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2024 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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2024 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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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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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.



Courtney

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.

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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Kent Carbaugh



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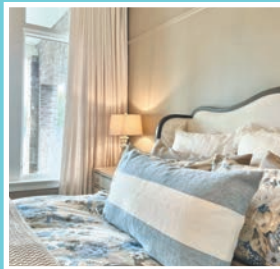


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 3 Corbin Hobson10QB
 4 Vincent Blum12RB
 7 Ethan Farhat10WR
 8 Bryce Thompson12RB/LB
 9 Henry Dee12SS
 10 Max Garfield11WR/CB
 11 Landon Collins12WR/FS
 12 Zain Kureshi-Smith11WR/CB
 14 Luke Finnegan12RB/LB
 15 Kent Carbaugh12QB/SS
 16 Noah Haag11QB/LB
 17 Johnny Jacobs10WR/CB
 19 Harrison Smith10WR/FS
 20 Connor Parris11LB
 21 Darrien Hensley10CB
 22 Gram Washburn10WR
 23 Tyler Martin11WR
 24 Charlie Noble11RB
 25 Bladen Todd11CB
 27 Henry Ferron10FS
 28 Jarrod Atkins11FS
 30 Kealan Winter11LB
 31 Maddox Craft10RB/OLB
 32 Abram Shelton10WR
 33 Layne Cortez11RB

34 Luca Conforti10TE/LS
 35 Fletcher Haddad11LB
 36 Stephen Doubleday11DE
 37 Ryan McCue11P/PK
 38 Isaiah Hill11CB
 39 Cooper Sandidge11WR
 40 Kaden Renfro10LB
 41 Julian Melendy10P/PK
 42 Jackson Plumlee11DE
 43 Gavin Lyon10LB
 44 Moses Burnette11TE/DE
 45 Aaron Heatherly10TE/OLB
 46 Mohammad Salim10LB
 47 Conley Hawk10WR
 48 Isaiah Arnett11OLB
 49 Randon Miller12RB
 50 Luca Hofer11OL/DL
 51 Michael Sparr10LB
 52 Bryson Bassett11OL/DL
 53 Asher Watson10OL
 54 Cole Disse10OL
 55 Aiden Waters12DL
 56 James Brown10DL
 57 Christian Campbell12OL/LS
 58 Luke Duenckel10DL
 60 Abdelwahab Jafer10OL
 61 Holden Fritz10OL
 62 Will Szucs11OL

63 Ayden Perez11OL
 64 J.P. Palmer10OL
 65 Hank Tate10OL
 66 Isaiah Stafford-Hedge12OL
 68 Isaiah Koga10OL/DL
 70 Michael Ullian11OL
 71 Jacob Cabrera12OL/DL
 72 Max Stiles10OL
 73 Connor Frynkewicz11OL
 74 Zakry Posey10OL/DL
 75 Yazan Ashkar10OL
 77 M.J. Keener11OL
 80 Fisher Smith10TE/OLB
 81 Cole McDonald10WR
 82 Liam Moeller11WR
 83 Shawn Raines10WR
 84 Johanan Davis11FS
 85 Mason Swor10FS
 86 Ernie Rodriguez11WR
 87 Grady Brown12OLB
 88 Brody Culbreth10DL
 89 Jackson Willis10WR
 90 Carson Hulsey10DL
 91 Bronson Sakhleh10DL
 94 Maddock Holloway10WR
 95 Ellis Carlen10CB
 98 Chase Penn10FS
 99 Owen Petoskey11DE/LB

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

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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 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

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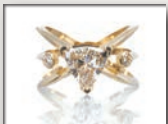


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FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL



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

Go Admirals!
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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).

