

Natural Grass. Extraordinary Durability.



- ★ #1 For Wear Tolerance
- ★ #1 For Drought Resistance and Recovery
- ★ Preferred Surface to Reduce Player injury
- ★ Requires Less Nitrogen

Green Acres Offers a Wide
Variety of Turfgrasses For
Any Application.

HOME • SPORTS
COMMERCIAL • GOLF

Also suppliers of
Tifway
419 BERMUDA



GreenAcresTurfSC.com

GREEN ACRES
TURF FARM, LLC

SEE HSSR ALL-STATE SOFTBALL TEAMS, PG. 49

www.HSSR.com

High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

XL No. 3 - September 30, 2026

(843) 553-0264

64 Pages

An inside look into three highly regarded 2028 SC quarterbacks

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Moncks Corner—For the first time in a while the “*High School Sports Report*” has three 2028 junior quarterbacks ranked among the Top 11 football prospects in the state of South Carolina, and all three of them are getting serious interest with one of them already committed to South Carolina in baseball.

We always pause to thank **Mark Grainger** and the fine folks at *Modern Turf* in Irmo and Rembert for their sponsorship of this very popular recruiting feature each month.

The *HSSR* went to see **Beau Hite** (6-0, 165) of **Emerald** play in a recent football game and we walked away very impressed with his skill set, decision making, his high football IQ. Hite just might also possess the quickest feet we have observed in action on an athlete in quite a while at the high school level.

Through seven games, Hite has helped lead his team to a 6-1 record in the SCHSL AAA classification. He has completed 89-of-34 passes for 1,462 yards and 18 touchdowns. He is a dual threat having rushed for 315 yards on 24 carries and one TD.

Hite has the distinction of being a highly regarded quarterback prospect and a highly regarded middle infielder in baseball. He is also a right-handed pitcher with his fast ball touching 90 mph. He has been playing summer baseball for a good while and he attends numerous high regarded baseball skills camps in the summer where the scouts

See Recruiting, pg. 33

On the Inside...

Modern Turf Football Stats.....	3
AAAAA Football Feature.....	4
AAAA Football Feature.....	5
AAA Football Feature.....	6
AA Football Feature.....	7
Class A Football Feature.....	8
SCISA Football Feature.....	9
Tennis Hall of Fame Feature.....	17
Seawell's Midlands Feature.....	32
Modern Turf Recruiting Feature.....	33
Green Acres Prospects.....	47
NETC Students of the Month.....	48
HSSR Softball All-State Teams.....	49

AUTUMN THUNDER

Cameron Coefield
Hanahan HS

Ella Ham
Carolina Academy

Sophie Brown
East Clarendon

EllaKay Jackson
Laurence Manning

Kaden Conner
Marlboro Academy

Landree Krebs
Hanahan HS

Aubree Frye
East Clarendon

Ellery Phillips
Wando HS

Gabe Cook
Alex Mose
Summerville HS

GLORY AWAITS!

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



Just for Fun: The HSSR predicts SCHSL and SCISA football state champions

Moncks Corner—The 2026 SCHSL and SCISA state football championships will once again take place at **South Carolina State University** with SCISA teams competing in their finals November 20-21, while the SCHSL finals will crown their champions on Dec. 4-5, at the same venue.

While there are a lot of high school football left to play, with region competition just starting last week, numerous teams have distinguished themselves as serious contenders already, at this point of the 2026 season. There are numerous undefeated teams at this point also. The *HSSR* always acknowledges “turnaround teams” from season to season also.

One of the best “turnaround teams” is **Chapman** and they are currently 7-0, after going 1-10 a year ago! **Battery Creek** deserves a high-five for being 6-0 right now, after going 2-9 in 2025.In SCISA, **Northside Christian** is now 7-0 after finishing 3-8 in 2025. We salute all the turnaround teams but these three jumped off the page at us.

About this time of the year the *HSSR* always has a little fun forecasting teams that could be in the state finals. Perhaps this will give some folks something to talk about, debate, and to discuss. Time will tell, it always does.

In the SCHSL AAAAA classification, **Dutch Fork** (6-0), **Dorman** (6-0), and **James Island** (6-0) are the only three undefeated teams left in AAAAA as of games played through October 2.

Coach Knotts was hired at Dutch Fork in 2010

and media reports at that time gave him a career record of 296-60 after coaching stints at **Harding, Independence,** and **West Charlotte High Schools.** Since coming to SC, Coach Knotts is 186-30-1. He has won an incredible 10 state titles at Dutch Fork, after having won seven state titles in North Carolina before his departure to the Palmetto State.

When the *HSSR* asked AI what Coach Knott’s career record the answer was 503 career wins. However, if the 296-60 career record was accurate when he came to Dutch Fork in 2010, his incredible record in the midst of his 44th year as a head coach is 482-90-1 coming into the Silver Foxes game at **Chapin** on October 9.

As a member of region 3-AAAAA **Dutch Fork** will compete in the upper state playoffs after the regular season. The *HSSR* predicts that the Silver Foxes will face **James Island** in the AAAAA finals on Saturday December 5 at 8 p.m. Dorman, currently 6-0, would have to defeat Dutch Fork in the upper state finals in late November and we just drop does not see that happening, but you never know.

In the SCHSL AAAAA there are no undefeated teams left in South Carolina. There are currently 11 different teams, either 6-1 or 5-1, making AAAAA wide open to even predict which two teams might meet in the finals.

The one loss AAAAA teams with the best offenses thus far are **Dreher** (273), **North Myrtle Beach** (237), **North Augusta** ((232), and **Indian Land** (230).

The AAAAA teams with the best defenses to date are **South Aiken** (61), **Gaffney** (91), **North Augusta** (107), and **Indian land** (110). **North Augusta’s** win over **Irmo** (25-16) on October 2 put the Jackets in the driver’s seat to win 3-AAAA, a hybrid region.

The *HSSR* new AAAAA ranking, after Oct. 2 games will now have the top four teams as: 1. Gaffney, 2. Hilton Head, 3. North Augusta and 4. South Aiken. We feel the final two AAAAA meeting in the state finals at SC State on Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. will come from among these four teams.

In AAA there are four undefeated teams right now. They are traditional power **Daniel** (6-0), and the Lions have dominated teams 257-88 along with **Chapman** (7-0) and they have defeated teams 291-67. Upstart **Pickens**, who were 3-8 a year ago, are 6-0 having defeated teams 294-117. From the lower state is **Bishop England** (7-0)

Emerald (275-176) and **Wren** (219-88) are both 5-1 and members of Region 2-AAA. They meet at Wren on Oct. 9 with the winner in the driver’s seat to capture a region title. One has to consider these two teams potential state finalists also.

The *HSSR* still feels like AAA lower State teams **Camden** (3-2) and **Oceanside Collegiate** (2-3) can’t be counted out for a deep playoff run either.

The SCHSL AAA state finals take place at SC State at 4 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 5. Expect either **Daniel** or **Chapman** from the upstate to play **Camden** or **Oceanside Collegiate** from the Lower State.

Editorial, continued from pg. 2

Yes, tough early season schedules do matter.

In SCHSL AA, the *HSSR* is confident that **Strom Thurmond** (6-0) who have defeated quality teams (215-47) will represent the Lower State in the state finals to be played at SC State on December 4 at 4 p.m. Certainly, a current undefeated lower state team like **Marlboro County** (6-0), could upset **Strom Thurmond** but time will tell. One can never count out **Dillon** (5-1) either.

From the Upper State AA, **Mid-Carolina** (6-0) has defeated teams 234-59 mid-way through the season, and they have a very strong defense. They will be challenged by current one-loss teams like **Chesnee** and **St. Joseph’s** in the upper state. In the end the *HSSR* predicts Storm Thurmond meets either Marlboro County or Dillon in the AA state finals.

SCHSL Class A, having two divisions this year, has become somewhat of a challenge to follow, must less predict. To date there are only two undefeated teams in Class A Div. I in Fairfield **Central** (6-0) and **Central** (6-0) in the upper state and they are 1-2 in the current *HSSR* ranking.

Bamberg-Ehrhardt (5-1) is the top-rated lower state Class A Div. I team and the *HSSR* feels like the Raiders will face **Hampton County** in the lower state finals and end up playing either Central or FC for the state title at noon on Saturday Dec. 5 at South Carolina State.

Blackville-Hilda is the heavy favorite to win it **BHP, continued from pg. 58**

The leading rusher is senior Cam Robinson with 251 yards and three TDs on 76 carries.

“We have made strides on offense, but hopefully we will finish drives better on offense these next few weeks,” Crane said. “We have had multiple drives on offense that have been 70-plus yards that did not result in any points. We need to be better in the plus area of the field and finish those drives.”

With the exception of the game against the high-powered Daniel offense, BHP has been strong

all in SCHSL Class A Div II and will be the upper state Div. II champions. In the lower state Div. II, it looks like **Lake View, Scott’s Branch,** and even **Cross** could emerge as the opponent for B-H at SC State at noon on December 4 at South Carolina State. Yes, do not count Cross out of it yet/

SCISA is much more defined, based on tradition with few huge surprises this season. Undefeated **Hammond** is going to be in the SCISA AAAAA finals and then it is just the luck of the draw that will help determine their opponent at SC State in a time TBD on Nov. 21-22. The *HSSR* feels that opponent is going to be either **Pinewood Prep** or **Northwood Academy.**

In SCISA AAA, the *HSSR* forecasts **Bethesda Academy** (4-1) playing against either **Hilton Head Christian** or **Northside Christian** (7-0) in the finals. In SCISA AA, matters are a little tricky. **Calhoun Academy** (7-1) has the top scoring offense with 304 points scored while **Williamsburg Academy** (4-1) is the top defense only having allowed 54 points. **Greenwood Christian** and **Colleton Prep** have only one loss also right now. Do we value defense? We shall see.

There are currently only two winning teams in SCISA Class A, **Dillon Christian** (5-2), and **Dorchester Academy** (5-2). Keep it simple: look for these two teams to meet for the state title in late November at SC State.

In SCISA 8-man, we are confident that **Jeffer-**

son Davis Academy will stay undefeated and compete for the 8-man state title, to be played at a TBD neutral site. What we are not certain about is their opponent. **Laurens Academy** (7-0) and **W. W. King** (6-1) are the teams in great shape to face JDA. JDA defeated WW King earlier this season.

P.S. Please do not hold anything I have forecasted against me in this little forecast Editorial. I wrote most of this article while watching the **South Carolina** versus **Kentucky** college football game. After USC jumped ahead, 17-0 in the first quarter, the Wildcats came back and won 35-34 in OT.

As a 1977 **University of South Carolina** journalism graduate, and after three straight SEC losses, my stress level in quite off the chart as I conclude this writing exercise.

No kidding, my oldest grandson is named “Connor” after **Connor Shaw**, and my oldest granddaughter is named **Caroline**, after the university itself! We consider ourselves a close-knit Gamecock family.

I have some strong opinions right now, but it is best that I keep my sanity, and hold my opinions close to the vest! Meanwhile, best of luck to all times striving to finish the 2026 season as state champions.

I do “predict” that USC will be a spoiler to some SEC team before the 2026 season is over!

Glenn has 12 tackles playing on the interior of the line, three of them for a loss. He has a recovery and has caused a fumble.

Junior cornerback **Jairyelle Harling** has two interceptions for 70 yards in returns to go with 13 tackles. Junior defensive end **Charlie Haynie** has returned a fumble for a score to go with 17 tackles and three TFLs.

SPONSORED HIGH SCHOOL INDEX

Abbeville	40	Colleton Prep	19	Hilton Head Prep	38	Orangeburg Prep	12
Andrew Jackson Academy	31	Cross	25	Holly Hill Academy.	57	Palmetto Christian	45
Andrews	29	Denmark-Olar	13	James Island	50	Patrick Henry	46
Ashley Hall	50	Dillon	10	Jefferson Davis.	30	Pee Dee Academy.	29
Ashley Ridge	21	Dillon Christian	54	Johnsonville	36	Pinewood Prep	56
Bamberg-Ehrhardt	13	Dorchester Academy	55	Kingstree	45	Porter-Gaud.	56
Barnwell	52	East Clarendon	15	Lake City	51	Saluda	41
Batesburg-Leesville	37	Emerald	40	Lake View	11	Scott’s Branch.	15
Belton-Honea Path	58	First Baptist	56	Lamar.	27	Spartanburg Day.	18
Berkeley	24	Florence Christian	27	Latta.	36	St. John’s Christian	25
Beaufort	39	Fort Dorchester	21	Laurence Manning	26	Stratford	23
Camden	52	Fox Creek	30	Laurens Academy	43	Summerville	20
Cane Bay	24	Gaffney	16	Lee Academy	54	Thomas Heyward	39
Carolina Academy	51	Goose Creek	23	Manning	14	Timberland	25
Carvers Bay	55	Gray Collegiate	42	Marion	28	Wardlaw	43
Central	34	Hampton County	46	Marlboro County	58	White Knoll	16
Chapin	36	Hanahan	22	Mullins	28	Williamsburg Academy	50
Cheraw	35	Hannah-Pamlico	37	Myrtle Beach	34	Wilson Hall	53
Chesterfield	45	Hartsville	58	North Myrtle Beach	35	Woodland.	44
Clarendon Hall	57	Heathwood Hall	53	Northwood Academy	22	WW King.	43
Colleton County	19	Hilton Head Christian	38	Oceanside Collegiate	42		

CAN’T FIND YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL IN THE INDEX?
CALL PUBLISHER BILLY BAKER FOR DETAILS. 843-553-0264 OR 843-200-9555
The High School Sports Report is read by over 200 Colleges across the nation. The publication also receives 600,000 annual hits on its website, www.hssr.com. In addition, the Sports Report sponsors statewide banquets for every sport in South Carolina. The HSSR is recognized by the National Federation of High Schools for distinguished service in 2021. Can your athletic program afford NOT to be a part of this 36-year-old publication?

Start Your Subscription Today!



Our goal: to recognize the achievements of young athletes

Send Subscription To:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MC or Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

One Year
For Only \$25!
(12 Issues)

Mail Check To:

HSSR

P.O. Box 1607

Goose Creek, SC

29445

Or Call:

1-800-489-0649

We Accept

MC or Visa

WANT TO GET YOUR SCHOOL INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT? CALL US AT 843-553-0264
The High School Sports Report is read by over 200 Colleges across the nation. The publication also receives 600,000 annual hits on its website, www.hssr.com. In addition, the Sports Report sponsors statewide banquets for every sport in South Carolina. The HSSR is recognized by the National Federation of High Schools for distinguished service in 2021. Can your athletic program afford NOT to be a part of this 36-year-old publication?

AAAA Football, continued from pg. 5

AAAAA since its inception and AAAA before that. They are one of the favorites to make a run to a state championship.

They have a rock-solid defense that allowed just 84 points against a brutal non-region schedule. They are led by senior **Carsen Good** with 36 tackles. Bai-ley leads in TFLs with 5 ½ and sacks with three. Senior defensive back **Ayden Montgomery** leads in interceptions with two.

AAA Football, continued from pg. 6

to just one pick. He has close to 10 receiver options, with the most frequent being Junior **Jack Hughes**, who has 17 catches for 393 yards and four touch-downs. Senior **Caiden Hill** has 15 catches for 248 yards and four scores as well.

Seniors **Muntu Brown** and **Josiah Mosely** pro-vide a solid running-back tandem, with Brown car-rying 73 times for 490 yards and eight touchdowns and Mosely carrying 36 times for 455 yards and seven scores.

Junior **Hayes Reid** leads the team in tackles with 44, but Senior free safety **Sloan Sanders** has 41 tackles, two for loss, and an interception. Junior **Travys Woodard** has 37 tackles, nine for loss, and a team-high three sacks. Senior defensive end **J.T. Forrester** has 33 tackles, seven for loss, and a sack.

When opened the region season with a 34-10 vic-tory over **Powdersville** last week.

Loris

The Lions (6-1) are already three games into the Region 6-AAA schedule, posting a 48-6 win over **Atlantic Collegiate Academy**, a 51-34 victory over Crestwood Sept. 25, and a 21-20 edging of Darlington last week. Their only loss was a 58-42 battle at

Midlands Feature, continued from pg. 32

is encountering some troubles in its first year back in Class AAAA competition.

The hometown Yellow Jackets (3-3, 0-1) played host to the Yellow Jackets (5-1, 2-0) from the Savan-nah River area and fell 25-16.

Irmo held a 16-14 lead at the half, but North Au-gusta blanked Irmo in the second half. Defender

Deante Darde ran back an interception for a touch-down in the second half for the go-ahead score. North Augusta added two safeties in the second half as well.

Irmo’s third loss of the season is a first since 2022. The Yellow Jackets also lost to **Dorman** and **Rock Hill** this year. All of the losses were to ranked oppo-nents.

“We think sometimes we’ve got the Irmo across our chest, we can live on what we have done in the past,” Irmo head coach **Aaron Brand** said. “We just are not doing it and totally got to get back to the draw-ing board and get some wins.”

Gray Collegiate, continued from pg. 42

has to hit, serve, play defense, and she does all of it well.”

Junior transfer **Peyton Capps**, who leads the team in kills with 163 and has 12 blocks, 92 digs and 151 service receptions, provides an extra punch in the lineup.

“She is a super dynamic offensive player,” Wal-lace said. “Really solid for us and adds to the cul-ture.”

Senior outside hitters **Brianna Jones** (31 kills, 29 blocks) and **Sasha Hughes** (23 kills, 12 blocks) have come into their own this year.

SJCA, continued from pg. 25

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

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

Jackson has been a good fit for SJCA with its family

Irmo finished second in AAAAA Division II the past two seasons. They are led by **Alabama** running back commitment **Tai Phillips**, **South Carolina** of-fensive lineman commitment **Nate Carson** and **Miami** Bryant.

The Chiefs have shown an ability to win low-scoring games as well as shootouts. In a 58-42 win over **Loris** in a battle of unbeatens, wide receiver **Jaden Chestnut** caught six passes for 117 yards and

North Myrtle Beach Sept. 11.

Junior quarterback **Ayden Scott** has 957 yards passing and 11 touchdowns, with senior **Roderick Purcha** being the go-to guy for big plays. Purcha has just eight catches in four games, but has 325 re-ceiving yards for an 81.3-yards-per-catch average. He leads all receivers with four touchdowns.

The big playmaker for Loris has been senior **Makel Simmons**, who has 111 carries for 1,182 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Junior linebacker **Jay Dalton Todd** leads the team in tackles with 61, and Sophomore defensive back **Ethan Shaw** has 56 tackles and two intercep-tions. Senior defensive back **Antonio James** has 46 tackles, five for loss, and a team-leading three sacks. Senior linebacker **Donaldson Williams** has 18 tack-les and two sacks. Junior defensive back **K.G. Generette** has 23 tackles and a team-high three in-terceptions.

Aynor

At 4-3, the Blue Jackets are already one win bet-ter than last year’s 3-8 team. Aynor got off to a 4-0 start with non-region victories over **Georgetown**, **Marion**, **Green Sea-Floyds**, and **Latta**. The Blue

Other games of note around the Midlands

Ridge View (3-2) whipped White Knoll (1-5) 46-14 in a nonregion matchup. **Tre Howard** threw two touchdown passes to **Isaiah Smalls** and a third to **Khristian Jackson**. Jackson also had a punt return for a touchdown.

On Thursday night, a rejuvenated **Lugoff-Elgin** (6-1, 1-0 Region 4-AAAA) held off a winless-but-tough-ened **Westwood** 30-20. White Knoll transfer **Tiyon Fanning** broke out for 168 yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries. **Zach Williams** was 23-for-34 for 270 yards and a TD. **Lugoff-Elgin** (5-1) takes on **A.C. Flora** (1-5, 0-1) Friday.

Hammond made easy work out of **Wilson Hall** in a 58-0 shutout. **Cade Amell** needed only 145 passing yards on the night, but he connected with **Caden Young** three times for touchdowns. **Blaze Barnes** night had two rushing touchdowns. The Skyhawks (7-

“Brianna’s a 6-footer and right-side attacker, and I enjoy seeing the strides she has made,” Wallace said. “She embodies what the right side does, she has to block at the net and she has to put the ball away.”

Hughes, who has been on Wallace’s teams since she was a freshman.

“She was an integral part in the 6-2 offense, but when the team had to go back to the 5-1, she had to take a lesser role,” Wallace said. “It’s just the way the offense had to change. She has been extremely patient and learned to be OK with her new role,

and religious values and last year the seniors showed how much he has meant to the school despite not being from around here as they dedicated the year book to him.

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

Dr. **Jerry Brown** is back on the gridiron as he takes over the Cavaliers football program while **Trenton Eden**

three scores. Running back **Jayden Wilson** ran for 159 yards and two more TDs.

Hanna is averaging 258 rushing yards a game but spreads the wealth. The top two rushers are senior **Brock Cole** with 441 yards and four TDs and junior **Esaiaas Carroll** with 373 yards and seven touch-downs.

Jackets have gotten off to a rocky start in Region 6-AAA, posting a 36-8 loss to **Crestwood** (3-3) Sept. 18, followed by a 48-22 loss to **Hartsville** (2-2) Sept. 25 and a 35-20 loss to Atlantic Collegiate (3-4) last week. Aynor will have to contend with Loris and **Darlington**, both 2-0 in the region, for a chance at the title, but two losses in region paints the Blue Jackets into a corner.

Oceanside Collegiate

The defending back-to-back 3A state champions, who won a 2A state crown in 2023, got off to a slow start with two losses right out of the gate. Granted, their season opener was a 41-21 defeat at AAAAA No.2 powerhouse **James Island** (5-0), and game two against North Carolina’s **Cannon/Concord Academy** was a 22-21 loss.

The Landsharks righted the ship with a 24-17 quality win over AAAAA’s No.8 **Ridge View** (3-2) and a 42-41 edging of **Ashley Ridge** Sept. 11. They fell on the road, 40-22 to the **Red Elephants** (3-2) of **Gainesville, Ga.**, Sept. 18 and had a bye week before beating No.5 Hanahan 31-21 Friday.

0, 2-0 SCISA Region 1-AAAA) travel to **Ben Lippen** 5-2, 2-0) Friday. The Falcons fall 42-14 to **Pinewood Prep** last week.

Keenan (5-1, 1-0 Region 3-AA) opened region play with a 42-19 victory over **Andrew Jackson**. **Dante Howse** completed 17 of 23 passes for 275 yards and four touchdown passes. **Tavares Lively** rushed 18 times for 151 yards and two scores, and **Daylin Casey** and Howse both had touchdown runs. **Jordan Wilson** had six catches for 101 yards and two TDs. **Jaden Moody** and **Marcus Simpson Jr.** also had touchdown receptions. Keenan travels to **Chester** Friday.

Dreher (5-1, 1-0) topped Richland Northeast (2-4) 37-12 in its Region 4-AAAA opener. **Aidan Fitzger-ald** threw three touchdown passes, two of which were to **Terry Cantlow**. **Ashton Felder** had two rushing scores.

which is when we need her on the court as an offen-sive threat. She has been such a good teammate through it all.”

With just a few games left in the season, Wallace appreciates the team’s focus at this point in region play.

“Our goal from the beginning of the year was to win region, but it’s a game-by-game process,” she said. “we’re playing our best volleyball of the sea-son and we’re working to solidify all of our goals that we wanted to reach by the end of the season.”

will be taking over the volleyball team.

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



RUSHING					RECEIVING					YARDS			RECEPTS			TDS		
PLAYER	SCHOOL	YARDS	ATTEMPTS	TDS	AMIR CHISOLM	PORTER-GAUD	742	40	5									
JAYDEN PEEPLES	BLACKVILLE-HILDA	1191	109	16	QUAMEL GRANT	HANAHAN	718	26	6									
MAKEL STEPHENS	LORIS	1182	111	20	HANAHAN	GRANSON MATHES	711	32	9									
NIGIL FRIPP	HAMPTON COUNTY	987	117	8	TRE GREEN	PINEWOOD PREP	687	33	8									
CAMERON JAMES	SOUTH FLORENCE	978	116	11	AMARE PATTERSON	BLUFFTON	678	49	8									
CALVIN WOFFORD	CRESTWOOD	963	114	11	ASHTON KELLERMAN	PHILIP SIMMONS	657	32	7									
JORDAN BLACKMON	DILLON CHRISTIAN	935	68	18	DREW WOLFE	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	640	27	11									
JAMERION MOORE	EMERALD	881	96	18	JEREMIAH WALTERS	HILTON HEAD	618	32	5									
ISAIAH SCOTT-PALACIOS	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	871	78	10	LAVORIS LUCAS	PINEWOOD PREP	612	22	11									
LUKE FANNING	LUGOFF-ELGIN	860	93	11	TERRY CANTLOW	DREHER	611	27	13									
JOSEPH MORSE	W W KING ACADEMY	857	60	13	NICK GORDON	CHERAW	605	27	7									
REED ALMERS	DORCHESTER ACADEMY	839	128	14	RYAN WATSON	LAKE WYLIE	594	34	5									
CARTER FOUNTAIN	WEST-OAK	831	124	13	DEUCE BRADLEY JR	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	572	26	8									
JADEN WILSON	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	810	120	7	RAPHAEL FUJI	JAMES ISLAND	564	22	3									
TREVON WILLIAMSON	GRAY COLLEGIATE	798	117	9	SCOTT YOUNG	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	564	25	4									
DAVID BOLDEN	PICKENS	769	80	9	LEEK MILLER	DUTCH FORK	549	32	7									
KENYAN DOUGLAS	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	727	100	10	WILLIAM DONATO	BISHOP ENGLAND	549	37	5									
JAYLEN LYLES	WOODRUFF	717	89	7	COLTEN MCCAULEY	CATAWBA RIDGE	546	26	2									
B J SUITS	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	712	76	16	ISAH SMITH	CAMDEN	542	20	7									
HUNTER O'NEAL	W J KEENAN	701	83	10	CURTIS BELL	WOODRUFF	541	35	7									
OWEN GEORGE	ACADEMIC MAGNET	700	64	9	THOMAS CORBETT	COLLETON PREP	540	18	8									
ELI BEVILLE	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN	697	61	8	PEYTON STEVENSON	RIVERSIDE	534	38	3									
DERRICK PORTER	FIRST BAPTIST	683	65	13	CHASE WIMPEY	EASLEY	521	27	8									
PARKER KIZER	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	673	100	6	GRACEY COLLEGIATE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	521	27	3									
BROOKS DOW	PICKENS	669	63	13	NICK BUTLER	WALHALLA	517	14	5									
JAMARION WITHERSPOON	SUMTER	664	66	8	KEILON TUCKER	CHAPMAN	516	33	9									
MYKELL WARTHEN	JAMES ISLAND	660	79	9	CAMRHYN MATHIS	NINETY-SIX	513	34	10									
PRESTON SMITH	MIDLAND VALLEY	650	73	9	JOSHUA BRADLEY	FIRST BAPTIST	507	23	7									
TONY COOPER	MAY RIVER	645	72	6	LOGAN NEWSOME	PALMETTO	495	37	4									
CALEB FEASTER	CHESTER	635	56	8	JACKSON RICHARDSON	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	489	23	8									
CHARLIE HOWELL	CHAPIN	614	101	7	TY'QUARIUS SHANNON	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	482	24	4									
BRODEN MITCHESON	FORT MILL	609	80	10	MARKUEL TROUPE	BLUE RIDGE	475	34	4									
QUINTIN JACKSON	SCOTTS BRANCH	604	58	7	WAYNE FARMER JR	CALHOUN COUNTY	464	16	7									
REGGIE SHANNON	SUMTER	590	100	10														
MICHAEL POLITE	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	583	107	7	TACKLES	ROCK HILL	79	59	20									
MALACHI JACKSON	CLEAR DOT CHARTER	572	58	3	JAHMAUD MOORE	YORK	79	48	31									
TRENTON LYNCH	SPARTANBURG	565	55	4	JACOB BUSSEY	W W KING ACADEMY	73	47	26									
KINGSTEN BIBB	DANIEL	558	65	10	JAMARI SMALLS	WHALE BRANCH	73	16	57									
KAI SOBEY	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	558	62	10	HAYDEN DOERFLEIN	EMERALD	73	24	49									
JAYVEN WILLIAMS	SUMMERVILLE	552	98	4	MAC STICKLAND	ORANGEBURG PREP	72	35	37									
MACK RAMBO	ST. JOSEPH	551	91	9	COLBY WARD	ST. JAMES	72	38	34									
TORRE PICKENS	BARBWWELL	551	99	4	JAXSON RAY	FORT DORCHESTER	71	39	32									
CALIB WARDY	LAURENS ACADEMY	533	55	7	DIANAIVTE IRVING	PHILIP SIMMONS	70	28	42									
DRELYN BROWN	SOUTH AIKEN	532	65	8	WAYNE JOHNSON	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	67	24	43									
CALVIN MCCOY	GREER	530	68	8	ALLER CHISOLM	PORTER-GAUD	66	47	19									
KRES LANGHALS	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	527	75	6	TRISTAN NELSON	ROCK HILL	65	39	26									
MARZAVIOUS ALLEN	CENTRAL	520	49	7	ISSACK STAY	MIDLAND VALLEY	65	22	43									
SINCERE LEWIS	GOOSE CREEK	519	80	4	LUKE SOBEY	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	65	18	47									
JACE DEVLIN	CRESCENT	517	39	5	JACQVEDN MILLER ANTHONY	ANDREW JACKSON	65	46	19									
COLEMAN BATSON	WADE HAMPTON	511	62	6	NATE TAYLOR	PICKENS	64	44	20									
LONDON ROBINSON	LAKE WYLIE	501	92	4	JAXSON WILLIAMSON	CANE BAY	62	24	38									
KHRISHAWN SMITH	MARLBORO COUNTY	495	50	3	PARKER COLLINS	CHAPIN	62	34	28									
JAVIN GETER	MIDLAND VALLEY	492	68	10	HAYDEN ADKINS	YORK	62	39	23									
MUNTU BROWN	WREN	490	73	8	JAY'SEAN CULP	ROCK HILL	61	41	20									
JAVIN RISHER	HILTON HEAD	481	65	7	ZY'ION EAST	AIKEN	61	31	30									
NYHEM BRIMFIELD	DENMARK-OLAR	480	47	7	JAY DALTON TODD	LORIS	61	44	17									
GRANT SMALL	WILLIAMSBURG ACADEMY	480	59	5	CHRIS LONG	BLTWEHWOOD	60	30	30									
J P BRANTON	LANDRUM	480	67	3	RYAN SIMMONS	FORT DORCHESTER	60	29	31									
CODY PETERSON	ST. JAMES	469	66	2	CASH MAJAR	LUGOFF-ELGIN	60	41	19									
MARQUEL WILLIAMS	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY	466	65	5	ISAKAS JAMES	HAMPTON COUNTY	60	44	16									
AVERY KING	BROOKLAND-CAVEY	462	62	1	TREVOR TONON	BISHOP ENGLAND	60	30	30									
JOSIAH MOSLEY	WREN	455	36	7	YACHIN GAMBLE	CRESTWOOD	59	45	14									
IAN PATTERSON	LANDRUM	452	68	10	STONE PORTER	BEN LIPPEN	59	27	32									
KORDELL HOLLEY	BLUFFTON	448	76	7	DAVID PADGETT	PALMETTO CHRISTIAN	58	29	29									
ETHAN PORTER	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	447	55	7	ELI SEIGLER	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	57	18	39									
MAXYEN DAILEY	WALHALLA	445	66	4	TYLER GINDOFF	CATAWBA RIDGE	57	50	7									
					EVAN SIMMONS	BROOKLAND-CAVEY	57	45	12									
					CHANDLER ROGERS	DILLON CHRISTIAN	57	30	27									
					LINCOLN DIAL	DILLON CHRISTIAN	57	40	17									
					ANDREW MASSEY	HILTON HEAD	57	46	11									
					KEONTAE SCIPIO	DARLINGTON	57	40	17									
					MORGAN COPELAND	J L MANN	56	10	46									
					M J RESSAP	SUMMERVILLE	56	15	41									
					TERRY KNIGHT	DILLON CHRISTIAN	56	43	13									
					ETHAN MOODY	DILLON CHRISTIAN	56	36	20									
					ETHAN SHAW	LORIS	56	40	16									
					NYREN BOWMAN	SCOTTS BRANCH	55	33	22									
					GARRET SMITH	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	55	21	34									
					ANGELO RESCENZINI	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	55	26	29									
					JACOB FELIC	WANDO	54	38	16									
					QUENTIN KEARSE	WAGENER-SALLEY	54	40	14									
					LEVI PRIDGEN	BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	54	27	27									
					ZACH WEAVERFORD	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	54	12	42									
					SPENCER BERG	J L MANN	53	12	21									
					BENJAMIN EVERSBERRY	WANDO	53	37	16									
					JAKE HARRINGTON	JEFFERSON DAVIS ACADEMY	53	32	21									
					BLAKE SEWELL	EASLEY	53	28	25									
					CARMEL WILLIAMS	BLUFFTON	53	24	29									
					NATHAN PERACKI	MULLINS	53	22	31									
					ANTHONY STRONG	CHERAW	53	40	13									
					JACOBI SAUNDERS	BLUFFTON	52	28	24									
					MILLARD LIVINGSTON	ORANGEBURG PREP	52	25	27									
					SCOTTHALL BRIDGTON	PORTER-GAUD	52	41	11									
					GOSUE CREEK	GOOSE CREEK	52	32	61									
					KRISTIAN MCQUEEN	W J KEENAN	50	24	26									
					LAYSON STOCKTON	PHILIP SIMMONS	50	10	40									
					ELI GARRETT	LAURENS ACADEMY	50	28	22									
					ZYMER GORDON-MILES	ROCK HILL	50	27	23									
					CHOLLY WILLIAMS	ORANGEBURG PREP	50	24	26									
					GRANT RHONEY	BURFORD	50	15	35									
					BENNET REEDER	YORK	50	28	22									
					KALEB LARSEN	WAGENER-SALLEY	49	35	49									
					WILL WINFREY	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	49	16	33									
					LYNDEN BURTON	GREENVILLE	49	26	23									
					ANDREW REECE	LIBERTY	49	29	20									
					DONOVAN FRANKLIN	ROCK HILL	49	35	14									
					HUCK NEVIN	PORTER-GAUD	49	36	13									
					CHRIS PERRY-JENY	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	49	7	42									
					AMADEO RICKS	CRESTWOOD	49	29	20									
					MARKOETE WITHERSPOON	LANCASTER	48	23	25				</					

AAAAA Football Feature



Dutch Fork football is looking to “Drive for Five” in 2026

Can anyone end the dominance of Dutch Fork in AAAAA football?

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Summerville – By the time the November issue of the *High School Sports Report* goes to press in early November, the pairings and seedings for the AAAAA state football play-offs will be known.

The regular season ends on Oct. 30 with round one of the postseason set for the first Friday night in November. Thus begins the five week trek to the state championship game.

Class AAAAA has a clear favorite to win the state title. Defending champion **Dutch Fork** has shown to be a dominant team with a great defense and an offense that routinely puts up big numbers. Senior quarterback **Jaxon Knotts** has evolved and matured into one of the state’s top passers, and receiver **Maleek Miller** is just one of several perimeter weapons.

While the Silver Foxes are certainly the team to beat, there are a handful of teams that have the personnel and coaching to put some pressure on Dutch Fork. **Northwestern** won the last two Division II state titles but that division is no more. Thus, coach **Page Wofford** and multi-talented quarterback **Xavier Means** are hoping to contend again.

Northwestern has rolled through opponents, scoring at least 50 points in five straight games. The Trojans face a region showdown with **Dorman** on Oct. 9. The Cavaliers are 6-0 and have shown a steady hand to win close games.

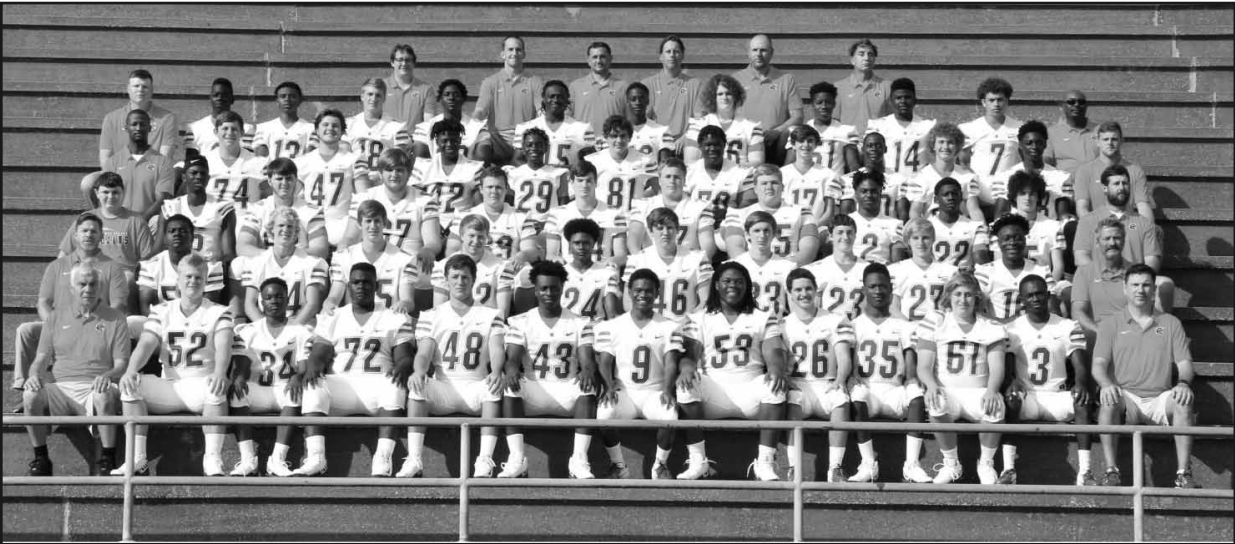
Region 2-AAAAA is clearly the top league this fall. Joining Dorman and Northwestern are 5-1 **Rock Hill**, 5-1 **Boiling Springs**, and 5-1 **Fort Mill**. If any of those teams are the “sleeper” in the Upper State it would be Rock Hill.

River Bluff and **Byrnes** should be listed as teams with a chance to advance at least into round three but neither is a true title contender.

Undefeated **James Island** is the top team in the Lower State and, with a weak region, should enter the playoffs with a perfect record. The Trojans have great balance offensively with several playmakers, while the defense is strong at all three levels.

Other teams in the Lower State with potential to advance include **Ridge View**, **Sumter**, **Summerville** and of course **Berkeley**. Berkeley’s lone loss was to Northwestern.

Carolina Forest could also be a team to watch and plays Berkeley in a key region 6-AAAAA clash on Oct. 9.



The James Island Trojans may be a threat to the Silver Foxes

AAAAA Football Polls - As of October 3	
1. Dutch Fork	6. Berkeley
2. James Island	7. Byrnes
3. Dorman	8. Ridge View
4. Northwestern	9. Rock Hill
5. Boiling Springs	10. Summerville

Current Region Standings

REGION 1	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BYRNES	1-0	4-2	198	114
EASTSIDE	1-0	4-2	159	146
WOODMONT	1-0	2-4	192	161
HILLCREST	0-1	1-5	147	223
MAULDIN	0-1	1-5	77	146
J L MANN	0-1	0-6	99	217
REGION 2	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DORMAN	1-0	6-0	195	140
NORTHWESTERN	1-0	5-1	313	79
ROCK HILL	1-0	5-1	163	75
BOILING SPRINGS	0-1	5-1	140	133
FORT MILL	0-1	5-1	267	86
SPARTANBURG	0-1	2-4	138	219
REGION 3	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DUTCH FORK	1-0	6-0	251	74
RIVER BLUFF	1-0	6-1	238	128
WHITE KNOLL	0-0	1-5	137	190
CHAPIN	0-1	4-3	217	146
LEXINGTON	0-1	3-3	205	171
REGION 4	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
SUMTER	1-0	4-3	215	172
GRAY COLLEGIATE	1-0	3-4	201	199
RIDGE VIEW	0-0	3-2	146	90
BLYTHEWOOD	0-1	3-4	140	192
SPRING VALLEY	0-1	0-7	28	260
REGION 5	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
JAMES ISLAND	3-0	6-0	260	76
FORT DORCHESTER	2-1	3-4	148	192
ASHLEY RIDGE	2-1	2-5	215	197
SUMMERVILLE	1-1	3-3	167	118
WEST ASHLEY	1-1	1-5	64	180
R B STALL	0-2	2-4	76	267
STRATFORD	0-3	1-6	96	266
REGION 6	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BERKELEY	1-0	5-1	228	98
CAROLINA FOREST	1-0	5-1	214	110
SOCASTEE	1-0	2-4	160	169
WANDO	0-1	3-3	102	162
CANE BAY	0-1	2-4	109	177
GOOSE CREEK	0-1	1-5	109	191

Conner, continued from pg. 48

eyes about the college environment, the course load, and it helps me prioritize my work through better time management.”

Conner describes her initial experience with online college level work, “It’s early, but my professors have been very helpful and I’m really enjoying my online classes.”

Connor says playing sports and being enrolled in the

Stillwell, continued from pg. 48

“Plus, taking online courses requires daily planning and I’m getting to understand what professors expect and how classes work together. I enjoy the NETC environment, and the online environment in very convenient and with my sports commitments, I am earning college credits also.”

When asked about time management challenges, be-

EC Volleyball, continued from pg. 15

plus 11 kills and 9 digs on her resume. “I have enjoyed making friendships and teaching the other girls all I know about volleyball,” said Jeffords. “I play the right side of the court, and my job is to block, dig, and play good defense.

“My proudest moment of this season was how we played tonight,” said Jeffords. “This was probably my best game of the season also.”

Payton Hanniford is a senior MH who came into the Manning game with 23 aces, 23 digs and six blocked shots. “I have been on the team for three years and this was my first time back after being out the past two weeks with an ankle injury,” said Hanniford.

“When I first started out it was encouraging to get help from the older girls and that helped me in my development.

“My role in a game is to be the tall person at the net and get blocks and help dig and get balls down,” said Hanniford. “Our upcoming game with Dillon (Oct. 15) will be very important because it will help determine seeding in the playoffs if we can win. We have been improving throughout the season.”

The one senior who had to leave after the Manning game for another engagement is senior MH **Braelyn Sims**.

The team is head coached by **Karleigh Gonzalez** who was an all-region and all-state volleyball player in high school at **Thomas Sumter Academy**. The team’s

Camden, continued from pg. 52

Senior **Will Haurnet** had 15 grabs for 256 yards and three scores, and senior **Hayden Williams** and junior **Gavin Champion** both have two touchdown receptions.

The leading rusher was junior **Aaden Manning** with 340 yards and five TDs on 57 carries. Senior **Jaden Manning** had 44 rushes for 220 yards and four scores, and Green had 12 carries for 180 yards and a touchdown.

The Camden defense is allowing 23.3 points, but Coach Rimpf is generally happy with how it’s performed considering its inexperience.

“Our defense has competed well this season and done a good job of limiting big plays,” he said. “We only

Recruiting, continued from pg. 33

two- sport athlete who is a left-handed pitcher in baseball with a huge upside. His high school team is currently 6-1 and in the hunt for a region title and more.

As a quarterback for the Hawks this season, he has put up some impressive numbers. Through six games of the season, he has completed 71-of-103 passes for 1,718 yards and 19 Touchdowns.

Gallus runs a 4.7 forty and he considers himself a dual threat quarterback. At an early age he grew up in Michigan where his father attended college. He currently has a football offer from **Eastern Michigan**. He recently took in a college game at **Coastal Carolina** and he went to a Spring game at **Wake Forest** this past Spring. Gallus has also been hearing a lot from **UNC Charlotte**.

“I love playing both football and baseball but my true interest is in playing quarterback in college,” said Gallus. “My dream school is **Michigan** and I would jump at the chance to play for them. I am a Michigan man at heart.”

He is quite confident he could stand on the 50-yard line at his high school stadium and throw a football through the goal post with confidence. “I think my attributes as a quarterback is that I am a student of the game and I love to break down defenses and figure out the best way to attack them,” said Gallus. “I feel like I have a

“NETC” online classes, has helped her learn to develop time management skills, “It’s important to understand that school and sports go hand in hand, and working hard in school will ultimately lead to more success and opportunities in sports and life.

“It’s important to prioritize the important things, and scheduling the time to get those projects done without procrastinating is a key to success,” said Conner.

tween his academics and athletics participation, Stillwell said, “It’s all about planning each day to slot time for all the requirements of my activities. Plus, the value of getting enough sleep is never overrated.”

Stillwell favorite memory from his high school prep career comes from his basketball experience. “The most fun game was not a win, but in the 2026 Basketball semi-

win over Manning improved the Wolverines to 4-2 in the region while Dillon is tops in the region currently at 5-1. The match with the Wildcats on the 15th looms big.

Coach Gonzalez is in her second year with the program. “We had two seniors graduate from the team last year, but we have also had several underclassmen step up and contribute as well,” said Coach Gonzalez. “I want us to come out swinging over the remaining games that we have to play and hopefully come away with a region championship.

“Right now, we are kind of petering a bit and it just depends on how everyone plays each other with three regions left in the regular season,” said Coach Gonzalez. “We need to take as many wins as we can the rest of the season.”

Coach Gonzalez shared her thoughts on her senior group. “Aubrey (Frye) is an outstanding player on the back row, and she runs the whole thing and tonight we had her playing more of the court then normal,” said Coach Gonzalez. “She’s a take charge player and a front line for our defense.”

Coach Gonzalez said Sophie **Brown** has a very high volleyball IQ. “She makes really great decisions passing the ball and she has great camaraderie bringing everyone together,” said Coach Gonzalez. “She puts the ball right into her hitter’s hands and that is a big asset to have.”

returned four starters from last year’s unit, but the new players have stepped right in and become key contributors.

“The key for our defense is creating turnovers. In our two losses we didn’t create any turnovers. In our five wins we’ve created 15 turnovers.”

Junior middle linebacker **Lavay Penny** is the leading tackler with 57 followed by junior middle linebacker **Harrison Arnett** with 51. Penny also leads in quarterback sacks with three, while Arnett and sophomore defensive end **Marcus Hall** both have two.

Hall leads in quarterback pressures with six and tack-

le strong arm.

Schools showing Brochu early interest include **Maryland**, **Colorado**, **Arkansas**, **Kentucky** and **Georgia State**.

Riggs Savage (6-4, 220) is a 2028 TE from Powder-ville High who was recently offered by **South Carolina**. Clemson is also showing interest in Savage.

Other schools showing interest in the big guy are **North Carolina**, **Louisville**, and **Georgia Tech** among others.

The state of South Carolina has recently gone over the 50 barrier in the number of 2027 seniors in South Carolina who have committed to one of the 136 major college football programs across the nation. The Palmetto State is rich in prep football talent.

The *HSSR* will take a deep dive into 2027 major college sleeper prospects in South Carolina who just might push the major college numbers in South Carolina to 55, or so, by the early National Signing Day in December.

Brocha has completed 64-of-114 passes for 614 yards and seven touchdowns after six games of the 2026 season. He is more of a Pro style quarterback with a very

Conner’s favorite sports memory does not involve something that happened in a game. “My good memories are built around all the friendships, and great times working together as a team with my teammates at practice or in games,” she said. “Teammates are a big reason I love playing sports with these friends, and all the memories we share.”

finals, we were down by 20 points at halftime and battled back in the second half, but we ran out of time and lost by just three points. Even though it was a loss, we played hard as a team in that game. It’s the camaraderie with my teammates in practice, on the bus rides, and teamwork in games that are the lasting memories with my friends.”

Coach Gonzalez said that the team’s energy on the floor comes from **Payton Hanniford**. “She has missed a couple games with an injury and while she was out our energy was not the same,” said Coach Gonzalez. “We were a much better team with her on the court.”

Coach Gonzalez describes **Layke Jeffords** as the team’s “peace” on the court. “Lake is our peace on the court, and she always stays calm and composed no matter what is happening during a game,” said Coach Gonzalez. “She plays very well on the right side.”

“My other two seniors are **Tori Robinson** and **Braelyn Sims**, and they rotate in as our big blockers on the front row,” said Coach Gonzalez. “They keep the energy going on the front row as well as doing a good job blocking.”

The two non-senior starters are junior OH **Lindsey Robinson** who has 58 kills, 22 aces, and 22 digs along with junior OH Reagan Nesbitt who has 53 kills and four blocks so far on the season.

Other members of the team include junior DS **Joss Robinson**, freshman DS **Charlee Sullivan**, and soph MH **Brelyn Stokes**.

EC will next play at **Marlboro County** on Oct. 6 before hosting **Waccamaw** on the 8th. They are at **Lake City** (Oct. 13) before concluding the regular season at **Dillon** on the 15th.

les for loss with seven. Penny has three pressures and four TFLs while Jaden Manning has five TFLs.

Coach Rimpf also sang the praises of the extra point and field goal unit of junior placekicker **Rod Sanchez**, junior holder **Maddox Freeman** and junior long snapper **Tucker Sholley**.

“Our kicking game has been a surprise for us this year,” he said. “We have a new kicker, long snapper and holder, and they have done really well. With our offense scoring as much as they have, there have been many chances for them to practice kicking.”

HSSR All-State Softball Teams (Cont'd)		
Addyson Davis-Andrews	Carolina Andrews-Wilson Hall	Addison Hasty-Pee Dee Academy
Tori Smith-Andrews	Abby Brown-AC Flora	Azeleigh Arnette-Pee Dee Academy
Dallas LaChance-Woodland	Annie Storm-AC Flora	Hannah Lambrecht-Orangeburg Prep
Katey Westbury-Woodland	Reese Davis-Woodmont	Calee Hartzo-Orangeburg Prep
Reese Poston-Hampton County	Jamie Lee Landrum-Woodmont	Brynil Brewer-Clarendon Hall
Bixley Koon-Chesnee		Caitlin Shirer-Calhoun Academy
Tayte Calvert-Chesnee	2026 HSSR-SCISA Miss Softball- Maddie	Ada Lynn Fallow-Calhoun Academy
McKenzie Melton-North Central	Coward-Pee Dee Academy	Abby Ward-Williamsburg Academy
Lawsyn Lowe-Strom Thurmond	2026 HSSR-SCISA-AAAA Player of Year-Lyza	Sophia Jacobs-Williamsburg
Maliyah Williams-Marion	Prickelmeyer-Laurence Manning Academy	Lilli Shooter-Dillon Christian
Evie Montgomery-Ninety-Six	2026 HSSR-SCISA AAA Player of Year—Pre-	Katelyn Owens-Dillon Christian
Sammetress Smith-Clinton	ston Schulknight-Orangeburg Prep	Braylin Carter-Dillon Christian
	2026 HSSR-SCISA AA Player of Year—Raley	Ava Murray-Colleton Prep
	Frye-Carolina Academy	Sydney Stivender-Colleton Prep
HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Class A All-State Softball		
Kenleigh Epps-Whitmire	2026 HSSR-SCISA Class A Player of Year—	
Alleigh Corley-Whitmire	Milly Kate Prescott-Holly Hill Academy	HSSR-SCISA 2026 Class AA All-State Softball
Autumn Gilliam-Whitmire	2026 HSSR-SCISA AAAA Coach of Year—	Emma Akinson-The Kings Academy
Chole Hix-Whitmire	Buddy Truett-Laurence Manning	Addison Bescher-The Kings Academy
Sarah Owens-Lewisville	2026 HSSR-SCISA AAA Coach of Year -Will	Elizabeth Thompson-Spartanburg Christian
Aubree Smith-Lewisville	Eskridge-Pee Dee Academy	Jamison Collins-Lee Academy
Kinley Lambert-Lewisville	2026 HSSR-SCISA AA Coach of Year- Scotty	Ansley Nesbit-Lee Academy
Maddie Hutto-Bamberg-Ehrhardt	Phillips-The Carolina Academy	Sarah Grace Smith-Marlboro Academy
Riley Godley-Bamberg Ehrhardt	2026 HSSR-SCISA Class A Coach of Year—	Abby Ward-Williamsburg Academy
Samantha Townsend-Latta	Kally Knight-Holly Hill Academy	Carly Ann Smith-The Carolina Academy
MaKenzie McElrath-Dixie		Ella Ham-The Carolina Academy
Stella Eichorn-Ware Shoals	2026 HSSR-SCISA AAAA All-State Softball	Emery McClure-Dorchester Academy
Mary Kate Strickland-Green Sea Floyds	Ava Sapp-Hammond	Kinsey Bates-Dorchester Academy
Chole Cooper-Hannah-Pamplico	Bailey Brown-Augusta Christian	
Savannah Owens-Hannah Pamplico	Avery Sheppard-Agusta Chrsitian	HSSR-SCISA 2025 Class A All-State Softball
Carli Smith-Abbeville	Alexis Ruso-Pinewood Prep	Taylor Hill-Wardlaw Academy
Kylee Hooker-Wagener-Salley	Morgan Everitt-Pinewood Prep	Haley Prevatte-Richard Winn
Paisley Jackson-Latta	Sarah Grace Wickersham-Pinewood Prep	Kalla McLean-Richard Winn
Addison Price-Dixie	Sofia Reed-Pinewood Prep	Blythe Buzhardt-WW King
Kylee Hooker-Wagener-Salley	Koey Kivita-Cardinal Newman	Carrigan Moore-Andrew Jackson Academy
Lexi Lubbehusen-Palmetto Scholars	Francis Laughlin-Heathwood Hall	Peyton Strickland-Holly Hill Academy
	Caroline Welch-Laurence Manning	Abby Burelson-Holly Hill Academy
HSSR Statewide All-Rookie 2026 Softball	Ashley Rae Hodge-Laurence Manning	MacKenzie Futch-Holly Hill Academy
Team	Lily Welborne-Laurence Manning Academy	Shelby Hinson-Holly Hill Academy
Genesis Walker-Barnwell	Mary Paisley Geddings--Wilson Hall	Kinlee Ray-Jefferson Davis
Shalayah Badger-Barnwell	Addie Griffin-Wilson Hall	Taylor Hill-Wardlaw Academy
Brayleigh Wilson-Loris	Frances Laughlinl-Heathwood Hall	Brianna McNeil-Wardlaw Academy
Maggie Betenbaugh-Union County	Sally Humphries-Heathwood Hall	Madelyn Roscoe-Marlboro Academy
Kendall Coakley-TL Hanna	Marsha Kate Skey-Wilson Hall	Kate Leslie-Marlboro Academy
Riley Ropel-Spring Valley	Lauren Majorkiewiz-John Paul II	
Ariana Jenkins-Whitmire		
Anna Meldrim-Wilson Hall	HSSR-SCISA 2026 AAA All-State Softball	

AAAA Football Feature

Lugoff-Elgin trying to make special run

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

Sumter – Taking a look at the *High School Sports Report* AAAA football poll, most of the high schools in it either have a long, rich tradition of winning or have recently enjoyed a lot of crazy success.

