

## Mayor's split duty plan fails: Meyer also vice mayor

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

With new Alderman Alex Cain (Ward I, North) ready to make an impact moments after being sworn into office, that's exactly what happened soon after fellow Alderman David White made a motion to nominate Alderman Scott Meyer as Town vice mayor during this Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting Thursday, Aug. 22, in Farragut Community Center.

Though Mayor Ron Williams got unanimous approval to appoint Meyer as the Board's second representative on Farragut Municipal Planning Commission, replacing term-limited former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin, Williams then made a motion to nominate re-elected Alderman Drew Burnette (Ward II, South) as vice mayor.

With Burnette and Williams on one side, and White and Meyer on the other in the vice mayor sweepstakes, it came down to Cain — who voted to appoint Meyer as vice mayor.

As for Meyer's new FMPC service, "The position on the Planning Commission carries a tremendous amount of responsibility with our Farragut legislative process," Williams said. "As one of nine, the research on each agenda item is very important for understanding the background when it comes time to vote.

"Most folks do not realize



Meyer

## Local Greater Knox Hall of Fame duo



PHotos by Alan Sloan

(Above) Newly inducted Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Famer Eddie Courtney, left, was a highly successful varsity football head coach at Farragut High for 28 seasons. He was joined by inductee Victoria Gillenwater (of national and international equestrian fame and a former Webb School of Knoxville student, Class of 1985). The pair is alongside media honoree Dan Fleser among 10 inducted Thursday evening, Aug. 22, in Knoxville Convention Center's Main Ballroom.



Eddie Courtney, right, greets Steve Lucas, Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board, who presented Courtney and the other honorees with their Induction plaques during this GKSHOF Induction Ceremony Thursday, Aug. 22. Also reacting with a smile is "Voice of the Vols" Bob Kesling, event emcee.



Alan Sloan

Holding his Promotion Ceremony in Admiral Farragut Plaza late Saturday morning, Aug. 24, then U.S. Army Maj. Dr. Nicholas K. Roland, right — a 2003 Farragut High graduate and Red Team Chief of 29th Infantry Division of Virginia National Guard — takes the Oath of Office to be promoted to lieutenant colonel as administered by Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Samulski, Deputy Commanding General - Operations, of 29th Division. Serving as ceremony emcee, left, was former USMC Cpl. Jonathan Roland, Dr. Roland's younger brother and a 2006 FHS graduate. (See related photo, page 2A)

## Elevation of rank in the shadow of Admiral Farragut

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Coming full circle more than 20 years after graduating from Farragut High School, U.S. Army Maj. Dr. Nicholas Keefauver Roland and his family came to Admiral Farragut Plaza for a Promotion Ceremony, as soon-to-be Lt. Col. Roland was about to take the Oath of Office late Saturday morning, Aug. 24.

Administered by Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Samulski, Deputy Commanding General - Operations, of the 29th Infantry Division of Virginia National Guard, Roland was joined by several family members, including his brother, ceremony emcee Jonathan Roland, a former USMC corporal and 2006 FHS graduate.

Also joined by his fiancée, Erin Emory, and his parents, David and Ingrid Roland, now Lt. Col. Roland is Red Team Chief for the 29th Infantry Division of VNG. He also is a graduate of Airborne School, Army Ranger School, the Sniper Employment Leader's Course and Basic Military Mountaineer Course.

Roland was deployed to Iraq in 2009 and 2010 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to the Horn of Africa in 2022. His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Roland's civilian education includes earning a doctorate degree in U.S. History at the University of Texas, Austin, in 2017, after earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in history, with Honors, from Virginia Tech in 2007, where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate of the VPI Corps of Cadets. A history teacher at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Roland resides in Nelson County, Virginia. (See related photo, page 2A)

## Traffic calming solutions sought after student hit-and-run; man, 59, to be charged?

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Perhaps frustrated by the near tragedy of a 16-year-old Farragut High School student suffering serious hit-and-run injuries at the corner of Thornton and Hughlan drives in Farragut on the first day of school Thursday,

Aug. 8, residents of Thornton Heights reportedly have acted in an attempt to greatly minimize this type of accident happening again.

Seeking improved traffic safety in their neighborhood through Town of Farragut, two applications had been submitted by early this week requesting a traffic calming study, reports indicate.

The supposed motive of a 59-year-old driver, who according to media reports admitted to hitting the teenage girl — but upon contact thought he hit "a blanket" — was to use these neighborhood streets as a quicker cut-through to avoid heavier traffic on Kingston Pike, Concord Road and North Campbell Station Road among others.

A decision whether or not to charge the hit-and-run driver still has not been determined by Knox County District Attorney's Office, at least not by deadline early Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 27.

The man in question did contact authorities the next day, reports stated, upon hearing the girl had been struck, thinking it might have been him.

### Wishing for Knox Zoning Appeals help to block EZ-Stop

• Looking for one final Knox County government entity to act in attempt to block EZ-Stop, which seeks to build a 7,000-square foot convenience store and adjacent small restaurant with drive-thru service on the western edge of Old Historic Concord, an appeal to a Knoxville/Knox County Planning Commission vote is sought.

After KKPC approved the convenience store

construction, at the corner of Concord Road and Second Street, at its July 11 meeting by an 8-4 vote, an appeal was expected to be heard by Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals today, Wednesday, Aug. 28.

One Old Concord resident who contacted farragutpress said their group of like-minded residents looking to stop construction had hired an attorney.

Another possible cause to delay — if not requiring a complete halt to EZ-Stop's Concord Road plans — would be the discovery of an unmarked historical burial ground on the property in question.

EZ-Stop officials did agree at the July 11 KKPC meeting to allow for an archeological assessment of the property to determine if it might be an historic burial ground.



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# Pair of BOMA oaths



(Above) Michael Cain, left, and Marti Cain stand beside their son, Alex Cain, as he takes the oath of office as a new Farragut North Ward (Ward I) alderman that was read by Farragut Municipal Judge Keith Alley to begin the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting Thursday, Aug. 22. (Below) Re-elected Farragut Alderman Drew Burnette (Ward II, South), left, with his wife, Brooke Burnette by his side, took the oath of office as presented by Alley during the Aug. 22 meeting.



Photos by Tammy Cheek

# KCSOreports

At 1:32 p.m., Friday, Aug. 16, a Knox County Sheriff's Office unit was dispatched to a Turkey Creek Road residence for a hit-and-run investigation. Complainant said sometime between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. "an unknown (driver) struck his brick mailbox, causing it to fall over," the report stated. Complainant said he did not witness the incident, "and there were no video surveillance cameras on (complainant's) residence or on surrounding residences. While examining the mailbox, I located pieces of a broken taillight with 'Honda' (inscribed) on the plastic ... ." Total value of damage was listed at \$1,000.

## Changes

From page 1A

that a majority of the projects that come to our staff go to the Planning Commission only and never even make it to the Board," the mayor added. Williams said the vice mayor "will also be available to help the mayor with both our federal and state legislators. This may be the most critical challenge that will be given to the vice mayor." That includes "the close

working relationship with the Tennessee Municipal League, National League of Cities, Knox County Mayor and Commissioners, as well as the Knoxville mayor and her staff," the mayor added. "There will be required work with East Tennessee Development District, TPO, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, TDOT, the Joint Economic Development District, Knox County School Board and others."

## Roland's two favorite girls



Alan Sloan

As part of his Promotion Ceremony in Admiral Farragut Plaza late Saturday morning, Aug. 24, newly honored U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dr. Nicholas K. Roland — a 2003 Farragut High graduate — hands flowers to his fiancée, Erin Emory, foreground, and his mother, Ingrid Roland (sunglasses), who were among more than a dozen family members on hand. (See story, extra photo, on page 1A)

# Allow 2nd dwelling unit on existing residential lot? FMPC debates

TAMMY CHEEK  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Whether or not to permit a second dwelling unit on an existing residential lot drew an hour-long debate among Farragut Municipal Planning Commission members during their meeting Thursday, Aug. 15. Currently, the Town ordinance does not allow a second dwelling unit. However, resident Tyler Butler, who applied for the change, asked a second dwelling be allowed on his property, which is greater than 1.5 acres in the Rural Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. The bone of contention for FMPC members was that having a second dwelling on a piece of property is similar to past debates about accessory dwelling

units. "Maybe, five or 10 years ago, we had some discussion on accessory dwelling units," FMPC member Noah Myers recalled. "To me, that's what's kind of being described by the applicant's proposal is an ADU. "I don't think the Planning Commission was comfortable with a lot of widespread ADUs," he added. "We were worried about conflicts in neighborhoods and so forth." While Myers pointed out a lot of subdivisions with lots over 5 acres have covenants and restrictions that govern ADUs, and "in perpetuity, there's nothing we can do to change those covenants and restrictions," he said, recalling support of some limited ADUs. Additionally, "I like the direction of the applicant's request," Myers added. "But (the issue) was so com-

plicated." Vice Mayor Louise Povlin recalled those discussions over ADUs went on for several months. "We finally threw our hands up," she said. "As discussed at the July 2 Staff/Developer meeting, the applicant has an existing lot off Fretz Road that pre-dates the Town's subdivision regulations," assistant Community Development director Bart Hose said. "The lot does not have direct frontage on an existing public street. "There is an existing home on the lot that is accessed through a private access easement that also provides access to one other lot," he added. "The applicant initially discussed trying to subdivide the lot, but given its configuration and the pres-

See FMPC on Page 4A



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Tammy Cheek

Siblings Josh Robinette and Lindsey Davis have rebranded The Casual Pint near Northshore Drive from a “craft beer market” to a “craft beerstro” at 2045 Thunderhead Road.

## Casual Pint’s new brand focus on food

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — The Casual Pint of Northshore now has new branding to better describe what it has to offer at 2045 Thunderhead Road.

Brother and sister, Josh Robinette and Lindsey Davis, have taken over the craft beer and rebranded it as a “craft beerstro,” offering food to go along with the suds.

“We have a variety of items that pair nicely with the craft beers that we offer,” Davis said. “We have shareables, like our pretzels and housemade beer cheese.

“We do some really nice wings,” she added. “We’re doing a brand new hamburger. We do a nice offering of some different flatbreads, wraps and salads.

“We’re also open for lunch.”

The Northshore Casual Pint initially opened in 2011 as a family-owned neighborhood craft beer market. “Josh and I are actually the original founders of Casual Pint, so we are the franchisor, and this is what we call our home base,” Davis said. “We try to stay away from the ‘corporate’ word.”

The previous franchisees of that location, Chris Owens and Mary Sweeney, decided to

diversify their interests, giving Davis and Robinette the opportunity to “have this store back as a corporate location,” Robinette said.

However, “this location is new to us in terms of ownership,” Davis said.

“Really, what’s new is the kitchen and the brand,” Robinette said.

What previously was The Casual Pint Craft Beer Market, known in Knoxville as, is now is The Casual Pint Craft Beerstro with the offerings of the food and craft beers.

“We started doing food in our concept back in 2016 and 2017, our larger growth phases,” Robinette said. “Honestly, it’s been an evolution.

“Even today, we’re always trying to innovate and have new products; but as of 2023 is when we actually trademarked the term ‘beerstro’ and added that to our official branding and look,” he added. “That’s really the whole package that we’re offering now as a franchise system. We’ve been trying to reinforce and grow here.”

A ribbon cutting ceremony starts at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17. “We are doing the ribbon cutting around the rebranding and the whole new look of the store,” Robinette said.

Store hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Phone is 865-248-3151.

## Dream come true to open One Nation Spin & Sculpt

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Best friends Meagan MacDonald and Rebecca Chambers have partnered to open One Nation Spin & Sculpt, a novel fitness concept, in Farragut this fall.

The business partners are hoping to open their new business Saturday, Sept. 7, at 11416 Kingston Pike, the former Adorable Child location.

“It’s been a dream for both of us for quite some time,” MacDonald said. “We’re excited to bring this.”

They will offer indoor cycling (spin), sculpt (their version of barre) and dance cardio — half-cardio and half

sculpting.

“We’re the only business that offers dance cardio in Knoxville,” Chambers said.

They will be offering classes at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, as well as Saturday morning classes and pop-up classes in various locations.

To sign up for classes, visit [onenationspinsculpt.com](https://onenationspinsculpt.com) or visit Instagram or Facebook.

“We’ve wanted to do fitness full time for at least a few years now, so it kind of feels surreal that we have our own space,” Chambers said.

“We’ve looked for spaces for at least a year, but nothing seemed to be the perfect one,” MacDonald said. “This one, honestly, we stumbled upon it

at the right timing.

“We wanted to be in Farragut because it’s so untapped,” she added. “There was not a lot of cycling out here, and we also offer multiple workouts, so we wanted to be a space where people could get more than just one thing.

In short, “This is just a great place for us to get into,” MacDonald said. “The landlord’s great; the neighbors are great; and we’re accessible to Oak Ridge, Maryville, Farragut.

“We had a lot of requests when we were teaching at other studios that there was nothing out here (like their concept),” she added. “That’s why we wanted to tap into the Farragut area.”



Tammy Cheek

Best friends Meagan MacDonald, left, and Rebecca Chambers soon will open One Nation Spin & Sculpt, a novel fitness concept for Farragut residents at 11416 Kingston Pike, the former Adorable Child location. They are targeting Saturday, Sept. 7.

## businessbriefs

• **PERA America, a national service organization for opera, welcomes Knoxville Opera general director/CEO Jason Hardy** into its new class of board members, which includes distinguished leaders through-

out the opera industry.

“It’s a pleasure to welcome this new cohort of exceptional opera administrators, creators and trustees to the OPERA America board,” OPERA America president/CEO Marc

A. Scorca stated in a press release. Previously, Scorca noted Hardy’s “experience as both artist and administrator prepared him for a leadership role in our field... demonstrat(ing) his commitment to realizing a compel-

ling vision for the future.”

• **Farm Bureau Health Plans recently announced it will exit the Medicare Advantage and Part D markets** at the end of 2024. The goal is “to focus on its core strengths in delivering

exceptional, affordable health coverage,” a Farm Bureau press release stated. “By concentrating its efforts on its primary offerings, including Medicare Supplement plans for members over 65 ... to enhance quality.”

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# Hoops For Hope still strong with UT, FHS



Photos by Alan Sloan

About 70 teenage and young adult athletes with Down syndrome once again took advantage of the opportunity to play basketball on Donald Dodgen Court inside Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium at Farragut High School Saturday morning and early afternoon, Aug. 24. An annual gathering at FHS, Hoops for Hope filled the stands with family, friends and other supporters, as most of the UT Mens and Womens Basketball team members, including head coaches Rick Barnes and Kim Caldwell, were on hand to help these athletes enjoy a series of 13-minute games, as divided by teams with various T-shirt colors. **(Above left)** Among the Black Team players introduced before its game versus the Green Team was Christi Oliver, who happily accepted “high fives” from Vols and Lady Vols players. **(Above right)** Holly Newman finds herself all alone on a fastbreak situation looking to score for the Green Team. Among the Lady Vols lending assistance to these and other teams was Avery “Ace” Strickland (orange shoes in back right), a former All-state FHS Lady Admirals wing who’s now a Lady Vol junior guard/forward (5-foot-10). “It’s awesome being back at Farragut and, at UT, being back in the community and seeing all of these happy faces,” said Strickland, who transferred from Pittsburgh to Tennessee following the 2022-23 season. “I just love being out here and having fun with them playing basketball, genuinely being here for them.” Donald Dodgen, court namesake and FHS athletics director, said, “We started this thing many, many years ago (2007) with David Sexton and his son (Trey Sexton, then an FHS student, whose idea sparked the creation of Hoops For Hope). “This is a feel-good day. ... It’s getting bigger and bigger every year. We’ve got all kinds of our faculty members here, and the UT Men and Women out here. That just makes it a great day.”

## FMPC

From page 1A

ence and proximity of dwelling units on the lots that abut the applicant’s property, there was no way to do this in compliance with the subdivision regulations. The applicant has a parent who lives on the existing property and would like to construct a home on the property to help with the parent as a means of aging in place.” However, he observed at some point in time, the property could be sold at a later date and a person could buy it as an investment property and rent the dwelling. Hose warned FMPC needs to be aware of what that could open up in the future.

