

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE'S GUIDE TO THE 2026 SEASON

FOOTBALL FANATICS 2026



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from the editor

FOOTBALL SEASON IS HERE...

For fans of America's proudest sport, the most wonderful time of the year has returned. With it comes all the wince-inducing hits, jaw-dropping catches, ear-rattling third down student sections and touchdown fanfare from the marching bands.

Greatness is already the standard for some, with Addison, Fairview and Good Hope left with little to desire other than the State Championship trophy itself. For others- schools like Holly

Pond, Hanceville and West Point, 2026 is a chance to set that standard.

As quickly as it returns, it'll go. So, take in every Friday night, rain or shine, and get ready to be a part of crowds that mirror the passion and unity that make this game so special.

From our Class 1A schools out in Arley and Addison to Cullman High itself, this year's edition will have you ready for another spectacular season of football.

Football Fanatics

from The Cullman Tribune
Vol. 5

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Addison BULLDOGS

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

12-2

OVERALL RECORD

4-1

HOME RECORD

5-0

ROAD RECORD

7-0

REGION RECORD

84-80

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

41.1

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

13.8

REGION FINISH

1st

IN REGION STANDINGS



With Roberts-led returning group, State Championship is the goal for the 2026 Addison Bulldogs



OUR TEAM **GOAL** IS OF COURSE TO WIN IT ALL, BUT MY GOAL IS TO SEE THESE **YOUNG MEN GROW AND IMPROVE AS YOUNG ADULTS AS WELL AS IMPROVE AS PLAYERS.**



**ADDISON HEAD COACH
MARK HASTINGS**

By: Todd Walker

Photos: Brandon Evans

The Addison Bulldogs' 2025 season began with mystery, as they had a new head coach in Mark Hastings, and loads of questions regarding the roster. Well, the questions were answered, and Coach Hastings had an outstanding first year carrying the Bulldogs to IA State Playoffs with a 12-2 overall record, eventually falling to Class IA power Wadley, 22-14, in the semi-finals. So, the question this year is how will the Bulldogs respond going from minimal expectations, to having fans legitimately thinking state championship-or-bust.

Some things have changed with the 'Dawgs this season. The schedule has gotten tougher, as Addison got Red Bay, the biggest IA school in the state, dropping down from 2A to become a region foe. 3A Oakman and Belgreen, a region game, replaced what felt like automatic wins vs. Vina and Shoals Christian, ex-region foes, and 4A Good Hope also fell off the schedule.

Addison started seven sophomores last year, so the 'Dawgs have a strong returning group of depth and experience. They have three All-State players returning in »

senior QB/DB Elijah Roberts, junior WR/DB Connor Lane and WR/LB Judah Wilkins. The players' participation numbers are up as Addison had 43 kids turn out for summer workouts- 8-10 more than usual for the Bulldogs.

When asked about the high expectations for the upcoming season, Coach Hastings replied, "I thought we did a good job last year of managing our kids' emotions and just getting better each week. We didn't get too high or too low, and were consistent in our effort and execution. We need to improve each week, correcting our mistakes from the previous game and getting each player to focus on his responsibility. I believe that competition is the key factor in motivating players. If you have someone behind you that is able to take your job if you don't give effort and maximize your ability, then you tend to work harder or you won't be starting long. Our team goal is of course to win it all, but my goal is to see these young men grow and improve as young adults as well as improve as players."

Giving Roberts a clean pocket is critical to the offense's success, on the offensive line, Hastings said, "The biggest question for our team is our offensive line. We lost some three key long-time starters and have several kids fighting for those three spots. I feel good that whomever will win the job will perform and there will be no drop off from last year. Our two returning starters are sophomore left tackle Kyeler Hill and junior guard Noah Daffron. The three new starters will come from, in no particular order, senior Noah Benton, senior Briley Denson, sophomore Noah Cleghorn, senior Joseph Frock, junior Kane Stewart, junior Tucker Hayes, junior Robert Gilmore and Dahl Miller."