Then you look there sitting at No. 7 – **Lugoff-Elgin**.

The Demons are 5-1 on the season after opening their Region 4 schedule with a 30-20 win over **Westwood** on October 1. One more victory will assure L-E of its first winning season since 2017. Of course, head coach **Jarvis Littlejohn** and his players are looking for something far greater than a winning season.

Littlejohn is in his first season as **THE** head coach. He was in charge of the team last year, but on an interim basis. He guided Lugoff-Elgin to a 6-6 record and the second round of the AAAAA Division II state playoffs.

Littlejohn isn’t surprised the Demons are where they are right now.

“It’s just been their preparation over the summer and into the season,” said Littlejohn, who was the defensive coordinator in 2024. “They are committed to the process. We were really close to winning eight games last year. You can see the way they’ve worked to better themselves.”

The Demons opened the season with a 41-25 victory over AAAAA **Chapin**. Up next was **Kershaw County** rival **Camden**. The Bulldogs have been one of the most consistent programs in the state at making deep playoff runs during head coach **Brian Rimpf’s** tenure.

With Lugoff and Camden literally separated by the **Wateree River** with the city limits starting once you get off on either side of the **U.S. Highway 1** bridge, L-E made the short trip to **Zemp Stadium** on August 28. The Demons returned home with a 28-25 triumph, their first win over Camden in at least a decade.

“That was a huge win, not just for the program, but for the community,” Littlejohn said of L-E’s first win over Camden since 2017. “We were wanting to win against them, and it gave us more confidence than we’d had. We knew we had beat one of the best teams in **South Carolina**.”

Oh yeah, there’s another reason for the success.

“We’ve got a bunch of kids who are really, really good,” Littlejohn said.

Leading the way for the L-E offense is senior running back **Tiyon Fanning**, who has been selected to play in the **Shrine Bowl** along with wide receiver teammate **EJ Richardson**. A transfer from **White Knoll**, Fanning, who is 6 feet tall and weighs 220 pounds, was averaging 172.0 rushing yards a game through the first five games. He had 860 yards and 11 touchdowns on 93 carries.

Littlejohn said it is Fanning’s demeanor that allows him to have such success.

“He’s a very mature young man,” Littlejohn said. “When it comes to football, he loves it, he eats it, he breathes it. He takes care of his body, he works hard.

“And he has great speed. He doesn’t get caught from behind much. He has that extra gear.”

Junior **Zach Williams** is the quarterback. He had 59 completions in 98 attempts for 694 yards and four touchdowns. He spreads the wealth with five different players in double figures in receptions.

Junior **Taymarion Silva** leads in catches with 13, going for 91 yards. Richardson, junior **Keenen Cunningham** and sophomore **Tyree Lindsey** have 11 grabs apiece. Richardson is the big play receiver with 211 yards and three scores. Cunningham has 87 yards and one TD, and Lindsey has 102 yards.

Fanning has 10 receptions for 149 yards.

While Lugoff-Elgin has only allowed under 20 points in one of its six games, Littlejohn believes the unit is the heart of the team.

“The scores don’t indicate how hard we’re really playing,” he said. “When you look at some of the touchdowns we’ve allowed, the defense is only giving up 12-13 points a game.”

The defense is led by junior outside linebacker **Jace Coleman**, who has **Power 4** conference offers from **Georgia, Tennessee, West Virginia** and **Florida State**. He has 34 tackles, eight tackles for a loss, two quarterback sacks and four quarterback hurries.

Senior cornerback **Corey Murphy** has four interceptions, giving him 14 for his career. Senior outside linebacker **Logan Hinton** has 24 tackles, seven of them for a loss, junior defensive end **Tavian Nelson** leads in sacks with four, junior linebacker **Cash Majar** has a team high 60 tackles, and senior middle linebacker **Tristan Young** has 40 stops.

Littlejohn believes if the Demons can avoid a rash of injuries they can make a deep run in the playoffs.

“Health is wealth,” Littlejohn said. “They have to pay attention to details, their preparation, be on point. They have worked to better themselves as football players, as people. They’re a great group of young men.”

There is plenty of talent in AAAA. Along with Fanning and Richardson, 11 other players from AAAA schools were selected to the Shrine Bowl roster. They are wide receivers **Kyson McLeod** from **South Aiken** and **Tajah Watson-Martin** from **Westside**, offensive linemen **Ty Johnson** from **Lucy Beckham**, **CJ Brooks** from **Gaffney** and **Hayden Crockett** from **Hilton Head Island**, **Irmo** defensive linemen **Jaiden Bryant** and **Tyrone Jennings**, **North Augusta** defensive lineman **Simeon Jones**, linebackers **Kendaris Bailey** of **Gaffney** and **Andrew Massey** of **Hilton Head Island** and **South Pointe** defensive back **Amari Dogan**.

The rest of the AAAA poll had Gaffney at No. 1, Irmo second, **North Myrtle Beach** third, **Hilton Head Island** fourth, **North Augusta** fifth, **South Aiken** sixth, defending AAAA state champion **South Pointe** eighth, **T.L. Hanna** ninth and **South Florence** 10th.

Gaffney, Irmo, **North Myrtle Beach** and **T.L. Hanna** all dropped down from AAAAA, where they were standouts, to AAAA due to reclassification. Gaffney was 4-1, Irmo 3-2, NMB 6-0 and Hanna 4-1 prior to the October 2 games.

The Indians have been perennial powers in

See **AAAA Football**, pg. 62

Current Region Standings

REGION 1-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
T L HANNA	1-0	5-1	144	90
WESTSIDE	1-0	5-1	179	138
GREENWOOD	1-0	3-3	152	150
FOUNTAIN INN	0-1	3-3	132	150
LAURENS	0-1	3-3	151	136
EASLEY	0-1	1-5	179	280

REGION 2-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
GAFFNEY	1-0	5-1	185	91
GREENVILLE	1-0	3-3	182	163
RIVERSIDE	1-0	2-4	138	171
GREER	0-1	3-3	207	194
WADE HAMPTON	0-1	2-4	127	165
TRAVELERS REST	0-1	2-4	142	176

REGION 3-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
SOUTH POINTE	3-0	3-2	164	101
INDIAN LAND	2-0	5-1	230	110
CLOVER	2-1	3-4	129	127
CATAWBA RIDGE	1-1	3-3	188	158
NATION FORD	1-2	1-6	93	264
LAKE WYLIE	0-2	4-2	163	202
YORK	0-3	2-5	152	204

REGION 4-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DREHER	1-0	5-1	273	102
LANCASTER	1-0	5-1	182	114
LUGOFF-ELGIN	1-0	5-1	196	131
RICHLAND NE	0-1	2-4	98	176
A C FLORA	0-1	1-5	131	203
WESTWOOD	0-1	0-6	58	218

REGION 5-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
NORTH AUGUSTA	2-0	6-1	232	107
SOUTH AIKEN	1-0	5-1	199	61
AIKEN	1-1	4-3	212	159
MIDLAND VALLEY	0-1	3-3	249	218
IRMO	0-1	3-3	196	82
FOX CREEK	0-1	1-5	123	214

REGION 6-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
HILTON HEAD	2-0	6-1	204	124
MAY RIVER	1-0	4-2	179	173
BLUFFTON	1-1	4-3	238	164
LUCY BECKHAM	0-1	3-3	120	103
BEAUFORT	0-1	1-5	119	239
COLLETON CTY	0-1	1-5	78	167

REGION 7-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
SOUTH FLORENCE	3-0	5-2	257	176
WEST FLORENCE	3-1	4-3	176	197
N MYRTLE BEACH	2-1	6-1	237	162
CONWAY	1-1	2-4	150	218
WILSON	1-2	3-4	143	205
MYRTLE BEACH	0-2	2-4	160	259
ST. JAMES	0-3	2-5	137	201

AAAA Football Polls

1. Gaffney	6. South Aiken
2. Irmo	7. Lugoff Elgin
3. N Myrtle Beach	8. South Pointe
4. Hilton Head	9. TL Hanna
5. North Augusta	10. South Florence

AAA Football Feature

Top AAA teams getting off to solid start

South Carolina roster released for annual Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game

By **WORTHY EVANS**
Special to the HSSR
Columbia - As teams battle each other in the region standings, the second phase of the high school football season is well under way. **Daniel, Chapman, Bishop England, Emerald, Wren, Loris, Aynor,** and **Oceanside Collegiate** all won. The only one of the top 10 to lose was Hanahan, which fell to Oceanside Collegiate. Read on to find some of the backstory to these teams in the 2026 season.

Daniel
At the top of the AAA rankings, Daniel (6-0) has shown in six games why it earns the top spot. Excluding **Christ Church Episcopal's** forfeit of the Sept. 18 game, the Lions have scored at least 42 points over four games, blowing through **Wren, Belton-Honea Path, Powdersville, Greenville** and most recently a 70-0 dismissal of **Walhalla** in the Region 1-AAA opener.

Junior **Jace Grass** has passed for 772 yards and six touchdowns to three interceptions in four games, while sophomore **Kingston Bibb** has rushed 65 times for 558 yards and 10 TDs. Senior **Trey Wimbley** has 21 catches for 294 yards and three touchdowns.

On defense junior **Teigan Pounds** leads the way with 35 tackles ,3.5 for loss, and a sack. Sophomore **Caesar Oglesby** has 28 stops and 2.5 sacks.

After beating the Razorbacks (2-4), the Lions play host to 2-3 **Seneca** Oct. 9, travel to 6-0 **Pickens** Oct. 16, 2-3 **Southside** Oct. 23, and 0-6 **Berea** Oct. 30.

Chapman
Unbeaten at 7-0, the Panthers are rewriting their course after a 1-10 season in 2025. A lot of that success has to do with putting sophomore quarterback **Ashton Moore** in a good position to excel.

Through six games going into Friday’s 50-7 Region 3-AAA-opening victory over **Blue Ridge** last week, Moore has passed for 1,347 yards and 15 touchdowns to just one interception. His top three receivers are all seniors. **Keilon Tucker** is Moore’s top target with 33 catches for 516 yards and nine scores. **Eric Gaffney** has 12 catches for 204 yards and two TDs and **Taylor Rogers** has 10 catches for 192 yards and a touchdown.

Moore gets plenty of run support from a platoon of running backs led by junior **Teagan Cantrell**, who has 416 rushing yards and four TDs.

The power isn’t just on offense. Senior **Eli Herndon** has 33 tackles and leads the team in sacks with nine, and in tackles for loss with 17. Senior **Mikeal Tisdale** has 41 tackles, 12 for loss, and three sacks.

Chapman rolls into the region schedule having outscored its nonregion opponents 241-60. Considering that region opponents Blue Ridge, Christ Church Episcopal, **Union County** and **Broome** have a combined record of 2-25, the Panthers should have no problem notching a region champi-

onship this fall.

Bishop England
Junior southpaw quarterback **Brady Luton** has been lighting up secondaries over the past six games He completed 88 of 157 passes for 1,283 yards and 11 touchdowns going into last week’s 56-0 Region 5-AAA victory over **North Charleston**.

Hutton’s top receiver has been senior **William Donato**, who has 37 catches for 549 yrs and five TDs. Junor **Chase Tonon** has 20 catches for 298 yards and four scores.

Luton has been the top rusher with 47 carries for 232 yards and a score, but Tonon has comparable rushing numbers at 50 carries for 220 yards and three TDs.

The Bishops’ defense has been stout all season, amassing 384 tackles, 73.5 for loss. Tonon leads the team with 60 tackles, 12.5 for loss, and 3.5 sacks.

The Bishops (7-0) have outscored their nonregion opponents 162-50 but will have to face Hanahan (6-0) in the region finale Oct. 30, a game that may well determine the region champion.

Emerald
Thus far Emerald’s only loss came at **Lexington** Sept. 18, a 31-21 defeat against a team in the second year of former Saluda head coach **Stewart Young**. The Vikings (6-1) regrouped the next week and won a 55-54 thriller against Saluda.

In the win over the Tigers, junior running back and **Ninety Six** transfer **Jamarion Moore** rushed 27 times for 302 yards and six touchdowns. Junior quarterback **Beau Hite** had 147 yards passing and threw touchdown passes to juniors **Desiray Christian Jr.** and **Coleson Marino**.

Emerald has 20 seniors on the roster but the offensive talent seems to weigh on several of the Vikings’ 33 juniors.

Moore, who has rushed for 881 yards and 18 touchdowns, is on pace to rush for close to 1,500 yards. Hite is 79-for-120 in passing for 1,297 yards and 13 touchdowns to just three interceptions. Christian has 27 catches for 456 yards and four scores and Marino has 22 catches for 362 yards.

The defense is also young and has given up 106 points through six games, but has its share of stars. Senior **Tyrell Cloud** has 43 tackles, 16 for loss, and a team-leading 5.5 sacks. Junior **Hayden Doerflein** has a team-leading 73 tackles. Junior **Jeremiah Johnson** has 43 tackles, five for loss, and 1.5 sacks.

The Vikings opened Region 2-AAA with a 41-3 drubbing of **Palmetto** (3-4) last week.

Hanahan
The Hawks finished 6-6 last year and are 6-1 after last week’s 31-21 loss to defending AAA state champion Oceanside Collegiate. After winning a season-opening thriller 34-33 over local rival Philip Simmons Aug. 21, the Hanahan defense settled in while the offense continued to pour on points. After the win over the Iron Horses Hanahan scored 228 points to opponents’ 55.

Junior quarterback **Tripp Gallus** is 71-for-103 with 1,718 yards and 19 touchdowns. Averaging 286.3 passing yards per game, he is on pace to throw for almost 3,000 yards this season. His top targes have been junior **Quamell Grant**, who has 26 catches for 718 yards and six TDs, and Senior **Grayson Mathes**, who has 32 catches for 711 yards and six scores.

Current Region Standings

REGION 1-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DANIEL	1-0	6-0	257	88
PICKENS	1-0	6-0	294	117
SENECA	1-0	3-3	153	122
SOUTHSIDE	0-1	2-4	84	227
WALHALLA	0-1	2-4	100	257
BEREA	0-1	0-6	71	284

REGION 2-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
EMERALD	1-0	6-1	316	173
WREN	1-0	6-1	253	98
BELTON-HONEA PATH	0-0	3-2	95	86
POWDERSVILLE	0-1	4-3	223	139
PALMETTO	0-1	3-4	192	197

REGION 3-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CHAPMAN	1-0	7-0	291	67
GETTYS BROOME	1-0	1-6	113	280
CHRIST CHURCH	0-0	0-6	72	128
BLUE RIDGE	0-1	1-6	123	256
UNION COUNTY	0-1	0-7	24	291

REGION 4-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CAMDEN	2-0	4-2	248	143
BROOKLAND-CAYCE	1-0	2-4	123	169
SWANSEA	1-1	3-4	235	230
GILBERT	0-1	4-2	147	143
AIRPORT	0-1	2-4	125	195
LOWER RICHLAND	0-1	1-5	62	172

REGION 5-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BISHOP ENGLAND	1-0	7-0	218	50
OCEANSIDE	1-0	3-3	161	182
GEORGETOWN	0-0	1-5	129	164
HANAHAN	0-1	6-1	236	113
N. CHARLESTON	0-1	2-4	86	207

REGION 6-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
LORIS	3-0	5-1	274	125
HARTSVILLE	2-0	3-2	197	142
DARLINGTON	2-1	3-4	174	163
CRESTWOOD	1-1	2-3	125	94
ATLANTIC COLL	1-2	2-4	100	176
LAKEWOOD	0-2	1-5	69	206
AYNOR	0-3	4-3	175	158

Sophomore **Nevaeus Gourdine** leads all rushers with 458 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Production on the defensive side is spread throughout the field. Senior tackle **Mason Bellamy** leads the team with 44 tackles, eight for loss, and Senior defensive end **Ben Jackson** has 29 tackles, seven for loss, and three sacks.

Among the juniors, tackle **Elijah Mitchell** has 30 tackles, eight for loss, and three sacks, and middle linebacker **Lucas Meyer** has 39 tackles, six for loss, and two sacks.

Wren
The Hurricanes (6-1) travelled to **Lugoff-Elgin** and got past running back Tiyon Fanning and the AAAAA Demons (5-1) in a 33-20 victory Sept. 25. Down from the AAAAA classification in which they went 8-4 last year, Wren is prepared to battle Emerald for the Region 2-AAA championship. The teams face each other Friday.

Junior quarterback **Jacob Owings** leads the balanced offense with 920 passing yards and 11 touchdown passes

See **AAA Football**, pg. 62

By **Scott Chancey**
Special Correspondent
Blackville—South Carolina Shrine Bowl head coach **Dwayne Garrick**, the head football coach at number one Class A Div. II ranked **Blackville Hilda**, is more about the team than he is about highlighting specific players. And he is not as much about his honor coaching in the game, as he is about giving praise to those who inspired him in his journey as a high school football coach spanning several decades at numerous high schools across the state.

When it is time for kickoff at 1 p.m. Dec. 19 at **Spartanburg High** School, his 44-player South Carolina squad battles against **North Carolina** in the annual charity event, Coach Garrick will be thankful for everything in what will be the 90th edition of the country’s oldest all-star high school football contest that benefits the Shriners Hospital for crippled children in Greenville.

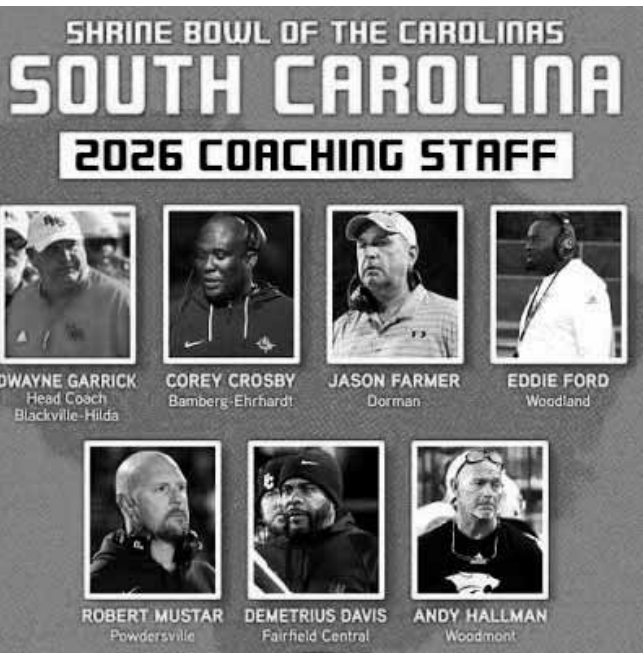
“To me, it will be about all those guys who went before me,” said Coach Garrick, who graduated from **Palmetto High**. “There are the **Keith Richardson’s** and other guys that I looked up to. There are coaches like **Doug Shaw** and **Mac Wier**, who inspired me as much as anybody.

Coach Garrick, who was an assistant under Coach Weir when the Warhorses reached the 1997 state football finals, recalled his inspiration from Wier.

“He just worked hard at everything he did to give his team’s a chance to win,” Garrick said. “His teams were always disciplined, and it paid off. He was just one of those guys who made sure everything he did was geared toward winning.”

Garrick also has a Shrine Bowl lineup that he thinks is capable of winning the highly competitive game with bragging rights on the line.

State championship quarterbacks **Xavier**



Means (Northwestern), and **Jaxon Knotts (Dutch Fork)** will rotate behind center. Means is a commitment to **East Carolina**. Knotts passed for 1,234 yards and rushed for 221 more for 22 total touchdowns through the first five games this season. And Means has passed for 1,066 yards and rushed for 315 more for 17 total touchdowns. during the first five contests.

Running Backs will feature **Tiyon Fanning (Lugoff-Elgin)**, **James Madison** pledge **Jayven Williams** (Summerville), and **Rutgers** commitment **Trenton Lynch** of (**Spartanburg**). Through five games, Fanning rushed for 860 yards and 11 scores, and Williams has rushed for 699 and seven touchdowns.

Seven wide receivers are on the team, and they include **Khristian Jackson (Ridge View)**, Coastal Carolina commitment **Eric Richardson Jr. (Lugoff-Elgin)**, **Royce Williamson (Gray Collegiate Academy)**, **Virginia** pledge **Tajeh Watson-Martin (Westside)**, **Xavier Huggins (Powdersville)**, **Appalachian State** commitment **Kyson McLeod (South Aiken)** and **Tyquarius Shannon (Fairfield Central)**.

Tight ends are **Sam Crompton (James Island)** and **Ja’Shon Williams (Hampton**

County).
Here are the Shrine Bowl selections on the offensive line: **Georgia** commitment **Ty Johnson (Lucy Beckham)**, **South Carolina** commitment **James Ross Jr.** (Ridge View), **C.J. Brooks (Gaffney)**, **Navy** commitment **Nolan Giet (Summerville)**, **Reed Paolucci (Blythe-wood)**, **Hayden Crockett (Hilton Head)**, **Liberty** commitment **Israel Harris (James Island)** and **Jeffery Williams (Loris)**.

Defensive line selections are **Simeon Jones (North Augusta)**, **East Carolina** commitment **James Porter (Dorman)**, **Ray Harris (South Aiken)**, **Tyrone Jennings (Irmo)**, **Miami** commitment **Jaiden Bryant (Irmo)**, and **Clemson** commitment **Jaden Wuerth (Dutch Fork)**.

Linebackers are **Kendaris Bailey (Gaffney)**, **K.J. Burg (Northwestern)**, **Antwoine Tarrence (Dorman)**, **Myjae McCoy (Marlboro County)**, **Yachin Gamble (Crestwood)**, **Jayden Wertz (Powdersville)**, and **Andrew Massey (Hilton Head Island)**.

Defensive backs are **James Madison** pledge **Kaiden Watkins (Rock Hill)**, **Jeremie Jean (Woodland)**, **Amari Dogan (South Pointe)**, **Colorado** commitment **Jaiden Kelly-Murray (Oceanside Collegiate Academy)**, **Brian McMillian (Bamberg-Ehrhardt)**, **Clemson** commitment **Christian Chancellor (Daniel)**, and **Michael Pembleton of (Andrew Jackson)**.

Specialists are combo-kicker **Noah Hardy (Fort Mill)** and long-snapper **Charles Bieda (White Knoll)**.

Coach Garrick will be assisted on the Sand-lapper squad by **Bamberg-Ehrhardt** head coach **Corey Crosby**, **Dorman** head coach **Jason Farmer**, **Woodland High** head coach **Eddie Ford**, **Powdersville** head coach **Robert Mustar**, **Fairfield Central** head coach **Demetruis Davis**, and **Woodmont** head coach **Andy Hallman**.

AAA Football Polls

1. Daniel

2. Chapman

3. Bishop England

4. Emerald

5. Hanahan

6. Wren

7. Loris

8. Camden

9. Aynor

10. Oceanside

Marlboro County football is in contention in AA

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Bennettsville – As predicted here prior to the start of the 2026 season, the **Marlboro County** Bulldogs are a serious contender for the Class AA state title this fall.

The Bulldogs have rolled through their first six opponents of the regular season and are ranked among the state’s top AA teams in several polls.

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

Other early wins have come against Atlantic Collegiate (28-6), Crestwood (28-21), Montgomery Central of North Carolina (42-3), Conway (33-30) and Waccamaw (57-0), in their region opener.

The Bulldogs are getting solid balance offensive play combined with good defensive teamwork in building their club.

The offense is led by junior quarterback **Tre Blakeney**, the returning starter from last season. Blakeney has been solid with 1,217 yards and nine touchdowns through the air, along with 440 yards

rushing and eight touchdowns.

Adding depth to the running game are **Khrishawn Smith** and **Tehvin Easterling**. Smith has rushed for 540 yards and four touchdowns while Easterling has 477 yards and five scores on the ground.

Junior **Mikyl Littles** is the leading receiver with 27 catches and 418 yards. **LaQuincy Leach** has 234 receiving yards on 10 catches.

Anchoring the defense is senior linebacker **Myjae McCoy**, who had 107 tackles last season. McCoy has 32 tackles through six games and was recently selected to play for team South Carolina in the annual Shrine Bowl all-star game against North Carolina on Dec 19. The game will be played at Spartanburg High School.

Other defensive leaders this season include sophomore **Jamarcus Manning** and senior **Jamorie Williams**, who leads the team with 35 tackles, six tackles for loss, and three sacks.

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

Marlboro County will close the regular season with region games against East Clarendon, Lake City, Dillon and Manning. Dillon also is a top 10 ranked team in Class AA and that game could decide the region championship.

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

A Friend of the Bulldogs Salutes Marlboro County Athletics!



Hartsville volleyball in contention for region title

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Hartsville – With only a few games remaining in

the regular season, the **Hartsville High** volleyball team is in contention for a region 5-AAA championship this season.

As of Oct. 4, Hartsville, coached by **Parker Oldham**, sits with a 21-1-1 overall record and an 8-1 record in region play. The lone region loss came to Atlantic Collegiate and the rematch is set for Oct. 13. A Hartsville win would tie them for the top spot with ACA.

Hartsville has won many of their matches with sweeps (3-0) and they continue to get contributions from several players.

Junio **Hannah Nesseth** is arguably the team’s most versatile player. She leads the team with 273 kills while also posting 176 digs and 36 service aces.

Sister **Sarah Nesseth**, also a junior, has 136 kills, 50 aces and 14 total blocks.

Senior setter **Mya Madaris** has 292 assists, 60 kills, 150 digs and 41 aces, while senior **Ella Smith** has 70 kills, 124 digs and 11 blocks. Freshman **Claire Smith** has 144 assists and 30 aces, and senior **Emma Kate Hudson** has 125 digs and 26 aces.

Other senior contributors include **Stella Smith**, **Zillie Braddy**, and **Stella Gainey**. Remaining junior

Bears bounce back from 0-2 start to 2026 season

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Honea Path – The ride coming out of the gate for the **David Crane** era of **Belton-Honea Path High School** football was not as smooth as it could have been. The Bears, the runner-up in AAA the past two seasons, lost to AAAA **T.L. Hanna** 17-14 and AAA power **Daniel** 45-7 in their first two games under their new head coach.

Since then, BHP has needed off three straight victories, beating AAAA **J.L. Mann** 31-17, Class A power **Abbeville** 21-0 and AAAA **Greenwood** 23-7.

“I would say that we have definitely gotten better over the last several weeks,” Crane said. “We’re still

contributors are **Chloe Jones**, **Carley Clements**, **Stella Beasley**, **Jema Byrd**, **Kemdall Watford**, and **Zoe Gray**.

Football opens region play at 2-0

The Hartsville football team began the 2026 season with a win over Wilson before suffering losses to Camden and West Florence. A game against rival Dillon was canceled due to weather, but the Red Foxes have opened the region schedule with wins over Aynor and Lakewood. Hartsville was slated to play Crestwood on Oct. 9.

Senior running back **Trace Hillian** has been a key offensive leader with 610 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns, averaging 11.1 yards per carry. **Quamel Prescott** has averaged 6.0 yards per carry and **CJ Hickmon** has averaged 6.5 yards per rush. Hickman also leads the offense with 17 receptions.

Junior quarterback **Ford Wallace** has passed for 446 yards and four touchdowns while adding 206 yards and four scores on the ground.

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

Hartsville’s defense struggled early, allowing 132 points in the first three games, but has settled in during region play with 30 points allowed in two games.

not a finished product and need to improve for sure, as we have a very tough region.

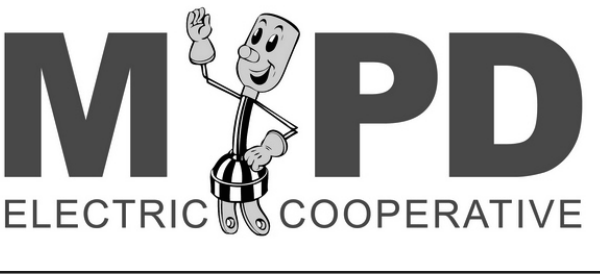
“We came in to this season with a great deal of inexperience in a lot of spots, and the kids have definitely improved from where we started in August.”

The Bears have a freshman at quarterback in **Rylan Crooks**. He has hit on 48 of 79 passes for 622 yards and five touchdowns as the Bears enter Region 2 play on October 9 against Palmetto.

Crooks’ primary target has been sophomore **Malachi Bohler** with 26 catches for 290 yards and three scores. Junior **Judd Lowie** has seven grabs for 196 yards.

See **BHP**, pg. **63**

MARLBORO COUNTY



First Citizens Bank

Bennettsville
Clio McColl
Member FDIC

MOHAWK INDUSTRIES, INC.

Oak River Mill
Saluting Marlboro
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

PINPOINT

Pinpoint
Embroidery
912-A W. Carolina Ave. Hartsville, SC

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

AA Football Feature

Strom Thurmond eyeing repeat in AA

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Goose Creek – The class AA top ten is full of perennial state powers as well a couple of surprises in second ranked Mid Carolina and 10th ranked Battery Creek, however, looming on the horizon is defending state champion Strom Thurmond.

The Rebels are currently 6-0 after defeating AAAA Aiken 28-14.They have dominated their first six opponents by outscoring them 215 to 47. The defense has been especially stingy as they have held four of their opponents to 7 points or less while offensively the Rebels are hitting their stride. They have gotten off to the great start despite only returning 10 starters from last year’s team.

“The standard is the standard. We have good players, some are playing for the first time - it’s our job to get those guys ready to play. Our seniors set a goal in the spring to win it again and we are working as hard as we can to help them accomplish their goals,” said head coach **Andrew Webb**.

Coach Webb continued “We have guys who have been in big games and tough situations and their leadership helps us tremendously. They help us to just keep focusing on the next play. Our defense has been very consistent for us and our offense continues to improve.”

Wy’Trayvious Dugar, **Kaden Wigfall**, **Gregory Moore**, and **Bralen Searles** are the corner stones of the “Blue Steel Defense.” They are all returning All-Region performers with Dugar and Wigfall being three-year starters. Moore and Dugar are one/two in tackles on the team with 34 and 46, respectively.

Wigfall has moved to safety from linebacker, he is also the Rebels second leading rusher with 479 yards, and he is tied for the team lead with 9 touchdowns.

Newcomer **Mekhi Quiller** has been strong at corner with a team high six passes defended.

Offensively, junior **Zy Rouse** has been a jack of all trades as he has played RB, WR, QB and Safety in the first six games. He leads the team in rushing with 559 yards and ha has scored 9 touchdowns. He was a key player in last years run to the championship said coach Webb.

Transfer quarterback **AJ Hillary** continues to improve for us at QB. He has had some games where he has been really sharp. He has thrown for 535 yards and three scores.

Returning along the offensive line are seniors **John Laster** and **Hezekiah East**. They are the leaders of an offensive line that has paved the way to over 1400 yards rushing as a team.

Senior **Jakari Gordon** is the team’s top receiver with 13 catches for a 227 yards and a score. Junior **Preston Holmes** has touched the ball 24 times for 367 yards and three touchdowns.

“We have to continue to get better in every phase of the game. We have seen growth in a

AA Football Polls									
1. Strom Thurmond	6. Saluda								
2. Mid-Carolina	7. Woodland								
3. Marlboro County	8. Clinton								
4. Dillon	9. Chesnee								
5. Woodruff	10. Battery Creek								

bunch of areas and there are things that we are still working relentlessly at to improve,” said coach Webb. “The Good Lord has blessed us to allow us to play football where football is important. We take a lot of pride in representing the people from the Peach Fields.”

The **Mid-Carolina Rebels** check in at number two as they have gotten off to 5-0 start as they head into region play. Offensively, they are averaging over 40 points a game led by seniors quarterback **Davis Ruff**, running back **Ryker Woolstenhulme** and wide outs **Cash Knight** and **Kayden Trappier**.

Defensively, the Rebels have posted two shut-outs and are allowing only 11 points per game. Woolstenhulme is the teams top tackler while senior defensive lineman **Connor May** has controlled the line of scrimmage and leads the team in sacks and tackles for loss. They open region play on the road at Chester (2-3).

Third ranked **Marlboro County** moved to 5-0 as they held off Conway 33-30. They are averaging over 38 points a game behind junior quarterback **Tre Blakeney** as he has accounted for over 1400 yards of offense and 15 scores. Senior linebackers **Jamorie Williams** and **Myjae McCoy** have been the leaders on the defense that is allowing 16 points a game. They will host Waccamaw (2-3) in their region opener. They will tangle with 4th ranked Dillon in four weeks in a game that could determine the region title, provided neither team slips up.

The Wildcats of **Dillon** are 3-1 on the season after an opening game loss to Camden they have won three straight as they get set to host Lake City in their region opener. The Cats are averaging 35 points per game. Seniors **Noah Singletary** has been the leader on offense while senior linebacker and strong safety **Kelvion Manning** has been the leader on defense. That unit is giving up 16 points a contest.

10 times state champion **Woodruff** is ranked number 5. They are 3-2 after dropping their last game to undefeated Chapman. The Wolverines are led by senior **Connor Davis**, who leads an offense averaging 37 points per game. The Defense is still rounding into shape and is giving up 26 points per. The unit is replacing 10 starters. They will host Landrum (3-2) in their region opener.

The sixth ranked **Tigers of Saluda** are coming a 55-54 loss to Emerald (5-1) that dropped their record to 3-2. They are five points from being undefeated. They are putting up 44 points a game while allowing 26 points but they have played much better. Senior running back **Tristan Daniels** leads the offense while the defense is led by twin brothers **Jayden** and **Jahmeer Myers**.

The Tigers will open region play by hosting American Leadership Academy (2-3).

The 7th ranked **Woodland Wolverines** (4-1) are hosting pre-season top ten Philip Simmons (2-3) in a big region opener for both teams. The Wolverines have played outstanding defense holding four of their five opponents to less than 10 points. Linebacker **George Perry** (HSSR #94) leads the defense while HSSR’s #79 player quarterback **Jervaze Salley** leads an offense averaging 31 points a game.

The **Clinton Red Devils** (3-2) check in at number 8. They will host Southside Christian (3-2) in their region opener. The Red Devils are averaging 34 points per game while they are giving up 27

Current Region Standings				
REGION 1-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
ST. JOSEPH 1-0	5-1	226	109	
CRESCENT	1-0	4-2	169	103
LIBERTY	1-0	3-3	188	140
WEST-OAK	0-1	4-2	191	129
PENDLETON	0-1	3-3	138	189
CAROLINA	0-1	1-5	67	201
REGION 2-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
SOUTHSIDE CHRIST	1-0	4-2	110	93
WOODRUFF	1-0	4-2	237	133
MOUNTAIN VIEW	1-0	2-3	152	206
CHESNEE	0-1	4-2	242	132
CLINTON	0-1	3-3	194	164
LANDRUM	0-1	3-3	164	143
REGION 3-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
MID CAROLINA	1-0	6-0	234	59
W J KEENAN	1-0	5-1	226	137
NEWBERRY	1-0	2-4	175	196
ANDREW JACKSON	0-1	3-3	103	129
CHESTER	0-1	2-4	128	217
COLUMBIA	0-1	1-5	91	266
REGION 4-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
STROM THURMOND	1-0	6-0	215	47
OR'BURG-WILK.	1-0	5-0	233	27
SALUDA	1-0	4-2	295	134
LEXINGTON	0-1	2-4	59	195
PELION	0-1	2-4	108	174
SILVER BLUFF	0-1	2-4	91	221
REGION 5-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BATTERY CREEK	1-0	6-0	219	83
LAKE MARION	1-0	4-1	68	73
PHILIP SIMMONS	1-0	3-3	169	184
WOODLAND	0-1	5-2	215	102
ACADEMIC MAGNET	0-1	4-2	206	105
TIMBERLAND	0-1	2-4	65	150
REGION 6-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
MARLBORO COUNTY	1-0	6-0	249	80
DILLON	1-0	4-1	180	87
MANNING	1-0	3-3	174	164
EAST CLARENDON	0-1	2-3	136	120
LAKE CITY	0-1	2-4	74	154
WACCAMAW	0-1	2-4	96	135

points per game. Senior quarterback **Owen Glen** leads the offense and senior linebacker **Ajavian James** is the leader of the defense.

Checking in at number 9 are the Eagles of **Chesnee**, they picked up their fourth win on the year beating Blue Ridge (1-5) 35-19. They will be on the road in their region opener against Mountain View Prep (2-3). Senior quarterback **Evan Lawter** leads an offense that is averaging 40 points per game. Defensively, they are giving up 15 points a game.

Rounding out the top ten is the surprise team of the year the **Battery Creek** Dolphins. They are sitting at 5-0 after beating area rival Beaufort 42-18. They will travel to Academic Magnet (4-1) in their region opener. The Dolphins are averaging 37 points per game and allowing 16. They are led by seniors **Michael Cohen** and **Eddie Heyward**?

Class A Football Feature

Blackville-Hilda returning to prominence

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor
BLACKVILLE – The merge of Williston-Elko’s and Blackville-Hilda’s football teams worked even better than head coach **Dwayne Garrick** could have imagined.

So much so, the Fighting Hawks were ranked No. 1 in SCHSL Class A, Division II before Oct. 2’s 34-28 overtime win over Wagener-Salley.

Now with a 5-1 record, the Fighthing Hawks hope to make this season even more memorable for Garrick – who is also South Carolina’s head coach for the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.

“We have a great group of kids; I feel like this team is very athletic,” said Coach Garrick. “We have a great offensive line, and just an all-around good football team on offense and defense.”

Before the combined team’s first practice, Garrick set the tone:

“I told them let’s do something people don’t think we can do,” said Coach Garrick. “Let’s join ourselves together and have a good year and play as hard as we can and let the dust fall where it falls.”

Mostly this season, opposing defenses have eaten the dust of Fighthing Hawks running back **Jayden Peeples**. So far this season, he has rushed for 1,191 yards (10.9 yards per carry) and 16 touchdowns.

“He totes the lead for us,” said Coach Garrick. “He’s one of the best in the state. He’s got great vision and is tough and physical and explosive. He’s not going to have too many 4- and 5-yards gains. Eventually, he’s going to pop one for 60-70 yards.”

Granted, the Fighting Hawks don’t anticipate throwing the ball often. But at quarterback directing the offense is a rotation of **Trevor Kinard** (Played last year for Blackville-Hilda, nicknamed “Scooter”) and **Ahmad Brown** (last year with Williston-Elko).

The Fighthing Owls, meanwhile, feature **Terrence Folk**, **Noah Williams**, **Trevon Wilson**, **Terrence Joyner** and **Terion Johnson**.

“They communicate well together; they’re explosive and come off the ball really well,” said Coach Garrick. “(Wilson, at 6 feet 1, 315 pounds) also stands out; he’s a high-motor guy. He’s a very physical kind of player. And we have three or four other guys just like him.”

And in the Fighting Hawks’ 3-4 defense, **Travaris Johnson** (33 tackles, 11 solo) and **Jordan Dash** (33 tackles, 13 solo and a sack) help set the tone at linebacker. On the defensive line, **Chase Hallingquest** has recovered three fumbles.

“We have a good defensive line as well,” said Coach Garrick.

And in the secondary, **Kaleb Brooks** has intercepted four passes.

As the Fighting Hawks press forward in their goal to win state, Garrick sees plenty of indicators his team is a contender.

“This team has grown to care for each other; you can see it through every game,” said Coach Garrick.

“They work hard and get after it in practice. “It doesn’t really matter what school you’re from, now,” he added. “This is one team. That’s what they’re worried about – how far this team can go.”

On a region level, the Fighting Hawks lead Region 4-A, tied with Hunter-Kinard-Tyler with region marks of 1-0.They are scheduled to face off on Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m. on the Trojans’ home field. Wagener-Salley’s OT loss was the War Eagles’ first and they will look to get that next win on Friday at home (7:30 p.m.) against Barnwell.

Let’s now take a look at how each of the other Class A region races are shaping up.

REGION I

Ninety Six is 3-0 in the region, while Abbeville is 2-0. These two teams won’t face off until 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30 on the Wildcats’ home field. Abbeville won 48-0 over Dixie on Oct. 2, and Ninety Six won 63-0 over Ware Shoals that same night.

REGION 2

Eau Claire, Clear Dot Charter and Batesburg-Leesville each are 1-0 in the region. The Shamrocks had lost 40-8 to Blackville-Hilda and 44-24 to Denmark-Olar before rebounding with this past Friday’s 70-7 win over Ridge Spring-Monetta.

The traffic at this region’s top will be somewhat lessened after this Friday’s game between Clear Dot Charter and Batesburg-Leesville.

REGION 3

In this region, Blacksburg and Lewisville are tied with 1-0 region records. Fairfield-Central (6-0 overall) has yet to play a region game.

Lewisville will play at 7:30 p.m. on Friday at Blacksburg to see which team takes the region lead for now. Fairfield Central, meanwhile, plays Buford and then Great Falls before opening region play on Oct. 23 at home against Blacksburg.

REGION 5

This is one of Class A’s more compelling region races. Cheraw is 3-0 in the region, followed by Central (2-0) and Lamar (2-0). It will be even more compelling when the Braves host second-year coach **Tyler Boyd’s** Silver Foxes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Cheraw won’t have its rival game against Central until Oct. 30, and Lamar plays on Oct. 23 at Central.

REGION 6

Defending state champion Bamberg-Ehrhardt, Scott’s Branch and Denmark-Olar are tied atop this region with 1-0 records.

B-E plays at Bethune-Bowman this week. And, the Red Raiders will play Scott’s Branch on Oct. 23 and Denmark-Olar on Oct. 30.

REGION 7

Hardeeville and Hampton County are each 1-0 in the region. They won’t face off until Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. on the Hurricanes’ home field.

REGION 8

Cross is 1-0 where it matters most — in the re-

Current Region Standings

REGION 1-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
NINETY-SIX	3-0	4-3	224	192
ABBEVILLE	2-0	4-2	186	104
DIXIE	2-1	2-5	146	173
WARE SHOALS	1-1	2-4	93	227
CALHOUN FALLS	1-2	2-5	178	258
MCCORMICK	0-2	0-6	64	212
THORNWELL	0-3	0-6	70	226

REGION 2-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
EAU CLAIRE	1-0	4-2	222	133
CLEAR DOT CHARTER	1-0	3-3	104	108
BATESBURG-LEESVILLE	1-0	2-5	166	219
C A JOHNSON	0-1	3-3	194	175
RIDGE SPRING-MON.	0-1	3-3	149	250
WHITMIRE	0-1	3-3	144	124

REGION 3-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BLACKSBURG	1-0	4-3	144	185
LEWISVILLE	1-0	1-6	149	220
FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	0-0	6-0	231	67
BUFORD	0-1	2-5	117	226
GREAT FALLS	0-1	1-6	102	177

REGION 4-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BLACKVILLE-HILDA	1-0	6-1	288	81
HUNTER-KINARD-TYLER	1-0	2-4	68	209
BARNWELL	0-0	2-4	90	168
WAGENER-SALLEY	0-1	6-1	308	101
CALHOUN COUNTY	0-1	4-3	199	94

REGION 5-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CHERAW	3-0	5-2	222	116
CENTRAL	2-0	6-0	258	75
LAMAR	2-0	5-1	173	44
NORTH CENTRAL	2-1	3-4	142	212
MCBEE	0-2	1-5	46	172
LEE CENTRAL	0-3	4-3	182	137
CHESTERFIELD	0-3	1-6	83	236

REGION 6-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
BAMBERG-EHRHARDT	1-0	5-1	257	75
SCOTTS BRANCH	1-0	4-1	195	119
DENMARK-OLAR	1-0	3-3	134	134
BRANCHVILLE	0-1	3-3	195	185
BETHUNE-BOWMAN	0-1	2-4	16	168
EDISTO	0-1	0-6	36	207

REGION 7-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
HARDEEVILLE	1-0	4-2	180	135
HAMPTON COUNTY	1-0	4-3	186	109
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX	0-0	2-4	64	172
WHALE BRANCH	0-1	1-5	46	199
RIDGELAND	0-1	1-6	104	190

REGION 8-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CROSS	1-0	2-4	126	17
MILITARY MAGNET	1-0	1-6	90	308
BAPTIST HILL	0-0	3-3	170	131
ST. JOHNS	0-1	1-5	80	170
BURKE	0-1	0-6	24	335

REGION 9-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CARVERS BAY	2-0	6-1	178	51
HANNAH-PAMPLICO	2-0	2-5	102	222
JOHNSONVILLE	1-1	5-2	222	103
ANDREWS	1-1	1-6	82	212
KINGSTREE	0-2	2-5	102	157
HEMINGWAY	0-2	1-6	54	298

REGION 10-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
LAKE VIEW	1-0	6-1	235	123
MARION	1-0	2-5	88	211
GREEN SEA-FLOYDS	0-0	3-3	131	138
LATTA	0-1	3-4	153	182
MULLINS	0-1	1-6	48	203

Panthers looking for strong finish on the courts

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR
Summerville – The **Pinewood Prep Volleyball** team is battling injuries, but not each other.

Despite some key injuries this season, the Panthers are out to a 12-7 start and still in the mix for one of their region’s top spot.

“Our team is amazing,” said Pinewood coach **Tuesdie Abernathy**. “We’ve worked really hard to build this program over the last few years and they are finally bought in. They are playing as a team and it’s fun to watch them. Two of our captains were injured a few games back and it set us back a bit. However our girls adjusted and have been grinding and pushing through to fill those voids. That is something I didn’t see four years ago.”

Captain **Taylor Gouin** returned to the lineup Oct. 1, but the team’s most accomplished player, **All-State** middle blocker/hitter **Maddie Eidson**, is still out. The team’s other captain is outside hitter **Marissa Gouin**.

Brooke Sperry stepped up to play the middle position, which is not her normal position. Taylor Gouin was hitting strong before her injury and Marissa Gouin stepped in to help fill her role. **Brooklyn Holloman** is a freshman middle who has really stepped up. The Panthers also pulled up **Sarah Grace Wickersham** from the JV to help.

Libero **Ava Matthews** has been lights out in the back row. The Goins duo leads the team in assists. Other members of the team are setter **Stella Kemp**, defensive specialist **Grace Shuler** and hitters **Olivia Roberts** and **Haley Almstedt**.

Cyclones volleyball setting up for playoff run

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Charleston – As the 2026 volleyball season winds down, the **Porter-Gaud Cyclones** are in a familiar position.

The Cyclones have been one of the state’s top SCISA programs for more than decade, compeing for and winning state championships on a regular basis. It appears the 2026 squad is going to continue that tradition.

Coach **Megan Crouch**, in her 14th season as the head coach and her 19th season over-all in the program, takes her team into October on a solid roll of success. As of Oct. 2, Porter-Gaud had 20 wins overall and sat with a perfect 9-0 record in region play. They have their sights set on the upcoming state tournament.

“We have high expectations with this group,” Crouch says. “We are focused first on winning our region and then making a run to the state title in late October.”

Crouch has an experienced but still fairly young team this season. The lone starting senior is libero **Kylie Pure**, who has 2267 digs and 34 service aces.

The starting setter is junior **Harriett Matenaer**, who runs the show offensively with 605 assists and 47 aces.

First Baptist football out of the gate strong

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
James Island – One of the biggest stories, and surprises, of the 2026 football season has been the Hurricanes of **First Baptist School**.

Mired in a string of bad seasons coming into the 2026 season, the Hurricanes have been very good to start this season. A forfeit win over Hilton Head Prep on Oct. 2 pushed the overall record to 6-1 with three big games remaining on the schedule.

The Hurricanes will close out the season with games against St. John’s Christian, Hilton Head Christian and Bethesda Academy. The last two opponents have just two losses between them so far this season.

Transfers have made a huge impact this season and are a major reason for the success. Starting quarterback **Gibbs Isom**, a junior, transferred from West Ashley and has spearheaded the offense. Isom has passed for nearly 1,300 yards aand 16 touchdowns without an interception.

“We are having more fans in the stands than we have ever had,” Abernathy said. “Everyone is talking about us and it’s great to watch and fun to coach them. Right now we are counting on a whole team effort. Everyone has to play as one to make up for Maddie’s big block in the middle.”

The Panthers were among the Top 3 all season until the injuries occurred. They are hoping to be back at full strength by the time the playoffs begin.

“We are hoping everyone will be back so we can show everybody what we got,” Abernathy said. “We have eight varsity returners this season plus two players up from the JV team. Our chemistry is great and our kids are great. They love each other and support each other.”

Pinewood has key region rematches coming up against **John Paul II** and **Hilton Head Christian Academy**.

Football

The **Pinewood Football** team is 7-0 with a 2-0 mark in **SCISA 4A Region 2**.

The **Panthers** have dominated the competition so far. The closest game given to them so far this season is one Pinewood won 49-35 at **Hilton Head Christian**. The team has a key game against **Northwood Academy** at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at Pinewood. That game pits the **2025 SCISA 3A State Champion** (Pinewood) against the **2025 SCISA 4A State Champion** (Northwood).

Panther QB **Silas Brawner** has already passed for more than 2,000 yards and 28 touchdowns this season. Pinewood receivers **Tre Green** and **Lavoris Lucus** both have more than 700 receiving yards. **Jeremy Kendall** and **Grayson Salego** both have 400-plus rushing yards.



2026 Porter Gaud Cyclones volleyball

Junior **Malaya Singletary** and sophomore **Eliza Coker** are outside hitters. Singletary has more than 300 kills and 40 aces while Coker has passed 250 kills.

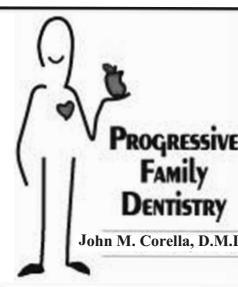
Starters in the middle include freshman **Pope Cooper** (31 blocks) and junior **Gianna Maldradi**. Junior **Laney Barganier** rounds out the starting lineup on the right side.

Freshmen **Charlotte Johnson** (setter/right side) and **Anouk Barnes** (defensive specialist) also see regular playing time.

“We have a tight-knit team that genuinely cares for

PINEWOOD PREP

Congrats Mikey Williams - From Your Family!
Congrats to Jayden R. Parrott - Love Your Family!
Congrats to Colten & Grady - Love Mom & Dad
Go Big Sweet! Courtesy Breathe Easy
Atlantic Heating & Air (843) 761-0111



PROGRESSIVE
FAMILY
DENTISTRY
John M. Corella, D.M.D.

