff-Elgin-WR-6-0,175**
**145. Kaydin Green-Natrion Ford-DL-6-1, 280**
**146. Dorian Jones-Silver Bluff-RB-5-9,185**

# Hampton County ready to make deep playoff run

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Varnville** – Year four of existence for Hampton County High School saw the football team establish another first as they captured their first back to back region championships which was also their third in four years as well as the first with everyone being a Hurricane.

"Our goal is to always compete for a region championship. We want to build a championship culture and our first way to do that is compete for region titles and create momentum into the playoffs," said head coach **Rob Hanna.**

Winning the region 7A also gave the Cane's a bye which is something that coach Hanna is not a fan of for his football team.

"To be honest, I do not like it. I think the bracket doesn't help good teams this year by giving us a bye week while we watch 2 games play for a chance to go to Bamberg and Central. I would rather play this week to keep momentum rolling and of course a home game always brings a good crowd which would help our school financially," said Hanna

The Canes have also established themselves as "Running Back U" as for the third time they have the top rusher in the state. This year it is junior **Nigil Fripp.** He burst on to the scene with 187 yards in the opener against Colleton County and from there he has rushed for over 300 yards and over 200 yards twice this season. Heading into the playoffs he has rushed for 1918 yards and 19 touchdowns.

The key to Canes rushing has been the "Road Graders Up Front". In other words, the offensive line. This veteran group is led by four seniors lead the in left tackle **Charles "CJ" Williams**, right tackle **Ty'quavian Jones,** left guard **Lonzo Johnson**, and right guard **Cautey Taylor.** Junior center **Will Cobb** is the lone under classmen in the stating five.

Coach Hanna, "Yes it starts up front with the OL. We pride ourselves in being physical M-F, not just on Friday nights. I think that is our key to having great backs. Our OL is selfless and they play for each other. They put themselves and their bodies on the line every night for another player to get all the glory and accolades while they get very little credit. They also love to win!"

The Canes have been very good defensively with four shut-outs to its credit. They are allowing 13 and while they only forced 10 turnovers all year they have 69.5 TFL's and 26 sacks. They are led by freshman middle linebacker **Isaac James.** He is the top ranked freshman prospect in the state. He leads the team in tackles with tackles with 114, TFL's with 14, and sacks with five.

Yes, we've kind of done that a few times this year. Bishop England and Christ Church games were very similar, the difference is I didn't think we played that bad in the first half last week. They did a good job of creating 2 turnovers and they kept the ball away from us. I think we only had 12/13 offensive plays in the first half. We did not panic at halftime because we have been there before, we just made a few adjustments and came out and played hurricane football. I'm proud of the team for that, but we need to do a better job of starting games and getting ahead. We are a much better team when we play with the lead.

**Jayden Frazier** and **Cleavon Maxwell** are 2 juniors who have caused chaos on the field every Friday night while **Robert Amaker** leads the team in picks with five.


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# Patrick Henry finishes above .500 at 6-4 in 2026

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Estill** – After two seasons in which it went 4-7 and 2-9, the **Patrick Henry Academy** football team rebounded this season. The Patriots finished with a 6-4 record for their first winning season since 2023 when they were 11-2 and won the SCISA Class A state title.

PHA still exited in the first round of the AA state playoffs, falling to Pee Dee Academy 41-18. Despite that, head coach **Joe Gray Peeples** felt progress was made.

"When the season started, I was looking at the schedule, and I felt like 6-3 in the regular season is where we need to be." said Peeples, who just completed his fourth season as head coach. "Win the games we're supposed to win and compete in the others.

"I thought we competed with them (PDA) last night. I thought we competed with **Dorchester** (a 26-8 loss), and **Colleton Prep** (**Academy**, a 46-28 loss). We didn't against **Calhoun** (**Academy**, a 44-0 loss). That's just not a good matchup for us."

"If that's how you rate a successful season, we definitely had a successful season."

Patrick Henry did it with freshmen playing major roles, including quarterback **Aiden Johnson**. He completed 52 of 116 passes for 608 yards and four touchdowns heading into the playoffs. He also rushed for 118 yards and three scores.

Sophomore **Kai Sobey** no doubt set the pace for the offense. He had 1,123 yards and 15 touchdowns, caught 13 passes for 127 yards and one TD and even threw two touchdown passes.

Kai's older brother, senior **Luke Sobey**, had rushed for 330 yards and six scores on 50 carries to go with 13 receptions for 97 yards and a touchdown. Junior Owen Shaffer was the leading receiver with 17 grabs for 291 yards and two TDs while also carrying the football 40 times for 174 yards and one score. Senior **Miles Peeples** caught two scoring passe.

The Sobeys were the defensive leaders as well. Luke had 115 tackles and seven tackles for a loss, while Kai had a team high 12 TFLs among his 82 stops.

Shaffer had 65 tackles and eight TFLs, freshman **Brady Peeples** had 56 tackles, and senior **Jay Bishop** had five TFLs.

While PHA only picked off three passes, it did recover 18 fumbles. Shaffer was leading the way with five, while Luke Sobey had three. Kai Sobey caused six fumbles and Luke Sobey forced five.

Shaffer and Kai Sobey proved to be dangerous on special teams, each taking a kickoff back for a touchdown. Shaffer averaged 28.8 yards a return on nine attempts while Sobey returned 10 kickoffs for a 23.5 average. Sobey also averaged 15.3 ayrds on thre punt returns, while Caleb Corley averaged 15.0 on five returns.



# Mwangi building a winning volleyball program

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Walterboro** – Now in his third season as head coach, **Colleton County** volleyball coach **Samuel Mwangi** is slowly developing the competitive level of his program.

The program is still a ways off from competing for a region title but Mwangi is noticing that his team is able to compete better against the top teams on the schedule. While the team is off to an 0-7 start against region foes, the Bulldogs have posted eight wins overall this season. The coach feels enhanced off-season competition on the club level would aid in the development of each player, thus improving the team's performance.

"The varsity volleyball team has proven it can compete with strong teams, but it needs more consistency against stronger opponents and further skill development," says Mwangi. "Club volleyball would provide valuable training and competitive experience, helping players strengthen their skills, improve consistency, and elevate the team's overall performance."

Most of the roster this season is comprised of underclassmen. In fact, there are no starting seniors in the lineup.

Junior **Tiera Wilkins** is one of the starting outside hitters, and junior **Lilly Christopher** is the starting setter.

The other outside hitter is junior **Nikki Gabriel** and junior **Kyla Aiken** is starting in the middle, along with junior **Olivia Arnold**. Junior **Madison Hand** is the Right Side.

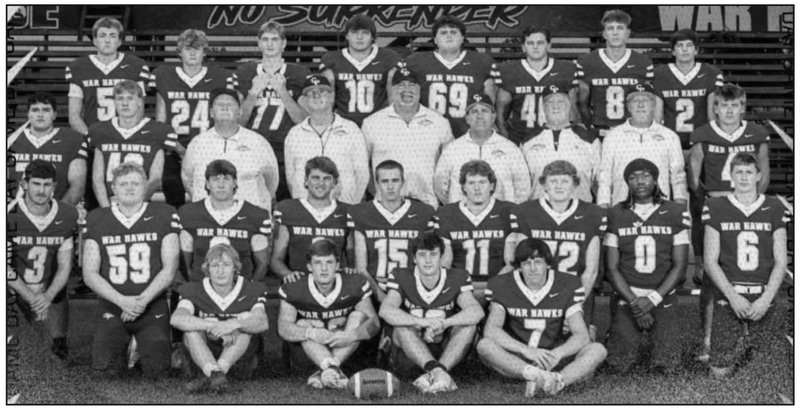
Two liberos who substitute for the middle hitters are junior **Natalie French** and **Bryleigh Johnson.**

"The strength of the team is setting, outside attack, and blocks from the middle," Mwangi said.

Hand is the team captain who knows the positions and rotations, and coordinates the team well, according to Mwangi. Christopher is the assistant captain.

Rounding out the team are senior **Macyla Shaffer**, and juniors **Ashlynne Bernardi**, **Lillyanne Kooy, Emily Villela,** and **Alleigh Shaffer**.

"My expectations are high as they continue practicing and applying various skills. I look forward to having most players join high-level clubs in the USA," Mwangi said.



*2026 Colleton Prep football*

# Colleton Prep football one win from state finals

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Walterboro** – A win on Nov. 13 will send the Colleton Prep football team to the SCISA Class AAA state championship game for the second straight year.

The Warhawks enter their semi-final game against Pee Dee Academy with an 11-1 record.

Senior quarterback **Cale Owens** has had a monster season as the team's top offensive threat. Davis has passed for 2116 yards and 33 touchdowns through the air, while rushing for 823 yards and nine touchdowns.

**Thomas Corbett** and **Hartman Fisk** are the leading receivers. Corbett has 726 yards on 33 catches, and 12 touchdowns while Fisk has 491 yards and 11 touchdowns on 35 recepyions..

**Charlie Walker** has added 512 yards and seven scores on 27 receptions while **Kaiden Kinard** has 24 catches for 405 yards and five touchdowns.

The cross country teams competed in the SCISA state meet recently. The top finisher on the boys team was freshman **Brayden Smoak** in 19th-place. Sophomore **Brayden Sheppard** finished 18th and sixth-grader **Hase Blakely** finished 39th.

On the girls team, the top CPA runner was **Cameron Kinard** in 12th place. **Kelsey Kizer** finished 27th and **Emerson Polk** was 43rd.

In volleyball, the Colleton Prep girls finished their season with a 10-16 overall record. They made the state playoff tournament but lost their first two games.

**Belinda McCoy** was in her third season at Colleton Prep after a successful run at Patrick Henry Academy. McCoy has led the program to improvement in each season after inheriting a team that went 0-20 in 2023.

Colleton Prep competes in a very good region 4-AAA with Hilton Head Prep, St. John's Christian and Cross School. The coach says it simply when asked how far the team can advance, saying "this team will go as far as the communication holds up." Strong team play and cohesiveness also will be key factors.

The team has three seniors this season. **Cecelia Williams** is a middle hitter, **Millie Drew** is an outside hitter, and **Nevaeh Crosby** is a Libero.

Juniors include Libero **Addy Busch** and right side hitter **Breland Cain**. Sophomores on the team include setter **Brooklyn Whitley**, right side hitter **Banks Benton**, and middle hitter **Bella Baker**.

Rounding out the roster are freshmen **Hannah Murray** (middle) and **Hadley Harrison** (setter0, and eighth-grader **Addisyn Godley**, an outside hitter.

McCoy states that the team leaders were the three seniors, along with Busch.


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SUMMERVILLE GREENWAVE

# Summerville has momentum heading into second round of state playoffs

**By Roger Lee**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Summerville** – **Summerville** rides a six-game winning streak into the second round of the **5A Football Lower State** playoffs.

"We have great coaches on both sides of the ball so when the kids execute and do what they are supposed to do we are pretty good," said Summerville coach **Ian Rafferty**. "I'm pleased with everything. A lot of guys are doing a bunch of different things and contributing."

Summerville lost its first three games of September, falling to **West Charlotte**, **Berkeley** and **James Island.** The loss at Berkeley stung because it was by a 29-3 margin. The 24-14 loss at James Island hurt because it cost the Green Wave the **5A Region 5 Championship** and better playoff seeding.

Since those losses, Summerville has outscored its opponents 289-44.

"This group is starting to jell offensively in all phases," Rafferty said. "We are not just a running team any more. We can throw the ball around pretty good and have a lot of athletes and playmakers. The offensive line is really coming together. Defensively they are playing with great effort and doing what they are supposed to do."

Summerville defeated visiting **Blythewood** 28-7 in the opening round of the playoffs.

Summerville fumbled the return of the game's opening kickoff to set up the **Bengals** with a short field. Blythewood drove 34 yards, largely running the ball, and capped the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback **James Veasey**. With the successful PAT kick, the Bengals took a 7-0 lead.

After punting to end its next offensive possession, Summerville wasted no time on the one after that. Quarterback **Ethan D'Water** threw a pass to receiver **Toreyion Jackson** on first down and the senior turned on the jets for a 55-yard touchdown catch.

Late in the second quarter Summerville mounted a 53-yard scoring drive. Running back **Jayven Williams** took a direct snap and dashed six yards for the TD to cap the drive. **Nate Beaver**'s second successful PAT kick of the evening put the Green Wave up 14-7, a score that held until halftime.

The second half was all Summerville. Williams added two more TD runs, including a 47-yarder, in the third quarter for the 28-7 lead.

The Green Wave travels to **Carolina Forest** (8-2) Nov. 13 for the second round. Carolina Forest is the No. 4 seed for the Lower State while Summerville (8-3) is the No. 5 seed. The **Panthers**' losses came to **Myrtle Beach** (in overtime) and Berkeley.

Williams is a finalist for the **2026 South Carolina Mr. Football** award. The running back is the first player in Summerville history to rush for more than 5,000 career yards, breaking a record held by former **NFL** running back **De'Angelo Henderson**. A two-time **Class 5A All-State** pick and two-time unanimous captain, Williams has scored 72 career touchdowns and helped the Green Wave reach back-to-back state championship games. The **2026 Shrine Bowl** selection will graduate in December and enroll early at **James Madison University**.



*Photo by Roger Lee*
*Summerville punter Hayden O'Rear follows through on a punt.*

"He is the type of player every coach hopes to have," Rafferty said.

Summerville outside linebacker **Eli Pressley** was selected to participate in the **79th annual Touchstone Energy Cooperatives North-South All-Star Bowl**. Pressley is the leader for a talented group of Green Wave linebackers. With his help the Summerville defense shutout two teams and held three others to a single score.

Pressley had 55 tackles in the first eight games including 11 solo stops. He also has an interception.

**Volleyball**

The **Green Wave Boys Volleyball** team followed a 3-1 win over **Wando** Oct. 20 with a 3-2 win at Blythewood Oct. 22 in the second round of the playoffs to advance to the **Lower State Championship** match for the second consecutive season. Summerville, the Region 5 Champion, lost to Carolina Forest in the Lower State title match to finish the season at improved to 19-9 on the season.

Summerville also fell in the third round of the state **5A Girls Volleyball** playoffs.

After claiming a region championship to earn a bye for the first round, the Green Wave defeated Blythewood 3-0 in **The Firehouse** Oct. 27. For the third straight year, Summerville had to travel to state power Wando for the third round. The **Warriors** defeated the Green Wave 3-0 to eliminate Summerville, which finished the season with a 22-8 record.

**Emilia Markovic** was named to the **South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports All-State Team**, She was also selected to participate in the association's **2026 Volleyball North-South All-Star matches.**

**Cross Country**

Summerville placed first in the boys' cross country odd race during the **2026 5A state qualifying** meet in Newberry Nov. 6.

The Green Wave finished with 41 points to lead the pack in the race. Senior **David Greer** led Summerville, finishing with a 16:46 time to place second individually. **Jacek Torkel** placed sixth and **Jack Alberti** placed 10th.

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# Kingstree football has disappointing 3-7 season

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Kingstree** – With the **Kingstree High School** football team playing at the Class A level for the first time following the **South Carolina High School League's** reclassification, Blazers head coach **Brandon Cantrell** was hoping that would help it get over the hump and have a successful season.

It didn't work out that way.

KHS won only three of 10 games and went just 1-4 in Region 5. Thus, it missed out on making the Division I state playoffs.

"It was disappointing," said Cantrell, who just completed his second season in charge of the program. "Maybe it was more of my expectations of what I thought we could do this year. It's going to take a little longer to build a program that hasn't had a lot of success."

What was most frustrating to Cantrell was the fact Kingstree generally played its best football against the best teams on its schedule. That doesn't necessarily translate into victories though

Three of their losses came against teams who were picking up their first victories a few weeks into the season.

"I think that speaks to the lack of the maturity of the team," Cantrell said. "Against the big teams we generally played well and then wouldn't play well against the teams that were not as good. In my mind, I don't understand it. We would act like we never played football before."

The Blazers were led offensively by senior quarterback **Randy McFadden**. He completed 83 of 174 passes for 1,232 yards and seven touchdowns while also being the leading rusher. He had 378 yards and eight scores on 97 carries.

McFadden's favorite target was junior **Landon Hannah**. He finished with 33 receptions for 526 yards and three TDs.

"Landon was our Swiss army knife, doing a lot of different things for us," Cantrell said. "He turned into a weapon on offense. He definitely stepped up for us."

Junior **Meltrim Segars** finished with 26 catches for 315 yards and one touchdown, and senior **Maleek Dukes** had six grabs for 91 yards and two scores.

Dukes also had another strong season at linebacker. The 2025 Region 6-AA Defensive Player of the Year, Dukes had a team high 14 tackles for loss among his 44 tackles. He also had two quarterback sacks, three interceptions, one fumble recovery and one caused fumble.

Junior linebacker **Jaylen Williams** led in tackles with 74 to go with three TFLs. Senior linebacker **Mark Pickard** had 63 tackles and six TFLs to go with two sacks, one fumble recovery and one caused fumble.

Senior outside linebacker **Johmetrius Chandler** was in his first season as a defensive starter and led in sacks with five to go with 11 TFLs and 55 total tackles. He also caused two fumbles.

Segars led in interceptions with four and pass breakups with seven to go with 49 tackles.

Cantrell believes another offseason working with the student-athletes will help Kingstree take another step forward in building consistency.

"The key ingredient is having talent, and I believe we have that," he said. "We have to continue developing it and build confidence in the players. We need to show them where we are and what we're trying to get to as we continue to fix the program.

"A lot of things went well, but there are still a lot of things we need to continue to improve on. There has never been a lot of consistency in the program."

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# Chesterfield football looking towards 2027

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Chesterfield** – The 2026 **Chesterfield Rams** finished this season at 2-8. But head coach **Nick Dixon** found many positives his program can build upon.

"I thought we played a lot better, defensively, this year," said Coach Dixon. "I know the won-loss record didn't reflect that, but our defense probably played its best ball in a span of 4-5 years.

"(Defensive coordinator) **Dillon Moon** did a great job of putting our players in positions to be successful," said Coach Dixon. "Our defensive line did a marvelous job. We have two kids **(Will Evans, Levi Jones**) who led our defense."

Coach Dixon talked more about Evans.

"He did a lot; a lot of people, though, don't realize it," said coach Dixon. "But he still made plays along the edge. He made a lot of plays someone in his position shouldn't have made. He had a few sacks for us and he led us in tackles for loss. He played like his hair was on fire every Friday night and then had to turn around and play on the offensive line.

"(Evans and Jones) are probably going to be all-region for us," he added.

Coach Dixon also had individual praise for Jones, who led the Rams in sacks.

"He did a little bit of everything, taking on blocks and making stops and just being that guy who could do the dirty work," said Coach Dixon. "He played with such great effort. He and (Evans) are both juniors, so we're excited to have them back for next fall."

The Rams also had strong linebacker play from **Jamieson Dalton** and **Savion Hubbard**.