On what he believes this team's strong spot is, Hastings said, "Our biggest strength I believe is our skill players, especially our receiving corps. Our receivers are outstanding, with a good combination of speed

and hands. Juniors Scout Flynn, Judah Wilkins and Connor Lane, all returning starters, are excellent. We have ample depth with senior Tanner Gaither, sophomore Tanner Morgan and sophomore Ben Bridges. Morgan has had a great summer, and kinda came out of nowhere. Tight end is especially strong with senior Michael Lee and junior Major Snoddy manning the position. Both (Michael) Lee and (Major) Snoddy are good blockers who can catch the ball."

When the question of quarterback was brought up, Hastings was asked what returning an all-state QB means to the team.

"Elijah (Roberts) is a very good athlete who improved tremendously from the beginning of the year to the end. He is a smart kid and has a strong arm and excellent mobility. Elijah's strength is his ability on a broken play, he can go the distance every single time he touches the ball. The sky is the limit for him this season, especially since this is his second year in our system," Hastings said.

The running back position features a mixture of youth and veterans that will man it this year. Hastings said, "Senior Zane Smith is 100% healthy from his knee injury last year and has improved his strength, Zane should have a good year. Junior Joey Wilson is a tough runner who gets the tough yardage and young (Ben) Bridges and freshman Kash Turner both showed flashes last year and will play."

Addison is known for strong defense, and last year was no different, as they held Wadley's all-everything back Jaquez Wilkes to his season-low in rushing yardage in a game. It starts up front, and Addison appears to be very strong there.

"Michael Lee was a menace off the edge last year, consistently putting pressure on opposing quarterbacks and doing well against the run. Senior Skylar Cleghorn

came out of nowhere and about midseason, opposing teams had to game plan for him as well. Skylar and Michael are good opposites, Michael is strong and Skylar is exceptionally quick and he was able to get by the opposing lineman before they completely got out of their stance. Michael and Skylar have also been focused in the weight room to improve there as well. Tucker Hayes is a plugger in the middle, and we have several other kids, mainly the group from the offensive line, that will play at defensive tackle," Hastings said.

"We have a good solid group of linebackers. (Scout) Flynn will move into a hybrid linebacker/safety position and (Judah) Wilkins, (Major) Snoddy, (Joey) Wilson, (Bryn) Lake and (Kash) Turner all will contribute. It is an athletic group and I have confidence as a group we will be better this year than last year," Hastings said.

The Bulldog secondary will tough to play this upcoming year due to all the returning talent.

"(Connor) Lane came out and actually became a shutdown corner for us. He had about ten interceptions and returned several for touchdowns. Most people didn't realize it but we played Connor on the opposing team's sideline all year. It is a tougher job due to most teams throw the majority of the passes to their sideline. He did an excellent job all year for us. Junior Silas Frazier started at the other corner and did well. Silas was really good in run support and wasn't afraid to stick his head in there to make the tackle. Elijah (Roberts) will man the safety position for us

again and 'quarterback' the secondary. Sophomore Preuit Woods has shown some ability at safety and (Ben) Bridges, (Tanner) Morgan and sophomore Carson McCaleb will play as well," Hastings said.

The kicking game has the possibility of being a strength, for once, at Addison due to the strong legs of (Michael) Lee and (Connor) Lane. Hastings said, "(Michael) Lee can really boom some punts he just needs to work on his consistency. (Connor) Lane has a strong leg and did a good job for us last year. He, as well, just needs to be more consistent. Both positions can be a plus for us this year."

There were some coaching changes on staff this year as Hastings brought in Justin Cornelius from West Point to be the defensive coordinator. Hastings will handle the offensive coordinator job, Lee Williams will coach defensive backs and wide receivers, Lane Tubb will coach running backs, Toby Denson will handle the offensive line and Dusty Hayes will handle the defensive line.

The 2026 Addison Bulldogs will come into the season with something that they haven't had in many years, a reasonable and legitimate expectation to win it all. With all the returning starters and experience, the pressure is on for the 'Dawgs. Addison is one of five teams that are consistently mentioned for the 2026 title: Addison, Hubbertville, Red Bay, Maplesville and Leroy are the favorites, and I see no problem with that assessment. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, it should be a great year to be a fan of Addison football.