“Proudly Supporting The Panthers!”

843-873-7326
100 Hearth Place, Summerville, SC

MURRAY MINES

Salutes Pinewood Prep Athletics!
Go Panthers!

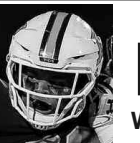
Pinewood Prep Athletic Booster Club Salutes Our Student Athletes!



The Harper Family Supports Pinewood Athletics!

Proudly Saluting
David #71 & Tyler #6





Proudly Saluting
Preston Holliday
We Are Proud of You! Love, Your Family

Boys, we are so proud of the young men you’ve become both on the field and in life. Give it your all tonight.
Go Panthers!
Love, Mom & Dad



Cameron & Jace Wren

PORTER GAUD



W.S.M., Inc.
Charles H. Wendell CPA
Chairman - CEO
23 N. Court St. - Fayetteville, WV
Tel: 304-574-3096 - Fax 304-574-3157

PIERCE | SLOAN

KENNEDY & EARLY LLC

843-722-7733

321 East Bay St. Charleston, SC 29401

each other and brings joy and excitement every time they step on the court,” Crouch said. “We’ve been serving exceptionally well and we have controlled the ball on our side in serve receive, which allows us to spread our offensive attack evenly. Our growth trajectory is what excites me most because we are young and improving every week.”

FIRST BAPTIST



MARCHANT RAVENEL
(843) 722-8208

Car Buying Without the Nonsense.
15 Min. South of Charleston - Ravenel, SC

middle hitter **Payton Walpole**, right side **Lyla Hancock**, and defensive specialists **Emily Easterlin**, **Livi Fanuechi**, and **Britton Lempeis**.

Rounding out the roster are juniors **Hadley Burr**, **Kaia Romfo**, and **Tallulah Dausman**.

Class A Div. 1 Football Polls	
1. Fairfield Central	6. Carvers Bay
2. Central	7. Cheraw
3. Bamberg-Ehr.	8. Latta
4. Abbeville	9. Blacksburg
5. Hampton County	10. Ninety-Six

Class A Div. 2 Football Polls	
1. Blackville-Hilda	6. Johnsonville
2. Wagener-Salley	7. Cross
3. Lamar	8. Calhoun Cty
4. Scott’s Branch	9. Lee Central
5. Lake View	10. Denmark-Olar

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



The Raiders take the field! Holly Hill Academy adjusting to 11-man game

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

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

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

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

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

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

Clarendon Hall finishes up with region schedule

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Summerton – The times are few and far between in SCISA football that a team plays its region schedule in consecutive games to end the regular season. In most cases, the region tilts are spread out over the course of the year.

That is not the case for **Clarendon Hall** this season. The Saints are 2-5 after falling to **Pee Dee Academy** 40-16 on October 2, all of them non-region contests. They will figure out their seeding for the upcoming Class A state playoffs with their three Region 1 games over the remainder of October.

“We’re in a must-win situation,” said Clarendon Hall head coach **Shane Wallace**. “I’m telling the kids these next three games really matter.”

In fact, each of the Region 1 teams will be playing their region contests over the course of the final four Fridays of the regular season. The other region teams are **Carolina Academy**, **Lee Academy** and **Dillon Christian School**.

Carolina and Lee both own 2-5 records like Clarendon Hall and are under first-year head coaches. Dillon Christian is 5-2 and ranked second in the latest *High School Sports Report* SCISA Class A poll.

The Saints are scheduled to play host to Carolina Academy on October 9. After a bye week, they will be at home against Lee on October 23. On October 30, they will hop on **Interstate 95** that runs right by the school and head north to **Dillon** to face the Warriors.

“We’re not where we want to be right now,” said Wallace, who is in his second season at Clarendon Hall. Compared to where the Saints were at this point last year, the change has been tremendous.

HOLLY HILL ACADEMY

Santee Quick Lube (803) 707-0684

Strickland's

Heating and Air

843-514-7834 - Proudly Saluting HHA!

Serving *YOU* for over *100* Years!

fm

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

You Know Us - We Know You

www.fmbse.com

Holly Hill Bowman Moncks Corner Eutawville

Branchville St. Stephen Carnes Crossroads Cameron

Member FDIC

Holly Hill (Home Office) (803) 496-5011

Summerville Locations (Main St.) (843) 873-3310 (Nexton) (843) 875-2584 (Boone Hill) (843) 875-2100

FNB

First National Bank

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Member FDIC

Harleyville (Main St.) (843) 462-7661

Eutawville (Old No. 6 Hwy) (803) 492-7727

Ridgeville (Church St.) (843) 871-9553

Goose Creek (Tomlinson Blvd.) (843) 553-0344

HHA RAIDERS

The Holly Hill Academy

Booster Club

Salutes the Raiders!

OPAL

Opportunity for Passive Asset Legacy

(843) 729-5093 | www.liveopal.com

Proudly Saluting the HHA Raiders!

CLARENDON HALL

L.A. Robinson DMD 803-485-8521

B&B Construction - 803-600-6109

Summertown Drugs

Hospital Equipment

Summertown, SC 485-8725 or 485-2555

Compliments of Gene & Cindy Phillips

Good Luck Saints!

Oak III Farms

Summertown, SC 29148

803-478-6163

Santee Quick Lube-Wash & Tire

HERCULES TIRES

808 Bass Drive

Santee, SC 29142

(803) 854-5823

Fax: (803) 854-0304

WALKER

TIRE CO., INC.

New Tire Sales & Service

Passenger, Truck, Farm, Industrial

Brakes, Alignment, Balancing, Tire Repairs

KEN WELLS

803-518-1285

WALKER WELLS

803-518-1335

803-433-4444

114 Mill St. • Box 98 • Manning, S.C. 29102

J. Daulton Dubose, DMB & Family are Proud to Salute the Clarendon Hall Saints!

SCISA Football Feature

SCISA teams playing for seeding

By: Gerald Doolittle

Staff Writer

Goose Creek - The South Carolina Independent Schools Association enters October with teams now playing for playoff seeding. Last seasons Champions in Class 3A (Pinewood), Class 2A (Bethesda) and Class 1A (Williamsburg) all moved up a classification in the new alignment. Can Northwood repeat in 4A and can W.W. King repeat in 8-Man?

The top 2026 contenders in Class 4A are Hammond (6-0), Pinewood Prep (6-0), Ben Lippen (4-1) and Laurence Manning (3-1). Defending Champion Northwood Academy (4-2) and Porter-Gaud (4-2) could sneak into the finals.

The top 2026 contenders in Class 3A are Northside Christian (6-0), First Baptist (5-1), Hilton Head Christian (5-1) and Bethesda (3-1). Florence Christian (4-2) and Wilson Hall (4-2) could determine who make the finals.

Class 2A will be a four- way battle between Calhoun Academy (6-1), Colleton Prep (6-1), Greenwood Christian (4-1) and Patrick Henry (4-1). Williamsburg Academy (3-1) will have say on who makes the finals.

Class 1A will be a battle between Dorchester Academy (5-1) and Dillon Christian (4-2)

SCISA 8-Man will have Jefferson Davis Academy (6-0), Laurens Academy (5-0), W.W. King Academy (4-1) and Newberry Academy (4-1) working hard to win the Title. Wardlaw Academy (2-3) can be a sleeper to pull off a surprise finish.

The top rushing leaders leading into October are Jordan Blackmon (Dillon Chr) 935 yds, Isaiah Scott-Palacos (Greenwood Chr) 871 yds, Joseph Morse (W W King) 857 yds, Reed Almers (Dorchester) 839 yds, B J Suits (Northside Chr) 712 yds, Parker Kizer (Holly Hill) 673 yds, Derrick Porter (First Baptist) 683 yds, Michael Polite (Northwood) 583 yds, Kai Sobey (Patrick Henry) 558 yds, Caleb Hardy (Laurens Ac) 533 yds, Grant Smalls (Williamsburg) 480 yds and Ethan Porter (Augusta Chr) 447 yds.

The top passing leaders going into October are Silas Brawner (Pinewood) 1898 yds, Cam Wertz

SCISA AAAA Football Polls

1. Hammond

2. Pinewood Prep

3. Northwood Academy

4. Porter-Gaud

5. LMA

6. Ben Lippen

SCISA AAA Football Polls

1. Bethesda Academy

2. Hilton Head Christian

3. Northside Christian

4. First Baptist

5. Wilson Hall

6. Florence Christian

SCISA AA Football Polls

1. Colleton Prep

2. Calhoun Academy

3. Greenwood Christian

4. Patrick Henry

5. Williamsburg Academy

6. Pee Dee Academy

SCISA A Football Polls

1. Dorchester Academy

2. Dillon Christian

3. Holly Hill Academy

4. Clarendon Hall

5. Beaufort Academy

6. Thomas Heyward

SCISA 8-Man Football Polls

1. Jefferson Davis

2. WW King Academy

3. Laurens Academy

4. Newberry Academy

5. Wardlaw Academy

6. Richard Winn

Current Region Standings

SCISA 1-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
HAMMOND	2-0	7-0	295	44
BEN LIPPEN	2-1	4-2	174	85
AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	1-1	4-3	170	182
HEATHWOOD HALL	1-1	3-4	144	145
CARDINAL NEWMAN	0-3	3-4	73	188
CAMDEN MILITARY		0-5	22	191

SCISA 2-AAAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
PINEWOOD PREP	1-0	7-0	347	133
NORTHWOOD	1-0	5-2	226	147
PORTER-GAUD	1-0	5-2	196	80
LAURENCE MANNING	0-0	3-1	179	94
JOHN PAUL II	0-3	0-6	76	256

SCISA 1-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
NORTHSIDE CHRIST	3-0	7-0	277	115
WILSON HALL	2-0	4-3	149	192
FLORENCE CHRIST	2-1	5-2	214	125
TRINITY COLLEGIATE	1-2	2-3	132	89
SPARTANBURG CHR	0-2	3-4	151	193
THOMAS SUMTER	0-3	1-5	100	214

SCISA 2-AAA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
HILTON HEAD CHR	0-0	6-1	268	177
FIRST BAPTIST	0-0	5-1	282	94
BETHESDA ACADEMY	0-0	4-1	212	82
HILTON HEAD PREP	0-0	1-5	54	254

SCISA 1-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
CALHOUN ACADEMY	2-0	7-1	304	99
CROSS SCHOOLS	1-0	2-4	183	173
COLLETON PREP	0-0	7-1	311	84
PATRICK HENRY	0-1	4-2	158	140
ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN	0-2	1-6	118	264

SCISA 2-AA	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
WILLIAMSBURG	2-0	4-1	171	54
GREENWOOD CHRIST	1-0	5-1	191	107
PEE DEE ACADEMY	1-0	4-3	206	129
ORANGEBURG PREP	0-2	2-5	143	222
SPARTANBURG DAY	0-2	1-7	52	272

SCISA 1-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DILLON CHRISTIAN	0-0	5-2	305	106
CLARENDON HALL	0-0	2-5	141	264
LEE ACADEMY	0-0	2-5	88	238
CAROLINA ACADEMY	0-0	1-5	56	179

SCISA 2-A	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
DORCHESTER ACAD	0-0	5-2	255	134
HOLLY HILL ACAD	0-0	2-5	90	257
THOMAS HEYWARD	0-0	2-5	53	150
BEAUFORT ACAD	0-0	2-5	134	226

SCISA 8-MAN REG. 1	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
JEFFERSON DAVIS	2-0	7-0	230	39
WARDLAW ACADEMY	2-0	2-4	130	221
W W KING ACADEMY	1-1	5-1	230	48
ANDREW JACKSON	1-2	2-5	120	172
COMMUNITY CHRIST	0-3	1-6	40	278

8-MAN REG. 2	REG	ALL	OFF	DEF
LAURENS ACAD	1-0	6-0	262	77
NEWBERRY ACAD	1-0	4-2	223	118
RICHARD WINN	0-1	3-4	138	173
CAMBRIDGE ACAD	0-1	2-5	126	260

SCISA 8-MAN INDEPENDENTS	ALL	OFF	DEF
CATHEDRAL ACADEMY	5-1	151	78
KING'S ACADEMY	2-5	126	172
PALMETTO CHRISTIAN	1-5	144	254

DILLON HIGH SCHOOL

Number four ranked Wildcats rolling along in ‘26

By Billy. Baker
Publisher
Dillon—The 4th ranked AA **Dillon Wildcats** (4-1) have reeled off four straight wins since their season opening loss to **Camden**, as their offense rolled up 40 points and 306 yards of total offense in a 40-0 win over region foe **Lake City** last week.

The Wildcats are now preparing for a road game with region opponent Waccamaw on October 9. Then on the 16th the Wildcats host region foe **Manning**. Most observers feel like Dillon’s region game at home against **Marlboro County** (6-0) on October 23 will likely determine the region champion. The Wildcats will close out the regular season with an away game with region opponent **East Clarendon**.

Dillon head coach **Kelvin Roller** commented about Dillon’s opponent this week, **Waccamaw**. “Waccamaw is well coached and they present problems with their option offense,” said.

Over the past four games Dillon has defeated **Myrtle Beach** (50-24), **Cheraw** (32-28), **Marion** (45-0), and **Lake City**.

“Our quarterback (soph **Nibras Harrison**) has improved from week-to-week and has got better the more he plays,” said Coach Roller. “He is a dynamic dual threat.”

Dillon has been battling injuries all season, especially in the offensive line. “We got Darion Gibbons back this week form injury,” said Coach Roller. It was the first game he has played all season.

“I’ve very pleased with how much our defense and special teams have improved over the course of the season,” said Coach Roller. “Considering the injuries out offensive line has played well. **Zamir Drawhorn**, **Japhia Davis**, and **Lucas Butler** are three of our offensive linemen who have got better over the season.

“Sophomore **Trey Coward** and junior **Jaylen Bacote** have been great at the tackles so far,” said Coach Roller. “Their play has allowed us to use Aleem Thompson at TE, and it has allowed us to use **Keshawn Ray** and **Arian Chavis** more on defense.”

Against Lake City, soph quarterback QB **Nibras Harrison** (5-10,165) **scored** two rushing touchdowns in the first half when Dillon built a 34-0 lead at the half. Harrison completed 9-of-14 passes for 94 yards in the game also.

Three running backs tallied 50-plus yards against the Panthers. Senior **Trayvon Brown** (5-8,160) had five carries for 57 yards and a 1- yard TD in the third

quarter that put the Wildcats up 40-0. Senior **Noah Singletary** (5-10,185) added 54 yards on seven carries with three TD’s from four, 14, and four

yards. Senior RB **Jucson Ndayisaba** (5-7,160) contributed 52 yards on seven carries.

The leading receivers versus lake City included WR JJ Campbell (5-9,150) who caught four passes for 44 yards while senior TE **Ke’shawn Ray** (5-11, 180) had a catch along with junior WR **Kamaui Jacobs** (5-9,155).

Place kicker **Jose Betancourt** made 4-of-6 PAT’s. Campbell has one punt for 48 yards.

The *Nasty Cats* of defense were led on the hit index by two-way player Ray at MLB with 13 total tackles versus Lake City. Junior LB **Malachi Nelson** had 8 tackles followed by freshman SS **Aerian Chavis** (6-1, 190) with six stops. Senior OLB Kelvin Manning (6-3, 185) had five tackles while junior FS **Deandra Green** contributed four tackles.

Some stats leaders on offense after five games include Harrison who has completed 45-of-78 passes for 594 yards and six TD’s. He has also rushed for 162 yards and five TD’s.

The top Wildcat rushers are Singletary who has gained 519 yards on 58 carries with seven TD’s.

Lester has 157 yards and five TD’s while Brown has 141 yards and two TD’s. The only other Wildcat with 100-plus yards is Ndayisaba with 126 yards.

The top receivers to date are Campbell with 22 catches for 290 yards and three TD’s. M Graham has caught seven passes for 86 yards while ray has four catches for 68 yards and two TD’s.

The *Nasty Cats* of defense are led by junior MLB **Malachi Nelson** with 49 total tackles including two TFL and two picks. Ray is next on the hit index with 30 tackles including a sack. LB K. Manning has 26 tackles including one TFL. A Chavis is at 24 tackles, and OLB **Zhrmil McLaurin** has 22 tackles and one TFL. Rounding out the top six tacklers on the team is senior DE Levis **Hatungimana** (6-3, 210) with 19 tackles, one sack and two TFL. Betancourt has made one field goal from 30 yards and he is 11-of-12 on PAT’s. Campbell has been very effective punting, averaging 36.78 yards on 9 boots.

As a team Dillon has rushed for 1,760 yards opposed to just 1,110 for their five opponents. They passed for 594 yards.

The *Nasty Cat* defense has forced 10 turnovers so far this season.



Tommy Parker
843-528-3301
www.parkersautos.com

*Specializing in
Clean Used Cars
Since 1983*



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

COWARD TOWING
Ask for Brad!
843-774-4331
If You Are In An Accident
Request Us & Receive
\$100 CASH



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

Family Sports Center, 843-774-3162
Miller Plumbing & Electric – Doug Miller
Dillon Chamber of Commerce 774-8551
In Memory of Earl L. Gleason, Sr.
Cooper Funeral Home 774-4473
County Councilman Brad Coward
Councilman Stevie Grice
Councilman Dennis Townsend
Councilman Robbie Coward
Councilman Kenny Cook Jr.
Councilman James “Bobie” Washington
Council Woman Detrice Dawkins
Lloyd Meekins & Sons Auction Co.
Tim Harper, County Administrator
Anderson Brothers Bank (843) 506-8801

Physician’s Healthcare of Dillon
Dr. John K. Stanton, Jr., DC
Chiropractic and Medical Care
1639 Hwy. 301 N, Dillon (843) 774-5182

Lil’ Bill’s Convenience Stores
2204 Hwy. 9 East
Dillon, SC 774-3876

First Citizens Bank **406 Hwy. 301 North**
Go Wildcats!
Member FDIC

Dillon Internal Medicine Associates, P.A.
705 North 8th Street - Suite 1A
(843) 774-2478 (843) 476-3011
James P. Wallace M.D. Caren C. Arnette, FNP
James J. Kelly, M.D. Kelly Jacobs, DNP
Nicholas Wallace, M.D. Morgan Hayes, FNP
Alto B. Odin, D.O. Victoria Davis, FNP

HERALD OFFICE SOLUTIONS
800-922-3535
www.hosnet.net

DILLON
South Carolina
401 W Main St, Dillon, SC 29536
843-774- 0040
Proudly Saluting the Wildcats!

Trinity Behavioral Care
1719 Commerce Drive - Dillon, SC 29536
Proudly Saluting Dillon Athletics!

AMS TREE SERVICES
24 Hour Service:
(843) 610-9780
Kennykennycook@aol.com



The Raiders line up against Colleton Prep this past Friday night

Nelson looking for Raiders to clean things up

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

St. George – **Dorchester Academy** football head coach **Michael Nelson** wasn’t the happiest camper in the world on the Saturday morning following the Raiders’ 25-20 loss to **Colleton Prep Academy** on October 2 in a battle of No. 1 teams in SCISA. And Nelson actually was a camper, at a campground with students as part of a school-related activity.

DA, the No. 1 team in the *High School Sports Report* Class A poll, had taken a 20-19 lead with just under four minutes remaining in the game. A miscommunication on kickoff strategy led to CPA, the top-ranked team in AA, returning the kickoff for a touchdown for what would turn out to be a 25-20 victory.

“I felt like we should have won last night,” said Nelson, whose team fell to 5-2 on the season. “We played good enough to win. We’re playing well, but we’ve got to clean some things up.”

Nelson pointed out Dorchester had allowed

touchdowns on wide receiver screens and kickoff returns for scores in each of the past two games.

“Other than things like that everything has been good,” he said. “It’s just a matter of being consistent for four quarters.”

The Raiders have been outstanding running the football, averaging 273 rushing yards a contest through the first six games. They have been led by junior **Reed Almers**, who went over 1,000 yards for the season against CPA. He was averaging 139.8 yards through six games with 14 touchdowns.

Almers was a secondary back last year behind **John Whetsell**. Nelson is impressed with how well Almers has adapted to the feature role considering he’s a key defensive cog as well.

“Reed has done a great job, going over 1,000 yards,” Nelson said. “He’s done all of that while being a rock for us between free safety and outside linebacker. He’s hardly ever off the field, playing close to 100 plays a game.”

Junior **Warren Judy** had 360 yards and five scores, and freshman **Carter Proctor** had 216 yards

Carvers Bay football focused on state title run

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor

Hemingway - Last season, with the likes of running back **Kenard Heyward** and offensive lineman **Zyon Guiles**, Carvers Bay powered itself to Class A’s Lower State final.

The Bears’ roadblock was eventual state champion, Bamberg-Ehrhardt.

This year, coach **Matthew Richard’s** program has brought back plenty of talent – along with a 5-1 record.

“We attribute our success to the hard work and the dedication they have put into the offseason and weight room,” Coach Richard said. “They’re just reaping the rewards from what they sowed during this past offseason.”

The success is also impressive, considering the Bears graduated 18 seniors from the 2025 squad.

“It was difficult for us to put the success from last season behind us at first. But we have always championed, ‘We have some good guys returning.’ And we have told them, ‘This is your turn, now,’” he said. “At Carvers Bay, we have a tradition of playing good football. So, it’s next man up.”

Among the returning starters is quarterback **Cristian Simmons**.

“He’s a great kid who doesn’t crack under pres-

sure,” Coach Richard said. “He lives up to playing every snap on every series like the score is 0-0. In every situation, Christian’s lone focus is wanting to execute the play to perfection.”

The running backs are **Dominique Walker** and **Trent Singleton**.

“Dominique is the hammer, and Trent is the guy who can catch the ball out of the backfield and who can run and do everything,” Coach Richard said. “Those are the two who have really led us in rushing this year.”

Receivers **Jayshaun Ford** (nicknamed “All-state”), **Mekhi Bromell** and **Akari Williams** are among Simmons’ targets when he passes the ball.

“They’re all unselfish,” Coach Richard said. “They don’t mind sharing the ball, and they work well with each other. The mindset is to rotate them so we always have fresh receivers and big bodies who can go up and catch the ball.”

Citadel commit, **Triston Diggs**, anchors the Bear offensive line.

“He’s one of the best offensive linemen in the state,” Coach Richard said. “And he has really taken hold of the leadership position that was left open after Zyon graduated.”

Other Carvers Bay offensive line also includes **Jakai Cohen**, **Xavier Fredrick** and **Kam-ryn**

DORCHESTER ACADEMY

Carolina Eastern Williamson
Chemicals • Seed • Fertilizers
Custom & R_x Spreading
Phone: 803-793-3746
Fax: 803-793-4382
Cell: 803-837-3587
Email: dinfinger@carolina-eastern.com
Donnie Infinger
Manager - Sales
Certified Crop Advisor

Dorchester Academy Raider Booster Club
Saluting the Raiders All The Way!

J. Frank Quattlebaum
Attorney at Law
222 N. Parler Ave
St. George, SC 29477
Phone: 843-563-2112
Proudly Saluting the Raiders!

and three TDs.

With the big running numbers, Nelson offered praise to his offensive line. He also feels the passing game is making strides with junior quarterback **Carter Beeks** getting the football mainly to senior **Noah Risher** and junior **Graham Varnadoe**.

Beek had completed 39 of 75 passes for 638 yards and nine touchdowns. Risher had 16 catches for 253 yards and five TDs, while Varnadoe had 14 grabs for 218 yards and two scores.

Junior defensive lineman **Matthew Byron** leads the defense. He was second in tackles with 34 with a team high 11 tackles for loss. Junior defensive back **Ryan Galliard** led in tackles with 36 to go with five TFLs. Almers also had five TFLs.

CARVERS BAY

Black Mingo Produce salutes Bears Athletics!
The Jimmy Jones Family Salutes Carvers Bay
Morris Crop Insurance salutes the Bears Athletics
WT Owens & Sons Grocery Salutes the Bears!

Carvers Bay High School
Wishes All Student Athletes
Good Luck This Season!

Priority One Home Healthcare, Inc
655 Cheraw Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843-479-2597

Richardson and freshman **Ethan Young**.

“Ethan is a young kid who’s going to be power player for us,” Coach Richard said.

Diggs is also a factor on the defensive line, and he is joined by **Jaquan Hannah**.

Tavares Keith and **Xavier Newbold** then contribute at linebacker.

The secondary, meanwhile, includes **Trent Singleton**, **Jaden McFadden** and **Richardson** help make plays in the secondary.

Dillon Christian looking to finish strong in 2026

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor
Dillon - Dillon Christian’s football program is on an upward trajectory for the first time since 2020, and second-year coach **Chris Alphin** contributes that to a couple of things.

“The reclassification helped,” Coach Alphin said. “The reclassification helped with our depth. I now feel like we’re where we should have been all along. These private schools can really hurt you if you get an influx of kids and can’t hang on to them.”

With that in mind, Alphin emphasizes culture to keep players.

“It’s about **Jesus**; that’s our culture,” Coach Alphin said. “We’re trying to be consistent in our culture and what I’m teaching on the field. We don’t want just temporary kids in here. We’re wanting kids who want to be here. It’s good to be continually working toward the culture we want to have and how we want the program to look. We are dedicated every day to making it be that way.”

The Warriors, who last posted a winning season in 2020 (6-3, according to MaxPreps), has **Jordan Blackmon** at quarterback.

“He does everything well,” Coach Alphin said. “What doesn’t he do well? And he has such poise. We had a tough game the previous week and he had to deal with a lot of defensive pressure. And still, he was such a great teammate when he could have been the worst.”

“He’s a future college football player,” he added. “That kid can start at any high school in this area.”

Mills Wallace is one of the Warriors’ central running backs.

“He saw limited reps last year; he’s not the fastest or strongest guy,” Coach Alphin said. “But he has that vision. It’s the vision that makes him so

Young Lee volleyball team having growing pains

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Bishopville – With just two starters returning from a team that finished second in its region and had a good showing in the state tournament, some ups and downs are to be expected. That’s what head coach **Ivy Watts** is getting from her **Lee Academy** volleyball team.

“The team has played above and below my expectations,” Watts said. “We have had some very good games, and they have showed up and showed out. Other games we have struggled some.”

“We had one of our starters get injured so changing up the rotation has caused a little bit of chaos, but they have played through the chaos.”

And the Cavaliers were off to an 8-5 overall start and were 4-2 in Region 1-AA.

Leading the way for Lee is junior **JoJo Miller**. She was leading the team in service aces with 41 and was second in kills with 45. Junior **Karagan Melton** led in digs with 45 and blocks with seven and had 16 kills and nine aces. Also, senior **Peyton Thompson** had 27 aces, 35 digs and four blocks.

Freshman **Beth Whiteside** was the kills leader with 57 to go with 12 aces, 21 digs and four blocks. Senior **Addie Grace Wilkes** had 19 aces, 27 kills, five digs and four blocks. Sophomore **Kaisley Melton** had 12 aces, 19 kills, 10 digs and two blocks, and sophomore **Presleigh Greene** had nine aces, 18 kills, five digs and three blocks.

Other members of the team are senior **Delia Phillips** and junior **Emma Beasley**.

good when he’s running inside zone.”

Other running backs are **Terry Knight** and **Lincoln Dial**.

“(Dial) is a pitbull and when we go to triple option, you know he’s going to play a big role in the play when he’s on the field,” Coach Alphin said.

Dillon Christian’s wide receivers, meanwhile, include **Rylee Martin**, **Gray Easterling**, **Blake Hunt** and **McKinnon Sampson**.

“We call (Easterling) the ‘Magic Man’ because we move him around so much and that he can play so many positions,” Coach Alphin said. “They are all deep threats, and I really like the leadership they provide.”

Offensive linemen are **Jacob Hunt**, **Chase Hugens**, **Eli McColl**, **C.J. Alford** and **J.P. Walker**.

“A lot of what we do offensively leads with Jacob,” Coach Alphin said. “Chase is an absolute pit bull, and Eli is an anchor of the group.”

The defensive line includes **Lincoln Dial**, **Keylan Alexander**, **Alford** and **Nate Darnell**.

Ethan Moody is part of the linebacker corps along with **Jackson Shooter** and **Chandler Rogers**.

The secondary, meanwhile, includes Hunt, Easterling, Martin and **John Brayboy**.



Anderson Brothers Bank
1006 Hwy 301 N. - Dillon, SC
(843) 506-8801

LEE FOOTBALL GETS SECOND WIN

The Lee football team picked up its second win under first-year head coach Johnnie Moreno with a 28-16 win over **Holly Hill Academy** on October 2.

Landen Olsen had a massive game, rushing for 203 yards and three touchdowns on 25 carries while running for a 2-point conversion and completing a pass for 19 yards.

Olsen, a senior, has rushed for 639 yards and five touchdowns on 109 carries. As far as passing goes, he has completed 35 of 65 passes for 350 yards and three touchdowns.

Carter Berendzen also scored a touchdown and ran for two points, but he came up big on the defensive side. The junior defensive tackle had six tackles, two tackles for a loss, one quarterback sack and two quarterback hurries.

The HSSR is looking for full-time marketing reps!

Call Publisher Billy Baker at

843-553-0264 or 843-200-9555

DILLON CHRISTIAN

Dillon County Council
Family Sports Center (843)774-3162

**FIRST BANK**Member FDIC

201 Hwy. 301 North
Dillon, SC 29536

Go Warriors!

**First Citizens Bank**

406 Hwy. 301 North
Dillon, SC

Go Warriors!
Member FDIC

**Mike Reaves Livestock, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1117
Rowland, NC 28383

Dealer of Hogs and Cattle

Mike Reaves
Owner

**HERALD OFFICE SOLUTIONS**

800-922-3535
www.hosnet.net

**DILLON**
INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES, P.A.

(843) 774-2478
1-800-476-3011
WWW.DILLONINTERNALMEDICINE.COM

Go Warriors!

**DILLON**
South Carolina

401 W Main St, Dillon, SC 29536
843-774- 0040

Proudly Saluting the Warriors!

LEE ACADEMY

Bay Park Trucking Salutes the Cavs!
Jared's Ace Hardware (803) 484-5716

**The Lee Academy Athletic Booster Club**

Salutes the Cavaliers!

Good Luck to All Athletes!

**FTC**

ftc-i.net | 888.218.5050

Proud Supporter of Cavaliers Athletics!

**JIA**

Jeffords Insurance Agency
Auto • Home • Farm • Business • Life

(803)484-5462
(843)326-1487 (803)433-0060
Bishopville, SC 29010
Lamar, SC 29069 Manning, SC 29102

Go Cavaliers!

Danny Price
Owner
803-484-6932
price.donny51@yahoo.com

Proudly Saluting the Cavs!

Bishopville Parts & Tire

204 Gregg Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
Full Auto & Tire Service

LAKE VIEW Wild Gators



2026 Lake View Wild Gators volleyball

Lake View volleyball battling for region crown

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Lake View – With a key region battle looming on Oct. 8, the **Lake View** volleyball team is in contention for the region 10-A title.

Lake View will take on **Latta** in the match that could decide the region championship. Lake View enters the showdown with one region loss, to Latta. Latta is undefeated in region play and holds a one-game lead on Lake View.

Lake View has posted an 11-4 record overall, losing twice to Dillon and once to Dillon Christian in non-region play.

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

Junior **Sarah Price** is one of the top players with 49 kills, 144 digs and 52 service aces. Sophomore **Sophia Rogers** leads the team with 67 kills and has 122 digs.

Freshman **Callie Smith** has 59 kills, 100 digs and 57 assists. Senior **Chloe Cox** has recorded 122 digs and 159 assists while sophomore **Lauren King** has 43 kills, 108 digs and 39 aces.

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

Football team has eyes on region title

After a hard-fought 12-10 win over Latta on Oct. 2, the Lake View football team picked up a key region victory. The win improved Lake View’s record to 6-1/

With Lake View leading Latta 12-10, Latta lineup for a field goal on the final play of the game. The kick was tipped by junior **Richard Thompson** and the ball fell just a few feet short of the cross bar, securing the Lake View win.

“We won literally by a finger tip,” said coach **Daryl King**. “They have a good kicker and the kick was right on line. Had we not tipped it, it probably

goes through and we lose 13-12. Obviously a great effort by our young man. It goes to prove that every play, every kick, matters. There’s a fine line between winning and losing sometimes.”

:Lake View’s only loss through seven games was a non-region defeat to Scott’s Branch. King says his team is finding ways to win through hard work.

“It’s never easy to win and we tell our kids all the time that we have to give 100 percent effort every day. There cannot be days off,” King said. “This team has been great about that. They work hard. And they’ve done a good job of moving on to the next one and maintaining our focus.”

Offensively, the wishbone run game is how Lake View operates. He says several different backs are getting carries with five totaling more than 250 yards rushing. Lake View had more than 350 yards rushing in the loss to Scott’s Branch.

Sophomore **Gabe Lee** leads the team in rushing. Lee also is the leading tackler as a linebacker on defense.

“We use several backs because they all play defense,” said King. “Gabe is a warrior. He’s a great leader and plays with great effort. He runs downhill. No messing around, just gets the ball and goes North South.”

Jalen Clark also is a key rusher offensively. Sophomores **Hayden Smith** and **Ty Bethea** are playing well at quarterback. **Chris Rice** and **Aiden Matthews** also factor in the running game.

The top receivers are **Terrance Alford** and **AJ Johnson**. **Jashawn McCullough** does solid work at tight end.

Doing solid work along the offensive line are **Alonzo Hamilton**, **Zymere Wheeler**, **Riley McCormick**, **Zaiden Burroughs** and **Richard Thompson**.

From the Principal, Faculty, Staff and Students

Good Luck!  **Go Wild Gators!**

"JUST SAY NO"



The Lake View High Athletic Department
Salutes the Wild Gators!
Good Luck This Year!

LMS, Inc. Mechanical Contraction 845-2183

**HERALD OFFICE SOLUTIONS**

800-922-3535
www.hosnet.net

Representative **Jackie “Coach” Hayes**
SC House of Representatives Seat #55
Salutes
Dillon, Lake View, Latta, and Dillon Christian

Tim Harper, County Administrator
Anderson Brothers Bank (843) 506-8801

**First Citizens Bank**

406 Hwy 301 North
Go Wild Gators!
Member FDIC

**Dillon/Marion County Commission**
on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Locations in Marion and Dillon

774-6591

**ELLIOTT RICK ELLIOTT - Broker**

Sales • Rentals • Development • 1-800-525-0225
PO Box 3200• N. Myrtle Beach SC 29582
Bus: (843) 249-1406 • Res: (843) 249-1520

**DILLON**
INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES, P.A.

705 North 8th Street - Suite 1A
(843) 774-2478 (843) 476-3011

James P. Wallace M.D.
James J. Kelly, M.D.
Nicholas Wallace, M.D.
Alto B. Odin, D.O.

Caren C. Arnette, FNP
Kelly Jacobs, DNP
Morgan Hayes, FNP
Victoria Davis, FNP

Trinity Behavioral Care

1719 Commerce Drive - Dillon, SC 29536

Proudly Saluting Lake View Athletics!

**Brad's AUTO REPAIR**

OIL CHANGES • TUNE-UPS • MINOR ENGINE REPAIR

2029 Hwy 9 East
Dillon, SC
843-774-3022
(24-HR Towing)

AMS TREE SERVICES

24 Hour Service:

(843) 610-9780

Kennykennycook@aol.com

Strickland Brothers Construction Co. LLC

General & Mechanical Contractors

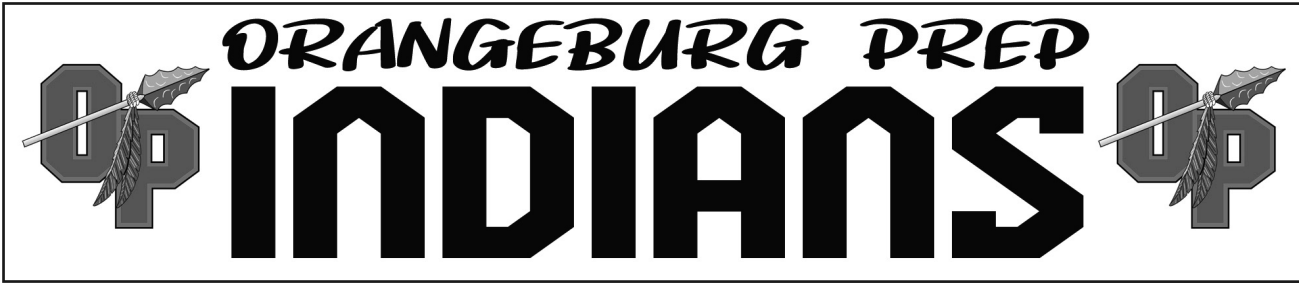
843-845-1247

Good Luck Wild Gators!



Good Luck Wild Gators!





Orangeburg Prep switches to more rush attack

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Orangeburg – After suffering a 45-14 loss to **Dillon Christian School** in the second game of the season, **Orangeburg Preparatory School** football head coach **Brooks Smith** and his staff decided it was time for a change. Not among players or positions, but in offensive philosophy.

The change was in going from a more balanced attack to an option attack. It still remains to be seen how everything plays out, but Smith likes what he’s seen so far.

Orangeburg Prep had a great showing against **Clarendon Hall** the following week, winning 55-23. That was followed by a 38-6 loss to **Dorchester Academy**, a game in which the Indians turned the ball over six times in the first half. They scored 23 points in a 14-point loss to **Greenwood Christian School** in their SCISA Region 2-2A opener before beating **Carolina Academy** 37-6.

“We’ve always had it in our repertoire,” said Smith, whose team was 2-5 after a 42-8 region loss to **Williamsburg Academy** on October 2. “We had a lot of injuries early in the season, and we felt like we needed to regroup and see what we can do best moving forward.”

Smith said junior quarterback **Cholly Williams** has handled the switch to a more run-oriented offense well, both physically and mentally.

“He’s done great,” Smith said. “I met with him before we went to it. I told him we were going to a single wing, gimmicky offense. We were going through some things with it where we would work to being a true option team. Cholly said, ‘Coach, I’m not worried stats. I just want to win ball games.’”

“Before this, I don’t know if he had taken a snap under center. It’s getting better. He’s done a great job. Him having multiple reads, I felt like he was ready for it.”

It’s not as if the Indians have abandoned the forward pass. Williams put it up 21 times against GCS, Orangeburg Prep passing a lot after falling behind. He completed seven of them for 137 yards and one touchdown. Against Carolina, he was 11 of 17 for 156 yards and a score while rushing for 33 yards and a score on five carries.

Through the first six games, Willaims had connected on 56 of 109 passes for 881 yards and eight scores.

Someone who has stepped in and become a key player in the running attack is junior **Mikah Gilmore**. A transfer from independent **Orangeburg Christian School** where he played on the offensive line, The 6-foot, 225-pound Gilmore had rushed for 350 yards and two touchdowns on 65 carries.

Most of that came against Greenwood Chris-

tian and Carolina. He carried the ball 15 times for 89 yards against GCS while rambling for 112 yards and a score on 13 carries against the Bobcats.

“He’s one we had high hopes for,” Smith said. “He really worked hard over the summer in converting to a running back/fullback type. He does a great job blocking for us, and he runs hard.”

Senior tight end **Marshall Livingston** has been the top target for Williams. Livingston had 25 catches for 371 yards and three touchdowns. The Indians’ big play receiver is senior **Maxx Judy**. He had 13 receptions for 295 yards and two scores. Sophomore **Teddy McElhone** had two TD grabs among his seven catches for 48 yards.

Livingston is having a pretty good season defensively as well. The defensive back had 52 tackles, three tackles for a loss, three interceptions, one fumble recovery and one fumble caused.

Junior linebacker **Max Strickland** is the leading tackler with 72 to go with four TFLs. Sophomore defensive lineman **Cam Jolley** led in TFLs with five among his 26 tackles, while senior linebacker **Blake Inabinet** led in quarterback sacks with three to go with 40 tackles. Williams had 50 tackles and a pick as a defensive back.

Smith hopes the Indians will settle in to the new offense and find their groove as the playoffs draw near.

“It comes down to execution,” the second-year head coach said. “We’re a more physical team. Everybody we play says that. They play hard, they play for one another. It just comes down to execution.

“Record-wise, of course, we’d like it to be better. As far as the kids go, I have no complaints. They’re working hard, and they’re getting better every day. I can’t ask for anymore from them from an effort standpoint. They practice hard, and they play hard.”

OP VOLLEYBALL HAVING STREAKY SEASON

The Orangeburg Prep volleyball team had five different streaks through their matches of September 30. Two of them were winning streaks and three were losing streaks as the Indians had yet to follow a single win with a single loss.

OP opened the year with two losses and followed it with two victories. Two losses came after that before it reeled off five straight wins. That was followed by four losses and amounted to a 7-8 overall ,record and a 1-1 mark in SCISA Region 1-AAA.

Orangeburg Prep is coming off a 13-8 campaign in which it loss three All-Region perform-

Proudly Saluting All Area Schools!

CCNB
COASTAL CAROLINA
NATIONAL BANK

1807 Columbia Rd. Orangeburg, SC 29115
(803) 747-2308

SAMUEL L. LAMBRECHT DMD LLC
GENERAL, COSMETIC, AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY

SAMUEL L. LAMBRECHT DMD
DANIEL R. WEST DMD

695 SUMMERS AVENUE
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115
(803) 534-1020
OFFICE@ORANGEBURGDENTAL.COM

Edisto HEATING & COOLING

Providing Seasonal Comfort

2105 LeGrand Smoak St. - Cordova, SC

803-536-1908

The OPS Athletic Booster Club
Supports All
Orangeburg Prep
Athletic Teams
During the
2026-27 School Year!

LANIER & BURROUGHS
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

SHANE M. BURROUGHS
ATTORNEY

1325 ST. MATTHEWS ROAD
PO DRAWER 2789
ORANGEBURG, SC 29116

OFFICE: (803) 268-9800
FAX: (803) 531-3465
WWW.LANIERLAWFIRM.COM

Ehrhardt Motor Company

12983 Broxton Bridge Rd.
Ehrhardt, SC 29081
(803) 267-7850

Proud Supporter of
Orangeburg Prep
Athletics!

ers to graduation. The Indians are young with just two seniors.

The Indians are led by senior **Mary Legare Delaney**, the reigning Region 1-AAA Player of the Year. She led Orangeburg Prep in kills with 98 and blocks with 23 to go with 26 service aces, 39 digs and 128 serves received.

Sophomore **Blakely Garrick** had 75 kills, senior **Morgan Gue** 74 and junior **Harlo Sease** 73. Sease led in aces with 37 followed by Garrick with 30, while eighth-grader **Olivia Willams** had 25. Junior **Zita Keyter** had 15 blocks.

Sease led in digs with 73 followed by Garrick with 64 and Williams with 48. Sophomore **Marisa Griffith** was the assists leader with 109 followed by Williams with 84. Sease led in serves received with 167.

Other members of the team are sophomore **Brynley Bolen**, freshman **Hanna Bair** and freshman **Alyssa Williamson**.

Wilson Hall hoping to get healthy soon

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Sumter – The **Wilson Hall** football team already has three losses this season, more than it had either of the two previous years. However, where it matters the most – in SCISA Region 1-AAA – the Barons are 1-0.

With three region games remaining, WH head coach **Adam Jarecki** hopes his team can finish off the run to a region championship. To do that though, they have to overcome something.

“We’ve got to get our guys healthy,” said Jarecki, who has led Wilson Hall to three straight AAA state title games. I like where we’re at. We beat **Florence Christian (School)** by a 21-17 count), a very tough team in our region. We’re sitting pretty good, but we’re beat up pretty bad.”

None of the injuries during the season have been of the debilitating variety. It’s just been ones that keep people out a few games and leads to constant reshuffling of the lineup.

“We’re playing hard,” Jarecki said. “If we just take care of us we’ll be where want to be. We graduated 18 last year, so we knew it would be a whole new ball game. We’ve just got to get healthy.”

The Barons, 4-3 on the season, play at **Spartanburg Christian Academy** on October 9 and go to **Trinity Collegiate** on October 23 before playing host to 7-0 **Northside Christian Academy** on Octo-

ber 30.
Junior **Nolan Gooch** is in his first season as the starter at quarterback. Through the first six games, he had completed 41 of 73 passes for 811 yards and eight touchdowns while rushing for 295 yards and five touchdowns on 53 carries.

“Gooch has done a nice job at quarterback,” Jarecki said.

WH has several options in running the football in its option attack. Junior **Cameron Wilsey** was the leading rushers with 356 yards and five TDs on 66 attempts. Junior **Michael Hunter** had 239 yards and two scores on 46 totes, junior **Shep Vincent** had 179 yards and one touchdown on 34 rushes, and sophomore **Jack Gratz** had 111 yards and a TD on seven carries.

Junior **Blane Batt** was the top pass catcher with 14 for 266 yards and two scores. Vincent had nine catches for 258 yards and four touchdowns, and Hunter had six receptions for 151 yards and one TD.

“**Peyton Gilley** has done a great job on defense,” Jarecki said of the senior linebacker. He led the team in tackles with 45 to go with four tackles for loss and a quarterback sack.

Senior **Reese Wilson** led in TFLs with five and sacks with two, while Wilsey had four TFLs among his 23 stops. Junior **Wilson Mims** was second in tackles with 26 while Vincent had two interceptions.

Simpson ACE
HARDWARE & SPORTS
ShopSimpsons.com

Proudly Saluting the Barons!

AssuredPartners
803-469-3030

Good luck to the Wilson Hall Barons

Highlanders girls XC team sets standard high

By WORTHY EVANS
Special to the HSSR
Columbia - The run goes on for the **Heathwood Hall** girls cross country team.

The Highlanders, who won five straight SCISA state championships, got off to a great start in trying for a sixth. The girls took first place in the season-opening **Skyhawk Invitational** Aug. 15, with a total of 67 points.

Junior **Annabel Martin** finished in sixth place with a time of 19 minutes, 14.84 seconds. Junior **Lydia Smith** took seventh place, followed by freshman **Cate Leppard** at 12th place and sophomore **Haley Hicklin** at 27th place.

“We got off to a really good start,” Heathwood Hall head coach **Willis Ware** said. “We finished first at the Skyhawk Invitational and we did really well in the Heathwood Hall Invitational (Aug. 29), where we had several girls set some PRs there and in the Mike Moore Classic (Sept. 12).”

Heathwood Hall, which was the only event this season where all seven of the team’s fastest runners competed, finished second in the Invitational it hosted Aug. 29, behind the state’s top girls cross country team, **Chapin. Dorothy Hutchins**, who did not run in the Skyhawk Invitational, came in third with a personal best, sub-18-minute finish with a time of 17:58.86. Martin bettered her time with a fifth-place finish at 18:29.70 and Smith came in 11th with a time of 18:58.01, and Leppard finished 39th at 20:04.46.

At the **Mike Moore Classic** at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, the Highlanders finished second behind Chapin again. Hutchins finished third, and Leppard improved her time to 19:45.90 and finished 11th.

“We have not had my all seven of my fastest girls run together since the Highlander invitational mainly because of alternating runners in events to give some girls a rest and letting some of the other girls run,” Ware explained. “They’re all off to a really good start and I’m really proud of the good job the girls have done with their standing not just in SCISA but also competing hard against Chapin, which is the best cross

country team in the state.”

The team, with a completely different lineup, finished fifth among the 27-team field in the **Hare & Hounds Invitational** Sept. 18-19. **Aimery Coffey** finished 11th with a time of 18:40.20, followed by Emma Nelson’s 20th-place finish at 19:22.90, **Mikayla Free-land’s** 56th place finish and **Carmella Hayes’** 73rd place finish.

Heathwood Hall ran in the **Alexander (Brian Robinson) Invitational** in Douglasville, Ga., last Saturday and will run in the **Bob Jenkins SCTCCCA Coaches Classic** in Newberry this Saturday. Ware said all of his top runners will be competing there.

After those events, the Highlanders will split their roster to run in the **Lights Out Invitational** at Blythe-wood and at the **VA XC Showcase** in Mechanicsville, Va. Both events play out Oct. 17.

Two weeks after that comes the SCISA State Cross Country Championships at Heathwood Hall Oct. 31.

Naturally, the focus will be whether the home team can walk another trophy into the school and put it in the trophy case. Ware is quick to emphasize that no state title is merely given to the team that’s expected to win it.

“Winning five is hard to do. Winning one is hard to do,” he said. “Everybody has to keep their focus. The girls are doing that, but we know nothing is a given and we have to work as hard as ever to continue the streak that we started.”

The boys team is working hard to get to the point of starting such a streak of titles that the girls set an example for.

In the latest race, the Highlanders ran in the Hare & Hounds XC Invitational, with **Jack Ford** the top Heathwood Hall finisher with a 72nd place overall finish and a time of 17 minutes, 10.60 seconds. **Everett Martin** finished 100th with a time of 17:44.50 followed by **Gus Rohde’s** 122nd finish and **Duncan Hicklin’s** 174th place finish. **Chris Pressley** rounded out the top five finishers with a 178th placing.

See Heathwood Hall, pg. 59

WILSON HALL

Brown’s Furniture & Bedding (803) 774-2100
Leo’s Chicken Wings (803) 847-6456
Sambino’s European Bistro - 803-607-9320
Ard’s Appliance Sales & Service - 773-2737

The Wilson Hall
Booster Club
Salutes the Barons!

ONE
STOP.
FIVE
STARS.

ftc-i.net | 888.218.5050

WILDER BROTHERS
WILLIAMSBURG HOUSE
EST. 1938
(843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

“The Best Furniture Prices in the State!”

HEATHWOOD HALL

HABC congratulates our
Heathwood Hall Varsity Football players
and coaches on an outstanding season.

Go Hill #55! Go Heyward #7! The Belsers
Proudly Saluting Nicholson Deese - Your Parents
Proudly Saluting Patrick Belk! Love, Mom!
Go Highlanders! From the Morris Family
Proudly Saluting Jackson Noble #4

Proudly Saluting
Chip Ravenell #0
#HHES Lifer

Congratulations Jack Willcox
and your outstanding running
accomplishments!
5-Time SCISA Individual State Champ

You win when you
choose our team

PRISMA
HEALTH

Frank K. Noojin III, MD
Official team physician



2026 Barnwell Warhorses volleyball

Barnwell volleyball touts unblemished regin record

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Barnwell—The Barnwell volleyball program is one of the most improved athletic teams at the school, so far this year, under the direction of head coach **Marlei Cooper** with a (13-2, 10-0) record as the month of October, began.

“Our key to improvement this year is that all 11 players on the team have been working hard,” said head Coach Cooper. “They are willing to learn, take risks, and they have grown so much working together as a team, on and off the court.”

A key player for the team is senior setter **Rilee Sandifer**. The other setter who plays opposite of Sandifer is freshman **Kensley Terrapin**. “These two players ground our team and have so much ability to read the court and organize plays and communicate offensively with the team on the court.”

The middle hitters are senior **Harmony Reed**, and soph **Sarah McKinney**. “They have both grown so much this year,” said Coach Cooper. “They are strong forces with attacking and blocking.”

Seniors **McKenley Chavis** and **Jessica Williamson** are versatile players who are able to adjust to where I need them to play,” said Coach Cooper. “I need to play front and back row.”

“Lastly, senior Libero **Laney Grubbs** is such a bright light on the court and off,” said Coach Cooper. “She centers our team and makes incredible reads and moves efficiently with consistent passes to our setters”

Juniors **Macie Carnahan** and **Addison Davis** also contribute to the team. Two additional seniors contributing to the team are **Marley Kren** and **Michelle Noonan**.

“I am so lucky that all of the girls have the ability to serve and that gives us an edge when we can and need to change up during a game,” said Coach Cooper. “These girls have shown so much improvement and so much heart as we moved from game to game,” said Coach Cooper. “It is incredible volleyball to watch and be a part of. I can’t wait to see how these ladies finish up region play this week and I am excited to see the advance in the playoffs. We will keep working hard and playing our best volleyball every time we have the opportunity to step on the court.”

The Lady Warhorses only have two regular season matches left before beginning the Class A play-offs on Wednesday October, 21. They host **Williston-Elko** on Oct. 6 before concluding the regular season at **Wagener-Salley** on October, 8.