"They did exactly what we asked them to do to put themselves in position to make plays," said Coach Dixon. "(Hubbard) stepped into his brother's shoes and led us."

**Braydon Melton** and **Zymir Bennett** also had strong seasons in the secondary, and **Jeremiah White** also made a late impact this season.

"They didn't give up a lot of deep balls," said coach Dixon. "They probably had less than five balls thrown on them for touchdowns or big plays."

On offense, **Emani Welch** switched this season from receiver to quarterback.

"That filled that void for us," said Coach Dixon. "He did what he needed to do for us. We had a power package with Emani, and he managed the game for us. I can't give him enough praises."

Seniors **Caleb Johnson** and **Jullian McClain** were at running back. And **Holden Lowery** was at receiver.

The offensive line included Jones and Evans, as well as four-year starter **Maqwan Blount**. Not to mention, **Ronnie Guinn** and three-year starter **Alex Durr**.

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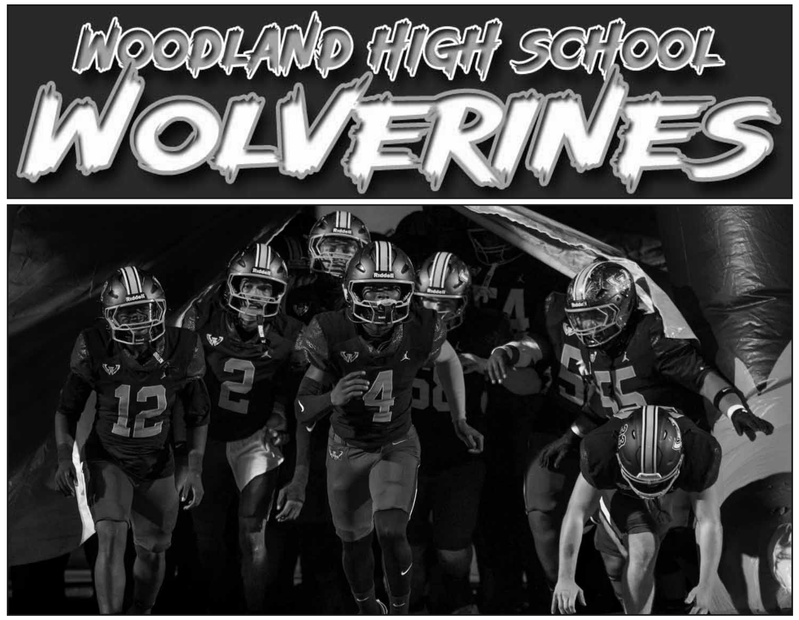
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*The Wolverines take the field*

# Woodland defeats East Clarendon in first round of AA playoffs, Philip Simmons up next

**By Billy G. Baker**
**Publisher**

**Dorchester—Woodland** (9-2) defeated **East Clarendon,** 34-3 in the first round of the SCHSL AA football playoffs on Nov., 6, and the Wolverines now travel to region foe **Philip Simmons,** in round two, hoping to avenge a 32-29 loss to the Iron Horses back on October, 2.

"We kind of knew that we would be facing a rematch with Philip Simmons when **Saluda** beat **Strom Thurmond** and **Dillon** beat **Marlboro County** in the other AA regions few weeks ago," said Woodland head coach **Eddie Ford**. "We were winning 21-17 going into the fourth quarter against **Philip Simmons** in our game with them back in October.

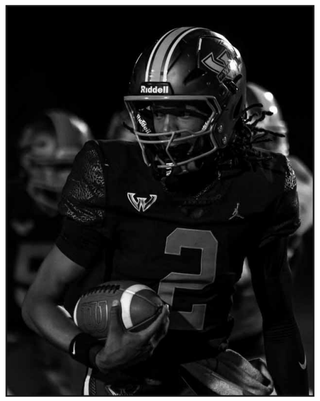
"In the fourth quarter they recovered a bad snap into the end zone, on a fourth down, and they had a fourth quarter field goal that beat us," said Coach Ford. "In our game with them this week we have to run the ball better and eliminate turnovers.

"Our defense must do a better job stopping their potent rushing attack also," said Coach Ford. "We need to make some big plays on offense while our defense has to eliminate their big play potential on offense.

"We gave up 13 points to Philip Simmons on special teams in our first game with them and we definitely have to not let that happen this time around," said Coach Ford. "We need to control the clock with a good rushing game on our part."

Coach Ford said Woodland needs to play very physical against Philip Simmons this week. "We need to play with a lot of physicality this week," said Coach Ford. "Over the season our players are starting to play with more attention to detail and that has not always been the case," said Coach Ford. "We have improved as a team this season because our added depth has helped us keep going despite having some injuries.

"We have really improved and stepped up our play on defense this season and the offensive line has played well also," said Coach Ford. "Right now, we are playing to go 1-0 every week until we get to the state championship game."



*Senior Jervaze Salley*

In the win over **East Clarendon** last week senior quarterback **Jervase Salley** completed 15-0f-26 passes for 115 yards and he added 87 yards and two rushing TD's to that total. RB Khalin Bryant had 91 yards on 15 carries against EC with one TD. RB TJ Lary added 61 rushing yards on 8 carries and one TD.

On defense against EC, CB **Chandler White** and DB **Lakye White** led the way with 12 and 11 tackles respectively. DB **Kiyan Thompson** added four tackles with one interception. OLB **Cross Batton** had 8 tackles and two sacks versus EC.

For the season Salley has thrown for 2,202 yards and 15 TD's. He is a true dual threat with an additional 696 yards rushing with 8 TD's. Thompson has 777 yards on 93 carries and 10 TD's coming into the Philip Simmons game this week. Bryant has 483 rushing yards with four TD's on 67 carries to date.

The top Woodland WR is Jhalin Herring who has caught 31 passes for 587 yards and five TD's to date. **Demontai Felder** has 28 catches for 502 yards and five TD's. Goodwin, a highly regarded junior prospect, has 17 catches for 296 yards and three TD's while **Jeremie Jean** has 34 catches for 396 yards and three TD's.

On defense the tackle leaders for the season are **Lakye White** with 101 tackles, 12 TFL and three forced fumbles. **Chandler Fogle** has 96 tackles, two interceptions, and two forced fumbles. **Ray Smith** has 68 tackles, 11 sacks, seven TFL and one forced fumble. **Cross Batton** has 61 tackles, 8 sacks, and 9 TFL.

**Kiyan Thompson** has 41 tackles. five picks, and two PBU's. DB **Jhalin Herring** has 31 tackles, six picks, and four PBU's. **Javion Hall** is at 44 tackles, one pick, and four PBU. OLB **George Perry** has 54 tackles, and five TFL.

The starting offensive line for Woodland consists of left-guard **Machi Singletary**, right-guard **Jordan Ford**, left tackle **Samuel Gadson** and right tackle **Owen Messex**. The starting center is freshman **Grady Baggett**.

The team has an outstanding place kicker **James Moore**. "We would be comfortable giving a chance to kick field goals from 400yards in," said Coach Ford. "He has made 8 field goals already this season."

**Juan Forero** handles kick-off duties and junior **Henry Phalen** is the punter. **Kam Westbury** is a key sub in the secondary.

A few other key players include senior FS **Duke Williams**, senior CB **Majai Wolfe**, freshman H-back **Sir'Mani Grampus**, junior DE **Payton Harrison**, DE **Ray Smith** along with junior NG **Koby Doctor**.

"We were 11-2 in 2023 so we hope to exceed that record with a strong finish this season," said Coach Ford. "Our defense and special teams have needs to continue to play well. It's all about playing them one game at the time right now."

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# Fort Dorchester opens playoffs with win

**By Roger Lee**
**Special to the HSSR**

**North Charleston – Fort Dorchester** has won three of its last four football games.

The **Patriots** defeated **West Ashley** 30-16 Oct. 9 and **Stratford** 21-14 Oct. 23. They then opened the playoffs with a win at **Wando**. The only loss Fort Dorchester has since Oct. 9 was to **Summerville** by a 45-0 margin.

"We've known from the start of the season we would go as far as these young kids can grow and mature as the season went on," said Fort Dorchester coach **Shaun Lorenzano**. "They are finally coming into it. They are not having to worry about or be scared of getting taken out for making mistakes. They are learning. Because they've put the time in it is all kind of clicking together offensively and defensively."

The Patriots claimed a 34-24 victory at Wando to avenge a 31-24 loss to the **Warriors** earlier this season and advance to host **Region 5 Champion James Island** in the second round. Fort Dorchester enters that game with a 6-5 record and as the Lower State's No. 9 seed. The Trojans are 10-0 and the Lower State's No. 1 seed, but aren't allowed to host a playoff game this season due to sanctions for a rules violation.

Fort freshman QB **Landon Freeman** threw three touchdown passes and scored on a quarterback sneak at Wando. He connected with **Derick Simpson** on a 55-yard catch and run for a TD, with **Devin Gates** for a 74-yard catch, run and score, and with **Laurez Matthews** on a TD pass.

The Patriots' other touchdown came on a Pick 6 by defensive back **Amari Dawson**, who covered 55 yards on the return.



*Photo by Roger Lee*
*Devin Gates (#6) is a contributor on both sides of the ball for Fort Dorchester.*

"The first time we played Wando they drove the ball down our throat a couple of times," Lorenzano said. "Teams are not doing that to us much anymore because we are getting more sound. Their fundamentals are getting better. With young kids it just takes some time to get there."

This is the third consecutive year the Patriots have advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

"The **Nick Saban** video just came out," Lorenzano said. "It's about how he kind of changed his way of thinking as a coach. I'm going to show that to the kids because he talks about how you have to be process orientated and not focused on the result. We were down at Wando but weren't locked in on the scoreboard, but locked in on what we could do to get things going our way. That's what Coach Saban was preaching, to focus on what is in front of you right now. … Can we get three to four yards each time on offense and can we get three-and-outs on defense."

Matthews and Gates, both juniors, have developed into dangerous receivers for the Patriots.

"Laurez is one of the best receivers in the state," Lorenzano said. "He already has offers from **Wake Forest** and **Liberty.** He had some injuries at the beginning of the year, but now he isn't hurt. Devin is our leading receiver right now. Freshman quarterback Landon Freeman has really stepped up. He is going to be a big-time player. **Ousmane Diarra** is a 6-5 offensive lineman who has gotten so much better this year. Kicker/punter **Marrio Marston** is among the top kickers in the state."

Sophomore strong safety **Jaxson Ray** has more than 120 tackles this season. Sophomore tight end/linebacker **Mac Floyd** has made big contributions and has a knack for being around the ball.

# Ashley Ridge works to improve on the court

**By Roger Lee**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Summerville** – The **Ashley Ridge Girls Volleyball Team** is building for the future.

The **Swamp Foxes** had their challenges this season, but with only four seniors on this year's roster they stand to benefit from lessons learned.

"We have the talent to compete when we trust each other, handle pressure, and stay together when things aren't going our way," said Ashley Ridge coach **Chonsie Eechaute**. "Our theme this season has been 'We Play as One' and that's really what it comes down to. When we play together and stay disciplined, we've shown that we can compete at a high level."

Eechaute took over the program this Summer after serving as its assistant coach and defensive coordinator last season. The Swamp Foxes contended for fourth place in their region, but had to settle for fifth place. After a loss to **Cane Bay** in the opening round of the 5A state playoffs, Ashley Ridge finished the season with a 7-13 record.

"This is my first year as interim head coach, but I'm not new to Ashley Ridge or these girls," Eechaute said. "The program had a new head coach last season and then another coaching transition this year, so rebuilding that consistency and establishing our identity is taking some time. Being familiar with the program and the girls has definitely helped, but there is still an adjustment that comes with a change in leadership. I think we continue to learn more about each other and grow as a team every week."

The team has strong leadership. Setter **Lillian (Lily) Godsave** and middle blocker/hitter **Riley Lavery** are the team captains. **Ava Davis**, **Marlee Elam**, **Julianne Williams**, **Arianna Branton** and **Mariana Dos Santos** are also returning varsity lettermen.



*Photo by Roger Lee*
*Ashley Ridge middle blocker/hitter Riley Lavery has been selected to participate in the 2026 North vs. South Girls All-Star Volleyball matches.*

"Lily, is a big for us in the front row," Eechaute said. "She has a huge responsibility in running our offense, communicating, and helping control the tempo of the game. She has really grown into that leadership role. Arianna, our libero, leads us in the back row. She anchors our defense and serve receive and is someone we rely on for consistency and communication."

Other members of the varsity squad are **Dalila Rogers, Kaylin Attebury, Adyson Holland, Kaelyn Ellis, Finley Calhoun, Aliyas Foster, Kaylee Wottenzin** and **Sarah Soles**.

Lavery was selected to participate in the **2026 North vs. South Girls All-Star Volleyball** matches.

**Swimming**

The **Ashley Ridge Boys** placed third during the **South Carolina High School League 5A Swimming Championships.**

Senior **Karter Gladis** placed second in both the **Boys 100 Breaststroke** and the **200 Individual Medley**. Swamp Fox swimmer **James Young** placed eighth in the **100 Freestyle**. **Jackson Jarrard** placed sixth in both the **100 Backstroke** and **100 Butterfly**. **Landen Piscitelli** placed seventh in the **100 Breast**.

Jarrard, Gladis and Young teamed up with **Gryffin Routhier** to help the Ashley Ridge **200 Medley Relay** team to a second-place finish. Young, Gladis, Piscitelli and Routhier helped the AR **200 Free Relay** team place third. Jarrard, Piscitelli, Sean Grillett and Dominik Applegate helped the AR **400 Free Relay** team place sixth.

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# Hawks erupt in second half to advance in playoffs

**By Rob Gantt**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Hanahan - Hanahan High School** football coach **Milan Turner** had seen the film. He had a suspicion visiting Swansea High School would provide quite a test for the Hawks in the opening round of the Class 3A playoffs Friday, Nov. 6, at Wiley Knight Stadium.

Turner was right.

The Hawks needed an explosive second half to pull away for a 61-30 victory over Swansea. Turner's squad trailed 23-19 less than three minutes into the second half before breaking it open with 42 points, turning a nailbiter into a blowout.

The 61 points is likely a program best in a playoff game.

"I thought we were playing physical early and doing a good job running our scheme," Turner said. "We went up two scores and then we just had a couple of missed fits. (Swansea) is extremely athletic. They've got guys who can run on the edge and make plays. We told them all week we can't give up the explosives… What I was proud of, I told them at halftime we're winning the game (19-17) and if we just go out and play a little better we can finish this thing."

Hanahan quarterback **Tripp Gallus** (6-5, 230) had a hand in five touchdowns and amassed 240 total yards - 170 yards passing and 70 rushing. The junior threw for three scores, ran for one another and even hauled one in on a trick play as the Hawks topped 60 points in a game for the first time since scoring 63 twice in October, 2021.

Senior receiver **Grayson Mathes** hauled in four passes for 125 yards, including a 71-yarder to spark Hanahan's 28-point fourth quarter. He also put the finishing touch on the rout, breaking off a 70-yard kickoff return for a score with just over three minutes left. In between, backup running back **Xavier Sabback** reached paydirt twice during the uprising for the Hawks (9-2). Sabback finished up with 49 yards.

Hanahan hosts Oceanside Collegiate (6-3) in the second round of the Class 3A playoffs Friday. The encounter is the second this season. In early October, the Landsharks picked up a 31-21 victory over the Hawks in Charleston and eventually went on to claim the Region 5-3A title.

"Man, what a great football team," Turner said of the Landsharks. "We played them once and it was a war. It was 24-21 in the fourth quarter with six minutes to go, and we had the ball. We've got to be able to finish. We've got to clean up some mistakes. You make the mistakes we made tonight, you don't come back against that team. We've got to heal up, too. Next week is all about the process. You've got to have four good days of preparation and play your best football."

Swansea went toe to toe with the Hawks in the first half, rallying from a 13-0 first-quarter deficit to lead 14-13 in the second quarter. Gallus completed a trifecta of sorts to put the home team back on top, 19-13, hauling in a 10-yard touchdown pass from junior receiver **Quamell Grant**. Earlier, Gallus scored on a 6-yard run and tossed a 10-yard strike to Grant on Hanahan's first two possessions.

Swansea pulled within 19-17 on a field goal on the final play of the first half, then put a scare into the Hawks by retaking the lead on a 43-yard run less than three minutes into the second half.

However, Mathes returned the ensuing kickoff to Swansea's 10 and sophomore running back **Nevaehus Gourdine** gave the Hawks a 25-23 lead on a 5-yard run with 8:42 on the clock in the third quarter. Gourdine finished with 120 yards on the ground.

Swansea responded by converting a fourth-and-short at midfield to Hanahan's 10, but coughed it up on the very next play. About four minutes later, Gallus found Grant over the middle for 9 yards to push the lead back to two possessions, 33-23.

The fourth quarter was all Hawks as they continued to light up the scoreboard. One of Sabback's tallies came after a Swansea fumble.

Gallus enters the second round with around 2,700 yards and 30 touchdowns through the air. Grant has 13 touchdown grabs and around 1,200 yards receiving. Mathes has 11 touchdown receptions and just went over the 1,000-yard mark for the season.

Gourdine is over 800 yards rushing. The touchdown was his 18th of the season.

The Hawks are into the second round of the playoffs for the fourth straight season under Turner.

# Chargers playing its best at the right time

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Summerville** – The Northwood Academy Chargers opened defense of their SCISA AAAA with a 35-10 win over Heathwood Hall Episcopal Friday night and while their offense gets most of the headlines it is the defense that has improved since the start to become the strength of the team.

"I can't say enough about the defense. They have done nothing but improve since game and they have become a strength of our team," said head coach **Johnny Waters**. "They have made big plays all year and Friday they helped turn the game around."

Friday night after Heathwood Hall put together a 6-play, 80-yard drive to move within four points at 14-10 right before the end of the first half. They held the Highlanders to minus 10 yards on their first four drives of the second half. **Bryce Jenkins** and **Devin Porter** each had an interception while **Mari Brown** and the entire defensive line had a sack.

After giving up 60 points in the opening game against the HSSR's top SCISA AAA Bethesda Academy the defense would allow only four other opponents to score 20 or more points. They have picked off 12 passes. Jenkins has a team high six interception and passes defended with four.

They have also recovered 9 fumbles but where they have excelled is causing negative plays by their opponents. They have 73 tackles for loss with four players with over 10 TFL's, led by **Triston Simmons's** 11.5. **Nate Cross**, **Mitchell Lainer** and **Memphis Varner** all have 10 or more TFL's. Cross and Lainer led the team in sacks with 5.5 each while the team has total of 24.



*The Chargers take the field*

Leading the team in tackles is senior linebacker **Brooks Arnold** leads the team in tackles with 71 while Simmons is second with 66 but he leads the team in solos tackles with 31. Porter is third on the team 47. The Chargers also have 9 other players with at least 30 tackles which show a lot of Chargers rallying to the ball on every play.