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FRIDAY NIGHT

LIGHTS



FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

8/21 - FV @ WP

8/28 - VM @ CS

9/11 - HP @ HV

9/18 - VM @ HP

10/9 - FV @ GH

STREAMING BEGINS AT

6:30 PM

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ADDISON BULLDOGS



BRIDGETT GILBREATH

TEAM ROSTER

Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Mark Hastings, Assistant Coach/Wide Receivers/Defensive Backs Lee Williams, Assistant Coach/Offensive Line Toby Denson, Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers Justin Cornelius, Assistant Coach/Running Backs/Linebackers Lane Tubb, Assistant Coach/Defensive Line Dusty Hayes

#1 Tanner Gaither
#2 Zane Smith
#3 Elijah Roberts
#5 Ben Bridges
#6 Joey Wilson
#7 Major Snoddy
#8 Silas Frazier
#10 Scout Flynn
#12 Connor Lane
#13 Preuitt Woods
#15 Nick Nail
#17 Zeke Wiggins
#18 Brylenn Robinson
#20 Tristan Shane Weeks
#21 Kash Turner

#22 Carson McCaleb
#23 Judah Wilkins
#24 Wyatt Anderson
#28 Tanner Morgan
#30 Skylar Cleghorn
#32 Brady Daniels
#34 Zion Wiggins
#36 Brandon Thomas
#43 Liam Spore
#44 Michael Lee
#45 Bryn Lake
#50 Aron Spering
#51 Masen Woodard
#54 Briley Denson
#55 Noah Daffron

#57 Knox Snoddy
#58 Noah Cleghorn
#60 Dalh Miller
#61 Caleb Gregory
#64 Noah Nail
#65 Noah Brenton
#66 Robert Gilmore
#68 Brantley Taylor
#70 Mason Roberson
#72 Kyeler Hill
#73 Kason Howse
#74 Joseph Frock
#76 Tucker Hayes
#78 Avyus Stewart

SCHEDULE

CLASS 1A, REGION 7

Aug. 21: at Winston County
Aug. 28: vs. Lynn
Sept. 4: at Waterloo*
Sept. 11: at Phillips*
Sept. 18: vs. Meek*
Sept. 25: vs. Oakman
Oct. 2: vs. Belgreen*
Oct. 9: at Cherokee*
Oct. 16: at Red Bay*
Oct. 23: vs. Hackleburg*
Oct. 30: BYE



*REGION GAME

VARSITY CHEER

Evelyn Nugent, Hadley Welch, Cannon Hyatt, Lexi Smith, LilliAnne Simmons and Emmy Bennett, Darby Lambert, Bhrenley Netherton, Danica Burnett, Jamie Johnson, Ava Sherer



BRIDGETT GILBREATH

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Garrett McCurley

Drum Major:
Kinsley Nuss

Percussion:
Aiden Sperling
Brooklyn
England
Shayden
Morgan
Layla Harris

Easton Huskey
Anakin Denson
Karson Berry
Nathan Jarrett
Dynasty Stahle

Trumpets:
Justin Byrams
Victoria Thomas
Averie Gillespie

Olivia Harelson
Ramie Melson
Harmony
Sprenger
Chloie Robinson

Saxophones:
Jesse Turner
Sawyer Crooks
Granger White

Kayleigh Nix
Mackenzie
Naler

Clarinets:
Ava Perry
Kylee Stewart
Kinley Moore
Ellie Hill
Lily Sifuentes

Tinsley Stinson

Flutes:
Piper Jacques
Ivey Carrillo
McKenzie Vance

Low Brass:
Levi Fincher
James

Kilpatrick
Skyler Nordyke
Grayson
Whitlock

Majorettes:
Celeste Rice
Breonna Denson
Addison Duncan
Jamie Johnson

Color Guard:
Olivia Robinson
Honestee
Overton
Emily Martin
Kylee Smothers
Kyleigh Baker
Kady Dozier



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Cold Springs EAGLES

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

6-4

OVERALL RECORD

4-1

HOME RECORD

2-3

ROAD RECORD

2-4

REGION RECORD

50-61

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

35.9

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

21.4

REGION FINISH

5th

IN REGION STANDINGS



Cold Springs heading into a challenging new region with a fresh quarterback and offensive line



By: Lucas Gray

Fueled by a 4-1 home record, the Cold Springs Eagles are coming off a 6-4 finish and close playoff miss in 2025. The offense under quarterback

Ayden Black was nothing short of spectacular, averaging just under 36 points per contest.