“The staff noted since subdividing would not be possible in this case, the language in the zoning ordinance could be re-visited in this regard to see if there is interest in providing for this,” he said. “As with any request for a text amendment, the staff must assess the impact of the change throughout the Town.” “There are currently roughly 150 lots in Town that are zoned R-1 and exceed 1.5 acres,” Hose added. “Fifteen of these lots are either open space, owned by homeowner’s associations or churches.” “During discussion at the Staff/Developer meeting, the staff noted the main initial question before moving forward with this would be whether the Commission, and ultimately the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, would be

open to providing for a second dwelling unit on a lot exceeding 1.5 acres in the R-1 Zoning District. If this is not something that is desired, then this request would not likely need to proceed.

If there is an openness to allowing the second dwelling unit, “what would be some of the requirements that could be added to prevent envisioned issues?” Hose asked. “Some of these could be similar to the Agricultural Zoning District, which was amended in 2021 to provide for a second single-family detached dwelling.”

Finally, FMPC asked staff to come up with language that could allow a second dwelling

in a restricted fashion.

### In other matters ...

On another matter, FMPC voted to recommend approval of resident Wil Glafenhein’s request to rezone a portion of his 8.64-acre property at 12715 Union Road from Single-Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Single-Family Residential (R-1).

This rezoning, which must go to Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval, would allow Glafenhein to raise chickens on the property. Glafenhein originally sought Agriculture rezoning for the property, but Planning Commissioners agreed R-1 was a better fit.





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Editor..... 865-218-8880  
editor@farragutpress.com

**Tammy Cheek,**  
Writer..... 865-218-8873  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

**Brandon L. Jones,**  
Writer  
editor@farragutpress.com

**General Manager**  
**Kathy Hartman**.. .865-218-8878  
khartman@farragutpress.com

**Production Department**  
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Production Manager/  
Circulation Manager.865-218-8872  
production@farragutpress.com

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**Receptionist**  
**Terrie Ware**.....865-218-8871  
Monday – Wednesday, Friday  
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**Advertising Department**  
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sbirdwell@farragutpress.com

**Linda Tirban,**  
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Service Directory ..... 865-218-8881  
linda@farragutpress.com

**Editor email:** editor@farragutpress.com **Website:** www.farragutpress.com  
**Press Talk: Call:** 865-671-8255 or **email:** editor@farragutpress.com  
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## Town Founder praises Povlin

Vice Mayor/Alderman Louise Povlin's retirement from the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen leaves a void in the Town government.

She dedicated a tremendous amount of time studying regulations, researching issues, meeting with citizens, preparing for meetings and working to better our community. She also served on her Homeowners Board (and Town's) Municipal Planning Commission.

Unfortunately, she was often attacked with misinformation

and disrespectful behavior. Social media was used to make false statements and create deception. The Town has had disagreements and controversies over the years, but never such behavior. This behavior is an embarrassment to the community.

Rapid growth is unpopular. Many prefer everything remain the same as the day we moved into our home. For me (50 years ago), Farragut was a few subdivisions, very little traffic, one traffic light and

## letter to the editor

mostly farmland. A great place to live. My preference was not change, but I didn't own the land. Growth was inevitable.

I do not like the apartments, apartments density, smaller lot sizes and limited commercial parking. Government is trying to manage growth and its adverse impact on current residents and infrastructure, while at the same time considering property owners rights

and the demand for more housing. Conflicts are often resolved by court decisions.

We are being overwhelmed with growth and ensuing congestion. Congestion is a problem in Farragut, Hardin Valley, Choto, Cedar Bluff, Lenoir City, Maryville and Knoxville. Apartments are being built everywhere. New developments are taking the remaining open land. Growth is a reality throughout Tennessee. The traffic and growth problems are much larger than a Farragut issue.

Those unhappy with current government should study ap-

plicable federal, state, county and local regulations; research responsibilities, defined powers and sources of funding. Continue to learn, and if interested and willing to devote many hours, run for office. Difficult decisions are ahead.

As a founder of Farragut and alderman 40 years ago, I still pay attention to Town government. Louise Povlin was the hardest working alderman ever. She did her best to serve the entire community. Thank you for all your time and effort. Enjoy your retirement.

Eric Johnson, Farragut

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Natalie Inman, 3, with brother, Charlie Inman, 6



Tripp Maier, 2



Drew Chernosky, 7



Vanden Long, 4, on skid steer mower

# Fun *with* Farragut's Fleet

## plus Children's Farmers Market

Children clamored on motorcycles, mowers, tractors and fire engines during Town of Farragut's annual Fun with Farragut's Fleet in Mayor Bob Leonard Park, 301 Watt Road, Saturday morning, Aug. 17.

Town administrator David Smoak reported more than 900 attended the event, which featured not only the Town's vehicles, but motorized stock from Rural Metro, Knox County Sheriff's Office, First Utility District, Vulcan Materials and more.

New this year, children were able to sell items they made — from crafts to cookies — at a Children's Entrepreneurial Farmers Market on park grounds Aug. 17. Run by Sara Badgett, this is the first year for the market in Farragut and Knoxville, Badgett said.

Photos by Tammy Cheek



Ronin Shoner, 1, left, and friend, Finn Talbert 1 1/2



Ethan Li, 5, and brother, Lucas Li, 7



Brooks Carter, 15 months, in fire engine



William and Breanna Halsey with Oliver, 3, Henry, 2, and Felicity, 6 months



KCSO K-9 officer Denife "D.J." Jones with Gizmo



Evelyn Heatherly, 9



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Siblings Derek Lawson, 7, and Reagan, 8, selling cookies



From left, Isaac Jenkins, 5; brother Roland Jenkins, 2; and friend, Stella Lemos, 4



Blakely Hicks sells donuts



Max Ward, 4



Brooklyn Hicks, 7, selling flowers



Dad Travis Fleming with Harrison, 3



Luke Wilson, 12



# Ups, but final ‘down’



Photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

(Left) Farragut senior Robbie Jacobs catches what turned into a 75-yard scoring pass from sophomore quarterback Corbin Hobson (below). (Above) Kent Carbaugh, Ads senior defensive back, flies around to make this stop on a Dobyns-Bennett ballcarrier.

## Rallying from a 14-0 deficit, Ads’ late lead erased at KDB

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

**KINGSPORT** — Owning a quarter-and-a-half of its season-opening game at Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett allowed Farragut to overcome early adversity.

But the home team’s early and late success, which started by recovering an FHS fumble on the game’s second play and needing only 36 yards to score a TD, sent the Ads home unhappy, 27-20, in its season opening game Friday night, Aug. 23.

Finally stopping KDB on its third scoring drive attempt, after the Indians reached the Farragut 39 midway into the second quarter with the home team already up 14-0, FHS got a spark that created a momentum flame extending almost through the entire third quarter.

Sophomore quarterback Corbin Hobson’s first varsity touchdown pass hit senior receiver Robbie Jacobs in stride deep down the middle, 75 yards in all. The lead was 14-7.

A second Hobson-to-Jacobs TD lob pass of 19 yards on the next FHS possession, connecting in the back corner of the end zone, tied the game 14-14 with just 1:24 left in the first half.

With Farragut’s defense buckling down (allowing KDB just 273 total yards for the game) and junior kicker Ryan McCue adding field goals of 41 and 40 yards in addition to his pair of extra points, the Ads took a 20-14 lead into the fourth quarter.

But that’s when the Indians began using short, quick pass plays effectively — starting with a critical 18-yard screen pass on third down in the final seconds of the third quarter — to grab back momentum.

“We were going to have to open up the game a little bit and throw it a little bit more,” KDB head coach Joey Christian said. “We were able to do that for the rest of the game.”

Tying the game 20-20 with 9:43 left in regulation — FHS blocked the extra point — KDB made a critical

fourth-and-1 defensive stop at the Farragut 40 midway into the final period.

About not punting in that situation, Courtney said, “We just thought we’d get a yard and then continue that drive and then go down and take the lead back. We’d been running it pretty effectively there in the second half. ... We felt like we had a good push and good answers in the second half.”

The home team scored six plays later, taking a 27-20 lead with 3:53 to play.

However, Hobson fired completions covering 15 yards to tight end Aaron Heatherly and 11 yards to Landon Collins. The final toss to Jacobs landed the Ads at the Indians 20 with less than two minutes to play.

A second down pass to the goal line looked to be a touchdown — but simply was dropped. The next pass was intercepted, and KDB escaped with a narrow victory.

Had the catch been made to cut the KDB lead to 27-26, “Hindsight being 20-20, we might have gone for 2 here on the road, but we didn’t get to that,” Courtney said.

All totaled, Jacobs caught six passes for 142 yards.

“We are a team that’s always going to fight to the fourth quarter, and that’s exactly what we did,” Jacobs said. “We’re never going to give up.”

Hobson finished 14-of-25 passing for 228 yards and the two scoring strikes plus the one interception.

After Hobson had a rough first three series, “He settled in quite nicely,” Courtney said.

Another big weapon was sophomore Ethan Farhat, who returned eight kickoffs or punts for 149 yards, an 18-yard average.

Along with McCue’s kicking and punting and Farragut coverage units, “Outside of one return where we had two guys miss a tackle, I thought our special teams was really, really good tonight,” Courtney said. “Our punt return game was



what allowed us to flip the field back in our position in the second and third quarters. Our exchanges on punts, I think we had an advantage there outside of that one return.

“Then Ryan’s field goal kicking, he was nailing them,” he added.

As a team, Farragut only gained 44 net yards on the ground. Team statistics had running back Charlie Noble rushing 12 times for 42 yards.

Defensively for Farragut, senior strong safety Henry Dee led FHS in both solo tackles (five) and total stops (nine), including two for minus yardage. Senior defensive end Harrison Kilpatrick had 7.5 total tackles.

Senior linebacker Bryce Thompson added six stops, including one for minus yardage. Of senior defensive back Kent Carbaugh’s six total tackles, four were solo.

Four of Jacobs’ five total stops at defensive back were solo. Hits by sophomore defensive backs Johnny Jacobs (four total) and sophomore Masyn Apaletgui forced fumbles (neither was recovered by Farragut).

## Errors aside, BHS ‘D’feats West in 3OT

ALAN SLOAN

editor@farragutpress.com

**BEARDEN** — Last season, Bearden needed a couple of weeks before learning how to overcome costly mistakes and still win.

For example, in last year’s season opener at Knoxville West, the Runnin’ Rebels used a 46-yard touchdown pass with only seconds remaining to pull out a 14-10 win.

But late breakdowns a year later against those same guys along Southerland Avenue, in the final seconds of regulation and in the second of three overtimes, wouldn’t prevent the Dawgs from ultimate victory versus their rival nemesis this time. It would be a 31-24 BHS win against the two-time defending Division I-5A state champs in a season-opening thriller Saturday night, Aug. 24, at BHS’s Bill Young Field.

“We battled; it dang sure wasn’t pretty tonight, but we’re 1-0 and they put it in the win column,” BHS head coach Josh Jones said. “As coaches, you want it to look a lot better and more cleaner. I’ve got to coach better, prepare our guys better, but we’re 1-0.”

The Dawgs defense, strong throughout most of the game, was especially tough at critical moments in the third quarter and early in the fourth — not to mention holding West to 3 points in three OT possessions, each starting at the BHS 10.

Forcing three West fumbles, Bearden got the first one in the end zone when senior defensive back Ethan Couvertiere returned his scooped fumble 23 yards on the game’s first play from scrimmage.

“Oh, our defense, man, that’s what kept us in the game,” Jones said. “... Defense, man, they battled and battled and bowed their back and bowed their back.”

“I couldn’t be more proud.”

Senior linebacker Kai Ironside was among the top Dawg defenders.

“It’s really about what our coaches have put into us, a mindset of effort and never give up, even when you’re down, even when you’re hurt,” Ironside said. “It’s just giving your all because it’s like, ‘I’m doing it for the brothers next to us. I know he’s going to give it all.’

“All we did was trust our team, and you saw us give it all,” he added.

A fumble recovery, which negated a West interception just three plays before, set up Bearden for William Pendergrass’ 37-yard field goal and a 10-0 lead with 2:15 left in the first quarter. Another Pendergrass field goal, this one 36 yards, made it 13-0 just eight seconds into the second quarter.

But the Runnin’ Rebels bounced back quickly, putting together their best drive of the game by going 77 yards to score, mostly on the ground but including a 20-yard completion.

The Dawgs reached midfield on their next possession before a perfect deep strike from sophomore quarterback D.J. Hunter was simply dropped in the end zone. Two plays later, a punt snap was way too high, and West took over at the BHS 15. Two plays later, the visitors led 14-13.

It stayed that way until a pair of short-yardage stops by the Bearden defense — fourth-and-1 at the BHS 46 (Ironside tackle) and third-and-1 at the West 19 (Couvertiere tackle). The latter, followed by a 20-yard punt return, placed the Dawgs at the West 31.

Six plays later, junior back Jayzon Thompson scored from 6 yards out, and with Hunter’s 2-point conversion pass to senior receiver Drew Parrott, Bearden led 21-14 with 9:43 to



Thompson

See DAWGS IN 3 OT on Page 2B

## Dominant vs. CCS, Lady Ads volleyball improved to 7-1 at start of the week

BILL HOWARD

Correspondent

The Farragut High School volleyball team kicked off its 2024 season in impressive fashion Thursday evening, Aug. 21.

On the road at Concord Christian School, the Lady Admirals swept the best-of-three match, 25-15 and 25-14. While CCS fell to 0-3, FHS stood at 7-1 entering this week.

FHS used long scoring runs to pull away and close out each set. Second-year coach Andre Alves was satisfied with the

overall team effort.

“We played clean and managed the ball, managed the runs, and we made them earn their points,” he said. “They did a great job. We were playing loose and executing what we practiced.”

CCS coach Mandy Richards knew her team was going to be challenged. “They’re a great team,” she said. “We lost a lot of seniors from last year and we’re pretty young. We made too many errors.”

In the first set, the Lady Admirals led 14-11. An 11-4 run

from that point closed it out. In the second set, the Lady Lions led 9-8. FHS then won nine of the next 10 points to lead 17-10.

Two consecutive points from CCS made it 17-12, but Farragut cruised from there.

Senior outside hitter Trinity



Alves

Rye — new to the team from San Diego — led FHS in kills with nine. Junior setter Bella Ekeler led the Lady Ads in both assists, with 13, and digs, with seven. Senior utility player Loryn Neeley had six digs.

Rye’s athleticism at the net on kills was stark. “Trinity was amazing tonight,” Alves said. “I believe I have the best setter in the state,” referring to Ekeler.

Senior Paisy White reflected on how the team pulled away in both sets.

“Once we decided to work as

a team together we started getting some points and got a run in and by then we were up five, six and decided to dominate,” the 6-foot-3 middle hitter said.

“Just extremely proud of them,” Alves said.

Prior to the match, the Lady Admirals’ junior varsity team had a sweep of its own, winning 25-22 and 25-23. FHS got strong serving from Maddie Kupferer. “We’ve been working really hard in practice and they’ve implemented what we’ve worked on,” JV coach Sydney Culpepper said.





(Above left) Levi Hill, 11, a sixth-grader at Farragut Middle School, makes contact on the tee during Town of Farragut's first League of Angels baseball experience for people with special needs, which took place at Mayor Bob Leonard Park in late afternoon, Saturday, Aug. 24. (Above right) Sarah Hardwig, an event participant who is known for her singing voice, sings the National Anthem as "Angel of the Game" Austin Hankins displays the flag.



Photos by Alan Sloan

# Leaving UK, Kim forms League of Angels

ALAN SLOAN  
editor@farragutpress.com

A talented first baseman/designated hitter for the Farragut Admirals (Class of 2021) who helped FHS win a 2019 state championship, Tanner Kim played two years of baseball in the Southeastern Conference at Kentucky — but something much more important than UK Wildcats Baseball developed.

"I felt God calling me home to Knoxville" to help challenged children, teenagers and adults alike, said Kim, who became founder and president of League of Angels, which allows people with special needs to use a ball and bat to simulate playing baseball on a big stage.