Next up for this defense is one of the top offenses in the state in the Pinewood Prep Panthers. The Panthers are averaging 45 points a game and they scored 43 points the last time these two teams met. They are led by quarterback **Silas Brawner** and the receiving duo of **Jeremy Kendall** and **Grayson Salego.**

"Pinewood is a good football team and it will be a great game but we are glad the game is here," said Waters.

The Chargers scored 44 in that game. Quarterback **Kevin Johnson** continues to make big plays in the passing with three of his receivers, **Drew Wolfe, Aiden Rutledge and Scott Geisel**, having over 30 receptions. Wolfe leads the group with 51 receptions for 1059 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Senior **Michael Polite** leads the team rushing with 1066 yards and 9 scores. He was the spark for the Charger offense Friday night as he rushed for 134 yards.

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# Patriots come up short in playoffs, season over

**By: Gerald Doolittle**

**Johnston, S.C. –** The **Wardlaw Academy Patriots** coached by **Marsh Stark** saw their 2026 football season come to an end with a first round 8-40 loss to **Laurens Academy**. The Patriots ended the season with a 2-8 record. The Patriots two wins were over **Andrew Jackson Academy** (44-22) and **Community Christian** (26-0).

After starting 2-1 the Patriots season took a dive as the Patriots found it hard to keep key players healthy during the season. Despite all the bumps the team worked hard to be a competitive force in their region where they were 2-2 finishing third behind **Jefferson Davis and W W King.**

**Kale Henderson** (sr) from the quarterback position led the team in offense. He completed the season with over 900 yards for 10 touchdowns. He also rushed for 300 yards scoring 4 touchdowns

**Randell Thompson** (sr) was the rushing leader where he rushed for 700 yards scoring 7 touchdowns. He also had 400 receiving yards scoring 5 touchdowns. **Jake Winn** (sr) before his injury had 112 rushing yards. He also had 300 receiving yards for 2 touchdowns. **Chandler Thorne** (sr) had over 100 rushing yards. **Thomas Proctor** (sr) had over 100 receiving yards and a touchdown.

The Patriot defense had six players with over 20 tackles. Thompson led the way with 55 tackles and a fumble recovery. Jake Winn had 44 tackles, 1 pass interception and 1 fumble recovery.

**Cooper Davis** (sr) had 42 tackles, 1 sack and a fumble recovery. **Jon Rodgers** (jr) had 37 tackles and 2 sacks. Henderson had 25 tackles and 2 interceptions. Proctor had 23 tackles, 2 sacks and 2 fumble recoveries. **Evan Bryan** (sr) had 13 tackles and 1 interception.

Coach Stark will now work on getting more boys involved in the football program for 2027 and beyond. He hopes to have more on his roster for his second year as head football coach at his Alma Mater.

# Knights carrying 9-1 record into semi-finals

**By: Gerald Doolittle**

**Batesburg-Leesville, S.C. –** The **W.W. King Academy Knights** coached by **Brian Kneece** are still in the hunt for a second straight **SCISA 8-MAN** football Championship after their first round 36-14 win over **Richard Winn Academy**.

The Knights will now battle the **Newberry Academy Eagles** in the semi-finals. The Knights defeated the Eagles 30-6 in regular season. The Eagles are much improved this season having a competitive season with a 6-4 record going into the semi-finals.

Last season the Knights enjoyed their first ever undefeated season at 12-0 to bring home the title. Their only defeat this season was a 22-18 loss to undefeated **Jefferson Davis Academy**. The Knights will work hard to advance with a win over Newberry to face the Jefferson Davis vs **Laurens Academy** winner in the finals.

The Knights offensive punch this season has been led by senior **Elijah Hutto** from the quarterback slot and junior **Joseph Morse**. Hutto has passed for over 700 yards 10 touchdowns. Morse has rushed for 1500 yards for over 21 touchdowns. Last season Morse rushed for 2018 yards with 33 touchdowns.

Backing up Morse in the rushing game has been the play of **Jackson Hutto** (so), **Ty Doolittle** (sr) and **Jacob Bussey** (so). This trio has combined for another 1000 yards of offense with 10 touchdowns.

The favorite targets for Hutto in the Knights passing attack have been seniors **Landell Anderson** and **Luke Harvey**. Harvey has 15 catches for 259 yards 3 tds. Anderson has 10 catches for 223 yards 5 tds. **Bubba Buzhardt** (jr) has added 3 catches for 113 yards 1 touchdown.

Coach Kneece is proud of the strong defense that has held the opponents to only 6.8 points a game. The Knights have six players with 40 or more tackles.

**Jacob Bussey** (so) leads with 103 tackles followed by **Casen Buzhardt** (sr) with 72. **Colton Black (**sr) has 66. Harvey and Anderson have 49 and Jackson has 40.

The Knights defense has recorded over 10 sacks led by **Drayton Wannamaker** (so) with 3 and Bussey with 2. Other sacks have been recorded by **Isaiah Doolittle** (so), Anderson, **Walker Buzhardt** (fr) and **Greyson Rikard** (jr).

The Knights pass defense has been led by Anderson with 4 interceptions. Harvey follows with 3 interceptions and Bubba with 1.

Coach Kneece and staff are working hard to keep the Knights focused on the season goal of bringing home another Championship.

# Laurens Academy set to face JDA in semi-finals

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Laurens – Laurens Academy** has played for the SCISA 8-man football state title for two straight years. It is one win away from making it three in a row after topping **Wardlaw** 42-8 on November 6. However, the Crusaders have a big test ahead if they hope to make it back.

They will be traveling to **Blackville** to take on undefeated **Jefferson Davis Academy** in the semifinals on November 13.

"We're going to have to play near perfcct to beat them," LA head coach **Jolly Doolittle**, saif in reference to JDA, which is 12-0 on the year after blasting **Cambridge** 52-7 in the first round. "They're a really good team. They've been pretty dominant all year."

It's not as if Laurens is chopped liver though. It will bring a 9-1 record into the contest. The general consensus was the Crusaders and the Raiders would meet for the state title. However, LA dropped a 28-24 decision to **Richard Winn Academy** in its regular-season finale, thus causing it to finish second in the region.

Dolittle was pleased with how the Crusaders rebounded from the loss.

"That's the best we had played in quite some time," Doolittle said. "We just had better focus, there was no complacency, better execution.

"We didn't play well against Richard Winn, and we had played poorly the week before that too (in a 34-28 win over **Newberry Academy**). I think we had become complacent, and that's the fault of the head coach."

Quarterback **Ethan Collins** had a big game against Wardlaw, completing 19 of 24 passes for 203 yards and three touchdowns. **Caleb Hardy** and **Riley Whitaker** both had six catches and a TD reception, Hardy for 51 yards and Whitaker for 41. **Jensen Tarver** had the other TD catch, and **Eli Hornberger** had five grabs for 90 yards.

Laurens ran for 213 yards with Hardy carrying the ball 10 times for 60 yards and three scores. **Reid Campbell** had 47 yards on five rushes, and Hornberger had 36 yards on four attempts.

On the season, Collins has been very accurate. He's completed 134 of 186 attempts for 2,199 yards and 26 touchdowns. He's also has run the football for 278 yards and four touchdowns.

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# Gray Collegiate football earns second round trip

**By WORTHY EVANS**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Columbia -** The 2026 football schedule took its toll on **Gray Collegiate Academy** as it matched up with several high-level teams in and out of Region 5-AAAAA.

The War Eagles (4-6, 2-2 Region 4-AAAAA) battled hard with but lost to **Chambers** (N.C.) (9-1), **James Island** (10-0), AAAA power **South Florence** (7-3), last year's AAAAA Division I champion **Dutch Fork** (10-0) and region rivals **Sumter** (6-4) and champion **Ridge View** (7-2).

While posting a 27-0 shutout victory over **River Bluff**, a 49-15 win over **Mountain View Prep**, a 41-0 shutout of region foe **Spring Valley** and a 37-15 region win at **Blythewood**, head coach **De'Angelo Bryant** said the bye week that came before the playoffs was a great gift.

"It was a much-needed bye week. It allowed us to go back and refocus," he said. "We were able to overcome some things. We made some mistakes on through the whole season, and it allowed our kids and coaches to be able to learn from those mistakes an correct them."

Not only did that time helped the team reevaluate the season, it also gave some banged-up players some time to heal."

Among the facets of the games they reevaluated was the team's performance quarter by quarter. Bryant and his staff noted that there was a critical lag in second-quarter play in most games that enabled their opponents to either score points or drain the clock.

When the War Eagles came out in the second half, Bryant said the team played better, but sometimes could not overcome their second-quarter play.

"What a lot of people don't realize is that a lot of those games pivoted on a seven-minute stretch of the second quarter where you need to be playing your best football and we haven't been doing that," Bryant said. "We allowed too many things to get out of reach, but coming out of halftime we looked like a totally different football team. Dutch Fork, Sumter, Ridge View, they are all very well-coached and they're very athletic, and it put us at a disadvantage."

The War Eagles earned a No.6 seed in the lower state bracket of the 5A playoffs and took on No.10 Socastee at home Friday night.

Going into Friday's game, sophomore **Xavier Wright** completed 161 of 281 passes for 2,493 yards and 16 touchdowns. His main target, senior **Corey Gleaton**, had 51 catches for 971 yards and eight touchdowns. Senior **Trevon Williamson** rushed for 1,046 yards and 11 TDs on top of 270 receiving yards on 18 catches.

In beating Socastee 61-27 to open the AAAAA playoffs Friday night, the War Eagles showed what they can do when they were rested.

Wright completed 15 of 17 passes for 304 yards and four touchdowns. Royce Williamson returned an opening kickoff 75 yards for a touchdown and had five catches for 144 yards and three scores. Both athletes did so over the course of one half.

With Gray leading 48-13 to start the second half, most of the starters were on the sidelines.

"That's what we set out to do," Bryant said. "We felt like we had a great opportunity to score, score fast, get the ball in our playmakers' hands and make plays. We executed in a big way."

The win sets up a meeting between seventh-seeded War Eagles and No.2 Berkeley. The 9-1 Stags had a first-round bye.

"We played in big games and we're going to expect our best because we know we're going to get their best," Bryant said. "They're a team that have proven themselves throughout the season and they're sitting in a position because they've been able to do that. We want to go down there and take care of business and move on to the third round."



*2026 Oceanside Collegiate volleyball*

# Oceanside volleyball back on top in AAA

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Mt. Pleasant - Allie Siebert** walked into the 2026 high school volleyball season as a first-year head coach for the **Oceanside Collegiate** girls program. She walked out of the season on Nov. 5 with a state championship.

OCA completed a 26-1 season by winning the Class AAA state championship, beating defending state champion Powdersville, 3-0. The win avenged a disappointing finish in the two previous seasons in which the Landsharks lost to Powdersville in the state finals.

Though Siebert wasn't around for the previous disappointments, she saw the excitement and relief in her players, many of whom were on the team the last two years.

"Just so happy for them and happy to see them finish the job," Siebert said. "This group suffered some disappointment but they were very focused and determined to win this year. They would not be denied for a third time."

Oceanside won their last 25 contests, including several wins over area and state powers such as Bishop England, Gray Collegiate, North Myrtle Beach and Lucy Beckham, among others. The team hit a rough patch with a few injuries during the middle of the season but were able to use their depth to maintain the momentum.

"We had such a will to win," Siebert said. "It didn't matter who was on the court. We had great chemistry and we had a lot of contributions."

No contributions were bigger than sophomore middle hitter Payton Moorman and junior setter Poppy Boylston. Moorman was a force at the net and led the team in kills, while Boylston ran the show on the floor as a distributor and defender.

The senior members of the team included Amiyah Stevens, Kimber Gilmore, Lauren Hagmeyer, Reagan Williams, and Madelyn Scott

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*The Knights offense is on the move*

# Stratford football caps season with win over Stall

**By Rob Gantt**
**Special to the HSSR**

**GOOSE CREEK - Stratford High School**'s football team finished the season on a high note, blanking Stall in the final game of the regular season.

The Knights capped the campaign with a 2-8 mark, also beating rival Goose Creek earlier in the season. They were competitive in a few other games, too.

The 34-0 victory over Stall Oct. 30 was the final game for more than 20 Knights seniors, including two of three leading rushers and receivers: RB **Kobie Mayes**, RB **Malachi Breland**, WR **Jayden Lee** and TE **Micah Adams**.

On the other side of the ball, three of the top four tacklers are moving on in LB **James Platts**, LB **Bryce Clemons** and SS **Jonah Coleman**. Kicker **Renzo Gorritti** was also a senior.

Gorritti was successful on field goals of 35 and 40 yards against Stall, while Mayes reached paydirt on a short run to score in his final game. Junior **Zayvon Grant**, the team's leading receiver on the season, scored on a 24-yard run and returned a kickoff 79 yards for another touchdown. Stratford's other tally came on a 4-yard run by sophomore quarterback **Dathan Haywood**. Haywood went 10-of-14 through the air for 127 yards and junior running back **Clarke Stradcutter** carried five times for 67 yards versus the Warriors.. Grant and classmate **Jayden Judge** combined for 79 yards receiving.

In addition to Haywood, who came on late, sophomore **Caleb Lott** is an experienced quarterback who can return in 2027. Lott passed for 1,050 yards and seven scores this fall.

Junior linebacker **Kasey Rose** is another key tackler returning on that side of the ball along with disruptive defensive end **Kermit Davis**, a junior.

# Gators boys basketball under new leadership

**By Rob Gantt**
**Special to the HSSR**

**GOOSE CREEK** - First-year **Goose Creek High School** boys basketball coach **Brett Alexander** has taken over one of the top programs in the state and wants to keep it rolling on Red Bank Road..

The Gators played for state titles in 2022-23 and 2024-25 before finishing up in the Lower State championship game during the 2025-26 season.. Alexander, who had been in the program for 10 years as an assistant, takes the reins from **Blake Hall,** a lifelong friend.

"He's been more of a mentor and older brother to me than an employee-employer relationship," Alexander said. "Us both going to Pinewood Prep, I've known him since the sixth grade. When he came back from Europe and wanted to get into coaching, he helped our JV team before he went to The Citadel. I've known him more than half my life. We just had a great relationship. He was teaching me everyday and showing me the ropes of how to be a great coach. Him and **Brad Dobbels** set a standard of making Goose Creek one of the premier places in the Lowcountry, and even the state, for high school basketball. I just want to keep the standard where it is."

His first squad returns five lettermen, led by senior guard **Reggie Dozier**. Dozier is a two-time all-region selection who averaged nine points, three assists and three steals per game as a junior as the Gators went 26-3.

"He will be a leader on the team," Alexander said.



*Senior Reggie Dozier*

Another returning starter is senior guard **Idreyiss Hoist**, who averaged 10 points, three assists and three rebounds per game as a junior.

"He can really score the ball," Alexander said. "He's put in a lot of work. He's got things to improve on but he sees the floor well."

Senior guard **Jabari Deas** came off the bench as a junior behind all-state guard **Ja'Quell Brown** (now at USC Aiken).

"He's a real good slasher," Alexander said. "He can D up and go score at the rim. He sees the floor well. He's got an offer from a Div. II, Bryant and Stratton."

Two more returning lettermen are senior guard **Camello Cabarrougis** and junior wing **Justice Davis**. As far as new players, freshman guard **Trevor Wilson** gives the Gators another good shooter.

The Gators crank up the season Nov. 25 in Fort Dorchester's Thanksgiving Tournament.

"Those top five guys are really good basketball players and can beat anybody on any given night," Alexander said. "It's just a matter of them believing in themselves and actually trusting what we're trying to put in and what we're trying to do."

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*The Stags take the field*

# Berkeley ready for extended playoff push

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Moncks Corner** – After winning their first outright region championship in eight years, the 2026 **Berkeley High** football team sets its collective sights on bigger things.

After sitting out the first week of the AAAAA state playoffs with a bye, Berkeley begins its playoff quest on Nov. 13. The Stags need three wins to reach the state finals in early December.

Head coach **Eric Lodge** has been pleased with his team's approach to the regular season and is hopeful that mental focus will continue into November.

"It's about us and what we do, how we perform," Lodge said. "We have to raise our level of concentration even higher now because mistakes will be magnified. We've had some issues at times with penalties, things like false starts and offsides. Those mistakes are inexcusable and will get us beat. We've done a great job overall but now we have to be even better if we hope to keep going and accomplishing the things we set out to do."

The Stags have been a balanced team with the offense, defense and special teams making plays from game to game. The play of the defense has been the biggest surprise, considering the level of experience the unit began the season with. The defense lost nearly every starter from a year ago and there are numerous underclassmen playing significant roles this season. The defense has been among the best in the AAAAA.

"They have worked really hard to com together and our coaches have done a great job of preparing them," Lodge said.

Among the top performers on the defense during the regular season were freshman linebacker **Marshawn Porchia** (58 tackles), **Aiden President** (40 tackles), **Tyren Odoms** (34 tackles), **Julius Milligan** (38 tackles), **Chance Coleman** (10 sacks) and safety **Cam McCune** (50 tackles). McCune was the most experienced returning player from last season.

McCune also has been an important part of the kick return team, along with junior **Bryson McGee**.

McGee has become a major threat offensively as a running back and slot receiver. He has rushed for 758 yards and eight touchdowns and has more than 20 receptions.

Berkeley's offense is led by senior quarterback **Henry Rivers**, a fourth-year starter who is having a great season. Rivers has has passed for 1,900 yards and 19 touchdowns, while rushing for 819 yards and 12 touchdowns.

"He's so focused on leading this team and the players respect him," Lodge said.

In terms of receiving, **Eli Mitchell** has 388 yards on 20 catches while **Jonathan Mitchell** has 220 yards on 15 cathches. **Malik Callen** has 26 receptions for 372 yards and **John Cleveland** has 18 catches for 228 yards.

"The receivers, as a group, have made great strides and their development has been a key for us offensively," Lodge said.

# Cane Bay volleyball posts 20-win season

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Summerville** – Now in his fourth season at the helm, **Cane Bay** girls volleyball coach **Chris Latigona** has established a strong winning culture and has high expectations for the future.

Cane Bay has a strong season in 2026, posting a 23-9 overall record and an 8-2 mark in region 6-AAAAA play. The Cobras finished second to powerhouse Wando in the region standings.

Cane Bay, as expected, qualified for the AAAAA Lower State playoffs this season, earning a first-round win over Ashley Ridge. Unfortunately, the season ended with a second-round 3-2 loss to West Ashley.

Latigona began the building process by leading the team to 17 wins last season. The roster has very few seniors and much of the heavy lifting comes from underclassmen.

"We play really good team ball," the coach said, "We serve tough and play great defense, which has been something we've always strived to build our culture on. This year we have several consistent hitters who we can spread the ball out too."