In 2026, head coach Brandon Voce will need to keep his offense hot, as the Eagles head into a challenging new region.

"It's gonna be a very competitive region. We got Gordo, who is just a powerhouse football team at whatever classification you put them in. I think they spent some time last year ranked number one in 3A. It's a tradition-rich program. Then, you've got a Locust Fork team that's been very solid the last few years," Voce said. He added, "So- it's gonna be a very tough region, but I think it's going to be a fun one, too."

After Black's graduation earlier this year, the Eagles have spent the summer trying to iron out who QBI will be on August 28 when Cold Springs opens their season at county-rival Vinemont.

As it stands, the battle for starting signal caller has come down to 6-foot senior Ethan Day and sophomore Brandon Chasteen.

On Day, Voce said, "He's an athlete- a true playmaker for us. He was on pace to have a phenomenal junior year for us at slot receiver, but he broke his ankle and ended up missing 3/4s of the season. He's played quarterback for us in the past, so we know he's capable."

The two will continue to rotate, with one taking snaps at quarterback and the other in the slot. Either quarterback will have a solid supporting cast, starting in the backfield with senior back Cason Alexander and Cooper Johnson, who Voce said is the team's, "power-back."

On the perimeter, Eli Voce had nearly 700 yards receiving last season and is complemented by towering senior tight end Breydon Hallmon,

who stands at 6-foot-7.

Making room for their skill players in Voce's "Gun-T" offense, the offensive line will see plenty of new faces this season. The lone returning starter is senior guard Bailey Gann, who has three full years of starting experience to his name already.

"Gann's a very good one to have lead this group of kids. But- even though we've got four new guys on the line, the four guys we have are very capable."

They're strong, very athletic- big kids. Most all of them would have started last year had it not been that we just had kids who had experience, so we're excited about what we've got."

The Eagles' defense was solid in 2025, giving up 21.4 points per game, but will look to further iron out inconsistencies this season.

Due to the nature of offenses at the 2A level, with very few teams utilizing a true spread offense, the Eagles' scheme is a hybrid of the 3-4 and 4-3.

Important to either, the defensive line is an area Cold Springs feels is a strength, with Voce saying the group has stood out since the spring game.

Many of the standouts on the defensive side of the ball are also offensive stars, with running back Cooper Johnson starting at middle linebacker alongside Brooks Black. Additionally, Hallmon is a key piece of the pass rush at defensive end.

Despite some turnover, the Eagles remain confident in their roster, especially after starting their fall camp in August.

"We went to four different seven-on-sevens over the summer and have been seeing a lot of improvement with our passing game and our maturity on the defensive side especially. So, so far I'd say summer has surpassed expectations."

SO, SO FAR I'D
SAY **SUMMER**
HAS **SURPASSED**
EXPECTATIONS."

COLD SPRINGS
HEAD COACH
BRANDON VOCE



COLD SPRINGS EAGLES



NIKKI AYERS

TEAM ROSTER

#1 Eli Voce	#12 Jordan Garmon	#58 Brooks Black
#2 Cooper Johnson	#18 Zaxton Tubbs	#62 Dru Prevatt
#4 Ethan Day	#23 Bryce Gates	#69 Micah Henricks
#5 Cason Alexander	#24 Tidus Light	#72 Tucker Freeman
#7 Blake Phillips	#33 Breydon Hallmon	#73 Eli Moore
#8 Brandon Chasteen	#50 Lathan Shuford	#79 Bailey Gann
#10 Jay Andrews	#52 Everett Bailey	
#11 Rylan Dockins	#54 Camden Kilgo	

SCHEDULE

CLASS 2A, REGION 5

Aug. 21: BYE
Aug. 28: vs. Vinemont
Sept. 4: at Locust Fork*
Sept. 11: vs. Lamar County*
Sept. 18: at Cleveland*
Sept. 25: at Holly Pond
Oct. 2: vs. Gordo*
Oct. 9: at Midfield*
Oct. 16: vs. Southeastern*
Oct. 23: at Carbon Hill*
Oct. 30: vs. Tanner



