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Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

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64 Pages

SC looks to be headed toward state record of 50 major college football signees

By Billy G. Baker Publisher

Moncks Corner—The state of South Carolina could produce a record number of 2026 football prospects, possibly on track to hit an all-time record of 50 seniors signed by the National signing day in early February, with 44 players already committed to major college programs as of October, 3rd.

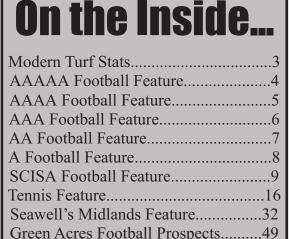
The *HSSR* always takes a moment to thank **Mark Grainger**, and the fine folks at *Modern Turf* in Irmo and Rembert for their much-appreciated sponsorship of this monthly recruiting page.

The state backed up one major college commitment when former **Gaffney High** 2026 quarterback, and **Arkansas** commitment, **Jayvon Gilmore** (6-5,200) announced a decommitment from the Razorbacks on September, 18, about the time he transferred to **Ridge View** High in Columbia after losing his starting position to **Banks Bouton.** As of October, 2 Gilmore was not on the roster at Ridge View as he is working through matters to become eligible. Indications is that he must sit out 2' days after enrolling at Ridge View under new SCHSL transfer rules so he is expected to play at some point in the near future.

Gilmore began his prep career at Ridge View as a freshman, before transferring to **Ben Lippen** for his sophomore season. He then transferred to Gaffney for his junior season and he passed for over 2,500 yards with the Indians last season. Gilmore once claimed 20 major college offers. They include Arizona, Virginia Tech, UNC Charlotte, and Boston College among others. Reports indicate that Gilmore is receiving serious interest from **NC State** also and he still has Arkansas on his list.

Cross High athlete Caden Ramsey (6-5,200) became the 44th pledge from the 2026 class in South

See Recruiting, pg. 37





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



Saluting most improved, undefeated teams as we cross the midway point of the season

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Moncks Corner—As the Friday night region wars of prep football in South Carolina heat up, and with just four regular season lefts to play for most teams, it might be an ideal time to compliment some of the "Most Improved" teams, dab a little into the new one time free pass transfer rule, and share some thoughts on observations.

By reason of explanation, we call a "Most Improved Team," as any team that had a losing record last year, who after six games of the 2025 season, have won at least four games already. We understand there are numerous teams in this Most Improved category, and we only have space to salute what we consider to be the best of the best turnaround programs from the 2024 season at this moment in time. Please forgive us if we do not cite your team.

One of the most improved teams over last season, with just over half of the regular season complete, is the Carver Bay Bears, head coached by Shrine Bowl assistant **Matthew Richard**. Last year the Bears finished 4-7, and right now they are ranked number three in Class A by the HSSR with a perfect 7-0 record. They are also coming off a head turning 33-0 win over Latta on the road last week. How about a high five for their improvement and their impressive running back Kenard Heyward (5-

Staying in Class A, how about a high five for the 6-0 Ware Shoals team, head coached by Chris **Dodson**. Last season the team finished 4-6, and after their impressive 42-14 win over **Whitmire** this past week, they are 6-0 for the first time in four decades! Coach Dodson credits leadership from 9 returning senior players for the big turnaround.

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From the AAAAA ranks please extend high fives Carvers Bay. to an improved team like **Byrnes** who went 4-6 a year ago, while having to play every game of the season on the road! The Rebels were making a multi-million-dollar upgrade to their stadium, and this year the new digs must be inspiring for head coach **Reggie Shaw's** team as Byrnes is currently 4-2 on the season that includes a 30-10 win over **T.L.**

From the AAAA ranks, a great example of "turnaround" is the **Wilson** Tigers. They were 1-9 a year ago and they are currently 5-2, with one of those wins coming over Dillon, 27-21. Coach Brian Wilson, a former Sumter assistant is doing an outstanding job getting the Tigers pointed in the right

From the AAA ranks, give a high five to **Fox** Creek and their head coach Lemuel Lackey. The Predators were 4-6 last season, and so far, this season, they are 5-1 having outscored teams 267-51! Their defense is vastly improved, and they have four starters back in the offensive line led by Mr. Ugly himself Braden Vasquez. (6-3, 315).

From AA, extend a high five to **Pelion** who were 2-9 last season, and they now boast a 4-2 record. They are head coached by Cory Helms and the team's top two seniors include WR Jai Chuniesingh and DB Taylor "Action" Jackson.

We also extend a shout-out to the current 11 undefeated teams from the SCHSL, and to the five undefeated teams in SCISA, at this time of the 2025 season. These hard- working and talented teams include Inian Land, Irmo, James Island, BHP, Mountain View Prep, Newberry, Swansea, Loris, Orangeburg-Wilkinson, Bamberg-Ehrhardt and

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The hardworking teams from SCISA who are undefeated at this time, with high fives extended, include: Bethesda Academy, Dorchester Academy, Williamsburg Academy, WW King, and Holly Hill

(How many of these teams will be undefeated when the season is over. If they are they will also be state champions also!)

Okay, we have been following the early season transfer of former Ridge View, Ben Lippen, and Gaffney quarterback Jayvon Gilmore (6-5,200) who decommitted from Arkansas around September, 18th about the time he opted to take his one time "free pass" back to Ridge View, where he started the process as a freshman.

By rule, Gilmore must sit out 21 days from the date of his enrollment at Ridge View before he is eligible to suit up for the football team. We hope his fourth move in four years works out for him. He will also be a key player on the rich tradition Ridge View basketball team.

Since decommitting from Arkansas, NC State has entered his recruiting orbit, but Gilmore has not ruled out Arkansas either.

Several other players have transferred, after the 2025 season started, and this used to never happen back in the good ole days of prep football. Once the play-offs start you could have several new faces emerge on certain teams around the state, who started the season on a different team.

We are entering a new era of keeping up with some high-profile players for sure. Is the grass truly greener on another hill?

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Andrew Jackson, continued from pg. 27

This is only the second season for the Warriors playing as an 11-man team after enjoying a rich tradition as an 8man program for nearly 30 years where they won numerous state titles.

After starting season 0-5 the Warriors dominated Clarendon Hall 34-0 for their first win of the 2025 season at home on September 26.

Against the Saints, quarterback **Hall Sease** (6-4,175) rushed for 149 yards on 10 carries with two touchdowns to lead AJA on offense. RB Everet Ulmer had 55 yards on 8 carries; Landon Johnson gained 27 yards on seven carries

SCISA Football, continued from pg. 9

Cale Owens (jr) with 1260 passing yards for 14 TDs and 476 rushing yards for 6 TDs. **Tanner Wolf** (sr) has rushed for 271 yards with 7 TDs. **Thomas Corbett** (jr) has 215 receiving yards for 1 TD.

The W.W. King Academy Knights offense has been fired by quarterback Elijah Hutto (jr) with 675 passing

Florence Christian, continued from pg. 12 ■

Though not big, Minton said the offensive line has performed better than he expected. The biggest starter is senior left tackle **Parker Watson** at 6 feet and 245 pounds. The rest of the **line** is sophomore right tackle Preston Fowler (6-0, 205), senior center Wyatt Clark (5-feet-9-inches, 190), senior left guard **Jamison Mc-**Daniel (6-0, 225) and sophomore right guard Daley Winburn (5-10, 165).

FCS is still averaging a more than respectable 221.4 rushing yards per game. Junior Andrew Miller is the

Chapin, continued from pg. 36

liberos—seniors Zoe Suarez and Elizabeth Young and junior Ella Speight, junior middle/right-side hitter Brooke Haranandani, junior outside hitter Anna Sluss, and sophomores Sarah Kate Hastings, Zoe Zeigler, and Kiersten Latham, all up from the JV squad.

BHP, continued from pg. 58

ing up with eight interceptions and six fumble recoveries Senior defensive tackle Kylan Dixon is the TFL leader with seven. Senior free safety **KJ Miles Jr.**, junior outside linebacker Ty Dubose, senior defensive end

Saluda, continued from pg. 39

provement we've made over the course of the season has been significant and rewarding.'

The three senior starters are setter/rightside hitter Addy Buzhardt, outside hitter Ava Marttin and libero **Dayana Ortiz Lopez**. The junior starter is middle hitter Amy Sorcia.

with a touchdown and Ollie Barnes rushed for 33 yards on six carries in the big win.

The defense against Clarendon Hall was led by DE Eli Mathys (6-1,190), LB Ulmer, LB Bryson Little, DL Walker Terry, LB Grayson Hay, and LB Cooper Hiers.

After six games of the season, Sease leads the team in rushing with 511 net yards on 96 carries and six touchdowns. He is averaging 11.2 all-purpose yards a game. Ulmer has tallied 156 yards on 37 carries while Barnes has 141 yards on 32 carries. Barnes is the team's top receiver with seven receptions for 187 yards and two TD's. Johnson

is the top receiver with 245 yards for 4 TDs.

yards for 15 TDs. **Joseph Morse** has led the rushing attack with 1065 yards for 16 TDs. Landell Anderson (jr)

The Laurens Academy Crusaders offense has been led by quarterback Ethan Collins (jr) with 1121 passing yards for 13 TDs and 122 rushing yards for 5 TDs. **Caleb Hardy** (jr) has 578 receiving yards for 9 TDs. Hardy also has 357 rushing yards for 2 TDs. **Mason**

Cooper (so) has 678 rushing yards for 6 TDs.

has caught seven passes for 116 yards and one TD.

Hiers (33), N. Riddle (31) and Hay (29).

(60), Mathy's (59), B. Riddle (44), Sease (39), Cooper

The team's top seven tacklers after six games are Ulmer

After a bye week on October 3rd the Warriors return to

action on October, 10 at **Thomas Heyward**. They are at

Beaufort Academy on the 24th before concluding the regu-

lar season at home against **Patrick Henry** on Halloween.

leading rusher with 491 yards and eight touchdowns on 78 carries. Senior **Brooks Poston** has 247 yards and three TDs on 54 carries, and sophomore quarterback Riley Minton has 113 yards and three scores on 30 carries.

The Holly Hill Academy offense has been sparked by

Parker Kizer(jr) with 1673 rushing yards for 27 TDs.

Jake Kirven (so) has 191 rushing yards for 3 TDs.

Minton, the head coach's son, is in his second year as a starter. He's completed 33 of 51 passes for 451 yards and one touchdown. Senior Landon Feagin has eight catches for 86 yards, while Poston has six catches for 151 yards and a TD.

Coach Minton has been particularly pleased with the play of the defense, which has allowed 91 points.

"Our defense has been really, really good," the head coach said. "It's really stepped up and has been the highlight of the season.'

Junior defensive lineman Hayden Schwab is the leading tackler with 39 and is tied for the team lead in tackles for loss with five. He also has a team high four quarter-

Winburn also has five TFLs to go with 21 tackles and two fumble recoveries. Senior defensive end Pierce Boykin has 28 tackles and four TFLs.

they appreciate about each other is they know that if they

have a bad game, somebody else is probably going to

"We have a lot of solid players, so when somebody's out, somebody else will just fill right in and we'll not take a step backwards," Speight said. "Everybody's stepped up at different times, everybody's had bad games, but the cool thing about this team, a thing I think

Six players have interceptions led by cornerback Wat-

step up in their place and do well.'

Kanaza Bryant and senior defensive end Ty Rainey have six TFLs apiece and senior middle linebacker Jakyn Anderson has five. Seven Bears have sacks with Dixon and Rainey leading the way with three apiece.

The freshmen who are starting are outside hitter

Mckinley Wilder and middle hitter Ashlynn Vereen.

Martin led the team in kills with 42 while Sorcia had

35. Wertz cited Ortiz Lopez for her stellar defensive play.

The rest of the roster includes junior MariCarman

Setter Reese Shaw is the eighth-grader.

son-Martin and senior cornerback **Demarion Chester** with two apiece. Fumbles have been recovered by six different players.

Sanchez, freshman Miller Martin, freshman Kamryn Campbell and eighth-grader Aubrey Maranti.

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RECEIVING

Recruiting, continued from pg. 33

In the 40 years the HSSR has tracked high school football recruiting in the Palmetto State we are mystified why our number two rated prospect in the 2026 class, Tony O-Banner (6-0, 210) of Thomas Heyward Acad**emy** has no power five offers. He picked up an offer from Liberty in the Spring.

O'Banner first ran a 4.56 forty at the South Carolina football camp following his freshman season. The talk at the Gamecock camp was that he impressed both offensive and defensive coaches at USC. His ability to play either running back, or outside linebacker was a huge plus and O'Banner has attended numerous home USC games during his high school career.

Just this past summer, O'Banner continued to be a stand-out at the USC camp also witnessed by his current head coach Daniel Bryan. "When went to a South Carolina camp this past summer he was the best running back there that I saw, in all the drills they put the athletes through," said Coach Bryan. "Therefore, his honest potential is at the Power Five level based on what I have seen. When we left camp in June the Gamecock coaches said they would be following his progress this fall and that they were sincerely interested in him as a player and

"Tony showed up all the running backs and also the linebackers that were at the South Carolina camp based on what I observed in person," said Coach Bryna. "He simply out- performed the other prospects at the camp. He had an excellent forty time, an excellent shuttle time and he defended very well in pass coverage drills also."

This reporter recalls driving up to an early August scrimmage in the summer of 2021, when O'Banner was in the 8th grade watching him run all over the field in a scrimmage against Hilton Head Christian. One of the HHCA parents at the scrimmage, a former college football player himself, turned to me and asked, "Who in the heck is that kid running all over our defense," he asked.

A couple minutes later, when I found out the young man was a rising 9th grader, the former college player observing the scrimmage was mildly shocked and very impressed with this comment, "That kid can cut on a dime and give 10 cents change.'

Having actually observed O'Banner, in person during numerous games over the past four seasons, from many

Spartanburg Day, continued from pg. 56 ■ Mary Franklin Gilman, Charlotte Roark, and Chloe

While all the individual events are not set in stone yet

Gilman has been on the girl's team since the 6th grade

"Gilman's experience of seven years in our program

Roark has also been in the program since sixth grade.

is invaluable, and she also has a wide-range view of our

school as she also serves as the Student Body President,"

said Coach Duesterhaus. "She does an excellent job at

She is likely to compete in the 50-Back and the 50-Free

events at state. "Roark is very well connected to all our

swimmers, and she does a great job of motivating quiet

voices to the top of their abilities," said Coach Duester-

Hujik is a well-rounded swimmer also. She had sev-

eral Top 10 finishes at last year's state meet. She is likely

to swim the 100-Breast, and the 100-Free at state. "Hujik

is our most team spirited swimmer," said Coach Duester-

The team's only other senior is **Essence Olley** who

petes in USA year-round swimming. She had top two and

Olley is expected to swim the 100-Fly, the 50-Fly,

represent the girl's team at state also. Kent is a three-

Two juniors, McKee Kent and Juliette Schmitz will

hopes to swim at **Howard University** next year. Olley

has been in the program since 7th grade. She also com-

"She keeps everyone motivated."

three finishes in her events last year.

and the 200-Free, at the state meet.

scores.

mentoring the younger swimmers in our program."

with the seven boy's swimmers, representing Spartanburg

Day, Coach Duesterhaus said she is fairly certain about

which swimmers will compete in certain events.

Gilman finished top three in several events.

Stroke, and the 200-Free at the state meet. Last year

Hojik.

different sideline angles, the God given trait he possesses is a special gear that kicks in when he approaches the hole that propels him forward, as if he had been shot out of a cannon! This trait makes tacklers miss and gives him a gift you cannot coach but certainly appreciate.

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Last November, in leading his team to a state championship, O'Banner scored two touchdowns on runs of 48 and 52 yards while playing quarterback. On one run he was not physically touched by anyone but the mighty hands of God's talent on full display for all to see at Charleston Southern that afternoon.

Through five games of the 2025 season. O'Banner's career stats should create numerous new evaluations from major colleges near and far. In 602 carries he has gained 6,388 yards and scored 90 touchdowns! As a southpaw quarterback he completed 99 passes for 1,511 yards and 11 touchdown passes. As a wide receiver he has caught 24 passes for 485 yards and four touchdowns.

As a linebacker on defense, he has made 220 tackles, 10 sacks, six interceptions, four forced fumbles, and had one fumble recovery.

O'Banner has a 3.7 GPA in the classroom so he is a solid A-B student in the classroom. Due to some personal circumstances O'Banner, and younger sister Angel, has been living with Thomas Heyward teacher Allysia **Crosby** and her family for the past three years.

O'Banner is under his 4th head coach in four seasons at Thomas Heyward Academy. He could have left the school when last year's head coach Taylor Malphrus left to become the offensive co-Ordinator at near-by Hampton County. O'Banner remained loyal to his high school, despite heavy graduation losses, as his team is in a rebuilding season in 2025.

Recently, this reporter visited O'Banner at practice at his high school. "My main goal is to help the team make it to the play-offs and have a deep play-off run," said O'Banner at the conclusion of practice on September. 24. "As a senior leader my goal is to bring everyone closer as a team, and to get everyone to work hard as a team."

Does O'Banner prefer to be a linebacker, or running back at the next level? "I will play wherever my team needs me," said O'Banner. "I just loving playing the game of football.

Ramsey's commitment to South Carolina gives the

Palmetto state 43 players who are currently committed to major college football

In 2025, there were 40 major college signees from the Palmetto State, by the final national signing day in early February. The *HSSR* does not count any player officially committed to a major college until his name shows up on their official commitment list on the respective school's recruiting web site.

We have made one rare exception to that hard rule recently. Andrews High head coach Scott Durham has told the HSSR that his 2026 DE/TE Chris Stewart (6-4,215) is a private major college commitment to Western Michigan, but his name has not appeared on their football web site yet. Coach Durham said that Western Michigan offered Stewart at that camp this summer but they asked the recruit to not go public with his commitment for some reason.

Stewart had 93 tackles with an incredible 31.5 TFL including 13.5 sacks, four PBU and two forced fumbles as a junior. Stewart was recently named to the North-South all-star football game in December.

In other recruiting news, James Island senior quarterback Connor Dantzler (6-0,205), was recently offered by **Tulsa** on a recent visit to one of their games. Dantzler was recently named to the North-South all-star game to be played in December.

Through five games of the 2025 season Dantzler has completed 77-0f-113 pass attempts for 1,477 yards and 14 touchdowns. The Trojans are 5-0 and currently ranked number one in Div. AAAAA by the HSSR. He is also a starter in the outfield on the baseball team.

To date here is a break-down on the major colleges who have commitments from in-state players and the number they have committed. South Carolina (7), East Carolina (4), Appalachian State (5). Liberty (4), UNC Charlotte (3), Arkansas (1), North Carolina (2), Navy (2), NC State (2), Clemson (1), Florida (1), Michigan (1), Michigan State (1), Duke (1), Texas A & M (1), Memphis (1), Wake Forest (1), Coastal Carolina (1), South Florida (1), Vanderbilt (1), Western Michigan (1), Georgia Southern (1) and Virgina Tech (1).

year-old member of the team, and she is expected to swim in the 50 and 100-Free events at state. Schmitz is in her first year on the team and she is expected to compete for the 13 girl's swimmers headed to the state meet, along in the 50-Free and the 100-Breast events at state.

The team has a good group of freshmen swimmers on the girls' team, but **Meredith Garrett** will be the one freshman at the state meet. She will compete in one event each, in the Free and Breast events along with the 100and she is likely to compete in the 200-IM, the 100 Back- IM at state.

> The 8th graders will be represented by first year newcomer **Ani Johnson** who will swim the 500-Free at state among other events. Johnson is also a USA year-round swimming member. **Tess Conrad** will compete in the 50 and 100 Breast events as well as both the 50 and 100 Free. **Madeline Saleski** is an 8th grader who has been on the team for three years. She will compete in the 100-Back and the 200-Free at state.

The team will have two 7th grade team members competing at state. They are **Madeleine Belmont** in the 100-Fly, and the 200-IM and Isla Visk are likely to compete in the 100-Free and the 500-Free and she has been on the team since 5th grade.

The lone 6th grader on the team competing at state is **Eloise Frias** who will compete in the 50 and 100-Free. This is her first year qualifying for the state meet.

Both teams have 5th grade members, but they are not allowed to compete at the state meet

The Griffin's boys swim team will be led by co-captains senior Murphy Garrett and Charlie Wilson at the upcoming state meet.

Murphy has been on the team since the 9th grade. He is expected to compete in the 200-IM and the 100-Fly at state where he had top ten finishes last year.

"Murphy Garrett is great about rallying swimmers for team unity and he makes sure everyone is focused on doing their very best in competition," said Coach

Wilson has been on the boy's swimming team since the 7th grade, and he is expected to compete in the 500-Free and the 100-Fly at state.

"Charley Wilson has great swim knowledge, and he comes from a great swim family with his mother swimming at **Stanford** in college," said Coach Duesterhaus.

Two other senior swimmers are expected to perform well at state. They are **JR Parrish** who will compete in the 50-Free and this is his first year on the team after joining the team as an experienced track athlete. Noah **Brusch** is a first- year swimmer who will also swim the 50-Free at state and he is an experienced soccer player.

Junior **Jack Conrad** is a four-year member of the team, and he will compete in the 100-Back and 100-Free at state. Sophomore Gibbes Montgomery, also a member of the junior varsity football team, will compete in the 50-Free and the 100 Free at state.

Eighth-grader Parker Wilson is hoping to earn points in the 200-IM, and 100-Back at state. He had top five finishes in these events last year. Two 7th graders,

Other boy's swimmers on the team include 7th graders William Montgomery and Jay Grindstaff. Unfortunately, 9th grader **Ben Visk** has missed the season with an injury. Rounding our hard-working members of the boys' team are junior **Dennis Tesler** and 6th grader **Boyd**

Other members of the girls' team include: Two 6th graders, **Libby Evers** and **Lena Fox** along with 9th grader Scarlett Lewis, 5th grader Narissa Tang, and sophomore Hanna Xia who earned all-state honors as a

Coach Duesterhaus is assisted by Will Ericson and Mother Molly Duesterhaus.

Hampton County, continued from pg. 45 ■ tacklers. Polite leads the team with 9 tackles for rushed for 170 yards and a touchdown while leading loss. As a unit the Canes have picked off 7 passes the team with 13 receptions for 253 yards and four and recover seven fumbles.

Defensively, Tyler Davis, Gavin Polite, Bray-The Canes will travel to Santee to take on. Lake don Blake and Malik Terry are the Cane's top four Marion. The Gators opened region play last week

by beating Barnwell 19-14. They are 3-4/1-0. The one common opponent was Allendale Fairfax. Hampton County defeated the Tigers 57-0 while the Gators beat the Tigers 19-0.

modern

2025 Football Stats



PLAYER	SCHOOL	YARDS	ATTEMPTS	TDS
NYCH UNDERWOOD	BEAUFORT ACADEMY	1086	95	- 1
JOSEPH MORSE	W W KING ACADEMY	1065	73	- 3
GRANT SMALL	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	1037	73	1
NOAH CAFFELL	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	1034	149	1
JOHN WHETSELL	DORCHESTER ACADEMY	1020	116	1
RYAN CAMPBELL	ASHLEY RIDGE	862	88	
AMARI VERNER	SENECA	861	87	- 1
JACKSON SHEALEY	PORTER-GAUD	837	114	
JAMIJAE KARIM	LIBERTY	832	99	- 1
OWEN GEORGE	ACADEMIC MAGNET	813	78	- 4
SEAN MITCHELL	MAY RIVER	797	118	- 4
MACK RAMBO	ST. JOSEPH	786	106	- 1
BRYSON CRAWFORD	FOX CREEK	768	80	- 1
JAHCORY SUMPTER	EAU CLAIRE	740	105	- 4
JACOB WILEY	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	732	84	- 1
		- 17-53		- 1
HAYDEN MYERS	RIVER BLUFF	714	114	
BROOKS DOW	PICKENS	711	84	
AIDEN GIBSON	WOODRUFF	709	99	
HUNTER O'NEAL	W J KEENAN	683	79	
COLT LAYTON	CALHOUN ACADEMY	645	62	
LANDYN STRONG	BLYTHEWOOD	634	77	
MUNTU BROWN	WREN	602	89	
MAK ANDER SON	MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	601	45	1
CALEB FEASTER	CHESTER	600	66	
JAVEN COOK	CLINTON	594	72	
JAYVEN WILLIAMS	SUMMERVILLE	592	67	
JACK LAMONICA	LUCY BECKHAM	586	69	
TYQWON BOOKER	GETTYS BROOME	571	86	
CALVIN WOFFORD	CRESTWOOD	567	78	
BEN MUELA KISER	HAMMOND	567	64	
ZAKHI MUNCEY	OCEANSIDE	567	77	
DARRELL HARPER	MCBEE	561	50	
JAYLEN SINGLETARY	HAMPTON COUNTY	559	69	- 1
CHRISTOPHER DEAN	EMERALD	557	56	
BRANDON NANCE	DIXIE	554	72	1
BRODEN MITCHESON	FORT MILL	552	107	
NAVIER BOYKIN	CAMDEN	550	93	
TRE JACKSON	PELION	544	104	
NIGEL SMITH	NORTHWESTERN	541	68	
LORENZO KITCHING JR	NORTH CHARLESTON	528	43	
MAH'KY GREEN	CROSS	524	60	
KELYN DURHAM	EASTSIDE	519	55	
PRESTON SMITH	MIDLAND VALLEY	512	72	
HALL SEASE	ANDREW JACKSON ACADI	511	96	
KANAZZION BETHEA	MULLINS	497	59	
CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE			1000	
CAEL PARLER	CALHOUN ACADEMY	492	63	
ANDREW MILLER	FLORENCE CHRISTIAN	491	78	
WILL STONE	PICKENS	488	66	
GREG RUSHING JR	CHESTERFIELD	483	75	
BRANDON WALLACE	FOX CREEK	482	44	
MALIQ MCGOWEN	STRATFORD	478	56	
GRAYSON SALEGO	PINEWOOD PREP	476	51	
CALE OWENS	COLLETON PREP ACADEM	476	73	
TRE SEGARRA	JAMES F. BYRNES	474	44	
JAMOL HORTON	INDIAN LAND	474	73	
LEIGHTON DAVIS	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	469	114	
PEYTON SCHRADER	EASTSIDE	467	40	
TREVON WILLIAMSON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	465	88	
LEVI MYERS	HAMMOND	462	67	
LUCAS TANKERSLEY	EASTSIDE	456	42	

PASSING

PASSING		YARDS	COMP	ATT	TDS
AEDAN MCCARTHY	BLUFFTON	1874	125	175	18
AIDEN MANAVIAN	OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE	1742	105	163	15
SILAS BRAWNER	PINEWOOD PREP	1574	76	120	23
KASON CANUPP	NATION FORD	1513	90	142	14
REID MCCOLLUM	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	1400	99	179	11
CONNOR DANTZIER	JAMES ISLAND	1378	76	113	14
GAVIN THOMA	SENECA	1356	74	93	20
JACE WILLIAMS	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEM	1326	102	156	11
ROPER WENTZKY	A C FLORA	1305	93	152	15
CALE OWENS	COLLETON PREP ACADEM	1260	66	93	14
DREVON DOPSON	IRMO	1253	55	90	15
XAVIER GETER	MIDLAND VALLEY	1230	79	117	9
ZACH WILLIAMS	LUGOFF-ELGIN	1206	77	130	12
LUCAS TEJADA	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	1192	79	143	6
KEVIN JOHNSON	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	1174	88	136	9
DAVIDSON LYNCH	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	1174	62	112	11
XAVIER MEANS	NORTHWESTERN	1170	105	144	13
JOSIAH COLEMAN	EASLEY	1141	99	159	10
JAEDON BELL	BETHUNE-BOWMAN	1123	81	132	7
BROOKS DOW	PICKENS	1110	93	141	14
CONNOR DAVIS	WOODRUFF	1108	82	139	13
MAK ANDERSON	MOUNTAIN VIEW PRP	1091	67	83	11
K. SAM FONG-TALIA	DILLON	1076	58	94	12
JACE GRASS	DANIEL	1056	80	130	10
MATT KUCIA	INDIAN LAND	1029	69	102	10
GREYSON RIMPF	CAMDEN	1005	66	102	16
JAMESON DEARYBURY	GETTYS BROOME	1002	80	117	5
BRENDEN PEOPLES	ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON	1000	55	78	10
QUINN KELLY	FORT MILL	985	86	139	10
JAMES VEASEY	BLYTHEWOOD	975	85	147	7
ZAMIRE MOON GERALD	LORIS	973	50	72	19
TRIPP GALLUS	HANAHAN	969	68	118	7
NOAH THOMAS	BELTON-HONEA PATH	966	64	99	12
TOMMY BURNS III	SOUTH AIKEN	958	75	141	11
BRAYDEN MOORE	RIVER BLUFF	942	71	137	9
JACHIN DAVIS	STRATFORD	934	52	76	10
DERRICK RANISZEWSKI	HILTON HEAD	934	49	80	9
QA BRANNON	UNION COUNTY	922	62	144	5
PATRICK BELK	HEATHWOOD HALL	904	70	133	9
ALAN MOORE	PELION	877	52	93	13
BRYCE ADAMS	CHESTERFIELD	872	68	113	6
ANDREW FRICK	BROOKLAND-CAYCE	860	60	103	9
CARRINGTON CARTER	WESTWOOD	822	78	112	11
ZORI PIERCE	LAMAR	817	44	73	5
JONAH YOUNG	ROCK HILL	814	58	108	7
JACKSON FREE	HILLCREST	809	47	88	7
JORDAN BLACKMON	DILLON CHRISTIAN	792	50	102	4
J'ZAVIEN CURRENCE	SOUTH POINTE	775	58	90	4
HARRIS STONE	WANDO	773			4
JAXON KNOTTS	DUTCH FORK	769	63	98	4
BRI'SHAUN LEE	STROM THURMOND	758	45	77	11
LELAND REED	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	754	54	95	12
NOAH CRUMP	BUFORD	754	38	71	8
TYLER HARRIS	CROSS	750	61	94	7
KANAZZION BETHEA	MULLINS	738	47	87	10
TREVOR KALISZ	A SHLEY RIDGE	735	94	150	1

RECEIVING

YARDS RECEPTS TDS

MECEIVING		IMILLO	MECEPIS	103
SHAMIL SAADIQ	LUGOFF-ELGIN	817	42	7
Z. ROBERTSON	DILLON	692	30	7
JAI CHUNIESINGH	PELION	669	31	9
JAYDEN SCOTT	NATION FORD	662	40	7
CHRISTIAN WILLIAMS	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEM	659	40	6
CARNELL WARREN	BLUFFTON	649	37	7
TERENCE JOHNSON	OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE	624	32	10
R BRACEY	DILLON CHRISTIAN	609	25	5
JOSEPH HOUPT	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	607	37	6
COREY GLEATON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	575	20	6
JEREMIAH HUNTER	SENECA	567	30	8
JAYDEN ALEXANDER	PINEWOOD PREP	559	25	9
GARRISON COPELAND	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	553	29	
RAPHAEL PUIU	JAMES ISLAND	549	19	6
KAMERON VANCE	NORTHWESTERN	533	46	7
SAM PETRAUSCHKE	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEM	525	27	5
AYDAN HOGAN	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	502	- 20	3
LAQUARIUS SUMMERS	EAU CLAIRE	501	18	4
AKEEM SHAW	UNION COUNTY	497	1000	4
DILLON HUGHEY	CLEAR DOT CHARTR	495		-
DESMOND WILLIAMS II	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	490	53	- 2
DARIUS CARTER	RIVER BLUFF	486		5
MATTHEW HILLSTOCK	EASLEY	476		6
KYSON MCLEOD	SOUTH AIKEN	470		5
TILDEN RILEY	ORANGEBURG PREP	457	17	7
ASHTON KELLERMAN	PHILIP SIMMONS	451	26	
TREY WIMBLEY	DANIEL	451	22	5
JAYAUN PERKINS	SOUTH FLORENCE	450		4
ANTHONY WILLIAMS	OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE	448		-
TYLIN DRAKEFORD	CAMDEN	444		
MALEEK MILLER	IRMO	439	(70)	Ċ
AMARE PATTERSON	BLUFFTON	439		6
THOMAS CORBETT	COLLETON PREP ACADEM		- 33	4
HAYDEN MORRIS	INDIAN LAND	419	1 1727	6
JAIDEN KELLY-MURRAY	SUMMERVILLE	416		4
LAVORIS LUCAS	PINEWOOD PREP	410		4
TAJEH WATSON-MARTIN	BELTON-HONEA PATH	409		- 5
NIGEL LIGHTNER	ROCK HILL	407	25	7
JEREMIAH WALTERS	HILTON HEAD	407	1 20	5
CHANCE JOHNSON	BLYTHEWOOD	393		2
BRAYDEN SIMPSON	GETTYS BROOME	391	23	3
CADEN RAMSEY	CROSS	385		4
JQWAN CROSBY	STRATFORD	382		3
ROMAN BENJAMIN	BLUFFTON	375		4
HEYWARD MOORE	PINEWOOD PREP	358	- 755	4
TYREE JOHNSON	BROOKLAND-CAYCE	357	18	

TACKLES

MICHAEL BOULWARE

MICHAEL BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	97	16	81
DARIUS DIXON	W J KEENAN	79	34	45
CHRISTIAN FOSTER	EMERALD	77	38	39
CALEB HARDY	LAURENS ACADEMY	75	52	23
KOLBEN THOMPSON	ROCK HILL	74	46	28
EVAN SIMMONS	BROOKLAND-CAYCE	72	61	11
DRAKE PORTER	BEN LIPPEN	72	49	23
NATHAN BELL	LAURENS ACADEMY	72	43	29
TRISTAN YOUNG	LUGOFF-ELGIN	69	45	24
JOSEPH DUEY	FORT MILL	67	41	26
MALCOLM GORDON	BLUFFTON	67	44	23
JACOB BUSSEY	W W KING ACADEMY	67	42	25
COLVIN LINVILLE	THOMAS SUMTER ACADE!	67	22	45
M J RESPASS	A SHLEY RIDGE	66	47	19
B J ASHFORD	EAU CLAIRE	65	65	.0
JACE COLEMAN	LUGOFF-ELGIN	64	26	38
MICHAEL POOLE	MAY RIVER	63	25	38
J P SWEATT	GRAY COLLEGIATE	63	11	52
LAVAY PENNY	CAMDEN	63	39	24
RHYS MEREDITH	OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE	63	46	17
SHAUN GRAYBILL	WOODRUFF	63	22	41
WALKER WILLCOX	TRINITY COLLEGIATE	63	63	0
ELIJAH BROWN	WARE SHOALS	62	45	17
KALEB WRIGHT	ROCK HILL	60	52	8
EVERETT ULMER	ANDREW JACKSON ACADI	60	15	45
ELI MATHYS	ANDREW JACKSON ACADI	59	12	47
JEREMIAH RAMOS-CHAPM		59	23	36
LUKE SOBEY	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	59	33	26
ALLEN CHISOLM	PORTER-GAUD	59	52	7
BRAYDEN FINAN	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEM	59	10	49
JAMARI HAYNES	BAPTIST HILL	58	28	30
		777		-155
LOGAN THAMES K J BURG	NATION FORD SOUTH POINTE	57 57	57 47	10
JAH'MAUD MOORE	YORK	57	38	19
				32
TYREIK DAVENPORT-SMITH		56 55	24	
MICHAEL STRICKLER	OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE	-53	42	13
STONE PORTER	BEN LIPPEN	55	16	39
LUCAS HAGEDORN	MAULDIN	54	15	39
CHRIS BOYD	CLINTON	54	52	2
CARTER HILL	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEM	54	17	37
ZAVIER POLITE	MAY RIVER	53	25	28
MARQUISE ANDERSON	EMERALD	53	31	22
CEDRIC BURKES	NORTH CHARLESTON	53	40	13
CADE SPENCER	DANIEL	53	14	39
BRANSON WILSON	PENDLETON	53	41	12
HEYWARD BELSER	HEATHWOOD HALL	53	32	21
RIVERS MOAK	LUGOFF-ELGIN	52	19	33
D. CAPEHART	DILLON	52	12	40
KAMRON MCGILL	ANDREW JACKSON	52	41	11
MICHAEL ARD	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	52	19	33
CONRAD HAMPTON	W J KEENAN	51	16	35

QUARTERBACK SACKS

QUARTERBACK SACKS	AT LEAST 3	SACKS
M J POSEY	EASTSIDE	10
'VEON WATSON	WHALE BRANCH	
JADEN WUERTH	DUTCH FORK	8
MATTHEW PONKOW	BISHOP ENGLAND	8
JULIAN WALKER	DUTCH FORK	6
ZAIRE WILLIAMS	ROCK HILL	
ZIAIR HOLMES	COLLETON COUNTY	5.5
LUCIANO CESARIO	DUTCH FORK	E
JULIAN RENRICK	GREENVILLE	5
BEN MORRIS	BEN LIPPEN	
CEDRIC BURKES	NORTH CHARLESTON	5
TERRY GORDAN	SOUTH FLORENCE	
ANDON JACKSON	BERKELEY	
JALON DUNLAP	EMERALD	4.5
NOAH MORRISON	YORK	4.5
PATRICK WILLIAMS JR	MARBORO COUNTY	4.5
JEQUANN HENDERSON	DUTCH FORK	4
MICHAEL POOLE	MAY RIVER	4
KEVIN WILLIAMS JR	EAU CLAIRE	4
TAVARAS SEIBLES	EAU CLAIRE	4
ADIN DAVIS-YOUNG	EAU CLAIRE	4
JAIDEN BRYANT	IRMO	4
COLBEN THOMPSON	ROCK HILL	4
JALEEL TATE	GAFFNEY	4
RANK STATHAKIS	EASTSIDE	4
MICAH GREEN	WHALE BRANCH	4
WILL SLENZAK	ACADEMIC MAGNET	4
ALEX TCHORYK	PHILIP SIMMONS	4
IOSH BIGGER	HILTON HEAD	4
NASIR WALKER	A C FLORA	4
DEXTER JOHNSON	DANIEL	3.5
JOSH EVANS	MAULDIN	3.5
DARIUS DIXON	W J KEENAN	3.5
(AVIER SELF	HANNAH-PAMPLICO	3.5

INTERCEPTIONS

INTERCEPTIONS	AT LEAST 2	INTERCEPT
KAIDEN ERBY	EASLEY	4
TYVION HALL	BOILING SPRINGS	4
JEREMIAH YOUNG	FORT MILL	4
CADEN RAMSEY	CROSS	4
RODNEY WILDER	COLLETON COUNTY	4
CASEY FIKIS	CATAWBA RIDGE	4
JACKSON RICHARDSON	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	3
JAYDEN MOORE	AIKEN	3
JAHCORY SUMPTER	EAU CLAIRE	3
TYRELL CUNNINGHAM	WARE SHOALS	3
DESEAN BREWER	EMERALD	3
LANDON WULF	WHITMIRE	3
MEKHI QUILLER	FOX CREEK	3
COREY MURPHY	LUGOFF-ELGIN	3
HALL DUKES	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	3
BRAYDEN SIMPSON	GETTY'S BROOME	3
JORDIN CARTER	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	3

SCORING

SCORING		POINTS	TDS	PAT RUI P	AT
GRANT SMALL	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	106	15	0	1
JOSEPH MORSE	W W KING ACADEMY	102	17	8	
BRYSON CRAWFORD	FOX CREEK	96	16	0	
JAYLEN SINGLETARY	HAMPTON COUNTY	96	13	0	
JACOB WILEY	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	72	12	0	
AIDEN GIBSON	WOODRUFF	66	11	0	
KAMERON VANCE	NORTHWESTERN	60	10	0	
NOAH CAFFELL	SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	60	10	0	
KAVEN FORD	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	60	10	0	
BRANDON WALLACE	FOX CREEK	54	9	0	
DEONTE PHILLIPS	STROM THURMOND	54	9	0	
BRAYLON REVIS	LANDRUM	54	9	0	
DALLAS HILL	W W KING ACADEMY	54	9	0	
GAVIN FORRESTER	BLUE RIDGE	54	9	0	
NIGEL SMITH	NORTHWESTERN	48	8	0	
TYLIN DRAKEFORD	CAMDEN	48	8	0	
JACKSON SHEALY	PORTER GAUD	48	8	0	
JOSIAH COLEMAN	EASLEY	48	8	0	
JAHCORY SUMPTER	EAU CLAIRE	48	8	0	
NAVIER BOYKIN	CAMDEN	44	6	4	
JOSIAH HILL	GAFFNEY	42	7	0	
MATTHEW HILLSTOCK	EASLEY	42	7	0	
BRAYDEN JOHNSON	DUTCH FORK	38	6	1	
WILL MCNEELEY	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	36	6	0	
MEKHI QUILLER	FOX CREEK	36	6	0	
WILL HAUNERT	CAMDEN	36	6	0	
JAI CHUNIESINGH	PELION	36	6	0	
HALL SEASE	ANDREW JACKSON ACADI	36	6	0	
DARIUS CARTER	RIVER BLUFF	30	5	0	
DOR REICHLEY	ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	30	5	0	
JAYLEN LYLES	WOODRUFF	30	5	0	
OMONTE TAYLOR	PHILIP SIMMONS	30	5	0	
XAVIER MEANS	NORTHWESTERN	30	5	0	

For complete stats, visit us online at www.HSSR.com

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Class AAAAA Feature

AAAAA Div. 1

Preseason

Top 10 Poll

1. James Island

2. Dutch Fork

4. Summerville

7. Carolina Forest

Preseason

Top 10 Poll

2. Northwestern

3. Indian Land

4. Greenwood

5. White Knoll

6. Greenville

7. TL Hanna

9. Gaffney

10. Berkeley

8. Lucy Beckham

1. Irmo

3. Dorman

5. Sumter

9. Byrnes

6. Stratford

8. Ridge View

10. River Bluff

Buckle up for great AAAAA playoffs!

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Moncks Corner – Contenders or pretenders? With a month left in the 2025 regular season, people start looking at which teams seem to have the best chance to win a state title.

Class AAAAA will have two state champions once again, giving more teams an opportunity to hoist the trophy in December. In this

space, we will take a look at some of the teams in Division I and Division II who seem to be positioning themselves for a title run. Of course, key injuries can change things but we will go with what we have here in early October.

While Dutch Fork is considered the top team in Division I, there may be a few teams that can challenge the defending state champions. However, despite the record through October, Dutch Fork coach Tom Knotts has proven to be the best come November.

Dutch Fork already lost to Oceanside Collegiate and they have a huge game with Irmo on Oct. 31. That game will decide the region title but come the playoffs, Dutch Fork will be in the Division I bracket while Irmo is in the Division II ranks.

So which teams can mount a serious challenge to Dutch Fork's supremacy? **Sum**merville reached the finals last year and the Green Wave have as much talent in the skill positions as any team in the state. Junior running back Jayven Williams, junior receiver Jaiden Kelly-Murray and sophomore receiver Teru Davis are among the

Sumter is a perennial contender in the Lower State but will have to get past Summerville. Same for James Island, who is off to a 6-0 start but faces Summerville on Oct. 10.

top underclassmen in the state.

A darkhorse in the Lower State of Division I may be **Stratford**, off to a 5-1 start. The Knights have a winning quarterback in Shrine Bowl selection Jachin **Davis** and also have a big-time running back in **Maliq Mc-**Gowan.

Another Lower State team that could make some noise is **Ridge View**. The Blazers have played a tough schedule and despite losing their starting quarterback, they have proven to be very competitive.

The list of serious Upper State contenders is pretty short. As we begin play in October,

Dorman looks to be as good as they have been in a few years. Junior running back Nick **Means** is as explosive as any player in the

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Spartanburg was affected early by a key injury at quarterback but a healthy Trey Burke and running back Trenton Lynch could be a problem come playoff time.

Clover and **Byrnes** are sneaky competitive but not likely to survive the playoff run.'

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

Both teams entered the season having to replace big-time quarterbacks and Northwestern's

Xavier Means and Irmo's De-

vron Dobson have not missed a beat.

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

Greenwood can score in bunches as well, led by Shrine Bowl quarterback **Tristian** Lewis, a South Carolina commit as a defensive back. Lewis is a true dual-threat with several games with more than 300 all-purpose yards.

Also from region I, **Greenville** seems to be back on track after a 2-9 season last year. New head coach **Scoot Watson** built a winner at JL

> Mann before moving over and he has the Raiders off to a 5-1 start. The Raiders have a quality win over Gaffney already this season.

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

Two teams to keep an eye on are T.L. Hanna and Hillcrest but both would be dark horses.