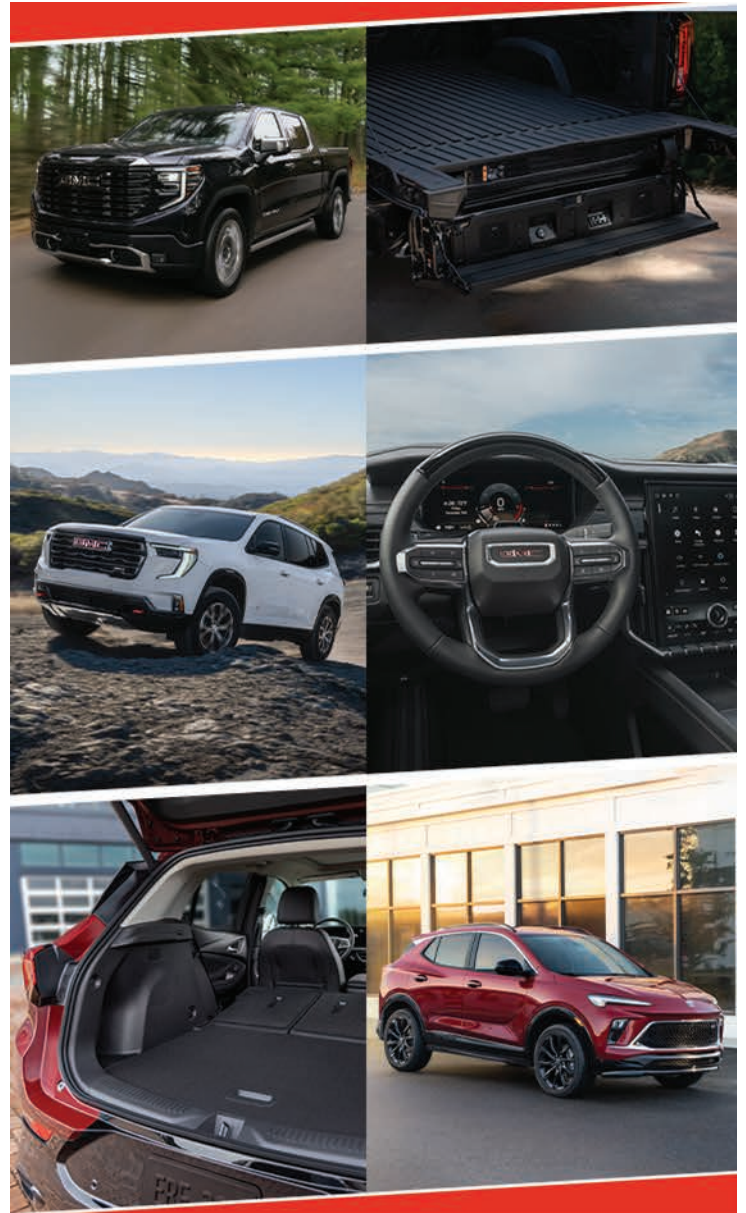
Special teams also is well fortified, with Daniel Kinney (senior, kicker), William Pendergrass (junior, punter) and Seth Henry (junior, long snapper).

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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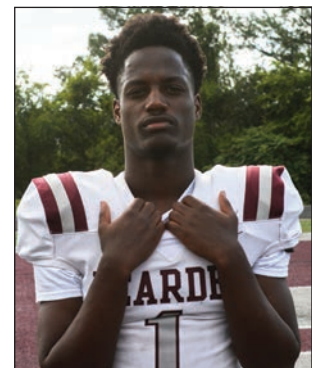
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2024 BULLDOGS SENIORS



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William Pendergrass



Torian Riggins



Reid Rowland



Jack Smiley



Charlie Smith



Boston Yeager

Bearden seniors not pictured:
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BULLDOGS FOOTBALL ROSTER

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1 Kai Ironside12 LB	34 Maddox Bravo10 SAF	77 Reid Rowland12 OL
2 Tory Beaufort11 WR	35 Shaun Thomas11 WR	78 Carlos Marquez10 OL
3 Deameion Leavell11 WR/CB	36 Connor Gilbreath10 FS	82 De'arris Dukes11 WR
4 Dj Hunter10 QB	37 Tate Byrge10 DE	84 Ken Sandoval10 WR
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9 Kenny Simon10 SAF	42 Elijah Tunnell10 SAF	92 Perlino Ehpel12 DE
10 Grant Cross11 WR	44 Tra (Tracy) Dennard12 DE	93 Jordan Gutierrez11 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 Burluson (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