*REGION GAME

VARSITY CHEER

Front row, from left: Mady Gellness, Jansyn Philbeck, Layla Hammock and Kaylee Manderson. Middle row, from left: Leila Pearl, Ayla Kate Huff, Analyn Huff, Ava Cummings, Bailey Wilkerson, Kynleigh Cordes and Abree McClendon. Back row, from left: Addie Kilgo, mascot; Lydia Cole; Gabby Herron; Lainey Gerstman; Alana Smith; Jewel Barker; and Collins Johnson, manager.



NIKKI AYERS



NIKKI AYERS

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Zack O'Bryant

Drum major
Nataly Chaver Figueroa

Kilgore, Shelton Finley

Caylee Stone, Levi
Sherrell, Emmy Rivers

Baritone
Katelyn Stewart

Chambers, Kendall
Jones, Joslyn Bradley

Flute
Jazmine Bradley,
Hensley Handley, Zoe
Howell, Adyson Freeman

Alto
Chloe Howell, Alivia
Jones, Caroline Hunt

Melo
Addison Banks

Tuba
Bella Mauldin

Color guard
Kinsley Smith, Serenity
Henson, Aspyr
Tubbs, Evie Perdue

Clarinet
Alyvia Schaefer, Lillie

Tenor
Samantha Laurentius

Trombone
Nathanael Gilliland,
Keira Reynolds

Drumline
Zayton Tubbs, Bryant
Rivers, Jase Pitchford,
Will Campbell, Hayley

Trumpet

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Cullman BEARCATS

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

4-6

OVERALL RECORD

1-3

HOME RECORD

3-3

ROAD RECORD

2-4

REGION RECORD

58-51

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

21.2

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

22.9

REGION FINISH

5th

IN REGION STANDINGS



Cullman Bearcats looking to ride momentum from strong finish into 2026 season

By: Lucas Gray

In year one under Trent Walker, the Cullman Bearcats suffered from a slow start that eventually cost the team a playoff spot. The main takeaway from the season, however, was how they finished. In their last five games, the Bearcats went 4-1 and have carried that momentum into 2026.

"I think the way we finished fueled our offseason. Those guys, they believed in the process the whole time, you know. We're all human, and we all like to see results from our hard work and effort. So the stretch we had to finish the season I think just created more buy-in for our offseason. Our guys worked six month body of work, including summer. So, we're here, and we want to start faster than last year and we think we put ourselves in position to do that," Walker said.

Now in his second season leading the charge, Walker credited he and his team's relative youth to some of their early struggles. Returning for that young offense that averaged just under 22 points per game are all but one starter, which Walker called, "a really special feeling to have as a coach."

Headlining the Bearcats returners is senior running back Weston Keel, who looks to build off a stellar 2025 campaign where he rushed for over 1200 yards and eight touchdowns.

With Keel's return, the Bearcats plan to continue to employ a multiple-look offense similar to last season.

"We're gonna run the ball to set up everything. Obviously with the attack we had last year, bringing back four out of five offensive linemen and a 1,300 yard running back- the ground game will set up everything. We do believe our quarterbacks

and receivers are older and more mature this year, so when the defense is going to load the box, we're gonna try to be more vertical down the field and stretch them thinner. We're gonna be more explosive in the pass game, but still rely heavily on our run game," Walker said.

Coming back at quarterback is 6-1 junior Colt Colvard, who started last season. Starting last season isn't a guarantee for '26, however, with Walker saying, "Every year we reboot, every position is up for grabs, so all our guys are taking pretty much equal reps." Competing for QBI is also freshman multi-sport athlete Everett Swindall.

Whoever starts will have no shortage of playmakers on the perimeter. Receiver Nelson Hollingsworth returns, with Walker noting his high-end speed and ability to draw attention as a deep threat. Do-everything gadget player Kolby Holt will also be back in a variety of roles once again.

Adding to the receiving core out of the backfield will be the Bearcats' duo of 6-foot-3 H-Backs in Morgan Holley and Tucker Screws.