The Lower State probably doesn't have a team capable of beating Irmo. **Berkeley** is a solid

WEST ASHLEY

R B STALL

team with a winning quarterback but showed some kinks in their armor after blowing a 17point lead to Stratford.

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

Current Region Standings

				_
REGION 1 AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
GREENVILLE	3.0	5-1	149	82
T L HANNA	3-0	5.1	181	132
GREENWOOD	2-1	5-1	204	131
EASLEY	1-2	3-3	171	193
HILLCREST WOODMONT	1.2	3-3	194	126
J L MANN	1-2	1.5	62	197
MAULDIN	0.3	2.4	107	161
REGION 2-AAAAA	REGION			DEF
DORMAN	3.0	5.1	203	73
GAFFNEY	3.0	4-2	165	107
JAMES F. BYRNES	2.1	3-3	219	117
SPARTANBURG BOILING SPRINGS	1.2	3-3	142	162
RIVERSIDE	1.2	2.4	147	180
EASTSIDE	0.3	3-3	242	172
WADE HAMPTON	0.3	0-6	71	219
REGION 3-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
NORTHWESTERN	3-0	6-1	335	192
INDIAN LAND	2.0	6-0	229	48
ROCK HILL	2.1	4-3	170	196
CATAWBA RIDDGE	1.1	4.2	122	123
CLOVER	1.2	4-3	217	188
NATION FORD	0-2	3-3	178	201
FORT MILL	0.3	4-3	210	98
REGION 4-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
IRMO	1-0	6-0	257	2011
WHITE KNOLL	1-0	5-1	193	52
DUTCH FORK	1.0	4-1	194	80
RIVER BLUFF	0.1	3-3	142	112
LEXINGTON	0.1	24	108	130
CHAPIN	0-1	0.6	45	230
Testes and course were		1000		100
REGION 5-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
SUMTER	3.0	6-1	284	117
RIDGE VIEW	2.0	4-2	235	84
WESTWOOD	1-1	4-2	203	114
WEST FLORENCE	1-1	2.4	151	170
LUGOFF-ELGIN	1-2	4-3	212	207
BLYTHEWOOD	1-2	3-4	219	166
SPRING VALLEY	0.3	2-5	41	234
REGION 6-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
CAROLINA FOREST	1-0	5-1	242	136
MYRTLE BEACH	1-0	4-2	192	227
CONWAY	1.0	2.4	96	117
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	0-1	2.4	106	143
ST, JAMES	0-1	2.4	128	228
SOCASTEE	0-1	1.5	52	220
REGION 7-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
STRATFORD	1-0	5-1	256	93
LUCY BECKHAM	1.0	4.1	157	100
WANDO	1.0	4-2	96	106
BERKELEY	0-1	4.2	217	123
CANE BAY	0-1	1.5	129	178
GOOSE CREEK	0-1	0.6	61	182
REGION 8-AAAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
JAMES ISLAND	1-0	6.0	243	44
SUMMERVILLE	1.0	5-1	247	100
ASHLEY RIDGE	1.0	3-3	174	147
FORT DORCHESTER	0-1	2-4	56	225
WEST ASHLEY	0.1	1.4	80	180

1.4

1.5

101 252

White Knoll, continued from pg. 31

mitted a second pair of personal fouls that boosted River Bluff's drive to the Timberwolves 10-yard line

There, White Knoll defensive back Marquise Winn changed his team's course.

With the Gators at the White Knoll 10-yard line after the flags, quarterback **Brayden Moore** rushed to the 5 before he was hit and dropped the ball. Winn grabbed the ball on the bounce, got loose from the crowd and bolted

Midlands, continued from pg. 32 ■

answer how good his team would be this year. "We're not going to emphasize competing for a championship a ton, we're just talking about getting better."

Seven games into the season, the emphasis may still be on getting better every day, but the young Hammond team has tested its mettle.

The Skyhawks (6-1, 3-1 SCISA Region 4A) opened the season with a 17-0 road victory over public 3A school

Christ Church, continued from pg. 39 ■

Sophomore Michale Martin II is becoming a complete back. He rushed for a career high against Hampton County with 236 yards with three runs of over 50 yards.

Pinewood Prep, continued from pg. 53

student from Germany, helps Eidson in the middle. Matthews, also a transfer, sees action as a Libero.

Elizabeth Ellis and Olivia Roberts are right-side hitters. Grace Shuler is the team's other Libero. Madison Truncale and Haley Almstedt round out the roster.

Monday, Oct. 6 and at Ashley Hall Tuesday, Oct. 7 and closes its regular-season by hosting St. John's Christian at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13 and Cathedral Academy at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16.

"Our first match with them was fantastic."

Ashley Ridge, continued from pg. 21

and returned it 53 yards for a touchdown. Wyatt Carter added his fourth of five successful extrapoint kicks for a 28-7 lead.

On the last play of the first half, **Zach Woods** nailed a 47-yard field goal to put the Swamp Foxes up 31-7.

In the second half, Kalisz connected with Jagger Spivey for a 10-yard TD pass and found the

95 yards down the left sideline for the game-clinching

J.J. Keith's 14-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter put the game on ice.

Win in hand, Pelham said his team's unnecessary flags stuck in his mind, especially as his team plays host to 5A Division I defending champion Dutch Fork Friday, and Irmo Oct. 17.

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

Christ Church Episcopal (5-1, 1-0 in Region 2-3A), then reeled off victories over Pinewood Prep, Porter-

Panthers' Football

21 loss at Wilson Hall.

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Gaud, Heathwood Hall, and Hilton Head Christian Northwood Academy beat Hammond 23-10 Sept. 26. the Skyhawks first loss since a 52-14 loss to Grav Collegiate on Sept. 1, 2023. It was also Hammond's first loss to a SCISA team since losing 7-6 to First Baptist on

He showed his improved strength as on each run he

broke several tackles before using his speed. He has over

700 yards on the year. He is already getting serious looks

sive line of right tackle Brady Cisson, right guard Vic

The group responsible for all this offense is the offen-

The Pinewood Football team enters this week with a

5-2 record with a 1-0 mark in its region. The **Panthers**

Hilton Head Christian. They are coming off a tough 28-

Quarterback Silas Brawner has completed 97 passes

for more than 1.800 vards and 25 touchdowns. Javden

TDs. Lavoris Lucas has 25 receptions for nearly 500

yards and five TDs. Trey Green has 19 receptions for

Alexander has 33 receptions for nearly 700 yards and 10

wins came over St. John's Christian, Trinity Colle-

giate, Camden Military, Laurence Manning and

Snapped winning streaks aside, Hammond promptly hit the road to Clarendon County and delivered a 37-8 whipping to Laurence Manning Academy Friday. The Skyhawks travel to **Augusta Christian** this week and play host to Ben Lippen and Cardinal Newman in the coming weeks.

Sandres, left tackle Nehemiah Lomax (6-2,225), left

new starters and they have worked hard to get better,"

"The offensive line is starting to gel. We had three

guard Rody Barnett and center Alex Drake.

touchdowns. Atkins has 23 tackles to go with one pick and a fum-

Sandhaus and Ava Matthews. Sandhaus, an exchange

Taylor Gouin and **Marissa Gouin** are outside hitters.

Pinewood has road matches at **Charleston Collegiate**

"Ashley Hall will be out for blood," Abernathy said.

end zone on a 4-yard run for a 44-7 lead.

Campbell and Pimentel have both been selected for the 2025 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl.

Campbell has surpassed the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the season and rushed for 12 touchdowns. He also has approximately 100 receiving yards and a TD catch.

nearly 300 yards and six TDs.

said Hatfield.

Grayson Salego leads the team's rusher with more than 500 yards and nine TDs. Green and Will Watson both have two rushing TDs.

Watson and Graydon Fuller are the leading tacklers with 35 each. Carson Good, Jayden Parrott, Mason Sumners, Nathan Good, Jacob Sweet, David Harper and Preston Holliday all have more than 20 tackles. Sweet and Pressley both have three sacks. Mason Howard and Carson Good both have two interceptions and Jude Kelly has recovered two fumbles.

The Panthers have a bye this week, which they will use to prepare for a game at rival Northwood Academy scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17.

Pimentel is among the Swamp Foxes' leaders in both total tackles and unassisted tackles. He is the team leader in sacks with six in the first five

Ashley Ridges other wins this season came over Cane Bay and Wando. The Swamp Foxes' losses came to Berkeley, Oceanside Collegiate and Carolina Forest.





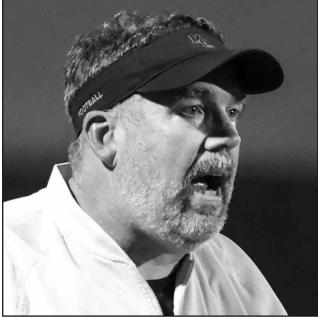
- Short Term Workforce Programs
- Transfer to 4-Year Universities
- **High School Dual Enrollment**
- **Continuing Education**



FALL SEMESTER START DATES: OCTOBER 15 **NOVEMBER 3**

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Head Coach Richard Bonneville

Zavier Polite

May River preparing for "gut check" game, hosting region foe Bishop England this week

May River Preparing For "Gut Check" Hosting Region Foe Bishop England This Week By Billy G. Baker

Publisher

Bluffton—At this time in the season a year ago, May River was undefeated at 6-0 as they travelled down to Charleston to play at **Bishop England**, and to the delight of the Shark fans, players, and coaches they defeated the eventual region champion Bishops 35-8 to improve to 7-0 in the season.

May River head coach Richard Bonneville will host the Bishops this Friday night and the Sharks are 5-1 and hoping for the same results as a year ago. "Just being honest, we have not really played a very tough schedule this season, and we felt like we snuck of on Bishop England last season with our new run-oriented offense," said Coach Bonneville. "I promise you, with what we did to them last year, and the fact that **Hilton Head** beat them 41-0 last week, we know they will come in to our place on Friday night ready to play, and it will be a war.

"We have no doubt that Bishop England will be focused on beating us this week, and I have no doubt that they have better athletes all-around," said Coach Bonneville. "We win because we out-work people and the fact that our players have bought into what we are trying to accomplish running our version of the Wing-T offense.

"We like the fact that we are at home this week and we have some of the best fans around," said Coach Bonneville. "It really does not matter where we play. We play about the same no matter where we play, but it's nice not having to drive to Charleston this week.

"We are still having 6 am practices during the week," said Coach Bonneville. "I really think you develop consistency, a fear of complacency, and it all is inclusive when have a team that truly enjoys getting up most days at 5 a.m. to get ready for football practice."

Last week May River have tuned up for the

game with Bishop England with a 35-12 win over **Colleton County**. They have previous wins this season over Airport (37-8), Lake City (34-16), Brookland-Cayce (36-25), Georgetown (38-0 and **Colleton County.**

The team's only loss was 31-30 to **West Ashley**, in the second d game of the season, and Coach Bonneville takes personal responsibility for that loss. "We scored and were going to tie the game at 31 by kicking the PAT and it looked like we were headed into over-time," said Coach Bonneville. "Well, we only had 9 men on the field to attempt the extra point and I should have called time out to get us better organized. Well, I made a not so smart decision and yelled at the team to hurry up and kick the PAT anyway and we missed the PAT and lost the game 31-30. I own that loss."

The team has had one major season ending injury when veteran senior running back **Andrew Johnson** (6-1, 185) was lost in the third game of the season to a knee injury, At the time Johnson had rushed for 350 yards on 48 carries with five touch-

Sophomore **Justin Head** (5-10,165) has stepped up to replace Johnson. "The injury to Andrew was so unfortunate and he was a good leader and dedicated player on our team," said Coach Bonneville. "It takes a while to learn all the details of our offense but Justin is coming along and getting better

The top rushers coming into the B-E game are senior half-back Sean Mitchell (6-1, 185) who has gained 797 yards on 118 carries with 11 touchdowns. Junior quarterback Luc Tran is a real dual threat athlete and he has rushed for 253 yards and five TD's this season. Junior fullback **Tony Cooper** has 40 carries for 227 yards and 1 touchdown.

"Sean is a solid next level prospect and I am shocked he does not have any offers right now," said Coach Bonneville. "Not only is he a hardnosed runner, with 800 yards rushing with half the

Wishing the Sharks the best of luck in the 2024 football season!

Courtesy May River High School

Go Sharks!

season still to play; but he has two interceptions on defense. He has also caught two touchdown passes. He is so versatile."

Coach Bonneville chuckled talking about Tran's passing percentage. "When we call for a pass play everyone on our team holds their breath," said Coach Bonneville. "Luc Tran has completed six-ofseven passes and five of them have gone for touchdowns. That is one stat that might be hard to beat on any other team. When we do throw the ball, we are definitely tricking the other team."

Coach Bonneville stays in "hurry up" mood during the game. "We like to break the huddle quickly, get to the line, and snap the ball," he said. "This team has nowhere near reached their full potential. With the tough region schedule ahead of us I would like to see us strap it on one Friday night, sprint to the line and keep pounding it hard for all four quar-

"We have some games where we have scored 35 to 40 points this season, but I would like for us to put it all together one week by running our offense to perfection while playing solid defense," said Coach Bonneville. "If we run our offense in a game, like we do in practice, it can be very difficult to de-

There have been some players moved around with injuries and other adjustments as the season has moved along. Senior Elijah Yeager (5-10,295) has moved from nose guard to defensive end. **Henry Santiz** (6-0,175) has moved from inside linebacker to the defensive front. Senior **Charlie Crace** (5-9,185) has been moved to boundary end.

Coach Bonneville has been really pleased with the play of junior linebacker Brayden Harris (5-9,170) who has 28 total tackles on the season to date. "He gives us everything he has and his leadership has been outstanding also," said Coach Bon-

The top tackler on the team is sophomore linebacker Michael Poole (6-3, 185) who has 63 tackles and four sacks on the season. Senior DE Zavier **Polite** (6-3, 175) has 53 tackles, 11 TFL, and 3.5 sacks. Next on the hit index is OLB **Devin Bryan** (5-10,185) who has 35 tackles and two sacks. Next is the aforementioned Harris followed by DE Crace with 23 tackles and two sacks. Free safety Jackson Miller (6-1, 175) rounds out the top tacklers with 20 stops on the season.

May River's special teams have been very good this season. Hudson Tanner has punted three times for a 47- yard average and he has made 7-of-7 on PAT's, including kicking a 30-yard field goal. Senior Erik Robertello is 10-of-12 on PAT's with a 36yard field goal to his credit.

The Ol has remained pretty much intact all season. The swing man is **Chris Beckman** while **David Keitman** is the SE and prospect **Ethan** Hames (6-3, 285) continues to play well at strong tackle. Other linemen contributing include SG Cam Jordan, QG Jayden Page, QT Leo Naser, C Jacob **Dosher**, and **Sean Zadroga** is seeing action both in both lines.

Class AAAA Feature

South Pointe solidifies itself as top in AAAA

By Dennis Bruunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Sumter – South Pointe High School solidified itself as the No. 1 football team in the High School Sports Report AAAA poll with a 28-7 victory over fellow Region 3 power Camden on October 3.

Add a 35-12 triumph over another AAAA and region power in **A.C. Flora**, a 27-23 win over defending AAAAA Division II state champion **Northwestern** and the only loss coming to undefeated Hough of Cornelius, North Carolina, and you have a well-padded

South Pointe is led by the state's No. 1 recruit in J'Zavien Currence. The South Carolina commitment and Shrine Bowl selection is the Stallions' quarterback but is being groomed as a defensive back in

SPHS offensive lineman **Anthony Baxter** is also a Shrine Bowl selection. Running back **RJ Brown** has been selected to play in the **Touchstone Energy Co**operatives Bowl.

However, that doesn't mean the Stallions are a lock to be lifting the championship trophy come December. For starters, there is defending state champion South Florence, which has played in three straight AAAA title games, winning two of them. Like South Pointe, South Florence is 5-1.

South Florence has a pair of Shrine Bowl picks as well. Quarterback Messiah Jackson has been chosen as an athlete along with offensive lineman **Josiah Mason**. Two Bruins are Touchstone picks in offensive lineman Ethan Cash and linebacker Terry Gordon.

With four weeks left in the season, let's take a look at each of the six regions and see what lays ahead.

REGION 1

While 2023 state champion and defending runnerup Westside resides in this region, at this point the race for the region title is wide open.

That's because the Rams were 1-4 prior to their 55-0 win over winless Southside. Fountain Inn and Wren are both 4-2 after winning their region openers, Fountain Inn beating winless Laurens 26-7 and Wren edging Emerald 45-44.

Things will start to fall into place on October 10. Fountain Inn will travel to Wren and 3-3 Emerald will visit Westside

REGION 2

You can't talk about Region 2 without first mentioning **Daniel**. The dominant force in AAA for much of the previous decade, the Lions moved to AAAA last year and reached the third round of the playoffs.

They are 5-1 overall and 2-0 in region play, handing 5-1 **Seneca i**ts first loss of the season with a 27-16 triumph. They will likely be 8-1 going into their regular-season finale at Greer.

AAAA Top 15 Polls

- 1. South Pointe
- 2. South Florence
- 3. AC Flora
- 4. Daniel
- 5. Gray Collegiate
- 6. North Augusta
- 7. Seneca
- 8. Hilton Head
- 9. Midland Valley
- 10. Camden
- 11. Bishop England
- 12. Bluffton
- 13. May River
- 14. Wren 15. Hartsville

That game has the possibility of being significant because while Greer is just 3-4, the three victories have come in region contests. The Yellow Jackets have games at 4-2 Blue Ridge and Seneca before getting to

REGION 3

With the wins over 5-2 Camden and 6-1 A.C. Flora already under its belt in its first two games, South Pointe seemingly has the region title locked up with the four remaining region teams a combined 6-20.

The most intrigue remaining is who will get the No. 2 seed and the first-round home game in the state playoffs that comes with it. Flora and Camden meet on October 30 in Columbia and, barring a couple of major upsets, that will be who finishes second and who finishes third.

It will also be interesting to see who can earn an atlarge bid in the the playoff field along with the thirdplace team via the **ratings percentage index** from among York, Lancaster, Dreher and Richland Northeast.

REGION 4

The possibility of there being a lot of ebb and flow to the standings in this region is there because of it being an 8-team region. However, Gray Collegiate **Academy** has solidly positioned itself as the team to knock down from the pedestal.

The 4-2 War Eagles are 3-0 in region play and already own victories over defending lower state runnerup North Augusta and Midland Valley, handing each of them their only loss of the season to date.

As in Region 3, who gets second place should come down to the regular-season finale between North Augusta and Midland Valley on October 31 in Gran-

With games left with GCA and Midland Valley, South Aiken has a chance to get in the mix for second. The Thoroughbreds are 4-3 and 2-2.

REGION 5

All eyes are looking toward the October 31 matchup between **Hartsville** and South Florence as the game for the region title and rightfully so. The Red Foxes are the defending region champions but lost to South Florence in the third round of the playoffs on the way to the Bruins' title run.

Both won their first two region games, but Hartsville only evened its overall record at 3-3 with

Wilson, under first-year head coach Brian Wilson, appears to have asserted itself as at least the third best team in the region. The Tigers are 5-2 and 2-1 after beating **Crestwood** 27-21 on October 3. The region loss was by a 27=21 count to Hartsville.

Wilson could really gum up the works when it plays host to South Florence on October 17.

REGION 6

Hilton Head Island has firmly placed itself in position to win the region championship. The 6-1 Seahawks are off to a 2-0 start in region play. The wins are over 5-2 **Bluffton** by a 38-28 count and previously unbeaten **Bishop England** 41-10.

HHI has a bye week on October 10 before playing at 5-1 May River on October 17. A victory there

Current Region Standings

REGION 1-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
OUNTAIN INN	1-0	4-2	228	90
VREN	1-0	4-2	238	145
VESTSIDE	1-0	2.4	148	219
MERALD	0-1	3.3	177	147
AURENS	0-1	0-6	34	259
SOUTHSIDE	0-1	0.6	46	235
REGION 2-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
GREER	3-0	3-4	208	190
DANIEL	2.0	5.1	224	111
SENECA	2.1	6-1	285	119
BLUE RIDGE	1-1	4-2	211	214
PICKENS	1-2	2.5	281	285
RAVELERS REST	0-2	2.4	92	155
BEREA	0-3	1.5	27	247
REGION 3-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
SOUTH POINTE	2.0	5.1	138	69
A C FLORA	2.1	6-1	263	79
AMDEN	2-1	5-2	220	151
ORK.	1-1	2.4	88	186
ANCASTER	14	1.5	70	94
DREHER	1.2	3-4	129	187
RICHLAND NORTHEAST	0-3	0.7	132	284
REGION 4-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
GRAY COLLEGIATE	3-0	4-2	184	113
ORTH AUGUSTA	3.1	6-1	298	99
MIDLAND VALLEY	2.1	5-1	208	
SOUTH AIKEN	2-2	4-3	139	211
AIKEN	1.2	2.4	115	164
GILBERT	1-2	2.4	101	154
BROOKLAND-CAYCE	1.2	1.5	84	212
AIRPORT	0-3	0.6	56	277
REGION 5-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
SOUTH FLORENCE	2.0	5-1	258	95
HARTSVILLE	2-0	3-3	237	247
WILSON	2.1	5-2	168	1.453
CRESTWOOD	1-2	4.3	181	144
LOWER RICHLAND	1.2	4.3	191	137
DARLINGTON	1-2	3-4	125	171
LAKEWOOD	0.2	0-6	27	229
REGION 6-AAAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
HILTON HEAD	2-0	6-1	286	121
MAY RIVER	1.0	5-1	210	96
BLUFFTON	1-1	5-2	250	128
BISHOP ENGLAND	0-1	5.1	226	-
BEAUFORT	0-1	24	108	157
REATIFOR:	1.000	100	100	131

would all but secure the region crown barring a major collapse against 2-4 **Beaufort** and 1-5 **Colleton County**.

Who finishes second will be intriguing. May River plays host to Bishop England on October 10 and travels to Bluffton on October 30. Bishop England plays at Bluffton on October 24.

OTHER AAAA SHRINE BOWL SELECTIONS

Five other athletes ffrom AAAA schools were selected to the Shrine Bowl. They are running backs Mike Doe of North Augusta and Amari Verner of Seneca, offensive lineman Malcom Gaston of North Augusta and defensive backs Dashaun Scriven of Crestwood and Tylin Drakeford of Camden.

LATTA

County Councilman Brad Coward

Councilman Stevie Grice

Councilman Robbie Coward

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From the Principal,

Faculty, Staff and Students

Class AAA Feature

Favorites are beginning to emerge in AAA throughout SC as playoffs near

Loris QB Moon Gerald

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Moncks Corner—Trying to forecast just which two SCHSL AAA football teams will earn a trip to the gold medal round of the championship game scheduled for noon on Friday December 5 at South Carolina State University requires a deep dive into the uncertain world of high school.

The HSSR observed first- hand Oceanside Collegiate's thrilling upset of AAAAA power Dutch Fork at **Charleston Southern** on September 12. Two weeks later, the HSSR was on the sideline for a real-world view of the **Loris Lion's** (7-0) thrilling 23-22 win over **Dillon** on the road.

Thus, one might conclude that the Lower state AAA champion might emerge between Loris and Oceanside Collegiate. If both those teams win region titles, and keep winning in the play-offs, they would collide at The Citadel, where Oceanside Collegiate plays most of their games on a cold night in late No-

In the upper state, defending Upper state champion BHP is riding high at 7-0 from Region 1-AAA and charter school member Mountain View Prep (6-0) are also undefeated in Region 3-AAA.

At this point in the 2025 season, the HSSR 4th ranked Loris Lions might just be the Cindirella in the making. In their one-point win at Dillon, the Lions produced 23 first downs and were very balanced on offense with senior QB Moon Gerald, completing 9-of-15 passes for 114 yards and two TD's. On the ground Loris gained 127 yards on

37 carries against the Nasty Cat defense of Dillon led by senior RB **Khalid Sherman** who netted 71 yards on 22 carries.

Head coach **Greg Mance** came to Loris in 2020 after coaching 32 seasons at Richlands High School in Virginia, (23 years as head coach), where he won a Class A state title, with four state runner-ups. He came to Loris with a career record of 205-78. Loris went 11-2 a year ago, when they lost to Oceanside Collegiate at home, in the AAA Lower State Championship game. OC went on to win the AAA state title a week later when they beat BHP.

"The biggest challenge I had when I came to Loris was to change the culture around the program," said Coach Mance. "The first thing I did was to start a parent club to fund raise for the team and the second thing was to get year-round weightlifting started for our junior varsity and varsity football teams.

"I then formed positive relationships with our coaches at the school to get all male athletes out for football," said Coach Mance. "Also, lucky for us, Pastor **Tommy Shelly** wanted to get involved with the

AAA Top 15 Polls

10. Christ Church

11. Woodruff

12. Fox Creek

13. Waccamaw

15. Powdersville

14. North Charleston

- 1. Belton-Honea Path 9. Marlboro County
- 2. Mountain View Prep 3. Oceanside Coll
- 4. Loris
- 5. Newberry

- 6. Swansea

- 7. Dillon

8. Orangeburg-Wilk.

program and he became our team pastor with great success. He comes to weight lifting classes, practices

"Finally, our success has come from hard work and commitment from both players and coaches," said Coach Mance. "We all stay on the same page with a

One year later, Loris has become an even better team. Coach Mance tells the HSSR four of his seniors have numerous next level offers. They are WR/DB Ja cobien Lewis (6-2,175), OL/DE Damarea Thurmond (6-4,310), C/DE Jamarius Wilson (6-3, 260) and OL/DT Logan Coleman (6-3, 285).

"We hang our hat on defense," said Coach Mance after the Dillon game. "I felt like our defense really stepped up in the second half when we limited them t just two or three first downs.

"Playing at Dillon, a tradition rich team with a good quarterback (Khayel Sam Fong-Talia), one of the top receivers in the state (Zay Robertson-UNC

commitment) and a physical hardrunning running quarterback was a challenge for our defense and I felt like we stepped up tonight on defense," said Coach Mance. "I also feel like our region is the toughest AAA region in the state with Loris. Marlboro County, and Dillon all ranked among the top 10 teams, and Waccamaw is 5-1 and they should be ranked before too long a

"It's great for our school and community to beat a great program like Dillon two years in a row," said Coach Mance. "They are the measuring stick for AAA football.

Coming into the Dillon game, Loris was being led on defense by freshman MLB Ethan Shaw who had 41 tackles and sophomore MLB Jay Dalton Todd (5-10,170) with 37 tackles. Thurmond had 32 tackles and five TFL from his DE position, while Preston Hayes also had 32 tackles along with Thurmond with 32

"It's surprising that our leading tacklers are (Todd and Shaw) are a sophomore and a freshman," said Coach Mance. "Both are extremely talented and are physical players. They are making checks and playing at a high level for their age.

"Moon is the leader of our team, period," said Coach Mance. "He has a tremendous work ethic and is super competitive. He squats 500 pounds and runs a 4.59 forty. He understands the game and he can make all the throws.

"We can't believe he doesn't have an offer at this time," said Coach Mance. "He checks all the boxes for a quarterback. He checks protections and audibles plays calls in certain situations. He is a player."

On the season, Gerald has completed 57-of-84 passes for 1,087 yards and 21 TD's. His top targets have been **Grim Lewis** (17-for-339, 7 TD's) and Khalid Sherman (10-for-253, 4 TD's). The top rushers for Loris after six games are Makel Duece Stephens (39-for-341 & three TD's) along with Khalid Sherman (37-for 229 yards).

In the latest AAA HSSR ranking, only Dillon lost last week, among the top 15 teams in the AAA rankings in this issue. Dillon is likely the best 3-3 team in the state right now.

Top ranked BHP is expected to finish undefeated

Current Region Standings

REGION 1-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BELTON-HONEA PATH	1-0	7-0	333	44
CRESCENT	1-0	4-2	206	123
PENDLETON	0.0	3.3	154	124
WEST-OAK	0-1	4-3	100	160
WALHALLA	0-1	0.6	109	335
REGION 2-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
CHRIST CHURCH	1-0	5-1	205	147
POWDERSVILLE	1-0	4.2	208	166
PALMETTO	1-0	1-5	53	199
ST, JOSEPH	0-1	3.3	186	256
CAROLINA	0-1	2.4	48	180
SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	0-1	1.5	61	204
REGION 3-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	1-0	6-0	298	- 80
WOODRUFF	1-0	6-1	267	134
CHAPMAN	0-0	0.6	88	223
GETTYS BROOME	0-1	3.4	175	276
UNION COUNTY	0-1	1-6	133	310
REGION 4-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
NEWBERRY	1-0	7-0	295	108
SWANSEA	1-0	6-0	263	74
FOX CREEK	0-0	5-1	267	51
SILVER BLUFF	0-1	3.4	192	193
W J KEENAN	0-1	2-5	112	210
REGION 5-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
LORIS	1.0	6.0	264	70
MARLBORO COUNTY	1.0	5.1	187	72
WACCAMAW	1.0	5-1	226	66
DILLON	0.1	3.3	240	120
AYNOR	0-1	2.4	119	164
GEORGETOWN	0-1	0.6	74	181
REGION 6-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
NORTH CHARLESTON	1-0	5-1	180	77
OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE	1-0	5.2	273	164
DRANGEBURG-WILKINSON	0-0	5-0	191	27
STORY AND AD	0-1	3.4	166	211
HANAHAN	1.516-7			

in Region 1-AAA. In region 2-AAA. Christ Church (5-1) appears to be the team to beat for the region title but they could face a stiff challenge when they go on the road to play Powdersville on October, 10. In Region 3-AAA Mountain View's top region challenge will come form Woodruff and they host the Wolverines on October, 17.

In region 4-AAA, Newberry, (6-0), Swansea (6-0), and Fox Creek (5-1) will battle it out for a region title. Newberry will host Swansea on October 31 at that game might determine the region winner.

In Region 5-AAA you could end up having to use a complicated tie-breaker rule to seed the region champion for the playoffs. In a scenario where Marlboro County defeats Loris, and Dillon beats Marlboro County, these three teams would all end up with one region loss each. It will all play out on the field.

In Region 6-AAA, third ranked Oceanside Collegiate, is the odds-on favorite to win the region title. However, you must tip your hat to both Orangeburg-Wilkinson (5-0) and North Charleston (5-1) who are having outstanding season, O-W has only allowed 27 points in their five wins.

Never count out Dillon. The Wildcats won a state title a few years ago with three losses under Jackie Hayes. They are loaded with skill players on offense and a superb linebacking corps on defense.

Latta volleyball close to claiming region crown

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Latta – The Latta High School volleyball team stumbled out of the gate to start this season, losing its first two matches. Those losses for the Class A Vikings came against AAAAA West Florence and AAAA **South Florence**. That helped them get on a

LHS defeated AAA Dillon in its next match before reeling off eight straight victories in Region 6. That has Latta on the precipice of claiming the re-

"This group of young ladies has faced its share of adversity and early-season setbacks, but those challenges have pushed us to grow stronger together," said head coach Genesis Rogers. "The players have really learned how to lean on one another, and their commitment to improving their game every day has been impressive.

"We're focused on continuing that growth by coming together as a team as we fight in one of the toughest (Class) A regions in South Carolina to obtain our first region title in several years."

The Vikings, who are 9-3 overall after a second loss to South Florence, have four region matches remaining but have a magic number of just two to clinch the region crown. Lake View is in second place with a 4-3 region mark.

LHS' final four region tilts are on the road against Hemingway and Lake View and at home against Green Sea Floyds and Carvers Bay.

Senior outside hitter Madison Stevens is the team's leading hitter with 141 kills and its top server with 31 service aces. Junior setter Chayse Walters leads in assists with 277, while senior libero Samantha Townsend leads in digs with 187.

North Augusta – The Fox Creek High School foot-

ball team suffered its first loss of the season in six games

on October 3, falling to undefeated Orangeburg-Wilkin-

While not happy with the loss, Predators head coach

"The kids played hard on both sides of the ball, and

Lemuel Lackey had no issues with his team's perform-

that was for them (O-W) as well," Lackey said. "I feel

good about the kids. They've put in a lot of work, and

they're eager to prove themselves throughout the rest of

"I know we're going to come in and play for 48 min-

utes. Last night was a war of attrition, but that's what hap-

The rest of the roster is made up of senior outside hitter Bailey Jordan, senior defensive specialist Lauryn Brumbles, senior defensive specialist Selena Velazquez, junior outside hitter Aniiyah Smiling, junior defensive specialist Madelyn Miller, junior defensive specialist Janah Jones, junior middle hitter Maliyah Bethea and sophomore middle hitter Aliyah Tisdale.

LATTA FOOTBALL SUFFERS FIRST LOSS

The Latta football team saw its hopes of a perfect season come to an end with a 33-0 loss to Carvers **Bay** on October 3. The Vikings fell to 5-1 while Carvers Bay improved to 7-0.

The Vikings, who are 1-1 in region play, had outscored the opposition 220-68 entering the game.

'Senior running back Fischer Richardson is the offensive leader. He had 743 yards and 14 touchdowns on an even 100 carries entering the Carvers Bay contest. Sopho-

more **Irangabiye Johnson** had 433 yards and six scores on 41 carries.

Quarterback Luke Huggins had completed 17 of 24 passes for 245 yards and two touchdowns. Jayden **Alford** had five catches for 117 yardss and a touchdown.



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FCHS begins play in Region 4-AAA on October 10 at

home against once-beaten Newberry. Fox Creek will be

trying to get off to a good start in the region after going

"Orangeburg-Wilkinson and Newberry are probably

winless last year and missing out on the state playoffs.

Lackey said. "We just happen to get them one after the

other. They both have SEC (Southeastern Conference)

The Predators' offense revolves around their running

the O-W contest, and junior **Bryson Crawford** is leading

the two best teams we'll see in the regular season,"

commitments, so we're getting to see SEC players."

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FOX CREEK



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Courtesy of the Fox Creek Athletic Booster Club & Athletic Department

said. "Last year we didn't really have a top-tier back. He's a kid coming over from Midland Valley who can do things in the open field. He's one of those good players who can make good plays into big plays.'

Quarterback **Brandon Wallace** was just under 100 rushing yards a contest at 96.4. He had 482 yards and eight TDs on 44 carries. Nate Owens, who shares time with Wallace behind center had 21 carries for 155 yards.

Wallace had 15 completions in attempts for 311 yards and four scores, while Owens was 9 of 15 for 186 yards and three TDs. Mekhi Quiller is the leading pass catcher with 11 for 261 yards and four touchdowns.

The defense is led by outside linebacker Noah Gaines and defensive lineman John Truesdell. Gaines had a team high 48 tackles to go with five tackles for loss and four quarterback sacks. Truesdell had 27 tackles, five TFLs and four sacks.

game. They were averaging 291.2 yards per game entering Middle linebacker Gabriel Reyes led in TFLs with six along with 25 tackles. Quiller has a team high four interceptions, while Wallace had two along with 29 tackles Crawford was averaging 153.6 yards, having compiled and two TFLs playing in the secondary.

pens when you have 22 position players and three kickers "Bryson is doing a tremendous job for us," Lackey **Chesterfield volleyball looking for strong finish**

Lackey still positive following first loss of 2025

By David Shelton

By Dennis Brunson

son 21-13.

hssr.com Associate Editor

Senior Writer

Chesterfield – In sports, coaches say often "it's not how you start but how you finish." After a lackluster performance over the first month of the season, the Chesterfield High volleyball team is hoping a strong finish can land them in the state playoffs.

The Rams compete in a tough region for volleyball, region 4-AA, and will need an upset or two to secure a finish in the top four. As of Oct. 2, Chesterfield's record was 5-11 overall and 2-6 in region play.

This year's team is fairly young overall with **Mattie** Griggs, Kathryn Johnson, and Allison Lloyd being the only two seniors on the roster. Most of the production this season comes from underclassmen, which can be a positive sign for the future.

Sophomore **Reagan Rivers** leads the team in kills with just over 100 put aways. Junior Hayden Wood has more than 50 kills and sophomore Madison Vanderpool has a team-high 216 assists to go with 103 defensive digs. Johnson has 43 kills, 13 service aces and 97 digs while freshman Ashton Cassidy, the Libero, has 257 digs and 15 aces. Junior **Brylie Harpe** has nearly 100 digs.

Other members of the team this fall include junior

Camryn Horton, junior Jamison Miles, and junior

768 yards and 16 touchdowns on 80 carries.

Chesterfield's football team also faces a tough schedule down the stretch as they look to earn a AA playoff spot. Entering their region opener game against North Central on Oct. 3, the Rams were sitting at 3-2. They also have region games against Cheraw (Oct. 30), Central (Oct. 24), Andrew Jackson (Oct. 10) and Buford (Oct. 17) during the final month of the regular season.

Senior quarterback Bryce Adams enters region play with more than 800 passing yards and six touchdowns while completing 61 percent of his passes. Junior Julian **McClain** is among the leading rushers with nearly 250 yards and seven touchdowns. Freshman Greg Rushing leads the Rams in rushing with 483 yards and six touchdowns, averaging 6.4 yards per carry.

Sophomore **Holden Lowery** is the top receiver with 21 catches for 281 yards while **Emani Welch** has 14 catches for 281 yards.

Defensively, senior linebacker Sincere Hubbard is the leading tackler with 45 hits through five games. Sophomore Levi Jones has 28 tackles and senior Jaydan Wallace has 21. Senior Derrick Lockhart has 20 tackles.

CHESTERFIELD



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Kingstree's Cantrell looking for cleaner games

By Dennis Brunson hssr.com Associate Editor

Kingstree – As a first-time head coach, **Brandon Cantrell** is happy with the way his Kingstree High School football team is developing. The Blazers are off to a 3-4 start and are 2-1 in Region 7-AA after a 38-16 loss to defending region champion **Manning** on October

That being said, Cantrell believes Kingstree could be even better with the proper tweaks.

"I'm happy with the progress we]re making through the season in regards to winning." Cantrell said prior to the Manning contest. "However, there are a lot of things to clean up as far as mental mistakes, penalties. We're doing a lot of things that lead to us shooting ourselves in the foot."

After opening the season with a 24-23 victory over **Georgetown**, the Blazers suffered three consecutive losses. They fell to undefeated Carvers Bay 21-12, 30-6 to AAAA **Crestwood** and 29-14 to **Timberland**.

Kingstree rebounded though by winning its first two region contests. It went on the road to top **Marion** 22-7 and followed it with a 22-18 home victory over Lake City.

"I don't want to take away from the fact that we won our last two games, but I want us to play to the best of our ability," Cantrell said. "Also, I think the biggest thing is making them realize how good they are. That comes from the years of not being great, and that's the frustrat-

"For us to be at the top of the region we've

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Florence Area, continued from pg. 12

"We have shown glimpses of being a good team, but we need to do it more consistently on both sides of the ball."

South Florence has four all-star selections. Quarterback Messiah Jackson was selected as an athlete for the Shrine Bowl along with offensive left tackle Josiah Mason. Linebacker Terry Gordon and right tackle Ethan Cash were chosen to play in the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl.

Through five games, Jackson had completed 40 of 73 ecute the little details it takes to win games," Wilkes said.

Carter, continued from pg. 48 ■ counties they serve.

Currently, Carter is enrolled in World History as a dual credit online courses offered by the NETC. She already completed US History and plans to focus on more prerequisite courses for college over the remainder of this school year, the summer, and during her senior year.

When asked about how she manages her time adding ETC online classes, to her already busy schedule, Carter said, "It's helping me learn how college classes work, since in college you have different classes every day," she said. "Taking the NETC classes also helps reinforce my time management skills now, I know it will prepare me to be a better student and adjusting to that new schedule once I get to college."

Her overall impression of taking dual credit classes in

Moody, continued from pg. 48

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

The NETC is currently offering over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2025-26 school year to students in the three counties they serve which include Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield counties.

Haydin is currently enrolled in English Composition,

got to make sure we're playing at our best every week."

Senior is the Blazers' unequivocal leader. He is a standout on both sides of the football, at safety on defense and at running back offensively. He has been selected to play in the **Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl all-**

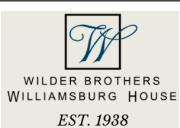
star football game. Against Georgetown, Dukes returned an interception 90 yards for a touchdown and had 10 carries for 77 yards and a touchdown and three receptions for 36 yards.

"Tyleek has bought into the team concept we have been trying to instill in the team," Cantrell said. "And he has done everything I have asked of him as far as being a great team player and buying into the expectations we are trying to establish at Kingstree High School."

Dukes, who rushed for 1,798 yards and 21 touchdowns as a junior, had his best offensive game against Lake City. He rushed for 160 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries.

Cantrell said the offensive line is starting to come together. There were just two returning starters coming into the season in senior center Ethan Carraway and right guard **Adeigeon** Archie. The other starters are sophomore Maurice Burgess at left tackle, sophomore left guard Lazarus Moyd and senior right tackle **DeMario McCormick-Major.**

"It was good to get Tyleek on track,"



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passes for 645 yards and five touchdowns while rushing for 233 yards and 10 scores on 56 carries. Gordon had a team high 14 TFLs and six quarterback sacks among his

West Florence is 2-4 overall and 1-1 in Region 5-AAAAA. The season has been an up-and-down one in

high school? "It works," she said. "Over the summer I

have been able to finish class assignments early and

study ahead to prepare for the next quiz. With NETC,

with NETC, which helps with scheduling my time for

school and sports. I am going to be better prepared for

college by completing required courses now which will

When asked about a favorite memory of her time in

sports, Carter said, "I have one for each sport," she said.

"Starting with 8th grade, and being pulled up to varsity

basketball, we were a very young team and when we fi-

nally won our first game at mid-season, we all celebrated

high school, plus sports, now, I continue to work ahead

the Knights' first year under head coach Chad Wilkes. "We are a young team that is still learning how to ex-

> run, "Just hitting a home run is exciting, but the team greeting at home plate was awesome, then I learn my Dad ran to that area behind the fence to retrieve the ball,"

> said Carter. "That was special." In volleyball, Carter recalled that kill shots are tough. "When I get a kill shot, or make a good block, that's a team celebration, and it encourages me keep playing

> Even cheerleading brought out a lasting memory at a football game "It was pouring rain, and the group decided to cheer in the rain getting soaking wet; but it turned out to be fun team building experience that we all enjoyed," said Carter.

that milestone achievement." In Softball, she recalled her first grand slam home

courses will count towards the required classes for his

work from the comfort of home and makes it easy to

complete while you are at home," said Moody. "Taking

NETC dual enrolled classes has granted me credit for a

high school class, and a college prerequisite class. This

opens a free class period in my high school day to give

"The NETC online experience gives you the ability to

first year of college.

a dual credit online course offered by NETC along with me extra time to get schoolwork done while at school. the English 101 class he has already completed. These

When asked about a favorite memory, Moody recalled, "We were playing Carolina Academy and we were down 14-7 with about five minutes remaining the half," he said. "The play called for a loaded left side, and I was the lone receiver on the right side. The quarterback rolled to the right and threw it right to me. I was able to beat the defender for the ball and took that pass 58 yards for a

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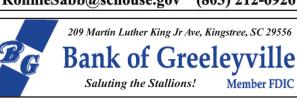


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"We have shown flashes of being good, but also flashes of being bad. As we continue through the region season, picking up the level of consistency will be what determines how good we can be when it matters here in October and November."

West Florence defensive end Jamie Williamson was named to the Shrine Bowl roster.

Class AA Feature

Race for AA supremacy is wide open

By Dennis Brunson hssr.com Associate Editor

Sumter – The **Central High School** football team is perched atop the High School Sports Report AA poll, and that's as it should be. The Eagles are the only remaining undefeated team in the classification at 6-0 and has outscored its opposition

Central was expected to be in the mix of the race for the AA state championship. However, some of the other teams expected to be big challengers like defending state champion Clinton, upper state runner-up Fairfield Central, Batesburg-Leesville and Hampton County have multiple losses. That doesn't take any of them out of the running for a state title though as they've played difficult non-region schedules to sharpen them up for deep playoff runs

Each of them have faced difficult non-region schedules. Clinton is 4-3 with losses to once-beaten AAA schools **Woodruff** and **Newberry** and AAAA power **Daniel**. Fairfield Central is 5-2 with the losses coming against AAAAA Ridge View and AAA Newberry, while Batesburg-Leesville lost to no-matter-the-class-but-Class-A juggernaut **Abbeville**, AAAA Lower Richland and 4-2 **Strom Thurmond** 28-26 in overtime in its Region 2

Strom Thurmond, for that matter, lost to undefeated Lincoln County out of Georgia and defending AAAA state runner-up North Augusta. Hampton County's losses have come against AAAA schools Bluffton and Hilton Head Island as well as AAA Christ Church.