According to the League of Angels' mission statement, "We are committed to sharing the transformative power of baseball to individuals with life challenges."

This new nonprofit, founded by Kim in the summer of 2023, would partner with the Town of Farragut "to demonstrate how baseball can be enjoyed by people of all abilities," a Town press release stated.

"The motivation for the foundation was strictly from God," added Kim, now a UT junior majoring in management at the school's Haslam College of Business. " ... God put it on my heart to start last year (while attending) City Hills Church."

While in Lexington, Kim volunteered with Miracle League, an organization with a mission quite similar to League of Angels. "The (Miracle League) kids were just having a blast," Kim was quoted as saying in a story released by Haslam College of Business.

Saying he was previously consumed with the pressures of being a student/athlete at UK before the Miracle League experience, "... It was such a perspective change for me," he also stated in the Haslam release.

The first League of Angels diamond celebration in Farragut, in partnership with the Town, happened late Saturday afternoon into early evening, Aug. 24, on Mayor Bob Leonard Park's main soccer field along North Watt Road.

"We had around 15 participant players this past Saturday, with ages ranging from 9 to 30, but we are open

to all ages during our events," Kim said. "We also had north of 55 volunteers for our event."

"It was a huge success because we got a lot of people to come see a League of Angels event and got the Town of Farragut more involved," he added. "Our vendors and food trucks also got to be involved, and a lot more people got exposed to our foundation. We were able to raise money and continue to grow."

Of special note, "Sarah Hardwig was our National Anthem singer; she is blind, but has gotten a music scholarship to Belmont (University in Nashville) and has sung with names as big as Steven Tyler," Kim said. "We were super happy she was able to make the drive all the way from Nashville to sing and also play in our game."

The roughly three hours of baseball simulation included all players first hitting off a tee, while the other players fielded the plastic ball connections.

Then came the climax: a Dawgs versus Falcons game, where each participant got to hit an underhanded pitch from Kim, then round the bases and score.

Among the playing participants, Austin Hankins was named "Angel of the Game" — and it's no wonder why. "He's outgoing and athletic," said his father, Greg Hankins. Austin earned the right to hold the American flag while Sarah sang the National Anthem.

Also on hand were Austin's mother, Missy Hankins, and his sisters, Lauren Stansbury and Morgan Beiber. Tommy Kim, Tanner's father, handled all filming of the event, "and he is one of our executive directors (who) also helps my girlfriend, Faith Kitts, handle all of our media, video and social media," Tanner said.

Looking ahead, "We will have another event in the next month or two," Kim said while stating the location and exact time and location must still be worked out.

"This event will be similar to the event on Saturday minus the food trucks and the vendors. The game itself will be very similar, with some fun new games we like to play at each base."

For more information about future LOA events, or if an athlete is interested in participating in League of Angels events, visit theleagueofangels.org.

# Despite 2 Cutcher TDs, Karns beats HVA 29-14 in Wynn's Hawk debut

BILL HOWARD  
Correspondent

**KARNS** — Last year in the season opener at home, Hardin Valley Academy's football team defeated Karns 21-0.

Back on their home field Friday night, Aug. 23, the Beavers got their season-opening revenge, holding off the Hawks' comeback attempts to win 29-14.

"We didn't make plays when we had to; they made plays when they had to," first-year Hardin Valley head coach Tyler Wynn said. "They hit us with some big plays. We weren't able to get the stops when we needed it."

"When we needed a big play, we made it happen," Beavers head coach Lee Warren said. "We had guys step up and make big plays for us."

A 29-yard completion from quarterback Austin Stover to Warda Apiat set up Karns' first score, a 1-yard plunge by Douglas Turner. Turner's two-point run made it 8-0 with 2:43 left in the first quarter.

After gaining a total of 18 yards on two first-quarter drives, HVA finally got a big play when linebacker Nathan Holbrook's interception of a Stover pass put HVA at the Beavers 32.

The Hawks drove to the 1, where workhorse senior running back Kaden Cutcher plowed in on first down to make it 8-7 with 5:19 left in the half.

But the Beavers answered right back when, on third-and-27 from the HVA 40, running back Michael Stewart took a pitch and hit Justin Bigbee for a 40-yard score with 2:40 left in the second quarter. Karns led at halftime 16-7.

KHS made it 22-7 with 2:53 left in the third quarter after a 12-play, 90-yard drive. Stover's 13-yard TD pass to Avery Wesfield was on fourth-and-13.

An interception by KHS's Brady Kittle thwarted HVA's next drive — which got to the Beavers 14 — but the Hawks cut it to 22-14 with 6:07 left in the game when Cutcher ran 13 yards for a touchdown. "That was a big play," Wynn said of Kittle's pickoff. "It's red zone ... hats off to him ..."

The stop HVA needed on Karns' next possession didn't happen. The Beavers drove to the Hawks 25 where, on fourth-and-8, Stover found Weston Ritter over the middle for the game-clinching score.



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography  
Senior Kaden Crutcher scores one of his two touchdowns for HVA despite a 29-14 Hawks loss at Karns Friday evening, Aug. 23.

## Dawgs in 3 OT

From page 1B

play in regulation. "We had to overcome a lot of adversity, but we overcame it and we came out of here with a 'W' against West," Hunter said. "We haven't done that in six years."

Though the Maroon and Gray defense got an immediate three-and-out stop, the Dawgs gave it away: a fumbled punt near midfield was recovered by the Runnin' Rebs. Five plays later, on a 7-yard run, the game was tied 21-21 with 3:28 left.

Bearden drove to the West 16 in the closing seconds, but Jones called a bootleg roll right pass option play on third down, which West intercepted with just 21 seconds left.

"I tried everything I could do for us not to win, it seems like; I just couldn't make the right decision," Jones said about that ill-fated pass with a short game-winning field goal available. "It seemed like I put our quarterback in a bad spot there. Late in regulation, I

shouldn't have done that."

Trading field goals in the first overtime — with the Dawgs defense stopping West on third-and-goal at the 3 when a TD would win it for the visitors — a hit by Bearden's Ethan Hill and fumble recovery meant a field goal would win the game for BHS in overtime No. 2.

But driving to the West 1, the 17-yard game-winning field goal didn't happen: a low snap was bobbled and a pass into the end zone was off target.

But Bearden scored the eventual winning TD on a third-and-3 run up the middle from big senior Torian Riggins to begin OT No. 3. With the extra point it was 31-24. "I was just being a team player, waiting my time," Riggins said. "When I got it, I took it in."

Forced back to the BHS 18 by a fumbled snap plus an illegal motion penalty, West saw a fourth-down pass into the end zone fall incomplete.

And the Runnin' Rebs' streak of consecutive wins in this series, six, was broken.



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# 100 years

Celebrated at Dixie Hwy. Garden Club

**TAMMY CHEEK**

[tcheet@farragutpress.com](mailto:tcheet@farragutpress.com)

One hundred years ago, Carolyn Powell Brown, a woman of high standing in the Knox County community, had a vision to start a garden club in what is now the Farragut area.

Brown, now deceased, and Mrs. G.A. Flickinger visited the home of Mrs. J.G. Prater on May 11, 1924, and they formed Dixie Highway Garden Club, named after the then newly completed highway.

It was "the series of roads that connecting the Midwest with sunny Florida," the club's written history stated.

Now with 29 members, Dixie Highway Garden Club celebrates its 100th anniversary with a tea from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12, in Bleak House, also known as Brown's "Casa Modena," 3148 Kingston Pike, in Knoxville.

Those attending are asked to park in the Calvary Baptist Church parking lot.

The event is open to the public and free of charge, said Rose Moseley, club publicity chair who has been with the club since 1998.

"It seems like forever," she said of her own membership in the garden club. She recalled she was chairing the Dogwood Arts Festival in 1995 when she was approached about joining, then finally joined three years later and made "lifelong friends."

"I love being part of this club," Mosely added.

"This has been a journey,



for me," said Linda Ford of Farragut, the club's historian and executive board member who has been with Dixie Highway Garden Club since 1988. "We are riding on the results of what (Brown) started."

"We have a wonderful club," she added. "It's just a group of various ages and different interests ... we have a great time."

"We plan interesting things to help the community. It's just a good way to spend time and have great camaraderie with friends."

Among the club members are Virginia Price, the great-great-granddaughter of Mrs. J.G. Prater; Beth Flickinger (granddaughter of Flickenger, the other founder); mothers and daughters, and some of the oldest members, such



(Above) Dixie Highway Garden Club's current officers, seated from left, are Becky Durrance, chaplain; LaQuita Misner, president; Kay Stokely, corresponding secretary; and Ann Fritts, recording secretary. Officers standing, from left, are Janet Underwood, communications; Catherine Bell, first vice president; Connie Wallace, third vice president; Linda Ford, historian; Kathy Lasater, former recording secretary; and Judy James, second vice president.

(Near left) Carolyn Powell Brown, founder of Dixie Highway Garden Club in 1924, and her daughter, Marshal.

(Above left) Anna Lou Reynolds, Honorary member of Dixie Highway Garden Club.

Photos submitted



as Anna Lou Reynolds, who joined in the 1960s.

Brown also is credited for founding the Lenoir City Garden Club, Knoxville Garden Club and restoring the gardens

at the Bleak House in Knoxville. "She was talented in that way (the gardens) and she was talented in bringing people together," Ford said. "She just had a way with people."

Brown formed the club at a time when garden clubs were all the rage, according to the club's written history.

See 100 YEARS on Page 4B

## Hidden Hero Award Launched by Rotary Club of Farragut

**STAFF REPORTS**

[editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

Rotary Club of Farragut recently announced the creation of the Hidden Hero Award to recognize unsung heroes in the Knox County community who go out of their way to help others.

"The Hidden Hero Award is our way

to honor individuals in our community who exemplify the Rotary motto of 'Service Above Self,'" RCF president Scott Bertini said.

"Anyone may nominate an individual for the Hidden Hero Award," said Tom Woodbery, RCF Youth Services Committee co-chairman. "Nominees must live, work or render service in Knox

County and demonstrate a strong commitment to service to others. Nominees do not have to be a member of Rotary.

"To nominate a person as a Hidden Hero, complete a brief form explaining why you think that person deserves special recognition," he said.

"The form can be completed in minutes and is available at [bit.ly/RotaryHi](http://bit.ly/RotaryHi)

ddenHero," Woodbery added.

Deadline for nominations of the first Hidden Hero Award is Sunday, Sept. 22. RCF will announce the award winner in November.

For more information about the award, contact Woodbery at [twoodbery@gmail.com](mailto:twoodbery@gmail.com).



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• **Avalon Veterans and First Responders group is looking for golfers and sponsors to support a fundraiser benefitting veterans and first responders.**

Second Annual Avalon Veterans and First Responders Golf Tournament is slated to start at 8 a.m., Friday, Sept. 13, and projected to end around 4 p.m., at Avalon Golf and Country Club, 700 Turnberry Circle off Highway 70, between Farragut and Lenoir City in Loudon County.

“We need players, sponsors and donors,” said Barry Miller, tournament chair and nonprofit organization rep. “Players sign up, and that helps the golf course support us.

“The donors and sponsors help us gain money for the distributions to what we want to do under our 501(c)3,” he added.

Signups to play are \$150 per player. Donation and sponsor opportunities include: hole sponsors, \$500; silver sponsors, \$1,000; gold sponsors, \$2,500; platinum sponsors, \$5,000; tournament sponsor, \$10,000; and presenting sponsor, \$15,000.

To sign up for this four-person scramble tournament, contact Avalon Golf & Country Club at 865-567-7668, visit online at [avalonvets.com](http://avalonvets.com) or send a check to 1090 Oak Chase Blvd., Lenoir City, TN 37772.

For more information, contact Miller, 865-816-0155, or Beau Hollin at Avalon, 865-567-7668, --ext. 1.

• **First Farragut United Methodist Church, 12733 Kingston Pike, will host three Hope Rises events this fall for youth and adults.**

The Addicted Mind/Belief System, from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 22, is led by Ashlee Crouse, CPRS, RCPF, Metro Drug Coalition, Regional Faith-Based coordinator

Hope in an Anxious World, from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20, is led by Scott Payne, M.Div., Contact Care Line, Outreach and Support manager

Loss and the Holidays, Sunday, Nov. 17, is led by Samantha Pitkin, LCSW, The Middle Path

For more information, or to register, visit Register online at [www.ffumc.org/event](http://www.ffumc.org/event) or call the church office at 865-966-8430.

• **Eleventh Knox Asian Festival will make its return to World’s Fair Park Sunday, Sept. 8, with a special “Friends of the Festival” VIP event from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 7.**

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by visiting [www.asianculturetn.org](http://www.asianculturetn.org). Cost of admission includes a festival T-shirt and all-day access to the festival the next day.

On Sept. 8, the Festival will run from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission will be \$3 for visitors 12 years and up and free for children under 12. All entry gates will be cashless, so visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets ahead of time.

Buy tickets online at [www.asianculturetn.org](http://www.asianculturetn.org)

# obituary

**Joseph “Joe” Earl Herbert Jr. (PaPa), age 81, of Farragut, passed away suddenly Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024.**

He served in the Alabama and Tennessee National Guards. Joe retired from East Tennessee National Gas after 51 years of dedicated service.

He had a great passion for the outdoors. Fishing with his son, Jerry, was one of his favorite pastimes. He also loved spending time with his family and friends camping in Townsend, Tennessee, at Big Meadow Campground.

Anyone whomever had the pleasure of meeting Joe and spending time with him would most certainly never forget his zest for life and how he enjoyed sharing his many stories.

Another passion Joe had was being a long-time member of the Chota Masonic Lodge #253 F&AM.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Audrey Prestwood Herbert; brothers, Jon Herbert and Jim Herbert; and sisters-in-law, Jo Marie Kaiser (and her husband, Larry), Betsy Hanks and Joyce Swain.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Judy Sewell Herbert; son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Dee Dee Herbert; proud Papa to his cherished granddaughters, Abbie Herbert, who graduated in May 2024 from ETSU as a registered nurse, and Emily Herbert, who will graduate from the University of Tennessee in May of 2025 in pursuit of occupational therapy; brother, Jack Herbert; sisters-in-law: Rachel Palmer (E.O.), Rita Duncan (Ray) and Dale McKenzie (Jerry), along with many nieces and nephews.

The family received friends from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 25, at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City.

A Celebration of His Life followed at 3:30 p.m., Aug. 25. Family and friends gathered beginning at 10 a.m., Monday, Aug. 26, at Concord Masonic Cemetery for a graveside service and interment.

Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut St. in Lenoir City, has been in charge of arrangements. Visit [clickfuneralhome.com](http://clickfuneralhome.com)



Mr. Herbert

## 100 years

From page 3B

“Their emphasis was on horticulture — helping women decide what varieties of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants to grow,” the history stated. “The Dixie Highway Garden Club had no state or federal affiliation when it was founded.

“It became affiliated with state and national organizations after they were formed,” it stated. “The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs formed in 1926. National Garden Clubs, Inc. formed in 1929. “The interests of Dixie Highway Garden Club and all NGC garden clubs have expanded beyond horticulture to include floral design and civic and environmental responsibility,” the history stated.

“If you have ever noticed a Blue Star or Gold Star Marker honoring members of our military, you have seen a bit of our civic work.

“The TFGC state headquarters are here in Knoxville at another bit of Knoxville history, Racheff House, Gardens and Arboretum,” the history stated.

“Ivan Racheff bought Knoxville Iron Works in 1947. He began the garden on the site of a former steel mill junk pile next to the 1902 house used as the mill’s office.

“He gifted the house and

garden to TFGC in 1970 and it is now an arboretum open to the public — and a wonderful place to spend a few minutes in a beautiful garden,” the history stated.

“The Browns purchased the Bleak House in the early 1900s,

renovated it to its Italiante glory and renamed it Casa Modena,” the club’s history further stated. “Carolyn was famous for her renovation of the terraced gardens leading down to the Tennessee River.

“Although all Carolyn’s

family unfortunately preceeded her, the money remaining in her estate built UT’s first

student center,” which no longer stands, the history account stated.