On the defensive side of the ball, the duo of Tucker Willingham and Caleb Hollis return to shut down opposing receivers in the secondary, but in front of them is one of the strongest position groups on the team at linebacker.

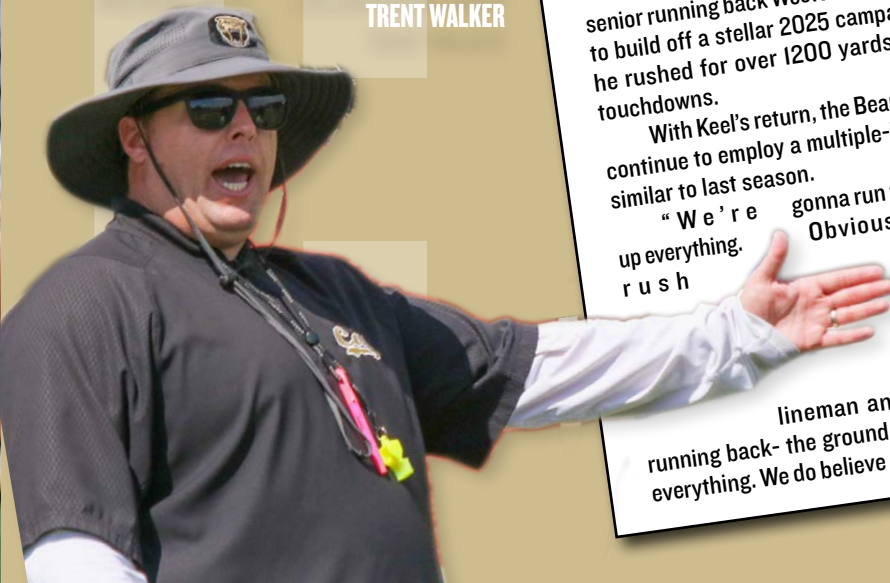
"The linebacker core's all returning. Cooper McSwain, Parker Berry's our MIKE linebacker and Magnus Mann. Plus, Braxton Brooks has really got it, he could play any of those positions for any other team right now, he's working himself into the mix," said Walker.

Unlike the linebackers and secondary, there's question marks on the defensive line for Cullman. Carson Stancil is back as a pass rusher, but the team is looking for the other bookend to emerge.

At outside linebacker, Walker noted »

WE WANT TO BUILD THE ENVIRONMENT AT OLIVER WOODARD STADIUM INTO SOMETHING THAT OTHER TEAMS FEAR WALKING INTO."

CULLMAN HEAD COACH
TRENT WALKER



one of the surprise players of camp, saying, "Mason Fuller- he couldn't really find his consistency last year, but has had a tremendous spring and summer. He's gonna be our outside linebacker. He's probably one of our most improved players on defense. It's exciting to have him as a senior stepping into that role for us."

Both Stancil and Fuller on the line will be essential to helping establish the identity Walker is trying to establish.

"We want to play a physical brand of football on defense, offense and special teams, with an aggressive mindset. We have to be disciplined, we believe that the best way to win a game is not to lose it first, so we've got to be a team that constantly is in the right assignments and right responsibilities and our eyes are in the right spot. We want to reflect the pride that exists in Cullman. We feel like we're stirring some of that pride in Cullman football with the way we're playing the game. We think if we put the right product and the right young

men on the field, our community will, in turn, buy into what we're doing and come to support us. We're looking to keep growing this as a community

program. We need the community to be a part of it. These guys appreciate when folks come and watch them on Friday nights and we want to build

the environment at Oliver Woodard stadium into something that other teams fear walking into," Walker said.



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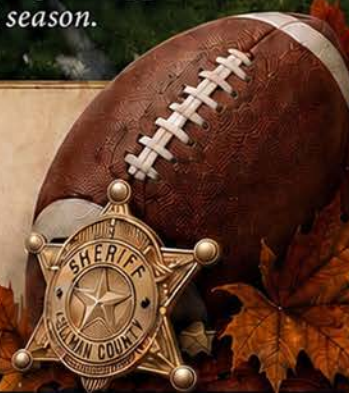
FOOTBALL FANATICS

2026

Wishing all our players, cheerleaders, band members, color guard members and everyone who makes Friday nights happen a safe and successful season.