So, as you can see, November should be fun n the AA state playoffs. To set that up though, let's take a look at how each of the seven region races are shaping up entering the final four Fridays of the regular season.

REGION 1

The 5-team Region 1 is Clinton's to lose until someone else proves otherwise. The Red Devils beat previously 4-2 **Liberty** 49-6 in their region opener. They'll meet 4-2 Chesnee on October 10, which beat winless **Blacksburg** 49-19 in its region

The race in this region will likely be for second place. Landrum, which is 3-3 heading into its region opener against Blacksburg on October 10, will do battle with Chesnee and Liberty for that spot and the first-round home game that comes with it.

REGION 2

This should be a doozy of a region race between Strom Thurmond, Saluda, Pelion and Batesburg-

Strom Thurmond, which is 4-2 overall, has an obvious leg up with the overtime victory over Batesburg-Leesville. Saluda and Pelion won their region openers over winless American Leadership Academy and 1-5 Ninety Six, respectively, to both improve to 4-2.

There's a big game every week the rest of the way. Pelion plays at Saluda on October 10 before going to Thurmond on October 17, B-L is at Pelion

AA Top 10 Polls

1. Central

2. North Central 3. Timberland

4. East Clarendon 5. Fairfield Central

6. Chesnee

7. Philip Simmons 8. Strom Thurmond 9. Saluda 10. Hampton County

11. Batesburg-Lees. 12. Clinton

13. Chester 14. Pelion 15. Edisto

and Saluda visits Thurmond on October 24 before Saluda visits B-L on October 31.

REGION 3

Unless someone throws a highly unexpected curveball into the mix, the region title will be decided on October 10 as Fairfield Central visits

Fairfield is 5-2 while the Cyclones are 4-3. Like some of the previously mentioned schools, Chester has played a difficult schedule. Its losses came to AAAAA schools Fort Mill and Catawba Ridge as well as Saluda.

The other three teams - Columbia, Eau Claire and Mid-Carolina, will be fighting it out for third.

REGION 4

Central and 6-1 North Central are off to 2-0 region starts. The jury is still out on the Knights though. Their one loss was 47-0 to Class A Lamar while the region wins were 42-0 over 1-5 Buford and 8-7 over 3-3 **Chesterfield**. They still have games left against Central, 3-3 Andrew Jackson High and 3-4 Cheraw.

Central beat Cheraw 34-27 on October 3 in a game that looked like it could decide the region title. AJ brought a rethinking of that notion after it beat Cheraw 41-17 last week. The Volunteers and Central meet on October 17.

REGION 5

This would normally be a battle between Hampton County and defending state runner-up Barnwell. However, unless something drastic happens down the stretch, the Warhorses will not be in con-

After winning its first two, Barnwell has lost five straight, falling to 3-4 Lake Marion 19-14 in its region opener. After a bye week, Lake Marion will get to test its mettle against Hampton County on October 17. Hampton County opened reion play with a 47-0 win over 4-3 Edisto. Whale Branch, which is 2-4, begins its region schedule on October 10 at Edisto.

REGION 6

This is setting up to be a battle between 5-1 Timberland, 4-2 Philip Simmons and 2-4 Andrews with possibly a little of 3-3 Woodland thrown in the mix.

Timberland and Andrew posted shutout wins over Burke and Academic Magnet, respectively. Philip Simmons beat Woodland 39-14.

Andrew and Woodland face off on October 10, Timberland and Andrews meet on October 17, Timerland visits Philip Simmons on October 24, and Andrews and Philip Simmons and Woodland and Timberland meet in the final week of the sea-

REGION 7

After East Clarendon beat Manning 26-12 on September 26, both EC head coach Larry Cornelius and Monarch head coach Reggie Kennedy both said they didn't think there would be an undefeated region champion. Of course, that was the thing to say since each team already owned a region loss.

Well it turns out they were right. Kingstree and Mullins were the last undefeated teams, and they fell on October 10. Mullins lost to Lake City 30-28, and Manning topped Kingstree 38-16.

After all of that, that leaves Mullins, Kingstree

Current Region Standings

REGION ALL OFF DEF

REGION 1-AA

REGION 1-AA	REGION		OFF	DEF
CHESNEE	1-0	4-2	195	154
CLINTON	1-0	4.3	263	143
LANDRUM	0-0	3-3	178	145
LIBERTY	0-1	4-3	262	223
BLACKSBURG	0-1	0.7	71	290
REGION 2-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
STROM THURMOND	1-0	4-2	201	127
PELION	1-0	4.2	199	131
SALUDA	1-0	4-2	151	83
BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	0-1	3.3	193	116
AMERICAN LEADERSHIP	0-1	2.4	99	147
NINETY-SIX	0-1	1.5	112	212
REGION 3-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	1-0	5-2	230	114
CHESTER	1.0	4.3	199	126
COLUMBIA	0-0	3.3	104	138
EAU CLAIRE	0-1	4.3	140	123
MID-CAROLINA	0-1	2.5	118	224
		2750		
REGION 4-AA	REGION	1000	OFF	DEF
CENTRAL	2-0	6-0	232	77
NORTH CENTRAL	2-0	6-1	183	103
ANDREW JACKSON	1-0	3-3	135	156
CHESTERFIELD	0-1	3.3	167	157
CHERAW	0-2	3.4	157	186
BUFORD	0-2	1-4	99	236
REGION 5-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
HAMPTON COUNTY	1-0	4.3	258	150
LAKE MARION	1-0	3-4	116	175
WHALE BRANCH	0-0	2.4	90	163
EDISTO	0-1	4.3	13	165
BARNWELL	0-1	2.5	100	190
REGION 6-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
TIMBERLAND	1-0	5-1	191	105
PHILIP SIMMONS	1-0	4-2	222	109
ANDREWS	1-0	2-4	132	133
WOODLAND	0-1	3.3	119	162
ACADEMIC MAGNET	0-1	4-2	152	111
BURKE	0-1	0-4	38	217
REGION 7-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
KINGSTREE	2-1	3-4	116	186
LAKE CITY	2-1	2.5	144	214
EAST CLARENDON	1-1	5-1	172	52
MANNING	1-1	3.3	188	158
MULLINS	1-1	2-3	136	106
	1-1	1.5	72	18
ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE		-		

Clarendon and **Atlantic Collegiate Academy** are each 1-1. Needless to say, each game the rest of the way is pretty much a must win.

THREE AA PLAYERS SELECTED TO **SHRINE BOWL**

Three players in the AA classification were chosen to play in the **Shrine Bowl**. The players are Liberty running back Jamijae Karim, Clinton offensive lineman Tre Aiken and Timberland offensive lineman **Desmond Green.**

Class A Feature



2025 Carvers Bay Bears

Third ranked Carvers Bay making statement

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Moncks Corner—There are 36 football teams comprising the SCHSL Class A football regions in South Carolina for the 2025 season, and all of them are hoping to make it to the gold medal round scheduled for Friday December, 5 at 4 p.m. on the campus of South Carolina State University.

One vastly improved team over last season is the Carvers Bay Bears who are now 7-0 and coming off a huge 33-0 blow-out against Latta last week on the road. The Bears are currently ranked third in the latest HSSR ranking as they prepare for a road trip to Lake View this week in a key region game for both teams.

"First of all, our improvement over last season is the fact our players bought into our challenge to them to become bigger, stronger and we had a very great off-season in the weight room," said head coach Matthew Richard who will also be a Shrine Bowl assistant this year. "Players who only lifted 225 pounds one-time last season are now doing the same weight 10 reps each.

"We also stressed to the team to quit playing down to the opponent 's level, and to establish higher standards, with higher expectations for success," said Coach Richard. "This is a completely different team this season in all aspects, mentally and physically."

Against Latta senior RB Kenard Heyward (5-9,195) continued his outstanding season by rushing for 145 yards on 20 carries with three touchdowns. Heyward will come into the Lake View game with 1,626 yards gained on 188 carries including 14 TD's to date.

10. Lake View

12. Baptist Hill

14. Lewisville

15. Lee Central

13. Scott's Branch

11. Lamar

- 1. Bamberg-Ehrhardt 9. HKT
- 2. Abbeville
- 3. Carvers Bay
- 4. Cross
- 5. Johnsonville

- 6. Ware Shoals
- 7. Latta 8. Dixie
- Region 1-A is comprised of tradition rich Abbeville (4-2), upstart Ware Shoals (7-0) and ever-steady Dixie (5-1). When the spoke clears in this region on Halloween night we predict **Class A Top 15 Polls** Abbeville wins the region.

In Region 2-A, the HSSR sense the two teams who battle it out for a region title are Lamar, currently 4-2 and Lewisville (3-3). The Lions have been playing better after a slow start to the season. Lewisville will play at Lamar on October, 31 and the winner of this game should win the region.

Four other Bears have gained 200, or more

rushing yards, this season. They include QB

Chris Simmons ((62-383 & 7 TD's), Zyrion

Reed (44-265- & 1 TD), Dominque Walker

((26-232 & 2 TD's) along with Julius McCrea

(26-231 & 3 TD's). Walker and Davis are tied

These five backs are running behind **South**

Carolina offensive commitment Zyon Guiles

(6-5,325) who has two pancakes on the season.

Center/DT **Triston Diggs** (6-2, 270) is being

recruited by The Citadel and others. Sopho-

more **Kam-ryn Richardson** (5-8,235) has also

Against Latta, Simmons was 7-of-87 yards

The top tacklers against Latta were DT Ky'-

passing and he threw one TD reception to com-

jeah Moore with five tackles and DE Jasius

Among the top tacklers on the season is junior

MLB **Sammy Milton** with 12.5 tackles along

with Davis. Other strong defenders include "X"

Stafford. Heyward flips to SS on defense. The

Carvers Bay last played for a Class A state

title in 2012 when they lost to **Christ Church**.

They certainly have the talent and the right atti-

tude to make a serious run at the gold medal

round this season. Them being much bigger,

stronger and faster this season should get them

team has excellent punter in baseball prospect

defender JaQuan Hannah, and X'Zavier

Davis (6-2, 265) contributed four stops.

with 23 pancakes each also.

played well in both lines.

The HSSR feels strongly that HKT will

See Carvers Bay, pg. 47

HANNAH-PAMPLICO:

1-5

Current Region Standings

Guildik ney			-	
REGION 1-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
WARE SHOALS	1-0	6-0	198	82
DIXIE	1-0	5-1	196	131
ABBEVILLE	1.0	4-2	205	.84
CALHOUN FALLS	0-1	3.3	177	167
WHITMIRE	0-1	2.4	80	156
MCCORMICK	0-1	0-6	33	288
REGION 2-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
LAMAR	1-0	4-2	197	249
LEE CENTRAL	1-0	3-3	151	158
LEWISVILLE	1-0	3-3	163	143
C A JOHNSON	0-1	2.4	134	214
GREAT FALLS	0.1	2.4	144	175
MCBEE	0-1	1-5	112	265
REGION 3-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
HUNTER-KINARO-TYLER	1-0	4-2	258	105
BLACKVILLE-HILDA	1-0	24	94	151
CALHOUN COUNTY	1.0	1-5	47	227
RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	0.1	24	85	96
WAGENER-SALLEY	0-1	2.4	91	200
WILLISTON-ELKO	0-1	0-6	45	208
REGION 4-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
RIDGELAND	2.0	3-4	144	138
BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	1.0	7-0	346	40
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX	0-0	0-6	34	24
DENMARK-OLAR	0-1	1-6	46	29
HARDEEVILLE	0-2	1-6	114	251
REGION 6-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
CROSS	3-0	6-1	226	2
SCOTTS BRANCH	2.0	4-1	144	10
BAPTIST HILL	2-0	5-2	222	7
BETHUNE-BOWMAN	2/1	2.5	110	27
ST. JOHNS	0-2	0-6	13	28
BRANCHVILLE	0.3	1-5	99	17
MILITARY MAGNET	0-3	0-6	8	26
REGION 6-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
CARVERS BAY	3.0	7.0	195	9
JOHNSONVILE	2-0	5-1	145	10
LATTA	1.1	5-1	220	10
LAKE VIEW	1-1	3-2	82	7
GREEN SEA-FLOYDS	0-2	0-6	65	28
GREEN SEA-FLUTUS	0.2	0-0	60	£0i

Marlboro County football off to 5-1 start in 2025

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Bennettsville – After six games in the 2025 season, it is a safe bet that the Marlboro County football team has put the past in the past for good.

The Bulldogs had to forfeit seven wins last season and finished with a 1-9 record. The program has bounced back in a big way this fall, winning five of their first six games including a region-opening win over Aynor on Oct.

There is still some heavy lifting ahead. After a game against Georgetown on Oct. 10, the Bulldogs close out the season with games against Dillon (Oct. 17), Loris (Oct. 24) and Waccamaw (Oct, 31).

Marlboro County has a host of players contributing to the early success and have not relied on one or two players to be the most productive.

Sophomore Tre Blakeney has been a steady hand at quarterback with more than 600 yards passing and nearly 300 yards on the ground.

Senior **Troy Hailey** is the leading rusher with about 400 yards while averaging 8.4 yards per carry. Sophomore Krishawn Smith has about 300 yards rushing and averages 7.6 yards per attempt.

Rep. Jackie E. Hayes

House District #55 Dillon, SC 843-229-3661

Senior Tremayne Ashford is the top receiver with nearly 300 yards and closing in on 20 receptions.

Along the offensive line are five underclassmen but two returning starters. Back as starters are junior Zirell McIver Barker at left tackle and junior right tackle **Dymiek Covington**

Sophomore Hayden Haywood is the starting center with junior **Jamari Taylor** at left guard and junior Cameron Jackson at right guard.

Junior Myjae McCoy is one of several defensive leaders through the first six games. McCoy totaled 38 tackles in five game and junior Laquan Chavis totaled 33 tackles. Junior Jaden Ashe has 27 tackles, including eight tackles for loss and three sacks.

Junior Patrick Williams has 26 tackles with 10 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks.

Marlboro County's lone loss to date came to Gray Collegiate, one of the top AAAA teams in the state.

In cross country, the top female runners this fall include Angela Rogers, Gracie Duncan, Alala Brown and Mya Bennett.

On the boys side, the top six runners are **Bobby** Mumford, Adonis Pratt, Deandre Wilson, Nguyen Hung, Rylan Fowler and Lucas James.

A Friend of the **Bulldogs Salutes** Marlboro County Athletics!



Hartsville volleyball in region title contention

By David Shelton **Senior Writer**

Hartsville – While most of the sports news in the fall centers around the football team, Hartsville High's volleyball team is making a run at a region title in 2025.

Hartsville is off to a great start against region 6-AAAA competition, winning their first eight contests to take control as the regular season winds down. As of Oct. 4, Hartsville had posted an overall record of 17-9. Remaining contests include region games against Crestwood (Oct. 7), Darlington (Oct. 9), Lakewood (Oct. 14) and South Florence (Oct. 16). Hartsville also has a non-region game against West Florence on Oct. 13.

Per usual, when a team is having a lot of success, many individual players are doing their part as well. Championships are not won by one player and Hartsville is getting a strong team effort.

Offensively, the team leaders have been sophomore Hannah Nesseth and senior Mya Harvey. Nesseth has totaled 218 kills while Harvey has a total of 129 kills. Sophomore **Sarah Nesseth** has topped 100 kills as well with

Senior **Ava Wilcox** is a top defender with 193 digs. Junior setter Mya Madaris has 124 digs while junior Stella Smith has 86. Hannah Nesseth also has 63 digs.

Madaris, the team's setter, has 462 assists and is on pace to top 500 assists by season's end.

The other two seniors on the roster are Lindy Atkinson and Imari Rivers. Rounding out the roster are juniors Lillie Braddy, Ella Smith, Emmakate Hudson and Stella Gainey; and sophomore Eliza Privette.

Football teams showing progress

The Hartsville football team continues to show improvement as region play begins. The Red Foxes opened region play with a 55-30 win over Lower Richland on Oct 3. That win evened the overall record to 3-3.

"Every week is a chance to grow and improve and with our youth we take it one day at a time," coach Jeff Calabrese said.

Sophomore quarterback Ford Wallace is showing growth with each contest. He has passed for more than 700 yards and seven touchdowns this season. Leading the running game are **Kylif Miller** (605 yards)

and Trace Hillian (454 yards). Both averaging more than seven yards per carry.

The top receiver has been **Tristian Spann** with more than 425 yards in six games.

Defensively, **Davaris James** leads the team with 35 tackles through five games, while Rod Cranford has 29 total hits. TJ Grant has 28 tackles and Chris Price tallied 27 tackles with 11 tackles for loss in the first five games.



Pinpoint Embroidery

912-A W. Carolina Ave. Hartsville, SC

Bears football rolling along this season

By Dennis Brunson

Hssr.com Associate Editor

Honea Path – And the beat goes on for the **Belton-**Honea Path High School football team. After going 13-2 last season and playing for the AAA

state championship, the Bears have started 7-0 this season and have done so in dominant fashion. BHP has outscored the opposition 333-44.

While Belton-Honea Path head coach Russell Blackston and his staff and players may not be surprised, he's not so sure other folks felt the same way.

"It sure is good when you graduate 8,000 rushing yards and 100 touchdowns in Marquise Henderson, that you can still be very good," Blackston said. "There are people who thought we weren't going to be anything and that's OK. I knew we had 23 seniors back and six starters back on both sides. We're where I thought we'd be. We had a tremendous spring and a tremendous summer."

The Bears, ranked No. 1 in the *High School Sports* **Report** AAA poll, opened their Region 1 schedule with a 63-0 triumph over **West-Oak**.

Senior quarterback **Noah Thomas** is setting the pace with his arm and his legs. He has completed 77 of 118 passes for 1,096 yards and 15 touchdowns against just two interceptions.

Thomas' top pass-catching option is junior **Tajeh** Watson Martin with 24 receptions for 420 yards and five scores. Senior Jacus Paul has 12 catches for 116 yards and two TDs, senior running back MJ Earl has seven catches for 113 yards and two scores, and junior Evan **Gaines** has six catches for 66 yards and two scores.

Thomas has rushed for 308 yards and six touchdowns on just 31 carries. BHP has a running game by committee so far this season. Earl has 463 yards and 10 touchdowns on 51 carries. Junior BJ Andeson has 226 yards and three TDs on 38 totes, and two other runners are over 180 yards in juniors Tizele Ware and Cam Robinson.

The defense has made big play after big play while limiting its foes to less than seven points a contest. It has 49 tackles for a loss and 14 quarterback sacks while com-

See BHP, pg. 63

MARLBORO COUNTY

Dennis Miller Jamboree of Champions Meggs Automotive (843) 439-3438





Bennettsville Clio McColl Member FDIC



Oak River Mill **Saluting Marlboro** MOHAWK County High School!

Marlboro County HS Athletic Department **Proudly Salutes Their** Coaches & Athletes! Let's Go Bulldogs! Good Luck This Season!

HARTSVILLE

Mutual Savings Bank – Hartsville 383-3050 Heritage Community Bank Salutes #9 Matt Lynch Carolina Bank says "Go Foxes!" 843-332-1351 First Citizens Bank 843.332.1121

Carolina Printing Sports & Trophy Salute the Red Foxes! Ruth's Drive-In 843-332-6771



Wishing All Athletes & Coaches Great Success in 2025-26!

GO RED FOXES!

Courtesy Hartsville High School & Athletic Dept. & the Hartsville Community

BELTON-HONEA PATH



The BHP Athletic Booster Club Salutes our student athletes! Once a BEAR, Always a BEAR!

El Paso Mexican Restaurant & Bar - Go Bears! The Town of Honea Path Salutes the Bears! Select Insurance LLC - Proudly Saluting BHP The Little Biscuit Barn (864) 369-6882 Lou & Perry's Proudly Salutes the BHP Bears! Maynard's Home Furnishings (864) 338-7751 Senator Michael "Mike" Gambrell Salutes BHP TIMKEN Proudly Salutes BHP Student Athletes The Commercial Bank Salutes the Bears!

Rep. Lee Gilreath says "Go Bears!" Sam Gilmer Photography Proudly salutes BHP Jacklind Buffington Sheppard Atty at Law (864) 338-7168 Amanda's Diner (864) 369-6920

American Door Masters (864) 990-3075 Amanda Thompson State Farm (864) 338-8331 Page 56 September 30, 2025 THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT September 30, 2025 Page 9



Spartanburg DAY SCHOOL

Home of the Griffins



2025 Spartanburg Day football

Spartanburg Day football progressing well

2025 Spartanburg Day swimming

Griffins swimming focused on repeating

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

By Billy G. Baker

Publisher

Spartanburg—With the mission of starting an 11man varsity football team with the 2026 season, the Spartanburg Day School junior varsity team got a huge morale boost with a 29-0 home win over **Blacksburg** on September 18.

"Against Blacksburg the team came together and played well in all three phases of the game," said head coach Patrick Moffitt who is also Director of Football Operations at the school. "It was really special to start the game off with a 77-yard touchdown return (Charles Wilson) to start the game.

"We also did a great job on defense in the first half, and we forced them into several punts early in the game and we had advantages in field position which helped our offense," said Coach Moffitt

The defense was led by sophomore OLB **Heath Boyd** with 11 tackles, 7 TFL. Freshman DB 9th grader **Tyler** Fernanders and 8th grade DB Trent Wiliams each contributed one interception each.

Against Blacksburg, 8th grade quarterback Rutledge Wall displayed excellent talent for the future when he completed 11-of-12 passes for 113 yards and two touchdowns. The leading rushers in the game was Wilson who

Spartanburg—No doubt, the Spartanburg Day

School's girl's and boy's swimming program have been a

dominant SCISA AA program, and both teams, under the

tutelage of **Brigid Duesterhaus** hope to continue that

gained 50 yards on four carries and two touchdowns, one rushing and one on the opening kick-off return. Boyd rushed six times for 27 yards and a touchdown.

Eighth grade team captain TE Charlie Birch led the team in receptions with four catches for 59 yards.

The team has played three other games this season in competitive losses to Christ Church, the Greenville Hurricanes, and Colleton Prep.

Against Colleton Prep, on October 3rd Boyd led Griffin rushers with over 100 yards over the ground. Fernanders continued his strong play on defense with his second interception over two games. Birch had four catches for around 60 yards.

Place kicker, sophomore Armin **Pader**, hit a 35-yard field goal against CP and he also contributed five tackles in stepping up for the injured Charles Wison.

"We appreciate our fan support at our home games this season, and there is a lot of support for our football programs at Spartanburg Day, as we build towards transitioning to a varsity program by next season," said Coach Moffitt. "Our numbers are increasing, and we continue to work hard towards a promising future.

"After the season we will be working hard in the weight room, and conditioning, to get bigger, and stronger and faster as we build towards varsity competi-

dominance at the upcoming state swim meet at the North

Charleston Aquatics Center on October, 11, starting at 10

ming title while the boy's team hopes to win their third

consecutive state title. Last year, both teams finished

The girls' team will be seeking their 6th straight swim-

"What helps us have advantages at the state swim meet is our over-all depth that allows us to field very competitive relay teams on both teams," said Coach Duesterhaus, who was a key swimmer at Spartanburg Day on two state "Our teams have demonstrated the ability to get fired up at

"I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to return to so many personal memories as a swimmer in the program," said Coach Duesterhaus. "It is so gratifying to come full circle in the program, and I have enjoyed sharing my stories, and doing my part to help our legacy and

Duesterhaus, who also serves as the school's Athletic Media Coordinator, attended Milliken University in Illinois where she competed in both NCAA swimming and as an NCAA triathlete. Over her four-year collegiate career, she became an All-American triathlete, Scholar All-American triathlete, and Conference Champion swimmer.

The girls' team is led by three senior tri-captains.

Spartanburg

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

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

tion," said Coach Moffitt. "We are hoping to gain some senior players next year by getting some athletes, competing in other sports at our school, to join the varsity pro-

"Also, we would welcome players in the region seeking more playing time, that a new varsity program might offer, but I have to stress that we have high academic standards at Spartanburg Day first and foremost," said Coch

This year's junior varsity team consists of 20 players, five sophomores, six freshmen, six 8th graders, and three freshmen. Those players not aforementioned include: Parker Burgess (7th, OL/DL), Sammy Crian (8th, DT/LG), Kaiden Flannery (soph, WR/DB), Bennett Johnson (9th, RB/LB), Colton Lyle (8th, OT/DE), Gibbes Montgomery (soph LT/DE), Mason Phillips (7th, CB/TE), Lawson Robinson (8th, RG/DT), Miller Smith 7th, QB/LB), Camden Teal (9th, (DB/WR), Ben Visk (9th WR/DB), and Cale Willoughby (soph, RT/DT.

Coach Moffitt was a college quarterback at Williams College in Massachusetts graduating in 2011 after an outstanding four-year career when he led the team to a 20-4 record. At the conclusion of his senior season, he won the Golden Helmet Award in the New England area for among all Div. II and Div. III players.

Coach Moffitt is assisted by **Chris Cormier** who also serves as the middle school football head coach. Justin **Crain** works with both the offensive and defensive lines. Andrew Vaught, a 2025 Wofford graduate, also assists Coach Moffitt.

Cormier served as the offensive coordinator at highly regarded Thomas Aquinas High, and Archbishop Mc-Carthy, both located in Florida, prior to joining the Spartanburg Day football program for the 2025-26 school year.

ahead of runner-up Hilton Head Prep to keep their streaks

title teams when she swam for the Griffins a decade ago. the state meets, and the majority of the time our swimmers have achieved personal best times in their respective

the Spartanburg Day School swim program where I made rich tradition as a swim program continue on."

See **Spartanburg Day**, pg. **62**

SCISA Football Feature

SCISA teams fighting for playoff seeding

By: Gerald Doolittle

Goose Creek, S.C. -The South Carolina Independent Schools Association on October 3rd entered into week six of the 2025 season with some heated races for the five classifications playoff seedings.

Can Hammond (4A), Pinewood Prep (3A), Pee Dee Academy (2A), Thomas Heyward (1A) and Richard Winn Academy (8-Man) defend their 2024 ti-

Going into the stretch run Class 4A has Hammond (5-1), Northwood Academy (5-1), Heathwood Hall (4-2) and Laurence Manning (3-3) fighting for the top

Class 3A has Pinewood Prep (5-1), Florence Christian (4-1), Wilson Hall (4-1) and Trinity Collegiate (4-2) fighting for top seeds.

Class 2A has Bethesda Academy (4-0), Calhoun Academy (5-1), Greenwood Christian (5-2), Orangeburg Prep (3-3) and Pee Dee Academy (2-2) fighting

Class 1A has Dorchester Academy (5-0), Williamsburg Academy (5-0), Beaufort Academy (5-1) and Colleton Prep (5-1) fighting for high seeding.

Eight Man Region One has W.W. King Academy (6-0), Laurens Academy (5-1), Richard Winn Academy (3-3) and Wardlaw Academy (1-4) fighting for the top four spots. **Newberry Academy** (0-5) still could

Eight Man Region two has Holly Hill Academy (6-0), King's Academy (3-2), Cathedral Academy (3-3) and Jefferson Davis Academy (3-3) fighting for the top

The offensive stars in Class 4-A are: Northwoods **Kevin Johnson** (jr) who has completed 100 of 156 passes for 1387 yards with 11 TDs. The top two rushers for Northwood is Kaven Ford (sr) with 446 yards 10 Tds and Jordin Carter (sr) with 337 yards 4 tds.

Hammond has used a dual quarterback attack this season. **Ben Muela Kiser** (sr) has 27/46 331 yards 2 tds. **Cade Amell** has 31/57 398 yards 2 Tds. Kiser also has rushed for 567 yards and 3 Tds. Levi Myers (jr) has rushed for 462 yards and 3 Tds

The Heathwood Hall offensive attack has be led by quarterback Patrick Belk (sr). He has completed 70 of 133 passes for 904 yards 9 Tds. His top receivers has been **Keon McKinnley** (jr) with 272 receiving yards for 2 TDs and **Jamonie Batts** (sr) with 237 receiving yards

The Pinewood Prep Panthers high power offense has been led by quarterback **Silas Brawner** (jr) who has completed 76 of 120 passes for 1574 yards with 23 TDS.

Brawner's top two receivers has been Jayden Alexander (sr) with 559 receiving yards for 9 Tds and Lavoris Lucas with 410 yards for 4 Tds.

The Florence Christian Eagles offense has been led by quarterback Riley Minton (so) with 451 passing yards and Andrew Miller (jr) leading the rushing attack

SCISA AAAA Top 6 Polls

1. Northwood Academy 6-1 (278-76)

491 yards for 8 TDs. Brooks Poston (sr) has rushed for 247 yards with 3 TDs. Poston also has 151 receiving

Coach Adam Jarecki at Wilson Hall has a strong ground attack with five players leading the way. Seniors Ben McLaurin and Milling Galloway. McLaurin has 333 yards with 4 TDs and Galloway has 319 yards with 5 TDs. John Land (jr) has 219 yards and 2 TDs. Sophomores **Shep Vincent** and **Cameron Wilsey.** Vincent has 142 yards with 1 TD and Wilsey has 135 yards with 4

The Trinity Collegiate offense has been led by quarterback **Davidson Lynch** (sr) with 1289 passing yards for 13 TDs. His Top two receivers has been **Garrison** Copeland (so) and Desmond Williams ll (sr). Copeland has 614 yards for 8 TDs and Williams has 524 yards for 2 TDs. The rushing leader has been **Robert Mack** (jr) with 465 yards for 4 TDs.

The Bethesda Academy Blazers offense has been led by **Jordan Turner** (so). Turner has 606 passing yards for 12 TDs. His top receiver has been **Ralo Wesley**(sr) with 305 yards for 7 TDs. The top rusher has been Jordan Cheever (sr) with 411 yards for 6 TDs.

The Calhoun Academy Cavaliers offense has been led by **Colt Layton** (jr) in both passing and rushing. He has 418 passing yards for 4 TDs and has rushed for 870 yards for 15 TDs. Cael Parler (jr) has 537 rushing yards for 7 TDs and **Joseph Lyons** (so) has rushed for 243 yards for

The Greenwood Christian Hawks offense has been led by **Leland Reed** (jr) with 754 passing yards for 12 TDs. His top receiver has been Ty Kennedy (sr) with 311 yards for 6 TDs. The top rusher has been **Leighton** Davis with 469 yards or 5 TDs.

The Orangeburg Prep offense has been led by quarterback Cholly Williams (so) who has 702 passing yards with 9 TDs. Williams also has rushed for 111 yards with 4 TDs. **Tilton Riley** (sr) has 457 receiving yards for 7

The Dorchester Academy offense has been led by the power running of John Whetsell (sr) who has rushed for 1029 yards with 14 touchdowns. Quarterback John Quattlebaum (sr) has passed for 274 yards 4 TDs.

The Williamsburg Academy offense has been led by Micah Balder (sr) who has passed for 328 yards with 4 TDs and rushed for 348 yards with 4 TDs. Grant Small (jr) has rushed for 1037 yards with 15 TDs. Eli Brown (so) has rushed for 300 yards with 4 TDs.

The Beaufort Academy Eagles offense has been powered by **Nic Shuford** (so) with 623 passing yards for 7 TDs and rushed for 348 yards with 3 TDs. The leading rusher has been Nych Underwood (sr) with 1086 yards 17 TDs. **Devin Fripp** (sr) has 321 receiving yards for 4

The Colleton Prep offensive attack has been led by

See SCISA Football, pg. 63

SCISA AAA Top 6 Polls

- 1. Wilson Hall 5-1 (217-89)
- 2. Pinewood Prep 5-2 (2317-136)
- 3. Florence Christian 4-1 (127-81)
- 4. Trinity Collegiate 5-2 (211-112) 5. John Paul II 3-3 (128-189)
- 6. Northside Christian 3-4 (129-179)

SCISA AA Top 6

2. Hammond 6-1 (162-61)

3. Heathwood Hall 5-2 (144-51)

5. Laurence Manning 3-4 (148-152

4. Porter Gaud 3-4 (190-110)

6. Ben Lippen 2-5 (107-182)

- 1. Bethesda Academy
- 2. Calhoun Academy
- 3. Pee Dee Academy
- 4. Greenwood Christian
- 5. Orangeburg Prep
- 6. Thomas Sumter

SCISA A Top 6

- 1. Williamsburg Academy
- 2. Beaufort Academy
- 3. Dorchester Academy
- 4. Colleton Prep
- 5. Carolina Academy
- 6. Andrew Jackson

SCISA 8-Man

- 1. Holly Hill Academy 2. WW King

 - 3. Laurens Academy
 - 4. Jefferson Davis 5. Richard Winn
 - 6. Cathedral

Current Region Standings

SCISA CLASS 4-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	4-0	6-1	278	7
HEATHWOOD HALL	4-1	5-2	144	- 5
HAMMOND	3-1	6-1	163	6
PORTER-GAUD	1-2	3-4	190	11
LAURENCE MANNING	1-3	3-4	148	15
BEN LIPPEN	13	2-5	107	18
CARDINAL NEWMAN	1-3	1-6	55	200
				24
AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	0-2	0-6	28	10
SCISA REGION 1-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
PINEWOOD PREP	1-0	5-2	317	13
JOHN PAUL II	1-1	3-3	128	18
HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	1-1	2-5	197	32
FIRST BAPTIST	0-1	1-6	95	27
			1 -	-
SCISA REGION 2-AAA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
WILSON HALL	2-0	5-1	217	8
TRINITY COLLEGIATE	2-0	5-2	211	11
FLORENCE CHRISTIAN	0-0	4-1	127	8
NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	0-2	3-4	129	17
CAMDEN MILITARY	0-2	1-4	48	18
artimeter metallicity		-	1	-
SCISA REGION 1-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
BETHESDA ACADEMY	1.0	5-0	256	4
PEE DEE ACADEMY	1-0	3-2	124	10
DILLON CHRISTIAN	1-0	2-4	149	18
	100		1	
ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	0-1	0-5	75	25
HILTON HEAD PREP	0-2	1-5	24	19
SCISA REGION 2-AA	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
CALHOUN ACADEMY	3-0	5-1	236	11
ORANGEBURG PREP				17
	2-2	4-3	196	-
GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	1.1	5-2	189	14
THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	1-1	4-4	214	20
SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN	0-2	2-5	163	18
CLARENDON HALL	0-2	0-7	47	28
SCISA REGION 1-A	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
DORCHESTER ACADEMY	2-0	6-0	242	7
WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	1.0	6-0	220	6
LEE ACADEMY	0-1	14	85	17
CAROLINA ACADEMY	0-2	3-4	179	19
COLEA DECIDALO A	DECION	***	loss	ore
SCISA REGION 2-A	REGION	2.50	OFF	DEF
COLLETON PREP ACADEMY	2.0	5-1	252	10
BEAUFORT ACADEMY	1-0	5-2	227	12
THOMAS HEYWARD ACAD.	1-1	1-3	102	11
ANDREW JACKSON ACAD.	0-1	1-5	104	19
PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	0-2	1-5	70	22
	-			
SCISA 8-MAN REGION ONE	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
LAURENS ACADEMY	2-0	6-1	254	14
W W KING ACADEMY	1-0	7-0	298	- 11
RICHARD WINN ACADEMY	1-0	4-3	255	23
WARDLAW ACADEMY	0-2	1-5	100	19
NEWBERRY ACADEMY	0-2	0-6	126	24
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	xxx	0-3	24	9
	REGION	ALL	OFF	DEF
SCISA 8-MAN REGION TWO	Annual Control (Color) Color	7-0	300	14
	1-0	1-0	-	-
HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	199	13.00-33.	139	- 44
HOLLY HILL ACADEMY KING'S ACADEMY	1-0	4-2	139	15
HOLLY HILL ACADEMY KING'S ACADEMY JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY	1-0	4-2 4-3	238	18
SCISA 8-MAN REGION TWO HOLLY HILL ACADEMY KING'S ACADEMY JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY CROSS SCHOOLS	1-0 1-0 0-1	4-2 4-3 0-6	238 82	18
HOLLY HILL ACADEMY KING'S ACADEMY JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY	1-0	4-2 4-3	238	18

DIMUN INCH SCHOOL

Dillon focused on improving following narrow loss

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Dillon—No need for Dillon fans to hit the panic button. The Wildcats just might be the best 3-3 prep football team in the state and while the 23-22 loss to Loris last week was a disappointment there is still plenty of football to be played.

Dillon actually won a state tile around 2008 with an 11-3 record. This team might not lose another game this season and you know what that means if you are the last team standing.

From his office after the game head coach Kelvin Roller shared his thoughts. "I thought our defense played very well tonight and they gave a chance to win the game but we just didn't make enough plays," he said. "We had some opportunities to score after several turnovers. Then we turned the ball over and they capitalized on our mistake.

"It was two good football teams in a battle tonight," said Coach Roller. "When you have a one-point deficit you have to consider that both teams are pretty equal. They made more plays than we did."

"We had a lot of kids played really well tonight and it is just unfortunate that we came up one point short," said Coach Roller. "We just need to execute better going forward. We are not blaming anyone for the loss. We just need to get better in all facets of the game."

Dillon will play at **Aynor** this week and in two weeks another big region game looms at Marlboro County.

There was one very interesting call, and one no call, by the head referee in this game. With Dillon posed to score from the one-yard line, with three seconds left in the first half, it appeared the referee was pulling out the yellow hanky even before the ball was snapped. Dillon scored on the play but the call on the touchdown was that the ball carrier had been aided over the goal line by his fellow players.

Dillon was awarded one untimed down and Khayel Sam Fong Talia kicked a 16- yard field goal to tie the score at 16 each at the half. Had the touchdown counted the score would have been 20-16 assuming the PAT would have been good.

Then early in the 4th period Loris faced a third and 15 situations from near mid-field. The Dillon defense made a jail-break right at the Loris quarterback, who is a great player in his own right. A Loris lineman literally tackled the Dillon defender closing in for the sack. If that was not holding there will never ever be another called for holding ever. Even Dillon head coach Kelvin Roller walked onto the field seeking an explanation for the no-call.

The Loris quarterback was able to scramble away as he gained 20 yards on the play. Both teams played a great game and Loris has a very talented, and well-coached team. However, in my 40 years of walking the sidelines of high school football the aiding the runner call from the one, and the no-call on the holding situation by the same official should be

Rep. Jackie E. Hayes **House District #55** Dillon, SC 843-229-3661



Dillon QB Khayel Fong-Talia hands off to RB Dominic Felton in Loris game (Photo By Joel Beachum)

concerning to everyone who values fairness in a

For the game freshman quarterback K. Sam Fong Talia completed 12-of-24 passes for 190 yards and two touchdowns. The top rusher in the game was senior Dominick Felton who gained 52 yards on 13 carries and one touchdown in the game.

Senior WR Zay Robertson, a North Carolina commitment, was held to just three pass receptions for 64 yards and one touchdown by a tight Loris double coverage. His touchdown catch was a thing of beauty at a very high point in font of two defenders from 28 yards out right on the goal line.

JJ Campbell had four catches for 88 yards, including a 76-yard reception for a TD.

On defense the Nasty Cats attacked all game. Shrine Bowl linebacker Daniel Capehart led the way with 16 total tackles, one sack and two TFL in the game. North-South selection LB Keryien Brown contributed 12 tackles including one sack a done TFL. D Tansley also had a great game on defense with 11 total tackles, one sack, and three TFL. LB Kelvion Manning had 8 tackles and D McClam chipped in with seven tackles and D. Adams had 8

For the season, Samfong-Talia has now completed 58-of-84 passes

for 1.076 yards and 12 TD's. Felton is the top Wildcat rusher with 310 yards on 47 carries and three TD's. Capehart has 193 net rushing yards on 27 carries with 9 touchdowns.

The top tacklers on the hit index after six games are Capehart (52), Brown (49) and D. Adams (40).



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2025 Carolina Academy Bobcats volleyball

Bobcats tennis and volleyball prepare for playoffs

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Lake City – October is championship month in SCISA volleyball and girls tennis and both teams at Carolina Academy are looking forward for their postseason opportunities.

The regular season has ended for the tennis team and the playoffs are slated to begin on Oct. 6. Carolina Academy is the defending state champion and completed the regular season with a 10-4 record.

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

Blythe Smith occupies the No. 2 singles position and Savannah McCutcheon plays No. 3 singles.

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

Eighth-grader Harper Drew Richardson and seventh-grader Ava Johnson also compete in vari-

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

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

Gamble and Johnson combine for No. 1 doubles and Prosser and Watts play two doubles. Lyerly and McElveen are the number three doubles.

Meanwhile, the volleyball team is looking for a strong finish to the regular season and an extended run in the state playoffs.

The Bobcats were 7-6 overall and 3-1 in region play as of Oct. 3.

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

Sophomores include Lauren Sims, Emma Amos, Lindsey Ward, Abby Walker and Ella Ham. Rounding out the roster are freshmen Paisley McCutcheon and Natalie Braveboy; and eighthgrader Ella Grace Johnson.

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

The football team also is hoping for a playoff berth as the head towards the end of the regular season. The Bobcats are 3-4 after an Oct. 3 loss to Williamsburg Academy. Their wins so far are against Thomas Sumter, St. John's Christian and Dillon Christian, while the losses have come to Dorchester Academy, Beaufort Academy and Pee Dee Academy.

The Bobcats have remaining games against Calhoun Academy, Lee Academy and Thomas Heyward

"We play in a tough region with some good teams so we have to be ready to play every night,' coach David Rankin said. "Hopefully we can improve each week and give ourselves a chance."

Lake City starts winning at the right time in '25

By Dennis Brunson hssr.com Associate Editor

Lake City - The Lake City High School football team lost its first four games of the season. However, when it was time for the rubber to meet the road – Region 7-AA play – the Panthers have stepped up.

LCHS opened region play with a 2-1 record. It is one of six teams in the 7-team region with one loss. While Lake City hasn't claimed one of the five spots for the region in the state playoffs, it is a victory away from doing so. That appeared a long way away just a short time ago.

Winning a region title is very much in the cards if the Panthers win out. They are 2-1 along with Kingstree and Mullins, while East Clarendon, Manning and Atlantic Collegiate Academy are all 1-1.

The region loss came to Kingstree by a 22-18

"All of our goals are still in front of us, and it's up to you as the players to make the decision how bad you want to achieve them," head coach Jamison Estep said as to what his message to the team was heading into its 30-28 victory over Mullins on October 3. "They have been challenged to give complete still looking to put a complete game together. Our focus and see how good this team really can be."

Against Mullins, senior quarterback Amari Hanna passed for 166 yards and two touchdowns. LCHS opened its region schedule with a 20-14 triumph over East Clarendon, which was undefeated at 4-0. Hanna was the catalyst in that game as well, passing for 115 yards and a touchdown and rushing for 100 yards and the other two TDs.

Lake City plays host to ACA on October 10 before hitting the road for its final two region games. The Panthers play at winless **Marion** on October 17 and travel to defending region champion Manning

Estep knows there is plenty of room for improve-

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ment for his squad.

"We have yet to play our best ball," he said. "We have shown flashes throughout the season but are offense needs to be more consistent, while the defense needs to continue to increase its physicality.

"As a whole we haven't played up to the potential of this team. We knew the defense was going to take some time to gel with us playing a lot of inexperienced and/or young players. They have shown great improvement over the last (three) games, but still have a lot of room to grow."

Inside linebacker Shayon Shavers is the leading tackler with 60 while linebacker A'Mon Chandler leads in tackles for loss with nine. Cornerback Shakeem Epps is the interceptions leader with three and **Ziyre McFadden** has two.

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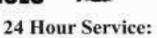
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Williamsburg Academy STALLIONS

a good job.

Stallions football off to great start under Furse

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Kingstree – **Will Furse** couldn't ask for a much better start than what he has achieved in his first season as the football head coach at Williamsburg Academy. The Stallions won their first five games and were ranked No. 1 in the High School Sports Report SCISA Class A poll.

"We've gotten off to a great start," Furse said. "We have a really good group of young men, who are not only great players, but they care about each other, lifting each other up. It hasn't been easy every week, but our players and coaches are all working hard."

Of course, Furse inherited a tremendous program. Williamsburg has played for a state championship each of the past four years. The first two were under **Don Shelley** while the last two were under **Tyler Boyd**. The Stallions won the AA state title in 2022.

If you take a look at Williamsburg's statistics through the first five games, it's not hard to see the reason for the success. The Stallions can run the football. They were averaging 345 yards a game.

Leading the way is junior running back **Grant Small**. He was averaging 207.4 yards per game, picking up 1,037 yards and 15 touchdowns on just 73 carries.