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(Far left) Farragut's Kennedy Dade (28 in blue) battled an Oak Ridge player for ball possession, as did her Lady Admirals teammate Addie Lilly (near left, No. 5) during this FHS girls soccer home game at its Farragut Intermediate School field to face the Lady Wildcats Tuesday evening, Aug. 20. It was a fruitful effort, as FHS posted a 5-2 victory against its arch-rival to the north.

Photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

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<b>Farragut</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>20-27</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>CAK</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>2-13</b>	<b>-11</b>
<b>HVA</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>14-29</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Webb</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>41-68</b>	<b>-27</b>

## Irish Mack-to-Tyreek, BHS 3-OT thriller: Contest leaders

To open the 2024 PureMagic How the West Was Won Contest season among the three private schools, Knoxville Catholic dominated as expected, Christian Academy of Knoxville did not score offensively despite giving up only 13 points on a trip to play in Indiana, and Webb School of Knoxville struggled to stop Battle Ground Academy's scoring barrage in Middle Tennessee despite 41 Spartans points (68-41).

With its 50-13 victory at Lakeway Christian School (Hamblen County) Friday night, Aug. 23, the Irish are on top among the PureMagic HWWW "Big 6," thanks to a 37-point scoring differential versus the only other "Big 6" winner in Week 1, Bearden (see Bulldogs story, a dramatic win versus a rival nemesis, starting on page 1B).

Off to a really slow start last Friday, Farragut came to life late in the second quarter and led Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett early in the final 12 minutes before falling (see Admirals story and photos on page 1B).

Hardin Valley Academy,

meanwhile, hit the road against neighborhood rival Karns and encountered some angry Beavers: KHS avenged a 21-0 loss at HVA last season (see Hawks story starting on page 2B).

**KCHS 50 Lakeway 13**

Sophomore quarterback Mack Bartholomew fired four touchdown passes to junior star receiver Tyreek King — three covering 49, 57 and 66 yards — as KCHS racked up 507 total yards of offense. King himself caught six passes for 196 yards. Junior receiver Casen Jenkins caught eight tosses for 121 yards.

Back-up quarterback Garrett King fired a 9-yard scoring toss to Tyren Brabson. Catholic touchdown runs came from Jaylen Rancher, 2 yards, and Isaac Cooper, 1 yard.

Defensively, junior defensive back Aron Mase was co-leader in total tackles with seven along with an interception.

Junior linebacker Gavin Jones also had seven total stops, six solo — including one sack. In addition to his five total tackles, four solo, senior defensive back Shannon

McKinney also grabbed an interception. Junior defensive end Kaleb Johnson's five stops were all solo, while junior defensive back Dominic Daddabbo added four solo and one assisted tackle.

**Our Lady of Providence 13 CAK 2**

Warriors leading tacklers were senior linebacker Maddox Mozingo and junior defensive lineman Collin Crider with 15 total each: Mozingo had two solo stops, two tackles for loss and one sack — including the tackle for CAK's only points, a safety — while Crider had five tackles for loss. Senior defensive back Elijah Hoke ended with 11 total tackles while senior linebacker Alex Gilmer added 10, including two for minus yardage.

**Week 2**

Farragut travels to Powell among the Friday evening, Aug. 30, Week 2 PM-HWWW games. Opening kickoff is 7:30 p.m. The Panthers are coming off a tough 28-25 setback at Anderson County.

Hardin Valley Academy



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

Nathan Holbrook, HVA senior linebacker (41), and Brody Lamb, Hawks junior defensive back (6), tackle a Karns ballcarrier.

opens its home slate by welcoming Morristown East, a 26-14 winner in Week 1 against rival Morristown West. Opening kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

Bearden is looking for revenge against Alcoa, this year at BHS's Bill Young Field. This showdown also has a 7 p.m. opening kickoff. The Tornadoes, 9-time defending Division I-3A state champs, were a 27-17 loser at home to Ravenwood.

A team from Brevard, North Carolina, travels to KCHS's Blaine Stadium to tussle with Catholic. Opening kickoff is 7:30 p.m.

Playing its first home game, CAK hosts The Kings Academy, a 63-7 victim against Grace Christian Academy in Week 1. This contest also begins at 7:30 p.m.

Webb, meanwhile, enjoys an early season open date.



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# KICK OFF 24

2024 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW





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# KICKOFF 24

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*Stories by Alan Sloan and Ken Lay • Photography by Alan Sloan (except where indicated)*

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## Jones 'dean' of PureMagic HWWW coaches; two are new

There's a noticeable absence of local head coaching experience, at least in terms of service to one of the six West Knox PureMagic How the West Was Won football schools, as we begin the 2024 season.

The so-called "dean" of the big six would be Bearden boss Josh Jones — yet Jones only begins his third season piloting the Maroon and Gray Bulldogs.

Two of the other five, Christian Academy of Knoxville's Chad Speck, and Webb School of Knoxville's Don Mahoney, are beginning their second seasons leading the Warriors and Spartans, respectively.

At Knoxville Catholic High School, Philip Shadowens also returns for his second season as Irish head coach — though in 2023 he shared top duties with Steve Matthews after a sudden head coaching change that summer.

(Matthews now is leading the revived program at Concord Christian School; see the Aug. 21 farragutpress Sports section, beginning on page 1B, for a look at the 2024 Lions).

That leaves two in the field with first-year head coaches. Farragut's Geoff Courtney was elevated from Ads offensive coordinator to replace his father, local legend Eddie Courtney (28 years as Admirals skipper).

Meanwhile, Hardin Valley Academy now is led by first-

year boss Tyler Wynn.

### The goal, the reward

In addition to seeking deep playoff runs, all six will target a PureMagic-How the West Was Won Contest championship for best regular season record.

The Webb Spartans repeated at PM-HWWW champs in 2023.

With PureMagic beginning its 17th season of sponsoring this contest, what's at stake are taking possession of the Stetson Hat PM-HWWW traveling trophy while collecting a \$500 check courtesy of farragutpress.

### Rooney roots

With a passion for following and supporting Knox metro-area high school football, former PureMagic CEO Jim Rooney — company co-founder with wife, Teri Rooney — jumped on board with the contest's sponsorship in 2008, giving these six West Knox County schools a way to compete without having to play each other in a round-robin format.

"We have been an ardent supporter, and long-term sponsor, of How the West Was Won and high school football," Rooney said.

~ Alan Sloan

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## *Thank You* COACH EDDIE COURTNEY

After 28 years as Admirals skipper of Farragut High School varsity football — and 45 years coaching and teaching at FHS — Eddie Courtney steps down as Head Coach.

Coach Courtney is a humble role model for athletes and students in his charge.  
He inspires us all with his tireless strive for excellence.

This may be an end of an era. This is not the end of the Courtney legacy.





Photo courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL

# ADMIRALS

Beginning the second “Courtney era” at Farragut High School in 2024, ex-FHS offensive coordinator Geoff Courtney — a former standout defensive back-receiver at FHS (Class of 2006) — now is Admirals skipper after the retirement of his father, school legend and highly respected Eddie Courtney, after 28 seasons as the boss.

Talent and experience return in the secondary, at linebacker, receiver and in the kicking game. Several new starters must step up, however, on both sides of the line, at quarterback and at running back for the Admirals to be a Region 2-6A playoff contender.



Courtney

## Starters returning

Eight starters are back, combined, on both sides of the ball.

“I think five on defense, three on offense,” Courtney said. “We got (seniors) Robbie (Jacobs) and Landon (Collins) back at receiver. We got (senior) Jacob Cabrera on the offensive line. (Junior) Ryan McCue is our kicker returning,” who also is likely to punt. “Ryan’s probably going to start out as our punter, but we’re having to have a competition for punter as well with a few different guys.

“We’ll really lean on their experience the first couple of ballgames ’til we get some of the new guys some experience,” the coach added.

## Biggest team strength

“Our athleticism in the back-end on defense and our experience in the back-end on defense,” Courtney said. “And then our play-making ability on the outside on offense would be areas where we know what we’ve got there coming back this year.

“Robbie doubles at corner, Landon is at safety,” the coach added. “(Senior) Kent Carbaugh is a strong safety nickel for us. (Junior) Zane Kureshi-Smith is returning. He played corner last year.”

Seniors Bryce Thompson and Harrison Kilpatrick are expected to be standout linebackers, though Kilpatrick may move to defensive end.

## Two leaders

Singling out Jacobs and Thompson, the team’s two Media Days representatives at Three Ridge Golf Course July 12, “They bring a level of toughness,” Courtney said. “They bring a level of consistency. They’ve been very productive and been very accountable and loyal to the program. They’re guys that are going to be there every day. They’re

See **ADMIRALS PREVIEW** on Page 15



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# 2024 ADMIRALS SENIORS



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Grady Brown



Jacob Cabrera



Christian Campbell



Kent Carbaugh



Landon Collins



Henry Dee



Luke Finnegan



Robbie Jacobs



Harrison Kilpatrick



Randon Miller



Isaiah Stafford-Hedge



Bryce Thompson



Aiden Waters



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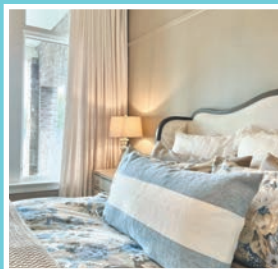
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# ADMIRALS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0 ..... Maysn Apaletgui .....10 .....RB/SS  
 1 ..... Robbie Jacobs .....12 ..... WR/CB  
 2 ..... Harrison Kilpatrick .....12 .....TE/DE  
 3 ..... Corbin Hobson .....10 .....QB  
 4 ..... Vincent Blum .....12 .....RB  
 7 ..... Ethan Farhat .....10 .....WR  
 8 ..... Bryce Thompson .....12 .....RB/LB  
 9 ..... Henry Dee .....12 .....SS  
 10 ..... Max Garfield .....11 .....WR/CB  
 11 ..... Landon Collins .....12 .....WR/FS  
 12 ..... Zain Kureshi-Smith .....11 .....WR/CB  
 14 ..... Luke Finnegan .....12 .....RB/LB  
 15 ..... Kent Carbaugh .....12 .....QB/SS  
 16 ..... Noah Haag .....11 .....QB/LB  
 17 ..... Johnny Jacobs .....10 .....WR/CB  
 19 ..... Harrison Smith .....10 .....WR/FS  
 20 ..... Connor Parris .....11 .....LB  
 21 ..... Darrien Hensley .....10 .....CB  
 22 ..... Gram Washburn .....10 .....WR  
 23 ..... Tyler Martin .....11 .....WR  
 24 ..... Charlie Noble .....11 .....RB  
 25 ..... Bladen Todd .....11 .....CB  
 27 ..... Henry Ferron .....10 .....FS  
 28 ..... Jarrod Atkins .....11 .....FS  
 30 ..... Kealan Winter .....11 .....LB  
 31 ..... Maddox Craft .....10 .....RB/OLB  
 32 ..... Abram Shelton .....10 .....WR  
 33 ..... Layne Cortez .....11 .....RB

34 ..... Luca Conforti .....10 .....TE/LS  
 35 ..... Fletcher Haddad .....11 .....LB  
 36 ..... Stephen Doubleday .....11 .....DE  
 37 ..... Ryan McCue .....11 .....P/PK  
 38 ..... Isaiah Hill .....11 .....CB  
 39 ..... Cooper Sandidge .....11 .....WR  
 40 ..... Kaden Renfro .....10 .....LB  
 41 ..... Julian Melendy .....10 .....P/PK  
 42 ..... Jackson Plumlee .....11 .....DE  
 43 ..... Gavin Lyon .....10 .....LB  
 44 ..... Moses Burnette .....11 .....TE/DE  
 45 ..... Aaron Heatherly .....10 .....TE/OLB  
 46 ..... Mohammad Salim .....10 .....LB  
 47 ..... Conley Hawk .....10 .....WR  
 48 ..... Isaiah Arnett .....11 .....OLB  
 49 ..... Randon Miller .....12 .....RB  
 50 ..... Luca Hofer .....11 .....OL/DL  
 51 ..... Michael Sparr .....10 .....LB  
 52 ..... Bryson Bassett .....11 .....OL/DL  
 53 ..... Asher Watson .....10 .....OL  
 54 ..... Cole Disse .....10 .....OL  
 55 ..... Aiden Waters .....12 .....DL  
 56 ..... James Brown .....10 .....DL  
 57 ..... Christian Campbell .....12 .....OL/LS  
 58 ..... Luke Duenckel .....10 .....DL  
 60 ..... Abdelwahab Jafer .....10 .....OL  
 61 ..... Holden Fritz .....10 .....OL  
 62 ..... Will Szucs .....11 .....OL

63 ..... Ayden Perez .....11 .....OL  
 64 ..... J.P. Palmer .....10 .....OL  
 65 ..... Hank Tate .....10 .....OL  
 66 ..... Isaiah Stafford-Hedge .....12 .....OL  
 68 ..... Isaiah Koga .....10 .....OL/DL  
 70 ..... Michael Ullian .....11 .....OL  
 71 ..... Jacob Cabrera .....12 .....OL/DL  
 72 ..... Max Stiles .....10 .....OL  
 73 ..... Connor Frynkewicz .....11 .....OL  
 74 ..... Zakry Posey .....10 .....OL/DL  
 75 ..... Yazan Ashkar .....10 .....OL  
 77 ..... M.J. Keener .....11 .....OL  
 80 ..... Fisher Smith .....10 .....TE/OLB  
 81 ..... Cole McDonald .....10 .....WR  
 82 ..... Liam Moeller .....11 .....WR  
 83 ..... Shawn Raines .....10 .....WR  
 84 ..... Johanan Davis .....11 .....FS  
 85 ..... Mason Swor .....10 .....FS  
 86 ..... Ernie Rodriguez .....11 .....WR  
 87 ..... Grady Brown .....12 .....OLB  
 88 ..... Brody Culbreth .....10 .....DL  
 89 ..... Jackson Willis .....10 .....WR  
 90 ..... Carson Hulsey .....10 .....DL  
 91 ..... Bronson Sakhleh .....10 .....DL  
 94 ..... Maddock Holloway .....10 .....WR  
 95 ..... Ellis Carlen .....10 .....CB  
 98 ..... Chase Penn .....10 .....FS  
 99 ..... Owen Petoskey .....11 .....DE/LB

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## FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL 2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23.....	@ Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett
Aug. 30 .....	@ Powell
Sep. 6 .....	Knoxville West
Sep. 13 .....	@ Cleveland *
Sep. 27 .....	Bearden *
Oct. 4 .....	@ Bradley Central *
Oct. 11 .....	@ Oak Ridge
Oct. 18 .....	@ Jefferson County
Oct. 25 .....	Hardin Valley Academy *
Oct. 31 .....	Maryville *

\* Denotes Division I Region 2-6A game

# ADMIRALS



# 2024 **ADMIRALS CHEERLEADERS**

Farragut High School football cheerleaders for 2024, front row from left, are seniors Harper King, Alanna Williams, Nicole Kulisek, Loryn Good, Bradyn Johnson, Carsyn Arden and Madi Lakel. Second row, from left, are juniors Laura Guinn, Julia Daurity, Henley Bedwell, Isabelle McCaleb, Ella Shuster and Graison Halouma. Third row, from left, are sophomores Camden Kraemer, Emelia Bellmore, Khloe Capps, Kinley Bothman, Cavity Penn, Ava Kincaid, Natalie Borton and Madyn Williams. Back row, from left, are coach Dana Jacobs, freshmen Addison Gohn, Avery Ericksen, Harper Hudgens, Briley Webber and Emma Gerwin, and coach Kara Smith.



Photo courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

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# 2024 ADMIRALS DANCE TEAM

Farragut High School dance team for the 2024-25 school year are:

Front row from left, Makenna McDonald, Carson Kraemer, Mary Elizabeth Noble, Addison Fink and Sadie LaFrance.

Middle row, from left, are Cate Fowler, Sadie Floyd, Natalie Mahoney, Cassidy Stickley, Mary Aspin Scott and Lydia Finnegan.