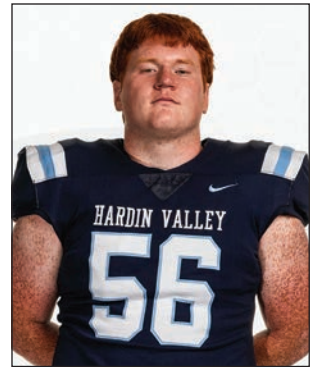
Nick Bell



RJ Bernardo



Joseph "Brody" Blair



Evan Clarke



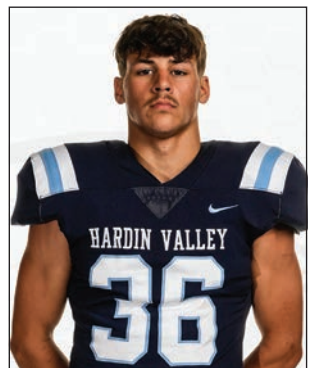
Raymond "PJ" Copeland Jr.



Kaden Cutcher



Ryder Dozier



Grady Estep



Jorge I Feliciano



Bryson Frey



Neal Henley



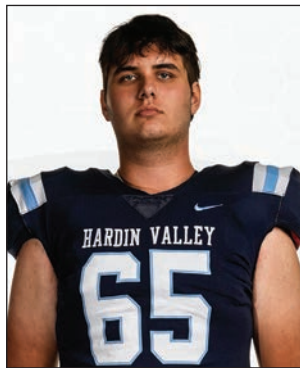
Nathan Holbrook



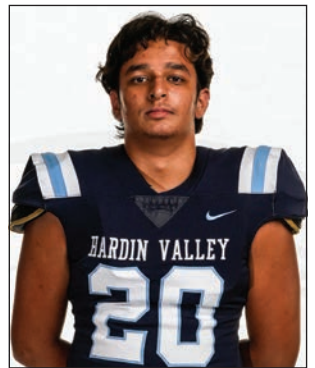
Garrett Light



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 JrDE TE..... 12	31 Garrett LightDB WR..... 12	59 Jaafar Al-GoranDT OL10
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 TrenthamLB TE10	57 Joshua BrownDT OL10	90 Finn SteinmuellerLB RB10
30 Andrew PerkinsDE TE11	58 Durgan RaglandDT OL10	

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HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY 2024 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23@ Karns
Aug. 30Morristown 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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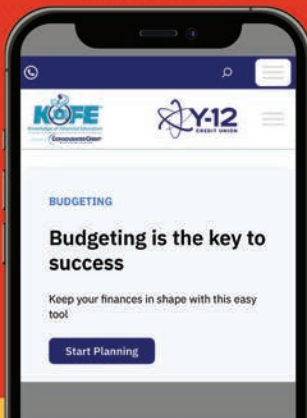
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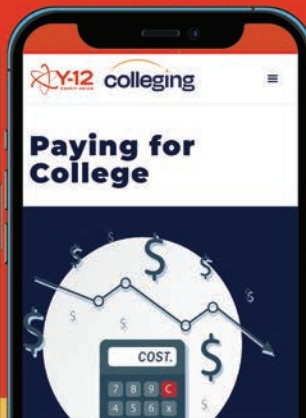
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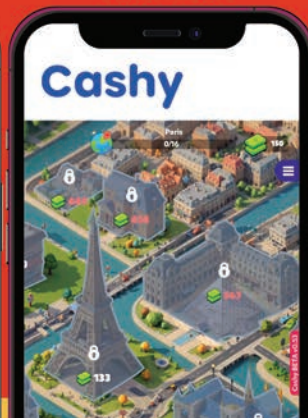
FOR ADULTS



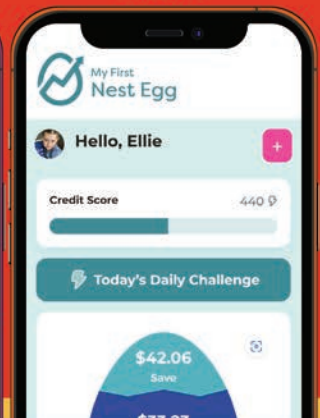
FOR COLLEGE



FOR TEENS



FOR KIDS



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.