Versatile senior Setter/OH **Rilee Sandifer** is the team’s best all-around player with 97 kills, 115 assists, and she maintains a 92.3 per cent serving percentage. Sophomore MH **Sarah McKinney** has 87 kills, 8 blocks and a serving percentage of 88.7. Junior OH, DS **Macie Carnahan** has been a key player also with 32 kills, 14 kills and a serving

Camden football continuing to have great success

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Camden – And the beat goes on – for the Camden High School football team under head coach **Brian Rimpf**.

Rimpf is in his 10th season in charge of the Bulldogs, and all they’ve done during that time is win – a lot.

CHS went 3-8 in his first year in 2017. Since then, Camden has won at least eight games each season, reaching at least nine wins in the last seven years. It has played for the AAA state title three times.

The Bulldogs appear to be positioning themselves to add to the achievement list this season. They are 5-2 and 2-0 in Region 4-AAA after a 48-33 victory at **Gilbert** on October 2. Camden is ranked eighth in the latest *High School Sports Report* AAA poll.

“The expectations for our team are always so high that

percentage of 87.1.

Two multi-sport athletes at Barnwell have carried their skills from the softball field onto the volleyball court this Fall. They are senior Libero **Laney Grubbs** and she has played well with 116 assists, 39 digs and a serving percentage of 92.9. Freshman softball prospect **Kensley Terrapin** is the team’s S, OPP and she currently led the team in assists with 116, along with 39 kills and 19 digs.

Senior OH **McKenley Chavis** has contributed 33 kills and senior MH **Harmony Reed** has produced 30 kills and 8 blocks.

Other hard-working members of the team include junior DS/OH **Addison Chavis**, senior DS/OPP **Marley Kern**, senior DS/OPP **Michelle Noonan** along with senior OH/DS/S **Jessica Williamson**.

Coach Cooper is assisted by **Mindy Sandifer**. **Barnwell Football Team Rebuilding This Season**
This has been a rebuilding season for **Barnwell** (2-4) head football coach **Brian Smith** as the Warhorses had a bye week last week, and the team is now preparing to play at highly regarded **Wagener-Salley** on October 9 this week.

Coming into the bye week quarterback **Josiah Thompson** had completed 32-of-65 passes for 314 yards and three TD’s. The topo Warhorse rushers are **Torye Pickens** with 604 yards on 114 carries and five TD’s. **Gibson** is next with 190 yards on 43 carries and two TD’s.

The top wide receivers include **Jayden Patterson** with 9 catches for 152 yards and two TD’s along with **Jax Mead** who has 13 catches for 96 yards and one TD. **Caiden Roland** is third on the receivers list with three catches for 20 yards.

On defense, five players have 30 or more tackles on defense coming into the **Wagener Salley** game this week. They include senior MLB **Torye Pickens** with 65, senior DB **Zavien Snelling** has 41, while soph FS **Jaiden Patterson** and soph MLB **John Huggins** have contributed 36 and 32 tackles, respectively. Soph **Cameron Rivers** rounds out the top five tacklers with 32.

Senior DE **Carl Hines** leads the defense in TFL with four, including three forced fumbles. Junior **Case Davis**, a solid baseball prospect, has two TFL, one forced fumble and he has recovered a fumble with 27 tackles.

After the team’s 33-8 loss at **Silver Bluff** on September 25, Coach Smith commented, “It was a tough night for the Warhorses,” he said. “We were disappointed in losing to an improving Silver Bluff ball club. “I really felt like we were in the ball game the whole night, but we just kept making mistakes that hurt us from time to time.

“It’s hard for us to have success when we are behind the chains offensively,” said Coach Smith. “And then defensively, when we get them behind the chain, we made a couple mistakes to give up first downs that allowed them to keep drives alive.

it’s hard to meet them,” said Rimpf, whose team is back in AAA this year following reclassification after playing AAAA the two previous seasons. “We had the goal of being undefeated through these first seven games. That hasn’t happened, but those losses came to AAAA playoff teams (archival Lugoff-Elgin and Hilton Head Island) will provide valuable experience for us in the postseason.

“We like where we sit going into our bye week, being in first place in the region.”

CHS is rolling on offense, averaging 41.8 points a contest. They were averaging over 400 yards of total offense through the first six games, 243.8 passing yards and 184.7 rushing yards.

“We have explosive offensive players, a good offensive line and a 3-year starter at quarterback,” Rimpf said. “Add all of those together and it equals a high-performing unit.”

See Camden, pg. 61

BARNWELL

*R.I.P Tim Moore, You Are Missed
The Will Davis family salutes Barnwell!*

	P.O. Box 8 Ehrhardt, SC 29081 803.267.3191	<i>"Saluting All Area Schools!"</i>	
	<i>"We want you to be part of our family."</i>		

	WADE'S REPAIR SERVICE 13534 Highway 64 Barnwell, SC 29812	

	Tri-County Pallet Co., Inc. <i>Handwood Pallets, Skids & Crates</i>
	Office: (803) 259-7616 Cell: (803) 300-3046 tcpallet@mindspring.com

	Specialist in Solid Waste Disposal
	<i>Go Warhorses!</i>
	Pender Disposal Service 803-259-5636

William Keel - State Farm 505 Reynolds Rd Barnwell, SC 29612 (803) 259-3595	Go Warhorses!
---	--------------------------

	AGENT BLAKE AUSTIN 1855 Jackson St., Barnwell, SC 29812 Ph: (803) 259-5008 Good Luck All Area Schools!

“We are really good in working hard in practices,” said Coach Smith. “I am proud of the way the kids come out daily and work hard to improve. The only way for us to improve is to continue improving daily at practice.

“We are heading into the open week this week (October 2) and we will be working hard to get ready to play at **Wagener-Salley**,” said Coach Smith. “We’ve got to continue to strive for consistency offensively, because we are not getting that right now. Penalties and lost yardage plays have hurt us the past few games.

CAMDEN

	The Chuck Nash Family Salutes the Bulldogs! (803) 432-9001

	Camden Bulldog Club <i>Wishes All Student Athletes Good Luck This Season!</i>

	One Team, One Town, One Goal Proudly Saluting the Bulldogs Baseball & Track Teams

Rimpf has had that 3-year starter at QB for a while, not on the team, but in his house. It’s his son, senior **Greyson Rimpf**. He has completed 63 of 115 passes for 1,352 yards and 15 touchdowns.

The leading receiver is senior **Isaiah Smith** with 20 receptions for 542 yards and seven TDs. Junior **Bernard Green** had 19 catches for 431 yards and three scores.

Bamberg County Feature Page



2026 Bamberg-Ehrhardt Red Raiders volleyball

Red Raiders getting ready to make playoff run

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Bamberg – The Bamberg-Ehrhardt volleyball team got off to a slow start to the season as the dropped their first three matches of season but since that time they have won 10 of 13 matches and are currently sitting in second at 3-2 in region 6A.

The Red Raiders have five contest remaining including a big match against **Bethune-Bowman** which will determine second in regions 6A with winner getting a home playoff match in the first round.

“Coming into the season, our expectations were high. We knew we had a talented group, but we also knew we were a relatively young team in some key positions and would need time to develop chemistry and consistency. Our goal was to compete for the region, continue improving throughout the season and put us in a position to make a strong playoff run,” said head coach **Faron Mixon**. “More than anything, we wanted to build a team that played together, trusted one another, and competed hard every time we stepped on the court.”

As for the slow start coach said, “I think the biggest difference has been our confidence and our ability to play together. Early in the season, we were still learning each other and trying to figure out our identity as a team. Our communication has improved tremendously, our defense has become more consistent, and we’re doing a better job of responding when things don’t go our way.”

The Red Raiders are led by two seniors **Raelynn Jarrett** and **Peyton Kittrell**. Jarrett has been a leader

both on and off the court for the Red Raiders. She plays setter and outside hitter and leads the team in assists with 124 and has also contributed with kills, digs, aces, and blocks. She is also the team captain.

Joining Jarrett in the starting lineup are all underclassmen in juniors outside hitter **Ashlyn Hightower** and right side hitter **Maia Mintz**, freshmen middle hitter **Loyalty McMillian** and setter **Joslyn Bishop** and eighth graders libero **Zahriah Pinckney** and right side hitter **Kaizley Smith**.

Hightower leads the team in kills with 70 and aces 42 while McMillian leads the team in blocks with 33 and she has 61 kills. Pickney tops the team in digs with 115 and Bishop is second in assists with 122.

Rounding out the roster are junior middle hitter **Jazmyn Millhouse** and sophomores middle hitter **Ella Baker** and right side hitter **Yazeliah James**. These young ladies have provided valuable minutes off the bench for the Red Raiders.

“When we play our style of volleyball and stay aggressive, we’re a very good team. The challenge is doing that point after point, especially when we’re under pressure,” said coach. “I am extremely proud of this team. They are a fun group, they care about one another, and they have continued to grow throughout the season. We have had some adversity, but I think those experiences have made us stronger.

NEELEY APPLIANCE COMPANY 4787 Carolina Hwy. - Denmark, SC 29042 803-793-3367 - 803-793-1628 (fax) Website: www.NeeleyApplianceCompany.com

Denmark-Olar opens region play with victory

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Denmark – The Denmark-Olar Viking football team headed into their region opener off 44-24 win over Eau Claire and they continued their winning ways as they beat **Bethine Bowman** 46-0 to improve to 4-2 overall and more importantly they won their region opener.

Head coach **William Raysor**’s Vikings have found a power running game that is averaging 226 yards a game and scoring 32 points per game while the defense has pitched two shut outs and held another opponent to six points. They are allowing 18 points per game but in their four wins they are giving up only 7.5 points per game.

Juniors **Dilan Hammonds** and **Nyheem Brimfield** have been a terror along the defensive front. Brimfield leads the team in tackles with 51 and tackles for loss with 26. He also has six sacks. Against **Bethune Bowman** he had 9 tackles and six tackles for loss.

He also the Vikings leading rusher with 543 yards

and is averaging 9.9 yards a carry. He has also scored a team 9 touchdowns. He has rushed for over 100 yards in a game three times and had 63 yards Friday night and scored once.

Hammonds leads the team in sacks with 9 to go with 16 tackles for loss. Friday night he had four tackles for loss and four sacks.

Junior linebacker **Markell Rivera** and sophomore linebacker **Nykeem McClain** have shown a nose for the football. Rivera has 32 tackles and he two picks this last Friday night. McClain has 34 on the year.

Offensively, joining Brimfield in the backfield are freshman **Jamari McMillian** and junior **Travine Felder**. McMillian has rushed for 390 yards and six touchdowns while Felder has rushed for 263 yards and five touchdowns. Against **Bethune- Bowman** led the team in rushing with 77 yards and two scores.

All those rushing yards are courtesy of the offensive line who are led by senior **Mari Moody** at right tackle. Also, juniors left guard **Cornelius Hammond**, right guard **Blake Brown** and center **Materius**

BAMBERG-EHRHARDT

	P.O. Box 8 Ehrhardt, SC 29081 803.267.3191	<i>"Saluting All Area Schools!"</i>	
	<i>"We want you to be part of our family."</i>		

Water • Wastewater • Electric • Natural Gas BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS 2340 Main Highway 803.245.7397

	BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE <i>All Hands Supporting Education</i>
	3830 Faust St., Bamberg, SC (803) 245-3053 Dottie Brown, Superintendent Go Red Raiders!

	PALMETTO CARE CONNECTIONS™ technology. broadband. telehealth.
	Improving access to health care in rural/underserved communities in SC www.palmettocareconnections.org

	The Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Athletic Booster Club Salutes All Red Raiders Athletes! Courtesy: BEHS Athletic Booster Club

DENMARK-OLAR

	BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE <i>All Hands Supporting Education</i>
	3830 Faust St., Bamberg, SC (803) 245-3053 Dottie Brown, Superintendent Good Luck Vikings!

	Proudly Saluting All Area Schools! 803-793-3558 138 City Hall St. Denmark, SC 29042 www.lowerstategas.com

	Marie Lyn's Greenleaf Design, LLC (803) 664-6520 www.coolerappraisals.com Land, Residential & Commercial	(803) 245-4326 Florist Flowers for all of your needs!
	101 Calhoun St Bamberg, SC 29003	

Rumph. Kenneth Shuler is a sophomore left tackle.

Coach Raysor, “We are young all over the field but despite our youth we have some talented and they have really stepped up for us. They continue to improve and are maturing on the field.”

The Vikings head to Scott’s Branch (4-2/1-0) Friday night in a key region game. Scott’s Branch is coming off a 18-13 win over Branchville. The winner will remain tied atop the region standings with defending state champions Bamberg Ehrhardt (5-1/1-0).

If the Vikings manage to win their next three games they will set up a show down with county rival Bamberg Ehrhardt for the region championship.



2026 Manning Monarchs volleyball

Manning volleyball showing vast improvement

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Manning—It was just seven years ago that **Manning High** restored the volleyball program to their athletic program and head coach **Sonia Daniels** started out the first season as a junior varsity program.

“We obviously had some growing pains getting the volleyball program started again and I can really see our improvement with this year’s team,” said Daniels. “We have won five matches this season and our girls are more fundamentally sound. It has been a growing process from year-to-year.”

The teams starting six consists of senior setter **Briana Gamble** who has 18 aces and five digs on the season. Junior **Makayla Fordham** is an OH/MB, and she has 13 kills and 15 aces to date. Sophomore DS/OH **Jayanna Henry** is described by the coach as the team’s best jumper.

Senior **Danielle Palmer** starts at OH/DS. Sophomore OH/MB is **Ameerah Conyers** and she has 22 kills and six blocks so far. The team “big girl” on the front row is 6-2 senior **Kelis Pressley** who has seven kills and two blocks to date.

“My goal for the team is to have them always do their very best and keep improving,” said Coach Daniels. “This year’s volleyball play at Manning

high has been the most over-all improvement we’ve had since we started the program back seven years ago. I see a lot of improvement in the players, and I am very proud of them for that.

“This game tonight against East Clarendon was one of our better over-all games of this season even though we didn’t win we battled and remained competitive in all three sets,” said Coach Daniels.

The team has 18 players on their roster. Junior OH/DS **Shayden Epps** and junior S/OH **Aaliyah McFadden** each lead the team with an 87.5 serving percentage, respectively. Junior DS **Amani Gibbs** has 13 aces and two assists on the season.

Other members on the team include senior MB/OH **Asheigh Smith**, senior OH/MB **Der'eona Lang**, senior DS **Madiyn Martin**, junior DS/OH **Teona Lang**, senior OH/DS **Jada Lee**, junior DS **Layla Porter**, senior DS **Kaniya Burgess**, senior OH/DS **Ashlyn Glover**, and senior DS **Ariel Holt-smith**.

Coach Daniels is assisted by **Meighan Hilton**, **Verner Hilton**, and **Mary Watson**.

The Lady Monarchs will conclude the 2026 regular season with four straight matches against **Lake City** (Oct. 6), **Dillon** (Oct. 8) **Waccamaw** (Oct. 13) and **Marlboro County** (Oct. 15).

Monarchs football rallies to beat East Clarendon

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Manning – Manning High School came out of the locker room for the second half of its home football game with **Clarendon County School District** rival **East Clarendon** on October 2 at **Ramsey Stadium** in a difficult position. EC dominated the first half and held a 16-0 halftime advantage.

Any momentum or mojo EC had or enjoyed was gone in about six seconds. That’s how long it took MHS kickoff return specialist **CJ Robinson** to get his hands on the kickoff and take it 80 yards for a touchdown. Manning tacked on the 2-point conversion to make it 16-8, and suddenly it was the Monarchs riding the momentum wave, and they never really let it get away.

MHS tied the game at 30-30 with just over six minutes left in the contest, forced a turnover and then won it on a 6-yard jet sweep pass from quarterback **Lovell Stevenson** to Robinson with just over a

minute to go for a final score of 36-30.

Robinson’s TD kickoff return was his fifth of the season even though teams normally choose not to kick to him. The Monarchs had moved Robinson up on the kickoff return team in hopes he could get the ball as East Clarendon was kicking short.

However, Kennedy chose to put him deep to start the second half and the Wolverines did not notice. They kicked it to Robinson and he worked his magic. Running back **Destin Thames** ran for the 2-point conversion and just like that the Wolverines’ lead was cut in half at 16-8.

“That gave us a boost of energy,” Robinson said. “Our energy had been down. We went to the locker room and I said, ‘Hey, I got you boys. If they kick it to me opening kickoff, I’m gone.’ “

MHS head coach **Reggie Kennedy** couldn’t deny the timeliness of Robinson’s return.

“Out of six ball games, he’s returned it for a touchdown five times,” Kennedy said. “We needed it



Dwight Stewart & Associates

26 E. Boyce Street
Manning, SC 29102

(803) 435-2301
Go Monarchs!

Anderson Pharmacy

419 S. Mill St., Manning SC 29102
803-433-2212



Clarendon School District II

Joins The Manning High Athletic Department

In Saluting All Our Hard Working

Student Athletes & Coaches

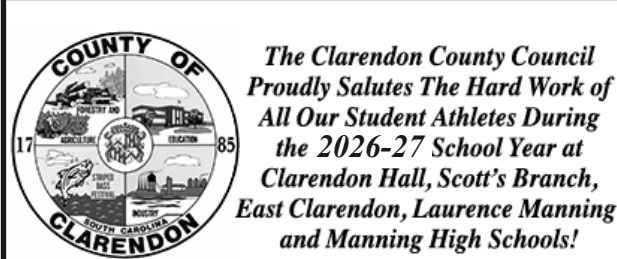
In All Of Their Pursuits Towards

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



Auto - Home - Farm - Business - Life



The Clarendon County Council
Proudly Salutes The Hard Work of
All Our Student Athletes During
the 2026-27 School Year at
Clarendon Hall, Scott's Branch,
East Clarendon, Laurence Manning
and Manning High Schools!



John E. Johnson, III
CHAIRMAN

Billy G. Richardson
District 1

Delaney Kay Frierson
District 2



Kurtis W. Rodine
District 2

John P. Coker
VICE-CHAIRMAN - District 3

Lynden Anthony
County Administrator

at that time though. He gave us a little spark to start the second half, and it helped us to turn things around in the second half.”

It was the Region 6-AA opener for both teams.

See Manning, pg. 29



2026 Carolina Academy Bobcats volleyball

Carolina Academy volleyball, tennis thriving in '26

David Shelton

Senior Writer

Lake City – Fall sports are traditionally strong at **Carolina Academy** and 2026 is no exception. As the regular season winds down, and with state play-offs looming, both the volleyball and girls tennis team are having solid campaigns.

Entering the final few regular season matches, the volleyball team, coached by Trey Parker, was 15-8 overall and 4-4in region play as of Oct. 5. The Bobcats are right in the thick of the region race and working to finish strong to secure a spot in the play-offs.

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

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

Ham has posted 107 kills, 56 blocks and 57 service aces while Braveboy has 103 kills, 46 aces, 50

blocks and 70 digs.

Eighth-grader **Carter Blue Altman** is the Libero and has recorded 150 digs and 29 aces. Junior outside hitter **Emma Amos** has 31 aces and 26 kills while sophomore **Paisley McCutcheon** has 34 service aces.

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

The girls tennis team is the two-time defending state champion and has a great shot to win a third straight title in the next week. The Bobcats have been strong throughout the season with big wins, including two over Laurence Manning.

Singles performers include sophomores **Kiki Hanna**, **Madelyn Matthews**, and **Scarlett Evans**. Eighth-graders **Ava Johnson** and **Anna Scott Johnson** also have seen singles action, along with freshman **Macey Gamble** and **Hanna Matthews**.

Sophomores **Kaylie Lyerly** and **Mary Kearsten Hanna**, along with freshman **Harper Drew Richardson** also see action in singles and doubles.

Lake City hopes young Panthers mature quickly

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Lake City – The **Lake City High School** football team opened its season with a pair of victories, beating **Hannah-Pamplico** 20-7 and **Timberland** 18-6.

The Panthers have since lost four straight, two of them close games and two of them blowouts. LCHS dropped a 36-28 decision to **Latta** and fell to **Kingstree** 16-8. The lopsided scores were 49-0 to defending Class A state runner-up **Lamar** and 40-0 to perennial power **Dillon** in the Region 6-AA opener for both teams.

Lake City head coach **Jamison Estep** is taking things in stride with his inexperienced team.

“It’s really been up and down for us,” Estep said. “We’re a relatively young team with a lot of sophomores and freshmen who start. Hopefully we can get them to mature a little bit faster than they are.

“The first two wins were big. They got us some momentum. We’ve got to learn how to handle success. I didn’t think we put our best foot forward against a good Latta team (in the third game).”

The Panthers are having their struggles on the offensive side of the football. They are averaging 93.0 passing yards a contest and 84.2 rushing yards.

“Offensively we’re still very young and trying to find our groove,” Estep said.

Sophomore **Jayce Edwards** is in his first season starting at quarterback. Edwards has completed 36 of 85 passes for 533 yards and six touchdowns while rushing for a team high 142 yards and two scores on 24 carries.

Sophomore **Xykenan Hickson** is easily Edwards go-to receiver. Hickson has 17 catches for 316 yards and two TDs. Sophomore **Terrance Williams** has four catches for 93 yards and a touchdown.

Senior **David Singletary**, junior **Evan McClam** and sophomore **Xzavion Carson** have the other touchdown receptions.

McClam is an edge rusher on defense and is having a strong season. He has 30 tackles, eight tackles for a loss, one quarterback sack and one forced fumble.

Sophomore middle linebacker **Damion McFadden** has 29 stops, junior safety **Cayden Anderson** has 20 tackles, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovers, and junior defensive lineman **Jaylen Brown** has five TFLs.

Along with Dillon, which is ranked fourth in the **High School Sports Report** AA poll, the rest of Region 6 includes third-ranked and undefeated **Marlboro County**, **Waccamaw**, **Manning** and **East Clarendon**.

“We’re just going to take it one day, one practice, at a time,” Estep said. “We try to focus on us, where

CAROLINA ACADEMY

Senator **Ronnie A. Sabb** Salutes the Bobcats!
Sheriff **TJ Joye** Salutes the Bobcats!

The Carolina Academy
Athletic Booster Club
Salutes Our Bobcats!



Florence: 843-665-1660 Turberville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119



www.tcbcs.bank

Sparrow & Kennedy
Tractor Company, Inc.
2712 N. Hwy 52 - Scranton, SC - 843-389-2727



The TCA School Board
Salutes Bobcats
Academics & Athletics!



SPARROW ACCOUNTING SERVICES

843-374-8417

Salutes The Bobcats!



Proud Supporter of Bobcat Athletics!

Eddie's Pecans

843-373-8179

The Best Around! Shelling Services Available!

LAKE CITY

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turberville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119



www.tcbcs.bank

Alexis D. Smith, Agent
136 S. Church St. #B Lake City, SC 29560
(843) 374-2165
www.alexissmith.net

Saluting All Area Schools!

State Farm



Ronnie A. Sabb

SC State Senator

Proud to be Representing District 32!

RonnieSabb@schouse.gov (803) 212-6926



we need to be.

“We’re going to compete the best we can with what we have. That’s why you play the game. It’s not played on paper.”

Williamsburg Academy STALLIONS

Williamsburg hopes passing game is developing

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Kingstree – The Williamsburg Academy football team improved to 4-1 on the season and 2-0 in SCISA Region 2-AA with a 42-8 road victory over Orangeburg Prep on October 2. However, a curveball that the Indians threw WA's way may prove to be just as valuable in shaping its season.

"Orangeburg Prep surprised us when they really focused on stopping the run," said Stallions head coach **Will Furse**. "They forced us to throw the football. We won a game where we threw for more yards than we ran for. That's not a common thing for us."

Sophomore quarterback **Caden Morris** completed 9 of 14 passes for 245 yards (compared to 156 rushing yards) and two touchdowns. Morris entered the game having thrown the football only 35 times, completing 22 of them for seven touchdowns and 407 yards.

Furse is pleased with the progress of Morris, who started at wide receiver on last season's Class A state championship team.

"He gets better every day," Furse said. "What I tell him is, 'As long as we're better tomorrow than we were today, we'll be fine.' There are still things to work on, but he's really performed well. I look forward to watching him improve."

Furse is hoping this game will provide an added dimension to what Williamsburg does offensively and how the opposition has to approach defending it.

"I think it makes us very difficult to defend," Furse said of the Stallions, who are ranked fifth in the most recent *High School Sports Report* AA poll. "If we can do that, then there's no down where you'll know it's going to be 100 percent run, and there's no down where you know it's going to be 100 percent pass. It will allow us to find more balance."

Entering the Orangeburg Prep game, senior tight end **Charlie Caulder** was far and away Morris' top target – and a big play target at that. Caulder had a 26.7 yards-per-catch average with 11 receptions for 294 yards and four touchdowns.

Junior **Jordan Green** was the only other player with more than two catches with four for 41 yards. Junior **Ethan Morris**, senior **Al Casselman** and senior **Michael Ard** accounted for Morris' other three touchdown tosses.

Senior running back **Grant Small**, who rushed for over 2,000 yards last season, has been hampered by an injury that caused him to miss one game. However, in the four that he played, Small was averaging 120 a contest with 480 yards and six scores on 59 carries.

Senior **Eli Brown** had 238 yards and four touchdowns on 34 carries.

The Stallions' defense has allowed just 62 points thus far with 26 of those coming in a 4-point loss to defending AAA state runner-up **Wilson Hall**. Furse has no issues with Williamsburg's defensive perform-



2026 Williamsburg Academy Volleyball

"Our defense is playing fantastic," Furse said. "It has allowed zero touchdowns the last two weeks (shutting out **Lee Academy** 38-0 and giving up a kickoff return for a touchdown against Orangeburg Prep). That's eight quarters in a row without anyone getting in the end zone. It's hard to lose if you don't allow the other team to score."

"They've done a really good job all season. They're playing better each week. They're fast and physical. They're a hungry defense and hopefully they'll stay that way."

Tackles are spread out across the roster with Ard leading the way through four games with 3- from his middle linebacker slot. Junior **Wyatt Williams** had 23 stops followed by junior free safety **Lane Patrick** with 16.

The Stallions had 22 tackles for a loss. Junior cornerback **Gamble Wilson** led in this category with four. Ard followed with 3 ½ TFLs, and senior defensive end **Marlin Morris** had 2 ½.

Williamsburg had only one quarterback sack as a team, that being shared by Ard and Marlin Morris. However, it did have 19 quarterback hurries, five of them coming from Marlin Morris. Sophomore defensive end **Gavin Matthews**, defensive lineman **Christopher Cherinko**, sophomore defensive end **Jack McGill**, senior defensive end **Sammy Tomlinson**, Williams and junior outside linebacker **Brycen Wheeler** had two apiece.

The Stallions had seven interceptions with Patrick and senior cornerback **Hall Dukes** having two apiece. Caulder, junior safety **Weston McKenzie** and Wheeler had the other ones.

Furse credited defensive coordinator **Chris Rowland** along with assistants **John Floyd**, **Britton Morris** and **Sam Plowden** for the unit's performance.

Caulder and Green are having big seasons on the return teams. Caulder is averaging 29.2 yards per return on six kickoff returns while Green had four punt returns for an even 100 yards.

Greeleyville Pharmacy - (843) 426-2170
Feagin Photography Salutes the Stallions!

THE AREA'S BEST AND ONLY
FULL-SERVICE PROVIDER

Find us on Facebook | ftc-i.net | 888-218-5050

Williamsburg Chiropractic and Wellness Center
DR. KEVIN A. MORRIS
Phone: 843-355-5131 303 East Main St.
Fax: 843-355-5137 Kingstree, S.C. 29556

Ronnie A. Sabb
SC State Senator
Proud to be Representing District 32!
RonnieSabb@schouse.gov (803) 212-6926

209 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, Kingstree, SC 29556
Bank of Greeleyville
Saluting the Stallions! Member FDIC

MORRIS INSURANCE LLC
LEE MORRIS
MPCI & P&C
431 Country Club Road
Andrews, SC 29510
lee.morris53@yahoo.com
Cell: 843.325.4700
Office: 843.389.2459
Fax: 843.221.4588

Go Stallions!
Palmetto Pump Systems, LLC
Myron Kellahan
Managing Principal
5711 Thurgood Marshall Hwy
Kingstree, SC 29556
Office: 843-382-9896
Cell: 843-372-2884
Fax: 843-355-5209
mkellahan@palmettopumps.com

Law Offices of Ronnie A. Sabb
Ronnie A. Sabb
215 West Thomas St. - Lake City
(843) 374-1628

WILDER BROTHERS WILLIAMSBURG HOUSE
EST. 1938
"The Best Furniture Prices in the State!"
(843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK
500 E. Main St. Kingstree, SC - (843) 354-2250
Saluting All Area Schools!

BROWN'S BBQ
Hwy. 52 N
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 382-2753
We Cater BBQ and Other Meals Anywhere in the Southeast
Winners of the Southeast U.S. BBQ Championship 1988 & 1990
Saluting All Area Schools!

SEC Santee Electric Cooperative Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
424 Sumter Hwy, Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 355-6187 Go Stallions!

125 South Academy Street
Kingstree, SC
(843) 354-2372
Edward Jones
Go Stallions! INVESTMENTS

CAROLINA TIRE
843-374-2880
324 W. Main St - Lake City, SC
Proudly Saluting the Stallions!

Santee Grocery
21 Mackey Road Salters, SC 29590
(843) 426-2478 "Best Hot Dogs in SC!"
Saluting All Area Schools

The Byrd's Nest Children's Boutique
110 N. Academy Street
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 355-2236 www.thebyrdsnestchild.com
Proudly Saluting the Stallions!



East Clarendon's Senior Volleyball players

Six volleyball seniors honored on Senior Night

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Turbeville—Senior night for the East Clarendon volleyball team on October 1 brought special recognition to six players who have pretty much formed a sisterhood with their camaraderie developed in competition since most of them joined the program as freshmen.

The HSSR interviewed five of the six seniors after the team's 3-0 win over county rival **Manning**, and this contingent has played together for 18 years. No doubt, many of these players will one day serve as bride maids in their teammate's weddings. Future class reunions will also stir memories of all the time they have spent on the volleyball court together.

Sophie Brown is a senior setter who went into the Manning matches with a team leading 154 assists, including 34 Kills, 28 aces, and four blocked shots. "I not only enjoy practicing and playing with my teammates, but we do a lot of other activities together outside of volleyball like going to eat, or going to football games as a group," said Brown.

Brown had at least five soft kills in the three sets with Manning. "I can see the court on the other side, and when there is no one in a certain spot across the net from me that is when I like to return a soft shot,"

East Clarendon lets one get away against Manning

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Turbeville – East Clarendon High School dominated the first half of its football game with **Clarendon County School District** rival **Manning** on October 2 at **Ramsey Stadium** in Manning. The Wolverines came out of the locker room for the second half with a 16-0 lead and kicking off to the Monarchs.

And that's pretty much where the good times came to an end for EC. The Monarchs returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown and that propelled a rally that ended up in a 36-30 Manning victory.

East Clarendon head coach **Larry Cornelius** admits he was disappointed with his team.

"Our defense is better than that," said Cornelius, whose team dropped its Region 6-AA opener to fall to 3-3 on the season. "We showed it the first half. What's the difference? Some of that is mentality,

Scott's Branch opens region play with victory

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Summerton – The **Scott's Branch High School** football team opened its season with a couple of close losses. It has since reeled off four straight victories, the final one being an 18-13 triumph over **Branchville** on October 2 in the Region 6-Class A opener for both schools.

With most of their games having been high-scoring affairs or blowouts, Eagles head coach **Patrick Fleming** was happy to see his team engaged in a low-scoring affair – assuming it won, of course.

"It was good to be in a game like that where every play was critical," Fleming said. "That was a

said Brown. "I really enjoy making assists to my teammates and that is my role as the setter. I have to know when my hitters are hitting good and I have to stay constantly focused on where to place the ball."

Brown said her fondest memory on being on the EC volleyball team was helping the Wolverines win a region title her freshman year. "I was the Libero my freshman year and I enjoyed playing that position also," said Brown.

Aubree Fyre is the senior Libero of the team. She entered the Manning game with a team leading 97 digs, 15 assists, 21 kills, and 16 aces. "I was really proud also of helping the team win region against Johnsonville in three sets my freshman year, and last year we had a lot of wins, and I was very proud of being a part of that success also," said Frye. "I thought we played very well last year also."

Tori Robinson is senior middle hitter. She has 8 kills and five blocked shots to date. "I just enjoy working to improve and helping the team achieve, and play better," said Robinson. "I also enjoy the friendships that I have made on the team and we are always doing things together."

Layke Jeffords is a senior OPP who entered the contest with Manning tied for the most blocks with 9,

See EC Volleyball, pg. 61

and as I said, we've got to do a better job of playing under pressure. Hats off to Manning, but we lost that game. We had the ability to win it, we should have won it, but they took it from us.

"If I felt like we're not that good, I wouldn't be upset right now. Six games now we've underplayed. We started this game off better than the previous five. I thought we finally got it. It's region play,

See EC Football, pg. 39

Country Green TURF FARMS
PO Box 309 New Zion, SC
(843) 687-3018
Saluting the East Clarendon Wolverines!

battle. They did a good job with a lot of misdirection, web blocking. Those kind of games make us focus a little bit more and cut down on mental mistakes."

Scott's Branch is ranked fourth in the *High School Sports Report* Class A Division II poll. The Eagles have three straight region home games before closing out the regular season on the road.

Scott's Branch has a balanced offensive attack, rushing for 189.8 yards per game through the first five contests while passing for 178.6 a game.

Senior **Quintin Jackson** is having a big in all facets of offense. His main job is running the foot-

See Scott's Branch, pg. 38

EAST CLARENDON

Mishoe Oil Company - Go Wolverines!

Eddie's Pecans
843-373-8179

The Best Around! Shelling Services Available!

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119

THE CITIZENS BANK
Solid Traditions. Smart Solutions.
www.tcbank.bank Member FDIC

Nutrien Ag Solutions™

Jamie F. Brown
Facility Manager
Agronomic Products / Services
PO Box 554 t 843-382-3661
1861 Eastland Ave. f 843-382-3662
Kingstree, SC 29556 c 843-687-2498
jamie.brown@nutrien.com
nutrienagsolutions.com

BROWN'S BBQ
Hwy. 52 N
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 382-2753
We Cater BBQ and Other Meals Anywhere in the Southeast
Winners of the Southeast U.S. BBQ Championship 1988 & 1990
Saluting All Area Schools!

Charles Dorn Smith, III MD
Salutes East Clarendon High School

SCOTT'S BRANCH

The Clarendon County School District is Proud to Sponsor Year-Round Coverage to All Our Hard Working Student Athletes at Manning High, Scott's Branch High and East Clarendon High. Good Luck During the 2026-27 School Year.



Courtesy Superintendent
Shawn Johnson and Clarendon County School District Athletic Director Reggie Kennedy

Gaffney out to 5-1 start, but not satisfied

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Gaffney – At a tradition-rich football program like **Gaffney High**, winning games is important. But the ultimate goal is not only wining, but winning championships.

Gaffney’s historic program has won 18 state championships, most in the history of South Carolina high school football. The 2026 team is aiming for title No.19 and is off to a 5-1 start this season. Second-year head coach **Jarvis Littlejohn**, himself a former player at Gaffney, likes the direction of his team as of Oct. 5.

“I feel really good about where we are at 5–1. We intentionally challenged ourselves with tough scrim-mages and a demanding non-region schedule to pre-pare us for the challenges ahead,” the coach reports. “Our only loss came against a very good Dorman team, and I think our players have learned from that experience.

“We’re 4–1 in non-region play and 1–0 in the re-gion, so we’re in a good position. We’re proud of where we are, but we also know there’s still a lot of football ahead and plenty of room to improve.”

The Indians have early wins over Spartanburg, J.L. Mann, Byrnes, Lancaster and Wade Hampton. Gaffney is getting great production from the running game. **Amire White** has 451 yards and averages 6.3 yards per carry. **Kendaris Bailey** averages 7.0 yards per carry and has 314 yards, while **Kareem Shaw** has 234 yards and averages 6.9 yards per carry.

“Early on, we felt like the strength of our offense would be our offensive line and tailback room, and I think that has proven to be true. We have a stable of tailbacks who could be featured backs at a lot of schools in our area,” Littlejohn says. “We’ve also had to be patient with the development of a sopho-more quarterback and some young receivers. Lately, we’re starting to become more physical up front and run the football, which has allowed us to dictate the pace of games. I think we’re beginning to find our identity and figure out who needs to have the ball in their hands for us to be successful.”

Showing improvement at quarterback is sopho-more **Corey Taylor**, who has thrown for 652 yards and four scores. **Dylan McKey** leads the team with 16 receptions, with **Hank Davidson**, **Marquis Young** and **Trason Smith** also contributing.

Leading the way up front are **CJ Brooks** and **Deuce Littlejohn**. Davidson at tight end and Smith at H-back also block well. Joining the wall are **Tre Dawkins**, **RJ Fitzpatrick** and **Landyn Bailey**.

White Knoll volleyball hopes to close out ‘26 strong

By WORTHY EVANS
Special to the HSSR
Lexington - Region 3-A AAAA play has thus far been a challenge for the **White Knoll** volleyball team.

The Timberwolves (12-6) got off to an 8-0 start before stumbling against region foe **River Bluff** Sept. 15, and later dropped a tournament game and two region games to **Lexington**, and another game against **Chapin**.

“We’re playing decent as a whole group, but we’re just making simple mistakes that need to be fixed in practice,” head coach **Amber Derrick** said after her team’s third loss to the Wildcats Oct. 1. “I feel like they can beat any team in our region but it’s just the mental space that we have to be in to be able to do that.”

Derrick is not leaning on coach talk. The Tim-berwolves have already improved over last year’s 8-19-2 mark, which was itself an improvement on the team’s 4-15 record in 2024. She attributes the team’s growth into this year to the Timberwolves’ seven seniors, libero and outside hitter **Addisyn Fernandez**, libero and defensive specialist **Taylor Clariday**, defensive specialist and setter **Madison**

“I’ve been pleased with the group overall,” Lit-tlejohn said. “We’re continuing to develop that group as a unit.”

Defensively the Indians have good experience, particularly in the secondary. Bailey is a leader at linebacker/defensive end. **Kiante Morgan**, **Mar-quel Smalls** and **Sidney Lattimore** have also had some really good games. **Kamari Briggs** and **Ja’ronte Kimbrough** have played well at times this season, too.

“Overall, I’m pleased with the physicality and ef-fort of the group. Our players worked extremely hard after losing to Northwestern in the third round of the playoffs last year, and I think that work has translated into a defense that plays fast, physical and with confidence.”

Brooks and Bailey were recently selected to play for team South Carolina in the annual Shrine Bowl game on Dec. 19. Littlejohn says both players are more than deserving of the honor.

“Both Kendaris and CJ have been contributing members of this football team for four years, and both have been four-year starters. Watching them de-velop and grow has been amazing, first as a coordi-nator and now from the head coach’s chair. Their commitment is a big reason they are where they are today. CJ had perfect attendance this summer, and Kendaris only missed one day because he was sick. That kind of commitment pays off in the long run.

“They are also doing an outstanding job in the classroom, which shows the maturity and discipline it takes to reach their ultimate goal of playing at the next level. It’s going to be special watching them practice and compete with the best players in South Carolina and then represent our state against the best North Carolina has to offer.”

Littlejohn says maintaining a strong focus and bringing a top effort is important in every game down the stretch of the regular season.

“Our expectation for the remainder of the season is to improve rep by rep, day by day and week by week. We believe in Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharp-ens iron, so one person sharpens another,” and our goal is to be playing our best football when we enter the playoffs,” he said.

“We can’t peak too early, and we know our best football still needs to be ahead of us. The goal at Gaffney is always to be in the conversation for a state championship. I believe this team has the talent and the tools to be special, and hopefully we can put ourselves in position to catch No. 19.”

Lindler, right-side hitter **Marissa Clarke**, and mid-dle hitters **Natalie Harris**, **Jayla Taylor**, and **Samantha Keller**.

“This group is incredible. I’ve got a lot of leader-ship on the court,” Derrick said. “My group of sen-iors is probably one of the best that I’ve had in the past three years. I couldn’t ask for a better group to be leading right now, but we’ve just have to get into our head and make a place.”

Fernandez, the primary Libero, keeps the team alive on the floor.

“Addy is amazing,” Derrick said. “She can pass, she can set, she can hit, she can do everything. She’s a big key to our success.”

As a middle hitter, Harris keeps the volleys going on the court, but Derrick values her as a team mentor.

“She has a big impact leadership wise, she takes the girls under her wing and tries to help them as much as she can with her knowledge in the sport as well.”

Junior outside hitter **Alyssa Hendrix** isn’t over-shadowed by the seniors. So goes Hendrix, so goes the team, Derrick said.

“She’s a key player as well, the team relies on

GAFFNEY



**Proud
Supporter
of the
Indians!**

se123 Twin Acres Road Gaffney, SC
864-444-2434



**The Gaffney Football
Booster Club
Salutes the Indians!**



**Gaffney High School
Proudly Salutes
Indians Athletics!**



**The Gaffney Softball
Booster Club
Salutes the Indians!
*Go Diamond Tribe!***

The Dennis Sentelle Family - Go Indians!
Dace, Korbyn, Abigail & Judd - Proud to be Indians!
Tina Frye Salutes the Gaffney Indians!



CONTRACTING, INC.
GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA
General Contracting & Concrete Construction

P.O. Box 65 Gaffney, SC 29342
864-303-7980 Go Indians!

WHITE KNOLL



White Knoll High School
5643 Platt Springs Rd, Lexington, SC
**Principal Nicholas Pearson and
Athletic Director Shane Fiddler join the
WKHS Athletic Booster Club in Wishing
the Best of Luck to the Timberwolves!
Be the Best You Can Be!**

her a lot to gain points and succeed on the court. If she’s having a bad day then we all kind of shut down.”

With four games left in the regular season as of Friday, the Timberwolves look to get at least a cou-ple more region wins to help them secure a good postseason berth.

“I sure hope so,” Derrick said. “As long as we show up and play our game anything can happen. We always have our days, which every team does, but most of the time they’re driven and they’re ready to go.”

HSSR All-State Softball Teams

The 2026 HSSR SCHSL-SCISA All-State Soft-ball Team

2026 HSSR-SCHSL Softball Superlatives:
2026 HSSR-SCHSL Miss Softball—Aspen
Boulware-Gray Collegiate -2026 Gatorade
POY

2026 HSSR-SCHSL AAAAA Div. I Softball
Player of Year—Katie Guilliam-Summerville
2026 HSSR-SCHSL AAAAA Div. II Softball
Player of Year—Olivia Miller-Indian Land
2026 HSSR-SCHSL AAAA Softball Player of
the Year— Peyton Hendrix-Gray Collegiate
2026 HSSR-SCHSL AAA Softball Player of
Year-2024- -Ashlyn Parker-Crescent
2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Class AA Softball
Player of Year—Miller Martin =Saluda
2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Co- Class A Softball
Player of Year— Kadence Poston-Hannah
Pamplico

2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Co- Class A Softball
Player of Year—Meredith Stone-Hannah-Pam-plico
2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2024 Div. I AAAAA Soft-ball Coach of the Year-Brandi Aiken-Byrnes
2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2024 Div. II AAAAA Soft-ball Coach of Year—Monica Barfield-Indian
Land

2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2024 AAAA Softball
Coach of the Year— Doug Fyre-Gray Colle-giate
2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2024 AAA Softball Coach
of Year— Jeff Craft -Crescent
2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2024 Class AA Softball
Coach of Year—Hannah Towery-Saluda
2026 HSSR-SCHSL 2024 Class A Softball
Coach of Year—Amber Knight-Hannah-Pam-plico

HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Class Div. I AAAAA All-State Softball
Hannah Tilley-Woodmont
Braleigh Betsill-Wade Hampton
Livi Warren-Lexington
Daphne Frady I-Summerville
Maevin Morino-Summerville
Sadie Olson-North Myrtle Beach

Annie Ruth Elisson-West Florence
Nadia Lorenzo-Fort Dorchester
Memorie Melton-Byrnes
Payton Cutcher-Byrnes
Haven Holmes-Byrnes
Addison Sharpe-TL Hanna
Callie Kinert-TL Hanna
Abigail Pouliot–Dutch Fork
Alyssa Thompson-Rock Hill
Sydney Kok-Clover
Lainey Hall-West Ashley
Kaysen Warehime-Carolina Forest

HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Class Div. II AAAAA All-State Softball
Emma Drawdy-Berkeley
Jaidyn Harris-Catawba Ridge
Hannah Tilley-Woodmont
Evie Bowers-Greenville
Holly Stone-Greenville
Allie Pritchard-Sparing Valley
Hannah Marsik-West Florence
Logan Thomas-Indian Land
Reegan Tibbitts-St. James
Raegan Tibbitts-St. James
Sadie Olson-North Myrtle Beach
Ella Sheorn-Lugoff-Elgin

HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Class AAAA All-State Softball
Myah Harvey- Hartsville
Jaysha McCullough-Hartsville
Mackenzie Sease-Gray Collegiate
Page White--South Florence
Reagan Rowsey-South Florence
Kaitlin Clark-May River
Alexa Eversole-Colleton County
Pressli Reynolds-AC Flora
Bethany Brown-Fountain Inn
Peyton Brooks-York
Satcher Felts-Georgetown
Ayla Holmes-North Augusta
Addison Miller-Oceanside Collegiate
Sophie Wylie-Seneca
Makenzie Brown-Gilbert
Kalilah Clark-May River

Savanah Johns-May River

HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Class AAA All-State Soft-ball
Mia Roseburgh-Oceanside Collegiate
Emma McGowan-Hanahan
Aubrey Cribb-Hanahan
Dria Tolbert-Hanahan
Kenzie McCoy-Loris
Caitie Black-Loris
Caroline Davis-Union County
Anna Grace Lee-Union County
MaKenna Meekins-Dillon
Rylee Dotson-Crescent
Kyndal Parker—Crescent
Kayleigh Rouse-Crescent
Topanga Ethridge-Crescent
Alivia Hess—Aynor
Kylie Perkins-West Oak
Haely Bowman-Silver Bluff
Addison Skipper-Marlboro County
Maddie Boggs-BHP
Tenleigh Davis -Powdersville
Ava Lindsey-Fox Creek
Braley Richardson-Mountain View Prep

HSSR-SCHSL 2026 Class AA All-State Soft-ball
Claire Owens-Chesnee
Roni Martin-Chesnee
Mackenzie Melton-North Central
Brylie Harpe-Chesterfield
Ashton Cassidy-Chesterfield
Ava Martin-Saluda
Amy Sorcia-Saluda
Maliyah Williams-Marion
Caroline Plyer-Buford
Ainsley Minchew-Batesburg-Leesville
Katie Gallman-Mid-Caroli
Peyton Hanniford-East Clarendon
Bailey Hicks-East Clarendon
Mackenzie Avant-Andrew Jackson
Laney Grubs-Barnwell
Kinsley Terrapin-Barnwell
Kendall O’Berry-Barnwell

NETC Student Athletes of the Month

Marlboro Academy's Kaden Conner

Bennettsville — Kaden Conner is a junior and a three-sport athlete at Marlboro Academy, where she excels in the sports of volleyball, basketball, and golf.

Conner began playing basketball at age 8 in her church league before moving on to varsity basketball at Marlboro Academy. She began playing volleyball in the 6th grade, and she began playing golf when she was 12.

Although Conner enjoys all three sports, she says volleyball is her favorite. "Playing sports means learning team skills, and starting at an early age it helped me develop communication skills as we all worked to help make each other better," said Conner. "Playing sports is a great avenue for personal growth."

In the classroom she carries a 4.0 GPA, and even though she's just a junior, she says her priority after high school is getting a college education. She doesn't expect to have time for next level sports, unless it's a club sport, or maybe inter-mural games. Conner is currently undecided about which college she will eventually attend, but she is considering Clemson, Georgia, Coastal Carolina, or College of Charleston at this time. She plans to pursue either a Public Relations or Marketing degree.

For all her athletic and academic accomplishments, Conner has been chosen the "NETC" Female Student Athlete of the Month."

This honor is bestowed through a partnership between the Northeastern

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

The NETC is currently offering over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2026-27 school year to students in the three counties they serve.

Currently, Conner is enrolled in two dual credit online courses offered by the "NETC." This is her first semester of online classes, and she is working on basic requirements for her freshman year of college. She is currently taking an online Foreign Language requirement along with a Sociology class. She plans to continue taking online courses for the rest of her high school career.

When asked about how the "NETC" online courses have helped her, Conner said, "It has really helped me prepare in both academic realms. It's opened my

See Conner, pg. 61



Kaden Conner

Marlboro Academy's Colt Stillwell

Bennettsville — Colt Stillwell is a senior and three-sport athlete at Marlboro Academy, where his athletics participation covers the entire school year.

Even with these demands, he has been taking Dual Enrollment classes with NETC since starting his junior year. He's completed English 101/102 and Spanish 101/102 and he is currently taking two online courses, American Government and Public Speaking via NETC. He plans to continue taking online courses next semester to help lighten his course load once he enters college.

Stillwell has been playing Soccer since his junior year. He has been playing Basketball since his sophomore season, and he has run Cross Country since the sixth grade.

Stillwell commented about which sports he likes the most. "It's both basketball and soccer," he said. "All the sports I participate in builds toughness. Each sports build for the others."

"Cross Country trains the mind and body to increase will power which is key in basketball and soccer," said Stillwell. "With all the running and the challenges in distance running you learn to be mentally strong long before the body tires out."

Stillwell earned All-Region and All-State honors playing Soccer. In the classroom, he carries a 5.23 GPA. He says that he does not plan to pursue next level sports at the college, but he will not rule out playing intramural or club sports. He plans to major in Mechanical Engineering. Cur-

rently, he is considering attending college at either the University of South Carolina, NC State, Virginia Tech, or Georgia.

For all his athletic and academic accomplishments, Stillwell has been chosen the "NETC" Male Student Athlete of the Month."

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

The NETC is currently offering over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2026-27 school year to students in the three counties they serve.

The benefit of the dual enrollment opportunity is very clear to Stillwell. "It's helped with my time management and gives me a clearer view of what college classes are going to be like," he said.

See Stillwell, pg. 61



Colt Stillwell

40th Annual Hall of Fame Tennis Classic

Spartanburg wins 40th Hall of Fame Tennis Classic in Belton

From Staff Report6s

Belton—The 2026 Chick-fil-A of Anderson

Hall of Fame Classic was played in Belton September 26 & 27 featuring eight top girl's tennis teams from around the state. Spartanburg won the team championship in one of the closest contested tournaments ever, with only two points separating the top three teams. Then only two points separated 4th through 7th places.

The team points and standing were: 1. Spartanburg (27), 2. Daniel (26), 3. Greenville (25), 4. Chapin (14),

5. TL Hanna (14), 6. Waccamaw (13), 7. J.L. Mann (12), and BHP (2).

Spartanburg had players in the championship match in 3 of the 5 singles divisions and both doubles divisions. Although they only won one of the championship matches, the Lady Vikings earned enough points to edge Daniel by one point and Greenville by two. Individual division titles were won by five schools, with only Daniel and Greenville winning two.

The results of the championships matches were:

#1 Singles-Emery Tripamer (TLH) def.

Berkley Garrett (DAN) 6-2, 6-1

#2 Singles-Kinleigh Ware (CHA) def.

MacKie Clayton (SPB) 6-4, 4-6, 10-7

#3 Singles-Maya Saha (GVL) def. Anna

Kate Alverson (SPB) 6-2, 6-3

#4 Singles-Emery Lou Cashman (SPB)

def. Julie Wolin (DAN) 6-3, 6-3

#5 Singles-Lila Grisham (DAN) def. Char-

lotte Evans (WAC) 6-2, 6-2

#1 Doubles-Vivian Donlan & Charlotte

Womack (GVL) def. MacKie Clayton & Wal-

lace Lynch (SPB) 6-3, 6-1

#2 Doubles-Anna Siemens & Daphne

Turbes (DAN) def. Blythe Lemonds & Susu

Wood (SPB) 6-0, 6-2

All players and doubles teams played three matches. Greenville received the team sportsmanship award.

Spartanburg coach Steve Larking said: "All our girls fought hard and were very resilient," he said. "Two of our players bounced back after tough loses and earned three key points for the team in consolation matches. That made the difference in the end. Everyone had a great attitude, which is very important to me as a coach. A special thanks to the Belton Tennis Association for a great Hall of Fame Classic!"