In terms of the starters, junior **McKenzie Brewington** (326 assists) is the setter, and junior **Jordan Flores** (380 digs) is the starting libero. Junior **Amelia Watkins** is the outside hitter and has 101 kills and 106 digs.

Junior **Shiloh Reed** is the middle hitter and has a team-high 50 blocks. Senior **Rylie Friar** starts right side and has 168 kills. Senior **Savanna Hammond** is a key defensive specialist with 105 digs. Junior **Alaina Paige** has 165 kills as a middle hitter.

Key performers off the bench include junior setter **Allie Bartlett**, freshman right side **Arabella Latigona**, junior outside hitter **Olivia Davis**, sophomore outside hitter **Cora Lilly (117 kills)**, and senior setter **Marley Stephens**. Bartlett has 181 assists in her role as a setter.

Friar, Flores, Hammond and Davis are serving as the team captains.

Cane Bay will close the regular season with matches against Wando (Oct. 6), Berkeley (Oct. 8) and Carolina Forest (Oct. 13).

"We expect to continue to play great team ball and make a deep run into the playoffs," concluded Latigona.


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# Saluda hopes to end year with AA championship

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Saluda –** This has been a special season for the **Saluda High School** football team. The Tigers are 8-2 on the season, won the region title in a region that included the defending AA state champion, got the No. 2 seed in the lower state portion of the bracket in the state playoffs and the first-round bye that came with it.

All of that's nice, but the push to make it a truly special season starts on November 13 when SHS plays host to Region 4 foe **Orangeburg-Wilkinson** in a second-round game. That will be the start of what Saluda hopes is four victories that will secure a state championship.

"The ultimate goal is to win a state championship," said Tigers head coach **Greg Woerner**, who is in his second season in charge. "But we can't win state without winning the first game. That is our first goal, win the first playoff game. And we are going to do that the way we have done the whole season, focusing on what we can control, focusing on winning one play at a time."

Since the Bruins are a region foe, that means SHS played it during the regular season. Saluda won 56-41, handing Orangeburg=Wilkinson its first loss of the season at that point. The Tigers played defending state champion **Strom Thurmond** the next week and handed it its first loss as well with a 31-27 triumph.

"We knew this season could be a special season," said Woerner, whose team went 5-0 to claim the region. "It's a message that we have said to the team all offseason in preparation for this year, so I would not say that this season has been a surprise to us. We knew it had the potential to be a special season."

And one of the main reasons for that is the talent SHS possesses on offense. Running back **Tristan Daniels** has rushed for 1,381 yards and 23 touchdowns on 154 carries. Daniels also has 10 catches for 235 yards and five more scores.

Daniels isn't the only one who can hurt you taking a handoff or catching a pass. **Darryl Hill** has 38 receptions for 895 yards and 10 touchdowns while picking up 51 yards and another score on nine carries. **Ceddion Springs** has 26 catches for 495 yards and eight TDs while using 20 rushes to pick up 295 yards and two more touchdowns.

**Mekhi Linton** has 10 grabs for 128 yards and four TDs.

The trigger man for the passing game is quarterback **Avery Coyle**. He's connected on 99 of 158 passes for 2,111 yards and 29 scores.

"We have a lot of guys who can make a big play happen anytime they touch the ball," Woerner said. "Having a QB like Avery Coyle, who is able to get the ball to those playmakers, also helps this offense. We just focus on one play at a time, stay on schedule and let the big plays happen when they do."

The defense has been involved in some epic shootouts and then had some games where it was dominant.

"Our defense has had a different journey than our offense," Woerner said. "The offense has been running the same base offense for the last three seasons, so they have that base of knowledge. The defense is under a new coordinator for the third season, so they were still learning the defense and its goals and nuances early in the season. I think that the defense has really come on the last few weeks and is starting to put it all together when it matters most heading into the playoffs."

**Jayden Myers** leads Saluda in tackles with 94 with **Jaylen Bledsoe** is right behind with 92 stops. Bledsoe has five quarterback sacks, an interception and has a defensive touchdown, while Myers has three sacks.

**Jahmeer Myers** leads in tackles for loss with 15, while Bledsoe has 12, and Jayden Myers and **JyDay Robinson** have 10 apiece.


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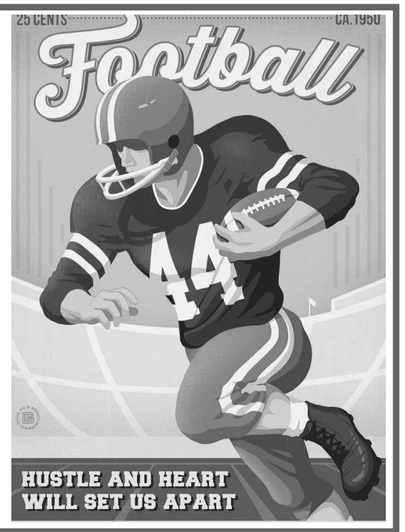
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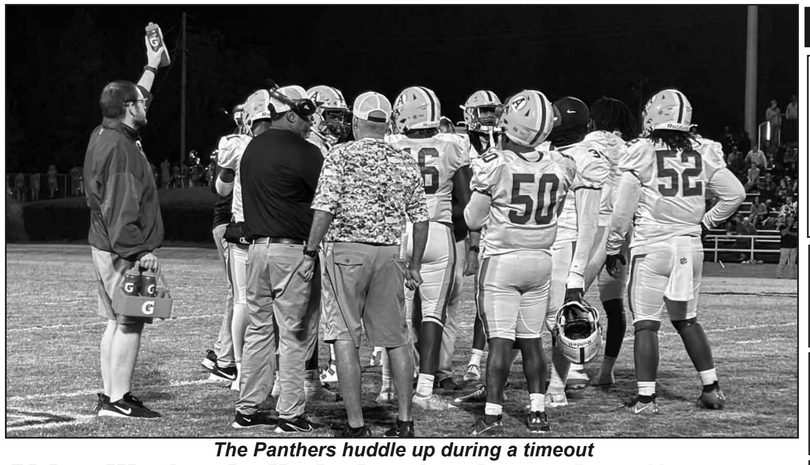
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*The Panthers huddle up during a timeout*

# Abbeville football aiming for deep playoff run

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Abbeville –** It has been a while since the 2026 Abbeville High football team has faced a real challenge. That is about to change.

The Panthers, 8-2 on the season, begin their trek through the AA Division I state playoffs on Nov. 13 against Eau Claire. Abbeville rolled through an easy region 1-A schedule, out-scoring five league opponents by 330-12.

However, prior to the region slate, the Panthers did face quality non-region opposition, including several teams that will conten for state championships. Abbeville's two losses came to defending AA state champion Strom Thurmond and defending AAA Upper State champion Belton-Honea Path. Abbeville also played Saluda and Crescent. Saluda is the only team to beat Strom Thurmond this season.

"You can't do anything about the region schedule. You play the teams in your region," says Abbeville head coach Jamie Nickles. "That's why we try to schedule some really good programs early. It gives us a chance to see how we stack up and it shows our kids how you have to prepare in order to compete with those teams."

Nickles says a lot of practice tme is spent on improving his team. He feels his club has improved overall.

"We are doing some things better than we were," the coach said. "The big ting is just keeping them sharop mentally, keeping them focused. The football from here on out is going to be difficult."

**Abbeville volleyball has solid season**

Though they came up short of winning a third consecutive sstate championship in 2026, the Abbeville volleyball team still had another great season.

The season ended with a loss to Buford in the Class A upper sstate playoffs of Division I-A. Abbeville posted a final record of 12-5 overall and went 11-3 in region play.

**Sara Wojtkowski** just completed her third season as the head coach, having led the program to state titles in each of her first two season.

Providing leadership on the team this season as the two starting seniors are middle blocker **Lauryn Murray** and outside hitter **Laylan Yates.** Murray leads the team in kills (94) and blocks (39) this season. Yates has 49 kills.

Junior **Bella Evans** is the starting setter with sophomore **Maddie Beiler** also serving as a setter for the offense.

Junior **Miranda Stoll** is a middle blocker, who has 59 kills. Junior **Lily Hershberger** is the other outside hitter with 43 kills and sophomore **Sarah Gulley** is the opposite side hitter and has 27 kills. Sophomore **Rylee Tiller** is the libero with 59 digs..

Others who play regularly are junior defensive specialists **Micah Allen, Reese Jones** and **Cat Johnson**.

" Our team works terrifically together; we communicate and find ways to make it work. We thrive on a long rally, and love looking for holes in a defense" says Wojtkowski on her team's style of play.

**Cross country update**

The members of the Abbeville High cross country program recently competed in the county meet with other schools from Abbeville and Greenwood county.

**Kavis Bradshaw** was the top finisher for the Abbeville girls team, placing 15th overall. A**nnsley Smrz** finished 19th and **Lena Justeson** finished 21st. **Lilly Ju**steson ran in 27th place.

For the boys team, the top finisher was **Brock Davenport**, who finished second overall.**Micah Hall** finished 12th and **Copper Price** was 13th. **Levi Gleason** finished 16th.

# Emerald football will return 17 starters in 2027

**By Billy G. Baker**
**Publisher**

**Greenwood**—The **Emerald** (6-5) football season came to close last week with a 56-21 loss to **Powdersville** that completed the season with a 6-5 over-all record.

"It was not the finish we wanted or expected," said head coach **Tad Dubose**. "I appreciate the hard work of all the players and coaches. We had tremendous support from our community all season long and we are thankful.

"I appreciate our seniors and the journey that we have shared the past four years," said Coach Dubose. "We will return 8 starters on offense, and 9 starters on defense so we feel good about the future."

Earlier in the season, the HSSR covered the Vikings 56-14 win over visiting Broome on a Monday night. After that win, Coach Dubose told the HSSR, "We have come down to the AAA level this season, after trying to compete against AAAA schools like **Westside** and **South Pointe** for quite a while, and that was a challenge quite honesty," said Coach Dubose. "**Wren** was in the same boat we were and they have dropped down to AAA also.

"If we can stay healthy, we have a lot of talent on our team, and if we can clean up stupid penalties, and play clean football, we can hopefully make a good run this season," said Coach Dubose.

Emerald is a team loaded with talented juniors, so they should be a highly regarded team coming into the 2027 season.

Emerald will miss senior leader and three- year starter **John Michael Hames** (5-10, 252). "He is one of our captains who has started for three seasons, and he provides a lot of leadership to the team," said Coach Dubose in an earlier interview. "**Camile Hill** was another senior receiver who had been a receiver and defensive back for this season who will be missed."

The Viking have two big time juniors returning next season in QB **Beau Hite** (6-1, 170) and WR/DB **Desiray Christian,** who transferred from **Greenwood** this season. Sophomore offensive guard **Messiah Simpkins** (6-3, 250) has already taken special invitation visits to college games at **Florida** and **Clemson** this season.

Hite, has committed to play baseball at **South Carolina**. Hite completed 136-of-209 passes for 2,184 yards and 21 TD's this season. Christian caught 46 passes for 768 yards and six TD's this season. On defense he had 35 tackles.

"These three players are very competitive and they all three have bright futures ahead of them," said Coach Dubose. "Desiray is so explosive off the ball, and he is a very unselfish player who puts the team

See **Emerald**, pg. **61**


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# Timberland improved as 2026 progressed

**By Rob Gantt**
**Special to the HSSR**

**ST. STEPHEN - Timberland High School's** football team finished 3-7 this season with a somewhat inexperienced squad for first-year coach **Brooks Burnette**.

Good news moving forward is the return of so many varsity level players next fall.

"We improved as the year went on," Burnette said. "We played pretty well at times. We had our chances in the final three region games. They played hard. I'm hoping we can carry some of the momentum into next season. We've got a big group coming back. We could have 39 guys returning."

Burnette said the Wolves started seven freshmen the majority of the season.

The season was the final one for 14 seniors, including several key players. Wake Forest commitment **Carter Hawkins** led the team with 107 tackles and five turnovers from his free safety spot and scored seven touchdowns on offense, averaging 21 yards per catch. Another cornerstone on defense, senior linebacker **Anthony Peeples**, also played his final down for the Wolves. He finished up with 104 tackles.

Burnette said Hawkins and Peeples were the heart and soul of the defense and provided great leadership in terms of how hard they played and prepared.

On offense, senior **Eric Johnson** topped 430 yards rushing and reached paydirt four times. Senior linemen **Derion Jones** and **Josh Goodman**, were starting guards and senior receiver **Kameron Foster** recorded 250 yards and a touchdown.

More seniors are **Josh Brown**, **Caylen Jones**, **Anthony Huizar**, **Jordan White**, **Tyler McCormick**, **Micah McHoney**, **William Craine** and **Jahmarrei Jenkins**.

As for returning players, freshman quarterback **Gavin Harwell** improved as the year rolled along. He threw for 1,077 yards and eight scores and also rushed for five touchdowns.

"It was hard to throw a new offense at a kid who hadn't played varsity games but he has a bright future," Burnette said.

Running backs **Karmari Jenkins**, a junior, and **Damari Mathis**, a sophomore, combined for more than 900 yards of offense and seven touchdowns. Freshmen linemen **Christian Fabers** and **Datwan Ecklund** are big kids to build around on both sides of the ball for the next few years.

"They've got a chance to be very good before it's all over with," Burnette said.

# SJCA volleyball building for the future

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Moncks Corner** – The St. John's Christian Academy finished 14-9 last season earning a trip into the second round of AAA SCISA playoff but they also graduated five seniors so with just two returning players new head coach **Trenton Eden** knew this would a rebuilding year for the Cavaliers.

"My goal as a coach coming into a new program is to always keep expectations at a minimum since it is hard to understand exactly what you will be inheriting. One of the things that I knew would be unavoidable to expect was the idea that a new culture was inevitably going to be created with the addition of three new coaches in myself, **Dan Owens,** and **Dr. Madeline Pinson.** We all knew early on that this would be a growth year, and a true test of how the girls would create a cohesive unit and come together, even when the odds were stacked against them," said coach Eden.

Coach continued, "I think one of the most difficult things for us this season is that we have many girls across different grade levels and it has made it a challenge to communicate and form our identity as a group. I have constantly reiterated the need for grace and communicating with a proper tone and it is something the girls are still working on."

Juniors **Lily McKnight** and **Raleigh Jackson** are the only two players that returned to the varsity lineup from last year. They were voted as the teams captains by their teammates. McKnight, an outside hitter, is a returning all-region performer. Last season she finished the year with 26-kills, 31-assists, 14-blocks, and 72-digs.

"Lily has been a cornerstone of the team for culture and for performance. She carries herself with a stature of fearlessness and leadership. The other girls like to emulate her in execution and work ethic," coach Eden said.

Jackson is coming off a solid sophomore season where she 18- kills, 26- assists, 17-blocks, and 23-digs. She stepped up to take over the setters role and showed her leadership skills by mentoring the Cav's younger setter **Lily Brindel.** She is also an outside hitter.

**"**Raleigh embodies passion, and grit," coach Eden said.

The rest of the starting lineup consist of middle hitter **Allie Sherrill,** right side hitter **Kyndree Dinkens** and libero **Nola Hill**

Sherrill is the team's most improved player. She has given the Cav's a presence at the net has been a huge asset.

See **SJCA**, pg. **61**

# Cross football eyeing long run in the playoffs

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Cross -** No team is more anxious to begin the 2026 Class A Division II state playoffs than the **Cross High** Trojans.

In a regular season that saw Cross play only five games but to an early season suspension, the Trojans are eager and ready to chase a state title.

"This is what you prepare for all during the offseason and through every week of the regular season," Cross coach **Shaun Wright** said. "Our guys are ready. They have worked hard over the last month and we feel we are where we are supposed to be. We know we have to play wwell from here on out if we want to reach our goals."

The Trojans won all five of the games played during the season. The official record is 5-4 when counting the four forfeits.

'The only record that matters now is the next four games," Wright said.

As expected, the offensive leaders for Cross are senior quarterback **Tyler Harris** and senior running back **Mah'ky Green.** Harris has passed for 678 yards and eight touchdowns in six games, while Green leads the team with 816 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns.

"Tyler and Mah'ky have been exactly what we expected," Wright said. "They are veteran guys and they have been great leaders for us."

Green was recently selected to play in the North-South all-star game in December.

Among the top receivers are **Corinthian Wilson**, who has 12 receptions.

Defensively, senior tackle **Jailyn Broughton** leads the team with 54 tackles, 10 tackles for

See **Cross**, pg. **38**


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# SWAMPCATS

## Swampcats finish 6-4 in Rankin's debut season

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Manning** – **David Rankin** has been coaching high school football in the **South Carolina Independent Schools Association** for four decades. He's won state championships, he's lost state championships, he's had winning records, he's had losing records.

However, none of the previous seasons compare to his just completed first season as the head coach at **Laurence Manning Academy**.

"I've never had a season like this one," Rankin said shaking his head while sitting in a golf cart in the middle of **Billy Chitwood Memorial Field** following the Swampcats' 15-10 loss to **Porter-Gaud** in the first round of the AAAA state playoffs on November 6 that brought an end to their season.

Why the season stood apart from others had nothing to do with football. The season started with Rankin in the hospital with sepsis in a hip that required several surgeries. He later returned to the hospital after blood clots were discovered in his lungs and had to be dissolved.

He was extremely limited in what he could do with the team in practice. He did return to call the offense in the press box and was back on the sideline for LMA's 35-28 loss to **Pinewood Prep** on October 23. He was back in the press box against Porter-Gaud.

Throw in the fact that weather affected the early part of the season, it's somewhat surprising LMA went 6-4 on the season.

Rankin laments the fact that he had so little time with his new team away from game days.

"If I'm with them all year, every day, we're a much better football team," said Rankin, who is scheduled for more surgery in January. "But my body won't let me."

The Swampcats led Porter-Gaud 10-9 late in the fourth quarter when **Amir Chisolm** took a short pass 50 yards for a score with 1:35 remaining in the contest to make it 15-10.

LMA picked up a pair of first downs to move to their 48-yard line with just under a minute to go. After an incompletion, quarterback **Grainger Powell** scrambled out of the pocket for a 6-yard gain to the P-G 46. He then threw a short pass to **Connor Carter** that was marked just shy of the first down marker to bring up fourth down and one yard to go.

An incompletion followed, giving Porter-Gaud a first-round playoff win over Laurence Manning for the second season in a row after losing the regular-season matchup.

"It's very disappointing for us," said Rankin, whose squad won the regular-season game 10-7. "We struggle against them (the defense) up front. They're just quick and we have trouble up front against them. They're just quicker than us.

"They're very fast up front and we had trouble up front. We just couldn't quite get it done."

The Swampcats controlled the flow of the game in the first half, running 34 offensive plays to just 11 for the Cyclones. However, the game was tied 3-3 at halftime.