Back row, from left, are Mary Ella Wendell, Caroline Seagraves, Natalee Mack, Sydney Derr and Rylee Chronis.

Photo submitted



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“I think early on in the year, and every team is this way, you find your identity on offense and defense. I think if we can maximize our special teams, it’ll be an advantage for us.”

~ Geoff Courtney, head coach





## Admirals Preview

From page 8

going to work every day. Their leadership is undeniable; they bring other guys around them to improve and guys follow them.

"They do it in slightly different ways, but they're both successful at doing it," the coach added. "They're not the only ones we've got, but that's why we're going to have to lean on their leadership and their experience these first couple of ballgames."

"I would think maybe Robbie's a little more vocal at times than Bryce is, but Bryce is that guy that everybody looks at in the weight room and they just take a step back when he's over there power lifting or he's squatting and he's breaking records and doing those types of things."

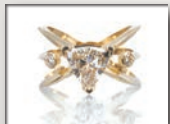
Jacobs "is probably the strongest pound-for-pound guy we have on the team," Courtney said.

"Last year, I was dealing with a few (injuries), like nagging hip injuries, and I've gotten those fixed," Jacobs said. "I feel a lot better."

In fact, "I am the heaviest and the fastest I've ever been, so I feel great about that," he added. "I feel fast; I feel like I can get a lot of jobs done, and I feel really confident in both my roles on offense and defense."

As for Thompson's own view, "I try to lead by example, and I always try to go hard in the weight room and try to push myself

See **ADMIRALS PREVIEW** on Page 16



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## FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL



### Admirals Preview

From page 15

out when we condition ...," the senior said. "... If anybody's doing anything wrong, if it comes to weights or out in the field, I always try to say, 'Hey, do this better, or do this.'"

#### Concerns

Along with new starters at running back and at quarterback, "I would just say depth at the line positions; we've got new guys," Courtney said about his concerns. "We've got one returning offensive lineman. We've got really all new guys at the three defensive line spots, and then trying to find depth behind those positions. We like what we have, but we just know we've got to get a little better and we've got to get a little more depth and get guys experienced — and ready in a hurry."

"We know we've got to develop some guys on the offense and defensive lines," he added. "We've got to develop some depth at linebacker. We got to develop some depth in the secondary so that Robbie and those guys don't have to play 125 snaps a game because it's tough to do that in 6A football."

#### Quarterback

"We've got three guys competing" at quarterback, Courtney said of Carbaugh, Noah Haag, a junior, and Corbin Hobson, a sophomore. "Right now, we're still all competing at an equal level."

"They all bring a little bit different dynamic to their play style, to their ability," the coach added. "But really, they've all progressed in a way that I'm happy to see. I think (July 11) was

See **ADMIRALS PREVIEW** on Page 17

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## Admirals Preview

From page 16

actually maybe collectively all their best days that we've had throwing football in those seven-on-seven settings. All three of those guys are working hard.

Well into fall camp, the quarterback battle continued.

The goal, Courtney said, was having it "where one or two of those guys will get the majority of reps as we start to lead into our first couple of ballgames. But I anticipate it'll be a full competition right up until the first ball game."

Individually, "Kent, I think, is a guy that's dynamic running the football," Courtney said. "I think he's got a level of toughness at the position. He's been a defensive starter for us for the last 16 games.

"Noah is really good throwing on the run," the coach added. "He's got some athleticism with his feet as well.

"Then Corbin is your traditional pocket guy where he's got a big arm from the pocket and he can stretch the field with his arm in that way."

### Keys to success

"I think early on in the year, and every team is this way, you find your identity on offense and defense," Courtney said. "I think if we can maximize our special teams, it'll be an advantage for us."

~ Alan Sloan



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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL

# BULLDOGS

As the 2024 high school football season looms, perhaps no team in East Tennessee opens with a tougher three-game stretch than Bearden High School.

The Bulldogs kick things off Saturday, Aug. 24, at home on Bill Young Field against two-time defending Class 5A state champion Knoxville West — an annual season-opening rival.

The Rebels went 14-1 last season and have won 29 games over the past two seasons.

In Week 2, the Bulldogs host nine-time defending Class 3A state champion Alcoa.

Then, Bearden hits the road for the first time in 2024 when it heads to Clinton to face Anderson County, which hasn't lost a region game in seven years and claimed the Class 4A state title in 2022.

That's in addition to facing a tough Region 2-6A slate.

Still, the Bulldogs have some lofty expectations for the upcoming season.

"I'm looking forward to making a deep playoff run, and



Jones

we want to host playoff games," said senior receiver Drew Parrott, switching from under center after three seasons as starting quarterback. "But we know we're going to have to be ready to play in every game or we're going to get beat."

Like Parrott, third-year head coach Josh Jones looks for his team to accomplish big things in 2024.

"We want to take that next step. Last year, we made it to the state quarterfinals; and this year, I feel like we're built to make a deep playoff run," Jones said. "But we have to stay healthy."

Bearden has a bevy of talented returners back from last year's squad.

"This is the most experienced team that I've had since I've been at Bearden," Jones said. "We also have good team speed and athleticism."

Unit team strengths, according to Jones, includes depth on the offensive front. Key big guys along the O-front include Reid Rowland (senior), Isaiah Harvey (senior) and Ton' Reon Brazelton (junior, who's also a defensive lineman).

See **BULLDOGS PREVIEW** on Page 19



## BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL



### Bulldogs Preview

From page 18

Additionally, most of Jones' most explosive pieces from 2023 return among the offensive skill positions in addition to Parrott: Jayzon Thompson (junior, running back), Torian Riggins (senior, running back/linebacker) and Tory Beaufort (junior, wide receiver/kick returner).

As for newcomers, D.J. Hunter, a sophomore quarterback transfer who took all the first-team snaps in a scrimmage against Division II-AAA Knoxville Catholic, played in Mississippi last season.

Top defensive returners, according to Jones, include Boston Yeager (senior, defensive lineman), Ethan Hill (junior, defensive end/outside linebacker), Kai Ironside (senior, linebacker), Rocky Brown (junior, linebacker), Ethan Couvertiere (senior, safety), Keshawn Mills (junior, cornerback) and Tra (Tracy) Dennard (senior, defensive lineman).

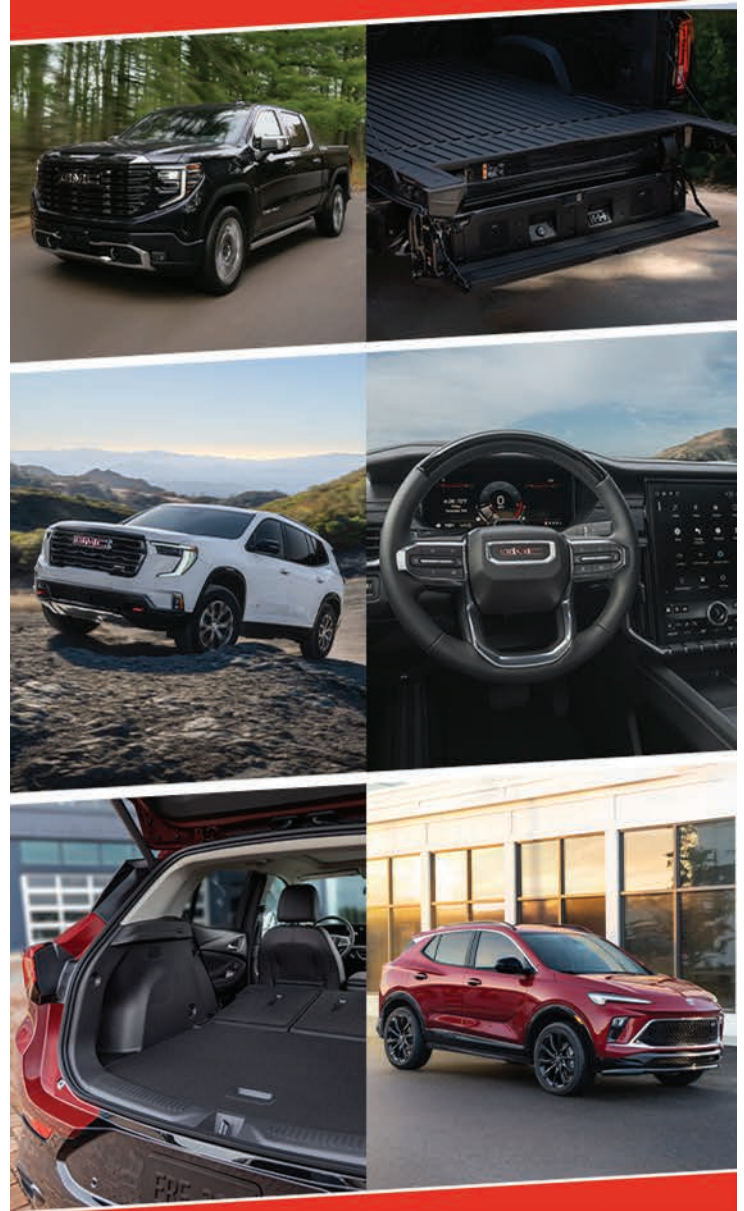
Special teams also is well fortified, with Daniel Kinney (senior, kicker), William Pendergrass (junior, punter) and Seth Henry (junior, long snapper).

The Bulldogs also added other talented transfers, namely Deameion Leavell and Eli Tolley.

Leavell, a junior from Clinton — where he was the District 3-5A Returner of the Year and also a state wrestling champion — will play wide receiver, defensive back and return kicks.

Tolley, a sophomore offensive lineman, played at Science Hill last season.

~ Ken Lay



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# 2024 **BULLDOGS SENIORS**



Shawn Arnold



Ashaunde Bowen



Kaleb Bradley



Ethan Couvertiere



Tra (Tracy) Dennard



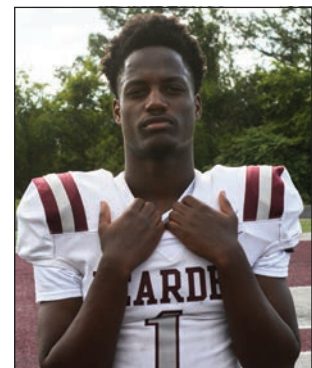
Perlino Ehpel



Keaton Gilbreath



Isaiah Harvey



Kai Ironside



Daniel Kinney



Andrew Lemons



Ethan Myers



# 2024 BULLDOGS SENIORS



Drew Parrott



William Pendergrass



Torian Riggins



Reid Rowland



Jack Smiley



Charlie Smith



Boston Yeager

Bearden seniors not pictured:  
Parker Boyd, Jaxon Davis, Flynn Klug

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# BULLDOGS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0 ..... Ethan Hill .....11 ..... DE	33 ..... Seth Henry .....11 ..... LS	75 ..... Boston Yeager .....12 ..... DL
1 ..... Kai Ironside .....12 ..... LB	34 ..... Maddox Bravo .....10 ..... SAF	77 ..... Reid Rowland .....12 ..... OL
2 ..... Tory Beaufort .....11 ..... WR	35 ..... Shaun Thomas .....11 ..... WR	78 ..... Carlos Marquez .....10 ..... OL
3 ..... Deameion Leavell .....11 ..... WR/CB	36 ..... Connor Gilbreath .....10 ..... FS	82 ..... De'arris Dukes .....11 ..... WR
4 ..... Dj Hunter .....10 ..... QB	37 ..... Tate Byrge .....10 ..... DE	84 ..... Ken Sandoval .....10 ..... WR
5 ..... Drew Parrot .....12 ..... WR/SAF	38 ..... Charles Lothamer .....11 ..... CB	85 ..... Haynes Hawkins .....9 ..... WR
6 ..... Jayzon Thompson .....11 ..... RB	39 ..... Tnaj Taylor .....10 ..... WR	86 ..... Nehemiah Adams .....9 ..... WR
7 ..... Keshawn Mills .....11 ..... CB	40 ..... Daevon Maynard .....10 ..... DB	88 ..... Amir Hicks .....11 ..... WR
8 ..... Rocky Brown .....11 ..... LB	41 ..... Marco Shahbas .....11 ..... RB	91 ..... Charlie Smith .....12 ..... DE
9 ..... Kenny Simon .....10 ..... SAF	42 ..... Elijah Tunnell .....10 ..... SAF	92 ..... Perlino Ehpel .....12 ..... DE
10 ..... Grant Cross .....11 ..... WR	44 ..... Tra (Tracy) Dennard .....12 ..... DE	93 ..... Jordan Gutierrez .....11 ..... DE
11 ..... Keaton Gilbreath .....12 ..... TE	45 ..... Tomas Lopez .....10 ..... K	98 ..... Blake Hillis .....10 ..... RB
12 ..... Andrew Lemons .....12 ..... TE	46 ..... Elias Martinez .....10 ..... LB	99 ..... Shawn Arnold .....12 ..... DL
13 ..... Preston Huskey .....11 ..... DE	47 ..... Javon Castle .....10 ..... LB	..... Az Alderson .....9 .....
14 ..... Junior (Yashan) Campell .....11 ..... SAF	48 ..... Joseph Swinson .....11 ..... WR	..... David Badillo .....9 .....
15 ..... Logan Lamont .....11 ..... LB	49 ..... Paxton Parrot .....10 ..... RB	..... Jyzayiah Davis .....9 .....
16 ..... Daniel Kinney .....12 ..... K	50 ..... Eli Tolley .....10 ..... OL	..... Tarajie Edwards .....9 .....
17 ..... William Pendergrass .....12 ..... K/P	51 ..... Jack Smiley .....12 ..... LB	..... Adrian Harris .....9 .....
18 ..... Tyler Tummins .....10 ..... WR	52 ..... Jasston Chandler .....10 ..... LB	..... Bralyn Lail .....9 .....
19 ..... Terry Beaufort .....10 ..... WR	53 ..... Jaxon Davis .....12 ..... OL	..... Tanner Linsley .....9 .....
20 ..... Tymeir Harris (Allen) .....11 ..... CB	55 ..... Ton Brazelton .....11 ..... OL	..... Hansheng Liu .....9 .....
21 ..... Mason Laster .....10 ..... WR/CB	56 ..... Jerbrion Harris .....10 ..... OL	..... Issa Mizani .....9 .....
22 ..... Torian Riggins .....12 ..... RB/LB	58 ..... Matthew Stoglin .....11 ..... LB	..... Kyden Monroe .....9 .....
23 ..... Ethan Myers .....12 ..... CB	59 ..... Kaleb Bradley .....12 ..... OL	..... Amir Noble .....9 .....
24 ..... Ethan Couvertiere .....12 ..... FS	60 ..... Isaiah Harvey .....12 ..... OL	..... Kevin Reeves Jr .....9 .....
25 ..... Ashaunde Bowen .....12 ..... LB	61 ..... Daniel Correa .....10 ..... OL	..... Max Sadowski .....9 .....
26 ..... Mason Foster .....11 ..... WR	62 ..... Isaiah Cobb .....10 ..... OL	..... Saqan Samuel .....9 .....
27 ..... Crew Young .....11 ..... WR	65 ..... Karnell Mills .....10 ..... OL	..... Marquee Shahbas .....9 .....
28 ..... Flynn Klug .....12 ..... SAF	66 ..... Ben Shaw .....10 ..... OL	..... Aidan Thacker .....9 .....
29 ..... Jackson Galka .....11 ..... SAF	68 ..... Morry Arkawazi .....11 ..... OL	..... Justin Thomas .....9 .....
30 ..... Liam Power .....11 ..... DE	69 ..... Anthony Cafone .....10 ..... OL	..... Kaeo Travis .....9 .....
31 ..... Demarcus Jones .....10 ..... RB	71 ..... Brannon Hunt .....9 ..... OL	..... Jace Volk .....9 .....
32 ..... Parker Boyd .....12 ..... CB	73 ..... Shabae Ramey .....10 ..... DE	..... Nathan Yebra .....9 .....

“This is the most experienced team that I’ve had since I’ve been at Bearden. We also have good team speed and athleticism.”