Tournament Director Rex Maynard, who established the tournament in 1987, said: "I thought this would be a very competitive tournament, and was it ever," said Maynard. "There were a lot of matches that went to the third set tiebreaker. We've had a few cases when two



2026 Spartanburg Vikings Tennis



T.L. Hanna's Emery Tripamer won in #1 Singles



Chapin's Kinleigh Ware won in #2 Singles



Greenville's Maya Saha won in #3 Singles



Spartanburg's Emery Lou Cashman won in #4 Singles

coached well, and we saw excellent sportsmanship," said Maynard. "We were blessed by two beautiful days of weather, and it was another great tournament. Thanks to all the coaches and players for their participation and good attitudes. A special thanks to our staff, and to Chick-fil-A of Anderson for their continued support of this tournament and Belton Tennis!"

teams tied in the past, but we have never had the top three teams separated by only two points, and we've never had five different teams win division titles.

"We had a great group of girls, who were all

MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Whether you're college-bound, career-focused, or still figuring it out—NETC helps you take the next step.



AA/AS DEGREES • WORKFORCE TRAINING • DUAL ENROLLMENT



TRANSFER DEGREES

Earn an AA or AS degree that transfers to four-year colleges and universities.



WORKFORCE TRAINING

Hands-on programs that prepare you for in-demand careers in high-growth fields.



DUAL ENROLLMENT

Take college classes while in high school and get a head start on your future.

APPLY TODAY!

SCAN TO GET STARTED AT NETC!



UPCOMING START DATES

OCTOBER 12

7.5-Week: Oct 12 - Dec 6

OCTOBER 28

5-Week: Oct 28 - Dec 6

JANUARY 11

15-Week: Jan 11 - May 3

10-Week: Jan 11 - Mar 22



4 CONVENIENT CAMPUS LOCATIONS



CHERAW CAMPUS
1201 Chesterfield Hwy.
Cheraw, SC 29520
843-921-6900



DILLON CAMPUS
2204 Hwy. 301 South
Dillon, SC 29536
843-921-1481



MARLBORO COUNTY CAMPUS
1120 Oakwood Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843-921-1451



PAGELAND CAMPUS
815 S. Pearl Street
Pageland, SC 29728
843-921-1483



www.netc.edu

800-921-7399

MAKE IT HAPPEN.

BE A TRAILBLAZER.



The Griffins volleyball team huddles up following a point

Holman building “culture” for volleyball team

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor
Spartanburg-First-year Spartanburg Day School volleyball coach **Kaitlin Holman** is taking her building project of Griffins volleyball team one step at a time.

First, it’s about culture.
“I looked at the foundation and culture and how it was before I got here,” said Coach Holman. “We are trying to build a culture that is sustainable. We all love winning, but I believe there is more to sports than winning. It’s about building a positive attitude and making players welcome and able to be successful on and off the court.”

A good culture will lead to good results.
“It will help the team be able to take some of the skills and be able to execute them better,” said Coach Holman. “Once they go to a job, I want them to bring those skills of working together from sports to help them succeed in their careers.”

Players coming through with success include **Layla Lemmonds**.
“She’s a setter, but she also plays in the full rota-

tion,” said Coach Holman. “She’s a senior this year and captain. She’s definitely someone who can hold the team together. She is great in terms of court coverage and moves the ball and helps everybody stay in it and gives motivation to others when it’s needed.

Another is setter **Ella Rabb**.
“She plays on the back row and subs in for our middles and in the back row. She’s one of our top servers right now,” said Coach Holman. “She gets to some balls we didn’t think she could get to. She’s not afraid to let her body hit the floor.”

And another is **Clara Matz** at middle hitter.
“She is statistically the best offensive player for us right now (seven kills, six service points at the time),” said Coach Holman. “She puts the ball away the majority of the time and has fun out there. She’s one of our younger players, and I look forward to more years of production from her.”

Then, there is **Beau Peeler**.
“She’s a senior who plays along the back row,” said Coach Holman. “She stands out as one of our captains as well. She’s very much a team player and

caller. Through six games, Birch passed 573 yards (44 of 92) for five touchdowns.

“He’s a freshman who has a very high IQ for football,” said Coach Moffitt. “He’s such a smart kid with lots of athleticism as well as a good arm. It’s his first time out and playing quarterback, so he has done a good job of distributing the ball to our playmakers and putting us in good situations. I see a good future ahead of him.”

And there just happens to be a bevy of Spartanburg Day receivers.

“Our main guy has been **Charles Wilson** (21 catches for 176 yards, three touchdowns). He’s also a big part of our special teams (a punt return for a TD against Thornwell), so he has been another go-to guy. We hope to have **Camden Teel** (out with an injury) back soon because he was having a solid year before the injury (six catches for 152 yards and a score).

And another receiver, **Armin Pader**, is also the Griffin’s kicker.

“He’s a big boy who can surely run,” said Coach Moffitt.

One of the Griffins’ running backs is **Heath Boyd** (60 carries for 111 yards).

“(Boyd) is a physical, tough kid who runs straight North-South,” said Coach Moffitt. “He gives 100 per-

Spartanburg
DAY SCHOOL

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

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

wants to be a team player. She’s not afraid to push ahead with the culture that I want us to have that we’re in this together. When it doesn’t go well, she reminds everyone they’re OK and that we can still keep moving forward and do better on the next point.”

The Griffins also have **Sarah Johnson**.
“She’s a senior outside hitter. She originally started as one of our middle hitters, but I learned she has better outside-hitting ability and easily made the transition to that position,” said Coach Holman.

And key player is **Merrill Loring**.
“She is one of our four seniors and provides a veteran poise to our team with her execution and efficiency,” she said. “She has been crucial in some of our top sets. She puts the ball away where it needs to be put away.”

And then, there is **Hannah Vincent**.
“She has come a long way this season,” said Coach Holman. “She’s so coachable. She takes feedback and does what she is supposed to do and does it well.”

Other contributors include **Jenesis Lee** and **Kathryn Spivey**.

“(Spivey) is a sophomore setter and she is a crucial part of our offense with her speed and energy. It helps set up the hitters; her serves are a major part of our offense,” said Coach Holman. “And (Lee) is a junior outside hitter who has good net coverage and transitions well to other positions. I love her positive mentality.”

cent all of the time. When there is not enough room to run, he puts his head downward and gets after it in each game.”

Another running back is **Gibbes Montgomery** (17 carries for 41 yards).

The offensive line rotates between **Nick Querin**, **Sammy Crain**, **Charlie Martin**, **Cale Willoughby**, **Lawson Robinson**, **Ben Brown**, and **Colton Lyle**.

That’s also the case with the defensive line as many of these same players flip to defense.

The linebacker position, meanwhile, includes **Wilson**, **Boyd** (team-high 29 tackles), **Montgomery**, and **Tyler Fernanders**.

“Charles is versatile while playing (middle line-backer) for us,” said Coach Moffitt. “He can also play man-to-man on the other team’s best receiver.”

At kicker, Pader already ranks as one of the state’s best with an in-game long field goal of 49 yards. Pader is a junior and he could become one of the Griffins first players to earn a college offer for his kicking. However, he is also a college soccer prospect, and he helps lead that team in the Spring.

“He scored nearly 30 goals in 11 matches last spring,” said Coach Moffitt. “On the year, he’s 4 for 4 with other made distances that include 40 and 29 yards, and he also ran in a 2-point conversion.”

Green Acres Turf Farm Prospects Page



HSSR Top Football Prospects - Class of 2027

(As of October, 5 2026)

(Nominate A 2027 Player- hsreport@aol.com)

1. Jaiden Kelly-Murray-Oceanside Collegiate-WR/DB-5-10,170-COLORADO
2. Jaiden Bryant-Irmo-DE-6-4,246-MIAMI
3. David “Tre” Segarra-Byrnes-RB-5-01,204-LSU
4. Tai Phillips-Irmo-RB-5-11,180-Alabama
5. Nate Carson-Irmo-OL-6-5,285- South Carolina
6. Aiden Manavian-Oceanside -QB-6-0,185-Davidson
7. Anthony Williams-Oceanside-WR-6-1, 170-UNC
8. Seth Tillman-South Pointe-DL-OL-6-4,300- Clemson
9. Jaden Werth-Dutch Fork-DL-6-2, 270-CLEMSON
10. Jackson Ross-Hammond-LB-6-4,215- South Carolina
11. Ty Johnson-Lucy Beckham-OL-6-5,300-GEORGIA
12. Amare Patterson-Bluffton-WR—6-1, 190-UNC
13. Franklin Richardson-Sumter-Ath-RB-6-2-220-
14. Jayen Williams-Summerville-RB-5-7,170-JMU
15. Christian Chancellor-Daniel-DB-5-9,162-CLEMSON
16. Kaiden Watkins-Rock Hill-DB-5-9,180- JMU
17. Kevin Johnson-Northwood Academy-QB-6-1-195-
18. James Ross-Ridge View-OL-6-5,290-SC
19. Trey Wimberly-Daniel-WR-6-0,175-CLEMSON
20. Israel “Shank” Harris-James Island-OL-6-3, 270-LIBERTY
21. Peyton Bishop-Dutch Fork-DE-6-4,230-
22. Tajeh Watson-Martin-Westside-WR-5-10,170-UVA
23. Xavier Means-Northwestern-QB-Ath-6-0,165-ECU
24. Aidyn Wiggins-Byrnes-DB-6-1, 183-AUBURN
25. Maleek Miller-Dutch Fork-WR-5-11,175-
26. Carter Hawkins-Timberland-Ath.-6-0,177-WAKE
27. Chanin Harris-Byrnes-WR-6-2,170-SYRACUSE
28. Alex Johnson-Catawba Ridge-DE-6-4,230-BOSTON COL.
29. Malik Ratliff-Northwestern-WR-6-0,165-COASTAL
30. Trenton Lynch-Spartanburg-RB-5-9,185-RUTGERS
31. Ty’Quirius Shannon-Fairfield Central-WR-6-1, 190
32. James Porter-Dorman-DL-6-2,265-ECU
33. Eric Richardson-Lugoff-Elgin-WR-6-0,165-Coastal
34. AJ Veal-Westwood-DL-6-4,225-ECU
35. Jamar Grissette-Irmo-FS-6-3,195-APP ST.
36. Dennis Glenn, Jr.-Boiling Springs-DL-6-1,285-RUTGERS
37. Dai’Shian Watkins-Hymes-Dorman-WR-6-1.190
38. Jackson Connor-Indian land-LB-6-0,215-MARSHALL
39. James Smith-Dutch Fork-FS-6-1,180-LIBERTY
40. Mah’Ky Green-Cross-RB-5-10, 178-
41. Darius Carter-River Bluff-WR-5-11,160-COASTAL
42. Oliver Coleman-Lugoff-Elgin-DB-6-2,175-COASTAL
- 43.. Calvin “CJ” Brooks-Gaffney-OL-6-5,320-UAB
44. Kadin Vassel-Northwestern-WR-5-11,160-UNC-C
45. Kendarious Bailey-Gaffney-LB-6-0,215
46. Calvin Wolford-Crestwood-RB-5-11,195-UNC-C
47. Brian McMillian-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-QB-6-2, 190
48. Charles Anthony Williams-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-WR/DB-5-11,175-DELAWARE
49. Jaxon Knotts-Dutch Fork-QB-6-0,210
50. Jaylon Richardson-N’western-DB-5-11.165-C. Southern
51. Jack Armstrong-Gray Coll.-OL-DL-6-2,265- The Citadel
52. Will Haunert-Camden-TE-6-4,210-Wofford
53. Brooks Abernethy-Daniel-OL-6-2, 265-ARMY
54. Michael Strickler-Oceanside Collegiate-FS-6-1,210
55. Kyson McLeod-South Aiken-WR-6-4,205-APP STATE
56. JaQuan Samuel-Hartsville-DT-6-2,290
57. Trevon Williamson-Gray Collegaite-RB-6-2,210
58. Caleb Sharo Ashley Ridge TE 6-3,220-
59. Jatavevion Wilson-Blythewood-DB-6-2, 170- Missouri ST.
60. Julian Brown-Myrtle Beach-WR-6-3, 175
61. Marques Skinner-Riversdale-TE-6-2,265-
62. MiCah McClintontok-Woodruff-TE-6-3, 215-
63. Judd Windham-Christ Church-QB-6-4,215
64. Christian Sullivan-JL Mann-OL-6-1,300
65. Angelo Cromer-Clinton-RB-5-10,170
66. Rhett Gilliam-Clinton-RB-6-1,200
67. Kelvin Manning-Dillon-WR/SS-6-3,185
68. Jason Youmans-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-WR/DB-6-1,180
69. Peyton Vining-Northwestern-WR-5-10,165

70. John Campbell-St Joseph’s Catholic-DB-5-9,181
71. AJ Hillary-Strom Thurmond-QB-6-2, 185
72. Reid Hipp-Christ Church-TE-6-4, 215
73. Dontavious Griffin-Newberry-DE-6-1, 235
74. Nyren Bowman-Scott’s Branch-WR-6-0,180
75. Sam Holiday-Fountain Inn-QB
76. Nasir Waldrop-Powdersville-WR/RB-5-7,175
77. Dwayne Louallen-Central-QB-6-1,205
78. Owen Glenn-Clinton-QB-6-1, 175
79. Jervaze Salley-Woodland-QB-6-2, 190
80. Trace Selfridge-Swansea-RB-6-0,180
- 81.Keandre Allen-Colleton County-WR-6-2, 195
82. Jaiden Williams-Green-Darlington-OL-6-0,350
83. Silas Browner-Pinewood Prep-QB-6-4,205
84. Nick Means-Dorman-RB-5-8,175
85. Ty’Quavion Jones-Hampton County-OL/DE-6-5,265
86. Xavier Geter-Midland Valley-QB
87. Kyson McLeod-South Aiken-WR
88. Nolan Giet-Summerville-OL-6-3,270-NAVY
89. Simeon Jones-North Augusta-DL-6-1,305
90. Keon McKinley-Heathwood Hall-WR-5-8,175-
91. Brandon Streater-Central-OL-6-1,265
92. Avery Durham-Andrews-QB-6-4,180
93. Caleb Feaster-Chester-RB-Ath-5-11,185
94. George Perry-Woodland-Ath.-5-10,170
95. Rese Boinke-Batesburg-Leesville-QB-
96. Kamarion Glenn-BHP-DT-6-0,290
97. Worth Thomasson-Camden-OL-6-0,315
98. Deion Suber-Boiling Springs-WR-6-3,185-ETS
99. Corey Gleaton-Gray Collegiate-WR-5-9,165
100. Marques Skinner-Riverside-TE/DE-6-3,255
101. De’Eric Davis-South Florence-QB-6-4,225
102. Tristan Diggs-Carvers Bay -DL-6-2,280
103. Dejay Leak-Boiling Springs-DB-5-9,176
104. Grayson Rimpf-Camden-QB-6-2, 190
105. JaQuan Hannah-Carvers Bay-TE/DE-6-2,215
106. Jaiden Williams-Green-Darlington-OL-6-0,250
107. Nicholas Gordon-Cheraw-WR-6-0,165
108. Rob Grant-James Island-DE-6-3,240
109. Rahim Saunder-Whale Branch-DL-6-2,275
110. Tyrone Jennings-Irmo-DT-6-2, 285
111. Luke Penland-JL Mann-OL-6-2,265
112. Crawford Poole-Cheraw-Ath-5-11, 195
113. Sam Gadsen-Woodland-OL-MLB-6-3, 230
114. Malcolm Gordon-Bluffton-OLB-6-1,205
115. Owen Glenn-Clinton-QB-Ath-6-1,175
116. Gavin Elliott-Gilbert-DB-6-0,180
117. Charles Breland-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-PK-5-10,165
118. Mari Moody-Denmark-Olar-6-4,240
119. Amire White-Gaffney-RB-5-11,200
120. Grainger Powell-Laurence Manning-QB-5-11, 170
121. Grant Small-Williamsburg Academy-RB-6-0,180-
122. Marquell Smalls-Gaffney-DL/DT-6-5,265
123. Tristian White-Laurence Manning-OL/NG-6-3,290
124. Eli Herndon-Chapman-DE-6-5,200
125. Semaj Wilson-Atlantic Collegiate-MLB/RB-6-2,200
126. Henry Rivers-Berkeley-QB-Ath-5-10,175
127. Clint Gentry-Chapin-DT-5-11,225
- 128.. Xavier Huggins-Powdersville-WR-5-10,170
129. Kordell Holley-Bluffton-RB-6-0,225
130. Roman Hood-Phillip Simmons-DE/G-6-0,205
131. Nyren Bowman-Scott’s Branch-WR-OLB-6-0,210
132. Braydon Simpson-Broome-WR-5-9,160
133. Charles “CJ” Williams-Hampton County-DT/T-60,245
134. Emani Welch-Chesterfield-Ath.-5-9,190 1
135. Angelo Cromer-Clinton-RB-5-10,170
136. Drew Wolfe-Northwood Academy-WR-6-1, 165
137. Deondre Allen-Colleton County-WR-6-2,190
138. Xavier Geter-Midland Valley-QB/Fs-6-1,190
139. Larkin Powell-Johnsonville-QB-5-11, 175
140. Christian McDowell-Eastside-DB-5-9,155
141. Ja’Mere Ross-Johnsonville-WR-5-7,155
142. Logan Martin-Laurentine-MLB-6-0,190
143. Eric Richardson- Lugoff-Elgin-WR-6-0,175

144. Kaydin Green-Natron Ford-DL-6-1, 280
145. Dorian Jones-Silver Bluff-RB-5-9,185

HSSR SC 2028 Football Prospect List

(Nominate A ’28 Player: hsreport@aol.com)

1. Zion Dawkins-Gaffney-DB/WR-5-11,181
 2. Michael Martin-Christ Church-RB-5-10,180
 3. Beau Hite-Emerald-QB-Ath.-5-11,170
 4. Jace Grass-Daniel-QB-6-1, 180
 5. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
 6. Christian Webb-Scott-Westside-DL-6-6,250
 7. Ryan Bruchu-York-QB-6-4,220
 8. Brody Lorenzo-Dutch Fork-OL-6-3,330
 9. Nasir Walker-AC Flora-DE-6-5,250
 10. Teru Davis-Summerville-WR-6-0,170
 11. Michael Martin-Southside Christian-RB-5-9,185
 12. Raphael Puii-James Island-WR-6-1, 190
 13. Heyward Belser-Heathwood Hall-LB-6-3,220
 14. Desiray Christian-Greenwood-FS-6-0,190
 15. Mont Williams-Lamar-DE/WR-6-7,200
 16. Matt Kucia-Indian Land-QB-6-2,185
 - 17.Riggs Savage-Powdersville-TE-6-5,225
 18. DeMarius Arrington-Dutch Fork-WR-6-0,175
 19. Jackson Miller-Powdersville-OL-6-6,270
 20. Phillip Savage-Powdersville-OLB/WR-6-3,200
 21. DJ Johnson-North Augusta-DB-6-2, 180
 22. Kenneth Wilson-Indian Land-WR-6-2,185
 23. Lavy Penny-Camden-LB-6-2,215
 24. Ian Jones-Woodruff-OL-6-4,260 24.
 - 25.Kermit Davis-Stratford-DE-6-4,235
 26. Cooper Patterson-Dorman-QB-6-0,185
 27. Nick Sargent-BHP-TE-6-5,215
 28. Tyler Murray-Kingstree-DB-6-1,185
 29. Warren Prew-South Florence-LB-5-10,190
 - 30.Jeremiah McGowan-Dutch Fork-OL-6-4,290
 31. Jordan Logan-Orangeburg-Wilkinson-DB-6-1,195
 32. Will Hunt-Oceanside Collegiate-TE-/OL/DL-6-3, 275
 33. DeMarcus King-Summerville-LB-
 - 34.Emerson James-Byrnes-WR/DB-5-11, 180
 35. JJ Campbell-Dillon-WR- 5-9,155
 36. Darryle Washington-Gray Collegiate- OL-6-2, 270
 37. Malachia Thompson-Woodruff-DB-5-10,170
 38. Ian Jones-Woodruff-OL-6-4,270
 - 39.Landon Guyton-Gilbert-TE/WR-6-3, 205
 40. Elijah Sanders-Newberry-T/DT-6-1, 275
 41. Jackson Sumney-Oceanside Collegaite-PK-5-11,190
 42. Scoop Dennis-Laurence Manning-WR-DB-6-2,180
 43. Brandyn Miller-Laurence Manning-OL/DT-6-1,275
 44. Avery King-Brookland-Cayce-RB-5-9,180
 - 45.Brayden Andy-Northwood Academy-OL-6-2, 265
 46. Eli Sanders-Newberry-OL-DL-6-1, 275
 47. Tahia Wise-Central-DL-5-9,210
 48. Jeremiah Hunter-Seneca-WR-5-9,155
 49. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
 50. Samaj Parker-South Florence-WR-5-11, 170
 51. Jaydon Pringle-Jackson-T-DE Goose Creek-6-0,245
 52. Bryce Collins-South Pointe-OL-6-1,265
 53. Jayden Wheeler-JL Mann-DT-6-0,235
 54. Ziggy Offord-Lakewood-WR/DB-6-0,175
 55. Holden Lowery-Chesterfield-WR-5-9,170
 56. Willie Hill-Silver Bluff-OL-603,245
- HSSR Class of 2029 SC Football Prospects
(Nominate A player-hsreport@aol.com)
- Bear Woods-Westside-QB-6-3,175
 - Taddrick Gibson, Jr.-Dutch Fork-DB-5-10,165
 - Carter Nash-Dorman-RB-5-11,195
 - Amari Jones-Seneca-DL-6-6,325
 - Corey Miller-Dutch Fork-WR-6-0,190
 - Dash Holley-Northwestern-LB-6-2, 215-
 - Brayden Bouts-Crestwood-RB-5-9,180
 - Mallachi Debnam-Easley-WR-6-3, 210-
 - Rasean Brown-South Pointe-RB-5-9,175

Hampton County volleyball having strong season

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Varnville – The early part of every schedule is where coaches can evaluate their rosters, see who fits where and to learn how their teams handle adversity for Hampton County head coach **Sophia Thompson** she learned a lot about her and saw their growth as they headed into region play.

The Hurricanes have used their early season schedule to power them into first place in region 7A at 6-0. They have yet to drop a set in region play and they will look to keep that streak going as they head to Royal Live Oaks Academy.

“My expectations coming into the season were to build a closer family within our team. I wanted my players to trust one another, work harder together, and continue to grow both individually and as a team. My goal was to build a strong foundation that would help us compete and finish the season stronger than we started,” said coach Thompson.

Coach continued, “We got off to a slow start, but my team continued to trust me, trust the process, and put in the work. We stayed together and continued to push each other. Once we started believing in ourselves and playing for one another, we began to see the results. Our biggest area of improvement has been communication and learning to trust each other.”

The Canes have a veteran squad with 7 seniors on the roster. Seniors **Faith Brooks** and **Khaliyah Dobson**, and junior **Autumn Rivers** are the Cans top returning players. Brooks is a returning All-Region selection and she currently leads the team in kills with 17, aces with 6,

blocks with 8 and diggings with 17.
“Faith has grown tremendously this year as player and leader. I am very proud of her progress,” coach said.
Dodson is second on the team in kills with 15 and blocking with six while Rivers leads the team in service receiving with 28 and is second in digs with 14 and aces with five.
The teams captain is senior **Hanna Frickling**. She is tied for second in digs with 14.
Joining Rivers, Dobson, Brooks, and Frickling are juniors **Mariah Covington** and **Chari-tee Heyward**.
Senior **Kiya McQuire**, senior **Cherish Orr**, senior **Brianna Sauls**, freshman **Cadence Elmquist**, senior **Kamari Smoak**, and sophomore **Cailee Sauls**.
“Our biggest area of improvement has been communication and learning to trust each other. The more we communicate on the floor, the fewer mistakes we make. Our players have really started to understand the importance of talking, encouraging one another, and knowing that they can depend on their teammates. As we approach the playoffs, we need to improve on hitting the ball off the net and being more aggressive. I am extremely proud of how far this team has come. We have faced challenges throughout the season, but the girls have continued to work, grow, and believe in each other, said coach.

A.G. Solomons, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Solomons & Lawton, PC
PO Box 969, Estill, SC
803-625-3232

Proudly Saluting the Hampton County Hurricanes!

Patrick Henry football having turnaround season

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Estill – **Joe Gray Peeples** and his coaching staff with the **Patrick Henry Academy** football team made a decision prior to the start of the season to start five freshmen. It, however, was not made out of necessity.
“We’re playing them because they’re better than everybody else,” Peeples said.
That decision is now paying dividends for the Patriots. After falling to **Dorchester Academy**, the top-ranked team in the *High School Sports Report* SCISA Class A poll, in the season opener, they reeled off four straight victories. Peeples thinks that has helped mold the team in a positive way.

“The last four games really allowed us to have those guys come of age,” Peeples said prior to its game against SCISA AA No. 2 **Calhoun Academy** on October 2. “It’s allowed our kids to have some success, something we weren’t able to do last year and the year before. They are more confident in their ability as they’ve come along.”
After winning the SCISA Class A state title in 2023, Patrick Henry won four games in 2024 and just two last season.
Defense has been the key to the Patriots’ success. Prior to the CA contest, they had allowed just 52 points, 26 of those coming against Dorchester.
PHA, ranked fourth in AA, is led by senior line-

backer **Luke Sobey**. He was the leading tackler in SCISA after the September 25 games with 65 stops for an average of 13.0 per game. He also had six tackles for a loss and 1 ½ quarterback sacks.
Sophomore **Kai Sobey**, Luke’s little brother, was just short of averaging double figures at 9.6. He had 48 tackles, eight TFLs and three sacks.
Junior **Owen Shaffer** had 36 tackles, five TFLs and a sack. Freshman Brady Peeples had 31 tackles and an interception.
“The play of the defense has been a surprise for us, at how effective we’ve been,” Coach Peeples said. “We still have work to do, but we’ve gone in and taken care of business. We seem to be heading in the right direction.”
Offensively, Patrick Henry is relying mainly on its running game. The Patriots were averaging 197.8 yards per game led by Kai Sobey. He had 558 yards and 10 touchvdowns on 62 carries.
“We feel like we can ran the ball, we feel like we can run on anybody consistently and effectively,” Coach Peeples said.
Luke Sobey had 165 yards and five TDs on 24 carries. Freshman quarterback **Aiden Johnson** had completed 23 of 47 passes for 280 yards and two scores. Shaffer had both of the touchdown receptions among his seven catches for 137 yards. He’d also rushed for 113 yards and a TD on 28 totes.

HAMPTON COUNTY



803-964-1902 **Pick Up Copies of the HSSR here!**

**Dr. Tire, Inc.**
565 Railroad Ave. SE
Estill, SC 29918
803-625-2201
www.dretireinc.com

Proud To Salute the Hurricanes!

**Go Hurricanes!**
Neighbors helping neighbors since 1907
Hal L. Bennett, V. President
106 3rd St., Estill, SC

FDIC

Go Hurricanes!
Courtesy of the Hampton County Booster Club

PATRICK HENRY

THE PHA Athletic Booster Club
Salutes the Patriots!
Good Luck in 2026-27!

**GREEN ACRES**
TURF FARM, LLC

Specializing in sports and residential turf

803-625-2902

**Dr. Tire, Inc.**
565 Railroad Ave. SE
Estill, SC 29918
803-625-2201
www.dretireinc.com

Proud To Salute the Patriots!

**Go Patriots!**
Proud To Have Served The Financial Needs of Hampton County Citizens Since 1934!
Hal L. Bennett, V. President
106 3rd St., Estill, SC

Member FDIC

Quick Cash - Buy, Sell, Trade
P.O. Box 103, Hampton, SC
(803) 942-3569

Go PHA Patriots!

A.G. Solomons, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Solomons & Lawton, PC
PO Box 969, Estill, SC
803-625-3232

Saluting Patrick Henry Athletics!

Mwangi building a winning volleyball program

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Walterboro – Now in his third season as head coach, **Colleton County** volleyball coach **Samuel Mwangi** is slowly developing the competitive level of his program.
The program is still a ways off from competing for a region title but Mwangi is noticing that his team is able to compete better against the top teams on the schedule. While the team is off to an 0-7 start against region foes, the Bulldogs have posted eight wins overall this season. The coach feels enhanced off-season competition on the club level would aid in the development of each player, thus improving the team’s performance.
“The varsity volleyball team has proven it can compete with strong teams, but it needs more consistency against stronger opponents and further skill development,” says Mwangi. “Club volleyball would provide valuable training and competitive experi-

ence, helping players strengthen their skills, improve consistency, and elevate the team’s overall performance.”
Most of the roster this season is comprised of underclassmen. In fact, there are no starting seniors in the lineup.
Junior **Tiera Wilkins** is one of the starting outside hitters, and junior **Lilly Christopher** is the starting setter.
The other outside hitter is junior **Nikki Gabriel** and junior **Kyla Aiken** is starting in the middle, along with junior **Olivia Arnold**. Junior **Madison Hand** is the Right Side.
Two liberos who substitute for the middle hitters are junior **Natalie French** and **Bryleigh Johnson**.
“The strength of the team is setting, outside attack, and blocks from the middle,” Mwangi said.
Hand is the team captain who knows the positions and rotations, and coordinates the team well, according to Mwangi. Christopher is the assistant



2026 Colleton Prep Volleyball

Colleton Prep fall sports hitting stretch drive

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Walterboro – The arrival of October on the calendar means the state playoffs for South Carolina High Schools are closing in.
In SCISA, the state volleyball tournament begins in less than two weeks and the **Colleton Prep** volleyball team is hoping to be a part of the postseason bracket.
As of Oct. 4, the Warhawks were 7-10 overall and 0-2 in region play. The team had seven regular season matches remaining through Oct. 20.
Veteran **Belinda McCoy** is in her third season at Colleton Prep after a successful run at Patrick Henry Academy. McCoy has led the program to improvement in each season after inheriting a team that went 0-20 in 2023.
Colleton Prep competes in a very good region 4-AAA with Hilton Head Prep, St. John’s Christian and Cross School. The coach says it simply when asked how far the team can advance, saying “this team will go as far as the communication holds up.” Strong team play and cohesiveness also will be key factors.
The team has three seniors this season. **Cecelia Williams** is a middle hitter, **Millie Drew** is an outside hitter, and **Nevaeh Crosby** is a Libero.
Juniors include Libero **Addy Busch** and right side hitter **Breland Cain**. Sophomores on the team

include setter **Brooklyn Whitley**, right side hitter **Banks Benton**, and middle hitter **Bella Baker**.
Rounding out the roster are freshmen **Hannah Murray** (middle) and **Hadley Harrison** (setter), and eighth-grader **Addisyn Godley**, an outside hitter.
McCoy states that the team leaders are the three seniors, along with Busch.
Football off to 7-1 start
Colleton Prep’s football team is chasing a state championship this fall. The Warhawks reached the state finals a year ago and this year’s team is set to make another run.
A 25-20 win over Dorchester Academy on Oct/ 2 pushed the season record to 7-1 with three games to play. The Warhawks will play Patrick Henry on Oct. 9, Calhoun Academy on Oct. 23, and Cross School on Oct. 30, just before the start of the state playoffs.
Senior quarterback **Cale Owens** has had a monster season as the team’s top offensive threat. Davis has passed for 1,441 yards and 23 touchdowns while rushing for 540 yards and seven touchdowns.
Thomas Corbett and **Hartman Fisk** are the leading receivers, each with 22 catches. Corbett has 630 yards and nine touchdowns while Fisk has 292 yards and eight touchdowns.
Charlie Walker has added 312 yards and five scores on 16 receptions while **Kaiden Kinard** has 14 catches for 274 yards and three touchdowns.

R&R Farms
Rusty Kinard (843) 599-2240
Proudly Saluting the AJA Warriors!

**two pour girls**
bartending
843-599-1116 843-908-1409
Proud Supporter of the Warhawks!

COLLETON COUNTY

Lowcountry Surgical Associates, PA
Dr. Andrew Calcutt, MD, FACS
843-549-8003
Saluting All Area Schools!

COLLETON PREP

**Louie's Liquor & Fine Wine**
(843) 549-2921
1319 N Jefferies Blvd
Walterboro, SC 29488

CORBETT BUILDING SUPPLY
Serving Colleton County for over 90 Years!
513 Memorial Ave., Walterboro, SC 29488
Office: 843-549-5311 Fax: 843-782-3386

Palmetto Pest Control (803) 284-3720

TOMMIE'S AUTO & DIESEL REPAIR, LLC
2674 Jefferies Hwy. • Walterboro, SC 29488
843-538-2120
Your complete "Auto & Truck" Repair Facility
Towing - Light • Medium • Heavy
www.tommiesautoanddiesel.com
Family Owned and Operated for Over 25 Years

“Proudly Supporting Colleton Prep Athletics!”

**ENTERPRISE BANK**
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
1105 N. Jeffries Blvd.
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 549-3544

**IP Builders, Inc.**
Residential & Commercial

Ian Padgett President
Office: (843) 538-2010
Fax: (843) 538-2015
ian@ipbuilders.net
PO Box 1667
4472 Jefferies Hwy
Walterboro, SC 29488

**PRTC**
292 Robertson Blvd.
Walterboro, SC 29488
www.PRTC.us
(843) 538-2020
Saluting the Warhawks!

**MURDAUGH LAW GROUP, LLC**

Steven Murdaugh
Attorney at Law
Phone: (843) 782-6070
Cell: (843) 909-9645
Fax: (843) 782-6060
Email: smmurdaugh@murdaughlawgroup.com

Matthew Murdaugh
Attorney at Law
Phone: (843) 782-6070
Cell: (843) 908-0834
Fax: (843) 782-6060
Email: mmurdaugh@murdaughlawgroup.com

402 Robertson Blvd. Walterboro, SC 29488
MURDAUGH LAW GROUP, LLC

SUMMERVILLE GREENWAVE

Green Wave eyeing region championships

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR
Summerville – The Summerville Girls Tennis team is having a special season.

So far the only losses on the season for the **Green Wave** have come at the hands of the two-time defending **Class AA state champion Academic Magnet**.

The Green Wave is on track to win the **5A Region 5 Championship**, having won all its region matches this season. That includes two wins over **James Island**, which won Summerville’s region in both 2024 and 2025, and a win over **West Ashley**.

“This is the first time we’ve beaten both West Ashley and James Island,” said Summerville coach **Richard Schulz**. “We’ve only played West Ashley once, but we beat James Island twice.”

Senior **Grace Hough** is back as the Green Wave’s **No. 1 Singles** player. Sister **Abigail Hough**, a sophomore, returns to the **No. 2 Singles** spot.

“Grace is a senior, team captain and our leader,” said Summerville coach Richard Schulz. “She has academic scholarships and plans to attend Clemson. She has been with us for six years and been tremendous. Abby may be more talented than Grace, but Grace is a smarter player as of right now. They played in a challenge match and the odds were Abby was going to win, but Grace sets up points too well. Abby’s power and speed were nullified by Grace’s approach.”

Freshman **Ann Myers Watson** holds down the **No. 3 Singles** spot. The Singles lineup is rounded out by **Maddie Ru Lloyd** at **No. 4** and **Ella Scott** at **No. 5**.

“Ann has shown more improvement over last year than any player I’ve ever coached,” Schulz said. “Maddie Ru has grit and Ella is only an eighth-grader who will be great.”

Other members of the team are **Kyleigh Grow**, **Sara Meyer**, **Tessia Nyman**, **Fernanda Merdina**, **Gillian Lloyd**, **Abigail Sullivan**, **Addie Johnson** and **Ava Chapman**.

“We’ve played good competition and beat most of the teams we came up against,” Schulz said. “Grace sets the tone for us and our practices are harder and better than most of our kids will face in a match.”

Volleyball

Halfway through its region schedule, the **Summerville Girls Volleyball** team has an 18-8-1 record with an 8-0 mark in 5A Region 5. The Green Wave is the only team undefeated in the region. Summerville coach **Liz Yohe** is hoping her squad is prepared to make a strong post-season run.

“We are taking it one game at a time but this group could go far,” Yohe said. “Most of these seniors have played together since middle school. Depth wise I think this is the best team I’ve had.”

Junior **Molly Jackson** and senior **Emilia Markovick** set the tone for the team offensively and defensively.

Haylee Sexton, **Finley Dungan**, **Audrey Schlabach**, **Jordan Espinal**, **Brinley Farmer**, **Madeline Baldwin**, **Maddie Didelot** and junior libero **Claire Bunao** also bring considerable varsity experience to the floor. Other members of the team are **Braelle Runion**, **Hannah Cramer**, **Alexis**



Photo by Roger Lee
Grace and Abigail Hough again lead the Summerville Girls Tennis team

Robins and Eve Schlabach.

The **Summerville Boys** are also favored to win their region. They enter this week with a 12-8 record and a 4-0 mark in the region.

Larissa Szafranski took the reins of the program when former head coach **Steven DiPaolo** stepped down after last season to become the head coach for the **Green Wave Boys Soccer** program. Szafranski served as DiPaolo’s assistant coach the past two seasons.

“Coach DiPaolo is a great coach and I was able to watch how he does things,” she said. “We both have our own strengths. Behind the scenes he is still a part of this program so it has been a very smooth transition.”

Previously, she coached at **Pittsburgh Elite Volleyball Association in Pennsylvania**. She is also a former Division II athlete at the **University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown**.

Summerville lost a setter and hitter who both claimed multiple All-Region and All-Lowcountry honors to graduation. However, the team returned some starters from a squad that advanced all the way to the Lower State Championship match.

Summerville leans heavily on senior returning starter and team captain **Alex Mose**.

“Last year Alex ran as an outside hitter for us while this year he is running as a setter,” Szafranski said. “He is kind of a jack of all trades.”

Senior **Mason Mills** and sophomore **Reed Robinson** are returners with experience outside. Senior **Lennox Holness** returns in the middle. Junior **Matthew Abercrombie** returns with defensive experience. Seniors **Gabe Cook**, **Campbell Pitman** and **Noah Terry** are also returning varsity lettermen.

“Lennox is also stepping into more of a leadership role this year,” Szafranski said. “Matthew was our Libero last year and we are trying to get him to step out of his shell.”

Sophomore **Kaden Hulsey** is new to the team, and the sport, but looking to develop into an impact player.

Miler Properties
REAL ESTATE SALES & RENTALS

6205 OLD TROLLEY ROAD
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29485
821-1111 (Office) • 873-0927 (Fax)
Richard L. Miller
email: dmiller@bellsouth.net

Converse Chellis
Exclusive Agent
Personal Financial Representative

Allstate
437 N. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483
Office 843-771-0061
Fax 843-771-0156
conchellis@allstate.com
www.allstateagencies.com/converse-chellis-summerville-scl.html

Go Green Wave!

Allstate.
You're in good hands.



James A. Dyal
Funeral Home

303 S. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483
843-873-4040

Proudly Saluting All Area Schools!
#1 Funeral Home in Summerville!

GARY W. BAILEY CONSTRUCTION
LANDSCAPING • CLEARING • GRADING

121 Peartree Circle
Summerville, SC 29485
(843) 871-1226
Mobile (843) 200-2724
BaileyConstruction539@gmail.com

Summerville
Country Club, Inc.
(843) 873-2210 - Go Green Wave!

SUMMERVILLE
9700 Dorchester Rd. Summerville, SC
SummervilleFord.com | 843-873-3550

SALUTING ALL AREA SCHOOLS

EXTRA EFFORT SPORTS
A BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TRAINING FACILITY

620 GREENWAVE BLVD. (843) 990-3059

LOWCOUNTRY
ORTHOPAEDICS
- & SPORTS MEDICINE

www.lowcountryortho.com
(843) 797-5050
North Charleston
Summerville
Clematis Ferry

choice WINNER

CHARLESTON'S

THE BEST

Go Green Wave!

“Kaden, we call him Texas, just started learning the sport during tryouts and is already making an impact on the front row,” Szafranski said. “He is very athletic and learning quickly.”

Others on the team are seniors **Parker Hardesty** and **Chase Parker** and sophomores **Logan Nygren** and **Lucas Brown**.

Kingstree football having ups and downs in 2026

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Kingstree – If you want to talk about an up-and=down football team, the 2026 edition of the **Kingstree High School** Blazers is a great starting point.

The Blazers were 2-4 overall and 0-1 in Region 5-Class A heading into an October 2 region contest against **Hannah-Pamplico**. Their two wins were against a pair of 2-win AA teams in **Timberland** and **Lake City**. KHS beat Timberland 38-19 and Lake City 16-8.

One of Kingstree’s losses was 48-26 to **Hana-han**, easily the best team on the schedule with a 6-0 record and ranked fifth in the *High School Sports Report* AAA poll.

The other losses? The Blazers lost to **Marion** 33-6 in the season opener, fell to **Mullins** 12-6 and lost to Andrews **9-0**. Each is a Class A school whose only win prior to their October 2 games came at the expense of KHS.

Kingstree head coach **Brandon Cantrell** said he’s never seen anything quite like this.

“I’ve been doing this 20 years,” said Cantrell, who is in his second year as Blazers head coach after serving the first 18 as an assistant at different schools with the first being Kingstree. “I’ve been on the offensive side of the ball all those years, and I can’t explain this. I can’t put my finger on what it is.

“We just may have a lot of old Kingstree in us,” Cantrell said in reference to the school’s less-than-stellar football history. “It’s nothing we did. Week in and week out, we prepared the same way, working on the fundamentals. We do a walk-through on Mon-

Nutrien
Ag Solutions

Saluting All Area Schools!

Chesterfield football working out the early kinks

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor

Chesterfield - The Chesterfield Rams simply saw last season as a side out.

A rebound, if you will.

Under coach **Courtney Vanderpool**, her team had won 15 games and counting.

“This season, we are actually a better-compacted team all around,” Coach Vanderpool said. “We have some really good hitters in the front row and one player who’s a freshman (**LeAsia Brown**) who can play anywhere on the front row and has been a great asset.”

But that’s not all.

“Our setter and libero are returning varsity players who double as defensive specialists who have been great help along the back row,” Coach Vanderpool said. “The defense is a lot stronger this year, and we get better set-ups in the front row.”

Setter **Madison Vanderpool** (the coach’s daughter) is a junior and team captain.

“Between last year and this season, she has almost 800 assists,” Coach Vanderpool said. “She is a hard worker on the team and gets everybody playing hard together. This is only her fourth year as a setter, and she hustles on the court from one side to the other.”

Ashton Cassidy is at libero.

“She plays wonderful defense,” Coach Vander-

pool said, and on Tuesday and Wednesday we ramp it up.”

Cantrell said the Blazers had over 400 yards of total offense against Timberland and close to 375 against Hanahan.

“There’s always flashes of good things,” he said. “This year hasn’t been a lack of effort, a lack of trying. It’s just execution. We play hard, we just didn’t execute. We have great effort every week, but we just haven’t executed consistently.”

The offense revolves around senior quarterback **Randy McFadden**. A 2-year starter, McFadden had completed 42 of 101 passes for 553 yards and three touchdowns through the first six games. He was also the leading rusher with 292 yards and six scores on 70 attempts.

Junior **Jaward Cooper** was right behind McFadden in rushing with 290 yards and two TDs on 60 carries. Junior **Landon Hannah** had 102 yards on 22 carries and also had 14 receptions for 184 yards and one touchdown.

The top pass catcher was junior **Meltrin Segars** with 18 for 219 yards. Senior **Maleek Dukes** had four grabs for 63 yards, two of them for scores.

Dukes is a playmaker on defense as well from his linebacker slot. Selected as the Region 7=AA Defensive Player of the Year last season, Dukes had a team high 12 tackles for a loss and two quarterback sacks among his 24 tackles. He also had two interceptions, returning one for a TD.

Freshman linebacker **Jaylen Williams** is the leading tackler with 34 to go with three TFLs. Senior linebacker **Mark Pickard** had 31 tackles, two sacks and six TFLs. Segars had three picks and 27 tackles as a defensive back.

ANDERSON
BROTHERS BANK
500 E. Main St. Kingstree, SC - (843) 354-2250

Saluting All Area Schools!

pool said. “She goes for balls she’s not even supposed to go after and dives all over the place on the court. She talks well and is one of my better servers. So, that makes her yet another team leader.”

Reagan Rivers is at middle hitter.

“She brings pep to the team,” Coach Vanderpool said. “She’s always happy, loud and if the players are down, she’s always bringing them back up. She’s got some fierce bones in her body. She’s the hardest hitter that I have, and she works day and night on becoming better with everything that she does.”

Then, there is **Hayden Wood** to complement Rivers.

“She places the ball well and sees the court and knows whether to tip or push the ball in places,” Coach Vanderpool said. “She has really stepped up during the past two seasons.”

And there is **Sydney Sowell** and **Brylie Harpe**.

“They were originally outside hitters, but now they are stepping up as defensive specialists,” Coach Vanderpool said. “They have made the back row better by being able to move to the ball and move the ball in ways we were not able to do last year. They hustle, dive and are two very strong servers.”

And then, there are **Camryn Horton** and **Brown**.

“(Brown) is a freshman who can play anywhere on the front row and start whether she’s on the outside or inside,” Coach Vanderpool said. “She’s usu-

KINGSTREE

Big G Hardware (843) 426-5355

Williamsburg Chiropractic and Wellness Center
DR. KEVIN A. MORRIS

Phone: 843-355-5131
Fax: 843-355-5137

303 East Main St.
Kingstree, S.C. 29556

TOWN OF GREELEYVILLE
MAYOR

Jesse Parker

Office 843.426.2111 | Cell 843.372.0382

jparker@tog.sc.gov

P.O. Box 212

3 Toby Place

Greeleyville, SC 29056

MISHOE OIL & PROPANE CO., INC.
K-1 Kerosene • Diesel • Gasoline • Propane

PO Box 296
Greeleyville
SC 29056
843-426-2600

Ronnie A. Sabb
SC State Senator
Proud to be Representing District 32!
RonnieSabb@schouse.gov (803) 212-6926

Bank of Greeleyville
Saluting the Stallions! Member FDIC

Santee Grocery
21 Mackey Road
(843) 426-2478
Saluting All Area Schools

Salters, SC 29590
“Best Hot Dogs in SC!”

Randy's Diesel Performance

158 N. Main Street
Greeleyville, SC 29056
843-426-4455

WILDER BROTHERS
WILLIAMSBURG HOUSE
EST. 1938

“The Best Furniture Prices in the State!”

(843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

CHESTERFIELD

First Citizens Bank
403 W Main Street, Chesterfield, SC (803) 623-2127
Financial Sales Manager: Mike Caskey (843) 623-9277
David Durham, SVP Manager of Retail Banking, Pee Dee Market

Saluting all Area Schools!

Member, FDIC

Spencer Law Firm

301 W. Main St.
Post Office Box 190
Chesterfield, SC 29709
spencerlaw@shtc.net

William O. Spencer, Jr.
Attorney at Law

Ph: 843-623-2144
Real Estate: 843-623-3879
Fax: 843-623-6928

The Chesterfield High School Athletic Dept. Salutes All Players and Coaches During the 2023-24 School Year!

COCKRELL
LAW FIRM, P.C.

Olde Towne Centre Barrister Building
159 Main Street
Chesterfield, SC 29709
Phone: (843) 623-5911
Email: mwc@cockrelllawfirm.com

ally in our starting rotation and is another important player in our success.”

WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL WOLVERINES



Woodland's senior volleyball players and coaches Woodland volleyball hoping to finish strong

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Dorchester – With two games remaining in region play, the **Woodland High** volleyball team is in a fight for a state playoff berth.

Entering play on Oct. 5, Woodland was in a fourth-place tie in the region standings with league matches against Battery Creek (Oct. 8) and Academic Magnet (Oct. 13) remaining. Woodland went 4-6 in their first 10 region contests while posting a

Woodland football out to hot start, winning 4 of their first 6 games

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Dorchester – The 2026 football season has reached a pivotal point as region play will decide titles and playoff opportunities.

Woodland High hopes to reman in contention for the region 5-AA title and a playoff berth but will need a strong finish to keep hopes alive.

Entering a key region contest at Battery Creek on Oct. 9, the Wolverines are 4-2 overall in te regular season. Their region five opener resulted in a 32-29 loss to Philip Simmons, putting the Wolverines behind the eight-ball. Battery Creek enters the key region game with an undefeated record so a Woodland win would give them a tie-breaking advantage.

Head coach **Eddie Ford** says his team must put their best football together down the stretch.

“We let one get away against Philip Simmons so now we have to claw and fight our way back,” Ford said. “This where we have to pull together as a team and keep doing the things we know we can do. We lost to a good Philip Simmons team but it was a game we could have won. We just didn’t finish it well. Both of our losses came to good teams and we were in both games into the fourth quarter.”

Woodland’s other loss this season was a 41-28 setback to Bamberg-Ehrhardt, one of the top teams in class A this season.

Woodland’s wins were Cross (14-8), Colleton County (48-7), Edisto (30-0) and Whale Branch (48-0). The Cross game was cancelled in the second quarter after a fight broke out. Officials chose to call the game with Woodland leading. Both teams had multiple players suspended and missed action over the next few games. Cross ended up forfeiting three games.

Ford says his team must bring their focus in the game against Battery Creek.

“Battery Creek is having a great season and their kids are playing with a lot of confidence right now,” Ford said. “I told our players, there are no easy games left. We need to learn to win these big

games and play better in the close games.”

Woodland, as the scores relate, has been pretty consistent offensively this season. Senior **Jervaze Salley** is a veteran leader at quarterback.

“He’s a fourth-year guy and he has seen and played a lot of football,” Ford said. “His experience is a big factor and he is a great leader for the offense.”

Sophomore running backs **Kiyan Thompson** and **Khalin Bryant** have anchored the running game and rotate in and out to keep fresh legs in the game.

“We’re at our best offensively when we can dictate the tempo and sort of do what we like to do,” said Ford. “So far, for the most part, we have been able to do that, Scoring has not been a problem in any game.”

Seniors **Samuel Gadson** and **Owen Messex** have been the leaders along the offensive line.

“Both are three-year starters and both are smart kids and great leaders,” Ford said. “The line play has been good overall.”

Woodland’s defense has been solid but strong passing games with Bamberg-Ehrhardt and Philip



The Wolverines huddle up during pregame warmups



The Woodland Athletic Department
Joins the Athletic Booster Club In Saluting
the Wolverines Athletes & Coaches!

J. Frank Quattlebaum
Attorney at Law

222 N. Parler Ave
St. George, SC 29477
Phone: 843-563-2112

Proudly Saluting the Wolverines!

6-8 overall record. The Wolverines also have two non-region games remaining against Stall (Oct. 5) and Stratford (Oct. 15). A strong finish in region play could land Woodland a spot in the upcoming AA state playoffs.

The team is coached by **Sarah McClellan**, who is in her first season as the head coach. The team is led by three seniors – **Landyn Ranck**, **Briahnnna Simmons** and **Issabella Lopez**.

Juniors this season include **Addisyn Waggoner**, **Ellen Neuhaus**, **Rayleigh Chavis**, **Katherine Westberry**, **Josie Mitchum** and **Alyssa McClellan**.

Rounding out the 2026 roster are sophomore **Lenaya Ross**, sophomore **Kailey Plumb**, sophomore **Jasmine Robinson**, and sophomore **Corrine Westbury**.

Simmons did have good success through the air. Among the leaders defensively are linebacker **Kye White**, linebacker **Chandler Fogle** and defensive tackle **Ray Smith**.

“It’s important we play complimentary football, meaning we need the offense to play well, the defense to play well, and the special teams to play well,” said Ford. “The bottom line is simple. We have played well so far but we have to improve in everything that we do. We can’t rest. We have to move forward and do what we do.”

Ford is an assistant coach on the South Carolina Shrine Bowl team this year. The game will be played on Dec. 19 at Spartanburg High. Ford will be joined on the SC roster by one of his players, receiver/defensive back **Jeremie Jean**.

Jean transferred to Woodland from Stall and has made a big impact for the Wolverines.

“He was a really productive quarterback at Stall but he came here and really worked as a safety and receiver,” Ford said. “He’s been a huge addition and he is deserving of the honor. He’s a really smart kid and he’s very coachable. He’s a high character kid and he’s a great football player as well.”

Patriots boys volleyball among region’s best

**By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR**
North Charleston – The **Fort Dorchester Boys Volleyball** team enters the week in second place for **5A Region 5**.

The **Patriots** are 10-11 on the season with a 6-1 record in region matches. Their only region loss came to **Summerville**, which handed the Fort a 3-1 loss Sept. 16 in **The Firehouse**. Fort Dorchester has a chance to avenge that loss at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 7 in North Charleston.