"Grant is a very powerful runner," Furse said. "He runs behind the pads, he's explosive, he's good in traf-

fic, and he has a gear that not many people can match. "Not only is he a very good player, but he has developed into one of the team leaders, and that's something I proud to see.'

There's more to the rushing attack than Small though. Senior quarterback **Micah Balder** is averaging just under 70 yards a contest, havin 348 yards and four touchdowns on 27 carries. Sophomore **Eli Brown** is just under 60 a game with 299 yardds and four touchdowns on 45 carries.

"It's good to be able to run the ball like this, but it's good to have balance," Furse said. "We've been working on it a lot. Grant's not getting a ton of carries (averaging just under 15 a game). It's between him, Micah Balder and Eli Brown

We've had a lot of big plays with 10 or 11 runs of 50 yards or more. The big plays come because our offensive line is doing a tremendous job blocking and our receivers are doing a phenomenal job blocking on the outside."

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

Balder was averaging just seven passes a contest but that's because the running game has been so successful, not because he can't spin the football. The 2year starter threw for 1,072 yards and 14 touchdowns

Balder, who also started the first five games of his sophomore season, has completed 17 of 36 passes for 326 yards and four touchdowns against no intercep-

Furse is more than happy to be able to put Balder behind center every Friday night.

"Micah's got a ton of game experience so he never panics," Furse said. "He has the legs to run the football, and when we call on him to throw the football he's done



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"He has a tremendous effect on the game. Against Florence Christian (a 34-21 triumph), he had a Pick 6 (interception return for a touchdown), an 81-yard touchdown run and a 50-yard run that set up another touchdown. He can do a lot of things to put stress on the opposing defense.

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

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Junior tight end Charlie Caulder has been Balder's primary target with 10 catches for 183 yards and two touchdowns. Senior wide receiver Jay Kellahan had four catches for 98 yards and a touchdown.

Furse has been extremely pleased with the performance of the defense. The Stallions have allowed just 62 points in the first five games.

"Our defense has played really well all year," he said. "We've done a good job against the run and we've been strong in pass coverage too. We've forced turnovers, done a good job of taking the ball.

"Our defense plays with a lot of physicality and an aggressive nature and it shows. We have a lot of guys who get to the football and understand their assign-

Ard was the leading tackler from his linebacker position with 52. Caulder, also a linebacker, had 26 tackles and a team high five tackles for loss. Kellahan, another returning linebacker, had 30 tackles.

Williamsburg had forced nine turnovers, six via interceptions and three by fumble recoveries. Junior defensive back **Hall Dukes** had four picks with Balder picking up the other two from his safety position. Sophomore defensive back Gamble Wilson had two recoveries and junior linebacker Seth Cherinko had the

The Stallions began their Region 1 schedule on October 3 by traveling to Lake City to face Carolina Academy. They play host to Lee Academy on October 10 before playing a couple of non-region games. They travel to **St. George** to meet **Dorchester** Academy in their final region game on October 31.

"It's a new season now," Furse said. "We started 5-0 and we could have started 0-5, but now you throw everything you've already done out the window. We have to win going forward. What we did yesterday or last week does not help us tomorrow. That's where our

"We've got to continue to be hungry, practice hard, do the things we need to do in the weight room and just be coachable all the while maintaining a humble attitude. With that spirit, that frame of mind, we'll continue to do well."



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ANDERSON







Lake View making progress despite slow start

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Lake View – It's not a regular occurrence for the Lake View High football team to have two losses through five games in a season, but entering a key game against undefeated Carver's Bay on Oct. 10, the Wild Gators were 3-2 on the season.

Lake View's two losses came to Johnsonville and Scott's Branch, two solid Class A teams. If not for a few mistakes, the Wild Gators may have won both of those close

Mistakes are expected with this year's team as head coach Daryl King has had to play a lot of new faces this season. But he says the team has worked hard to correct their mistakes and continues to show improvement.

"We have worked hard to fix the issues and the kids have responded," King said. "I'll say this about this team, they work really hard. Effort and attitude are not an issue at all. These guys take to coaching and they really try to play better. We're smaller in size than anyone we play so we have to be aggressive and play with great effort in order to compete. This group is doing that."

After Carver's Bay, Lake View has region games with Latta and Green Sea Floyds.

"There are no breaks in this region," King said. "Every Friday night is a big game. It's going to be a challenge but it is every year. You just know when you play a region game, it's going to be a tough game."

There are many new faces in new positions this season, none more important than quarterback. The Wild Gators lost three-year starter Kason Herlong to graduation and is turning to senior Chase Price this season. Price has been the backup for two years but has not sat idle on the sidelines. The 6-2, 215-pounder was the starting center last season.

"I'm pretty sure that doesn't happen too often but Chase is a good quarterback," King

Price has thrown for more than 600 yards in five games, including 154 yards in a recent 6-0 win over Hannah-Pamplico. In the season-opening win over Marion, Price rushed for 82 yards and two touchdowns on seven carries, and completed 11-of-19 passes for 136 yards and two more touchdowns.

"He has looked in control and very comfortable all season," King said.

The running game is led by junior Jalen Clarke and senior Landon King. Leading the receiving corps are **Yuri**

Richardson and Anniel Rowland. Richardson had a 60-yard touchdown catch against Marion. Terrance Alford also has played well at receiver. A returning starter along the offensive line is

senior guard Farrion Seymore. Junior Alonzo **Hamilton** is the other guard, while freshman Riley McCormick has earned the nod at center.



Quarterback Chase Price

The starting tackles are **Jaden Jones** and **Fin**

"The key is we have to execute. We have to block and tackle and attack on every snap. We want some of our younger guys to push the starters in practice because building some depth

Tyree Fore is a senior returning starter at one defensive end while junior **Balin Rice** is the other end. Working inside at nose are senior

Returning senior Landon King heads up the linebackers, averaging about 10.5 tackles per game. Freshman Gabe Lee also plays inside with King. The outside backers are **Alford** and senior **Seth Deese**, a returning starter.

Clarke and senior **Bryce King** are the starting safeties, with Rowland and JT Atkinson working at corner.

King says Paradise, Fore, Landon King and Deese have been key performers on the defense **Volleyball Update**

stretch of the regular season in solid shape to make the Class A state playoffs. As of Oct. 7, Lake View was 6-3 in region 5-A.

kills with 79. Senior **Nevaeh Price** leads defensively with 152 digs. Sophomore Sarah Price has 93 digs and 24 kills while freshman Sophia Rogers has 33 kills

man Lauren King has 64 digs and junior Chloe Cox has 62 digs.

Other members of the team are senior **Desiree Dawkins** and Cally Smith, junior Madison Strickland and sophomore Hanna Coburn.



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Miller.

is very important early on."

Nick McNeil and junior Elijah Paradise.

The Lake View volleyball team hits the final

Senior Kirsten McClellan leads the team in

and 34 assists. Fresh-



Tommy Parker

Florence Area Feature Page

Wilson has Tigers playing good football this fall

By Dennis Brunson hssr.com Associate Eitor

Florence – The **Wilson High School** football team went just 1-9 last season and had just 13 victories over the five previous seasons coming into this year.

Enter Brian Wilson

Having been an assistant coach at **Sumter** for several years, Wilson was hired as the Tigers new head coach. It's been so far, so very good to date. Wilson is 5-2 overall and 2-1 in Region 5-AAAA.

Wilson – the head coach, not the school – admits even he is surprised by the success so far. He gives the credit to his players though

"Above," was Wilson's response when asked if the Tigers had played at, above or below his expectations coming into the year. "They have grown a lot since I arrived. Their ability to fight to win has increased."

Wilson's two losses have both been by less than a touchdown to Gilbert and perennial power Hartsville. The Tigers lost to Gilbert 29-28 in overtime and to Hartsville 27-21. Both of the games were on the road.

Wilson's victories are perhaps more impressive than the losses. The Tigers own wins over AAAAA schools Conway and West Florence, perennial AAA power and region foes Lakewood and Crestwood.

Senior quarterback Tristen Howard leads the offense, completing 74 of 115 passes for 913 yards and 11 touchdowns against six interceptions through six games. Howard's top target is senior **Myquan McWhite**. He had 36 catches for 482 yards and five touchdowns. Junior Kay-

den Bethea has 17 caches for 227 yards and three touchdowns, and junior Davon Bowman has eight catches for 76 yards and two touchdowns.

McWhite was the leading rusher with 206 yards and three scores on 35 carries. Senior Caleb Collins had 187 yards on 72 carries, and senior Taumaury Echols had 160 vards and four scores on 38 carries.

The defense is led by senior outside linebacker Jaden **Boston**, who had 64 tackles and 10 tackles for loss, both team highs. Junior linebacker **Jordan Davis** had 44 tackles and sophomore linebacker Jaquan Burgess had 42. Bowman, a safety, had a team high four interceptions and 33 tackles, while Echols, a defensive end, had two picks and 34 tackles.

Wilson plays at Lower Richland on October 9. A victory there sets it up for a showdown against defending AAAA state champion **South Florence** on October 17 with the region title possibly on the line.

The Bruins, who have won two of the last three AAAA state titles, are 5-1 and 2-0 in region play. Bruins head coach **Drew Marlowe** said his team is continuing to progress as a unit.

"We need to continue to improve in order to achieve our goals for this season," said Marlowe, who has led South Florence to a 46-5 record over the past 3 ½ seasons. See Florence Area, pg. 57



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Minton happy with Florence Christian's start

By Dennis Brunson hssr.com Associate Editor

Florence - Veteran Florence Christian School football head coach **Neil Minton** knew the Eagles were going to have to take a different approach to their preparation this season. Whereas FCS has generally been a big, physical team on both sides of the football during Minton's tenure, it has had to be more of a "finesse" team this year.

And so far, Florence Christian has adjusted well. The

Eagles won four of their five non-region contests as they prepare to open SCISA Region 2-AAA against Camden Military on October 10.

"I think we're playing pretty good football," said Minton, whose team's only loss was 34-21 to undefeated Williamsburg. "We're a little undersized and we're not impressive looking when we get off the bus, but I like the character of our team. So far it's been a good season for

See Florence Christian, pg. 6

Silver Foxes feeling good entering region play

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Lamar – Tyler Boyd admits that he feels a lot better about his Lamar High School football team after five games than he did after three.

That's what a pair of victories over AA schools – 62-36 over Lake City and 47-0 over North Central – by the Class A Silver Foxes can do for you.

"The last two games we've played have been a lot better," said Boyd, who is in his first year as the head coach at his alma mater. "We've really played better on the offensive side, a lot less blown assignments. Defensively we seemed to come together last week."

LHS had allowed 134 points in the first four games before pitching the shutout against North Central, which was undefeated entering the game.

Lamar has been led defensively by sophomore defensive end **Mont Williams**. He led the team with five tackles for loss through the first five games, including three quarterback sacks. Junior middle linebacker **DQ** Green is the leading tackler with 17 and leads in interceptions with two. He also had a sack and had caused a fumble.

Senior 4-year starting quarterback **Zori Pierce** is the unequivocal leader of the offense. The **Touch**stone Energy Cooperatives Bowl selection had 365 yards and 10 touchdowns on 60 carries. He had completed 44 of 73 passes for 817 yards and five TDs.

Boyd admits he was very happy to inherit Pierce in his senior season.

"It's been great," Boyd said. "He is one who's

been on every week. He carried us the first few weeks and that was great to have."

The Silver Foxes were averaging 242 rushing yards a game. Senior Nygel Eaddy was close behind Pierce with 311 yards and three scores on 45 carries, and junior Jaquez Dargan ha 223 yards and four TDs on 39 carries.

Senior **Jojo Morris** is the leading receiver with 16 catches for 274 yards and three touchdowns. Green has 10 catches or 223 yars and one score, and senior **Kamil McCoy** had nine catches for 142 yards and a score.

LHS opened play in Region 2 with a home game against McBee on October. It plays at Great Falls and Lee Central before closing out the regular season at home against C.A. Johnson and Lewisville.

"Hopefully our best football IS ahead of us, Boyd said. "Special teams, offense and defense, that (the North Central game) was the

starting who are playing

like juniors."

first time we put it altogether. "I feel we are getting tougher, as we started out not very tough. We did

Tommy Parker not have a lot of varsity experience. Now we've Specializing in got sophomores who are



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Panthers making noise on the volleyball court

By Roger Lee

Special to the HSSR

Summerville – Pinewood Prep is battling to improve its standing in its region.

The **Panthers** are out to an 11-8 start and in fourth place for their region with a 3-6 mark in region matches. With four regular season matches remaining, Pinewood is only a couple of wins away from topping last year's 12 regular-season wins.

"We beat **Ashley Hall** for the first time in 27 years," said Pinewood coach Tuesdie Abernathy. "They are playing as a team and it's beautiful to watch. They are jelling, covering the court, talking more and they aren't scared to swing.'

Prior to its 3-2 win over Ashley Hall Sept. 16, the last time Pinewood defeated the Panthers on the volleyball court came when **Pat Eidson** was the team's coach. Long ago he gave up that job to focus more on boys' basketball, but the volleyball squad does feature a pair of Eidsons this

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Team captain Maddie Eidson is the daughter of Eidson's son, Chuck, and his wife, Samantha. The junior middle blocker/hitter is an accomplished travel-ball athlete who received all-region and all-star honors last year. Her mother, who played volleyball at the University of **South Carolina**, is the team's assistant coach.

Setter Caroline Brabham, the squad's sole senior, is the team's other captain.

"Maddie shuts teams down in the middle," Abernathy said. "Her growth has been unreal and it's been fun to watch her unleash this year. We run a 6-2 and Caroline, along with Stella Kemp, is doing a fantastic job feeding the hitters so we are able to get better kills. We have a team full of leaders. Our bench cheers with heart the entire time. Our setters are doing great and our Liberos get balls not everyone can."

The only two new members of the team are Anna

See Pinewood Prep, pg. 61

Porter Gaud volleyball set for another deep run

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Charleston – As one of the premier volleyball programs in SCISA, it isn't any surprise that the Porter-Gaud volleyball team is again a state title contender in the AAAA ranks of the private school league.

Coach **Megan Crouch** again has a strong team with a good mix of upper and lower classmen. Entering play on Oct. 3, the Cyclones were 17-12 overall and 6-2 in region play. Both region losses came to Palmetto Christian, another state contender.

Porter-Gaud will be a part of the state tournament and Crouch hopes her team can play their best volleyball when it counts most.

"We want to finish out the region strong, and make a deep run in the state tournament by playing disciplined volleyball and leaning into our strengths as a team," the

Leadership on this year's team is provided by the two seniors – Allie Abernathy and Gracie Coleman, both middle hitters.

"Allie provides guidance through her knowledge and experience, setting the tone for the team on and off the court. Gracie brings positivity and energy, molding is into a fun-spirited squad.'

Abernathy dominates at the net offensively and puts

up a big block for opponents" Crouch said. "She brings exceptional knowledge and experience to the game, guiding the team as a true leader. She will continue her volleyball career at Georgia Tech next season.'

Abernathy also plays a setter position and has 314 assists to go with 246 kills, 33 blocks and 162 digs. Coleman has 31 blocks.

Another key performer is junior Libero **Kylie Pure**, who is "pure consistency in serve receive and the anchor of our strong defense." Pure has 286 digs. Sophomore outside hitter Malava Singletary is "a

tary has totaled 261 kills, 19 blocks and 195 digs. Making it all go offensively is sophomore setter Harriett Maetnaer, who plays with speed and confidence.

huge arm on the outside and a strong defender." Single-

She has 339 assists and 112 digs. Crouch feels her squad's strengths include having a balanced offense with multiple scoring threats while also having a disciplined and reliable defense. She feels this year's team has strong chemistry and energy that fuels the competitiveness. It is a young but talented team."

Other members of the team this fall include sophomores Laney Bargamer, Anna Poliakoff and Gianna Malgradi; freshman Eliza Coker (31 blocks), and eighthgrader Anouk Barnes (144 digs), and freshmen Harper Pure, Elly Tibbals and Evie Lail.

2025 Ashley Hall Panthers tennis

Ashley Hall tennis posts undefeated record

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Charleston – There is no better way to prepare a team for the postseason than playing a competitive schedule against top teams. Win or lose, the benefits out-weigh the costs in most cases.

Playing a tough schedule and completing the regular season with a 20-0 record is most definitely going to prepare a team for the playoffs.

That's the story of the **Ashley Hall** tennis team this fall. In an effort to prepare for the SCISA state tournament, and to defend the state championship they won last season, coach Charlotte Hartsock has her team as ready as they can be for another playoff run.

"Our season is going very well," reports Hartsock. "We completed our regular season at 20-0. Highlights were winning the pre-season tournament in Florence, defeating Myrtle Beach, T.L. Hanna and A.C. Flora in that tournament. We also won the Bishop England tournament beating Charlotte Latin School, Mauldin and Wando. We

beat Lucy Beckam for the second time this season in a regular dual match to close out the regular season." The team is led by senior **Lily Sloan**, who plays the

No. 1 singles position and has proven to be among the top players in the state. Junior Emily Kaye plays the No. 2 singles and freshman Bridgette DeWolf plays No. 3 singles. Senior

Emma Tedford plays No. 4 singles with senior Grace

Taylor playing No. 5. Rounding out the singles ladder is

sophomore Charlotte Guffey and No. 6. Other members of the 2025 team include freshman Finleigh Anderson, junior Lillie Jackson, sophomore Bella Gray McCurry, junior Leighton Staebel, senior Kate Strenck and sophomore Elle Webster. Anderson and McCurry have formed the No. 2 doubles team in most

The SCISA state playoffs are held in the second week of October. Hartsock awaits the brackets to be released on Oct. 6. The coach realizes the competition will be fierce and never counts her chickens before they hatch.

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ASHLEY HALL



"There will be very tough competition from schools in Hilton Head, Columbia and Florence. We will take it one match at a time," she said.

All Area

Dillon Christian opens up region play with big win

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Dillon – The season to date hasn't been what **Chris** Alphin envisioned his first year in charge of the Dillon Christian School football team would be, but the Warriors certainly picked the right time to have one of the good moments.

DCS jumped out to a 13-0 lead after one quarter and never looked back as sophomore quarterback Jordan **Blackmon** led it to a 39-13 road victory over **St. John's** Christian Academy in its SCISA Region 1-AA opener on October 3.

Blackmon completed 10 of 12 passes for 157 yards and three touchdowns while rushing for 120 yards and another score on 16 carries.

Alphin said the strategy entering the game was to play solid defense, get comfortable running the football and let Blackmon do his thing running and throwing the football

"It's a treat to be that close to talent," Alphin said of Blackmon. On the season for the 2-4 Warriors, Blackmon has completed 60 of 114 passes for 1,149 yards and seven touchdowns while rushing for 478 yards and seven touchdowns on 61 carries.

Senior **R Bracey** was Blackmon's top target with four catches for 71 yards and a touchdown. Senior **Zachary** Ellis had two catches for 50 yards and a touchdown, and sophomore Gray Easterling had two catches for 30 yards.

For the season, Bracey has 29 catches for 680 yards and six touchdowns.

Junior middle linebacker Ethan Moody and senior defensive lineman Braxton Cummings led the Dillon Christian defense with five tackles for loss apiece. Senior outside linebacker Tripp Hyatt had three TFLs.



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Junior placekicker **Scott Burgarin** was 4 of 5 on etra point attempts and booted a 40-yard field goal.

DCS has region games left with defending AA state runner-up Bethesda Academy on October 10 and defending AA state champion **Pee Dee Academy** on October 31. Alphin hopes the win over St. John's was the start of a strong push to end the season.

"We are still trying to shake the monkey off our back, and I think we got one palm off Friday, but we want to be consistent," Alphin said. "There's been too many mood

swings. It's time to turn the page and time for these guys to see the big picture and earn what they deserve.

"In the last three weeks I'm looking for performance that earns a playoff bid. That's what the seniors wanted during offseason camp. That's what we will work toward, being a great team. If we aren't working toward that thaere's no reason to show up."



THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

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the SCISA state meet at the end of October.

The team has competed in several quality meets and athletes are showing improvement each week. The most recent runner to be at the top of the list is Mikey Jackson. George Doyle, Walker Timbes, Matthew Roof and **Tyler Katz** round out the top six in most events.

The state swim meet for SCISA will be on Oct. 11.

First Baptist volleyball building for strong future

By David Shelton

Senior Writer James Island - Building a winning athletic program or team can be time-consuming. There is no magic wand to be waved that can turn a team into a champion in a

Hard work and commitment are necessary to build a winning culture, not only from the coaching staff but also from the players.

Zuri Sanford is in her first season as the head volleyball coach at First Baptist School and, as can be expected, the 2025 season has had its ups and downs. Entering play on Oct. 2, the Hurricanes were 9-11 overall but had yet win a region game in one of the state's most competitive regions. Nonetheless, Sanford is laying the ground work this season for future successes.

"We are a young but strong team in the midst of a culture-changing year," the coach says. "They are working hard to prove to everybody that we are a competitive team and worth the respect. These girls are putting in the work every day in the gym to get better and I believe it shows

every time we step on the court."

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

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

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

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

Sanford is assisted this season by **Taylor Edwards** and Christie Crawford.

While the volleyball team is nearing the end of their season, the cross country team is looking to compete in

Injuries have hindered Lee Academy this fall

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Bishopville – The Lee Academy football team experienced injury issues last season that played a part in it finishing with a 3-7-1 record. The Cavaliers are going through another rash of injuries this season and it again is having a negative effect on the season.

"Injuries have been a true concern," said LA head coach **Justin Logan**, who is 1-4 in his first year in charge after serving as an assistant last year. "At one point against **Beaufort (Academy)** a few weeks ago, we had seven starters out at one time in the second and third quarters. Luckily, we have gotten some guys back."

Logan is hoping Lee will travel to **Kingstree** on October 10 to take on undefeated Williamsburg Academy with "maybe only two or three" players out. The Stallions' head coach is Will Furse, who was the Cavaliers' head coach last season.

Logan expects **Andrew Bowers** to be one of the players back from injury. Bowers missed one game, but he was still LA's leading rusher through the first four games. He had 170 yards and two scores on 26 carries, had completed 5 of 8 passes for 105 yards and a score and had four catches for 48 yards.

"Currently the team is struggling offensively," Logan said. "Bowers' return will certainly give the team a boost on both sides of the ball. Coming down the stretch we just have to start faster on offense and make sure to get ball carriers on the ground and not have busted assign-

"We don't have any gimmes the rest of the season, and if we want to have a chance we will have to play solid, complementary football."

Quarterback **Brayden Davis** has completed 16 of 36 passes for 199 yards and two touchdowns while running for 35 yards and a touchdown on eight carries. Landon **Olsen** was the only other Cavalier with over 100 rushing yards with 104 on 47 carries.

Cato June is LA's top pass catcher. He had 12 receptions for 206 yards.

The Cavaliers have struggled defensively, allowing]7 points in five games. ewas Lee's leading tackler with 28, while Olson had 24 and Carter Berendzen had 15. Boyce, Berendzen and Luke Richardson each had a sack, Parts & Tire while **Hampton Layton** led in tackles for loss with five. Richardson and Boyce had three apiece. Olsen, June and Davis each had an interception.

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Bamberg County Feature Page

Bamberg-Ehrhardt volleyball looks to make run

By Neill Kirkpatrick **Special to the HSSR**

Bamberg – Bamberg is known as a football and baseball town but in the past ten years the volleyball program has joined their ranks as they have become one of the top-class A programs in the state with runner up finishes in 2021 and 22 and several deep play off runs.

Heading into the season they expected more of the same but they would be breaking in a new coach for the second consecutive year in Faron

"As a first-year coach, I honestly didn't know what to expect. I knew I would have to get to know the team first but I wanted to come in with set intentions. I wanted my girls to show up with effort, support each other, and hold themselves to a high standard, both on and off the court," said coach Mixon.

Coach continued, "To keep the success going, we need to stay locked in on the fundamentals. We have to serve tough, pass with purpose, and stay aggressive at the net. It's about staying consistent, communicating every play, and trusting each other on and off the court. Every rep in practice has to matter. If we show up with intensity, discipline, and a team-first attitude, we'll keep building momen-

The success has been there as the Red Raiders won their first 13 matches before suffering their first match loss to SCISA power Andrew Jackson Academy 3-1. Despite the loss they are 13-1/7-0 in region play. They have rapped up the number one seed from region 4A. They finish the season with four non-region matches with biggest one being the regular season finale against area rival and one of

the top AAA Orangeburg Wilkinson (16-3/4-1).

The Red Raiders are led by senior hitters Ezariah Williams and Briaunjenai McMillan. The are the "Power" at the net for the Red Raiders. Williams has a team high 82 kills while McMillian is second with 52 kills. McMillian leads the team in blocks with 19 and Willaims is second

Coach Mixon said, "Ezariah and Briaunjenai have quick, powerful arm swings but they are also able to hit with precision.'

Senior Carmyn Stukes has solid platform mechanics. She delivers accurate, controlled passes that set up the offense consistently.

Raelynn Jarrett, a junior, has moved to setter this year and is having a great as the quarterback of the team. She leads the team in assists with 102. She also has 32 kills and 51 aces.

"Raelynn has really taken to setting this year and has really taken the position to heart. She hustles every play, makes smart decisions in tight situations, knows when to be aggressive, and isn't afraid to attack with a well-timed dump," said coach Mixon.

Sophomore **Ashlyn Hightower** has shown her overall ability on the court for the Red Raiders. She leads the team with 64, digs with 83, serve receiving with 65 and is third on the team in kills with 39.

The rest of the varsity roster are **Peyton Kit**trell, Olivia Nix, Maia Mintz, Jazmyn Milhouse, and Joslyn Bishop. Bishop, an eighth grader is second on the team in assists with 69.



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Vikings going through tough growing pains

By Neill Kirkpatrick Special to the HSSR

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

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

The Vikings sit at 1-6/0-1 with their lone win coming on the road against Burke 22-12. Their six losses have come against teams with experienced line ups that have taken advantage of every single mistake the Vikings have made on the field.

The season comes down to their last three games. Win two of them and they can secure a playoff spot which would be a great learning experience for this young football team. They will travel to Hardeeville 1-6/0-2 and Allendale Fairfax 0-6/0-0 before hosting class A's number one team and area rival Bamberg Ehrhardt 7-0/1-0.

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

Nyheem Brimfield (6-4,230) is one of the sophomores that gained varsity game experience as a freshman. He plays several positions on both sides of the ball.

Offensively, running back **Trevine Felder** (5-5,150), tight end **Dilan Hammonds** (6-5,208), left tackle Chris Felder (5-11, 272), and left guard Blake Brown (5-9,280) are sophomores that have had an impact. They are taking their lumps but they work hard every day in practice. Hammonds is also a two-way player as he plays on the defensive line.

Two freshman that have been a surprise since the season started are defensive back **Antonio** Williams (5-7,145) and wide receiver and defensive back Lamar Greggs (5-7,143). Both have been fearless despite being freshman.

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

A couple of juniors that have been solid are defensive back **Nyheem Williams** (5-9,145) and

right Tackle **Mari Moody** (6-4,230). Both are returning starters with Moody getting looks from colleges. The Vikings Volleyball team has a record of

5-4/5-3 and with two matches left they are in great position to make the class A playoffs. They are led by junior **Joy Johnson** and senior Kimorah Hammond. Hammond is in her third

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BARNWELL Warhorses







Jayden Peeples

Nehemiah Brown

Barnwell going through rare rebuilding year

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Barnwell—Ever now and then all teams in tradition rich football towns face a rebuilding year and the 2025 Barnwell Warhorses are experiencing such a season as their 19-14 loss to Lake Marion last week dropped the teams record to 2-5 and 0-1.

One year after playing in the AA state title game against Clinton, Barnwell has lost five straight games after starting the season 2-0.

Running back Nehemiah Brown did everything he could to help Barnwell win the game against Lake Marion by rushing for 274 yards and scoring both Warhorse touchdowns in the close loss.

After the Lake Marion game, head coach Brian Smith said, "Proud of the fight in our guys tonight," he said. "We had a much better week of practice this week and I think some of it showed in the game.

"We didn't make enough big plays tonight to win the game," said Coach Smith. "Penalties hurt us all night long on both sides of the football. It's difficult when you're struggling to overcome lots and lots of penalties.

"Special teams let us down tonight with two block punts," said Coach Smith.

We've got to improve that immediately. This left a bad taste in our mouths. We will go into the open week and try to regroup and plan ahead moving forward to our game against Hampton County in two weeks.

"A lot of goals are still in front of us," said Coach Smith. "However, we are going to have to really improve on the things that are causing us to lose games. All in all. It was much better against Lake Marion and I thought we played much harder. It was tough for us to overcome the penalties and the two blocked punts."

One bright spot for the Barnwell team was the selection of offensive lineman Jackson Bed**ingfield** to the North-South all-star game to be played in Myrtle Beach this December. Bedingfield has been a starter up-front for three sea-

sons. He will join Coach Smith at the all-star game as Smith is a coach in the game.

"Jackson Bedingfield is one of the biggest leaders we have in our program," said Coach Smith about the lineman's selection to the allstar game. "Even when he was younger, he worked hard and set a great example for the other players, younger or older.

"As a senior he has excelled and rarely comes off the field," said Coach Smith. "He has consistently been our best offensive and defensive lineman. The leadership and energy he provide each day is immeasurable. I'm very honored and excited about coaching him in the Touchstone Energy Bowl in December."

Barnwell started off the 2025 season with back-to-back wins over **Blackville-Hilda** (22-6) and Williston-Elko (49-6). After that the team lost five straight games against Bamberg Ehrhardt, South Aiken, Swansea, Silver Bluff and Lake Marion.

They will play **Hampton County** on October, 17. The final games of the regular season are on the road at **Edisto** October, 24th and at Whale Branch on October, 31st.

Heading into the game against Silver Bluff earlier in the season the offensive stats leaders included: Quarterback Josiah Gibson had completed 10-of-13 passes for 168 yards and a touchdown. The leading Warhorse rushers were Jayden Peeples who had gained 376 yards on 35 carries with four touchdowns. Brown had netted out 180 yards on 52 carries and three touchdowns at that point in the season. Running back Marcus Jacobs had contributed 162 yards at that point in the season.

Damahjai Devore was the top receiver going into the Silver Bluff game with 9 catches for 143 yards and a touchdown. Peeples had two catches for 71 yards and a touchdown. Senior place kicker Lane Evans, a three-year starter, had made all three of his Pat's nd he had made a field goal from 41 yards.

After he team's early season win over Williston-Elko, Coach Smith commented, "Very proud Randy Reece - Class of '98 Salutes the Warhorses! Pressing Club Cleaners (803) 259-0708 Moore Law Firm - (803) 259-2021 The Will Davis family salutes Barnwell!



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of the win over Williston-Elko and **Jayden Peeples** led the way with 175 yards and two touchdowns. Our offensive line played very well. We ran for 275 yards in the first half. Our defense limited the Blue Devil attack."

Holly Hill Academy football wins first seven games

Clarendon Hall volleyball has massive turnover

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

By David Shelton

Senior Writer

Holly Hill – Entering the final stretch of the regular season, the Holly Hill Academy football team sits at 7-0 overall with eyes on contending for the SCISA eight-man state title.

The Raiders won three straight state titles and played in four straight finals before getting upset last season. First-year head coach **Stradford Hydrick** is pleased with the way his team has started but realizes that improvement is needed if they hope to contend for a title once again

"There's plenty to work on," Hydrick said. "We need to improve defensively, particularly against the pass. We're going to see some teams that throw it pretty well in the playoffs and we just need to be more consistent. We have to tackle better in the open field."

To that end, the Raiders picked up three interceptions in an Oct. 3 win over Palmetto Christian Academy. Hydrick says his team's effort has been good all

"The best thing about this team is how hard they play," said Hydrick. "This group plays their hearts out every Friday. If we can continue to do that we have a

The Raiders have lost two players to season-ending knee injuries, including a key defender Jason Iiler. Iler had more than 30 tackles and 13 tackles for loss.

Junior Tyler Green has been a defensive leader with more than 50 tackles and 17 tackles for loss. Sophomore **Kaz Brown** had 10 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks through six games. Sophomore **Jaxon Jones** is averaging better than five tackles per game.

Summerton – Talk about your turnovers.

There were six seniors on the **Clarendon Hall**

volleyball team a season ago. This year there is not

one senior on the 10=player roster and just one jun-

up as well. No longer is it Shannon Corbett. In-

stead, it is now Shannon Rogers due to her offsea-

Despite having all of that experience returning

Class A state tournament inn 2023, Clarendon Hall

only posted a 2-13 record. The Lady Saints were off

to what Clarendon Hall is doing in regards to its ro-

"As for my starters, it depends on the game,"

coach. "I have not had a consistent rotation yet this

Three players return from last season's roster. Al-

lison Truett is the lone junior, while **AJ Clark** and

Brynli Brewer are two of seven sophomores. The

sophomore newcomers are Aubree Richardson,

year due to injuries. It has been changing game by

game. Each girl has earned at least one start this

said Rogers, who is in her third season as head

Rogers admits there has been no rhyme or reason

last year from a 14-8 team that made the SCISA

The Lady Saints head coach even changed things

By Dennis Brunson

to a 2-7 start this season.

hssr.com Associate Eitor

Offensively, the story has been junior running back Parker Kizer. Though only about 5-5, 135-pounds, Kizer has played much bigger. He is nearing 2,000 rushing yards and has rushed for 30 touchdowns. Sophomore Jake Kirven is playing quarterback but is more of a running threat with more than 200 yards. Senior **Mason Driggers** is anchoring the offensive

The Raiders play King's Academy on Oct. 10. Fol lowed by an off date, they will close out the regular season with games against Cross School and Jefferson Davis Academy, the team's biggest rival.

Meanwhile, the volleyball team also is looking forward to a good run in the playoffs. The Lady Raiders went 9-6 in their first 15 outings, including a 2-0 start in region play.

The team has only three seniors – Kaley Bell, Abbygail Burleson and McKenzie Ferguson.

Juniors include Essie Wolpert, Kloie Mizell, Kaylee Cuttino and Shelby Hinson.

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



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Ella Stukes, Emery Earnhardt, Kayln McCormic and **Logan Osteen**. The roster is rounded out by freshman Annie Carlye Martens and freshman Lily Grace Harris. Clarendon Hall is part of the 4-team Region 1-AAA along with Calhoun Academy, Orangeburg

Prepatory School and Thomas Sumter Academy.

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Clarendon Hall will be trying to earn a berth in the state tournament, which is set for October 24-25 in Myrtle Beach.

CLARENON HALL FOOTBALL 0-7

Despite getting off to a promising start under first-year head coach Shane Wallace, the Clarendon Hall football team still finds itself mired in a long losing streak.

The Saints are 0-7 so far this season and now own an 18-game losing streak stretching over three seasons. They went 0-10 last season and lost their final game of the 2023 campaign. It happened to be in the first round of the Class A state playoffs as Clarendon Hall finished that campaign with an 8-3

The Saints have played at the AA level since then and have obviously struggled. The opened the season with a 27-12 loss to **Spartanburg Christian Academy** and followed that up with a 29-27 loss to Patrick Henry Academy.

Then the offense shut down. Clarendon Hall suffered four consecutive shutout losses, 40-0 to Williamsburg Academy, 41-0 to Orangeburg Prep, 56-0 to Colleton Prep Academy and 34-0 to Andrew Jackson Academy. That streak came to an end on October 3 in a 55-8 loss to Thomas Sumter.

It doesn't get any easier for the Saints, who are 0-3 in Region 2=AA. After playing undefeated **Dorchester Academy** in a non-region road tilt on October 10, they have a bye week. They close out the regular season with a home game against 5-2 **Greenwood Christian School** on October 24 before going on the road for a short trip to St. Matthews to face 6-1 Calhoun Academy on October 31.

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Hammond cross country runners trimming times

By WORTHY EVANS

Staff Writer

Columbia - The **Hammond** cross country teams are looking at another year of personal bests and strong finishes as the fall season plays out.

The girls team won the Wilson Hall/Thomas **Sumter** invitational in Sumter Sept. 24, with senior **Emme Crosland** finishing second with a time of 20 minutes, 10.39 seconds, and junior Megan Joye taking third with a time of 20.21.65. Behind Crosland and Joye were eighth-grader **Kelsey King** finishing 14th, sixth-grader Riley Housman finishing 19th and sophomore **Mia Kosciusco** in the 22nd spot.

In that event the boys team took fifth, with junior **Charles Webb** finishing in 10th place with a time of 18:07.04. Behind Webb were junior Hayes Martin at 24th, sophomore **Finn Delage** in 37th, **Gibson Adams** at 41st and **Travis Peebles** at 52nd.

"It's been a really strong season so far," Hammond head coach **Noel Schuch** said. "So far the girls won the Wilson Hall meet, which has given them so much extra confidence at this point in the season. Earlier, especially with the demands of school, their bodies were tired, but now they're settled into the school year."

The strongest runners have been Crosland and Joye. Crosland didn't run in the Mike Moore Invitational tournament at Saluda Shoals park Sept. 13, but Joye finished third in that event to lead the girls to a fifth-place finish in the 21-team field. Crosland finished fifth and Joye sixth in their home event, the Skyhawk Invitational Sept. Aug. 16, and led Hammond to a fifth-place finish in the 28-team field.

"Emme and Megan have been having their best times this year," Shuch said. "Emme won first in the Camden Invitational and Megan placed fourth, and they have consistently run faster ever since."

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

The Camden Invitational, officially the Battle of Camden 2025, took place Aug. 23. Crosland took first with a time of 19:23.19 and Joye came in fourth with a

Besides Crosland and Joye, newcomer Housman and returner King have been impressive as well. Kosciusko rounds out the usual top five, but freshman Madison Kyzer and eighth-grader Claire Hartley are among several girls on the roster to push the leaders.

The top returning runner on the boys team is Webb, followed by Martin, Delage, Adams and Peebles. Also in the running for a top-5 team finish are sophomore Heath Schuch, seventh-grader Daniel Bonilha and sixth-grader Finn Jaworek.

"Charlie's running at his best times, and hayes and Heath have been really close to their best times as well," Coach Schuch said. "Gibson Adams has run well, and Travis Peebles is new to the school and new to running, but he's been running well too."

The boys team finished fifth overall in the Wilson Hall/Thomas Sumter Invitational, with Webb taking 10th with a time of 18:07.04 and Martin 24th with a time of 18:48.60. Behind Webb and Martin were Delage at 37th, Adams at 41st and Peebles at 52nd.

The SCISA Region 1-4A meet is set for Oct. 22 and the SCISA state cross country meet at Heathwood Hall will be Nov. 1.



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2025 Wilson Hall Barons volleyball **Wilson Hall volleyball off to strong start again**

By Dennis Brunson hssr.com Associate Editor

Sumter – It's another season and another strong start for the Wilson Hall volleyball team.

The Lady Barons owned a 16-5 record through their first 21 matches and started 2-1 in SCISA Region 3-AAAA.

Rip Ripley. "We had five seniors who all contributed (on a 27-8 team) that graduated. We've got a young group coming back, and they've all stepped into bigger roles. Addie Griffin is in a similar role from last season. She is a leader for us on and off

Griffin, a defensive specialist, is the only senior on the roster. She had 14 service aces and 57 digs.

The top returning player is just a freshman in McKinley Bath. As an eighth-grader, she led Wilson Hall in kills and is easily doing the same this year. She had 150 kills in 37 sets.

Bath, an outside hitter, was also leading in aces with 40 and was second in digs with 124 and second in serves received with 147.

"McKinley is already an outstanding player," Ripley said. "We just look for her to continue to get better. She's really talented, really special."

Junior Savannah Wells is the libero. She was

leading in serves received with 222 and digs with

Junior setter Natalie Hawkey was leading the team in assists with 273 to go with 77 digs, 20 aces and 11 kills. Junior middle hitter Beaty Zeigler was the blocked shots leader with 20 and was tied with junior outside hitter Mary Todd Champion for sec-"I think we're doing a good job," said head coach ond in kills with 57. Champion had 12 digs and 10

> Sophomore rightside hitter **Kira Stelle** had 21 aces, 34 kills, five blocks and 11 digs. Sophomore defensive special Mary Paisley Geddings had 43 digs, five aces and 12 kills, sophomore rightside hitter Ellis Coker had 21 kills and three blocks, and sophomore defensive specialist Bailey Flemming had 10 digs and four aces.

Other members of the team are junior **Sofia** Dall'Erta and freshman Isabella.

If the Lady Barons continue to show the steady progress they have to date, Ripley believes only good things await at the end of the season.

"They've all stepped up and done a good job," Ripley said. "I think we just need to keep growing and keep building, have all these sophomores amd juniors continue to grow and develop. We just need to continue to develop roles and play with and have confidence both on and off the court."

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LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY

Swampcats having up-and-down season

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Eitor

Manning – There have been some very good moments for the Laurence Manning Academy football team this season. And, there have been plenty of not-sogood moments as well. That's what happens when you own a 3-4 record.

"It is a roller coaster, lots of peaks and valleys," **Jimmy Noonan** said of his first season as the Swampcats head coach. "Every single team faces adversity at some point, whether you're on the top or on the bottom. It's more of a mental thing."

Laurence Manning opened the season with a 37-0 win over John Paul II before falling to Heathwood Hall 14-7. The Swampcats then suffered a 48-9 loss to Northwood Academy. However, they bounced back from that with a 14-13 victory over archrival and 2-time SCISA AAA state runner-up Wilson Hall.

Laurence Manning got the defending AAA state champion Pinewood Prep the next week, losing 50-25. The Swampcats bounced back though, shutting out **Ben** Lippen 41-0 for their first AAAA victory in three games.

The seventh game came against **Hammond**, which has won eight straight state titles. The Skyhawks won 37-

Noonan pointed out no matter who the Swampcats have faced, the effort has been there each week.

"Physically we don't match up with some of the people we play against," Noonan said. "Nonetheless, I think we're getting good effort. Against Northwood, our team was battling all the way until the end. Right now, I'd say they're the standard in AAAA.

"We're figuring it out as we go. We've having great effort and preparation and we're where we need to be. We're having a good, solid approach every Friday."

Junior quarterback Grainger Powell is the leader of the offense. The 3-year starter had completed 91 of 136 passes for 1,247 yards and eight touchdowns against just three interceptions though the first six games.

Powell has done a tremendous job distributing the football. Five different players were in the teens in receptions, and Powell had thrown touchdown passes to five different receivers as well.

The leading pass catcher was tight end **Asher** Sanders. He had 19 catches for 248 yards, but he had no scoring receptions. Wide receiver **Zy Dennis** had 18 catches for 138 yards and a touchdown while his brother, Scoop Dennis, had 17 catches for 340 yards and four scores, both team highs.

Wide receiver **Payton Brown** had 16 catches for 170 yards and a touchdown, and wide receiver **Rob Briggs** had 14 catches for 236 yards and a touchdown.

The other touchdown reception belongs to running back **Pierson Gamble**, who had four catches for 45

The Swampcats have struggled to run the football. Through the first five games, they were averaging just over 113 rushing yards a game. Running back Eli Sandifer was leading the team with 150 yards and a touchdown on 34 carries. Gamble had 108 yards and two touchdowns on 34 carries. Powell had 131 yards and three touchdowns on 69 carries.

Senior left tackle **Tristen White** is the leader of the offensive line.

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"He's there for a reason," Noonan said of White. "He's a returning starter who has picked up where he left off. He's one of the guys who's able to anchor down. He's very athletic. He runs well and has great feet." White had four rhino blocks and six pancake blocks

on the season. There is a distinction between a knockdown block and a rhino block.

According to White, a knockdown is when a linebacker steps into a hole and a lineman is able to put him on the ground. A rhino block is when a lineman locks up a defender, drives him five to 10 yards and "plants" him on the ground.

"I pride myself on rhino blocks," said the 6-foot-1inch, 265-pound White. "I love those."

Sophomore placekicker and punter Daniel Vargas is having a strong season. He was averaging over 38 yards a punt and had connected on four field goals. He hit on field goals of 45 and 40 yards, respectively, in the win over Ben Lippen.

"He has a lot of potential," Noonan said. "He handles all of the kicking duties. He's in the upper 30s range (in yards per punt) in punting, and it's golden when you know you've got a kid who can knock it out of the end zone. That's a great luxury to have."

LMA VOLLEYBALL TEAM STILL DEVELOP-ING

The record may not say as such, but first-year Laurence Manning volleyball head coach Alexus Carter believes her team is growing and developing.