~ Josh Jones, head coach



# 2024 BULLDOGS DANCE TEAM



Photo submitted



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# 2024 BULLDOGS CHEERLEADERS



Photo by Alan Sloan

Bearden High School football cheerleaders for 2024, front row from left, are Ava Stinnette (junior), captain Ashlyn Hunter (senior), captain Lilly Rhea (senior), captain Cami Bursen (senior) and Kyra Rasmussen (junior). Second row, from left, are sophomores Samantha Brownlee, Lucy Tirgrath, Eva Mathews, Annie Whited, Emerson Berger, Adelyn Spencer, Piper Gould and Ryleigh Noel. Third row, from left, are the Bulldogs mascot and freshmen, from left, Jaraiah Leverette, Kennedy McVeigh, Shay Hendrix, Jersey Zizzo and Kinsleigh Hite, and head coach Andrea Channell Kuykendall. Not pictured is school sponsor Stephanie Panczer Garza.

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## BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL 2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 24 .....	Knoxville West
Aug. 30 .....	Alcoa
Sep. 6 .....	@ Anderson County
Sep. 20 .....	Hardin Valley Academy *
Sep. 27 .....	@ Farragut*
Oct. 3 .....	Maryville*
Oct. 11 .....	@ Cleveland*
Oct. 18 .....	Oak Ridge
Oct. 25 .....	@ Morristown West
Nov. 1 .....	Bradley Central *

\* Denotes Division I Region 2-6A game

**BULLDOGS**





Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY

# HAWKS

It's no wonder new Hardin Valley Academy head coach Tyler Wynn chose Nathan Holbrook, tight-end/linebacker/kicker/punter, and Michael Stewart Jr., defensive end/tight-end, to represent his program at the annual Media Day at Three Ridges Golf Course July 12.

Given that only seven starters return on both sides of the ball for the Hawks in 2024, the leadership and performance of Holbrook and Stewart, both seniors, will be vital to the team's success.

However, "We've got a few seniors on both sides of the ball that have fully bought into who we are as a program, what we're going to stand for," Wynn said. "I got here in February, and these guys have just totally bought into the resiliency, the investment, the selflessness and the effort that we stand for as a program."



Wynn

## Defense

Defensively, "I feel real good with our linebacker core," the coach said. Linebacker looks to be a strength with Holbrook, on the outside, joined by senior Kaden Cutcher,

"who's a senior linebacker who really anchors that inside," the coach said. Junior Sam Mann is another outside linebacker to watch.

As a senior, "I'm just more of a leader," Holbrook said. "... Last year, I didn't really talk as much."

However, "It just came more natural to me because, as a soccer player, I had to step up as well," he added about the highly successfully 2024 HVA boys soccer team his junior season. "So, a lot of the leadership thing just came from just being able to talk to the guys and be friends with them."

With Stewart "leading that front" at defensive end according to Wynn, "Those senior guys on the defensive side have done a tremendous job," the coach said.

In preparing for his final season as a Hawk, Stewart said he has "definitely improved with speed and my hands and really knowing where I'm supposed to be and what angles I'm supposed to take to get to where I want to be."

Elsewhere, "We're replacing four guys in the defensive secondary," the new coach said. "That's going to be a challenge. It's going to be something new. We're going to play with some younger guys. That's going to be an area where

See **HAWKS PREVIEW** on Page 31



# 2024 **HAWKS SENIORS**



Nick Bell



RJ Bernardo



Joseph "Brody" Blair



Evan Clarke



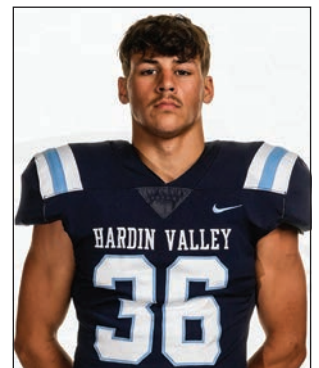
Raymond "PJ" Copeland Jr.



Kaden Cutcher



Ryder Dozier



Grady Estep



Jorge I Feliciano



Bryson Frey



Neal Henley



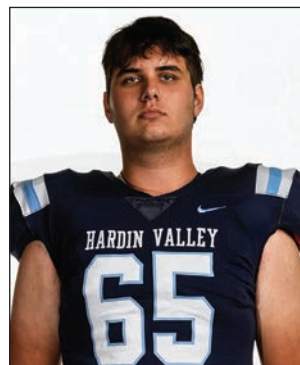
Nathan Holbrook



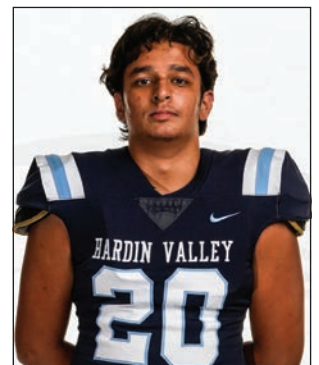
Garrett Light



Christian Lopez



Adam Lunsford



Shiv Patel



# 2024 **HAWKS SENIORS**



Rocco Pritchard



Barron Scheetz



Jayden Sheard



Isaac Shelby



Michael Stewart Jr

Hardin Valley Academy seniors not pictured:  
Joseph Arceo, Andy Lian, Isaac Ratliff

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# HAWKS FOOTBALL ROSTER

1 ..... Michael Stewart Jr .....DE TE..... 12	31 ..... Garrett Light .....DB WR..... 12	59 ..... Jaafar Al-Goran .....DT OL .....10
2 ..... Barron Scheetz .....STAR WR ..... 12	32 ..... Tayben Whitson .....DB WR .....10	60 ..... Benjamin Wells Harm .....DT OL .....10
3 ..... Isaac Shelby .....DB WR ..... 12	33 ..... Ayden Shipley .....LB WR .....10	61 ..... Cooper Starnes .....DT OL .....10
4 ..... Ryder Dozier .....LB RB ..... 12	34 ..... Nick Bell .....DB WR .....12	62 ..... Rocco Pritchard .....DT OL .....12
5 ..... Samuel Mann .....LB RB..... 11	35 ..... Andy Lian .....LB RB .....12	63 ..... Jaden Kirby .....DT OL .....11
6 ..... Brody Lamb .....DB WR .....11	36 ..... Grady Estep .....LB RB .....12	64 ..... Jorge I Feliciano .....DT OL .....12
7 ..... Owen Vaughan .....DB WR .....10	37 ..... Chase Mckelvey .....DB WR .....10	65 ..... Adam Lunsford .....DT OL .....12
8 ..... Rj Bernardo .....STAR RB ..... 12	38 ..... Oscar Fonseca .....LB RB .....10	66 ..... Christian Lopez .....DT OL .....12
9 ..... Riley Matz .....DB QB ..... 10	40 ..... Conner Mckelvey .....DB WR..... 10	67 ..... Matthew Braun .....DT OL .....10
10 ..... Dylan Umansky .....LB QB..... 11	41 ..... Nathan Holbrook .....STAR TE .....12	68 ..... Marwan Abu Hatab .....DT OL .....10
11 ..... Walt Wrather .....DB WR .....11	42 ..... Isaac Copeland .....LB TE .....10	70 ..... Cayden Harper .....DT OL ..... 10
12 ..... Isaac Beeler .....LB RB .....10	43 ..... Benjamin Brooks .....LB TE .....10	71 ..... Juan Feliciano Rivera .....DT OL .....11
13 ..... Isaac Ratliff .....DB WR ..... 12	44 ..... Haidin Gienow .....DB WR .....10	72 ..... Brycen Wallace..... DT OL .....10
14 ..... Nicolas Rivers .....DB WR .....10	45 ..... Gavin Ralston .....DB WR..... 11	73 ..... Brett Johnson.....LB OL .....10
15 ..... Bryson Frey .....DB WR ..... 12	46 ..... John Geiger .....STAR TE .....11	74 ..... Caydan Meyer .....DT OL ..... 10
16 ..... Zain Dharsi .....DB WR..... 11	47 ..... Brayden Chiodo .....STAR WR .....10	75 ..... Ethan Arvidson .....DT OL ..... 10
17 ..... Cruize Furman .....DB WR .....10	48 ..... Labryan Borne .....DB WR .....10	76 ..... Joseph Arceo .....DT OL ..... 12
19 ..... Jayden Sheard .....DB WR .....12	49 ..... Damonii Ealey .....DE WR .....10	77 ..... Nathan Artrip .....DT OL ..... 10
20 ..... Shiv Patel .....LB WR ..... 12	50 ..... Rylan Olmstead .....DE OL .....10	78 ..... Caden Taylor .....DT OL .....10
21 ..... Logan Holbrook .....DE TE .....10	51 ..... Frank Bandy .....DE OL .....10	79 ..... Rayner Feist .....DE OL .....10
22 ..... Raymond "PJ" Copeland Jr. ....DE TE ..... 12	52 ..... Neal Henley .....DT OL .....12	81 ..... Carter Jones .....DB WR..... 10
23 ..... Kaden Cutcher .....LB RB ..... 12	53 ..... Nicolas Alcon Robles .....DT OL .....10	82 ..... Riley Caylor .....DB WR..... 11
24 ..... Chance Sharp .....DE RB ..... 10	54 ..... Joseph "Brody" Blair .....DT OL ..... 12	87 ..... Cade Evans .....DE TE .....10
26 ..... Blake Crawford .....DB WR..... 10	55 ..... Mikeal Arce .....DT OL ..... 11	88 ..... Jackson Bacosa .....DB WR .....10
27 ..... Braxton Del Aguaro.....STAR TE..... 10	56 ..... Evan Clarke .....DT OL .....12	89 ..... Ryder Mansell .....DB RB .....10
28 ..... Matthew Trentham .....LB TE .....10	57 ..... Joshua Brown .....DT OL .....10	90 ..... Finn Steinmueller .....LB RB .....10
30 ..... Andrew Perkins .....DE TE .....11	58 ..... Durgan Ragland .....DT OL .....10	

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## HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY 2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23 .....	@ Karns
Aug. 30 .....	Morristown East
Sep. 6 .....	@ Cocke County
Sep. 13 .....	Knoxville Halls
Sep. 20 .....	@ Bearden*
Sep. 27 .....	@ Maryville*
Oct. 4 .....	Sevier County
Oct. 11 .....	Bradley Central*
Oct. 25 .....	@ Farragut*
Oct. 31 .....	Cleveland*

\* Denotes Division I Region 2-6A game

HAWKS



# 2024 **HAWKS DANCE TEAM**



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

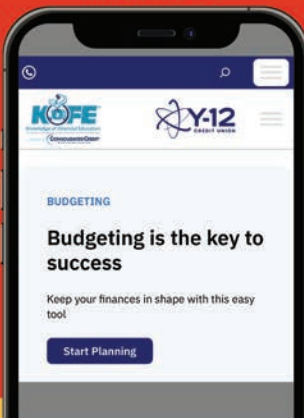
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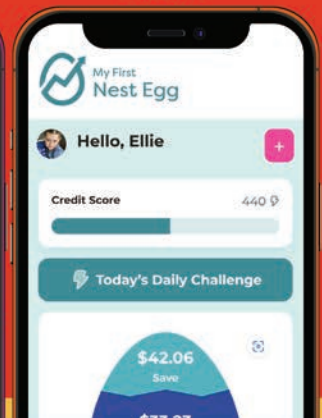
FOR COLLEGE



FOR TEENS



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# 2024 **HAWKS CHEERLEADERS**



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

Hardin Valley Academy senior football cheerleaders for 2024 are, front row from left, Lydia Widner, Emma Johnson and Ava Diggs. Back row, from left, are Alli Lozano, Audrey Schuster and Kamryn Bauer.



“If they’re laying it out  
and they’re giving their best  
effort every day, then  
I’m going to be happy.  
I’m going to be proud of  
my team.”

~ Tyler Wynn, head coach





## Hawks Preview

From page 25

we've got to get a lot better between now and the first game of the season."

### Offense

Offensively, Neal Henley and Evan Clarke are two offensive linemen who "are not going to be the guys that have their picture taken, and they're not going to be the guys who are getting all the credit, but they're the unsung heroes of our offense," Wynn said about the senior pair. "They're two guys on the offensive side who are going to lead the front. ... I expect our offensive line to lead things on the offensive side."

Although both are newcomers to the program, senior receivers Barron Scheetz and Bryson Frey "are going to be very good," Wynn said. "... They're able to be held to the highest standard of the team and set that standard for everybody else."

Holbrook and Stewart provide reliability at tight-end.

A new starting quarterback must emerge. "Anytime you're replacing your starting quarterback, that's a challenge," Wynn said. "We've got two guys that are fighting for it right now. One's a sophomore, Riley Metz, one's a junior, Dylan Umansky. They both were getting better as we went through the summer. But not having the trigger man who has experience can be a tough one."

Saying his offense looks to be roughly 50-50 in running ver-

See **HAWKS PREVIEW** on Page 32

# Have a great season, Hawks!



Jeffrey J. Eberting,  
DMD, MS



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## Hawks Preview

From page 31

sus passing plays, “The biggest thing for us is being able to get it to multiple people in multiple spaces so they can go make plays in space,” Wynn said.

### Special teams

Holbrook actually is a four-way starter, also serving as a returning kicker who said his range is 52 yards, and a punter “who can boom it out,” Wynn said.

### Strength, yet weakness?

“I think both offensively and defensively, our strength is our weakness,” Wynn said. “Our strength is we’re young, so those guys are going to get experience and they’re going to grow.”

“But that youthfulness is also going to turn around and it’s going to be tough,” he added. “You’ve got to be willing to live with some of those young mistakes.”

“We do have a good group of guys that have bought into the weight room and have gotten a lot stronger, especially our guys up front.”

### Up for grabs

“One thing that we’re trying to establish, too, is that every spot is up for grabs every day; I don’t want security,” Wynn

said. “I don’t want our guys feeling comfortable because I think when you’re comfortable, that creates complacency.

“We want our guys fighting for their spot every day and competing,” he added. “That’s been the big thing this summer, is giving multiple guys multiple opportunities to showcase their talents and skills and compete for spots.”

### Final player thoughts

“We’re prepared for adversity and everything,” Stewart said. “We’re just prepared for challenges and prepared to take a loss and win afterward.”

### Keys to success

“I think the biggest key for us is we’ve got to keep our guys focused on the core aspects of the program,” Wynn said. “When I look at success, I’m looking at it not from a win-loss standpoint, especially when you’re starting a program. I’m looking at it from a core values of what we stand for.

“Are our guys resilient? Are our guys invested in what we’re doing? Are they selfless players? Are they giving great effort?” the coach added. “That’s how we’re going to do success. If they’re laying it out and they’re giving their best effort every day, then I’m going to be happy.

“I’m going to be proud of my team.”

~ Alan Sloan





Team Photo courtesy of Bobby Lewis/Pro Photo

# CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

Perhaps it's more than "Speck"ulation that Christian Academy of Knoxville might have a memorable season in Division II-AA's East Region, with 14 starters returning while having "a heavy senior class this year."

That's the way second-year head coach Chad Speck sees his Warriors for 2024.

"We've got about 14 seniors on the team that ended up playing a lot last year," said Speck, as CAK finished 4-7 in 2023. "Last year, we had a lot of injuries, and so you had a lot of young guys playing that maybe wouldn't have played otherwise. So we've got a lot of those guys coming back."

## Defensive leader

Maddox Mozingo "is a returning All-state linebacker, had 150 tackles, one of the top leading tacklers in the entire area last year," Speck said about the senior. "He's our leader; he's got the respect of everybody on the team"

"I want to make tackles, but at the end of the day I want to win ballgames," Mozingo said. "So, if that means I'm not



Speck

making as many tackles and our D-line or any other players are making tackles, then that's fine with me."

Other key returnees on defense who also look to contribute on offense include seniors Alexander Glass (defensive back/wide receiver), Zane Fields (defensive lineman/offensive lineman), Lincoln Rich (linebacker/running back), Alex Gilmer (linebacker/running back) and Jac Phillips (defensive back/H-back).

## Offense

Running a spread-based no-huddle offense, "We're going to try to play fast, we're going to try to compete," the coach said.

However, "We're fairly balanced" between passing and running the ball, Speck said. "... I got both coordinators back (offense, Craig Carter, and defense, Bart Kareken), so there's not a lot of new things, which definitely helps us going into year two of me being the head coach. You'll see a lot of what you saw last year, what we're doing.