The first quarter was scoreless, but LMA started a drive before it ended that used 16 plays and sucked 9 minutes, 16 seconds, off the clock. It got as close as the P-G 10 before settling for a 27-yard field goal by placekicker **Daniel Vargas** with 6:11 remaining in the second quarter.

"We were trying to control the clock and keep their offense off of the field," said Rankin, who used a 3-back set a good part of the night. "We did a pretty good job of it in the first half."

Porter-Gaud managed a couple of first downs on just its second possession of the game before having to punt. It looked as though Laurence Manning would take the 3-0 lead into the locker room when it took over at its 10 with 2:22 left in the first half.

However, a bad handoff exchange on second down resulted in a fumble with the Cyclones' **Beanie Brown** recovering at the 7. They got as close as the 4 and were pushed as far back as the 23 before facing fourth down at the 20. Placekicker **Hunter Thiem** came in to connect on a 37-yard field goal with 20 seconds to go for what would be the first of three on the evening.

Thiem booted a field goal in the third quarter and another early in the fourth to put P-G up 9-3. The Swampcats responded with their only touchdown.

Powell connected with **Scoop Dennis** for 12 yards on first down and then went up top to Carter for 34 yards and a first down at the P-G 19. That eventually led to a 3-yard scoring run by running back **Pierson Gamble** and Vargas' extra point attempt made it 10-9 with 8:55 left.

After forcing a punt, LMA lost its second fumble, setting Porter-Gaud up at the Laurence Manning 30. Thiem ended up attempting a 45-yarder and it had plenty of leg, but he hooked it left, leaving the score at 10-9 to set up the finish.

Rankin was pleased with how his defensive unit played. It limited the Cyclones to just 200 yards of total offense.

"I don't think we could have played much better on defense," he said.

Laurence Manning finished with 205 yards of total offense. Powell connected on 14 of 27 passes for 151 yards, and the Swampcats ran for 54 yards.

Dennis had six catches for 40 yards and ran the ball six times for 31 yards. Eight of the standouts 12 touches came in the second half, a fact Rankin lamented after the game.

"If I could do something different, I would have been a little more aggressive, especially early in the game," he said.

Carter finished with two catches for 37 yards, **Rob Briggs** had three receptions for 38 yards, and **AJ Dennis** had two grabs for 26 yards. He also had 30 yards on 12 rushes.

In the game against Pinewood Prep, Scoop Dennis had an outstanding game. The junior had six catches for 102 yards and one touchdown and had 11 carries for 149 yards and two more scores.

"He was Mr. Everything for us," Rankin said. "They knew he was going to get the ball and they still didn't stop him. Scoop had a fantastic game. We put him in the backfield at Wildcat, and he ran hard."


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## Rebels experiencing up and down season

**By Jeff Moeller**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Ridgeland -** For Thomas Heyward this year, it has been a roller coaster of season field with highs and lows. It has been a free fall for the former perennial power and state champion.

They finished with a 4-6 mark last season, but the Rebels are only two years removed from a state championship run in 2024 when they ended the season with an overall 12-1 record.

The Rebels, under **Taylor Malphrus**, began Week Eight with an overall 1-6 record with three regional games ahead. Heyward has struggled to score 36 points in seven games.

Heyward, besieged with injuries and their roster hovering around 20 players, was forced to forfeit games against Colleton Prep on Aug. 28, and Cross Schools Sept. 11.

They also have suffered opening defeats to Clarendon Hall (27-0) and Patrick Henry (23-0) before they registered their lone victory, a 25-6 win over Carolina Academy on Sept. 18.

In the previous two weeks, the Rebels dropped decisions to Hilton Head Prep (22-14) and Dillon Christian (42-0).

Malphrus knows he needs a patient approach.

"We have been battling," said **Malphrus**. " We have been trying to find some consistency. We have some players who are continuing to develop.

"We have to make the most of what we have."

The Rebels have looked to senior quarterback **KW Arnold**, who also loomed as their main running threat. Fellow senior **Tyler Young** also has been productive in the backfield.

**Young**, junior **Benjamin Cribb**, and fellow junior **Colton Hunt** have been their main receiving threats.

Defensively, Arnold also has shined as the team's most consistent tackler. Fortunately for the Rebels, they have had a horde of steady contributors with **Young, Gibson**, freshman **Hunter Disbrow**, senior **Dawson Drew**, and senior **Hudson Rex**. **Owen Collazo** is another senior on the roster.

The Rebels have three regional games left on their roster. They will host Dorchester Academy and Holly Hill Academy before they will end the season with hosting Beaufort Academy.

**Malphrus** is optimistic his program can show some signs of growth in the closing weeks. It can help fuel a more positive prognosis for next season.

"We just have to keep working," said **Malphrus**."It comes down to fundamentals and trying to improve every single day."






## Beaufort fall sports wrapping up seasons

**From Staff Reports**

**Beaufort**—The **Beaufort High** boy's and girls' cross-country teams participated in the Region 6-AAAA cross country meet held at the Sergant Jasper County Park in Hardeeville on October, 30.

The Eagle's cross-country teams are had coached by **Brooks Maxwell**.

The boys placed sixth. They were led by **David Barr** (17:36.80) who placed 13th over-all. Other Beaufort boys' runners were **Henry Pettit** (19:06.90), **Laken Mitchell** (20:12.60), **William Hall** (20:51.90), **Bentley Almond** (27:26.90), **Frederick Waddell** (23.50) and **Nathan Peeples** (25:44.80).

The Eagles girl's cross-country team was represented by junior Jamie **Simmons** who finished in 28th place with a time of (23:34.40). Other Lady Eagles runners were freshman **Zoe Herrera-Alverez** (24:03.90), as well as freshman **Isabella Dupont** (26:45;60) and **Zailey Kauakahi-Cox** (42:08.50).

The Beaufort lady Eagles volleyball team, head coached by **Marlena Pegula**, finished the 2026 season with an over-all record of 7-17.

The team was led in kills by junior OH **Blakely Gecy** (123) followed by junior OH **Erin Crosby** (122), and senior OH **Samantha Graves** contributed 84 kills. Crosby also contributed 31 aces and 151 digs during the season.

Senior setter **Claire Hovest** had an outstanding season with a team leading 357 assists as a setter. Hovest also led the team with 197 digs. Gecy was second in digs at 187.

Senior **Olivia Byrne** (6-1) had 67 kills and a team leading 40 blocks. Junior MB **Payton Gordon** contributed 21 blocks. Senior OH Samantha Graves contributed 84 kills and 114 digs to the team this past season.

Soph DS **Nia Polkey** had 72 digs for the season.

The Beaufort football team had a rebuilding season in 2026 under veteran head coach **Bryce Lybrand**.

The Eagles finished 1-9 with their lone win coming over **Whale Branch** early in the season. The team concluded the season with a loss against **Hilton Head**.


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# Dolphins football looks to improve for 2027

**By Jeff Moeller**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Hilton Head** - Time will be on the side of the **Hilton Head Prep** football team.

The **Dolphins** recently finished the season with an overall 1-9 record. It truly was a season in transition as **Blake Henry** took over for head coach **Doug McFadden** on Sept. 8.

**Hilton Head Prep**, which finished 3-9 last season, notched its lone victory against **Thomas Heyward Academy**, 22-14, on Sept. 25, and they finished the season on a four-game losing streak.

The 18-player **Dolphins**' roster scored 73 points and allowed 394.

Still, **Henry** likes the team's future, and understands that it will be a patient process.

"We have a young team," stated **Henry**. "We had six freshmen and one eighth-grader. We also didn't have great numbers, but we made the most of what we could. Our guys kept plugging away, and they deserve a lot of credit."

Henry pointed to seniors **Casey Signorell, Kaden Jackson, Oliver Barricks,** and **Quin Strauss** for their constant leadership throughout the season.

Sophomore **Cole Rogers** took the majority of snaps at quarterback. Junior **Cody Wilbert** could also be in the mix for next season.

"We liked what we saw from **Cole**," said Henry. "He can continue to develop. He stepped in and did what we asked of him. **Rogers** made some really good throws in the final few weeks and has a bunch of potential.We also have **Cody**, who can play a number of positions for us."

The **Dolphins** will need to restock in the backfield and on the ends. **Barricks** was their leading rusher with 395 yards, and **Jackson** accounted for 193. **Barricks** also was their leading receiver with 13 for 111 yards, and **Strauss** had 12 catches for 120 yards. **Wilbert** had the most yards receiving with 140 on six catches.

Defensively, junior **Cooper Hofmann** led the team with 49 tackles. Promising freshman **Henry Burbage** recorded 33 stops, and **Jackson** had 35.

Up front, **Henry** has been impressed with **Hofmann** and fellow junior **Tuggle Daly**.

"Our offensive line really started to gel and **Hofmann** and **Daly** also did a great job on our defensive line. **Cody Wilbert** made some plays at receiver and outside linebacker. He had a very timely punt at the end of the **Thomas Heyward** game that pinned their offense back in their own end."

**Henry** is confident his team can continue to build on foundation.

"I think the team has made a lot of improvement since the season began," said **Henry**. "We had a very experienced team in 2025 and had a very experienced senior class.

"They made progress and worked harder each week in the weight room and on the practice field. They are a tight group that support each other and are learning to play a fourth-quarter game. I am excited to watch them take the next step as players and as a team in our remaining three games."

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# Eagles back in familiar territory - SCISA playoffs

**By Jeff Moeller**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Hilton Head** - It's the postseason, and **Hilton Head Christian Academy** is back in a familiar position.

The **Eagles** are back in SCISA Class 3A Region 1 semifinals, and they will meet a familiar foe in defending champion **Bethesda Academy** (8-1) in Savannah. **Hilton Head Christian** routed **Florence Christian**, 51-21, in a quarterfinal game.

It was the second straight victory for the Eagles (8-3), who previously had a two-game losing streak.

Last season, **Hilton Head Christian**'s season ended in the semifinals for the second consecutive season having both losses to Wilson Hall.

This time around, the **Eagles** will meet **Bethesda**, who defeated them 30-6 during the regular season. **Bethesda** has won the last two regular-season meetings, and **Hilton Head Christian** last won, 34-14, in 2024.

Eagles' head coach **Ron Peduzzi** knows his club has a tall task ahead with **Bethesda**.

"**Bethesda** is a giant of a football team," beamed **Peduzzi**. "They may be the best in all of SCISA including 4A **Hammond**. They are a great challenge for our team. We accept it - we look forward to it. We know how good they are. They are absolutely the most physical team in all of SCISA football!"

If the **Eagles** are to advance to the championship game and be in the hunt for their first championship since 2023, they will rely on senior quarterback **Kres Langhals**, who was named the region offensive player of the year.

For the season, **Langhals** has thrown for 2,164 yards with 28 touchdowns and 14 interceptions. He also is the team's leading rusher with 6

31 yards and eight touchdowns. Against **Florence Christian**, **Langhals** threw for 339 yards and six touchdowns.

Senior wide receiver **Jackson Richardson** is the Eagles' leading receiver with 41 catches for 797 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Defensively, **Logan Baker** leads the team with 81 tackles, and **McClure Talbert** has 74 stops. **Brady Donaldson** has four sacks.

**Peduzzi** certainly has appreciated **Langhals'** presence.

"**Kres Langhals** has done a tremendous job," boasted **Peduzzi**. "He's been named the region offensive player of the year. He plays both sides of the ball and special teams. He has been the heart of our football team all year. He's a giant of a player."

**Peduzzi** knows he will need **Langhals** and the rest of his team playing at a high level to down Bethesda and get back to the championship game.

"I truly believe they (**Bethesda**) can give any team at any level private or public in South Carolina a football game,' stressed **Peduzzi**. "We know who they are. They played us already and totally dominated.

"In my 25 years of experience as a head football coach in SCISA, I've learned that you have to meet the challenge if you want to play in the state championship game."

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**Cross**, continued from pg. **25**

loss, and six sacks. **Jimmy Smith** adds 41 tackles while **Jakobe Jones** has 34 tackles.

"Those three lead the defense but we have a lot of guys playing well defensively," Wright said. "Our defense has been really good so far this season and we hope they continue to play we

Cross received a first-round bye in the playoffs and will host a second-round game on Nov. 13.

**Batesburg-Leesville**, continued from pg. **37**

No. 6 **Hampton County**.

"I feel like we got a good bracket with where we landed," Lawson said. "We just need to take it one week at a time. We've told the kids there's no tomorrow if we don't get it right."

Lawson thinks the tradition that surrounds the Batesburg-Leesville program helped its players turn the season around.

"Once we won, they understood what they had to do to keep on winning," he said. "The tradition that we have here goes all the way back to their great-great granddaddies. Those kids are ours, not anybody else's."



# Florence Area Feature Page

## Wilson homecoming king of Florence I

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Florence** – You can call the **Wilson High School** football team the 2026 homecoming king for **Florence Schools 1**.

Not only did the Tigers win their homecoming contest, but they were the homecoming opponents for **both West Florence** and **South Florence**. They beat West 20-14 and defeated South 18-13 in the regular-season finale.

That propelled WHS into the AAAA state playoffs as the No. 8 seed. They dropped a 20-19 home decision to No. 9 **Dreher** in the first round on November 6.

Despite that loss, second-year head coach **Brian Wilson** was pleased with how his team rebounded from a 3-game losing streak in the middle of the season when it was inundated with injuries to finish 6-4 in the regular season and 4-2 in Region 7.

"I think we are a lot further ahead of schedule than people expected," said Wilson, who didn't put his projected preseason starting lineups on the field together for the first time until the South game. "I don't think anybody expected this, just like last year (when the tigers went 7-5). We want to be consistent winners and to beat the teams we beat, I think that means we're headed in the right direction."

Senior **Resean Wilson** and freshman **Nabryson Elliott** split time at quarterback. Entering the playoffs, Wilson had passed for 739 yards and five touchdown, while Elliott had 628 yards and seven TDs.

Wilson had also rushed for 334 yards and two scores. Senior **Amaure Austin** had a team high 508 yards to go with two touchdowns, and sophomore **Zyier Lyde** had 319 yards and six TDs.

**Kayden Bethea** was the leading receiver with 26 catches for 438 yards and four scores, while **Davon**

See **Florence Area**, pg. **61**


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## Florence Christian has key players in place for '27

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Florence** – **Florence Christian's** football team looks to next season with a lot of optimism after last week's 51-21 first-round playoff loss against **Hilton Head Christian.**

"We lost to a very good team," said Coach Minton, whose Eagles finish the season at 7-4. "But I'm also proud of our program; we have a lot to be proud of.

"We played with a lot of poise and toughness at times, and we had a lot of good kids and good moments," said Coach Minton.

Florence Christian had to finish Friday's game without junior starting **QB Riley Minton,** who suffered a Grade-3 sprained AC Joint while playing defense for the first time this season in the third quarter.

Before last week's game, Minton had passed for 1,379 yards and 10 touchdowns.

"He'll be out 4-6 weeks; he'll have X-Rays again Tuesday," said Coach Minton. "It's not the end of the world. Hopefully, he'll be able to start playing basketball soon. On the football field, he led the offense well for us. And I think he completed 70% of his passes in region play and we were very consistent with him.

"One of his biggest improvements was being mature enough to call audibles," he added of Riley, who will be a fourth-year starting QB next fall. "He played with a lot of poise and toughness. To have him back next season is exciting, of course, because he's my son. But for a coach to have a fourth-year starting quarterback coming back is a big deal."

Returning FCS starters also include FB/LB **Sullivan Hardy**, OL/DL **Preston Fowler,** DL/OG **Daley Winburn** (he missed this season due to injury), LB/TE **Brayden Berry** and **William Hicks** (RB/WR).

"These players started every game that they were

See **Florence Christian**, pg. **31**

## Lamar looking for another deep playoff run

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Lamar** – The **Lamar Silver Foxes** host (8-2) **Branchville** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in this year's second round of the SCHSL Class A, Division II playoffs.

After a first-round bye, Lamar coach **Tyler Boyd** thinks his 2025 state runner-up squad is ready to start postseason play.

"We used our off time to focus on us," said Coach Boyd. "We gave our backups a chance to run our plays against ourselves and get more reps on what we do."

If there's one thing the Silver Foxes are focusing on, it's ball control during their running game with **Jaquez Dargan** and **T.J. Samuel.**

"That's been how this season has kind of gone," said Coach Boyd. "(Samuel) will run good and then fumble. And then (Dargan) takes over and he has a couple of good games before fumbling against Central (a 40-30 loss in late October).

"And then, T.J. would take back over," he added. "If we can take care of the ball, that would be an asset because our offensive line has played with a lot of success."

The two running backs' vision has improved as well as ball control.

"We weren't seeing the holes at first," said Coach Boyd. "We were trying to bounce things out when we needed to go inside. And then, we'd go inside when we needed to bounce outside."

Lamar's running backs have the ability to do both.

"(Dargan) is a heavier, stronger guy who can break tackles, and guys don't want to tackle him at the end of the game," said Coach Boyd. "And (Samuel) is a fast player who has had a lot of long runs this year. So, it's kind of like thunder and lightning.

"Jaquez is more of a power guy, and T.J. is more of a speed guy."

Lamar's quarterback, **Jaylen Morris**, has been just as crucial to the Sil-

See **Lamar**, pg. **31**

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# Marion football relishes first round playoff win

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Marion –**Starting with the second game, **Marion's** interim football coach has been **Denton Graves,** who had been its offensive line coach.

During Friday's first round of the SCHSL Class A Division Playoffs, Marion won its second game under Graves – a 33-7 home victory over **Andrews.**

"It means a lot for the boys," said Coach Graves. "They've endured some adversity and battled through some injuries. I'm very proud of them."

Up next for Marion is a 7:30 p.m. contest on Friday at **Central.**

**Kameryn Davis, Jacaurie Brown and Joshaun Grant** were among the Swamp Foxes' scorers.

But another part of the game impressed Graves to a greater extent.

"The defense played really, really well. It was probably the best they had played all season in my opinion," said Coach Graves. "And our offense also capitalized on Andrews' turnovers."

Graves talked more about his defense.

"They maintained their gaps and played their assignments and tackled well," said Graves. "They just never gave up and there was no bend. They played really well."

Grant especially shined at quarterback.

"He's a very dynamic player who can make things happen," said Coach Graves. "He's allusive and he can throw it and run it. He's hard to bring down and hard to get ahold of if you're a defender. I like that he can make things happen."

**Jaydin Reed** powers the Swamp Foxes at running back.

"He's a good, solid runner," said Coach Graves. "He has got good field vision and hardly ever fumbles. And (Davis) also runs the ball really well and can be extremely hard to bring down."

Then, there is Brown's playmaking ability at receiver.

"He's fast and makes things happen in space," said Coach Graves. "He's hard to bring down because he's so elusive. But we have other key running backs like **Amari Green, Alex Roberts, Ka'Mari Watson** and **Brennen Wilson, Danyule Morris** and **Skylar Spry."**

On the offensive line, there are **Kendrick Brown, Jhi'Myre Owens, Ka'Montey Kirton, Josiah Arnette** and **Robert Wynns.**

The defensive line, meanwhile, includes Green and **Derion Baccous.**

"(Baccous) puts high pressure on the quarterback and plays his assignment and has outside containment and plays with reckless abandonment really well," said Coach Graves. "And he also plays with discipline."