“We are putting things together,” said Fort Dorchester coach **Elizabeth Simmons**. “We are really young and a bit inexperienced with a lot of brand-new players, but we are looking good and not to be underestimated.”

The Patriots only had three varsity lettermen return from last year. The rest of the team is new to playing volleyball or coming up from the JV squad.

The only two seniors, **Aaron Drake** and **Daniel Schenk**, are also team captains. The other returner is junior **Logan Rodriguez**.

Schenk, **Jace Sturman** and **Randon Parker** are leading the team’s hitters. **Tyler Holden** and **Logan Tran** anchor the middle of the net. Drake is the starting setter.

“We lost to **Hanahan** in five sets and they have a good team,” Simmons said. “We are finding our groove. On the backrow freshman **Ace Avellar** is killing it and **Logan Rodriguez** is killing it at the Libero spot. We are finding what works and putting things together.”

Other members of the team are **Heitor De Souza**,



Photo by Roger Lee
Logan Rodriguez makes a dig

Nathan Nguyen, **Aaron Isringhaus**, **Noah Brothers**, and **James Young**.

Fort Girls
The **Fort Girls** are 11-9 with a 4-5 mark in the region. However, last week they avenged a prior loss to **Ashley Ridge** so the **Patriots** can rise in the region rankings with a strong finish to the season.

“Things have been going well,” said Fort Dorchester coach **Megan Foley**. “We played some great competition early in the season and consistently im-



Photo by Roger Lee.
The Ashley Ridge swim teams placed first in both the boys’ and overall divisions at the AAAAA Region 5 Swimming Championships.

Ashley Ridge claims region swimming titles

**By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR**
Summerville – The **Ashley Ridge** swimmers had the best performance at their region championship meet.

Swimmers representing the seven schools in **Class 5A Region 5** competed at the **North Charleston Aquatics Center** Oct. 2 during the **2026 Region 5 Swimming Championships**. For the ninth consecutive year, Ashley Ridge finished first in the Combined Team Standings with 802 points. Trailing in the standings were **West Ashley** (703), **Summerville** (301), **Fort Dorchester** (294), **James Island** (247) and **Stratford** (116). **Stall** didn’t send a complete team to the meet, but did have some individuals compete.

“I feel we were pretty spot on today,” said Ashley Ridge coach **Victoria Merritt**. “It gave us a good opportunity to learn some stuff we can fix before we go to the state meet. We had some great swims so that is all I can really ask for, everybody trying to do the best they can.”

The **5A Boys State Swimming Champi-**

onships are scheduled for 6 p.m. Oct. 10 at the **University of South Carolina Natatorium in Columbia**. The **5A Girls State Swimming Championships** are scheduled for 6 p.m. Oct. 8 at the same location.

The Ashley Ridge Boys tallied 411 points to cruise to the Boys Region Championship. Trailing were West Ashley (292), Summerville (185), Fort Dorchester (151), Stratford (115) and James Island (113).

Jesse Gladis was named the **Boys Region Swimmer of the Year** after winning the 100-yard Breaststroke with a 57.32 finish and helping both the Ashley Ridge 200 Medley Relay and 200 Freestyle Relay teams to a first-place finish. He had the best time in the 200 Individual Medley, but was one of two swimmers disqualified in that event.

Gladis teamed up with **Jimmy Young**, **Jackson Jarrard** and **Landen Piscitelli** to help the **Swamp Foxes’** 200 Free Relay team break a school record. Gladis, Jarrard, Young and **Gryffin Routhier** each swam a leg of the 200 Medley

FORT DORCHESTER

SUMMERVILLE

9700 Dorchester Rd. Summerville, SC
SummervilleFord.com | 843-873-3550

TRADITION
QUALITY
VISION

Dorchester School District Two
815 South Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-2901 www.ddtwo.org
Proud Supporters of FDHS Athletics!

proved. This is a talented group of girls who are hungry. We have a heavy load of seniors, but everybody contributes. It’s nice to see all the hard work come together.”

Fort Dorchester has seven seniors to lean on. “Senior **Izzy Kerce**, our right side hitter, is one of our captains and a great leader,” Foley said. “We lost our long-time setter, but senior **Sophie Bobola** has stepped up and puts the ball where it needs to go and is great defensively.”

Outside hitters **Sarah Mitchell**, **Lilly Bruton** and **Leslie Gunnoe**, as well as defensive specialist **Jada Heard** and Libero **Ari Loudermilk** are also seniors.

“Sarah is a quick player and can play both front and back row,” Foley said. “Lilly is a strong outside who is able to shut down opponents with a solid block.”

Some underclassmen are also making a big impact.

Junior **Cailyn Ashline** is the other team captain. She has transferred from a hitter last season to a defensive specialist and Libero. Sophomore middle hitter/blocker **Hailey Walden** leads the team in blocks and service aces. Freshman hitter **Konner Haupt** leads in hitting percentage. Junior middle hitter/blocker **Megan Thomas** brings solid play ofensively and defensively.

“On paper this is a strong group, but to see it translate into victories has been really fun to watch,” Foley said.

ASHLEY RIDGE

The Ashley Ridge
Booster Club

Proudly Salutes Our Foxes!!

SUMMERVILLE

9700 Dorchester Rd. Summerville, SC
SummervilleFord.com | 843-873-3550

Relay race. Young also won the 50 Free with a 22.68 time. He had the best time in the 100 Free, but was disqualified.

The West Ashley Girls also tallied 411 points to edge out Ashley Ridge (391) for the Girls Region Championship. Trailing were Fort Dorchester (143), James Island (134), Summerville (116) and Stratford (1).

Ashley Ridge’s **Emily Bonacci** won the 200 Free and 400 Free. **Harper Kabealo** won the 100 Breaststroke. The AR 200 Medlay Relay also won.

Swimmers who won an event were named to the All-Region Team.

Members of the Boys All-Region Team included Ashley Ridge’s Karter Gladis, Jimmy Young, Landen Piscitelli, Jackson Jarrard and Finn Routhier.

Members of the Girls All-Region Team included Ashley Ridge’s Harper Kabealo, Emily Bonacci, **Addie Green**, **Callie Casa** and **Ara-**

Hawks off to best start in 13 years on gridiron

By Rob Gantt

Special to the HSSR

HANAHAN - Hanahan High School's football team is halfway through its fourth season under coach **Milan Turner** and the record is a sparkling 6-0 for the Hawks. A 28-3 win over visiting Colleton County Sept. 25 gave the Hawks their best start since 2013.

The Hawks continued lighting up the scoreboard offensively behind junior quarterback **Tripp Gallus**, senior receiver **Grayson Mathes** and junior receiver **Quamell Grant**. The trio has been difficult to contain this fall for opposing defenses as the Hawks average 43.6 points per game through six contests.

Gallus topped 300 yards through the air and connected on three touchdown passes versus the Cougars. Mathes grabbed eight passes for 119 yards and two scores, while Grant snagged six receptions for 183 yards and a touchdown.

The performance put the lefty Gallus (6-5, 230) over 1,700 yards for the season and upped his touchdown tally to 19. Gallus, who has been offered by Eastern Michigan, is hitting on 69 percent of his heaves and has also scored once on the ground. Mathes (32-711-9) and Grant (26-718-6) are Gallus's primary targets. Tight end **Julien Washington** has reeled in seven balls for 150 yards and two scores.

Turner also likes the Hawks' running back room, powered by sophomore **Nevaeus Gourdine**. Gourdine rushed for 74 yards against Colleton County and reached paydirt one time, raising his season totals to 458 yards and 11 scores. Senior **Xavier Sabback** and junior **Tristen Green** have

kicked in 159 yards and 168 yards, respectively, combining for five touchdowns on the ground.

On the other side of the ball, senior linebacker **Mason Bellamy** leads the way with 44 total tackles, followed by junior linebacker

Lucas Meyer (39 TT), sophomore linebacker **Luke Bellamy** (31 TT), junior defensive lineman **Elijah Mitchell** (30 TT) and senior linebacker **Quinn Soler** (30 TT). Defensively, the Hawks allow less than 15 points per game.

Before knocking off Colleton County, the Hawks opened the regular season with victories over Philip Simmons (34-33) and Kingstree (48-20) before traveling to Beaufort (52-14) and hosting Andrews (47-0). They headed out to county rival Timberland and won 53-12 to remain unbeaten.

Hanahan meets state power Oceanside Collegiate Oct. 2 in a region game.



Senior Grayson Mathes

Northwood proves they can hang with anyone

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Summerville—Despite a 17-10 loss to **Hammond** (6-0) at home on September 25, the close score of the game verified that **Northwood Academy** (4-2) is once again a contender in SCISA AAAA, after winning the state title a year ago.

The Chargers have already played a challenging schedule, and very competitive upcoming games against **Pinewood Prep** and **Porter-Gaud** will determine their seedings for the play-offs. With a break or two, the Chargers could have easily defeated Hammond in their recent meeting last week/

“The game was like a heavy weight prize fight,” said Northwood head coach **Johnny Waters**. “These two teams have a lot of respect for each other. I told our kids before the game it is going to come down to who does more of the little things right. I was a little surprised at how well Hammond was able to cover our receivers.

“The best news coming out of the Hammond game is that we didn't have any injuries,” said Coach Waters. “Earlier in the season we did lose two players to unfortunate injuries, but right now we are as healthy as we have been all season.

“We learned a lot about how their defense was able to slow us down, and quite honestly, if we are fortunate enough to meet them in the state finals at the end of the season, we feel like we will employ a different strategy in attacking their defense,” said Coach Waters. “Football is a game of breaks, and in this game, we didn't get many breaks.”

The score was tied at the half 3-3. The Chargers took a 3-0 lead with 8:40 to go in the first period when their opening possession resulted in a 37-yard field goal by **Elliott Parrott**.

The Chargers only touchdown against Hammond, took place in the third period as the team marched 80 yards in 9 plays with WR **Drew Wolfe** catching an 8-yard scoring reception from quarterback **Kevin Johnson** for a TD and Parrott's PAT made the final score 17-10.

Against Hammond, Johnson completed 9-of-16 passes for 133 yards and one TD. Polite led all rushers with 92 yards on 16 carries. Northwood won the stats battle in the game. The Chargers amassed 293 yards of offense while their defense gave up 193 yards to Hammond.

Johnson (6-2, 205) holds an offer from **Charleston Southern** with several other schools showing interest. “He can make all the throws,” said Coach Waters. “He keeps getting better and better the further as we get further into the season.”

Johnson added 24 rushing yards on three carries while Faison added 51 yards on 8 carries.

The top receivers against Hammond were **Aiden Rutledge** with four catches for 25 yards and Wolfe caught two passes for 52 yards and one TD.

Northwood was led on the tackle against Hammond index by **Brooks Arnold** (8) while **Tristan Simmons** (6) and **Mari Brown** contributed (6) six hits each.

For the season Johnson gets better with every game. The next level senior QB will come into the **John Paul II** game this week having completed 73-of-135 passes for 1,148 yards and 15 TD's. His top receiving target has been senior world class sprinter **Drew Wolfe** (4.4) who has caught 27 passes for 640 yards with 11 TD's. Polite leads the running game with 675 yards on 122 carries and 7 TD's. Senior **Antuan Faison** is the next top rusher, but he has been dealing with nagging injuries most of the season.

HANAHAN

Hanahan High School Salutes Its Hard Working Student Athletes!



6015 Murray Dr - Hanahan, SC 29410

Tom Gallus
Principal

Go
Hawks!



The Hanahan High School Athletic Booster Club Salutes the Hawks!

County Supervisor

JOHNNY
CRIBB

Supports All BCSD Athletics

NORTHWOOD ACADEMY



Saluting the Chargers!

The NA Athletic Booster Club Wishes Our Student Athletes Good Luck This Season!

Through six games of the season, the Chargers defensive leaders in tacklers include freshman LB **Tristan Simmons** (31), junior **Mekhi Zimmerman** (26), senior OLB **Devin Porter** (22), senior DT **Brooks Arnold** (21), and junior MLB **Jerimiah Waites** (20).

The veteran offensive line, cited for their outstanding play by Hammond head coach **Jon Wheeler**, is led by four-year starter **Kaeden Wagner** (6-2, 270) who holds a firm offer from **Carson Newman**.

“Over the past four seasons Kaeden has started at every position in the offensive line, and we have been in playing at left tackle this season,” said Coach Waters. “He had been our starting center prior to this season. He is a very fundamentally sound football player.”

Other talented OL include senior center **Keneth Robbins** who has seven pancakes to date, along with veteran RT **Brayden Andy** who has four pancakes, while senior 6-3 LG **Jacob Harrelson** (6-3, 280) has seven pancakes. Senior **Justin Watson** starts at RG for the Chargers.

Patriots could be spoilers in SCISA 8-Man playoffs

By: Gerald Doolittle

Staff Writer

JOHNSTON, S.C. — The **Wardlaw Academy Patriots** coached by **Marsh Stark** has a chance to be a big-time spoiler in the race for the **SCISA 8-Man 2026 Championship**. Stark a Wardlaw Alum took over the football program this season with the task of bringing the Patriots back to their winning tradition in SCISA 8-man football. The Patriots want to improve on last seasons 3-6 record.

Going into October the Patriots are 2-0 in Region play and 2-3 overall. They own region wins over **Andrew Jackson** (44-22) and **Community Christian** (26-0). They have two region games left when they face **Jefferson Davis** at home on 10/23 and close out regular season on 10/30 at defending Champion **W.W. King**. They opened the 2026 season with a 38-2 loss to W.W. King. That did not count as a region game.

The Patriots seven seniors have been the offensive attack in 2026. Those seven seniors are **Evan Bryan**, **Cooper Davis**, **Jake Winn**, **Chandler**

Knights working hard for a repeat

By: Gerald Doolittle

Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.- The W.W. King

Academy **Knights** coached by **Brian Kneece** are working hard to repeat as **SCISA 8-Man** football Champions. Last season the Knights completed the school's first undefeated season with a 12-0 record for the Title.

The Knights will carry a 4-1 record into October. They hit a bump in the road, dropping a 22-18 game to undefeated **Jefferson Davis** on 9/4. It is possible the Knights could have a rematch with the **Raiders** in post-season.

“We have done some good things up to this point,” said Coach Kneece. “We certainly got a lot of things to work at and continue to improve every day. Our guys are working hard and trying to do what they are supposed too. We have not played our best ball yet this season, but we are going to keep working and see what happens. Every day we are excited for practice, and we love playing ball on Friday nights. Thankful for the good Lord giving us another day of football.”

Heading into October, the Knights are 1-1 in region play with a 42-0 win over **Andrew Jackson** and the loss to Jefferson Davis. They have region games left with **Newberry Academy**, **Community Christian** and **Wardlaw Academy**.

The Knights offense has been powered by the

Thorne, **Kale Henderson**, **Randell Thompson** and **Thomas Proctor**.

Jake Winn in the last game against **Laurens Academy** had 4 receptions for 148 yds scoring a touchdown. He also rushed for 16 yards and on defense he had 10 tackles, a fumble recovery and an interception.

Chandler Thorne against Laurens Academy had 51 return yards and rushed for 17 yards. In the same game Thomas Proctor had 3 receptions for 42 yards and a touchdown.

Before facing Jefferson Davis and Wardlaw the Patriots will work hard to win over **Cambridge Academy** at home on 10/2. They will have a long road trip to **Mt. Pleasant** to battle with **Palmetto Christian** on 10/9. Then, will face **Richard Winn** at home on 10/14.

The seven seniors would love to end their high school football careers by hanging a Championship banner on the gym wall with the many other banners earned by the other athletic programs at Wardlaw.

play of **Joseph Morse** (jr). He has rushed for 857 yards on 60 carries scoring 13 touchdowns. Last season Morse rushed for over 2000 yards.

Jackson Hutto (so) follows Morse with 329 rushing yards on 27 carries scoring 3 touchdowns. **Jacob Bussey** (so) has added 119 yards on 9 carries scoring 2 touchdowns. Seniors **Luke Harvey** and **Ty Doolittle** have together rushed for 150 yards with Doolittle scoring 2 touchdowns.

Quarterback **Elijah Hutto** (sr) has completed 12 of 27 passes for 304 yards and 5 touchdowns. Harvey has 6 receptions for 118 yards 1 touchdown. **Bubba Buzhardt** (jr) has 3 receptions for 119 yards and 1 touchdown. **Landell Anderson** (sr) has 3 receptions for 73 yards and 3 touchdowns.

The Knights defense has tallied 308 tackles, 6 sacks and 7 pass interceptions. The top four in making tackles have been Bussey with 73, **Colton Black** (sr) with 40, Harvey with 29 and **Casen Buzhardt** (sr) with 28.

Bussey has 2 of the sacks. The other 4 sacks were made by **Isaiah Doolittle** (so), **Drayton Wannamaker** (so), **Walker Buzhardt** (fr) and **Greyson Rikard** (jr). The 7 interceptions were made by Anderson with 4 and Harvey with 3.

The Knights hope to go undefeated in October and November to earn themselves another Championship in SCISA 8-Man football.

Laurens Academy volleyball after next title run

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Laurens – The **Laurens Academy** volleyball team saw its run of consecutive SCISA state championships come to an end at three last season. The Crusaders came close to four in a row, rallying from a 2-0 deficit against **The King's Academy** to force a fifth game before losing 15-9.

The goal for LA this season is a simple one: start another run of state championships.

“Our goal every year is to win a state championship,” said Laurens head coach **Shannon McGee**.

The Crusaders were off to a 12-2 start but both of the losses came in their most recent matches before publication. They lost to AAA **Greenwood Christian School** 3-0 and dropped a Region 3-AA match to archrival **Cambridge Academy** 3-1.

LA is still in first in the region with a 7-1 record while Cambridge has finished its region schedule with an 8-2 record. McGee said her team wasn't at full strength for the match.

“We've had a lot of sickness on the team, and our second leading scorer was out,” she said.

Laurens defeated Cambridge 3-1 earlier in the season. The Crusaders need victories over **Wardlaw Academy** and **Our Lady of the Rosary** to clinch the region crown.

WARDLAW

The Yonce Family Salutes Wardlaw Athletics



In Memory of
Wardlaw Supporter
Larry Yonce

Courtesy the Yonce Family
The Peach Capital of the World

*Green Meadows Poultry
Proudly Salutes Wardlaw Academy
(803) 480-2943 - Go Patriots!*

*Phillip Quarles Proudly Salutes
Wardlaw Academy Athletics!
Let's Go Patriots!*

WW KING

Kilo Charlie Shooting Range Salutes WKA!



Let's Go
Knights!

Friends of
W.W. King Academy



“There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.” John 15:13



PREMIUM CHICKEN PRODUCTS
Proudly Saluting the WW King Knights!

www.HSSR.com

LAURENS ACADEMY



1925 Hunter Industrial Park Rd.
PO Box 462
Laurens, SC 29360
864.681.4247 (Office)
864.681.4822 (Fax)

Go Crusaders!



Robertson
Ace Hardware

578 N. Main St., Woodruff, 29388
340 Hillcrest Dr. Laurens, SC 29360
107 Jacobs Hwy, Clinton, SC 29325
401 S Alabama Ave, Chesnee, SC 29323
(864) 476-5580 (864) 984-2280

Gray volleyball looking to clinch region crown

By WORTHY EVANS
Special to the HSSR
Columbia - With **Gray Collegiate Academy**’s volleyball team entering the second half of Region 4-AAAAA play, the War Eagles (18-4, 5-0) are in the driver’s seat for a region title, provided they can hold off **Blythewood** (11-11, 4-1).
“We’re rolling around this time of year, in the second half of region play,” head coach **Shonda Wallace** said. “We’re looking to finish strong.”
Gray last won a championship in 2023, back when the War Eagles were at the AA classification. Now in AAAAA, the War Eagles are excelling.
The team lost **Courtney Burgess**, who now plays at **Virginia Tech**, and two other seniors. Burgess had 219 kills (3.3 kills per set), 57 blocks and 53 aces last year as the team went 22-5 and a second-place (13-1) finish in Region 4-AAAA.
While Burgess left, five out of six starters returned and, with two transfers, have brought the program to a higher level.
“Fans will always wonder if we’re as good (without Burgess) because we lost an impact player,” Wallace said. “But I think we’re just as good if not better with our returners and transfers. We’re playing really well together.”
The team showed its togetherness early. Gray started the season using a 6-2 offense (two setters,

back row only; six hitters) until one of the setters, sophomore **Ela Perez**, broke her arm. The War Eagles had to return to a 5-1 offense (one setter; universal) with senior **Colby Branham** as the setter and didn’t miss a beat
“She’s used to running the 5-1 from league volleyball and a lot of the girls were used to playing in that offense,” Wallace said. “She’s our setter, and setters don’t get a lot of the glory but they do a lot of the work. They’re the ones who touch the ball every single time.
Branham is getting close to 1,000 career assists since becoming a starter in 2025, with 806 as of Oct. 2.
Middle hitters **Sadie Williamson**, a sophomore, and junior **Olivia Ford** provide a dynamic boost as well as hitting efficiency. Williamson has 96 kills to Ford’s 95, and Ford has 35 blocks to Williamson’s 32.
Junior Libero **Haylen Lawson** battled injuries last year but has played steady, with a team-leading 206 digs to go with 22 aces and 43 assists.
Junior **Emily Burgess**, Courtney’s sister, is a jack-of-all trades on the court. She has 126 kills, a team-leading 163 rotation points, 243 service attempts, 154 digs, and 246 service receptions.
“She does everything for us,” Wallace said. “She

See **Gray Collegiate**, pg. 62



The Oceanside girls volleyball team is having another great season in 2026
Oceanside volleyball having strong season again

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Mt. Pleasant – With the state playoffs just around the corner, the **Oceanside Collegiate** volleyball team has their sights on contending for the AAA state title later this month.
As of Oct. 5, the Landsharks needed one more win to secure the region championship with an Oct. 6 matchup against Bishop England expected to be for the title. OCA enters that contest with a 20-1 record overall, having won 19 straight matches through the regular season.
Allie Siebert is in her first season as the head coach and inherited a program that has been a state champion and runner-up several times in recent years. The program has a winning culture to go with very good talent.
Sophomore middle **Payton Moorman** is among the best in the state at her position and leads the team with nearly 100 kills. Junior **Anne Arden Brooks**, an opposite side hitter, also ranks among the top in kills. Fellow middle hitter **Jada McKinney** teams with Moorman at the net and has more than 60 kills.
Other seniors on the team include **Amiyah Stevens**, **Kimber Gilmore**, **Lauren Hagemeyer**, **Madelyn Scott**, and **Reagan Williams**.
Remaining juniors are **Eden Abney**, **Caitlin Mordecai**, **Finley Bork**, **Poppy Boylston**, and

Sophia LeCompte.
Rounding on the 2026 roster are sophomore **Jaycee Millard**, freshman **Sydney Stickney**, and freshman **Rosemary Brooks**.
Football set to compete for region title
After opening region 5-AAA play with a win over previously unbeaten Hanahan, the Landsharks football team looks to win the region title. Their biggest challenge left on the 2026 schedule is another undefeated team, Bishop England, and those two teams will meet on Oct. 16. The winner will have the inside track to a region title.
Then the focus becomes the state playoffs. OCA is seeking a fourth consecutive state championship this season.
Against the toughest schedule in the state, the Landsharks enter play on Oct. 9 with a 3-3 record. OCA played three AAAAA teams and two powerhouse programs from Georgia before playing top 10 Hanahan.
“It has been a very competitive schedule and playing those teams helped us see where we needed to work, and we needed a lot of work,” said head coach Brent LaPrad. “We have improved over the season but we have yet to play our best football/ Hopefully we can peak at the right time.”
Senior quarterback **Aiden Manavian** is set to pass the 10,000-yard mark in career passing. He has thrown for more than 1,300 yards and 13 touch-

GRAY COLLEGIATE

*The Gray Collegiate Academy
Athletic Department
& Booster Club
Salutes the War Eagles!*

*Dr. Raleigh Boulware
Salutes All
Gray Collegiate
War Eagles
Athletic Programs!*

OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE

*The Dale Strickland family salute OCA Sports!
Parker Stubbs #25 - Go Landsharks!*

Go Landsharks!
Oceanside Collegiate Academy
580 Faison Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466
(843) 936-7128

BLACK & BLUE BOOSTER CLUB
PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY FOOTBALL PROGRAM
CONGRATS On a Phenomenal 2024 Season
ocafootball.com

SCREEN EAST
EST. 1982
SCREEN PRINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN
www.ScreenEastInc.com

585 Orangeburg Road
Summerville, SC 29483
843-871-8213
*Proud Supporter
of all
Area Schools!*

downs this season.
The Landsharks have been without one of their top receivers, **Anthony Williams**, all season as he deals with an injury. Senior **Jaiden Kelly-Murray** and **Cooper Webb** have been the top passing targets.
Senior **Jaxson Bean** has been a valuable two-way performer along the lines. Defensive back **Michael Strickler** has had a solid season but the defense as a whole has struggled at times against the high-powered offenses.
The defense did play well against Hanahan, limiting the Hawks to less than 200 total yards.

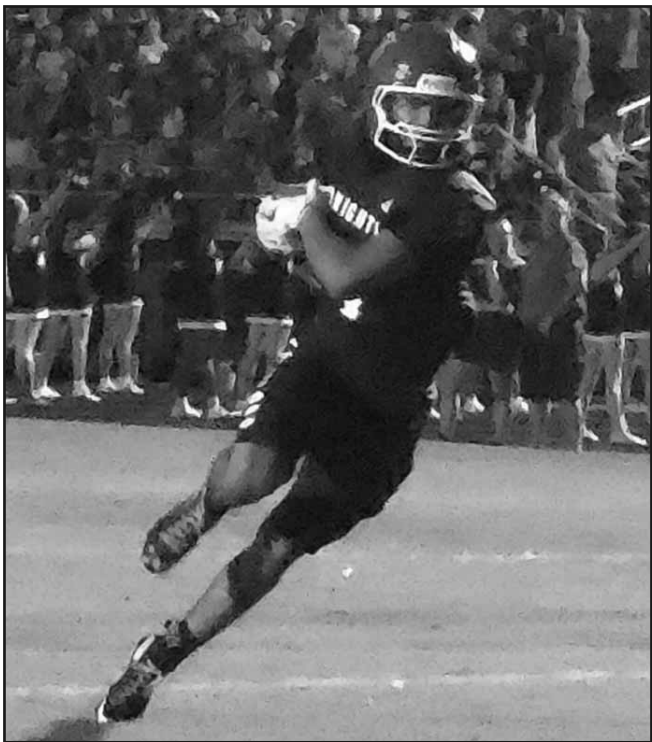
Knights claim bragging rights with win over GCHS

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
GOOSE CREEK - **Stratford High School**’s football team snagged the Golden Goose Trophy for the fourth straight season.
Quarterback **Caleb Lott** threw three touchdown passes and the Knights turned two blocked punts into instant points to power the home team past visiting rival Goose Creek High School, 42-14 on Sept. 14.
The victory was the first of the season for Coach **Dennie McDaniel**’s bunch and came with the hardware that goes to the winner of the football rivalry game.
“Tonight I was proud of the guys for doing all the little things right,” McDaniel said. “We had guys blocking downfield. We threw a 10-yard pass and it went for a 60-yard touchdown pass because we had guys blocking downfield. We’ve got guys in coverage doing what they’re supposed to do, keeping the ball outside and forcing the ball back in. Our run defense was great all night. It’s a testament to what we can do when we play as a team.”

Stratford opened up on fire to take control in the rivalry matchup. After the defense stymied the Gators on a fourth-and-short inside their own 30, Lott connected with tight end **Micah Adams** for a 29-yard touchdown on the Knights’ first play for scrimmage to make it 6-0. Lott finished 10-of-16 for 182 yards.
Knights **Antonio Holley** and **Kermit Davis** then put the special in special teams by getting through to block Gators punts on their next two possessions, finishing the impact plays themselves in the end zone as Stratford built a 21-0 lead in the first quarter.
“Micah has been doing an unreal job, just blocking and being a leader on the team,” McDaniel said. “Caleb’s performance was really good tonight. We’ve been telling Antonio he’s been so close. We’ve been working on him. We’ve told him once you get one it’s contagious. Hopefully he’ll get some more this season.”

Gators improving daily as region play approaches

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
GOOSE CREEK - Former Goose Creek **Gators** standout **Jamie Fordham** understood he was taking over a program that didn’t win a game in 202 so the first-year coach wanted his team to possess a windshield mentality this fall. He encourages the Gators to only see what’s right in front of them and seek to get better daily.
They’ve been doing that during the 2026 football season on Redbank Road. As part of the non-region schedule, the Gators (1-4) recorded a victory over Stall (53-7) and competed well for two to three quarters in a few losses. Coach Fordham’s squad began their region slate at Carolina Forest on Oct. 2 and hosts Cane Bay Oct. 9 before traveling to Berkeley Oct. 16.
Goose Creek’s improvement from year to the next has been noticeable on the scoreboard for sure. Last fall, the Gators tallied just 71 points in 10 games. Goose Creek is over 100 points this season with five more games to go in the regular season.
“Today I wanted to see us do some things well and come out with confidence,” Fordham said following a game earlier this season. “Some of the mistakes we made technique-wise we focused on in film after that last (game). Tonight we didn’t make some of those same mistakes. That’s going in the



Jayden Lee

The Gators showed some life in the second quarter but Lott and primary target **Jayden Lee** squashed any hopes of a comeback by hooking up on scores of 24 and 62 yards over the next four minutes to push Stratford’s lead to 35-7. Lee grabbed four passes for 105 yards.
The only tally during the second half came courtesy of Stratford running back **Kobie Mayes**, who ripped off a 45-yard run late in the third quarter. Mayes finished up with 59 yards rushing. Running back **Malachi Breland** led in the ground game with 65 yards.
“I was more proud of how our guys played unselfishly tonight than I was with the big plays we made,” McDaniel said. “That’s what we’ve been preaching. Little things lead to big things. Obviously, that gave us a big victory tonight.”
Defensively, seniors **Cameron Gibbs** and **Jonah Coleman** led the way with seven total tackles each. **Jaeaun Cannon** recovered a fumble.



Quarterback Tyler Holmes

right direction. Now, it’s just what’s the next step.”
Sophomore quarterback **Tyler Holmes** has more than 500 total yards and four touchdowns, while junior **Sincere Lewis** heads up the rushing attack with 500-plus rushing yards and four scores. Lewis has also snagged five passes for more than 60 yards. Holmes has been distributing the ball through the air

STRATFORD

Stratford High School
Heather L. Taylor
Principal
951 Crowfield Blvd.
Goose Creek, SC 29445
Phone: (843) 820-4000
Fax: (843) 574-2060
taylorh@bcscschools.net

**Good Luck in the
2026-27 Season!
Go Knights!**

**We Back the
Knights
All the Way!**
Friends of Stratford Athletics

County Supervisor
**JOHNNY
CRIBB**
Supports All BCSD Athletics

GOOSE CREEK

Go Gators!
We salute all our hardworking students, athletes & coaches! Best of luck this season!
*Courtesy of Goose Creek
High Faculty & Staff*

**Goose Creek High School
Athletic Booster Club Salutes
All of Our Outstanding Athletes!**

evenly, with freshman speedster **Joseph Randolph** out front with nine receptions for 98 yards and a touchdown. Senior **Reggie Dozier** (7-69) and sophomore **Co’ron McCoy** (7-50) have seen their share of targets, too. Randolph makes his mark on special teams, too, with two kickoffs returned for touchdowns.
Defensively, senior linebacker **Canaan Williams** is atop the tackles chart with more than 50 total stops, followed by junior linebacker **Hayden Denmark**, junior linebacker **Sukari Wright** and sophomore linebacker **Jonny Mantey**. Denmark, senior defensive lineman **Elijah Mack**, Williams and Wright have regularly been in on tackles for lost yardage.
The Gators finish the regular season with games against Socastee (home, Oct. 23) and Wando (away, Oct. 30).

Berkeley looking to finish up with region crown

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Moncks Corner – Except for one outing, the 2026 season has gone quite well for the **Berkeley High** football team.

Through six games, the Stags have posted five wins, including a huge win over Wando in the region 5-AAAA opener on Oct. 2. The lone blemish on the early record was a loss to two-time defending state champion Northwestern, the state’s second-ranked team in AAAA.

The Stags, however, did post a win over their biggest rivals, Summerville, snapping a seven-game losing streak to the Green Wave.

“Certainly beating Summerville was big for our kids and big for our community,” says fourth-yeard head coach **Eric Lodge**. “The next week we played Northwestern, which was another big challenge for us. It was tough to play them right after Summerville but I thought we competed pretty well for a half or so. They were just better than we were on that night.”

Lodge and the Stags are aiming for a region championship this season. They take on their biggest region challenge, **Carolina Forest**, on Oct. 9, with the winner taking firm control of the race.

“They are really talented and very well-coached,” Lodge said. “They have a good quarterback but their bread and butter is the run game. We have to contain the run game if we’re going to give ourselves a chance to win.”

Carolina Forest is a new team in region five, having moved in from the Horry County area, along with Socastee. The Panthers have just one loss as well.

“We circled this game when the schedules came out because we knew that we needed to bring our best to have a chance,” Lodge said.

The main story for the Stags continues to be the play and leadership of senior quarterback **Henry Rivers**. In his fourth year as a starter, Rivers is Berkeley’s leading rusher with 467 yards and five touchdowns while passing for 1,200 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Junior **Bryson McGee** has rushed for 391 yards



Quarterback Henry Rivers hands off to Running Back LJ Washington

and has 17 receptions. Senior **LJ Washington** has topped 200 rushing yards for the season.

“We’ve several guys that get carries,” Lodge said. “It’s a deep room with a lot of talented guys.”

Anchoring the offensive line play has sophomore guard **Elijah Pennie** and guard **Zion Holmes**. Tackle **Caden Freeman** also has been solid after moving from the right side to the left side.

“Our line has been pretty solid overall. It’s probably the most improved area of our team,” Lodge said.

The receiving corps also has depth with **Malik Callen**, **Elijah Mitchell**, **Jonathan Mitchell** and **John Cleveland** among the key contributors.

The defense began the season with tons of inexperience but the unit as a whole has played pretty well overall. Safety **Cam McCue** is a leader defensively on the back end as a returning starter. **Aiden President**, **Chance Coleman**, **Jakai Chapman** and **Liam Crisp** have been solid along the front. Freshman linebacker is a star in the making, according to Lodge.



2026 Cane Bay Cobras volleyball

Cane Bay volleyball having strong season in ‘26

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Summerville – Now in his fourth season at the helm, **Cane Bay** girls volleyball coach **Chris Latigona** has established a strong winning culture and looks for a deep playoff run in late October.

As of Oct. 2, Cane Bay was in strong contention in region 6-AAAAA. The Cobras won six of their first seven region outings, losing only to perennial power Wando. Cane Bay had a 22-9 record overall against a good schedule.

Latigona began the building process by leading the team to 17 wins last season. The roster has very few seniors and much of the heavy lifting comes from un-

derclassmen.

“We play really good team ball,” the coach said, “We serve tough and play great defense, which has been something we’ve always strived to build our culture on. This year we have several consistent hitters who we can spread the ball out too.”

In terms of the starters, junior **McKenzie Brewington** (161 assists) is the setter, and junior **Jordan Flores** (152 digs) is the starting libero. Junior **Amelia Watkins** is the outside hitter and has 82 kills and 106 digs.

Junior **Shiloh Reed** is the middle hitter and has a team-high 28 blocks. Senior **Rylie Friar** starts right side and has 79 kills. Senior **Savanna Hammond** is a

BERKELEY



We Support The Stags!

Moncks Corner Cleaners

Since 1945

Cleaning, Laundry, Alterations, Pressing, Button Replacement, Mending.

Michael Locklear

204 E. Main Street
Moncks Corner, SC

843-761-8441

“We Spoil Our Customers, Not Their Clothes”

HOME TELECOM

888-746-4482

www.HomeSC.com

“Saluting All Area Schools!”



Go Stags!

Custom Fabricated Products, LLC

864 Whitesville Rd.

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

843-761-6370



Go Stags!

Craig Mims

111 Foxbank Plantation Blvd,
Ste C

(843) 824-8000

Cell: 843-509-8427

County Supervisor

JOHNNY CRIBB

Supports All BCSD Athletics



Delta

Pharmacy & Medical Supply

Since 1935

Moncks Corner - Daniel Island - Charleston
Hollywood - Elloree - Isle of Palms - Eutawville

Santee Drug Center, LLC

3931 Byrnes Dr. Suite D
St. Stephen, SC 29479
(843) 567-3291

Saluting All Area Schools!

CANE BAY

Winningham Insurance Agency

PO Box 764 Summerville, SC 29484

843-873-9202

Go Cobras!

key defensive specialist with 105 digs. Junior **Alaina Paige** has 96 kills as a middle hitter.

Key performers off the bench include junior setter **Allie Bartlett**, freshman right side **Arabella Latigona**, junior outside hitter **Olivia Davis**, sophomore outside hitter **Cora Lilly**, and senior setter **Marley Stephens**. Bartlett has 181 assists in her role as a setter.

Friar, Flores, Hammond and Davis are serving as the team captains.

Cane Bay will close the regular season with matches against Wando (Oct. 6), Berkeley (Oct. 8) and Carolina Forest (Oct. 13).

“We expect to continue to play great team ball and make a deep run into the playoffs,” concluded Latigona.

Saluda possesses high-powered offense in 2026

By Dennis Brunson
Hssr.com Associate Editor
Saluda – Simply put, the **Saluda High School** football team is explosive on offense. And that might be an understatement.

Through five games, the Tigers were averaging 48.0 points per game. The fewest points they had scored in a game was 33 in a 2-point loss to **Abbeville**.

SHS head coach **Greg Woerner** thinks his players are simply comfortable with what he and his coaching staff are asking them to do.

“This is the third year for many of these players in this offensive system, so they have a better base knowledge of what we are trying to accomplish,” Woerner said. “We are able to add and build on the base offense a lot more effectively because of the players’ knowledge of the system.

“The players also get a lot of reps at the plays throughout the week and have been having really good, focused practices and that is showing up on Friday nights in the games.”

Saluda was 3-2 heading into its Region 4-AA opener against **American Leadership Academy** on October 2. The Tigers were ranked seventh in the *High School Sports Report* AA poll.

Prior to opening region play, SHS had an epic shootout against **Emerald**, dropping a 55-54 decision. Emerald, which was ranked fourth in the AAA poll, led 55-41 after scoring with 6:19 remaining in the game. However, the Tigers scored twice in the final 1:30 of the game.

Quarterback **Avery Coyle** tossed a 4-yard touchdown pass to **Darryl Hill**, and **Levi Berry** added the extra point to make it 55-48 with 1:21 left.

SHS then recovered an onside kick on the kickoff. Coyle threw a 4-yard TD pass to **Mehki Linton** with 44 seconds to go. Woerner decided to go for the win, but running back **Tristan Daniels**’ fell incomplete as the Vikings held on for the win.

Coyle had an unbelievable game. He completed 21 of 31 passes for 445 yards and seven touchdowns.

Coyle had a good start through the first four games, passing for 616 yards and nine scores. However, his performance against Emerald was next-level stuff.

“He does a great job of identifying the defense and where the ball needs to go,” Woerner said of Coyle when explaining what makes him so effective. And when a play breaks down, he has the ability to extend the play and make something happen. Friday night (against Emerald) he did both of those things extremely well. He recognized where the ball needed to go and he got it to the receivers, who then made big plays for him and the team.”

Hill was Coyle’s favorite target, finishing with eight receptions for 216 yards and three of the touchdown catches. **Ceddon Springs** had five catches for 131 yards and two TDs, **Jahmeer Myers** had four grabs for 51 yards and a score, and Linton had three receptions for 47 yards and a touchdown.

Springs also rushed for 108 yards and two TDs on just three carries.

Senior running back **Tristan Daniels** only had 28 yards on 13 carries with no pass receptions. However, the Vikings are about the only team that has been able to slow Daniels down.

He had 613 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns on 74 carries while catching seven passes for 178 yards and three scores.

Despite giving up 55 points to Emerald, Woerner thinks the Tigers will be fine on defense.

I feel good about our defense,” he said. “We have a lot of good, athletic players on that side of the ball. Emerald has a high powered offense with a lot of weapons to account for which makes it difficult on any defense that plays them.

“The guys have been learning a new system and have been playing hard. We have had a couple blown assignments in a few games that have gotten a lot of attention, but, overall the defense has been playing well. We just have to read our keys and make sure we are doing what we are supposed to be doing.”

Edwards Heating & Cooling, LLC

1759 Newberry Highway Saluda, SC 29138

(864) 445-0088

The Hair Strand

328 South Main Street Saluda, SC 29138

864-445-2991



SALUDA NURSING & REHAB CENTER

Where caring is a way of life

Proudly Saluting the Tigers!

Saluda County Schools



Saluda County Schools

LEARNERS FOR LIFE

SALUDA

Southern Roots Salon & Spa - (864) 445-3310

Cheering on the Tigers! - LeeAnna and Natalie

The Hardware Store (864) 445-3472

General Supply Company (864) 445-7412

Punks PB & JAMM (864) 445-3434

Crawford's Contracting Salutes the Tigers!

Smith Auto Sales (864) 445-2342 (864) 445-7113

Rowe Automotive (864) 445-3468

Ramey Funeral Home (864) 445-2366

Linda's Styling Salon (864) 445-9262

Trotter Enterprises LLC - (864) 445-2300

Goff's Landscaping Inc. - Go Tigers!

Butler & Sons Funeral Home (864) 445-2623

SALUDA HIGH SCHOOL

salutes our

TIGERS

Robert C. Etheredge, Principal

160 Ivory Key Rd, Saluda, SC 29138

(864) 445-3011



The Saluda High School Booster Club

Salutes Tiger Athletics!

Go Out & Make Us Proud!

Saluda Livestock Market Inc.

501 N. Main St. Saluda, SC 29138

(864) 445-2765



Hoof 'N Paw Veterinary Services

106 W. Wheeler Circle / Saluda, SC

864-445-7056

Subscribe to the HSSR today!

Start Your Subscription Today!



The Leader In S.C. Prep Coverage Since 1987
1-800-489-0649

Our goal: to recognize the achievements of young athletes

Send Subscription To:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MC or Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

One Year For Only \$25! (12 Issues)

Mail Check To:

HSSR

P.O. Box 1607

Goose Creek, SC 29445

Or Call:

1-800-489-0649

We Accept MC or Visa

25 CENTS

CA. 1980

Football



HUSTLE AND HEART WILL SET US APART



2026 Abbeville Panthers volleyball

Abbeville volleyball back on championship track

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Abbeville – Seeking a third consecutive state championship, the **Abbeville High** volleyball team is on track to be a major contender in Class A this fall.

The regular season is winding down and the state playoffs are set to begin in mid-October. A competitive region schedule has enabled the Panthers to show steady improvement. As of Oct. 2, Abbeville had an 11-4 overall record and a 10-3 record in region 1-A.

Sara Wojtkowski is in her third season as the head coach, having led the program to state titles in each of her first two season.

Providing leadership on the team this season as the two starting seniors are middle blocker **Lauryn Murray** and outside hitter **Laylan Yates**. Murray leads the team in kills (78) and blocks (39) this season. Yates has 37 kills.

Junior **Bella Evans** is the starting setter with sophomore **Maddie Beiler** also serving as a setter for the offense.

Junior **Miranda Stoll** is a middle blocker, who has 51 kills. Junior **Lily Hershberger** is the other outside hitter with 32 kills and sophomore **Sarah Gulley** is the opposite side hitter and has 27 kills.

Vikings staying hot as 2026 progresses

By Jeff Moeller
Special to the HSSR

Greenwood – After his team’s recent 41-3 rout of Palmetto, Emerald High head coach **Tad Dubose** sees his team beginning to peak at the right time.

Emerald won their second straight and improved their overall record to 6-1 as well as notched their first victory in the Class 3A Region 2 bracket. In the past five games, the Vikings have produced 274 points, averaging 54.8 points in that span.

Dubose sees his club hitting on all of its cylinders.

“We are playing at a high level right now,” said **Dubose**. “We are executing and our offense is really in sync. We have been getting contributions from a number of players.”

Against Palmetto, quarterback **Beau Hite** completed 10 of 14 passes for 165 yards with three touchdowns and one interception. Running back **Joe Moore** rambled for 155 yards on 18 carries and had a score. **Hite** added 27 yards rushing, and **Collin Partlow** had 43 yards.

Keirion Brown was the recipient of **Hite**’s touchdown tosses, catching five passes overall for 114 yards. **Coleson Marino** had four receptions for 36 yards, and **Gavin Quarles** grabbed three balls for 23 yards with a score.

“**Beau Hite** had a good game through the air,” added **Dubose**. “It also was a big night for **Keirion**

Sophomore **Rylee Tiller** is the libero.

Others who play regularly are junior defensive specialists **Micah Allen**, **Reese Jones** and **Cat Johnson**.

“Our team works terrifically together; we communicate and find ways to make it work. We thrive on a long rally, and love looking for holes in a defense,” says **Wojtkowski** on her team’s style of play.

The coach is excited about the upcoming playoffs and feels her team is peaking at the right time.

“As the season has progressed we’ve begun to really play some of our best ball. I hope we can carry that into a deep run in the playoffs again this year.”

Football off to 4-2 start

The Abbeville football team has won four their first six games in the first stages of the regular season/ Abbeville improved to 2-0 in region 1-A play with a win over Dixie on Oct. 2.

Abbeville’s two losses early came to Strom Thurmond and Belton-Honea Path. Thurmond is the top-ranked team in class AA and is the defending state champions. Belton-Honea Path is a title contender in class AAA.

Brown, and **Joe Moore** had a solid game running the ball.

Gavin Quarles had a great catch for a touchdown.”

Defensively, **Trayvion Foster** had 10 tackles and **Tyrell Cloud**, **La-Zohn Mobley**, and **Hayden Doerflein** each had nine against Palmetto. **RJ Lyles** added seven tackles and recorded three sacks. **Cloud** added a sack.

Leading receiver **Desiray Christian**, who was held to one catch, had a pick six. The Vikings notched four turnovers. **Lyles** have five tackles for a loss along with **Cloud** with four, and **Mobley** and **Jeremiah Jones** each with three.

Dubose was definitely impressed.

“Our defense was rock solid all night,” beamed **Dubose**. “We forced turnovers and moved toward the ball. **RJ Lyles**, **Tyrell Cloud**, and **Jeremiah Johnson** all had big games.”



QB Beau Hite

ABBEVILLE

Hite and Stone Attorney at Law 864.366.5400
Nationwide Richard W. Wilson Agency
Dependable Auto Care (864) 446-2277
Harris Funeral Home Salutes the Panthers!
Abbeville Youth Athletics Supports the Panthers!
Abbeville Hardware (864) 344-7702
The Jerry Hedden Family Salutes the Panthers!
Artists at Chatfield Wood - Go Panthers!

Go Panthers!
Courtesy of the
Abbeville Athletic Dept. and Booster Club

Abbeville First Bank
Abbeville
Calhoun Falls
864-366-2158
www.abbevillefirst.com
Member FDIC

Abbeville
SOUTH CAROLINA

Theo's Restaurant
SEAFOOD, PIZZA, PASTA & DELI
302-1 S. Main St.
Abbeville, SC 29620
366-4400
366-4401
Proudly Feeding Hungry Panthers!
Wow Burgers & Hot Dogs
815 Greenwood Street
Abbeville, SC

(864) 366-9522
Hwy. 28 Farm & Garden
1319 Hwy. 28 Bypass • Abbeville, SC 29620

Abbeville School District
Proudly Salutes
Panther Athletics!

EMERALD

Hite & Stone
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
100 E Pickens St,
Abbeville, SC 29620
(864) 740-0354
Saluting the Emerald Vikings and All Area Schools!

For the season, **Hite** has completed 89 of 134 passes for 1,462 yards with 16 touchdowns and four interceptions.

Moore crossed the 1,000-yard plateau for the season and has 1,036 with 19 touchdowns.

Christian has 28 receptions for 471 yards with four touchdowns. He is part of an effective trio receiving corps with **Brown**, who has 23 catches for 416 yards with six scores, and **Marino** has 26 grabs for 398 yards with three scores.

Doerflein leads the team with 82 tackles, and **Cloud** has 6.5 sacks.

Dubose is confident his team can keep their momentum down the stretch. They have three regional games left starting with a road game with Wren, and then they will finish the season with home contests against Powdersville and Belton-Honea Path.

“It was a great team effort against Palmetto,” stressed **Dubose**. “We have three games to go, and we’re confident we can keep this going.”



The Timberland volleyball team is under development this season. The Lady Wolves record currently sits at 4-11 as the team enters October

Wolves enter Region 5-AA slate on gridiron

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR

ST. STEPHEN - With the calendar flipping to a new month and temperatures coming down, the stakes get higher as football teams move into the most important part of the regular season.

Timberland, guided by first-year coach **Brooks Burnette**, is coming off a 21-14 victory versus the Greenville Hurricanes Sept. 25 in its final non-region clash. The Wolves are going to battle with a mostly-inexperienced squad but battling all the same as any Timberland team before it would. As usual, the Wolves have many players seeing significant action on both sides of the ball, competing from opening kick to final horn.

“We’ve got five or six seniors playing their hearts out for this team,” Burnette said. “There have been some hardships but the kids’ attitudes have been outstanding. I’m proud of how these kids have persevered. We had the transition of coaches. We had a transition of when we practice. We lost 15 seniors off last year’s team and two guys transferred out. Due to injuries, we’ve had to shuffle our lineup.”

Against the Hurricanes, Burnette said the Wolves

Cavaliers, Dan Jackson look to be a good fit

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

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

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

Cross football starting to focus on finishing

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Cross – The first month of the 2026 season is one that **Cross High** would like to forget. Not because of anything that happened in games but more so because Cross didn’t play any games.

The Trojans played less than two quarters in the first four weeks of the season. In the season opener against Woodland, a second quarter fight forced the suspension of play with Cross trailing 14-8. In the aftermath, Cross lost several players to suspension and opted to take forfeits in their next three games.

“We could have pulled up guys from the lower levels but I didn’t want to break up what they had going on. Plus, we needed to take our medicine.”

After nearly a month of waiting, the Cross High football team returned to the field on Sept. 25, posting a solid 47-8 win.

Cross head coach Shaun Wright accepted the forfeits and says his players learned a valuable lesson about accountability.

TIMBERLAND

Timberland High School
1418 Gravel Hill Rd.
St. Stephen SC
(843) 567-2817/567-2818
Tim Evans, Principal

Principal Tim Evans,
A.D. Michael Wilkerson, THS
Athletic Booster Club, and the
Faculty and Staff Salute Our
Mighty Wolves!

In Loving Memory of Dr. Herbie Orvin
1955-2007 Long Live the Wolves

M&K Food Mart
(Formerly Handy Mart II)
2227 N Hwy 17A, Bonneau, SC (843) 565-4198
“Best Hot Dogs & Hunt Brothers Pizza in Berkeley County”

Senator Ronnie A. Sabb Salutes the Wolves!

Santee Drug Center, LLC
3931F Byrnes Dr. Suite D
St. Stephen, SC 29479
(843) 567-3291
Saluting All Area Schools!

County Supervisor
JOHNNY CRIBB
Supports All BCSD Athletics

ST. JOHN’S CHRISTIAN

St. John’s Christian Academy
Proudly
Saluting our
athletes and
coaches!

Santee Drug Center, LLC
3931F Byrnes Dr. Suite D
St. Stephen, SC 29479
(843) 567-3291
Saluting All Area Schools!

CROSS

Cross High School
Home of the Trojans
The Cross Athletic Dept &
Athletic Booster Club Salute All
Trojans Athletic Teams!
Courtesy Matthew Bradberry, Athletic Director

“We need to get back into game shape but we know we have a good football team,” Wright said. “We need to get the focus back and finish the regular season strong.”

Swampcats having success despite crazy season

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Manning – The **Laurence Manning Academy** football team has practiced and played under some extenuating circumstances this season.

The Swampcats had their season opener cancelled and another game postponed, but that’s not even the crazy part. First-head coach **David Rankin** had to undergo surgery on a hip and missed the first two games as he recovered.

He came back to practice and called plays from the press box for two games. Then, as LMA prepared for its game against **Cardinal Newman** on October 2, Rankin had to go to the emergency room and was again admitted into the hospital. Yet when all was said and done, the Swampcats came away with a 42-7 victory to improve to 4-1 on the season.