"Will Kelley is our starting wide receiver who's absolutely a college prospect; has offers, really important to our team," the coach added about the senior.

See **WARRIORS PREVIEW** on Page 35



# 2024 **WARRIORS SENIORS**



Silas Fulford



Alex Gilmer



Alexander Glass



Elijah Hoke



Will Kelley



Graham Moffett



Maddox Mozingo



Jac Phillips



Lincoln Rich



Ward Sterchi



Shepard Strange

Christian Academy of  
Knoxville senior  
not pictured:  
**Jacob Briggeman,  
Zane Fields**



## Warriors Preview

From page 33

As for his goals, “Just try to get open every play and block my rear-end off when it’s a run play,” Kelley said. “But I definitely think it’ll be a fun year to throw the ball, so I’m looking forward to that.”

Fields, “a stalwart at left tackle for us, recently was offered by UT Martin,” Speck said.

Senior quarterback Shepard Strange is back. “He ended up starting the last four games for us last year,” Speck said. “Got a little bit of competition at that spot.”

With Strange also injured late in 2023, “We ended up having to start a freshman in the playoffs against CPA named Sawyer Anderson, and he’s back,” the coach said about the sophomore. “And then (senior) Graham Moffett is also competing at that spot.”

### Team strengths

“For us, it’s culture,” Speck said about team strengths. “That’s the biggest thing for me. I’m one of those guys that believes culture eats strategy for lunch.

“At the end of the day, winning is just really a by-product of building great culture,” he added. “Really fighting for the standard of who we want to be, holding each other accountable for who we want to be.

See **WARRIORS PREVIEW** on Page 37



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# WARRIORS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Lincoln Rich ..... 12 ..... RB/LB  
 2..... Will Kelley ..... 12 ..... WR/DB  
 3..... Alexander Glass..... 12 ..... WR/DB  
 4..... Alex Gilmer ..... 12 ..... RB/LB  
 5..... Elijah Hoke ..... 12 ..... WR/DB  
 6..... Eric Moore ..... 11 ..... WR/DB  
 7..... Graham Moffett ..... 12 ..... QB/LB  
 8..... Jac Phillips ..... 12 ..... WR/DB  
 9..... Ward Sterchi ..... 12 ..... H/LB  
 10..... Kyler Cook ..... 11 ..... WR/LB  
 11..... Silas Fulford ..... 12 ..... WR/DB  
 12..... Shepard Strange ..... 12 ..... QB/DB  
 13..... Sawyer Anderson ..... 10 ..... QB/DB  
 14..... Owen Fulford ..... 11 ..... WR / DB  
 16..... Seaton Moffett..... 9 ..... QB/DB  
 17..... Gabriel Linkous ..... 11 ..... WR/DB

18..... Beckett Rich..... 9..... WR/DB  
 19..... Jackson Harden..... 9 ..... QB/LB  
 20..... Collin Crider ..... 11 ..... DL  
 21..... Hudson Underwood ..... 10 ..... TE/LB  
 22..... Baker Sterchi ..... 9 ..... WR/DB  
 23..... Jacob Briggeman ..... 12 ..... K  
 24..... Maddox Mozingo ..... 12 ..... H / LB  
 25..... Charlie Meyers ..... 10 ..... WR/DB  
 26..... Wyatt Howard ..... 9 ..... WR/DB  
 27..... Bennett Jelks ..... 10 ..... WR/DB/K  
 28..... Teeno Hutchinson ..... 11 ..... WR/DB  
 30..... Hunter Bennett..... 10 ..... RB/DB  
 31..... Cy Oler ..... 9 ..... WR/DB  
 33..... Harrison Harwell ..... 9 ..... RB/DB  
 34..... Presley Oler ..... 9 ..... WR/DB  
 46..... Leif Claassen ..... 9 ..... WR/DB  
 50..... Michael Yoakum ..... 10 ..... OL/DL

52..... Jax Narancich..... 10..... OL/DL  
 55..... James Sharpe ..... 9 ..... OL/DL  
 60..... Cooper Houser ..... 11 ..... OL/DL  
 64..... Andrew Dungan ..... 10 ..... OL/LB  
 65..... Henley Hayes ..... 9 ..... OL/DL  
 66..... Benton Blevins ..... 11 ..... OL/DL  
 67..... Tucker Darga ..... 11 ..... OL/DL  
 72..... Zane Fields ..... 12 ..... OL/DL  
 77..... Cade Fugate..... 9 ..... OL/DL  
 78..... Brogdon Lundgren ..... 11 ..... OL/DL  
 82..... Marvin Wyrosdick..... 9 ..... RB/LB  
 84..... Ben Stanton ..... 10 ..... WR/DB  
 87..... AJ Scott ..... 9 ..... TE/LB  
 88..... Lawson Hearp ..... 9 ..... WR/DB  
 X..... Luke Whicker ..... 12 ..... Manager  
 X..... Callen Speck ..... 7 ..... Ball Boy

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## CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE 2024 SCHEDULE

### Date

### Opponent

Aug. 23 .....@ Our Lady of Providence High School (Clarksville, IN)  
 Aug. 30 ..... The King's Academy  
 Sep. 6 ..... Boyd Buchanan \*  
 Sep. 13 .....@ Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville \*  
 Sep. 20 ..... Lakeway Christian Academy \*  
 Sep. 27 .....@ Webb School of Knoxville \*  
 Oct. 4 ..... Chattanooga Christian School \*  
 Oct. 11 ..... White County  
 Oct. 25 .....@ Notre Dame \*  
 Nov. 1 .....@ Silverdale Baptist Academy \*

\* Denotes Division II-AA East Region game

# WARRIORS





## Warriors Preview

From page 35

“I feel like that’s my most important job: to set and lead culture. That’s really where we focus.”

To accomplish this, “We’re looking for guys who are ultra competitive, who are disciplined, consistent, play with great fundamentals and technique and do what they’re asked to do,” Speck said. “Our motto on defense is ‘compete.’ We’re going to play with great effort, attitude and toughness.”

### Concerns

“Staying healthy,” the coach said about biggest concerns. “The last couple of years, for whatever reason, we’ve had a hard time staying healthy. So I think the biggest concern is staying healthy because a school our size, there’s just not a lot of depth.”

~ Alan Sloan



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# 2024 **WARRIORS** *CHEERLEADERS*



Photo courtesy of Pro Photo

Senior football cheerleaders for Christian Academy of Knoxville in 2024, from left, are Sydney Pate, Sara Fugate, Belle Ripley, Holland Foss, Audrey Williams, Blakeley Smith, Claire Adkins and Laney Tate.







KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# IRISH

In recent years, Knoxville Catholic High School has been required to build depth in order to survive in rugged Division II-AAA.

"We play in one of the most physically abusive high school conferences in the nation," said Alex Rice, offensive/defensive line coach, in his 12th season at KCHS, who represented the team at Media Day July 12 in absence of head coach Philip Shadowens. "You can't just roll up there with just a few guys. It's just not humanly possible."

Though saying the Irish return seven starters on each side of the ball for 2024, "I count starters differently when you talk about defense ... I've got to have eight or nine 'dogs' ready," he said. "So all eight or nine saw at least some action, if not a lot, last year."

"We have a few spots that we have to replace in our offensive line," Rice added. "On the defensive side ... we have young guys that are battle-tested, that saw action, and they know what the expectations are to play at an elite level now."

Moreover, "We've had the largest incoming freshman class in Knoxville Catholic history, and it is an extremely talented class," the coach said.



Shadowens

## Neal, offense

Senior quarterback Jayden Neal, who has started since he was a freshman, was labeled "probably our biggest leader" by Rice. "The biggest step he's taken so far has been as a great playmaker. Between January and now, what you're seeing out of him is his leadership as well."

"He's had so much live action against elite competition that he can get the ball to our elite receivers, the exact spot where they need to have it to make a play and go," the coach added.

Recovering from off-season surgery and yet to suit up for either 7-on-7 competitions in July or regular summer practices and early scrimmages, "what's nice for him coming back is, what's helping him is his leadership in training those guys, his backups, who may be day-one starters if he's not available to come in," Rice said. "He is not afraid of competition, so he's actually training his competition while he's going to be out."

Sophomore quarterback Mack Bartholomew started in the first Irish scrimmage, as KCHS hosted budding Knox-area Division I-6A power Bearden Friday evening, Aug. 2.

Elsewhere, "Everybody knows (junior) Tyreek King and junior Casen Jenkins are a lot on the outside," the coach

See **IRISH PREVIEW** on Page 41



# 2024 **IRISH SENIORS**



Stephen Bertucci



Aidan Cahill



Tyler Dorn



Brandon McClintock



Shannon McKinney



Jayden Neal



Jaiven Sims



Aidan Sullivan



Matthew Taylor



TJ Tipton

Knoxville Catholic High School seniors not pictured:  
**Gavin Menard, Zach Pflanz**

“The biggest strength of this team is character ...  
We may have some of the greatest individual players, but what  
makes them so great is they all play together as one. ”

*~ Alex Rice, offensive/defensive line coach*



## Irish Preview

From page 39

said about his top wide receivers.

Another target to watch is T.J. Tipton, a 6-foot-5, 210-pound tight-end transfer from South-Doyle.

Catholic's top three running backs from 2023 must be replaced.

### Linemen sound off

Anchoring the Irish offensive line are juniors Jacob Rice and JR Fowler.

"We're coming off losing a bunch of seniors, but me and JR, I think we've got it pretty good," said Jacob, starting left tackle — and coach Rice's son — who joined Fowler, starting left guard, to represent KCHS, player-wise, at Media Day July 12. "We've been in that weight room hard. We've been conditioning absolutely crazy amounts, and drills, not to mention I went to a bunch of camps this season. But mainly, I think me and him and rest our offensive line, we're ready."

Rice and Fowler "both started our sophomore year on the same side," Jacob added. "I think we're going to be a really strong and powerful side this year."

If and when needed on the Irish defensive line, "I feel like we're very versatile," Jacob said about going both ways some.

As for improvement, "I think I'm technically more sound, I'm stronger; I've also gotten a lot bigger — I was 230 (pounds) last year, now I'm up to 255 and I'm faster," Fowler said. "I just feel like I'm going to be an overall better player. My mind's right."

For the offensive line, and the Irish as a whole, "I just think it's going to be a very successful season," he added.

"We're leading our team and we're hoping we're going to win on whatever day," Jacob was quick to add.

Among the new guys up front on offense, Anton Hamilton "as our new center, he really picked up in the spring," coach Rice said.

### Defense

The Irish lost its top five tacklers from last season — eight of its top nine. Junior defensive back George Mancini is the top returning tackler. Other defensive standouts include junior linebacker Dominic Daddabbo and junior defensive back Aron Mase.

"We've got (junior) Gavin Jones, a linebacker/tight-end/full-back," the coach said. "We've got a lot of young guys that are going to step in that are going to be really good players."

### Best-on-Best

To bring intensity in preparation for Friday nights, "Our practices (are) best-on-best," coach Rice said. "We may have 11 starters, right? But a starter may change the next week because we put best-on-best. We compete the best on the best. That's why folks like to come to play here."

"If you want to be a starter or if you want to play a lot, you have to show it in practice because that's the only way you get on the field," the coach added. "We do that actively on a weekly basis."

See IRISH PREVIEW on Page 42







## Irish Preview

From page 41

### Biggest Strength

"The biggest strength of this team is character," coach Rice said. "Like last year, the motto was 'We're our brothers keeper.' We may have some of the greatest individual players, but what makes them so great is they all play together as one. They hold each other accountable at an elite level of expectations, which you normally don't see at the high school level."

This coach is a former Second-Team All-ACC right guard at North Carolina State who blocked for eventual NFL star quarterback Phillip Rivers. "At a college and pro level, when I played, I'm reminded (KCHS is) doing stuff that I wasn't doing until I got to college," the coach added.

### Concerns

"The biggest concern for this team is just distractions," coach Rice said. "These guys are elite and play at an elite level, but they also play elite competition. You can't have a day off. You can't have a down day ... What they don't realize is they always have a target on their back because if somebody gets the best of you, that's big news for your competition. It's not big news for us."

"They have to continue to, in their mind, keep their minds at an elite level, even though they may not feel like it," he added. "Somebody else is gunning for it because we're not only competing against kids that are here in Tennessee. Some of the kids we compete against are from Florida, Georgia, Canada and London, England."

"You got a guy from South Florida or Alabama or Mississippi that's working his tail off that you've got to face in three weeks."

### Early preparation

"That's how you get buy-in, where these kids started studying film in January for their next season. They're looking at film of their competition," coach Rice said, "because games are won between January and August, not when the season starts."

### Key to success

"The biggest key to success, I'd say, is intensity," the coach said. "Just being intense because sometimes when you have elite-level, athletic, gifted athletes, sometimes they just feel like 'I can just turn on when I want to and turn it off when I want to.' It's hard to keep it week-to-week-to-week."

### Ready for UGA from KCHS

As for the high expectations at Catholic, coach Rice recalled the words of Cade Mays, former KCHS star offensive lineman who's currently with then NFL's Carolina Panthers. After starting his college career at Georgia, he ended as a Tennessee Vol.

"He said it best: He said when he went to Georgia, he was (part of the) No. 1 recruiting class in the nation. He said, 'coach, half of my teammates in my signing class are struggling, so they're not getting the playing time or not getting the opportunity as freshmen because they're struggling on the transition from high school to college — and the academic rigor of college,'" the coach recalled Mays saying. "He was like, 'Coach, high school was harder for me than my first year here in Georgia.'"

~ Alan Sloan

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# IRISH FOOTBALL ROSTER

0 ..... TJ Tipton .....12 ..... WR/LB	27 ..... Tristan Jarvis .....9 ..... RB/LB	54 ..... Aidan Sullivan .....12 ..... OL/DL
2 ..... Brooks Johnston .....9 ..... WR/DB	28 ..... Tyler Dorn .....12 ..... K/P	55 ..... JR Fowler .....11 ..... OL/DL
3 ..... Gage King .....9 ..... WR/DB	29 ..... Connor Gray .....11 ..... WR/DB	56 ..... Aidan Cahill .....12 ..... OL/DL
4 ..... Amare McKenzie .....9 ..... WR/DB	30 ..... Julius Sanders .....10 ..... WR/DB	57 ..... Anton Hamilton .....11 ..... OL/DL
5 ..... Matthew Rogers .....9 ..... RB/DB	31 ..... Mitch Canon .....9 ..... WR/DB	58 ..... Colton Gardner .....11 ..... OL/DL
6 ..... Dominic Daddabbo .....11 ..... WR/DB	32 ..... Kaleb Johnson .....11 ..... TE/DE	60 ..... Zeke Chestnutt .....10 ..... OL/DL
7 ..... Tyreek King .....11 ..... WR/DB	33 ..... Gavin Jones .....11 ..... TE/LB	61 ..... Brady McConville .....11 ..... OL/DL
8 ..... Jayden Neal .....12 ..... QB	34 ..... Jaiven Sims .....12 ..... TE/LB	62 ..... Bennett Cruze .....10 ..... OL/DL
9 ..... Garrett King .....9 ..... QB/DB	35 ..... Pierce Welch .....9 ..... WR/DB	63 ..... Christopher Olvera ..... OL/DL
10 ..... Mack Bartholomew .....10 ..... QB/LB	36 ..... Ciaran Sullivan .....9 ..... RB/LB	65 ..... Stephen Bertucci .....12 ..... OL/DL
11 ..... Aron Mase .....11 ..... WR/DB	37 ..... Rowan Raman .....10 ..... WR/DB	66 ..... Val Wentworth .....10 ..... OL/DL
12 ..... Connor Welch .....11 ..... WR/DB	38 ..... Iziah Bazel .....10 ..... WR/DB	68 ..... Jackson Nichols .....9 ..... OL/DL
13 ..... Jet Tegelaar .....11 ..... WR/DB	39 ..... Quentin Smith .....9 ..... WR/DB	70 ..... Caleb King .....10 ..... OL/DL
14 ..... Braylen Gibbs .....9 ..... WR/DB	40 ..... Sam Chady .....9 ..... WR/DB	73 ..... Jacob Rice .....11 ..... OL/DL
15 ..... Connor Mohr .....9 ..... QB/DB	41 ..... Riley Herda .....9 ..... WR/DB	76 ..... Bryson Hawkins .....9 ..... OL/DL
16 ..... Casen Jenkins .....11 ..... WR/DB	42 ..... Jesse Domeracki .....	77 ..... Kamden Carter .....10 ..... OL/DL
17 ..... Zach Pflanz .....12 ..... QB	43 ..... Brogan Corley .....9 ..... WR/DB	81 ..... Matthew Ayo .....9 ..... K
18 ..... Andrew Ballengee .....11 ..... WR/DB	44 ..... Matthew Taylor .....12 ..... TE/LB	82 ..... Liam Gray .....9 ..... WR/DB
19 ..... Xavier Bowman .....9 ..... WR/DB	45 ..... Ethan Hill .....10 ..... FB/LB	83 ..... Brayden Howard .....10 ..... WR/DB
20 ..... Brandon McClintock .....12 ..... RB/LB	46 ..... Gabe Macklin .....9 ..... WR/DB	84 ..... Thomas Caroccio .....10 ..... WR/DB
21 ..... Tyren Brabson .....10 ..... WR/DE	47 ..... Carver Rivera .....9 ..... WR/DB	85 ..... Liam Patterson .....10 ..... WR/DB
22 ..... George Mancini .....11 ..... WR/DB	48 ..... Elliott Lindsey .....10 ..... RB/LB	86 ..... Matthew Brewer .....11 ..... WR/DB
23 ..... Shannon McKinney .....12 ..... WR/DB	49 ..... Cole Latham .....10 ..... WR/DB	88 ..... Jhamari Champion .....10 ..... WR/DB
24 ..... Jalen Wrancher .....10 ..... RB/DB	50 ..... Peter Murray .....9 ..... OL/DL	89 ..... Ethan Hoskins .....10 ..... WR/DB
26 ..... Isaac Cooper .....9 ..... RB/LB	52 ..... Gavin Guinn .....10 ..... OL/DL	93 ..... Gavin Menard .....12 ..... K/P
	53 ..... Kaden Duffield .....9 ..... OL/DL	