**Benjamin Watford,** Davis and **Kaleb Moore** are at linebacker.

"All three of them are equally good," said Coach Graves.

Graves even talked about the chemistry between the defensive line and linebackers.

"They communicate well between the defensive linemen and the linebackers," said Coach Graves. "They know how to check to, and they know how to feed off one another to make big plays."

# Adams ready for first season as Mullins coach

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Correspondent**

**Mullins** – The **Mullins Auctioneers** reached last season's SCHSL Class 2A Lower State final under then-coach **Eric Troy** before losing to eventual state champion **Philip Simmons.**

Troy resigned after the season, and now **DeAngelo Adams**' goals for the **Auctioneers** are just as high as they prepare to enter the season in Class A.

And Adams has a lot of coaching experience. He coached the **Williams Middle School** boys to 2 conference championships and had a three-year record of 40-6.

He took part on a 4A Lower State final as a **Wilson** boys assistant, and he was a Wilson girls assistant in 2025-26.

"I'm looking for a new start, looking to build on the legacy that legendary coach Mark Gerald and coaches like Coach Troy helped establish," said Coach Adams. "I want to build off coaches like that and bring in those same championship expectations and bring in more hard work. Everybody on our coaching staff is excited about this coming season."

Mullins begins the 2026-27 season on Nov. 20 by hosting **Lexington**.

"It's like I recently told my players and coaches a short time ago; we're going into this season one day at a time," said Coach Adams. "We're looking to get one percent better each day. I don't want us thinking about a state championship or anything like that right now. I want us to learn how we're going to compete each and every day."

Three starters and seven key players overall return from last season. The returning starters **are Dakarai Worley, K.J. Ford** and **Jayln Mills.**

"(Worley) is an all-round kid, all-state honoree who draws the attention because of his talent and work ethic," said Coach Adams. "He has a big heart and loves family and basketball. He works hard every day at 5-5:30 a.m. in the gym. He's certainly there, willing to work.

"He's already a 1,000-point scorer," he added. "He has had so many double-doubles and doesn't allow the outside noise to get to him. He's still hungry to succeed."

Then, there is Ford.

"(Ford) is a dominant, underrated 2027 guard, and a lot of coaches are just now starting to see his potential," said Coach Adams. "We're just getting ready to get started with him. He's always the first guy in the gym every morning and he's sometimes the last to leave. He's always wanting to do more like watching film and studying last season's Lower State finals loss.

"He will be ready."

And then, there is Mills.

"(Mills) is a three-level scorer, and he is just as much of a leader who can jump out of the gym," said Coach Adams. "He's a player you certainly want on your team."

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# Raiders goal is to keep building program

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Pamplico –** The **Hannah-Pamplico Raiders** are looking to next year after finishing 2026 with a 2-8 record.

"We just had a lot of inexperience," said head **coach Trey Woodberry.** "But I thought we improved tremendously by the end of the season."

Woodberry talked more about his Raiders' growth.

"We started to grow to be good at terminology and getting the plays in," said Coach Woodberry. "But we just weren't strong enough, fast enough and experienced enough to be successful as we would have liked."

Woodberry thought his team came along and was at its best at season's end.

"We put up a tough fight against **East Clarendon** and then we won against **Hemingway** (42-0) and **Kingstree** (28-14).

"After we beat Kingstree, we played **Johnsonville** really tough the second time this season," said Coach Woodberry.

Case in point: The Raiders lost 42-0 to the Flashes in late August and then lost 48-37 to Johnsonville in mid-October.

"We kept the second game against Johnsonville close despite turning the ball over 8 times in the second game," said Coach Woodberry.

**Matthew Richardson** was the Raiders' quarterback at season's end.

"After we went with Matthew behind center, he played extremely well and made us a better football team," said Coach Woodberry.

In the regular-season finale, Hannah-Pamplico trailed 28-27 after a late TD and went for a 2-point conversion to try to win and clinch a playoff spot.

The play fell just short, and H-P's season was over.

"Our players are going to have to hit the weight room; that's the biggest thing," said Coach Woodberry. "They've got to get stronger and faster and be more physical. We can do it since we played a lot of freshmen."

**Jacari Dembry** will be a key returner at running back.

"There were signs of brilliance from him at times," said Coach Woodberry. "We started him at running back and then moved him to running back. He has that breakaway speed, which we didn't have at the first of the year."

The best graduating player is **Jonah Poston.**

"He was our best player at H-back and wide receiver; he had around 500 yards receiving and made 30-something catches and scored double-digit touchdowns," said Coach Woodberry. "And on top of that, he was a linebacker."

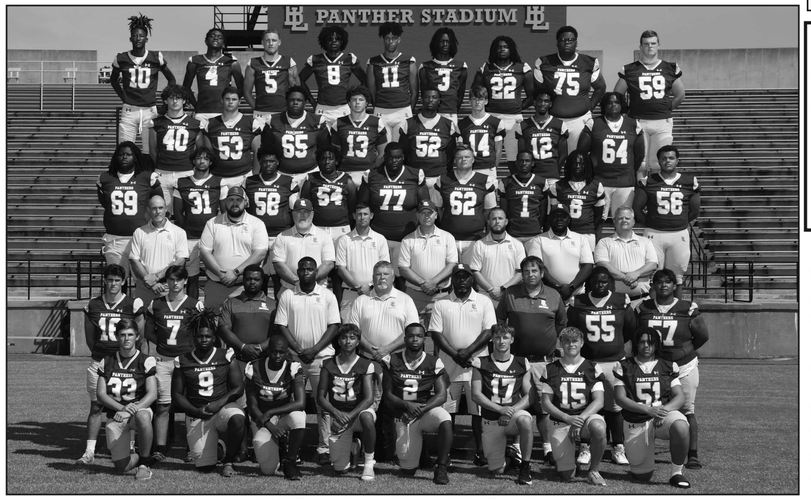
**Legend McElveen** will be back next season for Hannah-Pamplico, but the Raiders also graduate star DL **Khishaun Brown.**

"(Brown) played really well for us," said Coach Woodberry. "He was a good pass rusher and good run defender."

For 2027, the Raiders also have **Jacari Dembry.**

"There were signs of brilliance from him at times," said Coach Woodberry. "He has that breakaway speed, and that was something we didn't have at the first of the year.

"We've just got to keep working to make next season better than this one."




*2026 Batesburg-Leesville Panthers*

# Panthers enter playoffs on six game win streak

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Batesburg-Leesville** – The **Batesburg-Leesville High School** football team lost its first four games of the season. That is something no one wants to go through, but looking back now it isn't that much of a surprise.

The losses were to 10-0 **Mid-Carolina**, 8-2 **Saluda**, 9-1 and defending AA state champion **Strom Thurmond** and 8-2 **Gilbert**. The first three are AA schools while Gilbert is a AAA school.

Having no players with any significant varsity experience to start the year didn't help matters for B-L, which was in its first season in Class A.

"I can't say there was doubt on our players' part; it was more of an unsureness of what to do," said Panthers head coach **Greg Lawson**. "It's just something you've got to learn, and the first four games we sure learned a lot.

There's the old saying that you learn more when you lose than you do when you win. That's about as true as it comes."

B-L learned enough to win six games in a row, claim the Region 2 championship with a 5-0 record and earn the No. 7 seed in the Class A Division I state playoffs. It will play host to No. 10 **Ninety Six** at **The Pit** in a second-round game on November 13.

Batesburg-Leesville snapped the losing streak with a 35-28 overtime win over **Clinton**. The Panthers trailed 28-13 entering the fourth quarter but scored 15 points to force overtime. They then scored on their first play in overtime and kept Clinton out of the end zone on its possession.

They followed that up by outscoring their region foes 258-30.

Sophomore quarterback **Terrance Cook** has been the leader of the offense. He has rushed for 891 yards and 17 touchdowns on 109 carries. He's completed 62 of 139 passes for 1,128 yards and 19 scores against just three interceptions.

"Terrance is one of those kids that learned a lot," Lawson said. "He gets better every week. He is going to be very special for us."

Junior **Mario Waters** is having a good season running the ball with 792 yards and eight TDs on 123 carries. Sophomore **Dee Coleman** has 363 yards and five touchdowns on 40 carries.

Junior **Graham Pierce** is the leading pass catcher with 29 for 645 yards and nine touchdowns. Sophomore **Jayvier Hill-Nelson** has 19 catches for 371 yards and seven scores.

Junior placekicker **Trey Smith** has been solid on extra point attempts, connectuing on 31 of 33.

Should Batesburg-Leesville win over Ninety Six, it would more than likely face No. 2 seed **Central** in the third round. The other part of the bracket features No. 3 seed **Fairfield Central** and

See **Batesburg-Leesville**, pg. **38**

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# Flashes football is peaking at the right time

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Johnsonville** – The **Johnsonville Flashes** are primed and ready for the playoffs.

They lost their two regular-season games by a combined 10 points (30-28 to **Lake View,** 21-13 to **Carvers Bay**). After Johnsonville's 42-14 win over **Kingstree** to end the regular season, Flashes head coach **Ken Cribb** said his team is peaking at the right time.

"We're excited to get to this part of the year," said Coach Cribb. "This is what we did all that work on all year long to get to this time of the year. It's the most important and most exciting part of the year."

After a first-week bye, the Flashes host **Hardeeville** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in SCHSL Class A, Division II.

"We've just got to keep trying to get better," said Coach Cribb. "We're playing our best football at the end of the year. I thought that last game was definitely our best of the year so far. We had been trying to put together a complete game. But this past complete game lets us know we are definitely getting better."

Johnsonville quarterback **Larkin Powell** has another impressive season.

"He's had a good year; the last couple of games, he's getting better at running the ball and finding our receivers and getting the ball to them where they can make plays," said Coach Cribb.

Powell has his share of receivers. Among them are **Skylar Montgomery** and **Ja'mere Ross.**

"They're good when they get the ball in open field," said Coach Cribb. "Defenses try to scheme us different ways. But when they take one away, the other will have success. We can take what defenses give us, and it's hard for them to take our receivers away."

Another go-to WR is **Lucas Thaxton.**

Meanwhile, as star running back **Zaghe Davis** is completing his heal from an ankle injury, **Rondrell Livingston** and **Shawn Wilson** have proven they can carry the load until he returns.

"Luke is a shifty, speed scatback kind of player, and (Wilson) is more of a downhill kind of runner," said Coach Cribb. "When (Davis) comes back, we'll have a really good player returning to the lineup. He has played a lot of football and is a great slasher with very good vision and also blocks well. When we get him back at full speed, we're excited to see what he can do."

Of course, none of this success would be without the help of the offensive line**: Carson Graham, Chance McDaniel, Davon Sanders, K.C. Davis** and **Zyi'kel Cooper.**

"They all play really well," said Coach Cribb. "This is one of the better offensive lines I have ever had. They're physical and smart and take pride in what they do. They're good, selfless kids who bust their butts every day."

The defensive line includes **Jordan McFadden, Wilson, Parker Baxley** and **Bryson Baxley.** Linebacker **includes Brice Ellison, Kemontae Bardon** and **Logan Lewis.**

"(Ellison) is the brains of our operation," said Coach Cribb. "He's only a sophomore and he's getting better and better each time he lines up. He gets in the right calls and is very mature to be a sophomore. He means a lot to the team."

The secondary, meanwhile, includes Ross (four intereceptions), Montgomery, Zaghe Davis and **Edmund McClary**. McClary, a senior, is second on the team in tackles after undergoing three surgeries during his high school career (two broken elbows, a dislocated shoulder).

"You can't question his heart and love for the game," said Coach Cribb. "He was cleared right before the season started. We asked him if he was sure he wanted to play, and he said he did. And he is a really valuable part of our defense."

Looking ahead, Cribb does not want the word "regret" to exist.

"Practice like we are supposed to and put everything into it," said Coach Cribb. "If you're a senior when it's over, it's over. Don't look back wishing this season had ended in a different way."

# Latta hopes to run past Cheraw this week

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Latta** – The **Latta Vikings** (6-4) enter the postseason riding a three-game winning streak. After a first-round bye, coach **Brandon Iseman's** Latta squad plays at 7:30 p.m. Friday at **Cheraw** in the SCHSL Class A, Division I playoffs.

"Obviously, it's good to make the playoffs," said Coach Iseman. "It's a new playoff system and it's pretty exciting. It creates interesting matchups."

This could be one of them.

"It should be a really good football game," said Coach Iseman.

Iseman then talked about the momentum from that three-game winning streak.

"It gives the kids confidence that they can play at a high level," said Coach Iseman. "We expected to be competitive in the region. And that's why we played such a competitive non-region schedule."

**Luke Huggins** is Latta's quarterback.

"He's a sophomore who has had a lot of growth this season and has a better handle on the offense and has added a huge aspect of being able to run the football," said Coach Iseman. "We took the training wheels off, and he continues to get better."

Huggins has passed for 460 yards and two touchdowns. While running the ball, he has 131 yards and two scores.

Obviously, the Vikings are primed to run the football. **Kayden Rogers** has rushed for 1,346 yards and 12 touchdowns.

"He has nicely developed into the role," said Coach Iseman. "He takes 15-20 carries a game despite not getting to run the ball a lot last season just because of the senor running backs we had."

Other running backs are **Irangabiye Johnson, Danny McDowell, Jaheem McCormick and Tylek Blount** and **Noah Alford.**

As a team, the Vikings have rushed for 2,881 yards and 33 scores.

The Vikings' offensive line includes **Dustin Parker, Javonte Kollock, Jackson Horne, Brennon Miles** and **Trent Watson.**

"It's a mixture of young and old guys who have gained experience as the year went on," said Coach Iseman. "It has been a process of maturation. Two weeks ago, as a team, we rushed for 580 yards and you don't do that if the guys don't block up front.

"As the season goes through this last stretch, they have above all gained confidence."

Defensive linemen include **Anthony Williams, Brayden Butler, Cayden Herring, Landin Locklear** and **Brannon Scott Jr.**

Linebackers include **Ryion Gurley** and **Josiah Durant.**

And the Vikings' secondary includes **Noah Usher, Lynden Hayes, Rogers, Stevaris Bethea** and **Qumar Jones.**

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# Golden Eagles hope to keep pace in playoffs

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Correspondent**

**Mullins** – The **Pee Dee Academy** Golden Eagles are in the second round of this year's SCISA Class 2A football playoffs.

Before coach **Jonathan King's** team won 41-18 at home over **Patrick Henry** this past Friday, he talked with the HSSR about his team's strengths.

"When you get to host a first-round playoff game, that's a sign you did something right," said Coach King, whose PDA squad is 7-3.

Up next for PDA is Friday's 7:30 p.m. second-round game at **Colleton Prep.**

**Jesse Smith** is the Golden Eagles' quarterback.

"He's a junior who has had a good season for us," said Coach King. "Last year, we were a single wing and this year, we've gone back to more of our spread package. And Jesse can run it.

"He has the ability to at least throw it some," he added. "He's giving us the ability to throw it a bit and also run the football. He has grown into that role and has become a great leader for us."

Make no mistake, PDA is a run-first team with the likes of running back **Judson Martin.**

"He's a really good ballplayer; he's probably one of the best in the region," said Coach King. "He ran for more than 200 yards against Greenwood Christian and ran for 190 against another opponent.

"I think he has rushed for about 600 yards in the four region games we had, and he also scored nine touchdowns during those games,' said Coach King.

King talked more about what makes Martin so hard to stop.

"He's our workhorse for sure; he's a load at 210 pounds," said Coach King. "And he can run between the tackles and has more speed than what opponents give him credit for."

**Miles Wiggins**, meanwhile, is PDA's go-to receiver.

"He's a senior who has started for us since the ninth grade," said Coach King. "He does everything well. He can catch it short and can make plays in the open field and run some reverses. He knows the offense, and he knows everything we're trying to do on offense."

The offensive line, meanwhile, includes **Walker Trussell, Tucker Huggins, Cadyn Price, Holden Lane** and **Gavin McGill.**

The difference maker up front on defense is none other than McGill.

"He's big, strong and fast and he's definitely the playmaker on the defensive line," said Coach King. "He's the one most people talk to me about from the other teams."

# Andrews finishes year in the playoffs

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**
**Special to the HSSR**

**Andrews** – It was a not a typical year at Andrews high school this football season as they tried a switch to a more pass oriented offense and they got off to slow start but they rallied once region play began and earned a third place finish in region 9A with a spot in the class A Division I playoffs.

They fell to former region rival Marion 33-7 to finish the year at 3-8/3-2.

"The best thing about this team was they didn't quit. It would have been easy at 0-5 after three straight blowouts, but they kept working an improving and won 3 of the last 5 to earn a spot in the playoffs," said head coach **Scott Durham**. "We've just gotten better in all three phases throughout the season. There hasn't been just one thing or one group, it's been a collective effort. I'm proud how this team finished the year."

The Yellowjackets started the year trying to move more to a pass first offense because their strengths of the team were at quarterback in **Avery Durham** and two outstanding receivers in **Colby Marlowe** and transfer **Michael Pembleton Jr.** The trio had a good year with Durham throwing for 1382 yards and 12 touchdowns while Pembleton Jr led the team with 44 receptions for 653 and five touchdowns. Marlowe had 26 catches for 329 yards and four scores.

However, they went back to what Andrews football is known for, that is to run the football.

"After figuring out through three games that we were asking too much of our young OL, we abandoned the pass first philosophy and got back under center running the option. We still throw the ball more than usual, but we're doing it from under center where our protection is more solid," coach Durham said.

The Yellowjackets had several young players make an impact in freshman **CJ McCray** at Strong Safety. Sophomore **Ky'on Bryant** became one of our best DBs before suffering a torn ACL vs Hemingway and **Jaden McCollough** has started to emerge as a viable fullback the last few weeks.

The Yellowjacket Volleyball team won the region 9A title and had four young ladies make the All Region team in **Chloe Skipper, Karaline Gainey, Victoria Smith, and Jenna Cook.** Head coach **Joy Weisner** was named coach of the year.

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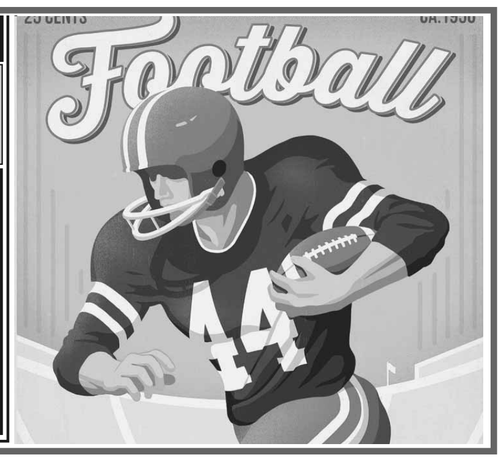
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# Jefferson Davis one win away from title game

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Blackville** – The fact his **Jefferson Davis Academy** football team is 12-0 on the season doesn't come as a shock to head coach **Anthony Rietenour**.