"I think they're coming along," Carter said of the Lady 'Cats, who won four of their first 12 matches and started 1-5 in Region 3-AAAA. "We've changed a lot and started back at Square 1. I think they've come a tremendous way from the start of the season."

The regular starters are senior Anjolina McBride, junior Gracie Lyles, senior Abigail Voll, sophomore Emily Frierson, sophomore Cydney Cassell, junior Caroline Barkley and sophomore Irelynn Connors. However, due to an injury and a family matter sidelining a couple of players, senior Autumn Bryant, senior Jayden O'Mara and junior Ella Kay Jackson are getting some starts as well.

Lyles was leading the team in kills with 79, digs with 110 and service aces with 28 to go along with 11 assists. Barkley had 41 kills, 70 igs, five blocked shots and 14 aces, Connors had 42 kills, 78 digs, seven blocks and 18 aces, Cassell had 28 kills, 23 digs, eight aces and nine assists, McBride had10 kills, 69 digs, 13 aces and 43 assists, and Frierson had three kills, 44 digs and four aces.

Other members of the team are senior Paisley Newman and senior Hollie Mae Self.

Carter, who was the B team head coach the two previ ous seasons, said her team is still absorbing the ins and outs of the game.

"I feel like we've made the most progress just learning the game of volleyball," Carter said. "It takes a lot to put it all together. From where we came from to where we are now in the knowledge of the game is tremendous.

"We're trying to teach them all of that. If they apply everything they've learned we'll be good. I'm very hope-

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HSSR Tennis Feature

39th Annual Chick-fil-A of Anderson Hall of Fame Classic a success

Staff Reports

Belton, SC - The 2025 Chick-fil-A of Anderson Hall of Fame Classic was played in Belton September 27 & 28 featuring eight top girls tennis teams from around the state. The tournament faced weather challenges on Saturday, and play was eventually cancelled. With a revised schedule and scoring, the tournament resumed and all matches (except #1 Doubles) were played on Sunday.

AC Flora pulled away in the final round, winning 3 championship and 3 consolation matches to win their third tournament title. TL Hanna had a 1-point lead after 2 rounds of play, but the Falcons won all 6 of their final round matches, while the Yellow Jackets only won 2, to pull away with a 5-point victory. The finals team standings were:

- 1. AC Flora-25 points
- 2. TL Hanna-20 points
- 3. Greenville-18 points
- 4. **Daniel-**15 points
- 5. JL Mann-14 points
- 6. Waccamaw-12 points
- 7. Chapin and Belton-Honea Path-5

The division titles were won by 3 schools;

AC Flora 3, Greenville 2 and TL Hanna 1. The results of the championships matches were:

#1 Singles-Emily Smith (ACF) def. Emery **Tripamer** (TLH) 6-3, 7-6 (6)

#2 Singles-Catherine Smith (ACF) def. **Josie Eskridge** (TLH) 6-1, 6-0

#3 Singles-Mary Drake Venturella (TLH) def. Halie Woilin (DAN) 6-1, 6-2

#4 Singles-Ruby Cecchini (ACF) def. Addie Johnson (JLM) 4-6, 6-3, 10-8

#5 Singles-Rollins Beck (GVL) def. Alera Holland (JLM) 6-4, 5-7, 10-8

#2 Doubles-Riley Brill & Charlotte Womack (GVL) defeated Karis Kim & Emry Smith (TLH) 3-6, 6-4, 10-7

All players and doubles teams played 3 matches. Number 1 Doubles was not played after the Saturday matches were cancelled.

AC Flora coach **Amy Martin** said: "We're very pleasantly surprised! It took the leadership of our 3 captains, a great effort by all the players, and the support of the parents to earn this title. Nobody ever gave up, as evidenced by us winning all 6 of our final round matches, including 3 matches in the consolation round. Everybody contributed against tough competiTL Hanna received the Team Sportsmanship

Tournament Director Rex Maynard, who established the tournament in 1987, said: "I felt this would be a really competitive tournament, and it turned out that way. There were close matches throughout the early rounds, many matches went to a tiebreaker to determine the winner. Then 3 of the 6 championships matches were decided by a 10-point tiebreaker after the players split sets."

When asked about the tournament outcome and the challenges the weather presented, Maynard commented, "We faced some weather challenges on Saturday, and eventually thought it best to cancel the day. Thanks to a change in the scoring format, we were able to play everything except #1 Doubles on Sunday." He added, "All the players and coaches helped by being on time for their matches and that helped us moved through the day. We feel like it was another great tournament and thank all the coaches and players for their participation. A special thanks to our staff, and to Chick-fil-A of Anderson for their continued support of this tournament and Belton Tennis!"

Chick-fil-A Hall of Fame Classic Snapshots













#4 Singles winner Ruby Cecchini and A.C. Flora won the Chick-fil-A Classic 25 points

Green Acres Turf Farm Prospects Page







HSSR 2025 Top 100 Senior Football Prospects

HSSR Revised & Updated Top 100 2026 Senior Football Prospects In SC (As of August, 25)

(Coaches Only: Nominate 2026 Top 100 Nominee, with stats: hsreport@aol.com)

Note: Once you pledge to a college, or flip to a new one, please let us know via e mail at hsreport@aol.com Please also let us know if we have your name mis-spelled.

HSSR TOP 100 2026 Class In SC

- 1. Desmond Green-Timberland-OL-6-5,333-Florida
- 2. Tony O'Banner-Thomas Heyward- RB-Ath-6-1,215
- 3. J'zavien Currence-South Pointe-QB-DB-6-3, 205-South Carolina
- 4. Jayvon Gilmore-Ridge View-QB-6-5,200-
- 5. Zyon Guiles-Carvers Bay-OL-6-4,295-South Carolina
- 6. Zay Robertson-Dillon-WR-6-0,165 (4.4)-North Carolina
- 7. Julian Walker-Dutch Fork-DE-6-6,220- Michigan
- 8. Kentavion Anderson-Dorman-FS-6-2,181-Clemson
- 9. Carnell Warren-Bluffton-WR-6-4,196-North Carolina
- 10. Anthony Baxter-South Pointe-OL-6-3,330-South Carolina
- 11. Sequel Patterson- Indian Land-WR-6-0,165-South Carolina
- 12. Jamel Howze-Newberry-TE-6-3,215-South Carolina
- 13. Michael Boulware-Gray Collegiate-MLB-6-2,205- STUD
- 14 Scotland Dover-Gaffney-OL 6-5,305-App State
- 15. Jaiden McDowell-Gaffney-RB-5-10,165-Mercer 16. Malcolm Gaston-North Augusta-OL-6-5, 330-Liberty
- 17. Tamarion Watkins-DB-Northwestern-6-4, 200-Texas A&M
- 18. Jeremiah Favorite-Boiling Springs-CB-5-10,170-Michigan St.
- 19. Jude Hall-Christ Church-WR-6-3,185-Memphis
- 20. Caden Ramsey-Cross-WR-FS-6-5,200-Verbal Sept 8th
- 21. Somad Eaddy-Riverside-Ath.-6-0,165-Wake Forest
- 22. Jayden Boyd-Fairfield Central-WR/DB-Duke
- 23. Kelton Smith-Gaffney-DT-6-5,290-East Carolina
- 24. Tre Aiken-Clinton-OL-6-4,265-NC State
- 25. Tilden "T" Riley-Orangeburg Prep-TE-6-5,203-Vandy
- 26. Tristian Lewis-Greenwood-QB/DB-6-4,200-SC
- 27. Trevor Kalisz-Ashley Ridge-QB-5-11, 215
- 28. Kam Taylor-Woodruff-TE-6-6,230
- 29. Jachin Davis-Stratford-QB-6-1,185-Liberty
- 30. Amiri Acker-Crescent-WR-6-2,185-Liberty
- 31. Trey Burke-Spartanburg-QB-6-3,205-East Carolina
- 32. Caden Muskus-Chapin-OL-6-5,280-App. State 33. Chris Doyle- Bluffton-DL-6-1,29—App State
- 34. Jordyn Best-Ridge View-DB-5-11,180-NC State
- 35. Jordan Avinger-Orangeburg-Wilkinson-LB-6-3,222-Arkansas
- 36. Jaemin Pinckney-Woodland-WR-6-5,217-S Florida
- 37. Zyon Ratchford-Gaffney-LB-6-4, 200-East Carolina
- Connor Dantzler-James Island-OB-6-0.205-offer-TULSA
- 38. Kadarus Hainsworth-Mountain View Prep-WR-6-1,161-UNC Char
- 39. JT King-Ashely Ridge-DE/TE-6-4,240
- 40. Nyterrious Greer-Harrison-Crescent-WR-FS-6-0,170
- 41. Sawyer Arnold-Oceanside Collegiate-DE-6-4,220-App State
- 42. Romello Patterson-West Florence-LB-6-3,224-Coastal Car.
- J'Qwan Crosby-Stratford-RB-6-3,220-Ga. Southern
- 43. Kaleb Simpkins-Strom Thirmond-DB-6-1,175-offer-Wake
- 44, Reid McCollum-Hilton Head-LB-6-4,215-Navy
- 45. Walker Kelly-TL Hanna-TE-6-5,220-Wofford
- 46. Ryan Campbell-Ashley Ridge-RB-5-9,182
- 47. Anthony Atkins II-Christ Church-Ath-6-1,180-Navy
- 48. Daniel Capeheart-Dillon-OLB-RB-6-1, 200-
- 49. Will Love-Spartanburg-PK-6-2,205-Va. Tech
- 50. Garrison Vaughn-Laurens Academy-OL/DL- 6-4,251 (Sleeper)
- 51. Kam Vance-Northwestern-WR-5-8,170-Lafayette
- 52. Mike Jones-Oceanside Collegiate-OL-DL-6-2,285-Wofford

Terry Radford-Chester-DE-6-1-230

- 53. Bryson More-Irmo-OL-6-2.305-CSU
- 54. Bryson Connor-Indian land-DB-5-10,180-Hampton
- 55. Jarrell Turner-Richland Northeast-WR-6-0,185-UNC Char. 56. Keriyon Brown-Dillon-LB-5-11,210-
- Ashten Wilson-Central-RB-5-7,165
- 57. Amandre Wooden—Batesburg-Leesville-RB-5-11,205
- 58. Jakari Holloman-Central-LB-6-1,205
- 59. Cameron McMillon-Keenan-QB-6-2, 187
- 60. Gray Patterson-Fort Mill-OLB-6-3,210-UNC-Char
- 61. Bryson Ginn-South Pointe-LB-6-2, 215
- 62. Dsa'Shan Scriven-Crestwood-DB-5-10,175
- 63. Bryson Connor-Indian Land-DB-5-10,180-Hampton
- 64. Michael Doe-North Augusta-RB-5-9.180-Gardner Webb
- 65. Dallas Willliams-Greer-OL-6-4,275-
- 66. Terry Gordon-South Florence-ILB-5-11,225
- 67. Marcus Cann-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-DB-6-2,280
- 68. Davidson Lynch Trinity Collegiate QB 6'1 200
- 69. JT Williams-Summerville-OLB-6-0,200
- 70. Josh Singleton-Northwestern-DB-6-2,170
- 71. Tylin Drakeford-Camden-WR-5-9,165
- 72. Nehemiah Brown-Barnwell-RB-5-11,173
- 73. Terry Gordon-South Florence-ILB-5-11,225
- 74. Jaden Baylor-Abbeville-DB/WR-6-0,170
- 75. Kenshon Speaks-Beaufort-OL-6-3, 295 76. Kemori DeWeese-Summerville-WR-5-11.170
- 77. Jaylin Baylor-Abbeville-WR-6-1, 170
- 78. Cody Peterson-Ashley Ridge-OL-06-5,315
- 79. Brayden Williams-Saluda-RB-5-11,175
- 80. Bristol Biegenzahn-West Ashley-DE/TE-6-5,240- Elon
- 81. Kylif Miller-Hartsville-RB-5-10,180
- 82. Kaleb Sutton-Hillcrest-QB-6-3,185-
- 83. Chris Coleman-Northwestern-OL-6-3, 280
- 84. Alec Belk-Fox Creek-OL-C-6-1, 285
- 85. Nick Sapp-Denmark-Olar-DL-6-0,300
- 86. Damais Seegars-Andrew Jackson-RB-5-11,175 87. Jadyn Rice-JL Mann-DB-WR-5-9,180
- 88. Bryce Seaborn-Greenwood-DB-RB-5-11,190-
- 89. Kamyron Jones-Abbeville-OL/DL-6-2, 280 90. Jason Brigham-Johnsonville-DL-6-0,230
- 91. Quashaun Hampton-Keenan-OL-6-4.290-
- 92. Tyleek Dukes-Kingstree-RB-6-0,190
- 93. Terrence Wilson-Lake City-RB-5-10,200
- 94. David Rogers-Lakewood-OL-6-2, 280
- 95. Zori Pierce-Lamar-QB-Ath.-6-0,170
- 96. Marguis Copeland-Laurens—WR-DB-6-0,165
- 97. Jordan Roseborough-Dutch Fork-OL-5-11, 215
- 98. Jordan Jenkins-Conway-WR-6-4,190
- 99. Domonick Felton-Dillon-RB-5-11,170
- 100. Lucas Tankersley-Travelers Rest-MLB-6-1, 205
- 101. Jaylon Davis-Union County-OL-6-0,290
- 102. Chase Price-Lake View-QB-6-1,205
- 103. Harris Stone-Wando-QB-6-2,280 104. Jordan Strong-Lewisville-DB-5-8,160
- 105. Jadyn Rice-JL Mann-DB/WR-5-9,180
- 106. ZJ Jenkins-Summerville-WR-6-4.175-
- 107. Christian Hewitt-Summerville-OL-6-0,300
- 108. Harris Stone-Wando-QB-6-2,180 109. Jaxx Wilson-Westside-LB/SS-6-0,185
- 110. Speedy Taylor-Eastside-WR-5-7,171
- 111. Wynn Meetz-Gilbert-FS-5-9,160
- 112. Jaylon Davis-Union County-DL-6-1,290
- 113. Dy'lon White-Green Sea Floyds-6-3,310

Page 48 September 30, 2025 THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT September 30, 2025 Page 17

NETC Student Athletes of the Month

Dillon Christian's Braylin Carter

choice for

Dillon

Christian,

would be

Clemson.

She would

also like to

play volley-

ball as her

first choice

of sports at

the next

level. She

loves bas-

the Month."

Braylin Carter

ketball too. She has not visited any

schools yet but hopes that even more All-

Region honors as a junior might attract re-

cruiting attention for next year when she

complishments. Carter has been chosen

the "NETC" Female Student Athlete of

nership between the Northeastern Techni-

cal College and "The High School Sports

Report" with the publication communicate

ing with athletic directors at high schools

in the counties of Dillon, Marlboro, and

needs of high school students seeking to

earn dual credits in various subjects that

can be transferred to colleges after a stu-

The NETC is currently offering over

See Carter, pg. 58

44 online dual credit courses for the 2025-

26 school year to students in the three

dent's high school graduation.

Chesterfield, where NETC serves the

For all her athletic and academic ac-

This honor is bestowed through a part

school after

Dillon — **Braylin Carter** is a junior three-sport athlete at Dillon Christian School, where she plays volleyball, basketball, and softball, in addition to being a

Carter is a multi-sport athlete who excels in her academic work and in athletic competitions

Carter said she enjoys playing volleyball and basketball equally well. "I can't recall favoring one sport over the other," Carter said. She became active in sports early in life. Starting with recreational league youth teams. She started playing softball in the second grade, then basketball started in the third grade, and volleyball started in the 7th grade.

With so many sports, overlapping seasons, plus needing time for two levels of academics, team practices, and games, just how does she manage such a demanding schedule. "At school, I have sixth period free to do my schoolwork," she said. "I always plan for my NETC class work early in the week, which leaves me time, after practice, or after games to finish any other homework. This also includes making time for church on Wednesday and Sunday, plus creating free time to hang out with my friends.

Carter has earned all-region honors in the three varsity sports she excels in at Dillon Christian. As a sophomore last year, she earned all-region in all-three sports and she hopes to accomplish that rare feat once again during the 2025-26

With her demanding schedule, she carries a 4.88 GPA, and she says that her first

Dillon Christian's Haydin Moody

out season.

Dillon Christian School's Haydin Moody Named "NETC" Male Student Athlete of the Month

Dillon — **Haydin Moody** is a senior two-sport athlete at **Dillon Christian** School, where he participates in the varsity sports of football and baseball.

Moody enjoys whatever sport is in season with him at the time. "It is a seasonal thing, and I love organized team sports," he said. Moody first got started in baseball when he was old enough for T-Ball when he was about three years old." He began playing organized football in the 5th grade when his school started a

On the gridiron, he plays both sides of the ball as a corner back on defense and a wide receiver on offense. He's recorded eight pass break ups, and one forced fumble on defense this season. On offense, he has 10 catches, and he averages 36.4 yards receiving per game. For his senior year, he has been selected as a team Captain.

With NETC courses, plus his high school work and sports on his agenda, Moody credits his learning time management ability to mentoring by his coaches and his teachers at Dillon Christian. "You have to set a schedule to manage your time and be organized," said Moody. "The coaches stay on us about classes, and the school has assistance available for academic help." Moody even credits the school coaching staff with developing and organized schedule for use of the weight room that helps all sports and players with Report" with the publication communicat-



Haydin Moody

will generate some interest." So far, Moody has looked at UNC-Pembroke and Newberry as potential future colleges. His bigger focus is pursuing his education with or without sports. "I'm looking for opportunities to continue as a student athlete, but if not, there may be opportunities interning with a coaching staff, or in the athletic department," Moody said.

In the classroom he carries a 3.3568 GPA, while maintaining his online course work, high school classes, and participating in sports. He plans to major in Sports Administration in college next year.

For all his athletic and academic accomplishments, Moody has been chosen the "NETC" Male Student Athlete of the

This honor is bestowed through a partnership between the Northeastern Technical College and "The High School Sports

See Moody, pg. 58





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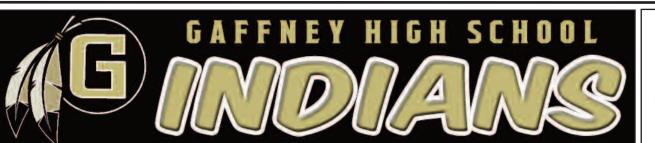
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Gaffney preparing to host Byrnes on Friday night

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Gaffney—With the game against region foe Byrnes (4-2, 2-1) being shown on regional television on October, 10, the Gaffney Indians (4-2, 3-0) hope to keep their undefeated region record intact when they host the Rebels this

Unless you have been living under a rock lately, you probably heard about former starting quarterback Jayvon Gilmore leaving the team around September, 18 when he transferred to Ridge View. Gilmore was replaced in the lineup by transfer quarterback Banks Bouton, a true dual threat who moved the team better when he got his opportunities earlier in

"We are going to play the athletes who give us the best chance to win," said Gaffney head coach Donnie Littlejohn. "Let me just say that Banks has earned the respect of all of his teammates. He is a true dual threat quarterback who makes plays with his arm and his feet. We are moving on and we are confident he is our guy to lead the team at the quarterback position."

Bouton is 39-of-75 in passing for 539 yards and three touchdowns so far this season. He has used his feet to move the chains by rushing for 373 yards on 54 yards including six rushing touchdowns. "I think as colleges see more film on him, they are offers coming his way," said Coach Littlejohn.

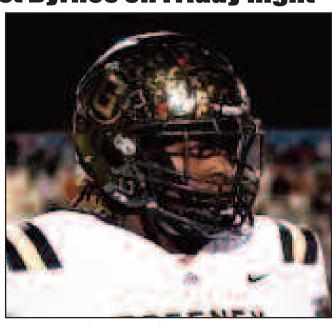
The team was dealt a blow at running back when **Jaiden McDowell** tore his ACL in the first game of the season. Gaffney's top rusher is senior RB Josiah Hill who will come into the Byrnes game with 409 total yards on 83 carries and 9 touchdowns. Senior running back **Justin Dawkins** has also contributed 132 rushing yards on 26 carries.

The top receivers on the team are senior wide receiver **Brady Smith** who has 11 receptions for 183 yards and one TD. Hill catches the ball well out of the back field with five catches for 60 yards and one TD.

"We have made some adjustments up-front to give us more push in the running game," said Coach Littlejohn. "In our win over Spartanburg, and even in our 40-35 win over Eastside last week, we used our running game to control the ball and eat the clock in the fourth quarter when we were protecting our leads.

"We have had to work through injuries and we are just now getting most of our players back that were banged up earlier in the season," said Coach Littlejohn. "You try not to use many players both ways but injuries can eat away at your depth in a hurry. We are getting back most of our players just in time for a run late in the regular season.'

One move replaced **Cam Shippy** at center with junior Corderian Dawkins and Shippy was moved to right guard. Scotland Dover (6-4, 300) remains at left tackle and the **Ap**palachian State commitment was recently



Left Tackle Scotland Dover

named to the Shrine Bowl. Senior OLB Linebacker Zyon Ratchfield, an East Carolina commitment, was also recently chosen to the North-South all-game to be played in Myrtle Beach this December. Speaking of top prospects, sophomore Zion Dawkins is drawing major college interest as both a WR and DB for the Indians.

"On defense senior **Jaleel Tate** as played well in the defensive front and Ty McGill has played well at one of our inside linebacker spots," said Coach Littlejohn. "Ayden Montgomery has been steady in the secondary and junior **Kareem Shaw** has played well in the secondary also."

Kendarius "Peanut" Bailey has had many roles on the team this season. He has played at LB and even some in the offensive line for the Indians. Junior Kamari Williams has also played well at DE and at LB this season. Senior **Kelton Smith** (6-4, 310) has also played well in the DL an he is committed to **East Carolina**.

Six players on the Gaffney defense have 16 or more total tackles for the season. Leading the hit index is Ratchford with 49 tackles and three TFL Dawkins has 30 tackles with TFL Junior DB Adreyan Monroe has 24 tackles including four TFL and a sack. McGil has 21 tackles and 2.5 TFL while J Tate has 20 tackles, 5.5 TFL and four sacks to his credit. Bailey also has 20 tackles including 6.5 TFL. Rounding out the tackle leaders is junior K. Williams with 16 tackles, including three TFL.

"As a new head coach, I have dealt with a lot of stress this season," said Coach Littlejohn. "I am thankful to have the best coaching staff in high school football in the state. I use to focus just on offense in the past but now I have to docus on offense, defense and special teams. Putting players in place to give us our best chance at success is a major focus of mine.

"We just never know what team is going to show up on Friday night," said Coach Littlejohn. "This team has unlimited potential and we have not come close to reaching our potential yet. We will have to play really well to win this Friday night."



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P.O. Box 65 Gaffney, SC 29342 864-303-7980 Go Indians! was the leading tackler with 46 and had 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ tackles

for loss. Lovon Stevenson had 31 tackles. Defensive

lineman Ethan Morales had 22 tackles, three tack-

les for a loss and two sacks, and defensive back

for 589 yards and eight touchdowns. All of his

touchdown passes had gone to CJ Robinson, who

Daniel Robinson, who got injured against EC

and had no carries against Kingstree, had 610 yards

and five touchdowns on 73 carries. Baxter had 323

yards and four scores on 60 carries. Lovell Steven-

son had 132 yards and four touchdowns on 30 car-

`The Monarchs still have an opportunity to de-

fend their region title. If they win out, they will have

a tremendous opportunity to gain the No. 1 seed

from the region in the AA playoffs. They will just

have to see where the chips fall around them at that

last year and finished with an 11-2 record, plays at

Mulllins on October 10 followed by a trip to Con-

way on October 17 to face Atlantic Collegiate. The

Monarchs close out the season with home games

against **Marion**, which is winless at 0-7 and 0-3 in

MANNING CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS DE-

Veteran Manning cross country coach **Kimberly**

"Overall, both teams are performing at expecta-

tions, and we are continuing to grow each week as a

well," Ferrari said. "I've been especially encouraged

by the steady progress and resilience shown week to

consistency, and the kids are rising to the challenge."

in junior Jorden Hilton-Kelly, sophomore Bryce Ki-

Tony Tran. Hilton-Kelly easily has the best time on

Junior Mehki Anderson has a personal best on

the season of 26:24, while Kinard's is 26:27. Junior

Amyr Brooks has a 28:54, Robinson a 32:48, Tran a

32:56, sophomore Gabriel Schneider a 35:19 and

The girls team returns sophomore **Savannah**

Halstead and freshman Emma Leon. Freshman newcomer Cierra Utterback has the Monarchs'

best time at 30:52. Junior Sahira Montanez has a

best of 33:25. Halstead's best is 35:47, Leon's best is

33:27, and sophomore newcomer Abigale Barrett's

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freshman **Bobby Vaughn** a 35:33.

best is 35:02.

nard, sophomore Jesse Robinson and sophomore

the team this season in 21 minutes, 18 seconds.

week. The focus this season has been on building

team, not only in our stats but in our numbers as

region play, and Lake City.

stand after three meets.

VELOPING

Manning, which played for the lower state title

with four tackles for a loss.

had 25 caches for 483 yards.

Tyresse Bennett had 22 tackles and two intercep-

tions. Dontavious Canty also had 22 tackles along

Lovell Stevenson had completed 32 of 60 passes

Manning hopes Canty's return is big boost

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Manning – The Manning High School football team got Jontavious Canty back on defense in a September 26 game against **East Clarendon** after he missed the first four games with a dislocated hip. The linebacker, who led the Monarchs in tackles last season, had 19 tackles, albeit in a 26-12 loss.

The Monarchs got Canty back on offense against **Kingstree** in an October 3 game, and he again had a huge impact. Canty, the leading rusher last season, had 148 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries in a 38-16 triumph.

Needless to say, Manning head coach Reggie **Kennedy** is happy to have Canty back at full strength.

"Jon is our team captain and brings a lot of experience and energy to our team," said Kennedy, whose team evened its overall record at 3-3 and its Region 7-AA record at 1-1 with the victory.

Kennedy said he was tempted to play Canty on offense against East Clarendon but chose not to as to not overload him in his first game back. He was at full tilt against the Blazers, however.

Canty had eight tackles, a tackle for a loss and returned a fumble 39 yards for another score to lead the defense.

Isaiah Baxter had a strong game running the football with 11 carries for 79 yards. Quarterback **Lovell Stevenson** completed 4 of 6 passes for 63 yards and a touchdown. Wide receiver CJ Robinson had two of the catches for 52 yards and the score.

After winning the region title last season with an undefeated record, Manning lost its opener against East Clarendon. Kennedy made sure his team didn't panic after the loss, instead assuring it all of its goals Ferrari likes where both the boys and girls teams were still in front of it.

"I don't think anybody's going to go undefeated in winning the region this year," Kennedy said following the EC game. "I think it's going to be a tossup this year."

Kingstree was undefeated in region play before losing to the Monarchs. The other undefeated region team, Mullins, lost to Lake City 30-28, leaving six of the seven region teams with one loss. Kingstree, Mullins and Lake City are all 2-1, while Manning, East Clarendon and Atlantic Collegiate Academy are each 1-1.

Kennedy said the formula for the Monarchs to have success is continued improvement, especially

"We have to continue to get better each week, especially on defense," he said.

Without Canty, Manning had just one returning starter on defense. Just his presence on the field makes a huge difference, according to Kennedy.

"He's a leader for us," Kennedy said after the EC game. "He's our leader on defense. The guys tend to play harder around him. We haven't had that the first four ball games. It was good to see that tonight."

Linebacker **Dontavious Canty**, Jontavious' brother, led the Monarchs with 10 tackles. Linebacker Lovon Stevenson had seven tackles, three of them for a loss, and a quarterback sack. Cornerback **CJ Robinson** had an interception.

Entering the Kingstree game, **Ethan Lowder**



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Clarendon School District II Joins The Manning High Athletic Department In Saluting All Our Hard Working Student Athletes & Coaches In All Of Their Pursuits Towards Excellence During the 2022-23 School Year!

Courtesy Dr. Shawn Johnson, Supt. Clarendon Schools District II & Reggie Kennedy,

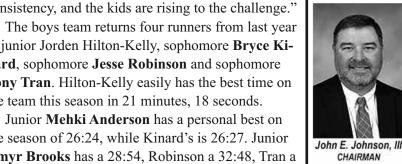
Head Football Coach & Athletic Director **Manning High School**

The Friersons Salute the **Manning Monarchs!**

Good Luck to All Area Athletes in the Upcoming Sports Seasons!



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VICE-CHAIRMAN - District

Lynden Anthony County Administrator

Camden volleyball off to 8-9 start this season

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Camden – **Tristany Radford's** first season as the head coach of the Camden High School volleyball team hasn't gone as she expected. That, however, hasn't left her undeterred

"Stepping into any position like this is a whirlwind in a sense," said Radford, whose team won eight of its first 17 matches and was 6-5 in Region 3-AAAA. "I've coached the game for a long time now, there's just a lot of pieces to balance and keep up with, but I'm up for that challenge."

Radford took over for Paige Wilson, who retired after 32 years as head coach. The Bulldogs made the playoffs in 30 of those seasons, winning two state titles. Radford was Wilson's assistant for the last 10 seasons, something that has aided her immensely in the transition.

"Luckily this wasn't too hard of an adjustment seeing that I've been a part of this program for 10 years leading up to this season, and these girls know me," said Radford. "I've coached them already, I taught many of them, and have known them for years. Every day we show up, work hard, and play the game."

Radford knew there could be some growing pains this season. Camden had only two returning starters from last year's 22-5 team. They are senior Leah Hendrix and junior Aubrey Thompson.

"We are a young team," Radford said. "Graduating as many as we did, we were very open with the fact that we're rebuilding, we're going to have to put in the work to get the outcomes we desire.

"My expectations are to leave everything on the court, walk away feeling OK with the results of whatever happens, knowing we did all we could. Seeing how hard they've played, how far they've come, I can confidently say they're putting in the work to improve every day.'

Hendrix is the team leader in kills with 246, service aces with 33, serves received with 210 and digs with 129 to go with eight blocked shots and 12 assists. Thompson has 36 kills, 16 digs and nine

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Freshman Laekyn Peebles has 60 kills, 208 serves received, 95 digs and 23 aces while junior **Skyler Mathis** has a team high 20 blocks to go with 51 kills, 45 digs and 10 aces.

Other members of the rotation are sophomore Ryan Neal, junior Lilli Hall, senior Marley Vincent and junior Tristen Ware.

Neal leads the team with 208 assists to go with 116 digs, nine kills, 21 aces, while Hall has six kills, 15 aces, 90 digs and 14 assists. Vincent has 51 digs, 13 kills, 25 aces, five blocks and 48 assists. Ware has 63 digs and 16 assists.

Other members of the team are senior Anaiah Cain, junior Kaelyn Johnson, junior Gray Grumbach, junior Lillian Chmiel, freshman Reeves Beckham and junior Emma Oddie.

"This team is extremely coachable, they want to be good at what they do," Radford said. "And they're a very versatile team. Many of them can hold their own in various positions, and we use that to our advantage."

CAMDEN FOOTBALL STARTS 5-2

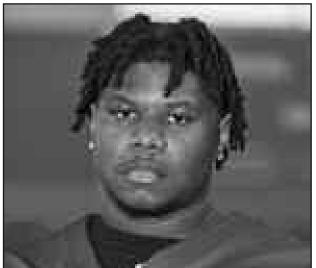
The Camden football team owned a 5-2 overall record and a 2-1 region record after falling to toprated South Pointe 28-7 on October 3.

While winning the region title may prove difficult, the Bulldogs are in position to finish second and get a home game in the first round of the state playoffs. Their regular-season finale against oncebeaten A.C. Flora will likely determine that.

Tylin Drakeford was selected to the Shrine Bowl roster as a defensive back. Through six games Drakeford had two interceptions for 46 return yards. nine tackles and one pass breakup. As a wide receiver, he had 22 catches for 365 yards and seven touchdowns. He also had nine carries for 198 yards.

Quarterback Greyson Rimpf had 66 completions in 102 attempts for 1,005 yards and 16 TD

Carvers Bay, continued from pg. 8



emerge as the Region 3-A champion and the team has out-scored teams 258-109 this season

In Region 4-A Bamberg-Ehrhard should run the table and the Raiders are ranked number one for a reason. **Corey Crosby's** team has outscored teams 346-49, so far in 2025, and this team appears to have a date with the gold medal round, unless Carvers Bay plays the spoiler deep in the play-offs.

In Region 5-A Cross, Scott's Branch, and **Baptist Hill** should battle down to the wire for a region title. The defense of Cross has only allowed 25 points all season. This should help lead the Trojans to the region crown and a good when the regular season concludes on October, seeding for the play-offs.

No doubt the region 6-A is among the most

CAMDEN

Page 47

Camden Girls Basketball - Go Bulldogs The Citizens Bank (803) 424-1619 Saluting Wyatt Thompson #5! Blackmon's "Little Midget" Family Drive Thru Horton Tire Company (803) 432-9761 Graham's Tire Service (803) 432-6776 Camden Lock Company (803) 424-0090 The Colvin Family & Colvin Brothers Car Wash Proudly Saluting #15 Grayson White - Go Dogs!





Wishes All Student Athletes Good Luck This Season!



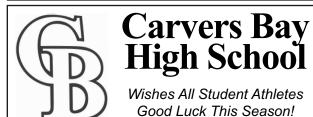
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competitive of any Cass A region in the state. Certainly, the Bears turned some heads with that 33-0 dominant win over Latta. **Johnsonville** and Lake View could be a spoiler, but the HSSR gives the nod to the Bears to win this region

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Smith happy with state of OP football, volleyball

By Dennis Brunson hssr.com Associate Eitor

Orangeburg – The Orangeburg Preparatory **School** football team has won four of its first seven games under first-year head coach Brooks Smith. Though there have been some bumps and dips along the way, Smith is happy with what the Indians have done to date.

"I feel good about where we are," said Smith, who was the offensive coordinator last season under former head coach Don Shelley. "The kids have bought into how we want the program to operate from an accountability standpoint and the effort has been great."

Orangeburg Prep is 2-1 in its non-region contests and 2-2 in SCISA Region 2-AA. It owns a 41-27 victory over defending Class A state champion Thomas Heyward Academy and a 27-8 triumph over Andrew Jackson Academy. The loss came to defending AAA state runner-up **Wilson Hall** by a 42-14 count.

In region play, the Indians own a 41-0 victory over Clarendon Hall and a 40-16 triumph over Spartanburg Christian Academy. The losses came against **Greenwood Christian School** by a 34-21 count and a 51-12 loss to Calhoun Academy.

Despite the unevenness of the games, Smith said his team is performing better than he anticipated coming into the season.

"I would say that we are exceeding expectations from the standpoint of where we are as a program overall," Smith said. "We had to replace a lot of key contributors from last season and we changed our philosophy on defense. We have had a lot of younger guys step up and that is going to be huge for us moving forward this season and beyond. We have to execute better to get the number in the win column higher, but I trust that our guys will continue to work hard and improve."

The Indians' next two games are non-region road contests against Northside Christian Academy on October 10 and Patrick Henry Academy on October 24. The regular-season finale will be at home against Thomas Sumter Academy in a region contest on October 31.

One of those young players who's had to step forward is sophomore quarterback Cholly Williams. He had completed 50 of 93 passes for 916 yards and 14 touchdowns against just three interceptions through the first six games. Williams had rushed for 182 yards and four touchdowns on 29 carries.

Williams has the luxury of having the top wide receiver in SCISA in 6-foot-5-iinch Tilden "T" Riley as a target. A Vanderbilt commitment, Riley has 25 receptions for 547 yards and 10 touchdowns. Riley is also a threat running the ball with 13 carries for 117 yards and a touchdown.

Sophomore Council Burroughs had 11 catches for 195 yards and three touchdowns, while junior Maxx Judy had nine catches for 109 yards and a

Junior J'syri Parker is the leading rusher. He had 256 yards and two touchdowns on 51 carries.

Riley is also a force on defense in the secondary. He had 36 tackles, a tackle for a loss and two interceptions along with two pass breakups.

The leading tackler is junior Blake Inabinet. He



THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Senior J'Syri Parker goes for a run

had 65 tackles, five of them being or a loss, and a fumble recovery. Junior Chris Jackson was leading the team in tackles for loss with eight. He also had 41 tackles and a quarterback sack.

Parker, an outside linebacker, had 38 tackles and three tackles for a loss. Defensive back Judy has been a turnover-forcing machine as he had two interceptions and three fumble recoveries. He also had 15

Sophomore linebacker Bryson Smoak had 24 tackles, a tackle for a loss, a fumble recovery and a

Smith hopes the Indians will be able to get healthy coming down the homestretch of the season. He pointed out that for the Homecoming game against SCA, only three of the eight seniors were able to dress due to injury.

ORANGEBURG PREP VOLLEYBALL **OPENS 13-8**

The Orangeburg Prep volleyball team lost three key performers to graduation from last year's team that went 20-4 and came within a match of playing for the AAA state title. With the Indians off to a 13-8 start, second-year head coach Katherine Smith likes how the team is coming along.

"The OP varsity volleyball team is improving week by week, and we're hitting the level of play I'm excited to see as we head toward the state tournament," Smith said. "As the season progresses, the team is showing increased determination, pursuing balls they may not have gone after earlier in the season. We've become a scrappy squad!"

The Indians return three starters in junior **Mary** Legare Delaney and seniors Hannah Lambrecht and **Kate Holstein**. The newcomers to the lineup are seniors Jayme Culler and Emma Grace Burleson and junior Morgan Gue.

Also on the roster are senior Paige Bonnette, senior Ansley Newsome, senior Morgan Newsome, junior Allie Brynn **Furtick** and freshman Blakely

Delaney leads OP in kills with 211, service aces with 42, digs with 160 and solo blocked shots 62 to go with 33 service aces. Lambrecht has 88 kills, 25 Proudly Saluting All Area Schools!



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aces and 114 digs, while Holstein has 101 kills and 26 blocks.

OWANGEHUNG, SC 29116

Burleson leads the way in aces with 42 and has 14 blocks. Culmer is the assists leader with 322 and has 75 digs. Furtick has 85 assists.

Orangeburg Prep had only played one match in the 4-team Region 1-AAA. The Indians owned a 3-0 triumph over Thomas Sumter, winning by the scores of 25=14. 25-20, 25-12.

The other region teams are Clarendon Hall and Calhoun Academy.

East Clarendon focused on region title in 2025

Fleming not suprised at Eagles success so far

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

By Dennis Brunson

HSSR.com Associate Editor

Turbeville – The **East Clarendon High School** football team felt it had its back up against the wall going into its home game against Clarendon County School District rival Manning on September 26 at **Shad Hall Field**. The Wolverines were coming off of a 20-14 loss to Lake City, not only their first loss of the season but also coming in their first Region 7-AA contest.

If EC wants to win the region championship, there is no margin for error over its final five contests. It got the first one behind it, scoring the game's final 20 points to come away with a 26-12 triumph.

"For us it was big because we looked at it as a must win," said East Clarendon head coach Larry **Cornelius**, whose squad improved to 5-1 on the season. "Having lost the first game in region play, we knew if we wanted to keep that goal alive we had to win. I don't think no one is going undefeated in the region, so we have to win out."

The loss to Lake City perhaps stung a bit more because the Panthers were winless coming into the contest. The Wolverines were 1-1 going into a bye week. Their final four games are at **Kingstree** on October 10 followed by a home game against Mullins, on the road against Atlantic Collegiate Academy and at home against Marion over the next three Fridays.

"We had a hard week of practice," said Cornelius, who led the Wolverines to their first win over the Monarchs since 1981. "We beat on each other for three days. We wanted to come out and show that we were better than that. We showed a lot more fire and

East Clarendon has carried on in good fashion despite losing its top player, senior Takoda Cornelius,

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Summerton – The **Scott's Branch**

High School football team is off to a

5-1 start and is 2-0 in Region 5-Class

A. That's another big step for the Ea-

Patrick Fleming's first year as head

coach after he inherited a 0-10 team.

While some may be surprised,

expected," Fleming said. "We took a

lot of steps in the right direction. We

started with a lot of athletes and now

we've got football players and a foot-

"The reason we're being success-

ful is they're doing the little things right. They are be-

Oddly, the season couldn't have started out on a

Clarendon 39-0. Scott's Branch followed that with a

40-38 victory over **Manning** though, its first win over

its **Clarendon County** rival in 60 years and has been

adversity," Fleming said. "We were down on the mat

or the 3 count. We couldn't get up. We were able to

knocking off Class A power Lake View 22-18. That

was followed by region wins over **Branchville** (26-8)

Cross on October 10. The Trojans are undefeated and

ranked second in the latest High School Sports Report

"We feel like this is a coming out party," Fleming

said. "We're not getting the respect we feel we should

bounce back against Manning though."

"We were not used to winning and overcoming any

The Eagles won by forfeit over **Hemingway** before

Up next is defending Class A lower state champion

lieving in the system, believing in themselves."

much worse note. SBHS was hammered by East

"We're right on par, about what we

gles, who were 4-7 last season in

Fleming is not.

ball team.

on a roll ever since.

and **St. John's** (54-0).

Class A poll.

early in the season opener. Takoda, Coach Cornelius eldest son, had started at quarterback the two previous seasons, but the plan was to utilize him at wide receiver as well as taking snaps behind center. He was also a starting safety.

"It definitely changed what we do," the head coach said in regards to adjustments made with Takoda's absence. "Defensively, we had to have someone come off the bench (freshman Skyler Cornelius, Takoda's younger brother). Having Takoda makes us a lot better team, but it's good to see arguably your best player goes out and we're still successful. In the end, it's a team game and you can still win ball games. It's the next man up concept."

Skyler Cornelius is the leading rusher with 495 yards and six touchdowns on 95 carries. Senior **Taquan Wilson** has 201 yards and a score on 50 carries, backup quarterback Blease Hardy has 137 yards and two TDs, and Picasso Brown has 128 yards and four touchdowns on 30 carries.

Sophomore Gavin White was slated to be the primary quarterback, and he has stepped up. He completed 42 of 76 passes for 553 yards and six touchdowns against just two interceptions.

"Gavin has been excellent," Coach Cornelius said. "He wants to be a perfectionist, and is sometimes a little too stiff. We're trying to get him to just let things fly off his shoulders and keep moving forward. He's done a great job.'

Linebackers Thomas Fitts and Mike Woods are the leading tacklers with 33 and 52, respectively. Defensive lineman **Javlon Barron** has 12 tackles for loss, while Fitts has 10 and Woods and linebacker Jesse Floyd have seven apiece. Floyd also has 2 ½ quarterback sacks to lead the team. Defensive back Brown has two interceptions.

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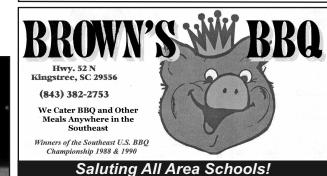
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Shawn Johnson and Clarendon **County School District**

be getting in the polls, but that's OK. That's some good bulletin board material."

1,140 yards and 15 touchdowns against just one inter-

Convers' three primary targets are junior **Nyren** Bowman, junior Keith Rogers and senior Christian touchdowns, Rogers has 20 catches for 356 yards and four scores, and Green has 16 catches for 185 yards and two scores. Junior Quintin Jackson has just sever catches but for 114 yards and three touchdowns.

Defensive end **Danny Ragin** is the leader of a big play defense. He has 32 tackles and a team high 10 quarterback sacks with three to go with 26 tackles.





Courtesy Superintendent Athletic Director Reggie Kennedy

Senior quarterback Jaiven Conyers makes the of-

The Eagles are much improved this season

fense run. He has completed 78 of 136 passes for ception. He's also the leading rusher with 181 yards and three touchdowns on 45 carries.

Green. Bowman has 25 catches for 304 yards and five

tackles for loss. Bowman is the leading tackler from his linebacker post with 38 to go with six TFLs. Sophomore outside linebacker Fra'Jon Bennett leads in Freshman Kendall Green has two interceptions.

Summerville boys chase third straight region title

By Roger Lee **Staff Writer**

Summerville – Despite being one of the newer programs in the state, the Summerville Boys Volleyball team is chasing its third straight region championship.

Summerville founded its boys' volleyball program in 2023 and went 11-5 with a 4-0 mark in its region that year. Last season, the Green Wave went 15-5 with a 6-0 region mark to capture its second straight region

The team blew by the program record of 15 wins for a season and just keeps rolling. In September, the Wave won its first tournament championship, the **Bob**cat Brawl in Bluffton. It also defeated Wando 25-17, 25-15 to end a three-match losing streak to the Warriors, the defending 5A, Division 1 Lower State Champion.