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23 .....	@ Lakeway Christian Academy
Aug. 30 .....	Brevard High School, NC
Sep. 6 .....	Winter Haven High School, FL
Sep. 13 .....	Ensworth
Sep. 20 .....	@ Briarcrest Christian School
Oct. 4 .....	Montgomery Bell Academy *
Oct. 10 .....	Brentwood Academy *
Oct. 18 .....	@ Lipscomb Academy *
Oct. 25 .....	@ McCallie *
Nov. 1 .....	Baylor *

\* Denotes Division II-AAA East Region game

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# 2024 **IRISH CHEERLEADERS**



“We play in one of the most physically abusive high school conferences in the nation. You can’t just roll up there with just a few guys. It’s just not humanly possible.”

~ Alex Rice, offensive/defensive line coach



# 2024 **IRISH DANCE TEAM**



Photo courtesy of Big Orange Professional Photography

Knoxville Catholic High School dance team members for 2024-25, given from seniors to freshmen, are Haley Baker (senior captain) and Amelia Opal Underwood (senior); Eden Perkinson (junior); Veronica Bartholomay and Giselle Zayas (sophomores); and freshmen Olive Grover, Reagan Marlowe, Anna Maria Medlyn, Ava Salzenstein, Alexandra "Alexa" Thompson and Mila Yau.







Team Photo courtesy of Bobby Lewis/Pro Photo

WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE

# SPARTANS

Only in his second season leading Webb School of Knoxville varsity football, head coach Don Mahoney seemingly has a major rebuilding project for 2024.

Especially in the trenches, as the Spartans' entire starting offensive and defensive lines, in addition to linebackers and starting quarterback, have graduated.

Returning are "three starters on offense, three starters on defense," Mahoney said, as the Spartans compete in Division II-AA East Region.

"So it's a lot of maybe reloading — reloading or rebuilding, depending on how you look at it," he added. "The line of scrimmage is the biggest thing for us, and obviously identifying who that quarterback is. We lost our line of scrimmage on the offensive line — and the tight end — the defensive line and the linebacker core."

## Being positive

However, having successfully rebuilt his offensive line after heavy graduation losses entering his first season at Webb in 2023, "I'm not the least bit discouraged," Mahoney



Mahoney

said. "Yes, there is reason to have your blood pressure up a little bit, but I guess because I believe so much in these kids and our team, that there's guys that are excited to know that this is their time and their challenge."

## Offensive skill positions

As for who's starting at quarterback, "Cruise Cunningham right now, our senior, has had a tremendous off-season," the coach said. "He's done a great job, again, starting from December to now, in which he has not missed a workout and has really progressed with the throwing this summer that we're doing."

"We're doing more seven-on-sevens than we've ever done," Mahoney added. "He has been the most consistent of the bunch to this point."

Juniors Elias Childers and Gage Porter and freshman Parks Lederer "are the other ones in the mix that are all competing," the coach said. "But Cruise Cunningham right now has been the most consistent and exciting in terms of his play and what he's done."

Mahoney said he's told his quarterbacks, "I'm not worried about you playing quarterback, I'm worried about you

See **SPARTANS PREVIEW** on Page 52



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# 2024 SPARTANS SENIORS



Tristan Connors



Cruise Cunningham



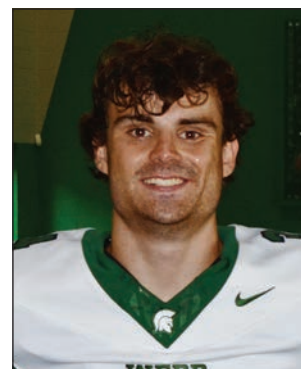
Isaac Evans



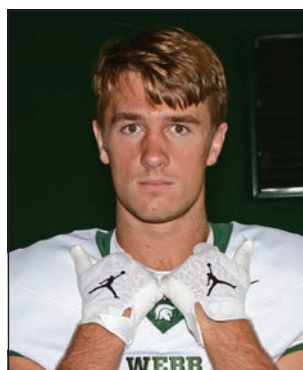
Brock Green



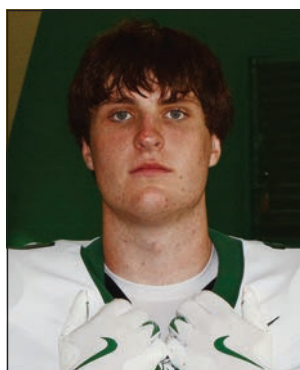
Bradyn Hooker



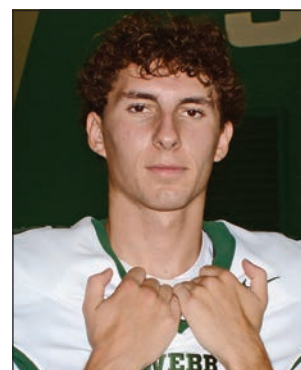
Christian Mirochnikoff



Hal Niendorff



Ben Shawl



Greyson Webb

Webb School seniors not pictured:  
Harper Higgs, Ethan Redmon

“I feel like I’m a much better athlete right now than I was last year.  
I think it’s going to help a lot when the season comes around.”

*~ Hal Niendorff, senior running back/defensive back*



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# SPARTANS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0 ..... Shavar Young .....WR/DB .....11	17 ..... Ben Baisley .....WR/DB .....9	35 ..... Da'Ran Taylor .....WR/DB .....9
1 ..... Ben Shawl .....TE/DE .....12	18 ..... Brody Taylor .....WR/DB .....11	42 ..... Baxter Johnson .....RB/LB .....11
3 ..... Hal Niendorff .....RB/DB .....12	20 ..... Bo Caldwell .....RB/LB .....10	44 ..... Harper Higgs .....RB/LB .....12
4 ..... Parks Lederer .....QB .....9	21 ..... Brailen Robinson .....WR/DB .....10	50 ..... Michael Pemberton .....OL/DL .....11
5 ..... Greyson Webb .....WR/DB .....12	22 ..... Caleb Davis .....WR/DB .....10	51 ..... Quinn Saunders .....OL/DL .....9
6 ..... Cruise Cunningham .....QB/LB .....12	23 ..... Will Spiller .....TE/LB .....10	55 ..... Maddux Martin .....OL/DL .....9
7 ..... Elias Childers .....QB .....11	24 ..... Sam Herrick .....TE/LB .....10	58 ..... Will Overton .....OL/DL .....10
8 ..... Jackson Walters .....TE/DE .....9	25 ..... Brock Green .....RB/LB .....12	59 ..... Isaac Evans .....OL/DL .....12
9 ..... Bradyn Hooker .....TE/LB .....12	26 ..... Caden Sulewski .....WR/DB .....10	60 ..... Jay Lowery .....OL/DL .....11
10 ..... Gage Porter .....QB .....11	28 ..... Clay Fultz .....K .....11	61 ..... Jake Rogers .....OL/DL .....9
11 ..... Greg Tate III .....WR/DB .....11	30 ..... Brody Kulisek .....WR/DE .....9	64 ..... Connor Garmer .....OL/DL .....9
13 ..... Tristan Connors .....WR/LB .....12	32 ..... Grant Nutting .....RB/LB .....10	66 ..... Andrew Pruett .....OL/LB .....10
14 ..... Cullen Heck .....WR/DB .....9	33 ..... Drew Johnson .....WR/DB .....10	77 ..... Marvin Hicke .....OL/DL .....11
16 ..... Ethan Redmon .....TE/DE .....12	34 ..... Christian Mirochnikoff .....RB/DE .....12	

“I’m not the least bit discouraged ... I guess because I believe so much in these kids and our team, that there’s guys that are excited to know that this is their time and their challenge. ”

~ Don Mahoney, head coach

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## WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE 2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23.....	@ Battle Ground Academy
Sep. 6 .....	@ Silverdale Baptist Academy *
Sep. 13 .....	Notre Dame *
Sep. 20 .....	@ Chattanooga Christian School *
Sep. 27 .....	Christian Academy of Knoxville *
Oct. 4 .....	@ Brainerd
Oct. 18 .....	@ Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville *
Oct. 25 .....	Boyd Buchanan *
Nov. 1 .....	Lakeway Christian Academy *

\* Denotes Division II-AA East Region game

**SPARTANS**



# 2024 SPARTANS CHEERLEADERS



Photo by Alan Sloan

Webb School of Knoxville football cheerleaders for 2024, front row (seniors) from left, are Savannah Gray, Ryan Schwartz, Ella Morton, Jada Robinson, Chilton Myers, Reese Todd, Anna Claire Ellis, Langley DeLozier, Alaina Norris and Julia Hovis. Middle row, from left, are Amelia Hovis, Chloe Dye, Berkley Melhorn, Claire Luton, Taylor Bell, Lee Belle Tolsma, Genevieve Sterrett, Haley Stinson, Kirby Willoughby, Kate Lyke, Keely Hillesheim, Reagan Stephens and Annabelle Baker. Back row, from left, are Scarlett Parrott, Reagan Loveday, Helen Bruner, Katie Ray, Hannah Beth Bibee, Payton Jordan, Lilly McMillin, Jack Kalosieh, Maggie Jenkins, Sybella Crane, Caroline Carter, Lila MacFawn, Gracen Kinley-Lawrence, Payton McNally, Maggie Galbreth and Mimi Johnson. Not pictured is Teagan Green.







## Spartans Preview

From page 46

leading our offense, and there's a difference.' Some guys, if they just think they're going to be a quarterback, they're not leading our offense. I want a guy that's leading our offense that has all the pieces in place of where we're at to start a play."

Hal Niendorff, senior running back/defensive back, "is really a Swiss army knife because he does so many things," Mahoney said, "Be it defensively, first, and what he provides to us offensively, being a Wildcat quarterback last year for us, which we will continue, as well as a receiver and running back.

"And his special teams value," the coach added about Niendorff, "he can kick-off for us; he punts. He's just a tremendous athlete who just is very diligent about what he does. I can't say enough about him."

"I feel like I'm a much better athlete right now than I was last year," Niendorff said. "I think it's going to help a lot when the season comes around."

Junior receiver/defensive back Greg Tate III was labeled "an electrifying kid that does a number of things for us," Mahoney said. "... All that he's accomplished as a defender with interceptions, and as a receiver and a return specialist.

"He's had a tremendous offseason," the coach added.

Junior running back/linebacker Baxter Johnson was compared to "an army knife; he played running back, then he got moved to receiver for us and made some key catches for us," Mahoney said. "Just an absolute competitive guy that will do anything asked of him, as well as his special teams value, which is more so on coverages of teams and just how tenacious and tough he is and his will to do really great things."

Standout receiver/defensive back Shavar Young, a junior, returns. "Shavar is a do-it-all type of guy as well," the coach said. "He will be in the backfield, be it at running back or at quarterback; there's different ways we'll use him.

"We're going to have fun with this offense, and those guys are capable of it," Mahoney added. "They're mature enough to do that, their approach with it, all the things that go into it. But those are the guys that have provided the biggest spark and the production for what we do."

Marvin Hicke is a junior offensive tackle, new to football, "that I think has a tremendous future," the coach said. "Last year was his first year. I think the sky's the limit with him because of all that he can do, his athletic ability, his toughness and his mentality."

Junior offensive tackle Michael Pemberton "started for us against Asheville of North Carolina that we played last year, which was a state championship team that we beat," Mahoney said. "He needed the offseason development of getting stronger, which he did, but now he needs to take those next steps.

"There's two guys right there on the line that excite me about what they can bring to the table."

Big freshman Jake Rogers, a 6-foot-3, 280-pound lineman

See SPARTANS PREVIEW on Page 53

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## Spartans Preview

From page 52

projected as a guard this season, “has got a lot of potential that he’s shown this summer,” Mahoney said. “Now, obviously, he’s got to put it in play, but I’m excited about him and the future that he has.”

Sophomore tackle Will Overton “is recovering from an injury, and it’s uncertain about his return,” the coach said.

Two other linemen to watch, Mahoney said, are freshman Connor Garmer and junior Jay Lowery.”

### Defense

Defensively, the second-season head coach said he’s lost a lot at “linebacker with tackles and at defensive line with sacks.

“But again, I believe we’ll do that (production-wise), it’s just a matter of a committee of guys,” he added. “The guys that have to go both ways, that is going to be the challenge because we did have guys last year that went both ways that were physically built to do that. We’re going to have to identify guys that are able to do that.”

The Spartans’ secondary, however, should be strong with Niendorff, Baxter and Young.

About Young’s defensive ability, Mahoney said he is “to the point now in his development, no question about his skill set, that he can play whatever’s asked of him because of his football knowledge, and again, his will to compete.

“Our secondary is our strength.”

Also penciled in for major minutes in the secondary is senior Greyson Webb, “who’s really come on for us,” the coach said. “He’s a senior that played last year for the first time. He’s a heck of a soccer player in our soccer program at Webb. He just has a big range. If you see him today, he’s every bit of 6-(foot)-3 or 6-(foot)-4.

“I see in the coverage his field awareness, like in soccer, where he covers ground and sees things well,” Mahoney added. “He’s a long-range guy; also plays receiver for us.”

Baxter “will be a guy that’s flexible to be in the secondary as well as maybe playing linebacker,” the coach said.

“We’ve just got a lot of athletic people on that side of the ball, so we should be good at defense,” Niendorff said.

Another big freshman pointed out was Jackson Walters, a tight-end/defensive end who is “every bit of 6-(foot)-2, 220 pounds that can help fill the void of Cooper Cameron and Blake Carter that are not with us, that are graduated seniors,” the coach said. “We are excited about what they have to bring to us in the future by their size and skill set.”

### Don’t overload

“The biggest thing we’ve got to be smart about is how we use, particularly young guys, and not overload their minds,” Mahoney said. “As always, don’t let their mind tie up their feet because they’ve got a skill set. If we put too much on their plate too early, it maybe can take away from them being who they are. That’s where we step in as coaches and do a good job that way.”

~ Alan Sloan



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