"I'm not surprised," Reitenour said. "It is not uncommon to have one or two mistakes in a year. But this group of guys has been working hard, playing hard all year."

Following a 52-7 victory over **Cambridge Academy** in the first round of the SCISA 8-man state playoffs on November 6, the Raiders are just two victories away from claiming a state championship. Reitenour doesn't want his players to lose sight of that.

"The hard part now becomes not getting complacent," he said. "Now if you have a slipup, you go home. We just have to focus and work on our mindset, not beat ourselves."

There is a reason for that being a concern. JDA has outscored the opposition 425-71 and hasn't had a close game since the fourth week of the season. In fact, three of its first four games were tight contests.

In the first two weeks, Jefferson Davis topped **Providence Athletic Club** 24-19 and **Andrew Jackson Academy** 14-0. After an easy win over **Palmetto Christian Academy**, the Raiders edged defending 8-man state champion **W.W. King** 22-18.

In the final seven games of the regular season, JDA pitched four shutouts, including a 51-0 victory over AJA to end the regular season, and allowed just 34 points. Meanwhile, the fewest points it scored in any of those games was 40.

Reitenour doesn't think it will be a problem when Jefferson Davis plays host to **Laurens Academy** in a semifinal game on November 13. LA defeated Wardlaw 42-8 on Friday.

"I've got seven seniors on this team who have been with me a while," he said. "They won the state title (in 2023) as freshmen, then we followed that the next year by losing in the semifinals when most everybody expected us to win again. Then last year we were kind of a middle-of-the-road team (8-4). I think they're hungry for it."

**Reece Still**, one of the seniors, is the leader of the team. He had completed 35 of 76 passes for 811 yards and 10 touchdowns while rushing for 453 yards and 12 more scores on 46 carries going into the Cambridge contest.. Playing in the secondary on defense, he had seven interceptions and 34 tackles to go with three defensive touchdowns.

Reitenour said there is more to Still than just numbers though.

"He still hates being the quarterback, but he does a good job commanding the offense," the head coach said. "He's just such a threat as an athlete. If we had someone to throw the ball to him, he'd be one of the best in the state.

"He's really developed into the leader that he has tried to argue with me the last three years that he is not."

Sophomore **Marquel Williams** was the leading rusher with 1,572 yards and 17 touchdowns on 138 carries. Junior **Jake Harrington** had 382 yards and six scores on 66 rushes, and freshman **Marquis Creech** had 266 yards and two TDs on 40 attempts.

Senior **Harrison Ray** was the leading receiver with 16 catches for 413 yards and six touchdowns. Williams had 10 catches for 315 yards and five scores.

Harrington was the leading tackler with 106 stops and also led in tackles for loss with 10. Senior **Stanse Youngblood** had 58 tackles and nine TFLs while leading in quarterback sacks with seven. Senior **Judson Bowers** had four sacks.

"Weve been a lot more aggressive on defense than I thought we'd be," Reitenour said. "We've been a lot more aggressive, more physical this year. I think there has been more competition on the team as a whole to lead to that. It has been fun to watch."

# Fox Creek endures difficult football season

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**North Augusta** – When **David Sammons** took over as the football head coach at **Fox Creek High School** in June, he knew there was going to be some very tough sledding this season. And he was right.

The Predators were in their first year in the AAAA classification after being a AA school just three years ago. They ended up going 1-9 overall and finishing 0-5 in the treacherous Region 5. They were outscored 490-168 on the season.

Despite all of that, Sammons is excited for his second season in charge.

"We knew coming into this thing it was not going to be easy," Sammons said. "We knew it was going to be tough this year. first year. We played seven playoff teams."

It was so tough, in fact, Sammons didn't refer to it as his first year or Year 1. Instead, he called it Year Zero.

Sammons said senior star running back **Brandon Crawford** was the only player with a lot of varsity experience.

"The vast majority of our team had not played football at the varsity level," he said. " It was almost like we had played as a junior varsity team n in a lot of aspects. We started more freshmen than anybody in our area.

"We got molly-whopped in some cases, got the wood laid to us. I think the kids grew up big time. they certainly took their lumps, but they were getting better. We gave them praise every day about that."

Despite being the focus of every opposing defense, Crawford averaged 133.7 rushing yards per contest through the first six games he played. He had 802 yards and eight touchdowns on 145 carries.

Sophomore quarterback **Julian Abro** had 161 yards and two scores on 52 carries. Abro completed 83 of 143 passes for 1,007 yards and seven touchdowns.

Junior **Armani Jones** and sophomore **Artis Joye** both had 24 catches going into the regular-season finale, a 73-0 loss to Irmo. Jones had 322 yards and four TDs, while Joye had 299 yards and five TDs.

Senior **Chartavious Weaver** had 16 catches for 177 yards and a score, and freshman **Carter Hoppe** had 12 receptions for 144 yards.

Sophomore outside linebacker **Blake Wilson** was leading the defense with 75 tackles and three tackles for loss.

Sammons pointed out that the final score of some of the games didn't tell the whole story. He pointed out the Predators were in several games until the war of attrition finally took its toll.

There is one thing he is certain of though.

"Every single one of our players got better," he said. "They were better at the end of the year than they were at the start."

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# Chiefs football, volleyball come up short in playoffs

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Little River** – The seasons for the **North Myrtle Beach** came to an end during the AAAA state playoffs last week.

The football team had two seasons in one this fall. The Chiefs opened the season with six straight wins and moved into the statewide AAAA rankings.

Things leveled off down the stretch as the Chiefs lost four games to finish at 6-4. They did earn a spot in the state playoffs but lost a first-round game to Lucy Beckham, 56-0, to finish with a 6-5 record.

Considering the state of the program when **Perry Woolbright** was hired as head coach last winter, six wins is a major accomplishment. Woolbright is in his second tenure at North Myrtle Beach and worked hard to instill a change in culture. Mission accomplishment.

"This group, these seniors, laid the foundation for future success," Woolbright said. "We're disappointed with the way it ended but that doesn't change what we did this season. These kids worked their tails off and they fought to improve every day. We are going to continue to raise our standards over the next year. I am optimistic about where we are headed."

There were a handful of key seniors who bought in and helped lead the team through the process. Those underclassmen were able to gain experience and will be expected to take on the leadership of the program this offseason.

The leading rusher this season was **Jaden Wilson**, who rushed for 1,395 yards and 14 touchdowns during the regular season. The Chiefs averaged 30 points per game and 315 yards in offense per game.

Jonathon Evans was next in rushing with 300 yards and five touchdowns. The Chiefs used two sophomore quarterbacks this season. **Mason Walker** threw for just under 1,000 yards during the regular season and **Evan Barrett** threw for more than 400 yards.

**Jaden Chestnut** caught a team-high 33 passes for 538 yards and seven touchdowns. **Taron Scott** had 26 catches and **Anthony Cimini** had 24 catches and more than 300 yards.

Defensively, the Chiefs allowed 395 yards per game. **Jimmy McCullough** led the team in tackles with 57.5 hits through the regular season. **Cam Jordan** tallied 48 tackles, including 16 tackles for loss. **Barron Hill** had 44 tackles and **Dustin Clement** had four interceptions.

**Volleyball falls late in playoffs**

The volleyball team made a god run in the AAAA playoffs but was eliminated by South Aiken, 3-2, in a nail-biter. The Chiefs finished the season with a 34-10 record overall and went 12-0 in region play. The program, under coach **Jenn Loeswick**, has won at least 30 matches in each of the last four seasons.

Loeswick is now in her fourth season as the head coach. Under her direction, the program has played for three consecutive state championships, winning the AAAAA Division II title in 2024. They were state runner-ups last season and have won at least 30 matches in each of the last four years.

The roster this season was loaded with experience with several players in their third year as starters. Leadership on the team is led by senior outside hitter **Lilly Loeswick** and senior right side **Harlow Horton**. Loeswick is a returning all-state performer and led the team with 543 kills and 469 defensive digs. Horton has 125 digs.

Senior **Madison Johnson i**s the middle blocker and had 229 kills. Senior **Madi Vereen** also starts in the middle and had 169 kills.

Senior **Mikayla Altena** is the setter and had 822 assists and 41 service aces. **Gracie Davis** is a junior on the outside, and **Bailee Locklear** is the libero with 360 digs. Davis has 74 kills and 115 digs.

Senior **Rylee McIver** sees extensive playing time as an outside hitter, while senior C**hloe Schmidt** sees time as a defensive specialist and has 118 digs.

Regardless of the roster, the expectations of the coach never change.

"The three pieces of our team culture are to work hard, have fun, and be a great teammate," Loeswick explains. "I want my team to focus on the process and not on the outcome. My expectation is simply that we work hard to be the best team this group can be, and that we are better at the end of the season than we were when we started."

# Braves in playoffs with plenty of momentum

**By Scott Chancey**
**Special Contributor**

**Cheraw** – The **Cheraw Braves'** 48-34 win over **Central** that ended their regular season was a boost in several ways for head coach **Andy Poole's** Braves.

"It was huge – not because it's a rivalry or for region, said Coach Poole. "It was for momentum going into the playoffs. We proved we could win a big game.

"That had been our Achilles' Heel with this senior class; it had not been able to get the job done in games like that."

Until now.

Now, after a week off, the Braves host **Latta** in the first round of the SCHSL Class A, Division I playoffs at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

"(Latta head coach **Brandon Iseman**) is a good buddy and he does a good job; we go way back," said Coach Poole. "Latta is going to be extremely well-coached and be playing extremely hard. We have to be on every gap, defensively. We cannot get too high or get too low."

Poole said his team didn't mind the bye week.

"After a physical and emotional game like the one against Central, you need a week to unwind," said Coach Poole.

At quarterback, **Kobi McDonald** is continuing to evolve as a playmaker.

"His leadership has matured," said Coach Poole. "Early in the season, he'd let his emotions get too high or too low. During the last couple of games, he has been the leader we needed."

That was especially the case against Central.

"He commanded the huddle and threw for two touchdown passes and ran for another, and he kept calm – even when Central came back," said Coach Poole. "He was our voice of reason, so to speak."

At running back, freshman **Darryl Hersey** has turned into a steamroller. His latest feat was rushing for around 180 yards and for four touchdowns during the win over Central. Hersey has 856 yards and 10 touchdowns so far this season.

"He had the game of his life," said Coach Poole. "He played middle school football last year. Anytime you see a performance from like that, you know something like that doesn't happen all the time."

Fellow running back **Nick Gordon**, meanwhile, has 154 rushing yards and three scores of his own.

"He has such speed," said Coach Poole. "If he can get loose with the ball, he can take it to the house and change the complexion of the game."

At receiver, Gordon makes an even bigger impact at receiver with 853 yards and eight touchdowns. And teammate **Davion Little** made a clutch third-down catch on the first drive, and **Damony Yarbrough** also made a clutch, third-down catch to sustain a drive."

The Braves' offensive line is made of **Winston Davis, Tremell Sellers, Easton Quick, Lemonte Brown** and **Charlie Holter.**

The defensive line, meanwhile, continues to be led by **Anthony Strong** (101 tackles and 10 sacks) and **Crawford Poole** (65 and seven sacks).

**Brendon Pace** and **Austin Adams** are among the linebackers, and the Braves' secondary includes **Kamari Cue, Little, Yarbrough, Derrick "Slick" Isaac** and **Kesan Jefferson.**

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# Central chasing Class A Division I crown

**By Dennis Brunson**
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Pageland** – The shot at a perfect season has fallen by the wayside for the **Central High School** football team. That dream came to an end with a 48-34 loss to **Cheraw** in the regular-season finale.

Ah, but the ultimate prize is still very much on the table for the Eagles: a Class A Division I state championship.

CHS finished in a 3-way tie for first in Region 5 along with Cheraw and **Lamar**. Central is the No. 2 overall seed in the DI state playoffs. It received a first-round bye and will play host to **Marion**. a 33-7 winner over **Andrews**, on November 13.

Eagles head coach **Jonathan Eason** believes a run at a title is a possibility for his 9-1 team.

"For us to make a playoff run, we need to get healthy and fix our mistakes," said Eason, who guided CHS to the AA lower state championship contest last season "I feel like when we are playing well, then we can play with anyone."

It can be argued Central had already played two playoff games with its final two regular-season contests. Prior to the Cheraw game, the Eagles beat Lamar, the defending Class A state runner-up, 40=30.

Because of that, Eason isn't upset that CHS had a bye before preparing for a playoff run.

"I think the bye will be very useful for us," said Eason, whose team is one of only two teams to receive a first-round bye in the DI playoffs, the other being No. 1 seed and defending Class A state champion **Bamberg-Ehrhardt**. "We have played a couple of really physical games, and we need a chance to get back as healthy as possible."

Eason hopes his players will use the loss to Cheraw to its advantage in preparation for the playoffs.

"We knew we were going against a good team in a good atmosphere," he said. "Cheraw showed us that we are beatable and if we don't have a great week, then we can lose.

"It definitely made us realize that we have somethings to work on. We will have to correct our mistakes, or we will be out of the playoffs quickly."

Not if senior 4-year starting quarterback **Dwayne Louallen Jr.** has anything to do with it. Eason turned him loose in the last two games and he posted tremendous numbers.

In the win over Lamar, Louallen picked up 196 yards and scored four times on 21 carries. He had 145 yards and two more scores through the air, connecting on 10 of 19 passes. Against Cheraw, Louallen rushed for 105 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries and completed 7 of 13 passes for 154 yards and two more touchdowns.

"Dwayne Louallen is one of the best players in the state," Eason said. "We're lucky that he plays for us. He is one of the best athletes in the state, and he works hard. He is going to be a great college player for someone."

Louallen has completed 86 of 141 passes for 1,413 yards and 19 touchdowns on the season while rushing for 909 yards and 16 scores.

Senior **Zavious Allen** leads in rushing with 1,126 yards and 12 scores on 105 carries. Junior **Jayden Robinson** has 434 yards and two TDs on 47 carries.

The leading pass catcher is senior **Blake Sowell** with 21 for 321 yards and five scores. Senior **Aiden Welch** has 20 catches for 415 yards and four touchdowns, senior **Darin Gaines** has 17 receptions for 278 yards and five TDs, and senior tight end **Cody Branham** has 10 catches for 96 yards and one score.

Sophomore defensive lineman **Dayleon Fair** leads the defense in tackles for loss with 11. Sophomore linebacker **Jaylen Davis** is the leading tackler with 75 while senior defensive back **Dylan Tomberlin** has 50 to go with a team high four interceptions. Senior defensive lineman **Keelan Meadows** leads in quarterback sacks with three.

# Fall sports season wrapping up at Myrtle Beach

**By David Shelton**
**Senior Writer**

**Myrtle Beach** – October may signal cooler weather but the action in the high school sports venues tend to heat up at this time of year.

The Fall sports season has reached the final stages as the calendar flips to October and the teams at **Myrtle Beach High** are prepping for what they hope will be extended runs in the upcoming postseason.

The boys volleyball team is one that looks forward to challenging for a trophy this month. Entering play on Oct. 5, the Seahawks were 16-4 overall and 8-1 in region play. With four contests remaining, the Seahawks trailed St. James by a game in the region 7-AAAA standings.

Senior **Tate Siegmund** has been a key leader this season with 155 kills. **Ashton Barnett**, a junior, has posted 142 kills, and senior **Gray Setzer** has 94 kills. Junior **Jonah Berrios** has 115 kills and 73 defensive digs.

Sophomore libero **Brock Port** leads the team with 235 digs. Leading the offensive sets is setter **Will Dezwaan**, who has 511 assists.

The girls volleyball team also is in region contention, winning seven of nine region contests.

Also competing in the fall is the girls golf team. The team has one senior, **MiKayla Lee**, and one junior **Elizabeth Wilson**. Sophomores on the roster are **Scarlett Ashmore** and **Malley McMillan**.

Rounding out the roster are eighth-graders **Lainey Didolkar** and **Charlotte Ramsey**, and seventh-graders **Harper Kouche**, **Londyn Love**, and **Alia Ashmore**.

The football team sits at 2-4 overall and 0-2 in region play as of Oct. 5. The Seahawks lost their first two games of the season to Marlboro County (61-20) and Dillon (50-24), but bounced back with a win over Socastee (28-23) and an overtime win over Carolina Forest (41-38).

The Seahawks opened region play against West Florence, losing, 41-27, and then los to South Florence, 46-20.

Myrtle Beach will close the regular season with region games against Conway (Oct. 9), St. James (Oct. 16), Wilson (Oct. 23) and North Myrtle Beach (Oct. 30).

Quarterback **Camden DuBruhl** has been the team's top offensive performer this season. In the win over Carolina Forest, the 6-4 junior quarterback threw for 377 yards and five touchdowns. He has nearly 20 touchdown passes this season.


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ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY WARRIORS

# AJA volleyball has record setting season, basketball seasons begins November 17

**By Billy G. Baker**
**Publisher**

**Ehrhardt**—-The **Andrew Jackson Academy** (26-5) volleyball team had their best volleyball season in years with the Lady Warriors winning two playoff games in Myrtle Beach (beat **Christian Academy** & **Dillon Christian**) before their season came to an end with two losses against **The Kings Academy** on October 24.

"It was our most successful volleyball season in school history," said head coach **Zach Boltin**. "We won the region championship and made it to the upper state championship game.

"The girls had a wonderful season," said Coach Boltin. "We just didn't finish well in the game we wanted to at the end."

Coach Boltin, who will be getting married in Charleston on November 21 was named the Region Coach of the Year.

Senior Outside Hitter **McKinnley Beard** was the Region Player of the Year while senior setter **Bella Carigg** was named all-region and all-state. Senior RS **Kinslie Carson**, senior MH **Carrigan Moore**, and junior OH **Peighton Jones** were all named to the all-region team.

Beard led the team with 453 kills, 121 aces, and 148 digs. Beard also had 28 blocks during the season. Beard also led the team in scoring 257 points.

**Carrigg** led the team with 550 assists. Carrigg also had 56 aces, and a 92.4 serving percentage, and she scored 190 points.

Carson had a 93.5 serving percentage with 139 kills, 63 aces, 103 digs, and 40 blocks and Carson scored 231 points.

Moore, an excellent senior softball catching/center field prospect, led the team with 64 blocks with 93 assists and 129 digs and Moore scored 148 points. Jones had 151 kills, 79 aces, and 125 digs while scoring 214 points.

**Harper Bessinger** was a sophomore Libero who had 112 assists and 144 digs. **Braelyn Hall** was injured for most of the season but came back late in the season and led the team with a 95 per cent serving percentage. Junior **Abby Ayer** had 43 blocks.