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“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

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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 Mazingo "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," Mazingo 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 Phillipps (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 Mazingo



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 Tipton12 WR/LB	27 Tristan Jarvis9 RB/LB	54 Aidan Sullivan12 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 .....11 WR/DB	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

IRISH

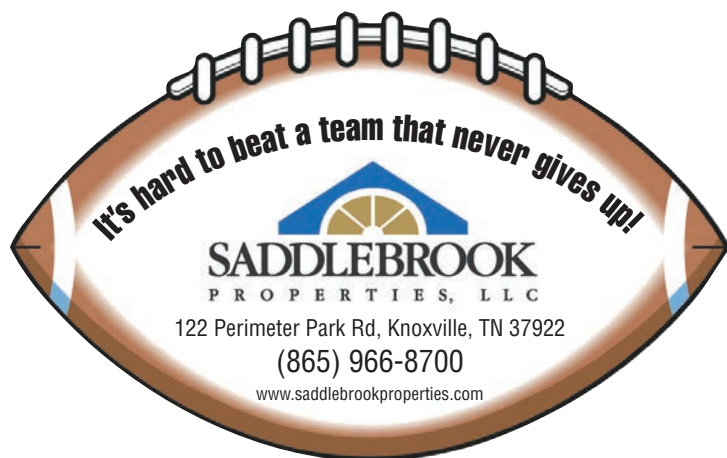
Date	Opponent
Aug. 23	@ Lakeway Christian Academy
Aug. 30	Brevard High School, NC
Sep. 6	Winter Haven High School, FL
Sep. 13	Ensworth
Sep. 20	@ Briarcrest Christian School
Oct. 4	Montgomery Bell Academy *
Oct. 10	Brentwood Academy *
Oct. 18	@ Lipscomb Academy *
Oct. 25	@ McCallie *
Nov. 1	Baylor *

* 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 offseason," 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."