Summerville enters this week with a 25-6 record with a 6-0 mark in its region.

"We have a really good squad of 10 guys," said Summerville coach Steven DiPaolo. "This is a solid group and we know how to dig deep. It's a well-balanced, oiled machine right now.'

Summerville lost some players to graduation, but returned eight varsity lettermen to the team. Freshman Reed Robinson and junior Gabe Cook are the only new members.

The Green Wave is led by seniors Kerrick Pruitt and Nick Beddard and junior Alex Mose.

Pruitt returns as the primary setter and all three are making major contributions at the net. One of five team members who stands 6-foot or higher, Beddard is typically Summerville's most dynamic hitter. Senior Wyatt Thompson, junior Lennox Holness, Cook and Reed also bring good size up front.

Junior Mason Mills is back, but instead of spending time as an outside hitter he is anchoring the defense. Senior **Hunter Scruggs** and sophomore **Matthew** Abercrombie are also returners.

"I want to give a big congratulations to senior Kerrick Pruitt who became the first player in Summerville Boys Volleyball history to record 1,000 assists," Di-Paolo said. "It is a huge milestone for a player and program in less than three years. Mason is also a natural. He gets the game and knows where to be. The chemistry with Kerrick, Nick and Alex is absolutely absurd."

Pruitt leads the team in assists with 520 on the season. He also has 66 kills, 130 digs and a team-high 41 service aces. Beddard leads the team in kills with 242 this season and total blocks with 49. He also has 92

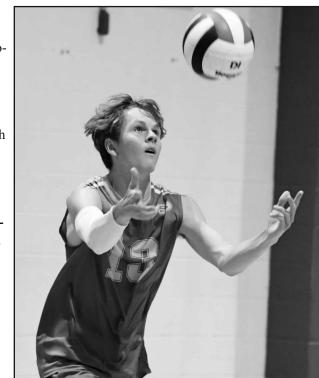
Mose leads in digs with 207 and in serve receptio with 188. He also has 142 kills. Robinson has 81 kills and Thompson has 76. Scruggs has 40 service aces. Holness has 28 total blocks. Mills has 132 digs.

Summerville hosts rematches with Cane Bay and region opponent Fort Dorchester at 6 p.m. Oct. 6. The Green Wave then wraps up its region schedule by hosting **Ashley Ridge** during a tri-match that also includes **Philip Simmons** scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Oct. 8.

Football

Summerville opened region play on the gridiron Oct. 3 with a 57-6 win over Stall at McKissick Field. The Green Wave improved to 5-1 on the season with

"We are really talented," said Summerville coach Ian Rafferty. "If we can get really disciplined I think we can be really good. We have some dangerous wide



Kerrick Pruitt serves for Summerville Photo by Roger Lee

outs and I feel good about where we are."

Defensive lineman **Demarcus King** opened the

TD passes. Receivers Jaiden Kelly-Murray and ZJ **Jenkins** both had a pair of TD catches.

Stafford has completed 42 of 64 passing attempts (66 %) for 678 yards and 7 TDs. Kelly-Murray has 26 receptions for 500 yards and 5 TDs.

The Wave's leading tacklers are **JT Williams** (49) and Eli Pressley (44). Demarcus King has 10 tackles for a loss while Pressley has 9. King also leads in sacks (3) and is tied for most QB hurries (8) with Malachi Washington. Pressley, Jeremiah Wright, Josiah Taylor, and JT Williams have all forced a fumble.

Jordan Ravenell, who has been selected for the **Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl**, along with Pressley, Peyton Harrison and Jakayden Pendergrass has recovered a fumble.

Josiah Taylor has four interceptions this year. Williams and Ravenell have both blocked a kick.

Summerville continues region play at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10 when it hosts James Island in a game between the current region leaders.





scoring with a scoop and score that followed a sack and strip of the Stall QB.

Running back Cam Grayson had two touchdown runs. QB Max Stafford had a rushing TD and multiple

Jayven Williams leads the team in rushing with 77 carries for 647 yards (8.4 avg) and 10 TDs. He has 879 all-purpose yards and 12 total TDs.

Hayden O'Rear has a 41-yard punting average and has allowed 0 return yards. **Byrce O'Rear** is 38 for 38 on long snaps. Nate Beaver is 23 for 25 on extra-point attempts and 1 for 1 on field goal attempts with a long boot of 45 yard and, 6 touchbacks.



SUMMERVILLE

Hampton County gearing up for stretch run

By Neill Kirkpatrick Special to the HSSR

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Summerville, SC 29483

Varnville – The Hurricanes returned home Friday night hosting Edisto in their region opener and they accomplished two important things; one – they ended a three-game losing streak and two- they opened region play with a win defeating the visitors

After opening the season with three impressive wins the Hurricanes played three straight games against HSSR ranked teams. They fell to 12th ranked AAAA Bluffton 31-7 in a game that was inches away from being a one score game. Next they lost to 10th ranked AAAA Hilton Head 45-21 after being down two at the half and finally it was 10th ranked AAA Christ Church 40-35.

There were several take aways from these games but the two biggest ones were that Hurricanes can compete with anyone on their schedule and that they need to take care of the little things if they want to make a deep run in the playoffs.

"No disrespect to the teams that beat us, they are all very good football teams but we fill like the only team that beat Hampton County is Hampton County. In all those games we made too many mental mistakes and didn't take care of the little things to win those ball games," said coach Rob Hanna.

Coach continued, "The word of the week before Christ Church, our word of the week was "Discipline". One game day we had issues from the start of the day and it cared over into the game. I was disappointed in the team because we stressed it all week. I also told the team that I would never ques-

A.G. Solomons, Jr. Attorney at Law Solomons & Lawton, PC PO Box 969, Estill, SC

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tion their heart."

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

One thing that came to light during the threegame losing streak was the play of the offensive line. Left tackle Charles "CJ" Williams, left guard Cleavon Maxwell, center Hunter Lawson, right tackle Ty'Quavian Jones and right guard Jayden **Frazier** showed they can block any defensive front. They opened holes for Touchstone North/ South allstar Jaylen Singletary to average over 150 yards against their ranked opponents. Singletary also scored six touchdowns.

Singletary is having an outstanding year on both sides of the ball and seems to be getting better as the season goes on. The two-time all-state selection has rushed for a team high 892 yards and 17 rushing touchdowns. He also has a receiving touchdown and a kickoff return for six while blocking two

Also benefiting from the play of the offensive line has been quarterback **Tarell Grant.** He has passed for over 500 yards and rushed for 388 yards. He rushed for 158 yards and two touchdowns against Christ Church. On the two scores the offensive line opened up two gaping holes on the inside and he planted, cut and was untouched.

Senior wide out Karinton Sabb has provided yards in both passing and running game. He has

See **Hampton County**, pg. **62**



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Patrick Henry volleyball strong in transition

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Estill – Kristin Wemes is in her first season as the volleyball head coach at Patrick Henry Academy. Most of the Lady Patriots roster is not new, and that's a good thing, a very good thing.

Wemes inherited six starters returning from a squad that went 23-9 and played for the SCISA AAA state title. Patrick Henry hasn't dropped the ball at all this season, winning 12 of its first 14 matches and starting 3-0 in Region 4.

Even with all of the experience, Patrick Henry is still developing,

"The team's progression has evolved greatly from the start of the season," Wemes said. "They have done a great job of adjusting to opponents when necessary and continuously supporting each other in the process."

Senior outside hitter Sophie Westendorf is having a tremendous season. She leads the Patriots in kills with 173 to go with 34 service aces, 98 digs and just 17 receiving errors in 183 serves received.

Senior Emilee Stanley is back as the setter and has 403 assists to go with 83 digs, five blocks, 33 aces and 25 kills.

Sophomore **Kinley Cook** is the other outside hitter, and she too is performing well. She has a team high 121 digs and leads in serves received with 194 and has just 20 errors. She has 126 kills, 45 aces,

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eight blocked shots and 21 assists.

Sophomores Sara Guty and Maura Mathis return as middle blockers. Mathis has 73 kills and 11 blocks, Guty has a team high 59 aces and 21 blocks to go with 54 kills and 52 digs.

Junior Mills Lucas is a returning rightside hitter. She has 25 kills, four kills and 18 digs. The newcomer to the starting lineup is sophomore Kaiden **Olmos** at libero. She has 18 aces, 41 digs, 10 assists and 163 serves received.

Junior defensive specialist Kaitlyn Carrillo is a member of the rotation. She has 38 digs and 14 aces.

The roster is rounded out by junior rightside hitter Adaleigh Long and senior rightside hitter Julianne Miley.

Wemes believes as long as PHA maintains the proper effort, it will have a successful season.

"As a team, we strive to set realistic expectations," she said. "While every team goes through ups and downs during their season, expectations can waver. The main thing we expect and can count on is the effort we give."

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Patriots volleyball shouldn't be underestimated

By Roger Lee

Special to the HSSR

a second shot at the Green Wave.

North Charleston – Fort Dorchester is right in

the mix when it comes to Lowcountry boys' volley-

The **Patriots** enter this week with an 18-12

record with a 4-1 mark in their region. They trail

only **Summerville** (25-6, 6-0) in the region and get

"The team's success this season primarily hap-

pens when all of the boys control the controllables -

energy, effort, and attitudes out on the court," said

Fort Dorchester coach Liz Simmons. "When we all

work as one unit, we see the results that we work so

everything out on the court and make sure that we

The Patriots won their last three region matches,

Through that run, outside hitters Daniel Schenk

Aaron Drake (472 assists, 100 digs, 33 aces) led the

Libero Cade Ridgway (426 digs, 24 aces, 35 as-

Mark Thomas and Gavin Stone are new to vol-

"Our front row remains super strong," Simmons

sists) and middle blocker Mark Thomas (41 blocks,

85 kills) led the defense while also contributing of-

leyball, but have proven nice additions to front row

players such as Lucis Masula, Schenk and Boutin.

said. "Those boys really know how to put the ball

away. Logan Rodriguez brings a lot of young talent

Other members of the team are **Bryce Carter**,

The team only has three play dates remaining

during the regular season. In addition to facing Sum-

Cane Bay during that tri-match. The Fort hosts Stall

and James Island at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8 to

close out its region slate. The Patriots then partici-

pate in a tournament scheduled for Saturday, Oct.

"I'm really confident about our ability," Sim-

mons said. "We have a strong team and they have

Summerville – Once again, the Ashley Ridge

swimmers swept the 5A Region 8 Championship

The **Swamp Foxes** captured both the boys'

"This season has been a fun ride," said Ashley

Ridge coach Victoria Merritt. "This marks the

eighth straight time our Boys and Girls have won

The teams had a lot of success prior to the re-

the region. We are so excited for the state meet

gion meet. The Boys won the Ripley's Invita-

tional, the Rock the Block Invitational. The

Nathan Lindsey broke school record in

the Boys 200-yard Freestyle. **Karter Gladis**

broke the school records in the Boys 100 Butter-

fly and Boys 100 Breaststroke. Grace Marsaa

broke the school records in the Girls 200 Free,

Girls 100 Butterfly and Girls 100 Breaststroke.

Girls placed second during both events.

and girls' region title Oct. 3 at the North

Ashley Ridge swimmers sweep the region

merville Oct. 6, the Patriots face a rematch with

Tristan Szymkowiak, Ryan Judice and James

fensively.

to our back row."

By Roger Lee

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notching wins over James Island, Stall and Ashley

hard for. The boys know that they have to earn

(200 kills, 25 blocks, 20 assists) and Dawson

Boutin (139 kills, 126 digs, 26 aces) and setter

limit the errors on our side to win games."

Davis takes over THA volleyball program

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Ridgeland—Jamie Davis is at her alma mater as the head volleyball coach at **Thomas Heyward Academy,** after serving as an assistant coach last

The Lady Rebels are currently (3-4, 0-2) in competition this season with three matches to go in the regular season. They play at Northwood Academy on October 7 before playing at HTTC on the 9th. The team concludes the regular season with a region match at the Cross Schools on October 14.

The team is represented by senior tri-captains. They are Libero **Presley Ballagh**, two-spot player Olivia Meador, and outside hitter Cayleigh Smith.

"We are kind of in a transition year, and we are still developing our hitting skills," said Coach Davis. "Our team leader on the court is Presly Ballagh, and she does an excellent job at keeping the ball moving, and if we did not have her this season, we would have a lot of problems keeping the ball in the air.

"One of our team goals we are working on before this season is over is being more consistent in our all-around play," said Coach Davis. "I want to teach my players how to keep pushing hard and to learn how to put the ball away on kills. We are working on how to hit properly and how to locate our shots away from defenders on the court."

Meador is the setter of the team, and she leads the team in assists. Cayleigh Smith is the team's best outside hitter, and she leads the Rebels in kills.

The other starters on the team include sophomore Lily Grant who plays in the number one spot. Junior Cadence Graham starts as a middle hitter, and junior Caleigh Scottile is a RS. Junior Errolyn Smith starts as a middle blocker.

Key reserves on the team, who rotate in-and-out include senior RS Emma Disbrow, junior setter Abaigial Kidwell, and senior DS Abigail Hansen.

The Rebels earned wins over Colleton Prep and the Coastal Hurricanes (twice) this season.

Coach Davis is assisted by Alicia Crosby and former teammate Victoria Quick.

Thomas Heyward Academy Football Update

The HSSR visited head coach **Daniel Bryan**, and

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

the Rebels, at practice during the open date recently. At that time, the team was 0-3 but they defeated Patrick Henry, 47-14 on October 3 and they are hoping to make a strong finish to the season and make the SCISA play-offs.

The Rebels are the defending Class A state champions in South Carolina, but they experienced heavy graduation losses after last year's gold medal season. They will host Andrew Jackson Academy this week (Oct. 10).

"If we play team football and keep on working hard, I feel like we can get some wins and make the play-offs," said Coach Bryan. "We just need to stop having so many penalties and play solid team football. In our 16 -point loss to Colleton Prep we had 130 yards worth of penalties. We were going in to score late in the game and they picked up a fumble and scored for a 14- point swing. It's been that kind

The team is built around veteran senior **Tonv** O'Banner (6-0,210) ranked as the number two overall prospect in the state by the HSSR. "My goal is to what I need to do to help team get into the playoffs and play for a state title," said 0'Banner who runs a 4.5 forty and he currently has over 6,500 career yards rushing with 90 touchdowns.

Liberty has bene showing strong interest in O'Banner, and he is scheduled to take a visit to Southeast Missouri College on October 18.

The Rebels started the season with seven players injured and they are getting most of them back as the season moves along. Some of the rother key players include senior FS/WR Joshua Gibson, senior WR Tyler Hammonds, along with returning LB Dodge Peeples.

Freshman Grayson Hymon has seen time at QB. Gibson is joined at WR by Hunter Disbrow, Jace Bessinger, Owen Polazzo, Drew Wilks, and Brennan

The OL/DL support group consists of Ben Gibson, Mackie Brown, Brycer Daily, Nolan Smith, Dawson Drew, and Peeples.

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Beaufort volleyball competing well this fall

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Beaufort – In a very tough region, region 7-AAAA, the Beaufort High volleyball team is competing well.

Entering a key region contest against Bishop England (Oct. 7), the Eagles were 5-2 in region play and 12-5-1 overall. There is still work to be done but Beaufort has put itself in position to contend for the region title under first-year head coach

The team has shown good balance with several players contributing in various ways. The leader of the team is senior Alyson Dennison, a veteran performer and all-around solid player. Dennison was key in three statistical categories. She amassed 88 kills, 95 digs and more than 250 assists.

Sophomore **Erin Crosby** leads the team in kills (108) and digs (138) and is a key player for the future of the program.

Junior **Olivia Byrne** has 72 kills and junior Samantha Graves has 65 kills. Senior Carson **Crosby** adds more than 50 kills.

Senior Sarah Anderson has been a key defensive leader with more than 150 digs while senior Camille Giblin has 117 assists. Dennison and Carson Crosby are the team captains this season.

Rounding out the 2025 roster are freshman Jaedyn Couch, senior Izzy Wood, junior Abby Maichel, junior Claire Hovest, senior Piper Kennedy, junior Marley Duncan and junior

Closing out the region schedule in October will be matches against Hilton Head (Oct. 14) and May River (Oct. 16). Beaufort split their two meetings with Bluffton. Bishop England leads the region at 7-0 and Beaufort sits alone in second-place with two weeks remaining.

The cross country teams also hope for a strong performance down the stretch, possibly qualifying for the AAAA state meet in early November. Both the boys and girls teams competed in the Beaufort County championship meet and each team finished sixth in the team standings.

The top runner on the girls team is **Yzeult Antia**, who finished 23rd in the county meet. **Jamie** Simmons and Savannah Stokes run second and third on the team, followed by Halle Kruse and Xenia Perez-Pedro.

David Byrne is the top runner for the boys team, followed by Max Gibbons, Henry Petit, Fred Waddell and Jackson Hamilton.

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2025 AR Region Swim Champions Girls 200 Medley Relay (Addie Green, Grace

coming up."

Aaron Drake sets the ball Photo by Roger Lee

put in a ton of work. We are competing with teams we haven't competed with before and I couldn't be more proud of each and every one of them. Don't underestimate us."

Girls Volleyball

The Fort Dorchester Girls have also had some promising moments on the volleyball courts this

The team opened region play by defeating Ashley Ridge, which is something the team hasn't done in a while.

"Resilience is our theme," said Fort Dorchester coach **Megan Foley**. "We improved from a 3-14 season to a 12-11 season last year so this year is about resilience. We are pushing and pushing and feel like a sleeping giant is awake."

The Patriots return eight varsity lettermen from last season and have added six new players. The returners are having a big impact on the front line.

Marsaa, Callie Casa, Emily Bonacci)

Emily Bonacci- Girls 200 Free

Nathan Lindsey- Boys 200 IM

Grace Marsaa- Girls 100 Fly

Emily Bonacci- Girls 100 Free

Addie Green- Girls 100 Back

Casa, Kail Walker, Addie Green)

Grace Marsaa- Girls 100 Breast

Karter Gladis- Boys 100 Breast

Girls 400 Free Relay (Grace Sapko, Callie

Boys 400 Free Relay (Nathan Lindsey, Lan-

On the gridiron, the Swamp Foxes claimed a

44-14 win at rival **Fort Dorchester** Oct. 3 in the

region opener for both teams to improve to 3-3 on

the season. Senior running back Ryan Campbell

and senior quarterback Trevor Kalisz had a role

in three touchdowns each. The Ashley Ridge de-

fense recorded four sacks and recovered four

fumbles and the Swamp Foxes blocked a field

Campbell scored on runs of 13 and 6 yards in

don Berghoff, Finn Routhier, Karter Gladis)

Landon Berghoff- Boys 500 Free

Landon Berghoff- Boys 200 Free

"Izzy Kerce is a left-handed, right-side hitter and you couldn't ask for better court awareness and court IQ," Foley said. "Hitter Sarah Mitchell also has ex-

FORT DORCHESTER

Page 21

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perience. In the middle Hailey Greatrex and Lavah Mills are seniors who match each other's energy. Katelyn Mitchell helps us on the outside and in the middle."

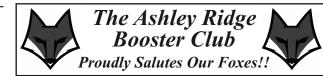
Setter Annamarie Picciano and liberoes Hannah Wallace and Hannah Martinez also return with considerable back-row experience. The coach also likes the potential of the new members of the

"My daughter (Konner Haupt) is an eighthgrader who has had a ball in her hand since she was born," Foley said. "Setter Sophie Bobola mirrors everything Anna does."

Newcomers Cailyn Ashline, Leslie Gunnoe, Eiva Sulciate and Jada Heard are also making

The team enters the week with a 10-11-1 record and a 2-5 mark in region play.

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the first quarter and turned a backwards pass into a 61-yard touchdown in the second quarter to give the Swamp Foxes a 21-7 lead early in the second quarter.

Malquan Pimentel sacked and stripped the FD QB on the Patriots' ensuing possession. Defensive lineman JT King recovered the fumble

See Ashley Ridge, pg. 61



The Lady Stags golf team is enjoying a successful season

Berkeley athletes showing competitive spirit

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Moncks Corner - A won-loss record doesn't always tell the story of how hard a team competes. **Berkeley High** fall sports athletes are proving that point daily.

Not every final result is a victory but showing a competitive spirit and love for the sport goes a long way in developing the total student/athlete.

As the 2025 fall sports season winds down, **Berkeley** teams are aiming to finish strong and hopefully participate in the AAAAA Division II state playoffs.

The focus of every fall at most schools is the football team and Berkeley's football team has been the most successful team this fall.

The Stags won four of their first games this season, losing to Summerville early on and losing the region 7-AAAAA opener to Stratford on Oct. 3. The Stags are expected to be a playoff team and may be able to advance deep into the postseason.

Offensively, junior quarterback Henry Rivers is the top threat. In five games, Rivers has more than 640 yards passing and 378 yards rushing. In the loss to Stratford, Rivers had 116 yards rushing and 101 yards through the

LJ Washington leads the team in rushing with 463 yards while **Jessie Brown** is nearing 200 yards for the season. The top receiver is Elijah Mitchell with 12 receptions for more than 200 yards. **John Cleveland** has caught 10 passes.

Linebacker Gehad Sneed is a leader defensively and was recently selected to the SC roster for the 2025 Shrine Bowl all-star game. He is a third-year starter for the Stags' defense.

Tackle Landon Jackson has racked up 10 tackles for

Cane Bay volleyball having great season so far res, and juniors Emma Zagenelli and Marley

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Summerville – With the state playoffs just around the corner, the volleyball teams at Cane Bay are looking forward to a good postseason run.

The boys and girls teams have been very competitive in region 7-AAAAA play, with just two weeks remaining in the regular season.

As of Oct. 2, the boys team had an 8-3 overall record with a 5-2 mark against region competition.

The girls team won 14 of their first 20 contests, with one tie, while posting a 4-1 record in their first trip through the league.

There have been several key contributors this season with the girls team. Junior **Rylie Friar** is tops on the team in kills with 120 through 20 contests. Sophomore Amelia Watkins had 103 kills and sophomore Alaina Paige had 63 kills. Sophomore Shiloh Reed totaled 40 kills.

Senior setter Elise Karan has 273 assists and 94 defensive digs. Junior Savanna Hammond leads the team with 196 digs. Senior Leanna Boscana totaled 70 digs in 20 matches.

Three other seniors on the roster include **Brooke** Bartlett, Mariah Wright and Ava Robertson. Rounding out the roster are sophomore Jordan Flo-

loss and five sacks. Other key defenders include lineback ers Marcus Henderson and Kevin Rivers, defensive back Cam McCue and Jahmir Heyward. Berkeley will close out the regular season with region

games against Goose Creek (Oct. 10), Wando (Oct. 17), Lucy Beckham (Oct. 24) and Cane Bay (Oct. 31).

The girls golf team is having a solid season as well. Jenna Kate Hoffman and Sullivan Giavelli are the top two players. Maddy Nelson, Anelia Watson and Dakota **Haines** work in the top five as well.

The volleyball team is having a tough season overall but has won a few region games. Senior Ava Baker leads the team with 101 kills and also has 112 defensive digs. Sophomore **Joanna Villeponteaux** has 60 kills and 99

Senior Camden Valicek has 57 kills and 74 digs while junior Imani Levey has 57 kills. Freshman Kinsley Valicek had 157 assists and Reagan Infinger has 135 as-

The boys cross country has been competitive as they prepare for the state meet in November. Junior **Zachary Dephouse** and sophomore **Jack Hicks IV** are the top two

Junior Cohen Brown, junior Brandon Prioleau and junior **Noah Matthews** are usually running in the top

Junior Avery Hale and freshman Charlee Arnold are competing for the girls team.

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The boys cross country team is hoping for a

early November. The Cobras have had a productive

all-state potential, according to coach Greg Hall. A

Two other seniors running in the top group in-

clude Jackson Novak and Matthew Kale. Sopho-

more **Devon Long** is the No. 2 runner this season.

Nicholas Quiles-Carter round out the top seven

The Cane Bay football program will play the

Wando on Oct. 10. Heading into game 199 on Oct. 3

against Lucy Beckham, the program had a right at a

The Cobras entered region play at 1-4 on the sea-

200th game in school history when they take on

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The Raiders take the field against Lee Academy

Offensive line coming through for Dorchester

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

St. George – These were the words of **Dorch**ester Academy football head coach Michael Nelson just prior to the start of the season: "If you'd asked me in early July or late June how we're going to be I would have said, 'If we can block we'll be good, if we can't block we'll be pretty

Fortunately for the Raiders, the line has been very good. That has helped DA to a 6-0 overall start and a 2-0 record in SCISA Region 1-Class A.

"I'm not surprised," Nelson said. "We're not as good or as big as we were last year, but we're getting better each and every week. The line is growing, maturing, getting better week by week. This group has kind of picked up where we left off last year. I knew if we could block we'd be good. They've done a great job."

The line is made up of sophomore right tackle Jae Carn, sophomore left tackle Clayton Zeigler, junior left guard Will

Quattlebaum and freshman right guard Matthew Byron with junior Jack Whetsell and senior Kaden Turbeville splitting tie at center.

The line has done a good job opening holes, and senior John Whetsell has done a good job running through them. Whetsell has rushed for

1,142 yards and 15 touchdowns on 134 carries. Whetsell ran for 1,752 yards and 15 scores last

Senior John Quattlebaum is back at quarterback. He has completed 49 of 69 passes for 817 yards and 12 touchdowns and has yet to throw an interception.

"I think we can throw the ball better than last year," Nelson said. "We're able to throw the ball if we need to. We haven't had to throw it per se, but we're more offensively than just running the ball. Youve got to be able to balance the dynamic. We have some guys who can catch the ball and

Senior tight end Abe Shuler has 20 catches for 344 yards and three touchdowns. Junior wide receiver **Noah Risher** has 15 catches for 264 yards and five scores, sophomore Warren Judy has five catches for 64 yards and two TDs, senior Landon Holly has five catches for 86 yards and a touchdown, and sophomore Graham Varnadoe has four catches for 55 yards and a score.

Dorchester has allowed just 71 points defen-

The Raiders have a pair of non-region contests to play before playing host to undefeated Williamsburg Academy on October 31. That game will be for the region title.

Palmetto Christian volleyball aiming high in '25

By Neill Kirkpatrick **Special to the HSSR**

Mt. Pleasant – The Palmetto Christian Academy volleyball has quietly established themselves as one of the top programs in SCISA, not only in the low country but in the state, with success come expectations and head coach **Shelley Kaiser** knows her team is built to achieve that success.

"We want to win the region and win the state championship. The systems we have put into place are to practice with discipline. This team has set some high goals," said Coach Kaiser.

One of the biggest reasons for the success of the program has been the work of coach Kaiser's two assistant coaches.

Coach Kaiser said, "I think it's important to pour into the middle school program and the JV program. We also have great coaches. Our JV coach is amazing, Tracy Carper and my assistant coach, Whitney Hinson. They both are

smart, encouraging and expect and model excellence. We love these players on and off the court. They know that if they need anything we would be there for them."

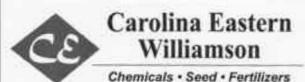
Heading into the final month of the season the Eagles have a 18-7-2 overall record and the sit atop of their region with a 7-0 record. They are set to get one of the top seeds in the playoff if they continue to play at the same level.

The Eagles are led by returning senior starters and captains Chloe Guyan and Reed **Jones.** Guyan is a defensive specialist/ libero and is one of the top players in digging and serve receiving while Jones does most of her damage at the net.

Junior Adelaide Suddeth (OH,MH) and sophomores Banks Jenkins (RS) and Coco **Kucaba** (OH,MO) are returning from last year. Suddeth, who is also an outstanding basketball player, is second on the team in kills with 21.

Jenkins leads the team assists with 13 and is

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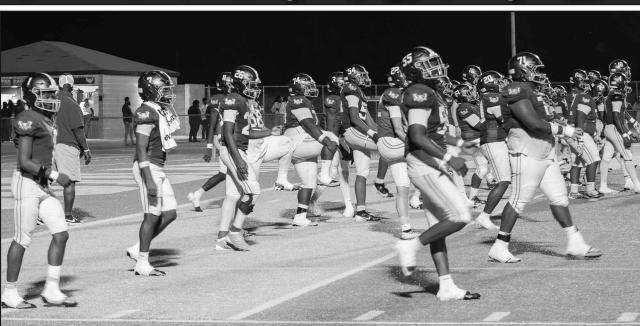
second in diggings with 16 while Kucaba leads the team in kills with 37, aces with 16, digs with 20 and serve receiving with 9.

Newcomers are Meliyah Copeland, Elle Hinson, Peyton Little, AB Tillery, Emerson Hinson, and Kylie Neubauer. Copeland, a transfer from Goose Creek, has been solid all over the court, especially at the net.

Hinson has shown her all around as she has 12 kills, 9 aces (2^{nd}) , 13 digs, and 10 assists (2^{nd}) while Little has 18 kills (3rd).

"I really do think we can make a deep run in the playoffs. This team has set some high goals. They have dug dip when confronted with some injuries and sickness, all while showing great resilience. They play with heart and hustle and continue to stay in it when curveballs are thrown their way. Our team verse this season is Romans 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?" We truly believe in this for our team," coach Kaiser said.

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The Wolverines look to rebound next week when Andrews comes to town

Wolverines drop region opener 39-14

By Neill Kirkpatrick Special to the HSSR

Charleston – Phillip Simmons and Woodland entered Friday's contest looking to open region 6AA with a win and it was the Iron Horses who imposed their will and controlled the game from start to finish as they handed the Wolverines their third consecutive loss 39-14.

The Wolverines started the year 3-0. Their losses have all been to ranked (HSSR POLLS) opponents in Bishop England (5th AAAA), Bamberg Ehrhardt (1st A) and Friday night's loss to 7th ranked AA Phillip Simmons.

The Iron Horse's defense set the tone for the game on Woodlands first possession of the game allowing only 11 yards. In fact, counting the 11 yards the Wolverines gained just 18 yards on their first four possessions.

"They were more physical than us from start to finish. We never found our rhythm offensively all night and we got a bit worn out on defense," said coach Ford. "We have to do a better job of not turning the ball over and playing third down defense."

Despite the loss coach Ford feels his team can still win the region but knows they will need some help for that to happen.

"I told the team that is was just one game but we have to work to get better every day. In our three losses we have gotten better as a team. The scores may not show but as coaches can see it on the field. We hit a tough patch but what it does is get us ready for the rest of the region schedule. We have been here before and we told our kids we just want to go 1-0 next week," said coach Ford.

Next week the Andrews Yellowjackets (2-4/1-0) will make the trip to Dorchester in a pivotal game for both teams. The Wolverines will prepare for another physical team.

"Coach Durham and his staff do great job. They are going to line up and come at you every play. We have to be ready for another tough battle," coach Ford said.

Andrews will bring one of the top running backs in the state in all stater AJ Lee. He has



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Head Coach Eddie Ford

rushed for 952 yards and will look to top 1000 yards against the Wolverine defense.

Coach Ford said defensive George Perry and Pickney had solid games Friday night and the defense played well. Chandler Fogle had a fumble recovery in the game.

"Defensively, I thought we played well most of the game. We lined up wrong on a couple plays that really cost us but they played hard all night," said Ford.

On offense, Owen Messex had a good game along the offensive line while **Karmon** Howell ran ball well.

Jaemin Pickney picks up another college offer **By Neill Kirkpatrick**



Jaemin Pinckney

Special to the HSSR

Dorchester – Woodland has had it's share of talented players playing at the next level such as Ty Hill and Robert Smith at Clemson, and Michael Barnett at Georgia and next in line is **Jaemin** Pickney.

The 6-5, 218 South Florida commit was recently named to the Touchstone Energy North/ South Bowl. He also picked up another from Florida State this weekend when he attended the Florida State/ Miami football game.

Woodland head coach Eddie Ford said Jaemin has not even scratched the surface of how good he can be as a football player.

"Jaemin is not a vocal leader but he leads by example. He plays hard every play. He is physical on defense. Offensively, we have played him at wide receiver and tight end but it is hard to hide him on the football field," said coach

Friday night at Philip Simmons coach Ford moved Jaemin around on offense and tried to get him the ball on some crossing routes.

The Iron Horses offense made sure they knew where he was every play. Quarterback Hayes Goddard got the ball out quickly which limited Jaemin's effectiveness.



Quarterback Malyk Goodman

Jordan Gorham

Timberland football rolls in region opener

By Rob Gantt

Special to the HSSR

St. Stephen – Timberland High School's football team opened its Region 6-AA slate with a resounding 74-0 victory over Burke High School Friday, Oct. 5, at home.

The Wolves improved to 5-1 on the season with their win against the Bulldogs. Coach Greg Wright's squad also has wins over Lee Central (27-12), Lake City (34-24), Cross (7-6) and Kingstree (29-14) this fall. The lone setback came to county rival Hanahan High School, a Class 3A program.

With dual-threat quarterback Malyk Goodman leading the way and consistently moving the chains, the Wolves have been potent on offense. The Burke game served as further evidence. The Wolves scored early and often to gain control. Timberland has also gotten good work out of running backs Montez Addison and Antaun Faison in the ground game this season, with both also making a mark on the other

side of the ball. Receivers Jordan Gorham, Carter Hawkins and Cam Foster have been Goodman's top targets through the air, and also double up in the secondary for the Wolves.

Inside the trenches, University of Florida commitment **Desmond Green** has been a force and was recently selected to play for the South Carolina squad in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in De-

Notable tacklers in recent contests were Latrell Smalls, Caylen Jones, Anthony Peeples and Javion Jenkins.

Wright's team made a significant move up in the most recent SC Prep Media football poll, moving up from No. 9 to No. 6 in the Sept. 30 Class 2A poll.

Timberland travels to Academic Magnet Friday Oct. 10, and hosts Andrews Friday, Oct. 17, before going to Philip Simmons Friday, Oct. 24, and hosting Woodland Friday, Oct. 30 or 31.

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McCoy.

McCoy has shown her abilities as she has 10 kills, 13 aces, to go with 9 blocks which is second on the

Cavaliers volleyball looking toward playoffs

By Neill Kirkpatrick Special to the HSSR

Moncks Corner – Heading into the stretch run of the regular season the St. John's Christian Academy Cavalier volleyball team is sitting at 11-6/3-2 and firmly in second place in SCISA region 4 AAA.

The Cav's are coming off a 15-7-1 season and they had several returning starters so expectations were high coming into 2025. The only change was a new head coach in Casey Tharp.

Leading the Cav's are three seniors who have been on the varsity team for the past three years in Olivia Kunkle, Kylie Finley, and Chandler **Cumbie.** They are the team's captains as well. Cumbie, an outside hitter, is a beast at the net leading the Cav's with 155 kills. She has over 460 kills for her career. She is not afraid to go do the floor as she is second in digs with 61 and leads the team with 33 aces.

Finley, a middle hitter, leads the team in blocks with 30 and assist with 164. She is second in kills with 41 and aces with 30 while Kunkle leads the team in digs with 82.

Sophomore Lily McKnight has shown her all around and is the top four in many categories. The outside hitter/ defensive specialist has 16 kills, 24 aces, 7 blocks and 23 digs.

The rest of the Cavaliers line up consists of senior Reagan Ashby, and Addison Law, sophomore Raleigh Jackson and freshman Alv

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Hanahan football team enters region play

By Rob Gantt

Special to the HSSR

Hanahan – Hanahan High School's football team concluded its non-region slate with a successful road trip to Andrews High School

The Hawks returned home to Murray Drive with a 36-22 victory.

Hanahan sophomore quarterback Tripp Gallus threw for two touchdowns and junior running back **Isaiah Snodgrass** added two scores on the ground to power the Hawks to the victory Friday, Sept. 26.

Gallus finished 9 of 11 for 185 yards through the air and connected with receiver Quamell Grant five times for 130 yards in the win. Both touchdown passes went to Grant for 67 and 30 yards. Snodgrass toted the rock 25 times for 126 yards, reaching paydirt on runs of 1 and 26 yards.

On special teams for the Hawks, junior **Grayson** Mathes returned a kickoff 82 yards for a touchdown.

Before edging Andrews, the Hawks cruised past Berkeley County rival Timberland 49-20 at Wiley Knight Stadium. Snodgrass carried 26 times for 181 yards and scored four touchdowns.

The Hawks tallied the most points they've ever scored in the series versus Timberland and won in back-to-back years for the first time since 2001-02.

"I'm so proud of their work ethic and toughness," Hanahan coach Milan Turner said after the win over Timberland. "That's starting to show up. We would have loved to have won those earlier games, but I think our kids fought and learned a lot of life lessons through that."

Through the air, Gallus passed for 75 yards and ran for 42 more. Gallus and Grant connected on a 16yard touchdown.



Quarterback Tripp Gallus

Hanahan's defense put the finishing touches on the rout when junior cornerback Jesiah Smith returned an interception 45 yards for a score late in the fourth quarter.

After meeting defending 3A champion Oceanside Collegiate Friday, Oct. 3, the Hawks host Orangeburg-Wilkinson Friday, Oct. 10 for homecoming. Hanahan then finishes the regular season at North Charleston Oct. 24 and Battery Creek Oct. 30.

On the season, Gallus has passed for over 1,200 yards and 10 scores. Snodgrass is over 500 rushing with six scores. Senior Josh Amara also has six touchdowns

On defense, LB Amara, senior LB **Landen** Ritchie and junior LB Ben Jackson lead the Hawks

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Cross High School Class of 1980 - Go Trojans!

Cross High School Go Trojans! Class of 1978

with six tackles for loss.

play in the North-South all-star game, had nearly 50 tackles through six games with 13 tackles for loss

Jailyn Broughton has 30 tackles and Jakobe Jones has 25 tackles.



2025 Colleton County Cougars volleyball

Colleton County fall athletes are working hard

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Walterboro – Despite a lack of overall success, the fall sports athletes at Colleton County High are putting in the effort to compete as best they can.

Despite a 1-5 record, the football team has shown improvement but a difficult schedule has made it tough to hang for all four quarters. Third-year head coach Adam Kinloch said before the season that his team had a great attitude and will continue to work hard.

"We definitely want to win more. We want these kids to get rewarded for their hard work," Kinloch said. "Our confidence level is much better with the experience we have gained. Wins are hard to come by. Our region is going to be very competitive across the board. We want to compete with every team we play. If we can games into the fourth quarter with a chance, I think we are in position to win some of those games."

The Cougars' lone win this season came against Stall (31-18). The losses have come to Hampton County, Lower Richland, Woodland and May River in the region 7-AAAA opening game.

The team will close out the regular season through

October with Beaufort, Bluffton, Hilton Head and Bishop England. The last three teams have been ranked in the statewide top 10 media poll during the season, as was Hampton County, May River and Woodland.

The team has several key defensive leaders this season. Junior Ziair Holmes has stacked up 9.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks. Senior Rodney Wilder leads the team with 39 tackles and also has four interceptions. Junior Anthony Hamilton has 31 tackles while junior Jakell Jenkins has 36 total tackles. Sophomore Okeefe Martin has 29 total hits.

While the offense has struggled to find consistency, the offensive line has been solid overall. Making up that unit are Jayden Hudson is the senior center while senior **Quentin Holmes** and junior **Chase Jones** are the guards. Working at tackle are senior Ronald Robison and junior Melvin Ancrum.

Fall Sports Update

The girls tennis team has competed well overall with leadership coming from Madysen Myers and **Brooklyn Stuard**, the two most experienced players. The team is coached by Kendrick Hiers, now in his

Colleton Prep girls tennis is a family affair in '25

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Walterboro – Colleton Prep's 2025 girls tennis team has six players on the roster, and coach Ladson **Fishburne** reports that the team is a family affair. Literally.

The six players handle all of the playing and the team has two sets of sisters and another pair that are

Sophomore sisters Marie and Caroline Molinari occupy the No. 1 and No.2 singles spots. At No. 3 and No. 4 are sophomore cousins Betts White and Cooper White. Rounding out the squad are sophomore Ann Howell and freshman Maddie Howell. who are sisters.

The success has been limited this season but the program has won five state champions over the years. The most recent title came in 2022.

Fishburne says this year's team is a joy to coach because of their work ethic and overall effort.

"The biggest strength we have is the relationship these girls have with each other," he says. "This is their fifth season on my team so they know the drill, but we need more time on the court in the off season. This season looks rough when only looking at our record, currently 3-9, but they have played tough all year and have had a lot of close matches.

"As their coach, I am very proud of this team for their performance and hard work all season."

Football off to 5-1 start

After opening the season with a loss to John Paul II, the Colleton Prep football team has hit their stride as the calendar flips to October. Entering an Oct. 3 contest against Beaufort Academy, the Warhawks sported a 5-1 overall record.

The five straight wins came against St. John's Christian, Thomas Heyward, Andrew Jackson Academy, Calhoun Academy and Clarendon Hall.

Junior quarterback Cale Owens is having a very good season to date. Owens is completing 71 percent of his passes for 1,260 yards and 14 touchdowns. He also is leading the team with 476 rushing yards and six more scores.

Tanner Wolf has rushed for 271 yards and seven touchdowns. The leading receivers are Thomas Corbett (12-215) and Hartman Fisk (11-160).

After the game with Beaufort Academy, the Warhawks have remaining regular games, taking on Patrick Academy (Oct. 10), Lee Academy (Oct. 17) and Dorchester Academy (Oct. 24).

The Colleton Prep volleyball team is looking for a strong finish. They entered October with a 9-13 over-

Members of the team include seniors **Kennedy** King, Ava Murray and Sydney Stivender; juniors Cecelia Williams, Millie Drew and Neveah Crosby; sophomores Addy Busch, Bre Cain and Natalie Echols; and freshman Brooklyn Whitley.

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The Cross Country program also is competing well against a busy regular season schedule. Anchoring the effort are junior Philip Witkin and freshman Sam Witkin. Sophomore Trenten Bunch, eighth-grader Easton Grovenstein, Jason Scott, James Foster and Garriel Idol also regularly finish in the top six among

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The Trojans handled St. John's this past Friday night, defeating the Islanders 42-0

Cross football in battle for region 6-A crown

By David Shelton Senior Writer

Cross – As the defending region and Class A Lower State champion, the **Cross** Trojans get every opponent's best effort. So far this season, Cross has been able to stand strong to the challenge.

Cross improved to 6-1 in the 2025 season with a 42-0 win over St. John's on Oct. 3. But the Trojans will be challenged in two of their last three games, starting with an Oct. 10 clash with Scott's Branch and ending the regular season on Oct. 31 against rival Baptist Hill. Wins in those games would secure a region championship. Winning the region title is goal number one but the Trojans are building for another deep run in the Class A playoffs.

"We have to focus on us, getting better each week," coach **Shaun Wright** said. "Nothing is easy when you get to this point in the season. We expect to be challenged and hopefully our players can respond. We haven't won anything yet."

Cross' only loss this season came to nearby rival Timberland, a team ranked in the AA top 10 statewide. Wins have come against Calhoun County, North Charleston, Lake Marion, Military Magnet

Junior quarterback **Tyler Harris** has had a nice season to date. He has passed for 924 yards and 13 touchdowns while completing 65 percent of his at-

Senior Caden Ramsey, a recent selection to the South Carolina Shrine Bowl all-star team, leads the team in receiving 29 receptions for nearly 500 yards and six touchdowns. He also has four interceptions from his safety position. Ramsey is committed to play collegiately at the University of South Carolina.

Junior Mah'ky Green leads the team rushing with 669 yards and seven touchdowns. Green averages 8.7 yards per carry. Junior **Jeremiah Smith** has 16 receptions.

Linebacker William Grant is one of the defensive

leaders, averaging nearly seven tackles per game

Lineman Michael Bennett, who was selected to

Gray Collegiate volleyball hitting stride this fall

By WORTHY EVANS

Staff Writer

Columbia - The Gray Collegiate volleyball team has always been competitive since the first team hit the court in 2015. Third-year head coach Shonda Wallace believes that this year's team has taken a step higher with the addition of offensive hitters and an overall immersion into the culture of a winning team.

"We've always were really good with ball control but we were always missing offensive threats," Wallace said. "To be really successful even at the college level, you have to have offensive weapons. We are blessed this year to have what we've been missing."

The War Eagles (15-3, 10-0 Region 4-4A as of Oct. 2) returned one setter in senior **Hayley Falco**, and are joined with two other setters, senior **Virginia Tech** commit Courtney Burgess and junior Colby Bran-

"Hayley Falco played for me for the last two years in a 6-2 offense, and she's an incredible teammate and a really good leader for us," Wallace said. "Courtney's leading our team in kills (99, along with 25 blocks) and she has a dual role for us both as a setter and in the front she's a hitter who stabilizes our offense and gives us a calm presence on the court. Colby as a setter has been really good for us and she adds a lot to our front

Sadie Williamson, a freshman up from the JV team, has also made an impact along the front with 62 kills and 24 blocks. Freshman **Emily Burgess** (79 kills), who also has defensive specialist experience, strengthens the team's front-row presence at the net.