Other members of the team were senior DS **Delanie Bessinger** and senior DS **Mary Gray Hiers**.

Coach Boltin will have a short honeymoon as he is also the head girls' varsity basketball coach, and their season starts on November 17 with a home game against **Faith Christian**.

The team was (9-17, 2-2) a year ago and all seven players return from last season.

Guard **Bella Carigg** returns as the top scorer from last year when she averaged 11.2 points and 2,5 steals a game. **Kinslie Carson** returns at SG after averaging 10 points and 3,8 rebounds last season. **McKinnley Beard** is a 5-11 SF who returns after scoring 7.7 points with 8.5 rebounds last season.

Junior **Abby Ayer** is back after averaging 5.3 rebounds last season. Other returning basketball girls' players include soph guard **Kiley O'Herien** and soph guard **Brianna Jacques.**

The boys' varsity basketball team will begin their 12th season under veteran head coach **Josh Barnes** when they host **Faith Christian** on Nov. 17.

The Warriors will be led by the return of senior guard **Ollie Barnes** who led the team last year with 21.4 points, 5.9 rebounds, 3.1 assists, and 1.4 steals a game.

Three other players returned who made significant contributions on the team a year ago. Senior PF **Elijah Davis** (6-4, 180) is back along with freshman PG **Will Barnes**, soph Forward **Evan Mathys**, and junior guard **Jaxson Brandt**.

Newcomer varsity players for the boys' basketball team include junior PG **George Pacheco,** soph guard **Cody Grider**, soph G **Gage Risher**, and junior F **Bryson Riddle**.

Coach Barnes said he has not had a fall practice with his team yet due to the majority of his team also being football players.

"There is no way to determine our starting lineup until we have some practices," said Coach Barnes. "We have a good group of 9ths through 11th graders, with some of them moving up from jayvee roles last season.

"Based on sign-ups only, we have more depth with this team," said Coach Barnes. "Running out of gas was a major problem last season," said Coach Barnes. "I have had four non-football players conditioning in the early mornings and that has been good to see.

"With our football season over we will hold our first practice on Monday Night (Nov. 9), and our first game will be the followi9ng Tuesday against **Faith Christian**," said Coach Barnes. "If we could somehow win that first game it would be big because Faith has been practicing since the first of November. I am anxious to see how the boys deal with this first game. It will tell me a lot about some of the newer players that I am unfamiliar with."

The AJA football team, head coached by **Andy Palmer**, concluded the 2026 season with a 44-23 loss against **Newberry Academy** on Nov., 6 in the SCISA 8-man playoffs.

The team concluded the season with a 2-9 record.


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**Florence Christian**, continued from pg. **27**

able to start," said Coach Minton.

Senior starters who will graduate this spring include **OL/DL Landon Simmons, OL/DL Brody Cariati, LB/TE Hayden Schwab** (the Eagles' leading tackler at middle linebacker).

"Hayden is going to be hard to replace," said Coach Minton. "And **Andrew Miller** was one of our main running backs and a very good linebacker for us. And this also includes **Jaxon Nealey** and **Jayce Johnson."**

After last Friday's final horn, Minton gathered his team and wished his seniors a fond farewell. Then, he turned his attention to 2027.

"We'll be in the weight room Monday," said Minton. "We have multi-sport guys, and we're going to work hard whenever there's time for football. We're going to work hard at whatever we're doing.

"And that's the standard we want from young people, to make sure they're accountable," said Coach Minton. "The best teams are player-led teams."

**Lamar**, continued from pg. **27**

ver Foxes' success.

"He ran for 141 yards against Central; he's a very talented and athletic kid," said Coach Boyd. "He's got the confidence to use his legs when the passing game isn't there."

All this offensive production happens behind an offensive line that includes **Messiah Simes, Trevionne Goodson, Roy Vest II, Izayah McCullough** and **Joshua Todd.**

Included on the defensive line are **Robert Cooper, Kenile Johnson, Simes** and **Tavion Belle.**

And then, there is **D.Q. Green** at linebacker.

"He's out there whether he's making plays or not; he's making the calls and watching film," said Coach Boyd. "He knows what's coming and does everything right. He's the kid you want on your team."

**Class A Football**, continued from pg. **8**

**Blackville-Hilda** in the regular-season finale. Wagener-Salley, meanwhile, last lost 3 of its past four games – including a 30-20 loss in the regular-season finale at none other than H-K-T.

**DENMARK-OLAR (6-5) AT CROSS (5-4)**

After Denmark-Olar won 32-20 in last week's first round against **Lewisville**, Cross is the next opponent, and all the Trojans have done is win their past five games entering the bracket.

This will be the two teams' first meeting since Nov. 4, 2011, when the eventual state champion Trojans won 34-0.

# Seawell's Midlands Feature Page

## The march to state champmionships has begun all across SC

**By WORTHY EVANS**
**Staff Writer**

**Columbia** - With the regular season in the books, several Midlands teams moved into the postseason brackets and began the pathway to the state championship games. In all classifications, 19 teams reached the playoff rounds, with 11 kicking off the postseason action last week.

Eight teams were idle last week, either with first-round byes or in the case of the two single-A divisions, begin play. **Dutch Fork**, **Ridge View**, **Camden**, and **Mid-Carolina** received first-round byes in their respective brackets. **Eau Claire**, **Fairfield Central**, **Batesburg-Leesville**, and **C.A. Johnson** were idle because the two single-A brackets open play Friday.

Of the 11 Midlands teams that played last week, **Gray Collegiate**, **Irmo**, **Keenan**, **Dreher**, and **Gilbert** advanced to play in the second round of action Friday.

In SCISA action, **Hammond** was the only Midlands team to advance to the next round.

**Gray Collegiate knocks out Socastee**

Class AAAAA has been a rough ride for Gray Collegiate Academy, but the War Eagles powered through a tough schedule and let **Socastee** have it in a 61-27 victory in the first round of the AAAAA playoffs.

Sophomore quarterback **Xavier Wright** completed 15 of 17 passes for 304 yards and four touchdowns. **Royce Williamson** returned an opening kickoff for a touchdown and had five catches for 144 yards and three scores. Both athletes did so over the course of one half.

With Gray leading 48-13 to start the second half, most of the starters were on the sidelines.

"That's what we set out to do," head coach **De'Angelo Bryant** said. "We felt like we had a great opportunity to score, score fast, get the ball in our playmakers' hands and make plays. We executed in a big way."

Gray Collegiate lit into No.10 Socastee (4-7) right from the kickoff. Royce Williamson took the kick and returned it 75 yards for a touchdown.

The Braves bounced back, responding with a quick drive that ended with **Markus Duke's** 39-yard touchdown strike to **Paul Livingston**.

From then on through the first quarter, it was all War Eagles.

Up 7-6, Gray got a Wright-to-Royce Williamson touchdown of 56 yards, a **Jhais McKiever** TD run from four yards out, and **Trevon Williamson's** 49-yard touchdown as the first quarter expired to give the War Eagles a 28-6 lead.

**Ethan Rich** scored for Socastee on a 15-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter, but Gray Collegiate closed out the first half with three scores in the final three minutes–Wright's 4-yard TD pass to McKiever, Wright's 4-yard touchdown run, and after a fumble, Royce Williamson's catch-and-run touchdown reception of 55 yards as the clock ran out in the first half.

When play resumed in the second half, **David Quattlebaum's** 40-yard interception return–his second pick of the night—gave the War Eagles a 55-13 lead and kept the momentum going.

**Jayshon Singleton's** 61-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter was the last score for Gray. Socastee scored twice in the second half.

The win sets up a meeting between seventh-seeded War Eagles and No.2 **Berkeley**. The 9-1 Stags had a first-round bye.

"We played in big games and we're going to expect our best because we know we're going to get their best," Bryant said. "They're a team that have proven themselves throughout the season and they're sitting in a position because they've been able to do that. We want to go down there and take care of business and move on to the third round."

**Keenan outlasts Newberry**

The No.4 Raiders had their hands full with No.13 **Newberry** (4-7) Friday night at Keenan,

but the home team's running game in the second half enabled them to get past the Bulldogs 30-21.

Keenan (8-3) advances to play host to No.5 **St. Joseph's Catholic** (9-2) in the upper state bracket of the AAA playoffs. The Knights beat **Andrew Jackson** 58-20 last week.

**Hunter O'Neal** stole the show with 289 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 36 attempts. Late in the game, it was quarterback **Dante Howse** who put the game on ice.

Howse was just 8-for-22 in passing with two interceptions at the time of the final scoring drive, but Howse connected with Jamauri Johnson for a 35-yard touchdown pass that restored the Raiders' 10-point cushion.

"It wasn't the cleanest football game, especially offensively," head coach **Jarrett Neely** said. "we've got to clean up a few things. We didn't block well early on, but over time I think we began to control the line of scrimmage."

Keenan led 16-14 at halftime but built up a 24-14 lead in the fourth quarter. Bulldogs running back **Sincere Glymph** scored on a 2-yard TD run to cut that lead to 24-21. After that score Keenan took the ball and restored the lead.

"I think we played pretty good defense tonight. Those guys have a really good team. No.5 (Glymph), he's a load, man, but we played good overall defensively, and of course we leaned on our guy (O'Neal), the same guy I've been leaning on in the last four years here. Looking forward to continue to keep seeing what we can do in the playoffs."

**Irmo eases past South Aiken**

At W.C. Hawkins Stadium Friday, No.6 Irmo (8-3) had little trouble with Region 5-AAAA rival No.11 **South Aiken** (6-5) in the lower state bracket of the AAAA playoffs. **Britton Davis** threw for three touchdowns in the first half and the Yellow Jackets cruised to a 39-0 victory over the Thoroughbreds.

The Yellow Jackets beat South Aiken 38-14 Oct. 9.

Irmo its the road to take on another region rival No.3 **North Augusta**, which received a first-round bye. North Augusta beat Irmo 25-16 Oct. 2.

Irmo head coach **Aaron Brand** said that shutting out its first-round opponent boosted the spirit of his team.

"Momentum. What we need is momentum," Brand said. "We've ben playing good in the last couple of weeks, but going into next week we'll give those guys a little something extra to prepare for. We're a tough team and we're still one of the best teams around and we'll keep trying to

See **Midlands Feature**, pg. **62**

### Midlands Football Top Ten

1. Dutch Fork (9-0, 4-0 Region)
2. Lugoff-Elgin (9-1, 5-0 Region)
3. Camden (8-2, 5-0 Region)
4. Ridge View (7-2, 4-0 Region)
5. Mid-Carolina (10-0, 5-0 Region)
6. Fairfield Central (10-0, 4-0 Region)
7. Hammond (11-0, 5-0 Region)
8. Keenan (8-3, 3-2 Region)
9. River Bluff (8-3, 3-1 Region)
10. Lexington (6-5, 2-2 Region)






# Modern Turf Farm Recruiting Feature

*Recruiting, continued from cover*

### HSSR SC 2028 Football Prospect List
(Nominate A '28 Player: hsreport@aol.com)

1. Zion Dawkins-Gaffney-DB/WR-5-11,181
2. Michael Martin-Southside Chr. -RB-5-10,180
3. Christian Webb-Scott-Westide-DE-6-6,250
4. Riggs Savage-Powdersville-TE-6-5,230
5. Brody Lorenzo-Dutch Fork-OL-6-3, 330
6. Beau Hite-Emerald-QB-Ath.-5-11,170
7. Jace Grass-Daniel-QB-6-1, 180
8. Teru Davis-Summerville-WR-6-0,170
9. Raphael Puiu-James Island-WR-6-1, 190
10. Nasir Walker-AC Flora-DE-6-5,250
11. Tripp Gallus-Hanahan-QB-6-5,235
12. Jeremiah McGowan-Dutch Fork-OL-6-4,290
13. Ryan Bruchu-York-QB-6-4,220
14. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
15. Jace Coleman-Lugoff-Elgin-LB-6-1,195
16. Jay Sean Culp-Rock Hill-DE-6-0,225
17. Heyward Belser-Heathwood Hall-LB-6-3,220
18. Desiray Christian-Greenwood-WR/FS-6-0,190
19. Mont Williams-Lamar-DE/WR-6-7,200
20. Matt Kucia-Indian Land-QB-6-2,185
21. DeMarius Arrington-Dutch Fork-WR-6-0,175
22. Jackson Miller-Powdersville-OL-6-6,270
23. Phillip Savage-Powdersville-OLB/WR-6-3,200
23. DJ Johnson-North Augusta-DB-6-2, 180
24. Kenneth Wilson-Indian Land-WR-6-2,185
25. Lavay Penny-Camden-LB-6-2,215
26. Ian Jones-Woodruff-OL-6-4,260 24.
27. Kermit Davis-Stratford-DE-6-4,235
28. Justin Nelson-Camen-DB-6-1, 160
29. Cooper Patterson-Dorman-QB-6-0,185
30. Jamit Watson-South Pointe-LB-6-0,191
31. Jamarion Campbell-Dillon-WR-5-`0,`60
32. Keymonte Goodwin-Woodland-Ath-WR-DB-5-10,170
33. Nick Sargent-BHP-TE-6-5,215
34. Warren Prew-South Florence-LB-5-10,190
35. Jordan Logan-Orangeburg-Wilk-DB-6-1,195
36. Will Hunt-Oceanside Coll.-TE/-OL/DL-6-3, 275
37. DeMarcus King-Summerville-LB-6-1,195
38. Jalen Bacote-Dillon-OL/DE-6-3,250
39. Emerson James-Byrnes-WR/DB-5-11, 180
40. Darryle Washington-Gray Coll.- OL-6-2, 270
41. Malachia Thompson-Woodruff-DB-5-10,170
42. Landon Guyton-Gilbert-TE/WR-6-3, 205
43. Elijah Sanders-Newberry-T/DT-6-1, 275
44. Jackson Sumney-Oceanside Coll.-PK-5-11,190
45. Scoop Dennis-LMA-WR/DB-6-2,180
46. Brandyn Miller-LMA-OL/DT-6-1,275
47. Avery King-Brookland-Cayce-RB-5-9,180
48. Brayden Andy-Northwood Acad-OL-6-2, 265
49. Eli Sanders-Newberry-OL-DL-6-1, 275
50. Tahia Wise-Central-DL-5-9,210
51. Jeremiah Hunter-Seneca-WR-5-9,155
52. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
53. Samaj Parker-South Florence-WR-5-11, 170
54. Tyler Murray-Kingstree-DB-6-1,185
55. Jaydon Pringle-Jackson-T-DE Goose Creek-6-0,245
56. Bryce Collins-South Pointe-OL-6-1,265
57. Jayden Wheeler-JL Mann-DT-6-0,235
58. Ziggy Offord-Lakewood-WR/DB-6-0,175
59. Holden Lowery-Chesterfield-WR-5-9,170
60. Willie Hill-Silver Bluff-OL-603,245

HSSR Class of 2029 SC Football Prospects
(Nominate A player-hsreport@aol.com)

Bear Woods-Westside-QB-6-3,175
Taddrick Gibson, Jr.-Dutch Fork-DB-5-10,165
Carter Nash-Dorman-RB-5-11,195
Amari Jones-Seneca-DL-6-6,325
Corey Miller-Dutch Fork-WR-6-0,190
Dash Holley-Northwestern-LB-6-2, 215-
Brayden Bouts-Crestwood-RB-5-9,180
Mallachi Debnam-Greenville-WR-6-3, 190
Rasean Brown-South Pointe-RB-5-9,175
Jordan Lewis-Lewis-Dorman-OL-6-4,285
Kiant Morgan-Gaffney-D-6-5,260
Nibras Harrison-Dillon-WR/QB-5-11, 176
Dez Davis-North Augusta-DE-6-4, 220

Jones had been committed to **James Madison.**

**He told Gerald Martinez of 247 Sports why he flipped to the Trojans. "**With next-level football, you get next-level coaching and development," said Jones. "For me, it's the coaching and the academics. A degree you get from Southern California isn't just a four-year degree. It's a lifetime degree and you have connections after football."

Clemson has helped push the 2027 numbers in South Carolina by taking commitments from four in-state players for the first time in a while. They are **South Pointe** DL/OL **Seth Tillman** (6-4, 300), **Dutch Fork** DL **Jaden Werth** (6-2, 270), **Daniel** DB **Chistian Chancellor** ((5-9,162) along with **Daniel** WR **Trey Wimberly** (6-0, 175).

South Carolina has currently commitments from three in-state players in the 2027 class. They include Irmo Ol Nate Carson (6-5, 285), Hammond LB Jackson Ross (6-4, 215) and Ridge View OL James Ross (6-5, 290).

As of November 8th, there are nearly 50 young men in the 2027 Class of football players from the state of South Carolina committed to major colleges. There are 138 major colleges who make up the FBS highest division of college football.

Sumter RB **Franklin Richardson** (61,220) committed to **Maryland** in late September. Richardson is an RB but he has played QB for Sumter High the past two seasons. As a junior he rushed for over 1,450 yards.

Here is the break- down to date and keep in mind players flip and decommit all the time. : **Southern Cal** (1), Maryland (1), **Clemson** (4), **East Carolina** (4), **South Carolina** (3), **Coastal Carolina** (3), **UNC** (2), **James Madison** (2), **App State** (2), **Liberty** (2), **Rutgers** (2), **UNC-Charlotte** (2), **LSU** (1), **Alabama** (1), **Georgia** (1), **Colorado** (1), **Marshall** (1), **Wake Forest** (1), **Delaware** (1), **Syracuse** (1), **Auburn** (1), **Boston College** (1), **Virginia** (1), **Miami** (1), **NC State** (1), **Army** (1), **Navy** (1), **Missouri State** (1).

The top ten 2027 football prospects in South



*North Augusta's Simeon Jones*

Carolina have been recruited from everywhere in the nation. You have Jones committed to **Southern Cal**. **Oceanside Collegiate** WR/DB **Jaiden Kelly-Murray** is rated number one by the *HSSR* and he is committed to **Colorado** while number three rated **Byrnes** RB **David** "**Tre**" **Segarra** is committed to **LSU**. Number four rated **Irmo** RB **Tai Phillips** (5-11, 180) is committed to **Alabama.**

Number five rated OL **Nate Carson** is committed to SC. Tillman and Werth are pledged to Clemson at the number 8 and 9 player slots respectively while Ross from Hammond is committed to SC as the 0th over-all prospect in the 2026 class.

Highly regarded **Georgia** has reached into South Carolina to gain a commitment from **Lucy Beckham** OL **Ty Johnson** (6-5, 300) while UNC has come in the state and gained a commitment from **Bluffton** WR **Amare Patterson** 6-1, 190) rated as the 12th best 2027 over-all prospect in South Carolina by the *HSSR*.

With so many major colleges using the transfer portal for immediate help on their rosters it is a fact that the major college numbers in South Carolina have not been hurt at all by the portal.