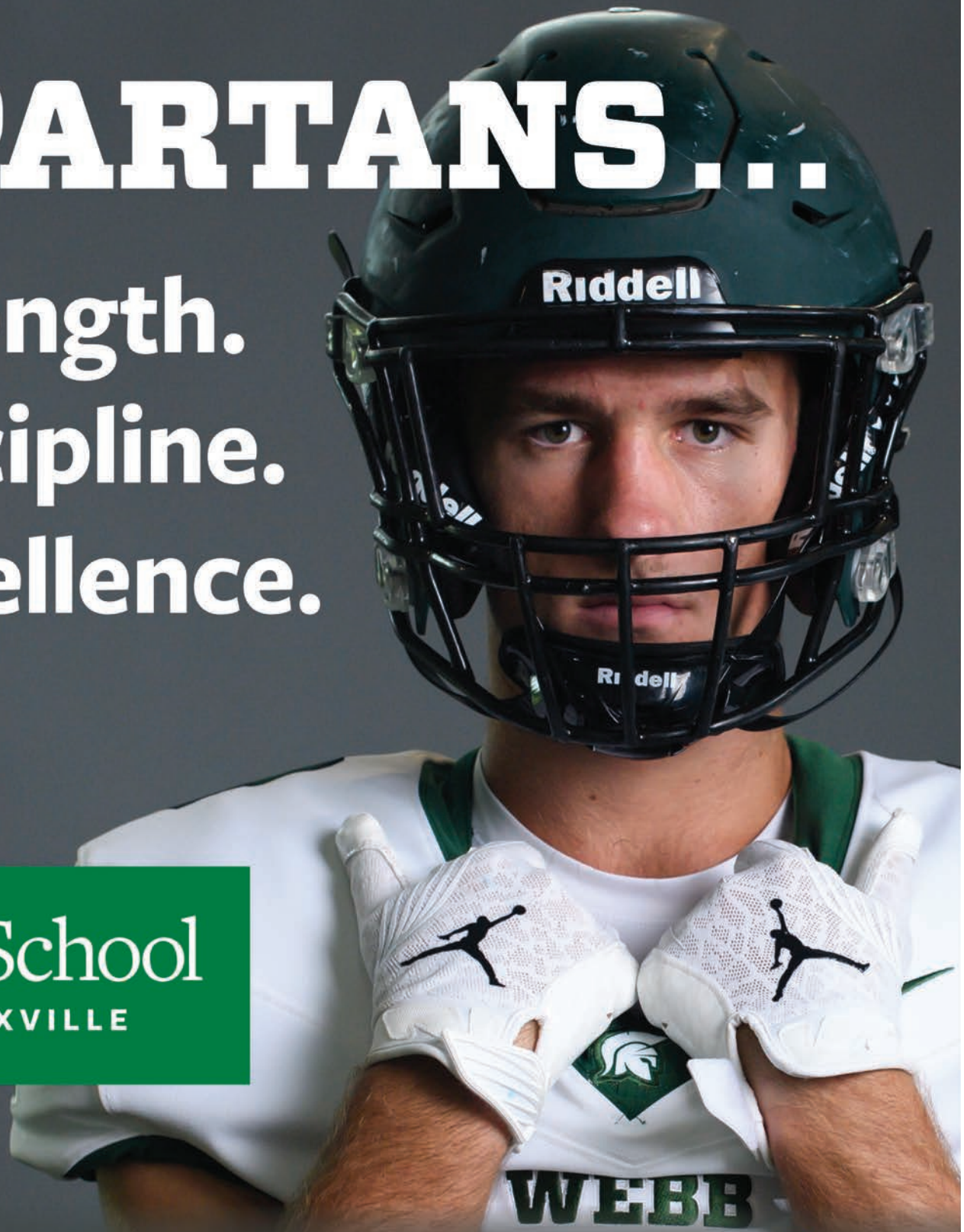
Juniors Elias Childers and Gage Porter and freshman Parks Lederer "are the other ones in the mix that are all competing," the coach said. "But Cruise Cunningham right now has been the most consistent and exciting in terms of his play and what he's done."

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



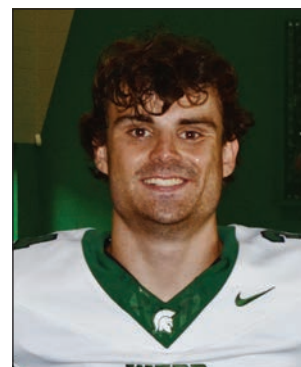
Isaac Evans



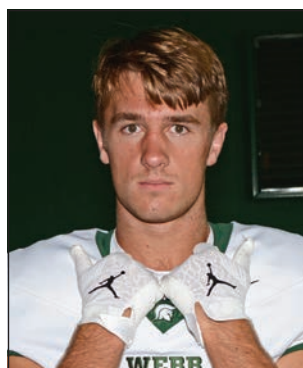
Brock Green



Bradyn Hooker



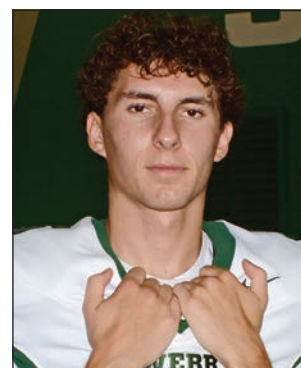
Christian Mirochnikoff



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 YoungWR/DB11	17 Ben BaisleyWR/DB9	35 Da'Ran TaylorWR/DB9
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 Pruet .....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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