"Sadie is on fire when she's on the front row," Wallace said about Williamson, who with her brothers on the football team are children of former South Carolina and Minnesota Vikings receiver Trov

Williamson. "She's making her own path and is a smart attacker. She and Emily Burgess gives us a steady presence up front."

Two other attackers who are returning are outside hitters Taylor Dukes, a senior and junior Sasha Hughes. Dukes, while missing some matches because of health reasons, is one offensive returner who now has a lot of help around her, which has enabled her to shine. Hughes played in several positions last season and Wallace loves how she can fit anywhere on the

Mt. Pleasant – If the Oceanside Collegiate girls

Young, but talented. The Landsharks won eight of

"This is easily the youngest we've been since I've

Youth or not, the expectation within the program

this season. Sophomore **Natalie Nalbantian** plays

Sophomore Annsen Saulisbury plays in the

No. 2 singles. Those competing include sophomore

Lexi Langhoff, sophomore Ross Marsh and sopho-

Sophia Sebolt, sophomore Kacy Kesner, senior

ing as the runner-up twice in recent years.

juniors Adi Levy and Elloree Besta.

fourth position, and sharing time in the No. 5 slot are

Harris has tried several combinations of players at

The OCA girls volleyball team is a perennial state

title contender, having won two state titles and finish-

Coach **Jennifer Fort** has another squad capable

of contending. The Landsharks have won 18 of their

first 23 matches and are undefeated in region play.

is to contend for the Class AAA state championship

tennis program is to win a fifth consecutive state

championship this fall, they will do so with the

been coaching," coach Shawn Harris said.

By David Shelton

youngest team in school history.

their first 10 matches this season.

Senior Writer

later this month.

pies No. 3 singles.

more Juliette Fletcher.

Oceanside fall sports teams are dominating

court. Junior Brianna Jones has been steady when it comes to hitting, kills, and blocks.

With those improvements, the Gray Collegiate defense has stayed consistent with the return of junior defensive specialist Kara Allwood, junior defensive specialist Micah Hughes, and sophomore libero **Haylen Lawson** who is up from JV.

"They are really solid defensive playes and even better teammates," Wallace said. "They understand that they can be competitive with one another but they push each other and stay positive. Add to those three Emily Burgess, and our defense is really stable."

Above the improvements is the boost in team culture. Wallace said this season's team has a strong work ethic that shows on the court.

"They remain humble and work really hard in practice. They're not selfish and understand the importance of recovery and film," Wallace said. "We're finally at a point where we all truly want it, and I don't have to tell them about things. They're in the gym 30 minutes before practice and warming up. They do that on their own. We're at the point where the culture is set into the

Gray volleyball has six region games left on the schedule before the playoffs, all of which are important considering perennial state contenders South Aiken (18-10, 9-1) and **Aiken** (12-12, 8-2) are close behind the War Eagles.

"When you have two of those teams in your region, night in and night out you have to be prepared," Wallace siad. "They have good programs across the board and for us to compete means we have to come prepared every single night."

In **cross country**, Gray Collegiate has a record number of participants—71 athletes—on the girls and

"The program is as healthy as it's ever been," head coach **Kevin Heise** said. "Spearheading this uptick is the effort of assistant coach Ariel Allison, who has poured her energy into taking this program to new heights."

Heise also credits the efforts of team captains Marydavis Hallman and Miles Guida. Hallman, a senior, set her personal record at 25 minutes, 31.52 seconds at the Mike Moore Classic event on Sept. 13. Guida, a junior, set his PR of 19:08.25 at the Heath-

The roster has a solid mix of veterans and new-

comers that have spent the fall building a strong

chemistry. The senior class is represented by Jovie

Smith (defensive specialist), Avery Bell (Libero),

Brianna Bowman (outside hitter), Ellie Burgess

and Athena Bold (outside hitter).

Williams (defensive specialist).

(setter), **Brooks Ann Burger** (defensive specialist),

Juniors on the roster include Amiya Stevens

Kiddy (setter), Maddie Scott (setter), and Reagan

Rounding out this year's team are sophomores

Jada McKinney (middle), Julian Boylston (setter),

GRAY COLLEGIATE



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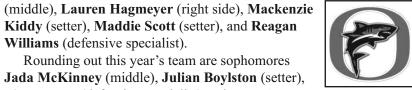
wood Hall Highlander Invitational Sept. 6.

The girls program is currently ranked eighth in the 4A classification. Besides Hallman, eighth-grader Paisley Hinkle (PR 20:36.76 at the Pelicans Invitational Sept. 9) and sophomore Kaylee Anderson (PR 20:36.76 at Mike Moore).

The boys program is ranked 18th in 4A. Along with Guida, junior Bryce Sharperson (PR 18:16.16 at Mike Moore) leads the War Eagles. Both boys and girls teams look to peak in time for the Region 4-4A meet Oct. 29.

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Freshman Maeve DeFord is playing No. 1 singles Finley Bork (defensive specialist) and Eden Abney (outside hitter); along with freshmen Payton Moor-No. 2 singles while freshman Sephina Tringali occuman (outside hitter) and Andrea Harrig (right side). Football getting hot A win over Hanahan in the region opener on Oct.

3 was the fifth straight victory for the Landsharks football team. After opening the season with two losses, OCA has gotten hot with two wins over AAAAA programs, Ashley Ridge and perennial state champion Dutch Fork. OCA's win over Dutch Fork snapped the 24-game winning streak of the Silver

Junior quarterback Aiden Manavian is among the state's leading passers with nearly 2,000 yards and 17 touchdowns in seven games. Zahki Muncey is the leading rusher with more than 600 yards and seven

Terence Johnson and Anthony Williams are the

top receivers. Johnson, selected to play for the SC team in the 2025 Shrine Bowl all-star game, has caught 12 touchdown passes and has more than 700 yards. Williams has more than 500 receiving yards and five touchdowns.

Linemen Mike Jones and Sawyer Arnold will play in the North-South all-star game.

Defensive back Michael Strickler and linebacker **Rhys Meredith** are the leading tacklers with more than 60 total hits. Sophomore **Tyler Stafford** has topped 50 tackles so far this season.



Quarterback Jachin Davis

Stratford rallies for region victory over Berkeley

By Rob Gantt

Special to the HSSR

Goose Creek- Stratford High School's football team opened its Region 7-AAAAA slate with a rousing come-from-behind victory over visiting county rival Berkeley High School.

The Knights rallied from a 17-0 halftime deficit to edge the Stags, 21-17, on Friday, Oct. 3, at Ray Stackley Field.

"Berkeley was kicking our butts in the first half," Stratford coach **Dennie McDaniel** said. "We came in and made some adjustments. We talked about how we can't score 17 on the first play. It was just one play at a time, one score at a time and one stop at a time. They just kept the belief and made plays."

Stratford running back Meliq McGowan powered the Knights, especially in the second half. He finished with 227 yards rushing on 24 carries and scored on a 44-yard run in the fourth quarter to put the Knights over the top. He also hauled in a 15-yard touchdown pass from fellow senior Jachin Davis, one of two quarterbacks chosen for the South Carolina Shrine Bowl

With McGowan doing most of the heavy lifting, Davis finished with 61 yards passing and 23 yards rushing. His 9-yard scoring strike to receiver **JQ**

Crosby got the Knights on the board in the third quarter after Berkeley dominated the first two quarters. Crosby caught five passes for 35 yards.

ley, 25-17. However, Friday's win was just the third in the previous 10 for the Knights.

game, a trip to Lucy Beckham. The Bengals are 4-1 after edging defending region champion Cane Bay, 24-

with 12 touchdowns. He's also rushed for right at 400 yards and seven more scores. McGowan has more than 700 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground. Senior **DJ** Grant has been a contributor on the ground, too.

Crosby has more than 400 yards receiving and four touchdowns. Junior Jayden Lee and senior Londen

Junior LB Bryce Clemons, junior LB Cameron Gibbs, sophomore DE Kermit Davis and junior LB Jarrett Hearne are the team's top four tacklers.

Running Back Meliq McGowan

Kicker **Renzo Gorritti** made all three extra points for the Knights. Stratford now leads the all-time series with Berke-

The Knights take a 5-1 record into their next region

Stratford won the only other meeting, 42-38, last

On the season, Davis is close to 1,000 yards passing

Brown have more than 100 yards receiving.

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Goose Creek Boys Basketball!

set for Saturday, Dec. 13, at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium in Myrtle Beach.

Reeves has more than 20 total tackles and also lines up at tight end on the other side of the ball.

Gators boys cross country having solid season

By Rob Gantt

Special to the HSSR

Goose Creek-Goose Creek High School's boys cross country team is having a solid season on the trails this fall

Recently, the Gators performed well in the Gator Beach Crawl Sept. 20 on Sullivan's Island and the Cougar Chase Sept. 24 in Walterboro.

Senior Charles Geiger powered the Gators in both races, winning each. Also in the Gator Beach Crawl, freshman **Dalton Gillespie** placed fifth for the Gators as they placed third as a team behind Fort Dorchester and Palmetto Christian. senior Jordan Pringle-Jackson, senior Landon Stanley and senior James Cooper were the Gators' third through fifth runners on Sullivan's Island.

In the Cougar Chase, Geiger crossed the finish line with a top time of 17 minutes, 3.20 seconds as the Gators claimed five of the top 11 spots. Gillespie (second), junior Alden Reid (ninth), Stanley(10th) and Pringle-Jackson (11th) rounded out Goose Creek's top five.

On Oct. 5 in the FB Hurricanes 5K race in Charleston, Geiger finished second with a time of 16 minutes, 52 seconds and Gillespie placed 14th out of 129 runners.

The Goose Creek girls cross country team has been led by freshman Madeline Dates and junior Chloe Braun. They were fourth and seventh for the Gators' girls on Sullivans Island and third and fifth



Braedyn Reeves has been invited to play in the Touchstone Energy Bowl all-start game in December

in Walterboro.

FOOTBALL

Goose Creek defensive lineman/longsnapper Braedyn Reeves was among three Berkeley County School District football standouts selected to play in



the annual Touchstone Energy Bowl all-star game

Gators football coach Jason Winstead is one of the South coaches.

Page 39

JDA volleyball's Owens looking for improvement

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Blackville – The Jefferson Davis Academy volleyball team owned a 9-7 record through its first 16 matches However, it was 7-0 in SCISA Region 1-Class A as it tries to defend its region title.

For Lady Raiders head coach **Bart Owens** though, he's expected more from his team.

"We've played below my expectations in my opinion," said Owens, who said his team has played a tough non-region schedule. "I expected us to be a lot better. We did have to replace a lot of seniors due to graduation, but we have some outstanding players back. I just think we should be a better team because of the potential they've got."

Owens believes Jefferson Davis needs to do a better

"I feel like a lack of communication is No. 1," Owens said. "And that's surprising. They're all friends and I've been coaching them since they were in the fifth grade.

"These girls are always together. We've got to learn to talk, communicate with each other and play defense."

The Lady Raiders have three returning starters in senior outside hitter Rynn Fickling, junior setter Abby Deering and junior outside hitter Mattie Morris.

Fickling was leading the team in kills with 147, to go with 39 aces and 79 digs. Morris had 116 kills, 28 aces and 91 digs, while Deering led the way in assists with 297 to go with 67 kills, 36 aces and 86 digs.

The other key performers are senior libero **Avery** Yongue, junior middle hitter Kaylee Crouch, sophomore middle hitter Rileigh York and sophomore rightside hitter Riley Williams.

York was leading the team with 58 aces and 14 blocked shots to go with 38 kills and 30 digs. Crouch has 37 kills, 19 aces, nine blocks and 29 digs, Williams has 37 kills, 16 aces and 53 digs, and Yongue led the team in digs with 152 to go with 10 kills.

Other members of the team are sophomore Olivia Reitenour, junior Jillian Johnson, junior Natalie Black and

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sophomore Lily Carrigg.

Jefferson Davis has been dominant in its seven region matches, losing only two sets. The Lady Raiders had a chance to wrap up the region crown with a victory over Curtis Baptist on October 6. They won the first meeting 3-0 by the scores of 25-20, 25-14, 25-21.

JDA FOOTBALL TEAM STARTS 3-2

The Jefferson Davis football team won three of its first five games, including two of its first three Region 2-8-

The Raiders lost three standout offensive performers to graduation in quarterback Colson Loadholt and running backs **Nasir Void** and **James Grubbs**. They haven't found the firepower lost even though they're getting contributions from several people.

There are six players who had rushed for over 100 yards. Junior Reece Still was the leading rusher with 395 yards and six touchdowns on just 26 carries. Senior quarterback **Dalton Nix** had 248 yards and four scores on 42

Senior Gregory Lihan had 170 yards and two TDs on just 12 carries in two games before being injured. Senior Keegan Fanning was also out with an injury after rushing for 129 yards and two scores in the first three games.

Junior **Harrison Ray** had 115 yards and a TD on 19 carries, and junior Judson Bowers had 110 yards and two scores on 21 carries.

Still is the defensive leader at cornerback. He was the leading tackler with 31 and led in interceptions with five. Junior outside linebacker Ray had 25 carries, while sophomore middle linebacker Jake Harrington had 23. Senior defensive end Nolan Craig had 19 tackles, and junior defensive lineman **Stanse Youngblood** had 17.

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Northwood Academy football ranked #1 in AAAA

Go Raiders!

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Summerville—After becoming the first SCISA football team to beat **Hammond** (23-10), since 2020, on September, 26, and following that up with a 63-0 win over Cardinal Newman the following week, the top ranked Chargers (5-1) now travel to **Porter-Gaud** (2-4) for yet another battle.

"One of our challenges playing Porter-Gaud is our defense needing to slow down their running game," said Charger head coach **Johnny Waters.** "On offense they fly around the football, and we have to be able to handle their blitzes.'

Against CN, quarterback Kevin Johnson completed 8-of-14 passes for 130 yards and two TD's. His top two targets in the win were **Ayden Hogan** with 3 catches for 44 yards and **Drew Wolfe** with two catches for 42 yards

The top rushers against CN were reserve RB Max **Pascazio** who had 131 yards on 11 carries and a TD. **Kaven Ford** rushed for 78 yards on four carries and two TD's. Bryson Ford netted 60 yards on 10 carries and **Michael Polite** finished with 57 yards on seven carries

The Charger offensive line had six pancakes against CN. Kenny Robbins led the way with three, followed by Brayden Andy, KJ Burrough, and Jacob Harrelson

After the Hammond win, Coach Waters told the HSSR, "We had a lot of players step up on both sides of the ball tonight," said Coach Waters. "I guess we have to start with our quarterback **Kevin Johnson** who had a phenomenal game. It was not so much his stats but how he controlled the offense and managed the offense for us tonight. It was not always pretty but we kept plugging

"Hammond seemed focused on stopping our receiver Ayden Hogan, an East Tennessee State commit, but he still had a really good game along with our other receiver **Drew Wolfe** also having a great game as well. We have

four very good running backs and Kaven Ford is our

Coach Waters also praised the defense. "Our defense has been stellar all year," said Coach Waters. "Defensive lineman Hammer White, linebackers Cody McCleary, Quincy Lingard, and Dominic Russell, along with safety MJ Davis were good leaders once again for us on

number one guy, and he had 100 yards rushing tonight."

"This is my third season at Northwood, and we have been searching for that statement win and certainly this wins tonight in our statement win," said Coach Waters. "When I came to Northwood three years ago the team had been 0-29 so we knew we had some work to do. Last year we lost to Hammond and to Porter-Guad twice, so this win tonight is the win we have been working to-

Against Hammond, Johnson completed 12-of-20 passes for 213 yards and two TDs The top three rushers for Northwood were Ford (17-100-1), Polite had 10 carries for 27 yards while White had three rushes for 25

The top two receivers for Northwood against Hammond were **Drew Wolfe** who caught four passes for 132 yards a TD. Hogan had seven catches for 81 yards including a TD catch.

The top three tacklers against Hammond were DB MJ Davis with 10 total tackles; LB Dominic Russell had 9 tackles and LB **Quincy Lingard** had 8 stops against

For the season Johnson has completed 108-of-170 passes for 1,517 yards and 13 TD's. His top targets have been Hogan (43-627-4), Wolfe (20-443-4) along with Jacair Medlock (20-243-3).

Ford leading the rushers (75-524-12) along with **Jordin Carter** (23-337-4) and Polite (41-291-3).

The pancake leaders in the OL include Robbins (8). B Andy (5), and **Kaeden Wagner** (3).

The top six tacklers on defense to date include: Russell (54, 7.5 TFL & four sacks), Davis (39, & three TFL), while Lingard has (28 & two TFL). **Antwaun Hender-** **JEFFERSON DAVIS**

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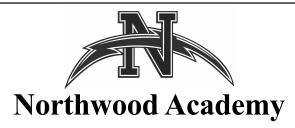


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son, Hammer White, and McCleary all have 27 tackles each. White has three sacks.

Woerner happy with Saluda's start this fall

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Saluda – Things could have been better for the Saluda High School football team through its non-region schedule, but it also could have been worse. So, all in all, first-year head coach **Greg Woerner** was happy with his

"I feel good about where the team is as we wrapped up non-region play," said Woerner, whose team went 3-2 before it opened its Region 2-AA schedule with a 48-0 victory over American Leadership Academy on October 3. "We played a really tough non-region schedule and learned a lot about who we are as a football team through those first five games. We would have liked to win them all, but we definitely learned some valuable lessons through those two losses that I believe will pay off later in the season.

"The team has played really hard these first five games. In some aspects they have passed the expectations set forth for them and in others we are still growing to get there. We are still young on the defensive side of the ball and that has shown in some places. But overall, the team has been playing really hard against really good competition."

The Tigers had a big rushing game against ALA, picking up 316 yards. Tristan Daniels had 161 yards and four touchdowns on just eight carries, while quarterback Brayden Williams had 103 yards and a score on just two carries.

Williams also completed 3 of 6 passes for 29 yards. CJ Springs returned a punt 78 yards for a touchdown. Ceddion Springs had a big game in the secondary with two interceptions. He also ran for a touchdown.

Woerner hopes the team will continue to make strides

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"For the team to be in the best position possible when

so it will be playing its best when the playoffs start in No-

the playoffs get here, we have to constantly focus on Saluda football," Woerner said. "We need to commit to the process and focus on the things that we can control and the things that will make us better as a team. We have been getting better each week and learning what it will take for us to be playing our best football when the games matter the most, and make a deep run into the

SALUDA VOLLEYBALL WINS FOUR OF FIRST NINE

The Saluda volleyball team won four of its first nine matches. The Tigers are a mix of veterans and youth with four returning starters of three seniors and a junior from last year's 6-8 team that didn't make the state playoffs. The rest of the lineup includes two freshmen and an eighth-grader.

"We are a young and developing team, still gaining experience at this level," said SHS head coach Meredith Wertz, who is in her fifth season. "From the start of the season, we've faced challenges that have pushed us to grow. Through consistent effort, training and teamwork, we've made noticeable progress. Looking back, the im-

See Saluda, pg. 63

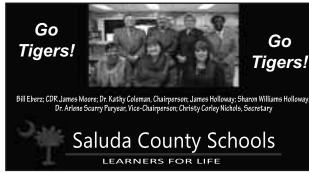


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Cavs ready for showdown with Powdersville

By Neill Kirkpatrick Special to the HSSR

Greenville – Someone once said, "what a difference a year makes" and when looking at the Christ Church football team that statement applies whole heartly. At this time last season, the Cav's were sitting at 1-4 heading into their region opener against eventual region champion Powdersville, fast forward to this Friday's matchup they are 5-1/1-0 and currently ranked 10th in the HSSR AAA poll.

The Cav's opened region play last week by beating area rival St. Joseph's Catholic 39-34. They will head to Powdersville to start a three-game road trip this Friday. The 15th ranked Patriots are the defending region champs and enter the contest with a 4-2/1-0. They opened region play by beating Southside Christian 24-0. Both teams will come into the game averaging 34 points a game but they are both giving up over 24 points a contest. The winner will have a leg up in the race for the region 2 AAA title.

Talking with head coach **Quin Hatfield** after the Hampton County win he said, "This year is a lot different than last year. We faced a lot of adversity early on last season and it took us a while to adjust. That experience has helped this team understand how important the small things are during the course of a season. Our young guys have gotten bigger, stronger, faster as well have gotten

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used to the speed of the game."

Coach continued, "we have to continue to improve each week. We scheduled tough teams so they could get us ready for region play. We haven't played our best foot-

The Cav's opened the season losing to perennial state power Hammond 17-0. The was the first start for junior quarterback Judd Windham and it showed as he did not have a good game. Since that time, he has become the spark for the offense. After throwing for only 94 yards in the first two games he has thrown for over 500 yards and 8 touchdowns. He has also rushed for over 200 yards.

Long time Cav's quarterback coach Larry Frost said after the game, "Judd is special. He is still learning to play the position but he has the tools you look for in a quarterback."

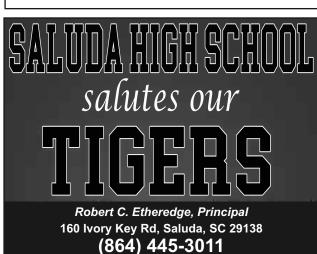
Helping Windham becoming more comfortable in the passing game are a great trio of receivers in seniors Jude Hall and Ant Atkins and junior Hayes Lyman. Hall, a Memphis commit, is the 20th ranked player in the state (HSSR) while Atkins, a Navy commit, was recently named to the Touchstone North/ South All Star game. Atkins leads the team in receptions with 15 and Hall leads the team in receiving yards with 179 yards and four

See Christ Church, pg. 61



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2025 Abbeville Panthers volleyball

Panthers volleyball looking for extended playoff run

Senior Writer

Abbeville – Having advanced to the third round of the Class A state volleyball playoffs last season, and with another solid unit this fall, Abbeville High coach Sara Wojtkowski has high hopes for a deep postseason run when the state playoffs begin later this month.

Abbeville won their first 12 regular season matches of this season before taking their first loss to region foe Dixie near the end of the regular season. The teams split their two region meetings this season and will likely have to decide the region championship with a playoff contest.

Region champs or not, Wojtkowski has a good feeling about this year's team.

"Our team is tremendous when we work together, the coach reports. "We don't have any colossal hitters, instead our team focuses on giving a variety of looks, spreading out the attack, and finding holes in the other team's defense. When we play smart, we win.

"Region Champs or not, we will be in the playoffs again this season. Last year we made it to the third round, and I expect to go as deep if not farther this year as well. It's really up to the girls at this point, they've got to put in the work and play together to get reach the goals they've

This year's top performers include team captain Ella **Atkins**, a senior. Although listed as an outside hitter, Atkins plays all over the court and is the most consistent passer, according to the coach.

Another key player has been senior middle hitter Lucy



Kollman, who is "outstanding on her hit placement and is a great motivator, controlling the emotions and excitement

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Wojtkowski says Atkins and Kollman provide the lead

"Lucy is the barometer for the team, she can get the girls up and intense. Ella is our team backbone. She is our best all-around player and when she is on, we play like a

Junior Lauryn Murray, who also plays in the middle, has been excellent on serve and has improved her blocking skills at a high level.

Other team members this season include freshman setter Maddy Beiler, senior defensive specialist Kaylee Bundrick, sophomore setter Bella Evans, freshman OPP Sarah Gulley, sophomore defensive specialist Reese Jones, senior OPP Tielle Killingsworth, freshman Libero Rylee Tiller, and junior hitter Laylan Yates.



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Emerald faces key region opponent in Westwood

By Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Greenwood—At 3-3, and coming off a narrow 45-44 loss to Wren last week, Emerald now has to travel to **Westside** on October, 10 for their second region game of

"One of our big goals this season is to make the playoffs and have at least one home game in the play-offs," said Emerald head coach Tad Dubose. "Having lost our first region game by a point to **Wren** last week puts extra pressure on us to regroup and play our best game of the season when we play at **Westside** this Friday night."

Westside (2-4) was hit hard by graduation losses last year when South Carolina QB signee **Cutter Woods** led them the rams to the AAAA state finals where they lost to South Florence 42-41.

"We can't wait to get to Westside this Friday night where we know it will be a very competitive game," said Coach Dubose. "Last year when we played them, they had a bunch of monsters on their roster, and this year they do not have quite as many, but they beat **Southside** 55-0 last week and they have won two games in a row.

"Against Wren we had a great night on offense and it

was it was not good to lose the game on a blocked PAT near the end of the game, "said Coach Dubose. "We have two kickers hurt and **Beau Hite** stepped up and made 5of-6 on his PAT's, kicked a 30-yard field goal, passed for 270 yards, and he also rushed for 70 yards. That's pretty

This season the Vikings have defeated **Ninety-Six** (28-0), Travelers Rest (28-7) and Broome (42-8) Their three losses came against Woodruff, Strom Thurmond,

Against Wren, highly regarded sophomore quarterback **Beau Hite** (6-0,165), completed 12-of-22 passes for 270 yards and three TD's. Hite completed two touchdowns passes to WR Coleman Marino who ended the night with six receptions for 151 yards. Chris Dean also caught two passes for 46 yards and Camello Hill caught one 65-yard bomb for a touchdown.

The top two rushers against Wren were Dean who gained 135 yards on 17 carries including two rushing touchdowns. Hite added 70 yards on the ground on 8

The tackle index against Wrten was led by Christian **Foster** who had 9 tackles and six assists for the game.

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Tyrell Cloud had 7 tackles, two assists and one QB pressure while **Desean Brewer** contributed six tackles and five assists. Zarrio Chambers was all over the field against Wren with five tackles, four assists, and one fumble recovery.

Jeremiah Ramos got after it with five tackles and four assists while **Jalon Dunlop** had a career night with four tackles, six assists, 1 TFL and 1 QB pressure. Highly regarded junior DE Marquise Anderson had four tackles, two assists, two TFL and one sack last week. Rounding out the tackle leaders against Wren was **Karson Wright** with four tacklers, two assists and two

After six games of the season. Hite has passed for 969 yards completing 71-of-132 passes for 11 touchdowns. The top rusher is Dean with 692 yards on 73 carries with five touchdowns. Hill is the top receiver with 16 catches for 306 yards and four touchdowns.

The top four smashers on defense are Foster (92), J Ramos Chapman (70), Anderson (59) and Dunlop (57).

Some of the leaders in the OL continue to be **Isia** Dekid Castillo, 9th grader Messiah Simpkins, John Michael Hames, along with Tyler Moss and TE RyKe-

ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY

AJA volleyball entering stretch run at 17-4; football team gets first win vs. Clarendon Hall

season.

"Kinslee does a

The team's two key

reserves are both defen-

sive specialists. They are

great job of defending

the other team's best

outside hitter," said

Coach Boltin

Billy G. Baker **Publisher**

Ehrhardt—As of October 1st the Andrew Jackson Academy volleyball team, under second year head coach **Zach Boltin**, were having their best season in quite some time, at 17-4 and 4-1, with six games remaining before the region tournament starts on October 16.

"We have followed up on our winning season last year with even a better season so far this year," said Coach Boltin. "We are communicating really well on the court, and our team unity has been strong also.

"We are playing really good defense as a team also," said Coach Boiltin. "We don't like for the ball to hit the

The team, a member of SCISA AA, is currently in a tie with the Cross Schools from Beaufort for the region lead. With junior outside hitter Harlo Sease out for the first matches with the Cross Schools the Lady Warriors lost 3-0 in very close and competitive matches. However, when the Cross Schools came to AJA later in the season the Lady Warriors won 3-0 with a full line-up.

"We will likely play a tie-breaker match at the region tournament to break the tie we are now in," said Coach Boltin. "The region tournament will be hosted by **Holy** Trinity in Beaufort."

The team is led by junior HSSR all-state returning player **McKinnley Beard** (5-11) now in her4 4th season on the varsity as an outside hitter. "McKinnley gets the team going and she has stepped up and assumed a leadership role this season," said Coach Boltin. "She is strong at the net, and she leads us in kills and blocks. She is the team captain, and she is like having a coach on the floor."

Beard is averaging 4.8 kills a set and she has an ace percentage of 28.9 per cent. Beard has a team leading 320 kills so far this season and she also leads the team with 77 aces.

Sease, a sophomore, is the other outside hitter who is also having an excellent season. "Harlo is our second outside hitter and she actually starts on the back row," said Coach Boltin. "Harlo does a good job passing the ball to our setter Bella Carrigg who then does a good job assisting the ball to Beard for a kill. This is Harlo's third season on the varsity.'

To date, Sease has contributed 102 kills, 70 digs and 36 aces as a well-rounded player.

Carrigg, a junior in her third season on the varsity, already has a team leading 492 assists for the team after 21 games. "Bella is like the quarterback of the team," said Coach Boltin. "You do not get kills on a volleyball team with-out as assist. Bella does an excellent job setting up other players for shots. She never leaves the court and plays every play of all our matches."

The success of the team has also been aided by junior Libero Ginny Ott, a transfer from Branchville High **School**. "Ginny is a defensive specialist with excellent ball skills," said Coach Boltin. "She plays in the backrow at all times. Ginny and Harlo are our two best back row players."

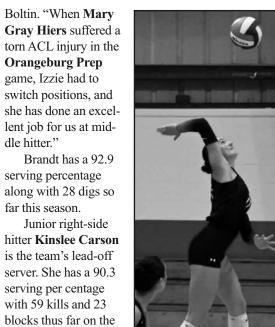
Ott leads the team in digs with 79.

Junior middle blocker Carrigan Moore, who is also a solid softball prospect at catcher and center field, leads the team with a 93.1 serving percentage. Moore also has 36 goals, 33 aces, and 30 blocks and she is also a good allaround player for the team.

"Carrigan is an excellent server, and her serve is very difficult to return," said Coach Boltin. "Carrigan plays on the front row, and she defends against the other team's top

Junior Izzie Brandt is a middle blocker and defensive specialist. "I call Izzie my "team athlete," said Coach





Junior McKinnley Beard goes for the kill

Alex Johnson, the team's lone senior and junior Delanie Coach Boltin is assisted by former HSSR two-time all-

state volleyball player Gabby Sease, who does a good job at teaching fundamentals to the team. Carmen Mixon is also the head junior varsity and B team coach, and they are having successful seasons also.

The AJA junior varsity, led by outside hitter **Peighton** Jones and setter Amiah McClung, filled in for the varsity against Curtis Baptist and won that game 2-1. Coach Mixon is assisted by Brittany Mixon.

The varsity has remaining games on October 2 at Bamberg Ehrhardt, host Dillon Christian and Carolina For**est** on the 4th before playing at **Colleton Prep** on the 6th. AJA will host Holly Hill Academy on the 7th and play at **Beaufort Academy** on October 9. On October 13 they travel to Branchville and then conclude the regular season at home against Colleton Prep on the 15th, a day before the regional tournament is scheduled to begin.

"One of our biggest wins this season was over Patrick Henry, and it had been forever since we had defeated them in volleyball," said Coach Boltin. "Right now, we are focused on finishing up the regular season strong. Hopefully, we can defend our region title and then have a deep run in the state tournament.'

The SCISA AA state volleyball tournament will take place in Myrtle Beach starting on October 24th.

AJA Football Team Gets First Win Of The Season **Over Clarendon Hall**

Andy Palmer, AJA athletic director and head football coach, knew this was going to be a rebuilding season when he came to the Warrior's program in early June from Holly Hill Academy.

See Andrew Jackson, pg, 63



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Marion volleyball team opens season 6-4

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Marion – The Marion High School volleyball team is a mix of a very veteran presence and inexperience this season.

The Swamp Foxes have five athletes on their 8person roster who were starters on last year's squad that had an 8-7 overall record and finished third in Region 7-AA with a 7-5 record. Marion lost to Academic Magnet in the first round of the state playoffs. Four of them are seniors.

The other three are playing both junior varsity and varsity.

"Our varsity team this year has limited players due to graduation last year," said Marion head coach Camilla Jones, who is in third season as head coach. "Our program is rebuilding and has firsttime players and second-year players who make up our JV team.

"Our varsity has four seniors, three juniors and one sophomore who are talented athletes that are holding it together this year."

The Swamp Foxes have only played region matches and are 6-4. Their final two matches are against Manning and East Clarendon, both of whom they lost to in the first meeting.

The senior starters are middle blocker Sheteria Bethea, setter Ayoni Malloy, outside hitter Kristin Shaw and defensive specialist Maliyah Williams. Junior outside hitter Nevaeh Shaw is also a returning starter. The other starter is sophomore outside hitter Yani Thomas, who is also playing junior var-

The other two players who are seeing action on both teams are junior **Zyonna Campbell** and junior Aasyia Johnson.

Jones said the Swamp Foxes have to become more consistent entering the playoffs.

"Our strength is the whole team when on the court working together," she said. "We are playing below expectations at this point. Staying focused is our downfall but putting more effort into play will get us through this season."

MARION FOOTBALL TEAM STILL **STRUGGLING**

The struggles continue for the Marion football team. The Swamp Foxes are off to a 0-7 start and are in the midst of a 15-game losing streak dating back to last season.

Marion head coach Brian Hennecy said the reasons for the struggles are the same things he pointed out would be issues prior to the season.

"We have a very young and inexperienced team on the field," Hennecy said. "Injuries have impacted some key positions. We have very few juniors and seniors."

There are just 12 seniors on the roster with three of them being starters on offense. There are no seniors starting on defense.

Freshman Jayden Nowlin is the starting quarterback. There is only one junior starting on offense and the other six starters are sophomores.

The defense had three juniors, seven sophomores and one freshman in the starting lineup.

Despite the issues, Hennecy is proud of the Swamp Foxes' work ethic.

"The team is working hard to improve daily in practice," he said. "The team is preparing for the final three games as usual."

Marion is 0-3 in region play. After a bye week, the Swamp Foxes play host to Lake City on October 17, travel to Manning on October 24 and travel to East Clarendon on October 31.

Mullins in position to make run for region title Senior quarterback KaNazzion Bethea is no

touchdowns.

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Mullins – The Mullins High School football team is only 3-3 on the season, but that doesn't tell the story on the Auctioneers' season to date, according to head coacb Marc Lowery.

"They are playing at a really high level, despite not having the record we expected at this time," said Lowery, who is in his third year as the Mullins head coach. "We have lost three games by a total of 10 points. We still feel like we are in position to win ble-digit catches in Allen, senior wide receiver the region as long as we stop beating ourselves."

The Auctioneers are 2-1 in Region 7-2A and are oh so close to being undefeated. They suffered their first region loss on October 3, falling to Lake City

That defeat left Mullins as one of six teams in the 7-team region with one loss. The Auctioneers, Lake City and Kingstree are each 2-1, while defending region champion Manning, East Clarendon and Atlantic Collegiate Academy are each

The door is certainly still open for the Auctioneers to win a region title. They play host to Manning on October 10, travel to East Clarendon on October 17 and play host to Kingstree on October

Lowery said his team needs to start cleaning up mental mistakes that hinder the Auctioneers' sustained success.

"My word to the team after the (Lake City) game last night was all about accountability; to pick their teammates up, not to point fingers, and to look at what they can do better," Lowery said. "We have to stay focused the entire game. We have too many penalties that kill drives for us and extend drives for our opponents."

doubt the leader of the offense. In his third year as a starter, Bethea had 54 completions in 105 attempts through the first five games for 791 yards and 11

Bethea was also the team's leading rusher with 550 yards and three touchdowns on 71 carries. Senior running back **Tyron Allen** had 237 yards and two touchdowns on 34 carries.

The Auctioneers had three receivers with dou-Amir Lee and junior wide receiver Keith Bridgett.

Bridgett had 13 catches for 216 yards and three touchdowns, while Lee and Allen both had 11 receptions. Lee had 206 yards and four touchdowns, while Allen had 81 yards.

Lowery said he has been most impressed with Mullins' play on both sides of the line.

"There are several places where we knew we would be strong, but we are better up front on both sides of the ball than I expected to be," he said. "Our offensive line is very young and our defensive line has very little experience. If this group cleans up the mental errors, we could make some noise in the region and playoffs."

The defense is led by senior outside linebacker Ayntwain Crawford and senior middle linebacker **Andre Littlejohn**. Crawford has a team high 14 tackles for loss and two quarterback sacks to go with 30 tackles. Littlejohn is the leading tackler with 44 and has 13 TFLs.

Junior middle linebacker Nathan Peracki has 38 tackles and six TFLs.

Mullins had nine interceptions led by senior defensive back Deyon Ford with four. Junior defensive back **Da'Kari Worley** had two.

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Patriots rebuild season making progress

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

By: Gerald Doolittle

Johnston, S.C. – Coach Mark Rodgers at Wardlaw Academy is having one of those rare seasons where he is having to lay a new foundation at

The **Patriots** were hit hard after losing much of their offensive punch from the 8-3 team in 2024. Gone from last season is 3276 offensive yards. Also, Coach Rodgers only has 13 hard working players on his 2025 roster.

Despite the Patriots 1-4 record so far, progress is being made. The Patriot offense is putting points on the board while the defense is still working hard to be competitive.

The good news for Coach Rodgers is that he only has two seniors on this roster. Next season he will have seven seniors to build his team around.

Those seven will include Evan Bryan, Jake Winn, Chandler Thorne, Kale Henderson, Randell Thompson, Thomas Proctor and Cooper Davis. Also, returning will be Jon Rodgers (so), Camden Bracco (fr) and Harry Patel (fr).

The two departing seniors from this team is Sam Coughenour and Brody Johnson.

Coach Rodgers in his 14th season at Wardlaw usually has short rebuilds. His record at Wardlaw stands at 104-49 that includes 11 seasons in the playoffs, 3 titles won in 2012, 2016 and 2017.

Knights carry 7-0 record into stretch run

By: Gerald Doolittle

Batesburg-Leesville, S.C. – The W.W. King Academy Knights coached by Brian Kneece now enjoys a 7-0 record after Christian Academy forfeited the 10/3 game. After this forfeit the Knights have three regular season games left with **Richard** Winn Academy (10/10), Newberry Academy (10/24) and Laurens Academy (10/31).

Coach Kneece, a Knight Alum, in his first year as head coach has been blessed with a 25-man roster to build his program. The Knights should be very competitive the next few seasons as he has only three seniors on this roster. His roster has seven juniors and six sophomores. He also has eight

The Knights offense has been led by Elijah **Hutto** (jr) from the quarterback slot. Hutto has completed 29 of 38 passes for 675 yards with 15 touchdowns. He also has 48 rushing yards.

The top pass receiver has been **Dallas Hill** (sr) with 10 receptions for 283 yards 9 touchdowns.

vards 4 touchdowns. Luke Harvey (jr) has 6 receptions for 102 yards 1 touchdown. The Knights rushing game has been led by

Landell Anderson (jr) has 8 receptions for 245

power runner Joseph Morse (so) who has 85 carries for 1065 yards scoring 16 touchdowns. Ty Doolittle (jr) has rushed 20 times for 116 yards scoring 4 touchdowns.

The Knight defense has five players with over 30 tackles. **Jacob Bussey** (fr) leads the way with 67 tackles followed by Casen Buzhardt (jr) 49, Anderson 33, Hill 31 and Joshua Oswald (so) 30.

The Knight defense has recorded 8 quarterback sacks led by Hill with 3. Greyson Rikard (so) and Morse have 2. Casen Bushardt has 1.

Tucker McGinty (fr) has 2 interceptions. Bussey and Brady Goff (fr) have 1 each. Coach Kneece and staff will work hard keeping

the Knights focused on the goals ahead.

Laurens Academy chasing 4th straight crown

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Laurens – Until proven that something else might happen, the goal for the Laurens Academy volleyball team starts and ends at the same place: win a state championship.

The Crusaders are after their fourth consecutive SCISA state title after claiming the AA crown last year. LA head coach **Shannon McGee** believes doing so is a distinct possibility.

"We definitely have a good chance for another state title and are working hard and adjusting as needed to chase that again this year," said McGee, whose squad was off to an 18-3 overall start with a 2-0 start in Region 4 play. "I look forward to (the) playoffs (state tournament), and I am proud of what the girls have done so far this season. We will keep working and keep improving until then!'

Laurens has five returning starters from last year's 28-3 squad in junior Addison Mitchum, senior Campbell Sherman, junior Makayla Lindley, sophomore Makenzie Runyans and senior Madisyn Graham. The other starters are junior Sadie Bruyere, LA newcomer and junior libero Mary McCameron and eighth-grader Braylen

Runyans was the libero last season but was moved to outside hitter with McCameron's arrival. However, Runyans is currently sidelined with a concussion and freshman Brooklyn Senn is starting.

Sherman leads Laurens in kills with 373 and digs with 168 to go with 28 service aces. Mitchum is the setter and has 383 assists along with 43 aces and 58

kills. Burke has 190 assists and a team high 61 aces while Runyans has 144 digs, 88 kills and 31 aces.

The rest of the roster is made up of freshman Lorelai Bagwell, junior Caroline Mullinax, sophomore Caroline Robinson, freshman Sadee Watkins and sophomore Brooke Abercrombie.

Despite the program's success, McGee said the players take nothing for granted.

"Our team has been working hard this season," she said. "We started the season participating in a tournament and scrimmages against larger public schools to reveal our strengths and weaknesses early on so we would have time to make adjustments. We use each game played to better our offense and defense and develop game strategies to use in different

"Our biggest strength is our leadership. Our seniors have been an integral part of the last three state championship teams and know what it takes to win and are able to maintain their composure to play in high-pressure situations. They have been great at pushing the other players to play at a high level and creating a team culture that plays for each other."



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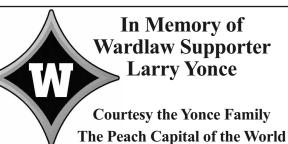
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Go Eagles!

Hilton Head Prep aiming to repeat as champs

By David Shelton

Senior Writer

Hilton Head – With a talented, driven and experienced team returning, the expectations of Hilton Head Prep girls tennis coach Michael Arnold are quite lofty.

After winning the SCISA AAA state championship last season, Arnold expects his 2025 team to make another deep run in the upcoming state tournament.

"As head coach, my expectations are clear—we're here to defend our state championship," the coach says. "This team has the talent, grit, and chemistry to make another deep run, and we're preparing every day with that goal in mind. The girls know what it takes, and they're committed to the work. We're not just chasing a title we're chasing excellence."

Led by No. 1 singles player Mika Shimada, a sophomore, the Dolphins run a solid lineup out on the court in every match. Shimada is the consummate leader for the team, according to Arnold.

"As a returning state champion, Mika brings more than just skill to the court—she brings experience, composure, and a winning mindset," he said. "I rely on her for leadership every day. She sets the tone with her focus, resilience, and ability to lift those around her. Whether an-

choring a tough match or mentoring younger players, Mika leads with quiet confidence and competitive fire. She's a true example of what it means to represent HHP tennis.'

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Kate Baumgardner and Carly Dowe are the only seniors in the starting singles ladder, playing No. 2 and No. 3 singles, respectively.

Freshman Reese Shaughnessy plays No. 4 and freshman Riley Crocker plays No. 5. Eighth-grader Ashley Kay rounds out the singles ladder. Juniors Lucy Yellon and **Thayer McLaughlin** form the No. 2 doubles team.

Rounding out the roster this fall are seniors **Harper** Yellon and Madeline Schlieman; and juniors Zoe Biles, Emily Stambaugh, Anna Steinhoff and Tilly Wirth.

Arnold says the strength of this year's team may be the way the team supports each other.

"One of our biggest strengths this season is our chemistry. The girls genuinely support one another, and that energy shows up in every match," he said. "We've built around a core group of young starters who've stepped up with maturity, grit, and a hunger to compete. Their growth has been impressive, and when you combine that with the leadership from our upperclassmen, it creates a team dynamic that's tough to beat."

Hilton Head Christian football off to slow start

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Bluffton – The **Hilton Head Christian Academy** football team finds itself in an unfamiliar position so far this season: struggling.

Having won three state titles in the past five seasons, the Eagles are off to a 2-5 overall start and are 0-1 in SCISA Region 1-AAA. Not only are the wins hard to come by, but making stops on defense has been an issue as well.

Hilton Head Christian has allowed 321 points, an average of almost 45 points a contest. Eagles head coach Ron Peduzzi said there are several factors involved in the defensive issues.