Rankin was pleased with how the Swampcats were playing going into the Cardinal Newman game. It’s hard to imagine his opinion changed after that performance in which a running clock was used in the second half.

“I think we can be in the thick of things at the end of the year,” Rankin said. “You want to play your best ball in November, and we’re getting better every week.”

The season didn’t start on time for LMA. It was scheduled to open the year on August 21 against **Williamsburg Academy**. Two bad weather days led to the cancellation of the game.

While this was going on, Rankin was placed in the hospital with a major medical scare involving sepsis in a hip that would require several surgeries.

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

Rankin watched LMA’s 24-6 win from his hospital bed. He was released and got to see a 44-0 loss to **Hammond** from his home.

LMA then had a game against **John Paul II** scheduled for September 11 postponed due to inclement weather.

Rankin made his return to – not the sidelines – the press box for Laurence Manning’s game against archrival **Wilson Hall** at **Billy Chitwood Memorial Field** on September 18. Rankin donned a headset and was calling offensive plays in the 45-21 victory.

LMA volleyball focused on strong finish

By Larry Gamble
HSSR Senior Photographer
Manning—The LMA volleyball team was 9-10-1 and 0-1 as of October 5. The team is coached by **Elise Hensley**. After her teams 3-1 win over **East Clarendon** on Oct., 1 she spoke with **Larry Gamble** from the *HSSR*.

“Last night (September, 30) we lost to **Wilson Hall** and that was a pretty big one for us, and the energy that went last night compared to tonight was huge,” said Coach Hensley. “Tonight, I think we got to overcome what happened last night. I thought this was going to be a lot closer. If we take a loss in the first set, it’s usually harder for us to come back and that’s one thing we’ve been working on as much as we can in practice.

“Being able to come back and win a three sweep at the end was a big thing for us,” said Coach Hensley. “**EllaKay Jackson** (senior) and **Kiera Stukavec** (sophomore) really stepped up, along with **Gracie Lyles** (senior) who is always a strong powerful player. Having two new starters step up and proved how much they wanted to be on the court today was encouraging.”

LMA will close out the regular season with matches at **Northside Christian** (Oct. 6), host **Trinity Collegiate** (Oct.,8), host **Wilson Hall** (Oct., 13) and then close out the regular season hosting **East Clarendon** (Oct., 14).

Senior OH **Gracie Lyles** currently has 76 kills on the season with 44 digs and a 90.3 serving percentage.

T&S Construction

400 Dorethia St. Sumter, SC 29154
803-983-1042 *Go Swampcats!*

He did the same in a 55-23 win over **Augusta Christian School** before entering the hospital again the day before the Cardinal Newman game.

That means **Brock Miller**, another veteran SCISA head coach who was hired by Rankin, is now 2-1 as the interim coach.

In the win over Wilson Hall, quarterback **Grainger Powell** connected with wide receiver **Scoop Dennis** for a 39-yard touchdown pass just four minutes into the game. That set the tone for the remainder of the game. Powell completed 11 of 17 passes for 174 yards with Dennis hauling in six of them for 108 yards and the touchdown.

Rankin knows he was fortunate to inherit such a pair. “Our quarterback is good,” Rankin said of Powell, who is in his fourth year as a starter. “He can play.

“With Scoop, you’ve got to get the ball in his hands. Jet sweep, running reverses. We’re going to end up hiking it to him in the Wildcat before it’s over. He needs to touch the ball 12-15 times a game. If he doesn’t, I’m not doing my job.”

The Swampcats had a balanced rushing attack led by **Jordan Hicks** with 63 yards on eight carries. **AJ Dennis** had 10 carries for 55 yards, **Pierson Gamble** had 54 yards on 12 carries, and Scoop Dennis had three carries for 27 yards.

“We’ve got three guys running the ball 8-10 times a game, and they’ve all done a good job,” Rankin said.

LMA made it 14-0 on a 1-yard scoring run by AJ Dennis. It pushed the lead to 21-0 on an 8-yard touchdown run by Gamble just before halftime.

LMA received the second-half kickoff and Scoop Dennis scored on a 21-yard run to make it 28-7. AJ Dennis’ 12-yard run made it 35-7. Hicks scored the other touchdown and **Daniel Vargas** closed the scoring with a 29-yard field goal.

Rankin thinks the Swampcats will only get better offensively.

“We’re a little behind still, but we’ve got a little bit more stuff in,” he said. “We’re getting better fundamentally. We’re not a bad football team right now and offensively we’re clicking.

“The line has gotten a lot better. From the first of the year to now, it really has gotten better.”

Junior guard **Blandyn Miller** and senior tackle **Tristen White** are the leaders of the offensive front.

Stukavec, a S/OH/MB, has 58 kills, 40 digs, and 22 blocks. Senior **Caroline Barkley**, a MH/OH/MB, has 68 kills, 115 digs and 11 blocks.

Senior Libero **Emily Frierson** has 140 digs. Junior **Cydney Cassell**, a talented setter, leads the team with 289 assists, 71 digs and 31 kills.

Other hard-working members of the team include junior **Irelynn Connors** with 19 blocks, junior setter **Anna Prescott** with 139 assists, soph setter Savannah Ardis with five digs and 27 assists, soph DS **Abby Whitley** with six digs, and soph MH/MB **Jacie Jones** has 17 blocks.

Triple T Electric

1530 Airport Rd. Sumter, SC 29153
803-469-4942 *Go Swampcats!*

SHONEY'S

2742 Paxville Hwy
Manning, SC 29102
(803) 696-4481
www.shoneys.com
Go Swampcats!

In Memory of Spencer Jordan
Mishoe Oil & Propane Co., Inc. (843) 426-2600

Laurence Manning Booster Club
Salutes the Swampcats!!!



Anderson Pharmacy
Phone 433-2212
419 South Mill St. - Manning, SC
Saluting All Area Schools!
Rock Ouzts

Oak III Farms

P.O. Box 145
Summerton, SC 29148
803-478-6163

Saluting
All Area
Schools!

Pocotaligio Products

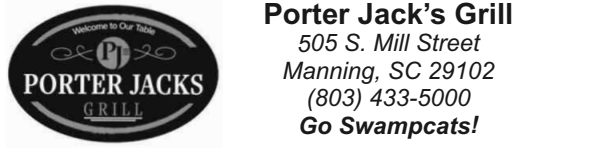
1575 Pleasant Grove Rd
Alcolu, SC 29901

(803) 513-9286
www.pocoproducts.com

Superior Manufacturing

PO Box 669 - Manning, SC 29102
803-473-3135 Go Swampcats!

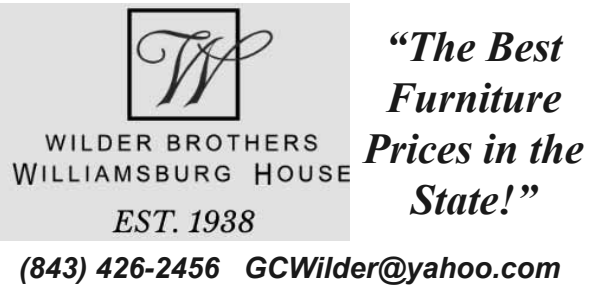

ftc-i.net | 888.218.5050
Proud Supporter of Swampcat Athletics!


Porter Jack's Grill
505 S. Mill Street
Manning, SC 29102
(803) 433-5000
Go Swampcats!


Brunson's Pharmacy
12 North Brooks Street
Manning, SC 29102
(803) 435-2511 www.BrunsonsRX.com
Proudly Saluting the Swampcats!

SH Jackson Farms

PO Box 456 Manning, SC 29102
803-460-4884 Go Swampcats!


WILDER BROTHERS
WILLIAMSBURG HOUSE
EST. 1938
(843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

“The Best Furniture Prices in the State!”


45 Old Manning Rd.
Sumter, SC
803-481-7655 (ROLL)
Swampcat football: A Griffith Family Affair

C & A CARPET

FLOORING EXPERTS
SO YOU DONT HAVE TO BE

An authorized dealer of

Where Great Floors Begin
990 S. Pike W - Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 774-0001
candacarpets.com

Rebels experiencing up and down season

By Jeff Moeller
Special to the HSSR
Ridgeland - For Thomas Heyward this year, it has been a roller coaster of season field with highs and lows. It has been a free fall for the former perennial power and state champion.

They finished with a 4-6 mark last season, but the Rebels are only two years removed from a state championship run in 2024 when they ended the season with an overall 12-1 record.

The Rebels, under **Taylor Malphrus**, began Week Eight with an overall 1-6 record with three regional games ahead. Heyward has struggled to score 36 points in seven games.

Heyward, besieged with injuries and their roster hovering around 20 players, was forced to forfeit games against Colleton Prep on Aug. 28, and Cross Schools Sept. 11.

They also have suffered opening defeats to Clarendon Hall (27-0) and Patrick Henry (23-0) before they registered their lone victory, a 25-6 win over Carolina Academy on Sept. 18.

In the previous two weeks, the Rebels dropped decisions to Hilton Head Prep (22-14) and Dillon Christian (42-0).

Malphrus knows he needs a patient approach. “We have been battling,” said **Malphrus**. “ We

Lybrand begins 7th season as Beaufort coach

By Jeff Moeller
Special to the HSSR
Beaufort - Beaufort head coach **Bryce Lybrand** will be looking for stability from his team in the 2026 season.

The Eagles began this year’s campaign off a 3-8 season. They did advance to the postseason, but ran into Class 4A Region 6 state champion South Pointe and suffered a 63-13 defeat.

Lybrand, who will begin his seventh season at the controls, has five starters back on offense, and plenty of new faces on the other side of the ball.

Their opening two games were a reflection of what **Lybrand** will be seeking this season.

The Eagles were upset by Hardeville, 22-20, in their opener before they rebounded with a 34-14 victory over Whale Branch. They will host undefeated Hanahan (2-0) Sept. 4.

“We just have to be consistent,” stated Lybrand. “We didn’t play well in our first game, but we played much better in our second. We were more physical.

“We have to keep working.”
The Eagles will look to senior quarterback **Braydon Moyd-Small**s, who also looms as a dual threat to run the ball. He’ll be joined in the backfield by returnee senior running back **K’Mari Mizell**.

Beaufort’s main attack will revolve around their deep receiving corps.

Senior **Qualeek Isnar** has heard from several schools at the FCS level, but he hasn’t received any offers yet. Fellow senior **Keaudre Jenkins** is back along with senior **Javon Brunson**.

Another target can be junior tight end **Hall**

EC Football, continued from pg. 15

we’re kicking it in. As coaches we stayed on them with the extended halftime. We just came out flat.”

The Wolverines certainly weren’t flat in the first half, scoring on their first two possessions of the game. East Clarendon received the opening kickoff and drove 70 yards with **Picasso Brown** scoring on a 1-yard run. On the next possession, Brown scored from eight yards out.

Placekicker **Juan Gomez** booted a 40-yard field goal with 4:14 left in the first half to give EC the 16-0 halftime lead.

have been trying to find some consistency. We have some players who are continuing to develop.

“We have to make the most of what we have.”
The Rebels have looked to senior quarterback **KW Arnold**, who also loomed as their main running threat. Fellow senior **Tyler Young** also has been productive in the backfield.

Young, junior **Benjamin Cribb**, and fellow junior **Colton Hunt** have been their main receiving threats.

Defensively, Arnold also has shined as the team’s most consistent tackler. Fortunately for the Rebels, they have had a horde of steady contributors with **Young**, **Gibson**, freshman **Hunter Disbrow**, senior **Dawson Drew**, and senior **Hudson Rex Owen Collazo** is another senior on the roster.

The Rebels have three regional games left on their roster. They will host Dorchester Academy and Holly Hill Academy before they will end the season with hosting Beaufort Academy.

Malphrus is optimistic his program can show some signs of growth in the closing weeks. It can help fuel a more positive prognosis for next season.

“We just have to keep working,” said **Malphrus**. “It comes down to fundamentals and trying to improve every single day.”

Schoen.

Senior **Andrae Ellison** is lone returner to the offensive line. Filling out the remainder of the spots are junior left guard **Zyir Owens**, sophomore center **Banks Killen**, junior right guard **Matthew Mayer**, and freshman right tackle **Eli Wardlow**.

Defensively, senior **Bryce Young** is up front with junior **Rakeem Owens** and sophomore **LJ Smith**.

Senior **K’Mari Mizell** will be at one linebacker spot, and juniors **Jack Harrelson** and **Cameron Posey Jr.** will be at the other spots.

In the secondary, junior **Josh Best** is the elder statesman with sophomores **Stephen Mader**, **Fabian Allen**, and **Josh Best Jr.**

Harrelson, **Allen**, **Posey**, **Best Jr**, and **Mader** all had good camps, and expectations are high for them.

Sophomore **Wade Keyserling** will be the kicker, and sophomore **Tayvion Lundy** will be the punter.

The Eagles’ roster has a heavy mix of 23 juniors and 11 sophomores, many of whom are on the varsity field for the first time. There are 12 seniors on the roster.

Besides facing Hanahan next week, the Eagles will have more challenges ahead down the road facing Hammond, Luck Beckham, Bluffton, and Hilton Head Island down the road.

It will all come down to the Eagles all staying on the same page.

“We have a lot of inexperienced guys,” said **Lybrand**. “They need to get game experience. If we can develop and mature along the way, we can be a

THOMAS HEYWARD

The Pinckney Family Salutes THA Athletics!


ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

We support our local schools!
843-208-5551

palmetto.coop


Go Rebels!
The Thomas Heyward Academy
Athletic Booster Club Salutes You!


8196 E Main St,
Ridgeland, SC 29936
(843) 717-3111

Butler's Service Center
PO Box 370 - Hardeeville, SC
843-784-6226




OFFICIAL APPAREL
STORE FOR GRETSCH
PREMIUM GEAR FOR MUSIC FANS
www.gretschgear.com

BEAUFORT


Carolina SPORTSCARE
and Physical Therapy
“Getting you back in the game of life”
1076 Ribaut Road, Suite 102, Beaufort, SC 29902
(843) 521-1970 Fax: 843-521-0908

D & S HEATING & COOLING
“Committed to bringing you superior service”
Residential - Installation-
Commercial Heating & Cooling
(843) 552-0034
Good Luck, Eagles!

consistent team throughout the season.”

scores.

Quarterback **Gavin White** had thrown for 577 yards and seven TDs. His top targets were **Easton Donlon** with 13 catches for 156 yards and **Pierson Kelly** with 11 receptions for 177 yards.

Free safety **Jamal Prince** had 12 tackles, a fumble recovery and a forced fumble.

On the season, **Avery Lowery** and Porter were leading the defense with eight tackles for a loss. Lowery also had three quarterback sacks.

Hilton Head Prep football looking to turn corner

By Jeff Moeller
Special to the HSSR
Hilton Head – With his team’s recent 22-14 win over Thomas Heyward, Hilton Head new head coach **Blake Henry** believes his team can start to turn the corner.

That win was their first of the season after the Dolphins (1-5) had dropped five straight, being outscored 240-26 during the stretch. “I think the team has made a lot of improvements since the season began,” said Henry, who took over for **Doug McFadden** on Sept. 8. “They have progressively worked harder each week in the weight room and on the practice field.”

Henry is trying to make the most of an 18-player roster that includes six freshmen and an eighth-grader. The Dolphins lost a number of seniors last year from a seasoned squad that finished the year 3-9.

He has looked to seniors running back/safety **Casey Signorello**, tight end/defensive end **Kaden Jackson**, running back/linebacker **Oliver Barricks**, and wide receiver/linebacker **Quin Strauss** to help set the pace.

Against Thomas Heyward, **Jackson** rushed for over 100 yards and scored three touchdowns. Henry also sees sophomore quarterback **Cole Rogers** beginning to find his rhythm. “**Casey Signorello**, **Kaden Jackson**, **Oliver Barricks**, and **Quin Strauss** have provided good

leadership,” said Henry. “They have really helped our younger players, who are improving each day. “**Cole Rogers** has made some really good throws in the past few weeks and has a bunch of potential.

Up front, Henry has looked to juniors **Cooper Hofman** and **Tuggle Daly**, who have helped shape the chemistry of the offensive line. They both also have excelled on the defensive front.

“Our offensive line has started to gel,” said Henry. “**Cooper Hofman** and **Tuggle Daly** have done a great job. They have really brought the lines together.”

Blake also has been impressed with junior **Cody Wilbert**, who has seen time at quarterback, receiver, and linebacker. **Wilbert** also serves as the Dolphins’ punter.

“**Cody Wilbert** has made some plays at receiver and outside linebacker,” said Henry. “He had a very timely punt at the end of the Thomas Heyward game that pinned their offense back in their own end.”

Henry is optimistic about his team making strides in the final weeks. However, the Dolphins have defending state champion Bethesda Academy and state semifinalist Hilton Head Christian to finish the season after they deal with winless John Paul II Oct. 9.

“They are a tight group that support each other and are learning to play a four quarter game,”

Eagles putting it all together as playoffs near

By Jeff Moeller
Special to the HSSR
Hilton Head - It is in the latter part of the regular seasons, and Hilton Head Christian Academy is once again beginning to piece it all together.

The perennial postseason visitors, who advanced to the state semifinals last season, appear to be taking the steps toward their familiar territory. They lost to Wilson Hall, 50-29, in the SCISA Class 3A Region 1 bracket. Overall, the Eagles finished the year 6-6.

The Eagles recently survived a hard-fought local battle with neighboring Cross Schools in a 31-28 victory.

With the win, Hilton Head Christian raised its record to 6-1 overall with their lone blemish being a 49-35 loss to Pinewood Prep Sept. 18.

It was another one-man show for Eagles’ senior quarterback **Kres Langhals**, who went 13 of 19 for 125 yards with two touchdowns. He also ran for 143 yards with a score.

For the season, **Langhals** has completed 73 of 119 attempts for 1,297 yards with 16 touchdowns and five interceptions.

On the ground, **Langhals** is the Eagles’ primary ball carrier with 527 yards and six touchdowns. He has accounted for 1,874 total yards, an average of 304 yards per game. **Chase White** has run for 105 yards with four touchdowns.

Head coach **Ron Peduzzi** knows his quarterback continues to be a major threat.

“He has been consistent for us all season,” said **Peduzzi**. “He is tough to contain because he is a dual threat. **Kres** continues to get better, and he is a big reason why we are where we are.

Jackson Richardson has been **Langhals**’ primary target this season. **Richardson** has 23 catches for 409 yards with eight touchdowns. **Joseph Houpt** has 21 receptions for 382 yards and five touchdowns.

Houpt has averaged 35.9 yards on kickoff returns. He also is the Eagles’ punter averaging 40.1 per kick.

“All of them have done a nice job this season,” added **Peduzzi**. “They have grown as wide receivers, and they will continue to get better.”

Defensively, the Eagles have been led by the trio of **McClure Talbot**, **Hayne Burden**, and **Logan Baker**, all of whom have a team-high 46 tackles, and **White** has 44.

Burden has three sacks, and **Brady Donaldson** has a pair.

Through the first four games, the Eagles soared to convincing victories over John Paul II (42-8), Beaufort Academy (41-0) and also avenged their defeat to Wilson Hall (38-26). They also downed Calhoun Academy, 42-16.

But the Eagles will have a daunting end to their

335 yards and four touchdowns, while Bowman had 17 catches for 333 yards and four scores.

Rogers is also a major threat on kickoff returns. He has taken two back for touchdowns and has 285 yards on just three attempts. Senior **Majestic Harris** has also returned a kickoff for a score.

Defensively, despite giving up an average of 23.2 points through six games, Scott’s Branch is a big play team. The Eagles have returned four interceptions for touchdowns, recorded 31 tackles for a loss, come up with seven interceptions, forced eight fumbles and recovered six of them.

Sophomore cornerback **Omari Lang** has two

HILTON HEAD PREP

NOVIT & SCARMINACH, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
“Serving the Beaufort Country Community Since 1967”
HILTON HEAD ISLAND: BLUFFTON:
JADE BUILDING, STE 400 PLANTATION BLDG, STE 104
52 NEW ORLEANS RD 10 PLANTATION PARK DR
(843) 785-5850 (843) 706-5850
FAX: (843) 785-2090
• Residential Real Estate • Taxation
• Probate & Estate Planning • Business & Corporate Law
• Commercial Real Estate Development • Employment Disputes
• Property Owners Assoc. & Condo Law

GO DOLPHINS!!!


ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
We support our local schools!
843-208-5551
palmetto.coop

beamed Henry. “I am excited to watch them take the next step as players and as a team in our remaining three games.

HHCA
Impacting Generations
Compliments of the HHCA Booster Club

“To know Christ and make Him known”
Go Eagles!


ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
We support our local schools!
843-208-5551
palmetto.coop

regular season ahead with regional matchups with defending champion Bethesda Academy along with perennial power First Baptist School before they end the season against Hilton Head Prep.

Yet, **Peduzzi** believes it always comes down to a simple philosophy that has helped him lead his team to titles in 2021 and 2023.

“It’s all about blocking, tackling and fundamentals,” he said. “We take it one day and one game at a time. We want to improve with every game.

Pick 6s for 129 in return yardage, while Jackson and Hatcher have one apiece.

Bowman leads in tackles from his linebacker slot with 55 and had five TFLs and two quarterback sacks, one caused fumble and two fumble recoveries.

Senior defensive end **Danny Ragin** had five TFLs and led in sacks with three to go with 46 tackles and an interception.

Sophomore free safety **Kendall Green** led in TFLs with nine among his 34 tackles.

Florence Area Feature Page

SoFlo, West Florence on rolls in region play

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Florence – Don’t look now, but the **South Florence High School** football team appears to be finding its groove under first-year head coach **Scott Braswell**.

After losing their first two games of the season by double digits, the Bruins have reeled off five consecutive double-digit victories, scoring at least 40 points in each game.

What makes it even better for SF is the fact three of the wins came in Region 7-AAAA. South is the only undefeated team left in the 7-team region.

“I think offensively we have really started to click,” said Braswell, who came to South to take over for **Drew Marlowe**, who led the Bruins to two AAAA state titles while going to four consecutive championship games. “Our defense has been mediocre at best, but our offense has put pressure on people and been able to possess the football and help our defense out.”

The offense revolves around the running of senior **Cameron James**. He went over the 1,000-yard mark for the season in SF’s 51-21 win over **Conway** on October 2.

James has gone over 100 yards in each game, having 1,055 yards and 11 touchdowns on 128 carries.

“Without Cam we would not be on a 5-game win streak,” Braswell said. “Cam has incredible vision and acceleration through the hole. He has great feet and is decisive when he makes a cut and hits it at full speed. Rarely does he go down on first contact. He has great contact balance and is a complete back as part of our offense.”

Senior quarterback **De’eric Davis** is coming on with 473 rushing yards and 13 scores. He has completed 51 of 78 passes for 739 yards and seven TDs.

Senior **Malik Robinson** has 20 catches for 270 yards and three touchdowns. Junior **Semaj Parker** also has three scoring receptions on 12 catches for 207 yards.

See Florence Area, pg. 30



ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK
2001 Hoffmeyer Rd. Florence, SC
O: 843-702-0801 Ext. 1657
KeiaG@abbank.com

**Call Keia!**

Florence Christian has eyes on another state final

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor

FLORENCE – Florence Christian’s volleyball team has reached a SCISA state final in 2022, ’23 and ’25. This year, the head coach **Denise Carter**’s Eagles are hoping for a return trip.

But this time, the Eagles want more than a runner-up finish. They want to win it all.

“After graduating eight players from last year’s team, we need to find our identity while developing chemistry and consistency as a team to put us in position to compete,” said Coach Carter. It’s a new team, new season and new legacy. If we work together, trust one another and put God first, then at the end of the season we can look back and know we gave

everything we had.”

Lyla Broach is one the four returning starters. “She is our setter and leads and sets our offense,” said Coach Carter. “She is strong in her faith and is a great motivator and encourager. She has worked hard and improved in every aspect of the game.”

Lareen Richmawi is another returning starter. “She’s a junior outside hitter and captain. She is a great leader and the voice on the floor for her teammates,” said Coach Carter. “They can trust her. She is my coach on the court and has become a strong hitter, blocker and server.”

Raegan Claire Watson is another returning starter.

See Florence Christian, pg. 31

Silver Foxes in familiar spot as season gets going

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor

Lamar - Lamar girls volleyball coach **Allen Hunter** is all about the Final Four: The Silver Foxes’ four seniors who have been with him since he took over the program four years ago: **Cheyenne Anderson**, **Gabby Mendiola**, **Mia Braddock** and **Ryley Nichols**.

“These four girls have been with me since Day 1,” said Coach Hunter, whose Lamar program is 6 years old overall. “They hold a special place in my heart. They had never touched a volleyball until they got here in the ninth grade, and the way they’ve been excellent is wonderful.”

Hunter himself has quite a story. “I coached volleyball in Virginia, and I retired from the Coast Guard in 2012. I played beach volleyball the whole time I was in the service,” Hunter said. “We moved here in 2023 to take care of my dad, who’s in Hartsville.

“I wasn’t going to coach anymore, but then I wanted to get a job,” he added. “Lamar needed a coach, and I wanted to try it. And I fell in love with it.”

When it comes to the players, Braddock is his setter.

“She’s a hustler who will go after that ball no matter what,” Hunter said. “She eats it up on blocks. She will block, and she will kill. She’s such a great athlete that has developed over the past years.”

Mendiola is at libero. “She’s fearless,” Coach Hunter said. “I don’t

know what else to say. All our girls have the right attitude, and that’s the biggest thing. I wish I had seen them play at like 9-10 years old and I could help them learn to play volleyball the right way from an early age.”

Anderson, meanwhile, is at outside hitter. “She’s all over the court; she plays outside and then along the back row,” Coach Hunter said.

Mallory Bullard, meanwhile, is at the middle-hitter position.

“Nothing gets to that child; she has no stress,” Coach Hunter said. “And as a team, we don’t give up on each other. We only have eight players on our team. When one player is down, the others do all they can do within their power to boost the overall team morale and get back into the match.”

And then, there is Nichols. “She’s a senior who can play right side and back row,” Coach Hunter said.

“You won’t find a better athlete on the court than her. If I could put her mind and soul into a super athlete, that person would no doubt become an NCAA D-1 athlete.

“Ryley takes constructive criticism very well,” he added. “And she will have that smile, no matter what. Nothing will bother or faze her.”

Greystone Properties (843) 615-2358
Carolina Carts (843) 665-5689
Lil D’s Dugout (843) 629-0645
BG’s Outdoor Metal Roofing (843) 321-5227
Chick-Fil-A Irby Street Proudly Salutes the Bruins!
Proudly Saluting #17 Jayden Sellers

South Florence High School Athletic Department
Saluting All Bruins Athletes!

**The Citizens Bank**
“Where old-fashioned service never goes out of style”
843-656-1660
www.thecitizensbank.cc

**South Florence High School Athletic Booster Club**
Proudly Saluting the Bruins!

**Go Bruins!**
Scranton - (843) 389-0500
Georgetown - (843) 545-8473

**Carolinan Centers for Sight**
Leaders in Advanced Eye Care
ccfs.com | 843.664.9393
Go Bruins!

**PALMETTO**
HEATING & COOLING
PalmettoHC.com
LET US TAKE CARE OF YOUR AIR

Lee’s Tire & Auto
4316 S. Irby Street Florence, SC 29505
843-702-0105 **Proudly Saluting the Bruins!**

**We're Proud of You!**
Love, Your Family

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN
**Brett Butler**
Producing Branch Manager
NMLS #197762
Company NMLS #1018
GO MORTGAGE
bbutler@gomortgage.com
843-954-5281
843-615-1992
gomortgage.com

**Proud Supporters of Florence Christian Eagles Athletics!**
Irby Street

Coward Truck Stop
3506 US Hwy 52
Coward, SC 29530
Ph: (843) 210-0370
Kitchen: (843) 210-0371

LAMAR
**Go Silver Foxes!**
Jeffords Insurance Agency
Auto • Home • Farm • Business • Life
piggly wiggly
local since forever™
Go Silver Foxes!
100 Railroad Ave,
Lamar, SC
(843) 326-7117

**Lamar High School Athletic Booster Club**
Salutes the Silver Foxes!

www.HSSR.com

Scott’s Branch, continued from pg. 15
ball, and he was doing that quite well. Jackson was averaging 120.8 with 604 yards and seven touchdowns on 58 carries.

He also had 10 receptions for 111 yards and three scores and was 3-for-3 on pass attempts for 135 yards and two TDs.

Quarterback **Kaleb Minger**, a 6-foot-4-inch sophomore, had connected of 59 of 101 passes for 758 yards and 10 touchdowns against five interceptions.

Minger has some big-time playmakers to get the ball to in Jackson and fellow seniors **Keith Rogers** and **Nyren Bowman**. Rogers had 19 receptions for

Hyman, Swamp Foxes all in on building program

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor
MARION – Kenosha Hyman coached Marion’s softball team to a Lower State championship in 2024.

Now, she’s also coaching the Swamp Fox volleyball team.

“This year, I’ve had to build the volleyball team from the very beginning,” said Coach Hyman. “So, I brought over my mentality from coaching softball, which is to always go strong.”

That’s just one of Hyman’s teaching points this fall.

“Most of my players are inexperienced; at least seven of them have never played volleyball before,” Hyman said. “So, I have started with teaching them the basics of volleyball, and they have grasped what the game is about.”

Hyman, meanwhile, has also gone through the basics.

“It’s a big adjustment with me; I’m more vocal in softball. But in a gym, I’m still vocal but the voice can carry more. So, it’s an adjustment,” Hyman said. “But this isn’t about bases or hitting or throwing a softball.”

“I didn’t even play volleyball in high school,” she added.

But Hyman does have some experience coaching volleyball.

“I helped a little bit in JV in the past, but it’s different when you’re a head coach,” she said. “I’ve watched YouTube and a lot of college volleyball games on TV to learn the fundamentals as best I can.”

Hyman said she has learned quite a bit from it.

Auctioneers volleyball has eyes on the future

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor
MULLINS – Kireem Liles stepped up to fill in as a temporary volleyball coach at Mullins High School three seasons ago.

Now, he’s in charge of building the Auctioneers’ program.

“Every rebuild has its challenges,” said Coach Liles. “We don’t have a middle school volleyball team nor do we have a junior varsity volleyball team. So, I’m bringing in players who had never played volleyball before and we’re trying to build a foundation.”

Liles learns the foundation of the game himself by watching videos and reading through literature.

“What I learned from that was a lot,” said Coach Liles. “It’s really about the rotations and teaching the differences between a 5-1 or 4-2 setup. We’re going over the basics. If we get a bump-set-spike, I’ll want to clap.”

That positive attitude Liles is building could pay dividends for the future.

“We have to be intentional in what we do,” said Coach Liles. “When you just hit the ball over the net just to be hitting it, that gives free balls to the opposing team to attack.”

Among the Mullins players learning the system is **Adrionna Bridgett**.

“This is her second year, but if I could have had her as a player for four years, she could have been even better,” said Coach Liles. “She’s one of our best hitters, and she is a great, all-around player.”

Vianney Nunez is another.
“She has been a steady force on the team,” said

“Volleyball is about communication and movement,” she said. “That’s what it’s all about. Even when they’re out there. They’ve got to communicate because there are so many moving parts at one time.

“Somebody has to take charge and let you know she’s going to get to the ball or somebody’s going to get hurt,” she said. “There are softball elements there because of that.”

Among the Swamp Foxes out on the court is **Nevaeh Shaw**.

“She’s my go-to person; she’s all over the floor,” Hyman said. “Even if she’s up to the front, she’s moving to the back to hit the ball. She’s all over the place.”

Then, there is **Yani Thomas**.
“She’s my server,” Hyman said. “She will get you your serves. She has improved tremendously from last year to this year. She’s so much better than she was last year.”

Another is **Haley Godbolt**.
“She’s a key point server,” Hyman said. “Even when she’s on the bench, I bring her in to serve whenever I can to make sure we have the best chance to execute.”

And then, there is teammate **Jai’vionna Simon**.
“She plays up front and she’s my person who will block the ball for me,” Hyman said. “She is able to get up and do a lot of blocks.”

And then, there is **Justice Williams**.
“She’s my ‘lil’ bit,” Hyman said. “If I need somebody to get down on the floor, she is someone I know will get down on the floor to get to that ball.”

Coach Liles. “She has been on the team for four years, so she knows what I expect of her and the others.”

And then, there is **Christiannity Davis**.
“This is her second year with us, so she still has plenty of time to develop into a great player,” said Coach Liles.

Then, there is teammate **Layla Ellerbe**.
“We had a great game the other night with her at setter,” said Coach Liles.

And among the new players is **Peyton Howard**.
“She has played for a while, so I can’t wait to see how our foundation can evolve with her,” said Coach Liles.

Liles said an appeal for athletes joining the volleyball team is to stay active.

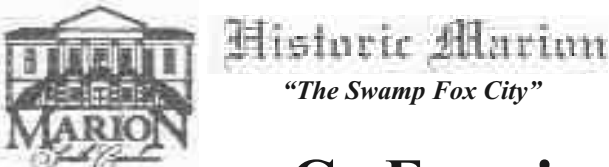
“(Bridgett), of course, is a basketball player. And I told her if she played volleyball, that would work on the spiking and jumping. And I added that all that would help her on the basketball court,” said Coach Liles.

While building the Swamp Foxes, Liles works on developing those middle and JV teams to act as feeder programs.

“This year has a great first year for us,” said Coach Liles. “The second year, we won three games. Unfortunately for this year, we’ve only won once (3-1 over Marion). But I do feel like we can win some more games. We just have to keep building our fundamentals and chemistry.”

Others key players include **Jordyn Fortney**, **Destinii McCoy**, **Bella Zaldivar**, **Arihanna McCray**, **A’Myrrah Vereen**, **Lisbeth Cardenas** and **Journey Boatwright**.

MARION



First Citizens Bank

Mullins Nichols

Member FDIC

Gore's Tire Service

Complete Tire Line - Farm Tires - Road Service
1400 E. Liberty Street - Marion SC 29571 - 423-5000

MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS

Marion County Schools

Dr. Kandace Bethea

Superintendent

SENATOR KENT WILLIAMS

SALUTES MULLINS AND MARION

DURING THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Friends of Marion Athletics

Proudly Salute the Swamp Foxes!

MULLINS

F & J PROPERTIES

Allen W. Floyd and Kenneth Johnson Wish
The Aucs Good Luck in 2025-26 season!

First Citizens Bank

Mullins Nichols

Member FDIC

CITY OF MULLINS

151 E Front Street
P.O. Drawer 408
Mullins, SC 29574

Saluting All Mullins High School Athletes!

Friends of Mullins Athletics

Proudly Salute the Auctioneers!

Smith - Rogers Oil Co. Inc.

P.O. Box 308, Mullins, SC 29574

(843) 464-9577

Raiders continuing to develop youth

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor
PAMPLICO – Hannah-Pamplico’s football team is undergoing a youth movement, and head coach **Trey Woodberry** likes the direction.

“We’re improving every week and getting better,” said Coach Woodberry. “It’s a fun group go coach.” How so?

“They come to practice every day and work hard and don’t let the adversity bother them,” said Coach Woodberry. “They’re getting better every week and it’s been fun to watch.”

After starting the season 0-5, Hannah-Pamplico has won its past two games (42-0 over Hemingway, 28-14 over Kingstree).

The Raiders appear to have settled on a quarterback, and he was previously their receiver: **Matthew Richardson**.

“Matthew does what we ask him to do,” said Coach Woodberry. “He doesn’t try to do too much; he stays within the system. He simply aims to run the offense.”

Jacari Dembry is one of the running backs.
Jacari is an athlete who is a really good runner,” said Coach Woodberry. “He’s played in the system, and we also have **Quaniel Carmichael** back there. They both rushed for over 100 yards against Hemingway, and that was the first time that had happened this season.”

Among the wide receivers this year’s Raiders have are **Carter Collins** and **Jaiden Bostick**. And **Jonah Poston** can rotate between those positions, wherever Hannah-Pamplico needs him.

Key offensive linemen for the Raiders include

Panthers hoping big win turns around season

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Batesburg-Leesville — After going 8-4 last season and 12-1 the year before, the **Batesburg-Leesville High School** football team knew this season could be a challenge, especially in the early going. The Panthers graduated 24 seniors and were having to replace them with a group of sophomores and juniors who had very little, if any, varsity playing experience.

B-L started the season with four straight losses, allowing 175 points in the process, albeit against a very difficult non-region schedule. When it trailed **Clinton** 28-13 entering the fourth quarter of its final non-region contest on September 25, it looked as though Batesburg-Leesville would be winless as it prepared for its first season playing a Class A region schedule.

That would not be the case though. The Panthers scored 15 points in the final stanza to force overtime, scored on the first play of their overtime possession and kept the Red Devils out of the end zone on their possession for a 35-28 home win at **The Pit**.

“That was a major shot in the arm,” even-keeled B-L head coach **Greg Lawson** said of the win over Clinton, which is ranked eighth in the latest *High School Sports Report* AA poll. “Defensively, nobody on the team that played Friday night had started a game before this season. I think they came into their own, and we’ve started to get the right people in the

Dewey Kimbrough, **Austin McNeil**, **Khishaun Brown** and **Robert Weaver**.

Kimbrough is the center.
“He also plays at linebacker; he has been a three-year starter for us,” Woodberry said. “We haven’t had many bad snaps from him and he runs the offense up front and knows the offensive backwards and forwards. The offensive line is our biggest asset.”

On the defensive line, the Raiders also have their share of key players. Among them are **Legend McElveen**, **Brown** and **Aviary Lyerly** as well as **Parker Self**.

Zach Turner is among the linebackers.
“He’s a first-year starter, and we’ve also got (Poston), **Zach Rhames** and (Kimbrough),” said Coach Woodberry.

According to Woodberry, Poston especially stands out.

“He’s our best player so far,” said Coach Woodberry. “He runs our defense and is the leader of our defense. He defends the pass well and he’s also a run-filler. He does what we ask him to do.”

The Raiders’ secondary, meanwhile, includes Dembry, Richardson, Carmichael and Bostick.
“They’re progressing quite nicely, but they’re really young,” said Coach Woodberry. “They’ll only get better with time.”

Now, Woodberry focuses on building the team even more.

“Our big thing is learning how to practice and learn how to show up every day and do what we asked them to do,” said Coach Woodberry. And that has been a really big key for us.

“Each week, they have gotten better at that.”

right places.”
The Panthers’ **Mario Waters** scored on a 6-yard run with 7:25 remaining in the game to cut the Red Devils’ lead to 28-19. **Kentravius Green** caught a pass from **Terrance Cook** for the 2-point conversion to make it 28-21.

Batesburg-Leesville put together a 12-play, 67-yard scoring drive that ended with a 2-yard touchdown run by Cook with 16 seconds left in regulation. **Leo Gonzales** added the extra point to tie the game at 28-28 and force overtime.

In the overtime, B-L got the ball first. Cook tossed a 10-yard scoring pass to **Graham Pierce** on the first play to make it 35-28.

Clinton broke off a 9-yard run to the 1-yard line on the first play of its possession. The Panthers made a stop on second down before a penalty against the Red Devils made its third down and six yards to go. B-L held on the final two plays to secure the victory.

“It’s just a case of where they keep plugging away and playing,” Lawson said. “I didn’t see any give-up, nobody felt like we couldn’t win. You see them grow up right before your eyes.”

Cook had an outstanding all-around game. He rushed for 113 yards and two TDs on 16 carries while completing 10 of 22 passes for 166 yards and two touchdowns.

Pierce had both of the scoring receptions, finishing

North Myrtle Beach, continued from pg. 35

Running the football has been the early strength as the Chiefs averaged 5.2 yards per rush in the first six games. Leading the way is **Jaden Wilson**, who rushed for 810 yards and seven touchdowns while averaging 6.8 yards per rush through six games. **Jonathon Evans** has added nearly 300 yards and five scores in the ground game.

Mason Walker and **Evan Barrett** have shared

time at quarterback with Walker passing for 615 yards and eight touchdowns and Barrett adding 289 yards passing.

Jaden Chestnut leads the team with 403 receiving yards on 23 receptions. **Taron Scott** has 215 yards on 17 catches and **Anthony Cimino** has 208 yards on 15 grabs.

Placekicker **Niko Miller** has been near perfect,

HANNAH-PAMPLICO

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119

THE CITIZENS BANK

Solid Traditions. Smart Solutions.

www.tcbssc.bank

Member FDIC

HANNAH-PAMPLICO

RAIDER BOOSTER CLUB

Go Raiders!

FLORENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

Supports The

Hannah-Pamplico Raiders!

Quality Transport, Inc.

Quality Transport Inc.

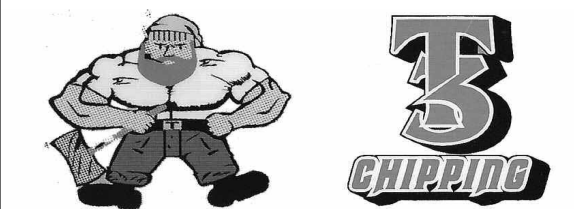
Elleeven Poston, President

PO Box 430 433 S. Church Street

Lake City, SC 29560 eposton@ftc-i.net



BATESBURG-LEESVILLE

TRACY'S LOGGING & T3 CHIPPING LLC

820 N. EDISTO RD., LEXINGTON, SC 29070

803-657-5295

North Edisto Logging

INCORPORATED

916 N. Edisto Dr - Leesville, SC 29070

803-888-2715

Proudly Saluting the B-L Panthers!

with six catches for 147 yards. Waters rushed for 75 yards and a score on 14 attempts.

“Offensively, I think we’ve been pretty good.” Lawson said. “Our problem has been stopping people.”

Batesburg-Leesville was placed in Class A this season following the **South Carolina High School League** reclassification. With the class split into two halves and competing for two state titles, B-L will be going over the Division I crown.

B-L is competing in Region 2-Class A. The Panthers opened region play against **C.A. Johnson** on October 2.

The rest of the region schedule has them playing host to **Clear Dot Charter** and visiting both **Eau Claire** and **Whitmire** before closing out the regular season hosting **Ridge Spring-Monetta**.

“This is where you want to be,” Lawson said. “You want to hit your stride, play your best games going into region.”

making seven of eight field goal attempts while punting for a solid 38.1 yard average.

The leading tackler through six games is **Camren Jordan** with 28 total tackles an 12.5 tackles for loss. **Jimmy McCullough** has 26 tackles and **Bannon Hill** has 25 tackles/ **Austin Clement** has seven tackles for loss and **Jeremiah Coythe** has six tackles for loss.

Johnsonville girls tennis wrapping up season

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Johnsonville - Though success in the way of overall team performance has been hard to by this fall, the Johnsonville High girls tennis program has competed well. More importantly, according to coach **Brian Welch**, the team exudes class and sportsmanship, regardless of the outcome.

Welch is in his sixth season as the head coach and will step down after this season. He will leave the next coach and solid base to work with as this year's roster has only one senior.

The lone senior is No. 1 singles performer **Sophia Cook**. Junior **Juliana Owens** plays No. 2, while junior **Layla Newell** plays No. 3.

Freshman **Sarah Boyd** plays No/ 4 singles and seventh-grader **Zadie Parsons** is at No. 5 singles/. Also seeing mach time are seventh-grader **Kennedy Felder**, freshman Kenlyn Matthews, sophomore **Lexie Miller** and seventh-grader **Skylar Racer**.

Welch says Cook and Owens have shown strong leadership this season.

"Sophie and Juliana have really taken on the role of being our captains and leaders. They show up early each day and are the last ones to leave," he says. "They epitomize the word leadership. They show the others how to work hard and set the tone for the culture that we have. I am very proud of both of them."

With the season nearing the end, Welch feels his team has done their best to compete, despite a lack of overall experience.

"This team has worked hard throughout the season to improve. The wins have not come thus far. We are in a rebuilding mode having graduated 4 seniors from last season. These girls keep showing up each day and have wonderful attitudes and work ethic. They have been a joy to coach.

"My expectation is simple. Do the best that you can do each day and represent yourself and the program in the correct way. The rest will take care of itself," Welch said.

Football Flashes look to finish strong

The Johnsonville football team enters the final three weeks of the season with a 5-2 record, losing close games to Lake View and Carver's Bay.

Latta looking to finish strong on the gridiron

By Scot Chancey
Special Contributor

Latta - Latta has its 2025 Class A Lower State championship. This year, the Vikings want to take it one step further and win it all.

They will attempt to do that under interim coach **Amber Jordan**, who is substituting for **Genesis Rogers** who recently had her first child.

"I didn't coach when I had children; my daughter plays for me, now," Coach Jordan said. "You can't get those years back, so we told Rogers, 'Go be a momma; the coaching job will be here when you get back.'"

This year's Vikings have not skipped a beat.

"We've done well," Coach Jordan said. "Our team is a very mature one. We've got five senior starters (**Ahlyiah Smiling**, **Maddy Miller**, **Janah Jones**, **Chayse Walters** and **Maliyah Bethea**.)"

Walters plays front and back rows.

"She's also a great server who has stepped outside her position," Coach Jordan said. "She was once our setter, so she has been able to adapt and still succeed."

Then, there are **Smiling** and **Bethea**, who Jordan said have quite a bit of chemistry on the court.

"They play like they're sisters; they're best friends for life," Coach Jordan said. "They motivate each other and feed off each other and work good around each other. But that's the theme of this team; we have a lot of good chemistry."

That chemistry is key, considering what was intended to be an 11-player roster has 10 after Sarah Bryant suffered a softball-related shoulder injury.

"We have 10 solid players who are rotating in and out throughout every set," Coach Jordan said.

"They've worked at being more aggressive. Last year, they were too. But this year, they're more focused on

Head coach Ken Cribb feels his team has worked hard to improve through the first half of the season and hopes to see his team peak at the right time.

"The two losses were close games, games we had opportunities to win," Cribb said. "We had some mistakes that cost us but we had a chance. I think we learned a lot in both losses and the team has worked hard to get better and correct the mistakes.

"I think this team wants to do well so effort is not an issue. We want to finish out the regular season well and see how far we can go in the playoffs. We have a good team if we play well."

Cribb says an area of concern has been execution in the red zone, taking advantage of scoring opportunities when they present themselves.

"We can't leave points on the field," he said.

"We've been a little up and down, and we tend to not play well in the third quarter. Those are things we have to correct. We need to be more consistent and put four quarters together."

Cribb has been pleased with the play and leadership of senior quarterback **Larkin Powell**, who continues to be a dual-threat performer. Junior **Zaghe Davis** has been the leading rusher with Rondrell Livingston also providing depth in the running game.

Senior **Ja'Mere Ross** and **Skylar Montgomery** continue to be steady as the primary receivers, and also play in the secondary.

The most consistent area on the team has been the offensive line, according to Cribb. Senior **KC Davis** and senior **ZyiKel Cooper** are the starting tackles, with junior **DeVon Sanders** and senior **Chance McDaniel** starting as the guards. The center is junior **Carson Graham**.

"They've been good for us," the coach said.

"They've come together as a unit and have been pretty consistent overall. Hopefully that will continue as we move ahead."

Sophomore linebackers **Brice Ellison** and **Kevante Bardon** has been two key performers on the defense. Junior **Jordan McFadden** has been an anchor on the defensive line.

"We need our defense to be a strength as we get into these last few weeks," Cribb said.

being more strategic and more aggressive at the net. Don't just play volleyball but be strategic and place where the ball where it needs to be."

Coach Jordan constantly stresses the strategy to her Vikings.

"Know where to go with the ball and know what player on the opposing team to hit to and force her to make mistakes," Coach Jordan said. "Give the opponent looks at the ball where they're going to have to do something they're not used to and cost them."

Other players helping the Vikings succeed include the interim coach's daughter, **Lillie Jordan**.

"She's a right-side hitter and she's doing pretty well on kills," Coach Jordan said. "Last year's she was like a utility player because she has good hands."

And then, there are Walters and her sister, **Edeigh Walters** – as well as **Hunter Grace Lockemy** and **Jaya Mitchell**.

From here, the Vikings' goal is to sharpen their focus.

"Our players love a challenge and are competitive at everything," Coach Jordan said. "We don't want just good volleyball players. We want them dogs that can go out there and want to show the world how good they are."



Tommy Parker
843-528-3301
www.parkersautos.com

*Specializing in
Clean Used Cars
Since 1983*

JOHNSONVILLE

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119



LET'S GO FLASHES!

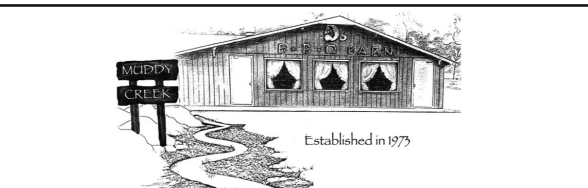
THE JHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB
SUPPORTS YOU WITH PRIDE!!



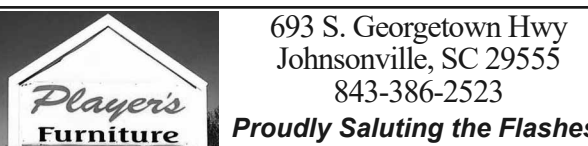
417 Georgetown Hwy
Johnsonville, SC
843-386-2810
843-386-3213 Fax
Clemson c/o '85



374 Lake City Hwy
Johnsonville, SC 29555
PO Box 871
Johnsonville, SC 29555
Andrew Gaster, President
843-319-8393
Fax: 843-386-9323
drew@gastersgrading.com



Big D's B-B-Q Barn
Hemingway, SC 843-558-2661
Saluting All Area Schools!

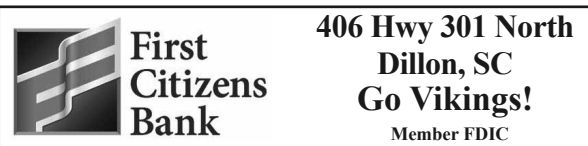


693 S. Georgetown Hwy
Johnsonville, SC 29555
843-386-2523
Proudly Saluting the Flashes!

LATTA

County Councilman Brad Coward
Councilman Stevie Grice
Councilman Robbie Coward
Anderson Brothers Bank (843) 418-1114

**From the Principal,
Faculty, Staff and Students
GO VIKINGS!**



406 Hwy 301 North
Dillon, SC
Go Vikings!
Member FDIC



Re-tooled Golden Eagles eyeing playoff berth

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor

MULLINS — Pee Dee Academy volleyball coach **Lorie Ann Rogers** has the Golden Eagles flying high for yet another season.

"I've got my starting setter in Sarah Bethea," said Coach Rogers. "She is a senior who has been playing for me for a while. This is her first year in a full-time setter role. She's definitely a leader. She manages the court really well and plays the back row."

Dinah Johnson is another key contributor.

"She provides a good swing and block along the front row," said Coach Rogers. "This is her first year setting on the back row. She's come a long way at that position."

Then, there is **Emmie Creech** at middle hitter.

"She's got a good swing and gets a good block on the front; she's also solid at defense," said Coach Rogers. "She shares time with our libero, Myra Baxley. She shares time with whatever player needs to take a temporary breather. Emmie is such a good leader on the court with plenty of spirit."

Another player to watch is **Blakely Norris**.

"She is mainly on the court for defense; she is our defensive specialist," said Coach Rogers. "She can also play at middle for us. She's a hard worker who can play anywhere we put her."

Outside hitters include **Aubrey Allen** and **Addison Hasty**.

"(Allen) is very strong, 5-11 and has the highest reach on the team," said Coach Rogers. "She can put a good ball down and can block. She's a great leader

Andrews volleyball getting ready for the playoffs

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Andrews – The Andrews Volleyball team is currently on a 9-match winning streak and they are 12-4 but more importantly they are 7-0 in region with only two matches left they have all but wrapped up their first region title since 2022.

Head coach **Joy Weisner**'s squad is led by three seniors in **Karaline Gainey**, **Chloe Skipper** and **Emily Barnes**. Gainey, a middle hitter, is the team leader. She leads the team in kills with 73, blocks with 8 and is second in aces with 38 to go with 47 digs.

Skipper, outside hitter, has 44 kills, team high 47 aces, six blocks and 22 digs while Barnes, a setter, has 45 digs to go with 37 aces.

Juniors are middle hitter/blocker **Ana Kate Lambert**, **Adrianna Deas**, outside hitter **Tori Smith** and **Jenna Cook**. Smith is third in kills with 39 to go with 25 aces and a team high 103 digs while Lambert is second the team in digs with 60.