"We are young and small and we have had many iniuries," Peduzzi said. "We are starting just one senior on defense with our very tough schedule. It has been a learn-

Sophomore defensive end Hayne Burden is the leading tackler with 45 to go with three tackles for loss. Junior defensive back Kres Langhals has 30 tackles and a team high four tackles for loss and two quarterback sacks. Langhals also has two interceptions with 56 return yards.

Senior Finn Ussery has 36 tackles. Senior Reid Mc-**Collum**, an outside linebacker who is committed to play football at Navy, has 27 tackles and one TFL. Junior cornerback Jackson Richardson has a team high three interceptions to go with 26 tackles.

The offense has been more than effective. Hilton Head Christian has scored 197 points, an average of over 26 points a contest

"The offense is good," Peduzzi said. "Wide receiver **Joey Houpt** has had a very good season. We have a sophomore offensive line. They continue to work and get bet-

Houpt, a junior wide receiver, is the favorite target of quarterback McCollum. Houpt has 44 receptions for 736 yards and six touchdowns.

McCollum has completed 99 of 179 passes for 1,400 yards and 11 touchdowns against eight interceptions in the Eagles' quarterback-centric offense. McCollum is the leading rusher with 231 yards and five touchdowns on 73

The offensive line is made up of four sophomores and one senior. They are sophomore Owen Musser at left tackle, sophomore Josh Koepke at right tackle, senior Mason Feaster at left guard, sophomore Caleb Altizer at center and sophomore Austin Marshall at right tackle.

Other key pass catchers are sophomore **Sam Strum**, senior **Thomas Gehm** and Richardson. Strum has 23 catches for 328 yards and four touchdown, Gehm has 20 catches for 294 yards and two touchdowns, and Richardson has 11 catches for 184 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior running back **Hudson Baker** has rushed for 128 yards and two touchdowns on 31 carries to go with seven catches for 71 yards. Langhals has 120 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 28 carries and has six receptions for 58 yards.

Houpt is having a tremendous season punting the football. He is averaging 40.7 yards per punt on 14 at-

Hilton Head Christian has an 11-game regular season schedule so it has four games remaining. The Eagles play host to First Baptist on October 10, travel to Beaufort Academy on October 17, play at John Paul II on October 24 and close out the regular season on October 31 on the road against archrival Hilton Head Prep.

So what is the key to Hilton Head Christian turning its season around?

We will need to get better in all three phases," Pe-

Chapin volleball looking for strong region finish

By WORTHY EVANS **Staff Writer**

Chapin - After beating **Dutch Fork** in three sets Friday, Chapin's volleyball team is one game beyond the halfway point in its Region 4-5A schedule at 5-1, with its only loss to region leader River Bluff.

The big test, head coach **Adam Speight** said, is how the team will do in its remaining four games.

"They know that next week is a big week for us," Speight said after Friday's win. Presently Chapin (15-2-1 overall) is one game behind 6-0 River Bluff in the region standings.

"Since we've gone into this region we've never finished in the top two," Speight explained. "It's always been River Bluff-Lexington, and the everybody else."

On Sept. 18 with a 3-1 victory, the Eagles beat the Wildcats (13-15, 3-2) for the first time since they were region opponents beginning in 2018. Tuesday's rematch at home against Lexington will be pivotal in the race for a second-place spot in the region

"If they win they'll get second and the first win doesn't matter," Speight said. "So we need to make sure we're

Chapin has made preparation a key factor this season. Speight said the Eagles are not the biggest team around, but they make up for a lack of height along the net with serving, passing, and excellent communication within

"We have serving strategies that we discuss and try to execute, and we spend our time on ball control," he said. "We want to make sure we cover as much ground as possible and our first contacts are good. If we're able to run our middles, that spreads out our offense and then that frees up our outsides (hitters) to get one-on-ones. If we're not passing well, we're having to play out of system all game and it becomes a boxing match with our outside hitters against the other team and I'm not sure we'll win

Among the team leaders is senior and 2024 All-Region setter Lindsey Hodges. Hodges recently returned

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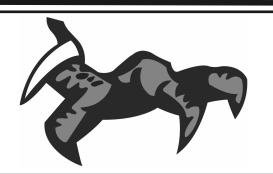
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after a knee injury, and she joins outside hitter and defensive specialist **Hudson Goforth**, a rotation of three

See Chapin, pg. 63

King thinks Pee Dee has found its identity now

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Mullins – It may have taken half of the season to come to this conclusion, but Pee Dee Academy football head coach **Jonathan King** believes the Golden Eagles now know what works best for them.

"The last few weeks we've started to develop an identity of who we are, especially on offense," said King, who led PDA to the SCISA AA state title last year. "We have committed to being a team that runs the ball an overwhelming majority of the time. That has allowed us to focus our attention at practice on what we do best ... physical tough, disciplined on offense and defense.'

After starting the season with a 1-2 record, PDA rebounded with a pair of victories, beating Carolina **Academy** 44-36 and opening Region 1 with a 44-0 victory over Hilton Head Prep.

Pee Dee has only thrown 26 passes between senior Tristan Heckman and junior Miles Wiggins. King now lists Heckman as a running back who has rushed for 380 yards and three touchdowns on 60 carries. Junior Judson Martin has 34 carries for 174 yards and a touchdown, and senior Ryan Small has 30 carries for 87 yards and a score.

Heckman has completed 12 of 20 passes for 178 yards and three scores, while Wiggins has connected on four of his six attempts for 52 yards and two touchdowns. Small has six catches for 112 yards and two TDs. Heckman himself has three catches for 42 yards and two scores.

By Neill Kirkpatrick

Special to the HSSR

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and Hanahan 36-22.

for the Yellowjackets.

Andrews – Heading into the 2025 season An-

drews head coach Scott Durham expected his team

to compete for the region 6 AA title so despite get-

ting off to a 2-4 start to the season they find them-

region lead after winning their region opener 42-0

region match up with Woodland (3-3/0-1). The

county rival Georgetown 30-7. They dropped a

made too many mistakes in a 21-6 loss before

ines won last year's match up 19-6.

Wolverines are coming off 39-14 loss to 13th ranked

Phillip Simmons in their region opener. The Wolver-

The Yellowjackets opened the season by beating

heartbreaker in week two to area rival and 5th ranked

A Carvers Bay 19-18. Against Andrew Jackson they

falling to two AAA opponents in Waccamaw 50-14

The tough non region schedule was to get the

Yellowjackets ready for the tough region 6 AA

schedule. After Woodland, they will play Timber-

land (3rd AA) and Phillip Simmons (13th). All the

goals that were set before the season are still there

They will head to St. George Friday for a pivotal

selves right where they want to be tied for the

Martin and Heckman are ethe leading tacklers on defense from their linebacker positions with 36 and 30, respectively. Junior defensive lineman **Brayden** Lewis has 29, Small has 25 from his safety post, senior linebacker Chandler James has 20, and Wiggins, the other safety, has 19.

With three of their final four games region contests, King, who has coached PDA to two state titles in the past three seasons, hopes the Golden Eagles are rounding into form.

"We are 1-0 in the region and those are the games that matter when it comes to playoff time," King said. "Our two non-region losses were to really good football teams (undefeated Williamsburg **Academy** and once-beaten Florence Christian **School**) that will make noise in the playoffs in their respective divisions. We are looking ahead to another region game this Friday (against St. John's **Christian Academy**) and trying to be 1-0 each week the rest of the way.

"I'm very proud of our players and coaches for the way we've fought through some early adversity and stayed the course. It's a great group of young men to coach and watch grow."

Craig Martin, CPA, PA

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The Yellow Jackets take the field

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Yellowjackets ready for the stretch drive



The Yellowjackets have been led by All State

running back AJ Lee. He has rushed for 952 yards

and 14 touchdowns. He may be the most underrated

media day back in July that his goal was to rush for

2000 yards this season. Depending if the Yellow-

jackets make a deep playoff run he has an outside

chance at reaching that goal. He is averaging 29.6

Defensive end Chris Stewart was recently

The Western Michigan commit leads the Yellow-

and sacks with five. He also has a team high in

yards and four touchdowns. He has completed

passes to 9 different receivers this season.

Cannon have been the recipients of most of

jackets in tackles with 41, tackles for loss with 5.5

First year starting quarterback Avery Durham

has been solid completing 60% of his passes for 760

Kayden Dorsey, Colby Marlowe, and Brycen

Durhams throw. Dorsey leads the team with 15 re-

ceptions, Marlowe leading in yards with 211 and

Cannon leads in touchdown catches with two. Mar-

lowe is also second on the team in tackles with 34.

yards on kickoff returns and took one back 78 yards

named to the Touchstone Energy North/ South bowl.

running back in the state. He told the HSSR at

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2025 Central Eagles football standouts

Central not suprised with fast start to 2025

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Pageland – The Central High School football team is off to quite the start. The Eagles won their first six games on the season and won their first two games in Region 2-AA. They are also ranked No. 1 in the *High* School Sports Report AA poll

It has been a while since the tradition-rich program has gotten off to a start like this. So, has it come as a

"Honestly, no," said Central head coach **Jonathan** Eason. "Our guys worked really hard in the offseason with the goal of having a great season. We have 25 seniors that have been good leaders."

The Eagles, who were 10-3 a season ago, have been dominant. They have outscored their foes 232-77 after a 56-10 win over **Buford** on October 3.

"So far we have played up to expectations," Eason said. "There are plenty of things we can continue to work on to get better though."

Central was averaging over 400 yards of total offense through the first six games. It was averaging 282 rushing yards a contest.

The Eagles spread the wealth with the running game. Senior **Aiden Short** is the leading rusher with 432 yards and six touchdowns on just 41 carries. Senior **Ashten** Wilson had 301 yards and three scored on 43 carries, senior **Jakari Holloman** had 297 yards and six TDs on 26 carries and junior quarterback **Dwayne** Louallen Jr. had 233 yards and three TDs on 43 car-

Louallen was only putting the ball up about 15

times a game with 74 passes. However, he was very effective, connecting on 48 of them for 625 and five scores while throwing no interceptions.

THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Senior **Taveon Moore** was the top pass catcher with 15 receptions for 215 yards and one touchdown. Short had 12 catches or 152 yards and a touchdown.

Eason said the most pleasant surprise to the season to date has been the performance of the defensive line.

"We were replacing every starter but one," he said. "Eric Maddox, (Marzavious) Zee Allen, Isaiah Tyson, Tahir Wise and **Timmy Tyson** have played well."

Maddox, a senior, had 20 tackles and six tackles for loss, junior Timmy Tyson had 12 tackles and five TFLs, senior Isaiah Tyson had 12 tackles and one TFL, Wise, a sophomore, had seven tackles and Allen, a junior, had nine tackles and three TFLs.

Holloman, a linebacker, was leading the team in both tackles and TFLs with 34 and 12, respectively. Senior outside linebacker Marques Allen was close behind in tackles with 32 to go with five TFLs.

Central had 12 sacks with Holloman and Zee Allen leading the way with three apiece. Junior safety Aidan Welch had two interceptions.

Eason doesn't believe the Eagles will be affected by the early success as the season moves toward the playoffs. He's just hoping all of the pieces stay in order.

"We have to stay healthy and finish the season strong," said Eason, who is a Central graduate. "I believe the (No.) 1 seed is very important.

"They are handling it well. The goal is tp be 1 at the end of the season. Being up there now is nice, but it doesn't really mean anything."

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Myrtle Beach fall sports having success in 2025 By David Shelton Amare Brown and Tyree Cauthen. Players included among those working to form a

Senior Writer

Myrtle Beach – As is often the case, the fall sports teams at Myrtle Beach High are contending for region titles with hopes of earning a shot in the upcoming AAAAA Division II Lower State playoffs.

The football team opened the season with a 4-2 record, winning their region opener against St. James, 31-28, on Oct. 3. The two losses in non-region play came to AAAAA powers Irmo and Sumter. The early wins came against Lake City, West Florence Cane Bay and the region opener

Myrtle Beah hopes to contend for a region title atter posting a 4-1 region record last season. Remaining region contests include Conway, Socastee, Carolina Forest and North Myrtle Beach, all in October.

Senior **Tanner Gaddy** is getting his shot to lead to offensively after serving as a backup for two years. Gaddy has shown steady improvement but missed a little time with an injury

Senior running back **Antonio Brown**, also a linebacker, has been a force on both sides of the ball and is the team's leading rusher. Senior running back Michael **Cohen** also has been a productive player.

Gaddy's favorite targets in the passing game have been a strong combination of Jon Kelly, JJ Brown,

solid offensive line include Zack Kontos, Blake Coffey Cam Fisher, Austin Scratcher, Sachin Sharma and Nathan Arroyo.

Elijah Williams is a key returner on the defensive line and Malachi Gethers returns at defensive end. Jayden Pyatt has experience at nose guard. Anton Bryant and Eli Reed have experience in the secondary.

The volleyball team won 11 of 13 contests to start the season, including a 4-1 record in region 6-AAAAA play.

The girls tennis team is the team to beat in the region and won their first seven league contests this season. Myrtle Beach had a 10-2 overall record heading into Oc-

Junior Mary Hannah Morrison plays No. 1 singles this fall, with eighth-grader Vera Sheffer playing No. 2 singles. At No. 3 is junior Mary McKay Gunter and junior Ava Anthony plays No. 4 singles.

Rounding out the singles lineup at No. 5 is senior Blake Sparks. Sophomore Riley Casterline and senior Nadiva Patel form the No. 2 doubles team with Morrison and Sheffer playing No. 1 doubles when needed.

In cross country, Thomas Smith is the top runner on the boys team, followed by Liam McGuire, Kell Trintini, Lucas Neagles and Justin Vo.

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Anchoring the girls team are Julia Gual Suriol, Riley Clements, Franchesca Lawes, Brynn Roland and Madelyn Thompson.

Raiders volleyball looking forward to playoffs

By David Shelton

Senior Writer

Pamplico – As the 2025 regular season winds down, the volleyball team at **Hannah-Pamplico** High has put itself in position for a top two finish in region

Entering the month of October, the Raiders were 4-3 in region play, which puts them in contention for a spot near the top of the league standings. A top two finish is valuable because it would mean a home firstround game in the Class A Lower State playoffs.

Coach **Dawn Burgoyne** has been pleased with how her team has competed this season and hopes for a strong finish. The Raiders have region games with Green Sea-Floyds (Oct. 7) and Johnsonville (Oct. 16). They also have a non-region game against Georgetown on Oct. 14.

"Our goal is to be one or two in our region so we can have our first home playoff game.," the coach says. "We went to the second round of the playoffs last year. We would love to go further this year. I am so proud of how hard they have worked this season."

Burgoyne says the team has outstanding leadership from the two captains, senior Savannah Owens and junior Allie Nettles.

"They provide great leadership by staying calm in tough situations. They push their teammates to get the

Batesburg-Leesville – The **Batesburg-Leesville**

High School volleyball team started its season with

a 14-17-1 record. Panthers head coach Eric Shick

knows that's not a thing of beauty, but he's not too

"I do my best to put our team against teams that

are better than us to get us ready for region play and

the playoffs," Shick said. "Most of the teams we

played this season have been AAAA and AAAAA

Batesburg-Leesville is 3-2 in Region 2-AA as it

just turned the corner for the second go-round in the

"So far I feel that we have not performed our

three sets with T.L. Hanna and Legion Collegiate),

I expected us to be able to play better when it came

"I feel the reason is that we are very young. We

Nine players on the roster see significant time.

The two sophomore starters are outside hitter **Ella**

Cook and outside hitter Kate Shealy, while the

three eighth-graders are setter Molly Price, libero

Carley Soper and defensive specialist Genivieve

Shealy leads in kills with 232 while Cook has

shots, 255 digs and 382 serves received. Cook has

157. Shealy also has 31 service aces, 13 blocked

have two sophomores and three eighth-graders as

starters this year. With this youth it can be a roller

region. However, despite the difficult schedule,

Shick thinks the Panthers can play much better.

best when we need it," he said. "After playing

against some of the best teams in the state (going

By Dennis Bruimson

worried about it.

Potts.

hssr.com Associate Editor

ton Altman, junior setter Evelynn Lopez-Medrano, and senior outside Madison Newton.

When evaluating her team's strengths, Burgoyne

points to three major factors.

gether, and determination," she said.

Another fall sports team hoping to make an impact in the postseason is the boys cross country team. Though not a state championship contender in Class A, the Raider runners hope for an opportunity to compete in the state meet in November.

Jackson Fitch is the top performer this fall. He is joined in the top five by Barrett Turner, Miller Owens, Aiden Powell and Jake Hillyeard.

Also competing and improving are Caleb Moore, Josiah Alldredge, Andrew Pfahlett and Ephraim

The girls tennis team also is in position to qualify

Joining the two captains in the starting lineup are senior setter **Madison Holt**, sophomore outside hitter Marley Cagle, senior rightside JaKiya Wilson, and sophomore middle Nahla Jones and senior Libero GraceLynn Miles.

Rounding out the roster are junior right side Pay-

"Great communication, they work really well to-

for the AA/A state tournament.

12 blocks and 53 digs.

Panthers volleyball looking for strong finish in '25

Price leads the team in assists with 509 to go with 54 kills, 27 aces, 23 blocks and 160 digs. Soper has a team high 313 digs and 443 serves received with just 28 errors to go with 39 aces. Potts has 20 aces an, 135 digs.

Seniors Jessie Eidson, Kadejah Blocker, Mckenzie Dozier and Kaylee Rodgers are the other members of the rotation. Rightside hitter Eidson has 45 digs, 15 blocks and 42 kills, middle hitter Blocker has 53 digs, 30 blocks, 33 aces and 89 kills, defensive specialist Dozier has 117 digs and 16 aces, and middle hitter Rodgers has a team high 42 blocks to go with 34 digs and 67 kills.

Other members of the team are junior Suraya Jones and junior Alyssa Eargle.

Shick is looking for a strong finish.

"To make a strong playoff run we need to win the rest of our region matches - at least two of the last three," Shick said. "We would like to come out at least second in the region but it will be tough to do. The other teams aren't giving it to us. We have to learn to take it."

PANTHERS FOOTBALL STARTS 3-3

After an undefeated regular season and finishing 12-1 a year ago, the B-L football team was just 3-3 through its first six game. Also, the Panthers dropped their region opener, falling to Strom Thurmond 28-26 in overtime on October 3.

Batesburg-Leesville still has the ability to defend its region title but it has to win out and get a little help starting with its road game against Ninety Six on October 10. It then plays host to American

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The HSSR is looking for full-time marketing reps! Call Publisher Billy Baker at 843-553-0264 or 843-200-9555 **By David Shelton**

Senior Writer

Johnsonville – Due to hard work and dedication, the Johnsonville girls team has been one of the more competitive teams in the Class A ranks.

Under the leadership of coach **Brian Welch**, the Flashes put in extra effort and play the game with a great attitude. A hallmark of Welch's teams are strong team chemistry, which he develops through team building activities.

The 2025 roster is a mixture of upper and lower classmates with strong leadership from the senior

The team is led by four seniors and all four compete for time on the court. Anchoring the squad is No. 1 singles performer Lilly Margaret Driggers, who is in her second season at No. 1.

"All of them have contributed thus far this season. The core of seniors has been the strength of the team," Welch reports. "My one, two and three have not changed throughout the season, and that stability is key."

Sophomore **Julianna Owens** is strong at No. 2

and junior **Sophia Cook** holds down the No. 3 spot. Seniors Ada Howell, Lucy Truesdale and Lexi Hanna have battled all season for a spot in the singles lineup.

"The two captains (Lilly Margaret and Lexi) pro vide daily leadership to our program on and off of the court. They both go above and beyond what is required of them to make the program better."

Layla Newell is the team's other sophomore and Haidyn Carter is the lone freshman. Rounding out the roster are eighth-grader Sarah Boyd and seventh-grader Sawyer Powell.

Due to a lack of Class A schools fielding a girls tennis team in the state, Johnsonville will be competing in the AA state playoffs. There are several AA teams that are state title contenders so Johnsonville will be looking for upsets to advance.

"We look forward to earning a playoff spot this season in the 1A-2A Tournament," Welch said. "Unfortunately, we do not have enough teams to have a stand-alone 1A tournament, so we are going to have to play up as we hopefully advance throughout the

Golden Flashes fall sports updates

By David Shelton **Senior Writer**

Johnsonville – The Johnsonville football team is off to a great start in 2025, winning five of their first games. The lone loss came to AAA Waccamaw. The Flashes are 2-0 in region 5-A with key region games against Green Sea Floyds, Carver's Bay, and Latta. Carver's Bay is undefeated through six games while Latta has lost once, to Carver's Bay.

Quarterback Larkin Powell is having a solid season as a leader offensively. He had two long touchdown passes in a key win over Lake View. Anchoring the running game are **Zaghe Davis** and Bricen Howell. Tahkari Ross and Skylar Mont-

The line play has been consistent. Dylan Smith is the starting tight end. Starting tackles are Jason Brigham and Mykal Hanna. The guards are Daniel Ortiz and Brayden Baxley while the center is KC

gomery have been key receiving threats for Powell.



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Howell also is a leader on defense at linebacker. Ross, Montgomery and Jamire Ross also factor in as key defenders.

Cross Country

The cross country teams are preparing for the postseason with hopes of qualifying for the Class state meet in early November.

Carson Wilson and Shyann Campbell lead the girls team, with Z'Kai Imperati and Massenda Ulvsee also running often in the top four. Lily Justeson, Annsley Smirz and Skylar Moore also have been competitive.

The top runner on the boys team has been **Colton** Busbee. Brock Davenport, Micah Hall and Kush Patel round out the top four. Cooper Price and James White also compete well.



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James Island fall sports having strong seasons

By David Shelton Senior Writer

James Island – With October being the final month of regular season play for most fall sports, the volleyball and football teams at James Island are having a great season to date.

As of Oct. 2, both teams are in contention for region championships and should do well in the upcoming AAAAA Division I state playoffs.

The volleyball team won its first five contests of this season and sit alone atop the standings. The Trojans posted a 19-9-1 overall record entering Oc-

The roster is a mix of seniors and underclassmen with good balance in terms of the most productive players. Through September, freshman Aubree Lanham, senior Lilly Sebizas and sophomore Madeleine Warthen all had recorded at least 100 kills. Lanham leads the team with 165 kills.

Sophomore Addie Smith led the team in defensive digs with 186, with senior Natalie McGeorge (156 digs) and senior **Amelia Angelos** (143 digs) also playing well defensively. McGeorge, the team's primary setter, has 479 assists. Sophomore Zoe Hilyer is nearing 100 digs.

Rounding out the 2025 roster are senior **Lainee**

Rakes, juniors Sofia Slogatt and Olivia Morris, and freshman Marin Finnegan.

The football team completed its non-region schedule with a 5-0 record. The Trojans have climbed to a top five statewide ranking in AAAAA. They opened region play against West Ashley on Oct. 3 and have other region games against Summerville, Fort Dorchester, Stall and Ashley Ridge before the state playoffs.

"We've done pretty well so far but now is the most important part of our season," head coach Jamar McKoy says. "Lot of football to play."

Senior quarterback Connor Dantzler has had a breakout season this fall, throwing for 1,378 yards and 14 touchdowns while completing 67 percent of his attempts. Dantzler has had two games of 300

Malachi Washington is the leading rusher with 366 yards, averaging six yards per carry.

The top receiver has been **Raphael Puiu** with 19 catches for 569 yards and six touchdowns. James Hurteau and tight end Sam Crumpton each have 10 catches while sophomore **Jordan Kendrick** has 14 receptions for 255 yards.

Junior Bryson Bowers has been an anchor defensively, posting more than 30 tackles with eight

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JAMES ISLAND



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tackles for loss. Harper Woods has topped 20 tack-

James Island has been on a good run in recent years when it comes to special teams. This year, sophomore Issac Lorentz has averaged 40 yards per punt and has not missed an extra point this season. He also has kicked three field goals and has regularly kicked off into the endzone.



THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

2025 North Myrtle Beach Chiefs volleyball

NMB volleyball aiming for state title this season

By David Shelton

Senior Writer

Little River – Last season, the North Myrtle Beach high volleyball team won the AAAAA Division II state championship.

The title was one of several won over the last decade and under its third different head coach, Jenn Loeswick took over as coach last year and led the team to a 30-9 record while winning the state championship.

Several key performers from last year are back this season and the Chiefs are aiming for a repeat, though Loeswick stresses to her team that taking one match at a time is the way to approach the season. She urges her team to enjoy playing the game and the wins will take care of themselves.

"My expectations for this season are to be as good as this team can be" she said. "Our motto for this year is 'never try, never know.' We want to work hard, have fun and be good teammates and see how far that can get us. Each time we are on the court, we are just trying to be 1-

The Chiefs have been very good this fall, entering the final few weeks of regular season play with a 25-3 record overall and a 7-0 start in region play. North Myrtle Beach won their first 23 contests before taking a few losses in tournament play.

The team has four seniors this season and the coach looks to them for leadership. The upperclassmen include Clara Cloninger, Katlyn Powers, Raphaella Nunez and Kylee Rollings.

"Our seniors are providing excellent leadership this season," the coach reports. "All four of them interact with the team in different and valuable ways and are the heart of this team."



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Cloninger, Nunez and Powers are starters in the rotation. The other starters include junior Lilly Loeswick, junior Madison Johnson, junior Harlow Horton and junior Mikayla Altena

Loeswick leads the team in kills with 309 while Cloninger has 247 kills. Loeswick also has 291 digs and 42 blocks. Cloninger has 316 digs and 31 blocks.

Johnson has put away 123 kills and has a team-leading 73 blocks. Powers has 308 digs and Horton has 154 total digs. Altena, the setter, has 684 assists and 139 digs while Nunez has 41 blocks.

Two key subs off the bench are junior **Madison** Vereen and sophomore Gracie Davis. Rounding out the 2025 roster are junior Chloe Schmidt, junior Bailee Lockhart, sophomore Rylee McKever, and sophomore

While the team is fairly strong and consistent in all facets of the game, Loeswick says this year's team has two primary strengths

"This season our team's strengths are in our serving and passing game. We have a solid rotation of servers that can put pressure on the other team and Clara, Lilly and Katlyn are a really good passing trio. This part of our game gives us a chance to compete with just about anyone," Loeswick says.

Tennis team competing well

The girls tennis team at North Myrtle Beach has been a competitive unit this fall. The Chiefs won eight of their first 13 matches, including a 4-4 split of region contests,

Senior Claire Kingston plays number one singles while her partner in doubles, sophomore Anna Brown plays No. 2 singles.

Junior Emma Ferry plays No. 3 singles and sophomore Lyla Cosgrove is in the No. 4 position. Stella Cor **nett** rounds out the singles ladder at number five.

The No. 2 doubles team is **Ella Clem** and **Mia Du**-

White Knoll football hoping to shape up quickly

By WORTHY EVANS Staff Writer

Lexington - Six games into the football season, White Knoll (5-1, 1-0 Region 4-5A) has made great strides since losing its season opener 20-7 to Camden Aug. 21.

The Timberwolves won five straight games starting with an impressive 28-6 road victory over perennial power Sumter (6-1, 1-0 Region 5-5A) Aug. 29. In the weeks that followed White Knoll blew past Brookland-Cayce 49-13, Cane Bay 34-10, Fort Dorchester 40-0, and River Bluff 35-3.

Against the Gators Friday night, one nagging element to White Knoll's success got exposed.

Several penalties threatened to keep River Bluff (3-3, 0-1) in the game.

White Knoll led 21-3 lead by the half, and the defense held the Gators to 72 total yards in the first half. Seven penalties for 59 yards in the first two quarters—and 110 yards on 12 flags in the game—could have proved costly.

Timberwolves fifth-year head coach Nick Pelham expressed his concern after the game.

"I can't even put into words. We can be just as good as the 2023 team or even better," he said, noting White Knoll's 2023 season in which it went 14-1 and reached the 5A state championship game. "We just HAVE to do it the right way instead of always having to show our toughness and our manhood after the play. It's just got to be between the plays and then go celebrate with our teammates. We've got to fix that."

Personal fouls and other gaffes aside, White Knoll put together a complete win.

Tiyon Fanning gave the Timberwolves a 7-0 lead on a 2-yard touchdown run that capped an 11-play, 72-yard first quarter drive. Jhais McKiever connected with Caleb Geronomi

and **Brandon Griffin** for two touchdown passes in the second quarter to take a 21-0 lead late in the second quar-A pair of personal fouls on a River Bluff possession

enabled the Gators to get their only score of the night-**Liam Flynn's** 36-yard field goal just before the half. Late in the third quarter White Knoll defenders com-

See White Knoll, pg. 61

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Seawell's Midlands Feature Page

Taking a look at midlands football at the halfway point

By Worthy Evans Staff Writer

Columbia - With the beginning of October, Midlands teams now find themselves in the thick of region competition. With region play comes the separation of the great teams from the rest of the pack, a movement that will continue to the regular season finale later this month.

For now, let's take a look at some of the top teams that are gearing up for region championship battles and long playoff runs.

Dutch Fork

It's rare when the Silver Foxes (5-1, 1-0 Region 4-5A) end up in the losing column, but on Sept. 26th at Charleston Southern University's football field, that's exactly what happened. Defending 3A state champion **Oceanside Collegiate** snapped Dutch Fork's 25-game winning streak dating back to Oct. 6, 2023 with a 24-20 victory.

With Dutch Fork leading 20-17 in the fourth quarter, Landsharks quarterback Aidan Manavian connected with Anthony Williams for a 32-yard touchdown pass with 4:19 to go.

In clutch fashion, Silver Foxes quarterback Jaxon Knotts, who passed for 165 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 30 yards, led the team on an 18-play, 71yard drive.

In the closing seconds, the Dutch Fork faced a fourth and goal at the Oceanside 5-yard line. Knotts took the snap, faked a handoff, and rolled to his right, looking to hit any one of three receivers in the end zone for the game-winning score. Instead, Landsharks defender Cole Gaspar leapt at the ball from the goal line and intercepted it and downed it at the 5 after time had expired to close out the win.

While the loss may be eyebrow-raising, it's clear that the Dutch Fork culture is intact after the Silver Foxes opened the region with Chapin Friday night.

They wasted no time with the Eagles, scoring on their first five possessions en route to a 50-0 shutout. Quentin Wilson had 176 yards and three touchdowns on 16 carries, and Knotts completed 10 of 15 passes for 181 yards and three TDs.

The Silver Foxes travel to arch rival White Knoll (5-1, 1-0) Friday.

White Knoll

After the Timberwolves sustained a season-opening 20-7 loss to Camden, the team posted lopsided wins over perennial 5A power Sumter (28-6), Brookland-Cayce (49-13), Cane Bay (34-10), Fort Dorchester (40-0) and on Friday night, a 35-3 region-opening win over River Bluff (3-3, 0-1).

Against the Gators quarterback Jhais McKiever threw touchdown passes to Caleb Geronomi and Brandon Griffin, while running backs Tiyon Fanning and J.J. Keith had touchdown runs. Marquise Winn's fumble recovery and 95yard run for a touchdown late in the third quarter stomped River Bluff's move to make it a 2-possession game.

But for all the great offensive and defensive moments of the game, what stood out the most for head coach Nick Pelham were penalties—12 flags for 110 yards, including four personal fouls that led to River Bluff's only score and nearly lead

the heroics of Winn.

"We're good! If we could just do it the way we ask them to do the right way, we're good," fifth-year head coach Nick Pelham exclaimed. "We're good in the kicking game, we're good on offense, we're good on defense, we have some senior leadership, we have great practices, but we've got to control ourselves during the game. If we do that, we can be great.

Pelham's emphasis on his team's cleaning up its act on the field is notable considering White Knoll plays host to Dutch Fork Friday, and then travels to Irmo Oct. 17.

Irmo

With Dutch Fork's loss, the Yellow Jackets are at the top of the heap in Region 4-5A with a 6-0 record.

Irmo opened the season with a 35-28 victory over Oceanside Collegiate, then followed up with a hard-fought 35-32 victory at Byrnes Aug. 29.

The Yellow Jackets made little room for drama on the scoreboard in the weeks that followed, posting a 42-14 win over Butler (N.C.), a 51-21 victory over Carolina Forest, a 59-21 triumph at Myrtle Beach, and a Region-opening 35-0 blanking of Lexington.

As Irmo graduate and high-octane quarterback A.J. Brand is now on the Virginia Tech roster, the Yellow Jackets offense has showed that it's still potent. Senior **Drevon Dopson** has passed for 1,253 yards and 15 touchdowns through five games, with junior Maleek Miller (17 catches for 439 yards in addition to 99 rushing yards) being his top target.

Irmo travels to River Bluff Friday, but plays host to White Knoll Oct. 17. The big showdown that may determine the region winner will be at W.C. Hawkins Stadium Oct. 31 to take on Dutch Fork.

Ridge View

The Blazers (4-2, 2-0) had the most

Midlands Football Top Ten - Week 0

- 1. Irmo (6-0)
- 2. White Knoll (5-1)
- 3. Dutch Fork (4-1) 4. AC Flora (6-1)
- 5. Ridge View (4-2)
- 6. Gray Collegiate (4-2)
- 7. Swansea (7-0)
- 8. Newberry (7-0)
- 9. Camden (5-2) 10. Hammond (6-1)

difficult nonregion schedule in Region 5-5A, simply because they played defending 5A Division 2 state champion Northwestern Aug. 29 and defending 5A Division 1 state champion Dutch Fork the week after. Ridge View lost both games by seven

After those games the Blazers, who opened the season with a 40-0 shutout of Fairfield Central, whipped Camden and region foes Westwood and Spring Valley by a combined score of 139-20.

"We're a good rushing football team. We've got two or three guys who can really run the football," fifth-year Ridge View head coach **Derek Howard** said after his team's victory over Westwood Sept. 26. "A lot of it is **Aiden Keefe** who's been playing H-back for us. He's opened up a lot of holes. He's like an extra offensive lineman playing in a fullback position. We're a different offense when he's in there. Spencer Bobian did a great job of carrying the football and I think **Ryan Williams** did a good job for

In that 46-8 win over the Redhawks, Bobian rushed for 191 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries. Williams also rushed for two TDs, and Toryn Stuckey closed out the game with a 20-yard TD

The War Eagles (4-1, 3-0 Region 4-4A), opened region play with a 38-6 blistering of Midland Valley Sept. 19. The Mustangs (5-1, 2-1) had opened the season beating three straight 5A teams— J.L. Mann, Blythewood and Lexington before falling to Gray.

It was the next game against **North** Augusta that put Region 4-4A into tighter focus.

Freshman quarterback **Xavier** Wright, a backup to starter Tyler Waller, who had a wrist injury, made his second varsity start, and didn't waste it. Gray rallied from a 20-17 hafltime deficit to win 41-27 over the previously undefeated Yellow Jackets (6-1, 3-1).

Wright completed 17 of 23 passes for 376 yards and five touchdowns on the night, which more than offset North Augusta running back Mike Doe's 329 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

"He's one of the most poised young men I've ever been around," head coach De'Angelo Bryant said. "It takes a lot of guts to come out against a great defense and be able to do the things that he was able to do. The guys believe in him and he believes in himself.'

The War Eagles followed up on that win with a 56-0 shutout at Brookland-Cayce Friday, and travel to Airport this week. After that game **Aiken** (1-2, 2-4), **South Aiken** (2-2, 4-3), and **Gilbert** (1-2, 2-4) round out the region schedule.

Hammond

Before the season started, Skyhawks head coach Jon Wheeler was honest about the prospects of this year's team. While the Hammond past is loaded with 22 state football state championships and eight straight state crowns since 2017, the 2025 Skyhawks lacked veterans up and down the roster.

"The focus is on getting better every day." Wheeler said before the season after pausing for a long time about how to

See Midlands, pg. 61



Modern Turf Farm Recruiting Feature

HSSR SC 2027 Prospects

(Nominate A Player: hsreport@aol.com)

Joshua Dobson-Catawba Ridge-DB-6-1,174 Jaiden Kelly-Murray-Summerville-WR-5-10,170 Jaiden Bryant-Irmo-DE-6-3,245-Aiden Manavian-Oceanside Collegiate-QB/SS-6-0,185 Jayven Williams-Summerville-RB-5-8,165 Trenton Lynch-Spartanburg-RB-5-9,185 Chanin Harris-Byrnes-WR-6-1, 165 Franklin Richardson-Sumter-QB-6-2.220

- 10. Kendarius "P-nut" Bailey- Gaffney-LB-6-0,215 11. David Seggarra III-Byrnes-RB/FS-5-10,202
- 12. C.J. Brooks-Gaffney-OL-6-4,320

Seth Tillman-South Pointe-DL-6-3.260

- 13. Amare Patterson-Bluffton-WR-6-1.180
- 14. Israel "Shank" Harris-James Island-OL-6-3,330
- 15. Michael Strickler-Oceanside Collegiate-FS-6-1,210 16. Christian Chancellor-Daniel-DB-5-9-162-CLEMSON
- 17. JaQuan Samuel-Hartsville-OL-6-2, 275
- 18. Kaiden Watkins-Rock Hill-CB-5-10,172 19. Khristian Jackson-Ridge-View-WR-5-11, 180
- 20. Nate Carson-Irmo-OL-6-4,271 -
- 21. Jaden Wuerth-Dutch Fork-DL-6-3,270
- 22. Maleek Miller-Irmo-WR-5-11,175
- 23. Dwayne Louallen-Central-QB-6-1,205
- 24. Simeon Jones-North Augusta-DL-6-1,305
- 25. Tajej Watson-Martin-BHP-DB-5-10-162 26. Dennis Glenn-Boiling Springs-OL-DT-NG- 6-2, 290
- 27. Kelvion Manning-Dillon-DB-WR-6-3,190
- 28. Jaylon Watson-TL Hanna-DB-
- 29. Durham-Eastside-RB-FS-5-9,180
- 30. Dai'Shion Watkins-Hymes-Dorman-WR-/FS-6-1,190
- 31. Jordan Logan-Orangeburg-Wilkinson-SS-6-1,190
- 32. Aiden Gibson-Woodruff-RB-6-2,200 33. Malik Robinson-South Florence-WR-6-2, 190
- 34 William Geddis-Swansea-MI B-6-0 215
- 35. JaQuan Samuel-Hartsville-OL-6-2.275
- 36. Sam Holiday-Fountain Inn-QB-6-0,195-37. Jack Armstrong-Gray Collegiate-OL 6-2,265
- 38. Josiah Mosely-Wren-RB-5-10,165
- 39. Marquise Andreson-DL-Emerald-5-10,210
- 40. Calvin McCoy-Greer-RB-5-10,180 41. Torian Henry-James Island-DL -6-2,210
- 42. Mari Moody-Denmark-Olar-OL—6-4,235-
- 43. Karrem Shaw-Gaffney—RB-5-10,180 44. Henry Rivers-Berkeley-QB-DB-5-10,170 (Baseball)
- 45. Ayden Montgomery-Gaffney-DB-WR-5-10,162
- 46. Karamion Glenn-BHP-DT-5-10,240
- 47. Jerimiah Good-Seneca-OL-6-1, 248
- 48. Johnquis Johnson-South Florencve-DB-6-0,180 49. Fredick Cooper-South Florence-FS-5-11,171
- 50. Jerimiah Good-Seneca-OL-6-1,255
- 51. Makel Stephens-Loris-RB-5-7.190
- 52. Bryson Bowers-James Island-LB-6-0,200 53. Caleb Sharo-Ashley Ridge-TE-6-3,215
- 54. Jeffrey Williams-Atlantic Collegiate-DL-6-4,290
- 55. Xavier Huggins-Powdersville-WR-56. Xavier Means-Northwestern-QB-6-0,165
- 57. Micah Adams-Stratford-TE/DE-6-2, 265
- 58. Anthony Willimas-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-DB-5-11,175
- 59. Luke Penland-JL Mann-OL-DL-6-3,265
- 60. William Donato-Bishop England-WR-
- 61. Malcolm Gordon-Bluffton-LB-6-2,210
- 62. Caleb Feaster-Chester-RB/DB-
- 63. Payton Vining-Northwestern-WR-5-10,160
- 64. Hayes Lyman-Christ Church-RB-510,170 65. Judd Windham-Christ Church-QB-6-4,210-
- 67. Shaun Carvalho-JL Mann-LB-6-2.205

66. Nasir Waldrop-Powdersville-WR-

- 68. Than Portee-Broadwater-Spring Valley-WR/DB-6-0,170
- 69. Mehki Quiller-Fox Creek-LB-70. Chandler Guthrie-Gilbert-WR-
- 71. Jonny Chong-Greenville-OL-6-3,300
- 72. Calvin McCoy-Greer-RB-73. Joshua Simpkins-North Augusta-DL-6-2,250
- 74. Marquise Anderson-Emerald-DE-5-10,210
- 75. Charles Williams-Hampton County-DE-6-0,215 76. Dre Brown-Silver Bluff-RB-5-7,160
- 77. Brandon Streater-Central-OL-OL-6-4,260
- 78. Cooper Webb-Oceanside Collegaite-WR-5-10-165 79. Myjac McCoy-Marlboro County-LB-6-0,200
- 80. Keshawn Ray-Dillon-TE/LB-6-0,200

HSSR 2028 Class

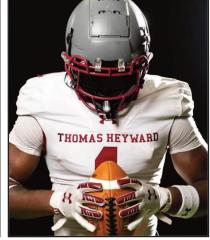
Zion Dawkins-Gaffney-CB/WR-5-11,181-7 D-1 Offers

Beau Hite-Emerald-QB-Ath-6-0,165

- HSSR 2029 (Top 5) All Chosen "Next Level All-Americans"
- 1. Emari Jones-Seneca-DL-6-6.325 2. Khayel Sam Fong-Talia-Dillon-QB-6-2,205
- 3. Rasean Brown-South Pointe-RB-5-11,170
- 4. Taddrick Gibson-Dutch Fork-DB-5-11,60 5. Malachi Watson-Irmo-OL-C-5-11,290
- 6. Bishop Allen-WR-5-11,160 (moved to Arizona?)



Cross' Caden Ramsey



Thomas Heyward's Tony O'Banner



Carvers Bay's **Zyon Guiles**

Recruiting, continued from Cover

Carolina, to major college football, when on September 8th he chose South Carolina over Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech and Syracuse. Ramsey was offered as a tight end by the Gamecocks tight ends **Shawn Eliott** on June 27th and the Gamecocks quickly jumped to the top of

Ramsey led the state of SC with 13 interceptions as a junior when he helped lead the Trojans to the Class A state finals against Abbeville.

Ramsey told **David Shelton** of the *HSSR* at the time of his commitment, "It feels good to get it over with," said Ramsey who visited the Gamecocks home game against South Carolina State on September 6. "I felt pretty good about South Carolina all along. Coach Elliott and head coach (Shane) Beamer made it feel like home. I know I made the right decision."

Ramsey is expected to play tight end in college and will likely be used primarily as a hybrid or h-back. He has only played receiver and safety at Cross. Last season, Ramsey's 13 interceptions led the state. He has two interceptions in the first three games of this season, along with three offensive touchdowns. Last season, as a receiver, Ramsey had 38 receptions for 673 yards and eight touchdowns.

Ramsey is not concerned about the move to a new position, saying that he expects to add 25 to 30 pounds once he arrives in a college setting.

"I will definitely add some weight if I change positions," he said. "It's no big deal for me. I'll play anywhere they tell me to play. I just want to be on the field helping us win games."

Cross head coach Shaun Wright says Ramsey should have no trouble switching positions.

"He's a versatile, athletic kid who can do just about anything on the field," Wright said. "He's our safety, a receiver, he's our long snapper and our backup quarterback. He can punt too. He really is a once in a lifetime player for me as a coach. Generational talent."

Ramsey also is one of the state's top basketball players and also excels in the 400-meter dash in track.

Ramsey is the second Berkeley County product to commit to an SEC school, joining Timberland offensive lineman **Desmond Green**, who is pledged to Florida. He also is the second Cross High player ever to commit to USC, joining former defensive back Rod Wilson who enjoyed an NFL career after playing for the Game-

Four days prior, on September, 4, North Augusta offensive tackle Malcolm Gaston (6-5,345) surprised some with his commitment to Liberty after releasing a final four list of Georgia, Florida, Florida State and **Virginia Tech** going into the May evaluation period. Gaston was the state's 43rd player in the 2026 class in South Carolina to commit to a major college team.

Gaston attended Liberty's season opening win against Maine on August, 30 and the Flames must have made a great impression on him. Gaston also had offers from Georgia, North Carolina, and East Carolina among others. Gaston was recently selected to play in the 2025 Shrine Bowl all- star game to be played in Spartanburg this December.

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