Cook has 57 digs to go with 20 aces.

Outside/ middle hitter **Kallie Gainey**, **Allyena Moore**, setter **Bailey Lambert** and **Kylie Thomas** make up the sophomore class for the Yellowjackets. Bailey has 25 assists, 22 digs and 10 aces on the year.

Manning, continued from pg. 14

Both now own 3-3 records on the season.

With a region that features **Marlboro County** and **Dillon**, ranked third and fourth, respectively, in the *High School Sports Report* AAA poll, winning the opener was of utmost importance.

"In this region every win's a good win," Kennedy said. "I told them every Friday is going to be a dogfight. I told our kids that before we came out, and I reminded them again at halftime."

The Monarchs play at 2-4 **Lake City** on October 9 before traveling to 4-1 **Dillon** on October 16. They play host to 2-4 **Waccamaw** on October 23 and close out the year at home against 6-0 **Marlboro County** on October 30.

East Clarendon went up 23-8 with 8:11 remain-

ing on the court who has a lot of experience.

"And (Hasty) was our libero last year," she added. "She can probably paly anywhere, but it seems this position she has now is the best for this year's team. She's an incredible athlete and also a great defender. Nothing much gets by her."

Next up is setter **Caroline Hopkins**.

"She's a transfer and she has helped us tremendously, considering we lost five seniors from last year (**Sydney King**, **Waverly Norris**, **Nylee Causey**, **Campbell McCormick** and **Maddie Coward**)," said Coach Rogers.

Other players include **Macy Rowell**, **Kayden Pearson** and **Kylee Allen**.

"Kayden is out with an injury," said Coach Rogers. "She has only been able to play in three or four games. We're looking forward to getting her back soon."

Although Rogers said her team is rebuilding in some ways, the Golden Eagles also have plenty of strengths to still make a postseason run.

"We have good experience, and players in their roles are really good at them," said Coach Rogers. "This is probably one of the more cohesive teams we've had in a while. Everybody is on the same page."

Looking ahead, Rogers knows the key for her team.

"It has to be consistency," said Coach Rogers.

"They have the talent and ability; that's not even a question. We should be ready when the playoffs get here."

Freshman **Destiny Bullock** has made an impact on the court. She is tied for second in kills with 44, with 29 aces and 23 digs.

The Yellowjackets will wrap up their season with two matches against Hemingway and then wait to find out who they will host in the first round of the playoffs. They will be home for at least the first two rounds as a region champion.

The Andrews football team is sitting at 1-6 but they are 1-1 in region play and with three region contests left they have a chance to finish strong and secure a play off spot. Their lone win was a 9-0 win over Kingstree.

They will host Hemingway (1-6) before closing out the regular season at Johnsville (5-2/1-1) and then hosting Hannah-Pamlico (2-5/2-0).

Quarterback **Avery Durham** has thrown for over 800 yards with four receivers with at least 10 receptions. Leading the group are seniors **Michael Pembleton Jr** and **Colby Marlowe**. Pembleton has 29 receptions for 323 yards and two scores while Marlowe has 14 catches for 138 yards.

Junior **Caiden Greene** has 10 receptions for 148 while sophomore tight end **Javon Besselieu** has 11 receptions for 104 yards. Besselieu leads the team in tackles with 49 and in tackles for loss with 20.

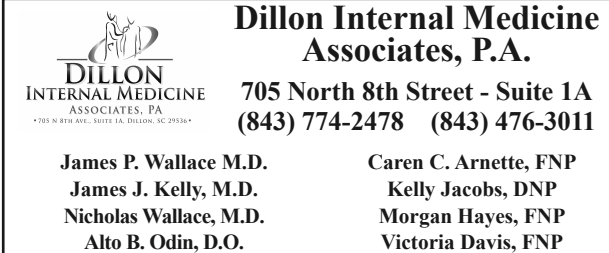
ing in the third quarter. However, MHS responded with an 8-play, 60-yard scoring drive that ended with Stevenson scoring on a 13-yard run to make it 23-14 with 4:39 to go in the third.

That was really the start of a dominating running game for the Monarchs in the second half. They ended up rushing for 206 yards on 33 carries in the final 24 minutes. **Isaiah Baxter** had 72 yards on eight carries, Stevenson had 66 yards on 11 totes, and Thames had 55 yards on 10 carries.

Thames scored on a 5-yard run and then ran for the 2-point conversion to pull Manning within a point at 23-22 with 10:29 to go in the game. However, EC returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown to push the lead to 30-22.

PEE DEE ACADEMY

House Member Lucas Atkinson - Go PDA!
Ashley Brady Salutes the Eagles!



Dillon Internal Medicine Associates, P.A.

705 North 8th Street - Suite 1A
(843) 774-2478 (843) 476-3011

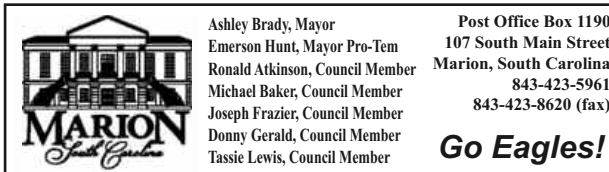
James P. Wallace M.D.
James J. Kelly, M.D.
Nicholas Wallace, M.D.
Alto B. Odin, D.O.

Caren C. Arnette, FNP
Kelly Jacobs, FNP
Morgan Hayes, FNP
Victoria Davis, FNP



Mullins Marion Nichols
Member FDIC

Smith - Rogers Oil Co. Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Mullins, SC 29574
(843) 464-9577



Ashley Brady, Mayor
Emerson Hunt, Mayor Pro-Tem
Ronald Atkinson, Council Member
Michael Baker, Council Member
Joseph Frazier, Council Member
Donny Gerald, Council Member
Tassie Lewis, Council Member
Post Office Box 1190
107 South Main Street
Marion, South Carolina
843-423-5961
843-423-8620 (fax)
Go Eagles!

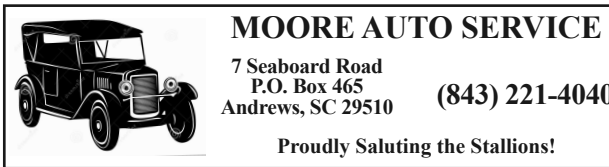


Post Office Box 783
207 Tom Gasque Ave.
Marion, SC 29571



Phone (843) 423-6002
Fax (843) 423-4010
cpa99@bellsouth.net

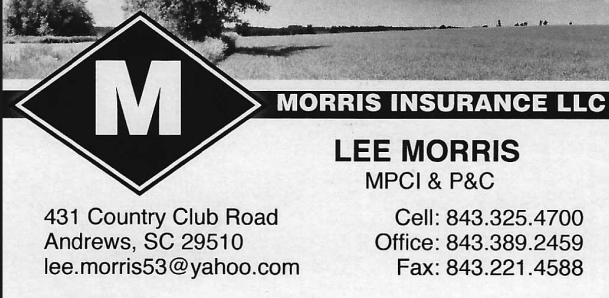
ANDREWS



MOORE AUTO SERVICE

7 Seaboard Road
P.O. Box 465
Andrews, SC 29510
(843) 221-4040

Proudly Saluting the Stallions!



431 Country Club Road
Andrews, SC 29510
lee.morris53@yahoo.com

LEE MORRIS
MPGI & P&C

Cell: 843.325.4700
Office: 843.389.2459
Fax: 843.221.4588

Epic Tech

7582 Georgetown Hwy
Andrews, SC 29510
(843) 264-1297

Manning tied the game with 6:27 to go when Baxter scored on a 5-yard run and ran in the conversion. The Monarchs forced a fumble and recovered it at the Wolverine 34-yard line.

Manning was facing third down and goal at the 6 when Robinson grabbed a short shovel pass to score on a jet sweep with 1:08 left for the winning points.

"We did a good job of refocusing our guys," Kennedy said. "We spent more time on the mental part of the game at halftime rather than drawing up plays.

"I think we made some good adjustments on both sides of the football but, more importantly, the effort of our kids was much better in the second half."

Jefferson Davis looking for improvement

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Blackville – The **Jefferson Davis Academy** football team owned a 6-0 overall record and was ranked No. 1 in the *High School Sports Report* SCISA 8-man poll heading into its game against **Community Christian** on October 2.

Despite all of that gaudiness, Raiders head coach **Anthony Reitenour** thinks there is much more to get out of his team.

“I feel like we could be playing better than we are,” Reitenour said. “We haven’t really reached our full potential yet. There’s a lot we’ve got to clean up and get better at doing.

“One thing that’s been in our favor is we can outlast other teams. We’re always a well-conditioned football team, good year or bad year.”

Reitenour is not surprised JDA is sitting where it is. However, he is proceeding with caution.

“We knew coming in this team could be really special,” Reitenour said. “But that’s just half of the season we’ve played.”

Jefferson Davis has been particularly stout on defense. It has allowed just 37 points, and all of those came in two games. The Raiders beat independent **Providence Athletic Club** 24-19 in their season opener and topped defending 8-man state champion **W.W. King** 22-18 in their fourth game.

While he expected the defense to perform well, it has surprised Reitenour to a degree.

“Our defense has been a lot stronger than we initially thought it would be,” he said. “Coming in we had some holes we needed to fill. What we thought might be weaknesses have become strengths. The defense has been really tremendous this season.”

Junior linebacker **Jake Harrington** was the leading tackler with 53. Senior defensive back **Harrison Ray** had 45 tackles while senior defensive end **Stance Youngblood** had 40 stops with five of them being a team high in

tackles for a loss.

Youngblood’s five TFLs are all quarterback sacks. Freshman linebacker **Marquis Creech** had two sacks. Senior defensive back **Reece Still** is a ballhawk in the secondary with six interceptions.

On offense, JDA primarily runs the football. It had thrown the football just 46 times while running it 163 times.

Sophomore running back **Marquel Williams** was the leading rusher with 466 yards and five touchdowns on 65 carries. Still, the quarterback, had 250 yards and five scores on 29 carries, Harrington had 152 yards and a TD on 31 attempts, and Creech had 120 yards and a touchdown on 19 totes.

Still had just 17 completions in 39 passing attempts, but they accounted for 437 yards and five scores. Ray had nine catches for 232 yards and two TDs, while Williams had five receptions for 164 yards and three touchdowns.

Reitenour said the lack of passing has been somewhat by design.

“We haven’t really opened things up too much,” he said. “We’ve been staying with a strong ground attack because we really haven’t had the need to throw it very much. We throw to keep teams honest.”

Reitenour is hoping to see improvement from the five players who make up the offensive line. The three normal starters are senior

Fisher Robinson and senior **Davison Owens** at the guards on either side of senior center **Bryson Livingston**. Spelling the trio are Youngblood and junior **William Williams**.

“That’s one of the areas I feel like we need to be better at,” Reitenour said. “They’re strong, big, well-conditioned and block hard for four quarters, but we shoot ourselves in the foot with penalties.

“Offense as a whole is one of the areas we have to get better at. If we keep getting better every week we’ll get right to where we need to be. It’s just a matter of trusting the process.”

bodies.

“We’re fighting the good fight,” Sammons said. “We’re playing a ton of sophomores, starting two freshmen. We only have five seniors. We’re just trying to go out and be competitive. We’ve been in every game up to a point.

“We’ve gotten better every week. That’s been my goal, to get better. Some of the scores have been deceiving.”

Standout running back **Bryson Crawford** has been hampered by injuries. He’s only played two games but has 376 yards. He ran for 247 yards and five TDs in the Predators’ 49-20 win over **Dixie**.

Quarterback **Julian Abro** has completed 73 or 122 passes for 891 yards and eight touchdowns.

Armani Jones leads in receptions with 19 for 247 yards, while **Lucas Joye** has 17 for 277, **Chartavious Weaver** 14 for 164 and **Carter Hoppe** 12 for 144.

Joye has four TD catches, Jones three and Weaver one.

JEFFERSON DAVIS

Jason Still Farms, LLC

2915 Honey Ford Rd
Denmark, SC 29042

(803) 259-6893

 We Salute JDA Athletics! 

Wise Trucking

2110 Holman Bridge Rd, Blackville, SC 29817

(803) 259-0817 Go Raiders!

Wade's Repair Service - (803) 259-1749

TNC Fireworks Salutes the Raiders!

Barnwell Collision (803) 259-7075

NEELEY APPLIANCE COMPANY

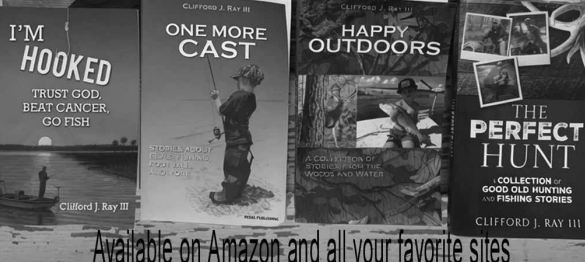
4787 Carolina Hwy. - Denmark, SC 29042

803-793-3367 - 803-793-1628 (fax)

Website: www.NeeleyApplianceCompany.com

The Perfect Hunt Collection

"A four book series of South Carolina's finest hunting & fishing stories."



Available on Amazon and all your favorite sites

FOX CREEK

Go Predators!

Courtesy of the Fox Creek Athletic Booster Club & Athletic Department

Tigers head coach **Brian Wilson** hopes this gets his team in gear.

“I would say we’re playing well below my expectations,” Wilson said prior to facing St. James. “Based on the success we had in the preseason and the level of competition we faced in our scrimmages, I expected us to be playing at a much higher level.

“Injuries have played a major role, and I don’t want to use that as an excuse. We’ve had to adjust in some areas because of them, but ultimately, we’re just not playing up to the level I know this team is capable of. We have to find a way to get back to that level and finish the season the way we know we can.”

Fox Creek football battling in tough region

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
North Augusta – It was not an easy go of it for the **Fox Creek high School** football team with its non-region schedule The Predators went 1-4.

Now that the Region 5-AAAA schedule has begun, the future portends an even greater struggle for FCHS.

Fox Creek opened region play on October 2 with a 35-0 loss to **South Aiken**, which is now 5-1 and ranked sixth in the *High School Sports Report* AAAA poll. The thoroughbreds are one of three region teams ranked, the others being **Irmo** at No. 2 and **North Augusta** at No. 5.

The other two region teams are 4-3 **Aiken** and 3-3 **Midland Valley**.

“Everybody in this region is very good,” said first-year Predators head coach David Sammons. “You talk about your murderer’s row.”

FCHS was a AA school just in the 2023-24 school year, moved to AAA for two years and is now at AAAA because of the multiplier rule used in counting student

Florence Area, continued from pg. 27

WEST FLORENCE 3-1 IN REGION

Don’t look now, but West Florence may be getting into a groove as well.

The Knights handed **North Myrtle Beach** its first loss of the season on October 2 with a 38-26 triumph. That was their third straight win, improving them to 4-3 overall and 3-1 in region play.

The one loss did come against archrival South by a 42-13 count, so West would need some help to claim the region title.

The Knights are relying almost totally on their run game. Through six games, they had only thrown for 271 yards. West was averaging 255 rushing yards a game with the yardage spread out among many players.

West had five players with at least 100 yards. Leading the way was senior **Matthew Benjamin** with 452 yards and eight touchdowns on 57 carries. Sophomore **Jermiah Smiling-Waiters** had 46 rushes for 377 yards and two scores, junior quarterback **Markel Scott** had 25 totes for 147 yards and a TD, senior **Jawaun Gamble** had 11 carries for 139 yards and senior **Cory Patterson** has 19 carries for 102 yards and one touchdown.

WILSON GETS FIRST REGION WIN

Wilson got its first region win with a 33-21 triumph over **St. James** on October 2. The Tigers improved to 3-4 overall and 1-2 inside the region in snapping a 3-game losing streak.

Senior quarterback **Rasean Wilson** led the Tigers by completing 10 of 16 passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for 24 yards on eight carries.

Senior **Davon Bowman** had four catches for 54 yards and a score, D Junior **Dondray McNeil Jr.** had a 19-yard TD reception and sophomore **Mark Law** had a 58-yard touchdown catch.

The Tigers also ran the ball well as senior **Amaura Austin** had 85 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries. sophomore **Zyler Lyde** had 63 yards and a TD on nine totes.

Wilson has a chance to juggle things up in the region as it still has to face **Florence** city rivals West Florence and South Florence. The Tigers face West on October 9 and close out the regular season against the Bruins on October 30.



2026 North Myrtle Beach Chiefs volleyball

Chiefs volleyball set for another run at state title

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Little River – Classification and region alignment has no effect on the success of the **North Myrtle Beach High** volleyball team.

The school has bounced from AAAA to AAAAA over the last few years, and is now back in Class AAAA for 2026. From all indications, the moving around has not impeded the success rate of the Lady Chiefs this fall.

Heading into the final two weeks of the regular season, North Myrtle Beach is right where they have been over the last several years – state championship contention. The Lady Chiefs have an overall record of 25-6 overall (21-2 in regular season) and 9-0 in region play as of Oct/ 2.

The program is under the direction of coach **Jenn Loeswick**, now in her fourth season as the head coach. Under her direction, the program has played for three consecutive state championships, winning the AAAAA Division II title in 2024. They were state runner-ups last season and have won at least 30 matches in each of the last four years.

The roster is loaded with experience with several players in their third year as starters. Leadership on the team is led by senior outside hitter **Lilly Loeswick** and senior right side **Harlow Horton**. Loeswick is a returning all-state performer and leads the team 383 kills and 330 defensive digs. Horton has 125 digs.

Senior **Madison Johnson** is the middle blocker and has 155 kills. Senior **Madi Vereen** also starts

in the middle and has 109 kills.

Senior **Mikayla Altena** is the setter and has 612 assists and 41 service aces. **Gracie Davis** is a junior on the outside, and **Bailee Locklear** is the libero with 249 digs. Davis has 74 kills and 115 digs.

Senior **Rylee McIver** sees extensive playing time as an outside hitter, while senior **Chloe Schmidt** sees time as a defensive specialist and has 118 digs.

Regardless of the roster, the expectations of the coach never change.

“The three pieces of our team culture are to work hard, have fun, and be a great teammate,” Loeswick explains. “I want my team to focus on the process and not on the outcome. My expectation is simply that we work hard to be the best team this group can be, and that we are better at the end of the season than we were when we started.”

The remaining games on the regular season schedule are Conway (Oct. 6), South Florence (Oct. 8), and Myrtle Beach (Oct. 11).

Football wins first six games of 2026

The North Myrtle Beach football team entered region play with a 6-0 record and ranked among the state’s top 10 teams in AAAA. The Chiefs were to open region play on Oct. 2 against West Florence.

While the defense has struggled at times to find consistency, allowing 341 yards per game, the offense has been up to the challenge. The Chiefs topped 30 points scored four games and averaged 345 yards in total offense.

See SJCA, pg. 37

Cheraw football peaking at the right time in 2026

By Scott Chancey
Special Contributor

Cheraw - Cheraw coach **Andy Poole** wants his Braves’ focus on the larger picture.

More specifically, the playoffs.

“We’re trying to get to the end,” Poole said.

The season can be a physical one, and Cheraw already has lost star running back **Justin Joint** (lower-leg injury) for the season. But freshman **Darryl Hersey** took over and quickly grew acclimated to the Braves’ system.

“He has played admirably. He runs extremely fast and can catch the ball out of the backfield,” Coach Poole said. “He’s a great student of the game, and Cheraw is very fortunate to have him for the next couple of years.”

Sophomore **Kobi McDonald**, meanwhile, is in his first year as the Braves’ starting quarterback. McDonald has passed for 1,004 yards and rushed for 133 more while accounting for 13 total touch-

downs through six games.

“He leads the Pee Dee in passing, so we throw it around a good bit,” Coach Poole said. “And he can run, as well. We’ll be very fortunate to have him for the next few years. He has a bazooka for an arm, and he can also taper it down and put some touch on it.”

At receiver, **Nick Gordon** is the Braves’ go-to player, and **Derrick Isaac** is also a threat. Gordon had 27 catches for 605 yards and seven touchdowns, and Isaac has 10 for 163 and one.

“(Gordon) is doing really well; the hype hasn’t gotten to him,” Coach Poole said. “And he has worked hard on his body; he put on 10 pounds during the summer and it has really shown. As for (Isaac), he’s one of our slot guys who’s un-guardable in space. He has also transitioned to be able to run the ball some. He ran for over 100 yards in our win against Darlington.”

The Braves’ offensive line is made of **Charlie**

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

Hall Appliance Center - (843) 249-3371
BJ's Furniture - (843) 361-1970

ELLIOTT REALTY
Service You Expect. People You Trust. 800-525-0225

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC
VACATION RENTALS
GOLF PACKAGES
REAL ESTATE SALES
800-543-3113
www.eaglenestgolf.com

Highway 17
North Myrtle Beach
800-543-3113
www.eaglenestgolf.com

306 17 Ave. South
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
Tel.: 843-272-2105
Fax: 843-272-3873

HEWETT'S
Heating & A/C, Inc.
Sales • Service • Installation
SC & NC Licensed Contractor

Atlantic Heating and Cooling, Inc.
www.atlanticheatingandcooling.com

843-249-8596
502 N. Main St.
North Myrtle Beach, SC

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE
Elliott Coastal Living
701 Sea Mountain Hwy 29582
North Myrtle Beach, SC
www.elliottcoastalliving.com

843.280.5704 Office
843.249.2576 Fax
888.280.5704 Toll Free

Better Homes & Gardens
CoastalLiving

Boulineaus IGA

212 Sea Mountain Hwy,
North Myrtle Beach, SC29582
Ph: (843) 449-3231
Fax: (843) 249-8839
www.boulineaus.com

Windy Hill Hardware
Salutes Zane Smith & the Chiefs!

3702 Hwy 17 S, North Myrtle Beach, SC
(843) 272-6924

MNB

CAR CITY
www.CarCityCentral.com

3 Locations to Better Serve You!
Conway, SC (843) 331-1151
Whiteville, NC (910) 642-3196
Calabash, NC (910) 579-1110

SC Res. Builders Lic. # 61832
843-957-6398
info@scgcustomhomes.com

SCOTT CONSTRUCTION GROUP
PO Box 587 Little River, SC 29566
www.SCGCustomHomes.com

Plantation FLOORING

4239 Exchange Street, Unit A - Little River, SC 29566

(843) 399-0300

Proudly Saluting North Myrtle Beach Athletics!

CHERAW

Holter, Lamonte Brown (6 feet 6 and 350 pounds), **Easton Quick**, **Jayden Horne** and **Winston Davis**.

“He’s a dump truck out there,” Coach Poole said of Brown. “This is his second year starting for us.”

Anthony Strong and **Crawford Poole** (the coach’s son) stand out on the defensive line. Strong has 53 tackles (40 solo) with 15 tackles for loss and four sacks. Poole has 38 tackles (31 solo) with 17 tackles for loss, three sacks.

“Both of them have a motor that never stops,” Coach Poole said. “They’re seeing who can make the most tackles, sacks, tackles for loss. If you can’t get past those two, we are in good business.”

Austin Adams and **Brendan Pace** stand out at linebacker, and **Kamari Cue** and **Jamarcus Frazier** help anchor the secondary along with **Damony Yarbrough**.

Central continues to roll despite big losses

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Pageland – The **Central High School** football team graduated 25 seniors from a squad that went 11-2 last season and reached the AA lower state championship game. However, the loss of talent and sheer numbers has not hindered the Eagles in any way.

CHS is playing Class A this season after the **South Carolina High School League** reclassification. It is off to a 5-0 overall start and was 1-0 in Region 5 heading into its game against **Chesterfield** on October 2.

Central is ranked third in the *High School Sports Report* Class A Division I poll. Eagles head coach **Jonathan Eason** isn’t surprised by the success.

“I think the expectation at Central is always to win,” said Eason, who is in his third season as the head coach of his alma mater. “We replaced a lot of very talented players, but we had some guys behind them that were ready to step up.”

One position that didn’t need to be filled was quarterback. That’s where senior **Dwayne Louallen Jr.** is back for his fourth and final season as a starter. “Offensively, it all starts with Dwayne Louallen,” Eason said. “He has done a great job as the leader of the team.”

Through the first five games, Louallen completed 35 of 58 passes for 474 yards and seven touchdowns against no interceptions. He was the second leading rusher with 453 yards and seven scores on 56 carries.

The leading rusher is senior **Marjaviuous “Zee” Allen**, who is a newcomer to the offense. He had 687 yards on 58 carries for a per-carry average of 11.2 yards per attempt to go with eight scores. Allen also had five receptions for 174 yards and two touchdowns.

Allen had no carries or catches last season, starting exclusively at outside linebacker where he was a top defender.

“We have also had a huge year from Zee Allen so far,” Eason said. “He has probably been one of the best running backs in the state.”

Junior **Jayden Robinson** has rushed for 274 yards and three touchdowns on 33 carries. Louallen had thrown scoring passes to five different receivers

with each having at least four receptions. Leading the way were seniors **Darin Gaines** and **Brandon Sowell** with nine grabs each. Gaines had 107 yards and two scores, while Sowell had 97 yards and a touchdown.

CHS was averaging an even 43.0 points per game, and Eason credits a young offensive line for being a big part of the success.

“The biggest surprise has been the early success of our offensive line,” he said “We replaced four seniors on the OL, and the new guys have filled in and had a great year so far. **Brandon Streater, Jacob Plyler, Rayson Funderburk, Cohen Phillips, Damir Baker, Braxton Richardson** and **Gabe Love** had all really bought in to make our OL a solid unit this year.”

Defensively, Central was allowing 15 points a contest. Eason said he has an active group of defenders all over the field.

“Defensively, we have guys that fly around all over,” Eason said. “**Jaylen Davis** and **Martel Ruben** are two of the best sophomore linebackers in the state. Our defensive linemen and defensive backs fly around and make plays.

“(DL) **Timmy Tyson**, (free safety) **Dylan Tomberlin**, (DB) **Aidan Welch** and (DL) **Tahir Wise** have had really good years so far for us on defense.”

Tyson had 16 tackles, four tackles for a loss and one quarterback sack, Tomberlin had 14 tackles and one interception, Welch had 14 tackles, one TFL, one sack and one pick, and Wise had 24 tackles, one TFL and one sack.

Davis was leading in tackles with 33 to go with three TFLs and a sack, while Ruben had 18 tackles, two TFLs and a sack.

Eason believes the Eagles can continue to be successful if they play consistently.

“I think we just need to continue to get better at the little things every day, and we will be fine,” he said. “I tell the offense every week, if we don’t have drive-killing penalties and turnovers, then we can score 40 points. We also tell the defense that as long as we’re flying around and getting everyone to the ball that we can make a lot of plays.”

Scarlett Ashmore and **Malley McMillan**.

Rounding out the roster are eighth-graders **Lainey Didolkar** and **Charlotte Ramsey**, and seventh-graders **Harper Kouche, Londyn Love**, and **Alia Ashmore**.

The football team sits at 2-4 overall and 0-2 in region play as of Oct. 5. The Seahawks lost their first two games of the season to Marlboro County (61-20) and Dillon (50-24), but bounced back with a win over Socastee (28-23) and an overtime win over Carolina Forest (41-38).

The Seahawks opened region play against West Florence, losing, 41-27, and then los to South Florence, 46-20.

Myrtle Beach will close the regular season with region games against Conway (Oct. 9), St. James (Oct. 16), Wilson (Oct. 23) and North Myrtle Beach (Oct. 30).

Quarterback **Camden DuBruhl** has been the team’s top offensive performer this season. In the win over Carolina Forest, the 6-4 junior quarterback threw for 377 yards and five touchdowns. He has nearly 20 touchdown passes this season.

CENTRAL

Cedar Lane Supply (843) 672-6547

WE SALUTE ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

Courtesy of Central High School Staff and Students

The Central High School Athletic Department & Staff Salute Our Student Athletes! Good Luck Eagles!

Mills Creek Forest Products Inc.

CAROLINA LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Pageland, SC 843-672-7300

Proud Supporter of Central Athletics!

KIM MANGUM SALUTES CENTRAL ACADEMICS & ATHLETICS - GO EAGLES!

Saluting all Area Schools!

FirstCitizensBank

303 N. Pearl Street, Pageland, SC (803) 672-6129

Financial Sales Manager: Justin Young (843) 672-0924

David Durham, SVP Manager of Retail Banking, Pee Dee Market

MULLIS TRANSPORT LLC

Shane Mullis 843-680-1628

1938 Peach Orchard Rd Jefferson, SC 29718

Go Eagles!

P&J PINE NEEDLES

523 Paul Hurst Rd. Pageland, SC 29728

Ph: 843.672.2545 Fax: 843.672.7901

CROSS COUNTRY ADJUSTING

William Curry VP Client Relations/Pilot

wcurry@ccadjust.com Office: 888-658-1828

JLJ SERVICES LLC

Jermaine Johnson BUILDER Licensed - Bonded - Insured

211-B South Pearl Pageland, SC 29728 Ph: (843) 337-8286 jermaine1@shtc.net

Let's Go Eagles!

C.M. TUCKER LUMBER COMPANIES, LLC

19 20

P.O. Box 7 601 N. Pearl St. Pageland, SC Ph: 843-672-6135 Fax: 843-672-5393 Email: cmtucker@infoave.net

Go Eagles!

Baumgartner Funeral Home

Greenlawn Memorial Park of Pageland

708 W. McGregor Street Pageland, SC 29728 Ph: (843) 672-6131 Fax: (843) 672-6134 suttonfh@shtc.net

MYRTLE BEACH

Best Western Ocean Sands Resort

1525 South Ocean Blvd North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582

843-272-6101

Reservations 1-800-588-3570 www.oceansands.com

Call & Ask for your High School Sports Discount

Chesapeake House

9918 N. Kings Hwy Myrtle Beach, SC 843-449-3231

www.thechesapeakehouse.com

AJ ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY WARRIORS

AJA volleyball looks to be title contender; AJA football team devastated by injuries

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Ehrhardt—

The **Andrew Jackson Academy** (18-1) girls’ volleyball team will be very busy in the month of October, tuning up for the SCISA state tournament that begins in Myrtle Beach on October 23rd by playing 8 games, and head coach **Zach Boltin** has one strong goal in mind for the Lady Warriors.

“We want to be playing in the final game of the SCISA AA tournament on Monday because that will mean we are playing for a state championship,” said Coach Boltin, is in his third season as the head coach of the team. “In order to do that we must stay focused and keep improving. There can be so many distractions at playing a tournament at Myrtle Beach and you need to enter the tournament well prepared.

“This is why we scheduled so many extra non-region games in October,” said Coach Boltin. “We will be playing very competitive teams like **Branchville** and **Wilson Hall** in October.”

Of the 8 remaining regular season games the Warriors will play, prior to the state tournament, only two are region games but they will determine the region champion. The Warriors are currently 2-0 in the region, and they will play at Beaufort Academy on the 6th and then host BA on the 15th in Ehrhardt.

“If we win one of the two region games versus **Beaufort Academy**, we will be the region championship,” said Coach Boltin. “They have already lost one region game, and we are 2-0 so far.”

Senior **McKinnley Beard** is a 5-11 outside hitter who has 293 kills, 70 aces, and a 91 per cent serving percentage thus far this season. “She has accomplished everything in volleyball accept a state championship ring,” said Coach Boltin. “She has been on the team for five years and she is our vocal leader and key captain. She was all-state in volleyball last year.”

Senior setter **Bella Carrigg** has been an outstanding player also. As of Oct. 2, she has an incredible 354 assists, with 94 kills and the team’s top serving percentage at 94 per cent. “I call Bella the quarterback of the team,” said Coach Boltin. “She

distributes the ball very well and she is an excellent server.”

Senior **Kinslee Carson** is a senior RS. As of early October, she has 94 kills, a 93.5 serving percentage and 63 digs. “Kinslee is a very strong server, and this is her third season on the varsity, and she is also a returning North-South all-star along with **McKinnley**,” said Coach Boltin.

Senior middle hitter **Carrigan Moore**, a solid softball prospect as a catcher/center fielder, leads the team to date in blocks with 46, including 72 digs and 49 assists. “She is a strong defender at the net, and she has been on the varsity for four years and she earned all-region honors last season,” said Coach Boltin.

The team’s second outside hitter is junior **Peighton Jones**. Jones currently has 55 aces, 91 kills and 77 digs on the season.” She is a lethal server,” said Coach Boltin.

Junior **Abby Ayer** is a first-year middle blocker, and she has 29 blocks and a serving percentage of 90.6 entering the month of October. “Abby has been filling in for middle hitter **Braelyn Hall** while she has been out with an injury,” said Coach Boltin. “We expect to have Braelyn back for the state tournament.”

Sophomore Libero **Harper Bessinger** leads the team in digs with 108, and she has 49 assists also. “Harper is a defensive specialist who plays on our back row, and she is an excellent defender who does an excellent job on digs,” said Coach Boltin.

Rounding out the team are senior **DS Delanie Bessinger** and senior **DS Mary Gray Hiers**.

Coach Boltin is assisted by hard-working **Carmen Mixon** who does an excellent job coaching the junior varsity and B teams along with keeping up with the statistics of the varsity players.

Andrew Jackson Academy Football Update
The AJA Football Team, who returned to 8-man football this season, are 2-5 on the season following a 46-14 homecoming loss to **Laurens Academy** on October 2.

To date senior RB/FS **Ollie Barnes** leads the Warriors in rushing and receiving yards. Barnes is

In Loving Memory of Shaun Brandt

Palmetto STATE BANK

PO Box 2000 127 Hampton Ave. S. Fairfax, SC 29827

www.palmettostatebank.com O: (803) 632-2551 F: (803) 632-2554

Neighbors helping neighbors since 1907

THE WALLING AGENCY

P.O. Box 160 5968 Ehrhardt Rd. Ehrhardt, SC 29081

Phone: 803-267-2534 Fax: 803-267-2537

Go AJA Warriors!

Go AJA!

ENTERPRISE BANK

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

“We want to be part of your family”

13497 Broxton Bridge Rd, Ehrhardt, SC 29081

Phone: (803) 267-3191

Member FDIC

also the team’s leading scorer and the top specialist on kick and punt returns.

Freshman QB **Braeden Wilcox** leads the team is passing yards and TD’s thrown.

Seniors **Jaxon Tucker** and **Eli Mathys**, along with sophomore **Evan Mathys** and **Mitch Ott** have graded out the best on the OL.

The defensive tackle leaders are junior LB’s **Everett Ulmer** and senior DL **Eli Mathys**. Mathys also leads the team in QB sacks and TFL. **Ollie Barnes** leads the team in interceptions as a FS.

Junior WR **Hunter Tucker** and sophomore RB/DS **Cody Grider** have performed well on sides of the ball. **Everett Ulmer** handles the punting and kicking duties.

Coach Palmer states the team has been hurt by the injury bug. “We have lost multiple starters for the year with injuries,” he said. “Those include senior RB/LB **Brad Hightower**, junior TE/ **Bryson Riddle**, and freshman QB/FS **Will Barnes**.”

Some younger players have stepped up this season. They include 8th grade QB/LB **Grady Williams**, RB/DL **Grant Hay**, RB/LB **Levi Jackson**, TE/LB **Finn Phippen**, along with OL/DL **Carson Sheperd**.

“These players were pulled up to the varsity to add depth for the rest of the season,” said Coach Palmer.

The Warriors are preparing to play at **The Kings Academy** this week. On October 22 they will host Cathedral on October 22 before closing out the regular season on the road against rival **Jefferson Davis Academy**,

Florence Christian, continued from pg. 27

“She’s a sophomore outside hitter,” said Coach Carter. “She has worked hard and stepped her game up. She has played with more confidence and it shows in her decision making on the court. We’re looking forward to watching her develop.”

Then, there is returning starter **Bailey Johnson**. “Her heart, ability, toughness, and consistency bring this team together,” said Coach Carter. She has that natural ability to read and anticipate the ball. Her willingness to fight for every ball makes her one of the best.”

Charleston Roeder is among the new starters.

Class A Football, continued from pg. 8

gion standings. Tied with the Trojans at the top is Military Magnet. They could settle that tie atop the region on Oct. 16 when those two teams play at Cross.

REGION 9

While Carvers Bay is 2-0 in the region atop the standards, the Hannah-Pamplico Raiders’ two-game

“After moving up from JV to varsity this season, she has continued to grow in confidence and ability,” said Coach Carter. “She has made tremendous progress as a middle hitter and blocker. I am super excited to see what the future holds for her as she continues to improve.”

Another is **Sophia Marin**. “She works very hard and is very coachable and dependable,” said Coach Carter. “She has shown so much growth already, and I look forward to seeing her develop over the next few years.”

And then, there is **Ellison Wynn** at outside hitter.

winning streak produced a tie at the top.

The Bears will host Kingstree on Oct. 9 before hosting Hannah-Pamplico on Oct. 23.

REGION 10

Perennial power Lake View is tied atop the pack with Marion at 1-0 records. The Swamp Foxes and

“She does not get the recognition she deserves on paper,” said Coach Carter. “She is the player every coach loves to have on a team. She doesn’t need the spotlight. She just goes out and competes. Her faith, consistency and positive attitude and love for the game have made her an important part of this team. I am thankful for the joy and steady presence she brings to the team.”

Other key players include **Zofia Wierzbiicki, Kylie Fredrick** and **Emma Green**.

Wild Gators won’t play each other, however, until Oct. 30 on Lake View’s home field.

Latta, which lost 12-10 last week to Lake View and is 0-1 in the region, hosts Mullins at 7:30 p.m. this Friday.

www.HSSR.com

Seawell’s Midlands Feature Page

Region play fires up in the midlands, playoff implications loom

By WORTHY EVANS
Special to the HSSR
Columbia - Friday night, with the weather warm but skies clear of thunderstorms and lightning, Many Midlands teams grappled with one another in region battles.
Several Region 3-AAAA games, such as **Dutch Fork** at **Lexington** and **Chapin** at **River Bluff** were a good gauge to determine the teams’ strengths. One game, **North Augusta** at **Irmo** in a Region 5-AAAA battle of Yellow Jackets, may have exposed a struggling Irmo team.
And way out in the peaceful town of **Gilbert**, the home-team Indians had their hands full with a fired-up—yet penalty and mistake prone—**Camden** in a Region 3-AAA tilt.

Camden overcomes mistakes to top Gilbert
As the sun set on Gilbert America Friday night, the Bulldogs and the Indians kicked off what was to become a thriller.
Camden built a 20-7 lead before the Bulldogs started beating themselves. Gilbert wound up taking a 26-20 lead by halftime, but Camden shook off its first half mistakes to score four touchdowns en route to a 48-33 victory.
“This is a big region win for us,” Camden head coach **Brian Rimpf** said. “It was a great experience to get down, have to come back, and get a big win, and we’re happy with that.”
Camden got off to a quick 13-0 lead, getting scores from **Grayson Rimpf’s** touchdown passes of 14 yards to **Bernard Green** and 24 yards to **Will Haurert** in the first quarter.
Kendall Wright put Gilbert on the scoreboard with a 3-yard TD run early in the second quarter, but Rimpf’s TD run from seven yards out boosted the Bulldogs to a 20-7 lead.
Camden, which had 12 penalties for 125 yards in the first half, began to melt down. Two personal foul—unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on the same play moved Gilbert to the Camden 13-yard line. Not long afterward, **Gavin Elliot** scored on a 5-yard touchdown run.
Then followed a team safety when a snap sailed over punter (7’s) head, which cut Camden’s lead to 20-16.
On Gilbert’s possession after the free kick, the Indians drove to the 5-yard line, but they had to settle for **Noah Blackwell’s** 22-yard field goal.
The Indians got the ball back in the final 1:24 when another Camden possession got eaten up on penalties, and a botched fake punt play set Gilbert up at the Bulldogs 23-yard line.
After some setbacks that put the Indians back on the Camden 38, Wright connected with **Chandler Guthrie** at the goal line for a 38-yard go-ahead touchdown strike with 18 seconds left in the half.
Camden ran out the final 18 seconds and the game went into intermission with the Indians holding a 26-20 lead.
“I don’t know if we could’ve made more mistakes in the first half,” Rimpf said. “We fumble a fake punt, a bad call by me, we had three dropped third-down passes, we had a safety, first safety we’ve had in, I don’t know, about five or six years. Penalties extended their drives, penalties stopped our drives, I don’t think anything more could have went wrong.”
When play resumed, Gilbert took the

kickoff but turned the ball over on downs around the Camden 25-yard line. Camden took over and finished the 75-yard drive with **Jaden Manning’s** 2-yard touchdown run that put the Bulldogs up 27-26.
Another drive padded with Gilbert personal fouls ended on Green’s 23-yard touchdown scamper with seven seconds left in the third quarter.
Gilbert cut Camden’s 34-26 lead back down to one point with **Jaylen Brost’s** 7-yard TD catch at the 7:44 mark of the fourth quarter
Good fortune then broke for the Bulldogs.
Green scored again on a 1-yard touchdown run with 3:30 left in the game to make it 41-26. Gilbert looked toward scoring quickly and trying for the ball on an onside kick, but on the first play from scrimmage at the Indians’ 20-yard line, **Hayden Williams** picked off a Wright pass and returned it to the end zone for the game-clinching score with 3:17 left.
Lavay Penny made the win official when he recovered a Gilbert fumble in the closing two minutes.
“It was a big challenge for them in the second half, and they scored four touchdowns,” Rimpf said. “All four second-half drives resulted in touchdowns. They responded like I thought they would, an experienced team. You’ve gotta give Gilbert credit, but we came out on top tonight.”
Gilbert plays at Brookland-Cayce (2-4) this week, and Camden plays host the Bearcats Oct. 16.

River Bluff-Chapin
River Bluff, under second-year head coach **Perry Parks**, had its hands full with a fully renovated Chapin program under first-year coach **Cory Helms**.
The Eagles, who finished 0-10 last year, held a 25-24 lead going into the fourth quarter, but Gators quarterback **Brayden Moore** fired a 30-yard touchdown pass to **Brady Barrineau** for the go-ahead score.
Liam Flynn added a 22-yard field

Midlands Football
Top Ten

1. Dutch Fork (6-0, 1-0 Region)
2. River Bluff (6-1, 1-0 Region)
3. Lugoff-Elgin (5-1, 1-0 Region)
4. Camden (5-2, 2-0 Region)
5. Ridge View (3-2, 0-0 Region)
6. Fairfield Central (6-0, 0-0 Region)
7. Chapin (4-2, 0-1 Region)
8. Keenan (5-1, 1-0 Region)
9. Lexington (4-3, 0-1 Region)
10. Hammond (7-0, 2-0 Region)

goal in the closing minute of the game to give the Gators a 34-25 victory.
Earlier in the game, River Bluff’s **Davis Taylor** threw a 71-yard touchdown pass to **Coastal Carolina** commit **Darius Carter**. Carter later had a 98-yard kickoff return
Caleb Renwick and **Anthony Lavington** came down with interceptions for River Bluff. Flynn kicked two field goals and threw a touchdown pass to **Reece Huffstetler** on a fake field goal play.
Chapin quarterback **Tyler Black** passed for 328 yards on the night, with a touchdown pass to **Connor Finley**. **Charlie Howell** had a touchdown run.
Helms, a former University of South Carolina offensive lineman, came to Chapin after a successful head coaching tenure at **Pelion**. The Eagles (4-3, 0-1) play host to Dutch Fork Friday.
Parks is a **Sumter** native and Coastal Carolina alum who coached at **Lakewood** before moving to **Ridge View**, where he coached for six years and led the Blazers to the AAAA upper state championship game in 2019. He also was an assistant at **Charlotte** and Coastal.
River Bluff (6-1, 1-0) is off this week and will travel to face the Silver Foxes Oct. 16.
Dutch Fork tops Lexington
In the region opener for both teams, the Dutch Fork offense was not as domi-

nating in previous games, but the Silver Foxes (6-0, 1-0) scored four rushing touchdowns to defeat Lexington 28-7.
Jaxon Knotts threw two interceptions, but also had touchdown runs of one and seven yards. **Quintin Wilson**, who rushed nine times for 44 yards, had scores from one and four yards.
The Dutch Fork defense was the dominant force on the field. The Silver Foxes intercepted Lexington’s **Easton Crocker** three times and limited him to 60 passing yards. The Wildcats could only manage 72 net rushing yards on 25 attempts.
Appalachian State commit **K.J. Dupree** picked off Crocker twice. **Liberty** commit **James Smith** also came down with an interception.
The Silver Foxes continued several winning streaks Friday. It was their 16th straight win, 14th straight region win, and 13th straight win against Lexington.
Dutch Fork travels to Chapin and the Wildcats travel to **White Knoll** (1-5) Friday.
Irmo falls to North Augusta
The Irmo known for back-to-back appearances in the AAAA Division 2 state championship game in 2025-2026 is encountering some troubles in its first year back in Class AAAA competition.
The hometown Yellow Jackets (3-3, 0-1) played host to the Yellow Jackets (5-1, 2-0) from the Savannah River area and fell 25-16.
Irmo held a 16-14 lead at the half, but North Augusta blanked Irmo in the second half. Defender **Deante Darde** ran back an interception for a touchdown in the second half for the go-ahead score. North Augusta added two safeties in the second half as well.
Irmo’s third loss of the season is a first since 2022. The Yellow Jackets also lost to **Dorman** and **Rock Hill** this year. All of the losses were to ranked opponents.
“We think sometimes we’ve got the Irmo across our chest, we can live on
See Midlands Feature, pg. 62

Catering and Events

SEVENTY YEARS OF HOSTING BIG DAYS

Family owned since 1946
Formal to Casual Catering
Groups of 20 to 1,000+
(803) 771-7385
seawellscateringsc.com

Modern Turf Farm Recruiting Feature

Recruiting, continued from cover

HSSR SC 2028 Football Prospect List
(Nominate A '28 Player: hsreport@aol.com)

1. Zion Dawkins-Gaffney-DB/WR-5-11,181
2. Michael Martin-Christ Church-RB-5-10,180
3. Beau Hite-Emerald-QB-Ath.-5-11,170
4. Jace Grass-Daniel-QB-
5. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
6. Christian Webb-Scott-Westside-DL-6-6,250
7. Ryan Bruchu-York-QB-6-4,220
8. Brody Lorenzo-Dutch Fork-OL-6-3,330
9. Nasir Walker-AC Flora-DE-6-5,250
10. Teru Davis-Summerville-WR-6-0,170
11. Michael Martin-Christ Church-RB-5-9,185
12. Raphael Puii-James Island-WR-6-1, 190
13. Heyward Belser-Heathwood Hall-LB-6-3,220
14. Desiray Christian-Greenwood-FS-6-0,190
15. Mont Williams-Lamar-DE/WR-6-7,200
16. Matt Kucia-Indian Land-QB-6-2,185
17. Riggs Savage-Powdersville-TE-6-5,225
18. DeMarius Arrington-Dutch Fork-WR-6-0,175
19. Jackson Miller-Powdersville-OL-6-6,270
20. Phillip Savage-Powdersville-OLB/WR-6-3,200
21. DJ Johnson-North Augusta-DB-6-2, 180
22. Kenneth Wilson-Indian Land-WR-6-2,185
23. Lavay Penny-Camden-LB-6-2,215
24. Ian Jones-Woodruff-OL-6-4,260 24.
25. Kermit Davis-Stratford-DE-6-4,235
26. Cooper Patterson-Dorman-QB-6-0,185
27. Nick Sargent-BHP-TE-6-5,215
28. Tyler Murray-Kingstree-DB-6-1,185
29. Warren Prew-South Florence-LB-5-10,190
30. Jeremiah McGowan-Dutch Fork-OL-6-4,290
31. Jordan Logan-Orangeburg-Wilkinson-DB-6-1,195
32. Will Hunt-Oceanside Collegiate-TE/OL/DL-6-3, 275
33. DeMarcus King-Summerville-LB-
34. Emerson James-Byrnes-WR/DB-5-11, 180
35. JJ Campbell-Dillon-WR- 5-9,155
36. Darryle Washington-Gray Collegiate- OL-6-2, 270
37. Malachia Thompson-Woodruff-DB-5-10,170
38. Ian Jones-Woodruff-OL-6-4,270
39. Landon Guyton-Gilbert-TE/WR-6-3, 205
40. Elijah Sanders-Newberry-T/DT-6-1, 275
41. Jackson Sumney-Oceanside Coll-PK-5-11,190
42. Scoop Dennis-Laurence Manning-WR/DB-6-2,180
43. Brandyn Miller-Laurence Manning-OL/DT-6-1,275
44. Avery King-Brookland-Cayce-RB-5-9,180
45. Brayden Andy-Northwood Academy-OL-6-2, 265
46. Eli Sanders-Newberry-OL-DL-6-1, 275
47. Tahia Wise-Central-DL-5-9,210
48. Jeremiah Hunter-Seneca-WR-5-9,155
49. Lavar Mills-Darlington-TE-6-4,235
50. Samaj Parker-South Florence-WR-5-11, 170
51. Jaydon Pringle-Jackson-T-DE Goose Creek-6-0,245
52. Bryce Collins-South Pointe-OL-6-1,265
53. Jayden Wheeler-JL Mann-DT-6-0,235
54. Ziggy Offord-Lakewood-WR/DB-6-0,175
55. Holden Lowery-Chesterfield-WR-5-9,170
56. Willie Hill-Silver Bluff-OL-6-03,245

have got to know him on a first name basis.
Imagine Hite’s surprise when his football team practiced at 6 a.m., during early August drills, and he looks up in the stands and notices just about the entire **University of South Carolina** baseball coaching staff on hand to watch him practice football.
“I have to admit that I had no idea they were coming to one of my football practices, but when one of my coaches told me they had come to watch me practice I was kind of shocked to be honest,” said Hite.
“Wow, that was kind of crazy but a huge gesture on their part about their interest in me. It made my decision about where I wanted to go play college baseball pretty clear and I committee to South Carolina two days later.”
Earlier this summer, Hite had received very high marks as a gold glove type infielder at a National Skills Combine in Atlanta. His velocity on his fast ball is constantly improving and he has received high grades as a right-handed pitcher.
Still, there are some observers who feel like he should keep his name in the hat as a quarterback prospect despite being a **Drew Breeze** six-feet tall. Hite has a good level head on his shoulders and he talked about trusting the process.
“It has been a lot of work engaged in the process of developing myself as an athlete,” said Hite. “It has been a lot of fun just trusting the process and trusting God. I am fortunate that I have a lot of great people around me to guide me and help me be the best version of myself that I can be both as a player and a person.
“I feel blessed, and it has been a lot of work in the weight room, getting in those batting cages, working out on football fields, travelling over to attend to skills camps and engage in summer ball,” said Hite.
Hite said he developed quick feet, first of all by playing basketball at a very early age. “I work on my feet a lot and I take use to love fielding ground balls with Coach Derrick (youth coach) when I younger,” said Hite. “I use my feet in every sport I play and I feel like I have been blessed with quick feet.”
Hite said the light bulb about his natural talent in baseball sort of went off in his head when he was at the Pee Dee Baseball Showcase after his seventh- grade



***Emerald’s
Beau Hite***



***Hanahan’s
Tripp Gallus***

school year. “The folks putting on that show case really liked me and I got to see myself working against other athletes my same age,” said Hite. “I told myself that this (baseball) could my thing in life.
“I left that first Show Case with a number two over-all ranking, from all the players there and that made me feel really blessed,” said Hite. “A few months later I attended another Show case and was fortunate to come out of that experience ranked as the number one player and that was a very humbling experience also.”
Hite’s junior goal in football is to help the Vikings make a state championship run. “I think we have the right people in the room to do it,” said Hite. “I am a team guy. I want all of my teammates to have fun with me and experience success.”
Hite says he looks up Atlanta Braves outfielder **Ronald Acuna**. “I know that he plays the outfield for the Braves, but I just love the way he plays the game with a lot of confidence and I try to emulate him and his great example,” said Hite.
In this era of NIL values on athletes, Hite does know that there could be some NIL value placed on him as a next level college quarterback. “I try to stay on my feet and stay grounded in the moment,” said Hite. “I have not yet given any thought to that happening, or not happening. Should a situation like that every present himself I would certainly feel fortunate to have options and the first thing I would do is pray about it and then consult with my family.”
Tripp Gallus (6-5, 230) is a 2028 quarterback from **Hanahan High** who checks all the boxes. He too is a
See Recruiting, pg. 61

modern
turf

Proudly Keeping
South Carolina Schools
on Winning Turf!

Modern Turf, Inc.
843-421-5479
mark@modernturf.com
www.modernturf.com