As Sheriff-elect, I'm proud to support the students, athletes, coaches, families and school communities who make football season so special in Cullman County and our area. Safe schools and strong School Resource Officer partnerships help protect our students and strengthen our communities. Best wishes to every team for a safe, successful and memorable season.

“Supporting strong School Resource Officer partnerships and student safety all season long.”



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 COLD SPRINGS EAGLES	 VINEMONT EAGLES	 HOLLY POND BRONCOS

Good luck to all our teams.



Best wishes,
Chad Whaley
Sheriff-elect, Cullman County
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CULLMAN BEARCATS



TIMEPIECE PHOTOGRAPHY

TEAM ROSTER

#0 Kolby Holt
#1 Tucker Willingham
#2 Weston Keel
#3 Cooper McSwain
#4 Landon Pitts
#5 Caleb Hollis
#6 Tucker Screws
#7 Grayson Gay
#8 Colt Colvard
#9 Nelson Hollingsworth
#11 Parker Berry
#12 Wynn Shannon
#15 Morgan Holley
#16 Mason Fuller
#17 Max Miller
#18 Nash Nobinger
#19 Boone Howse
#20 Noah Phillips

#21 Magnus Mann
#22 Brayden Branch
#23 Cade Brauer
#25 Lawson Schulte
#26 River Smith
#27 Clay Frodge
#28 Brayden Cooper
#31 Tyde Willingham
#32 Parker Smith
#33 Braxton Brooks
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#42 Landry Black
#44 Carson Stancil
#45 Hank Helms
#47 Hunter Kinney
#52 Tristen Williams
#57 Tatum Mortenson

#59 Collin Kent
#60 Jessie Smith
#66 Rivers Burgess
#68 Landon Hall
#71 Carter Robertson
#72 Easton Swafford
#75 Whitt Waters
#76 Marshall Allums
#77 Wyatt Tielking
#78 Konnor Gentry
#80 Colton Hankey
#81 Sam Ellerbee
#83 Kipton Grobe
#84 Landon Moss
#88 Mac Britt
#90 Ismael Esteban
#94 Layne Hamilton
#99 Kwency Remy

SCHEDULE

CLASS 5A, REGION 5

Aug. 21: at Boaz
Aug. 28: vs. Hartselle
Sept. 4: vs. Minor*
Sept. 11: vs. Mortimer Jordan*
Sept. 18: at Huffman*
Sept. 25: BYE
Oct. 1, Thursday: at Jasper*
Oct. 8, Thursday: at Gardendale*
Oct. 16: vs. Parker*
Oct. 23: at Jackson-Olin*
Oct. 29, Thursday: at West Morgan



*REGION GAME

VARSITY CHEER

Seniors, from left: Ava Brewer; Emmaline Richter, co-captain; Camden Grobe, captain; and Cailey Cammack. **Juniors, from left:** Bentlie Bullard, Gracie Foxx, Brittlee Hopper, Marlie McAlpin, Aynsley Pylant, Aaliyah Taylor, Dinah Langley, Brindley Cooper and Brooklyn Cooper. **Sophomores, from left:** Adalynn Joiner, Maci Smith, Emma-Karagan Tokar, Ella Flanigan and Josie Miller.



TIMEPIECE TREASURES





TIMEPIECE PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Christopher Smith

Drum Major:

Rigo Simon

Flute:

Vesta Howe
Ada Campbell
Alana Stewart
Lena Impastato
Ayda Hickman
Liany Verntura

Clarinet:

Trent Brown
Callie Randall
Tessa Trucks
Alan Solis
Clara Hankey
Mackenzie Williams
Nancy Flores
Andrea Mena
Kaylen Nguyen
Sophia Conn
Alissa Donaldson
Arianna Lumley
Alice Brown
Miles Heatherly

Alto Sax:

Anthony Mena
Dallys Jarrett
Layla Scott
Emma Leigh
Sandlin
Jaiden Anderson
Chloie Lee
Faith Bennett

Tenor Sax:

Sadie Chalkley
Joel Sheffield
Caleb Baker
Isaiah Crosswhite
Elliot Heatherly

Mellophone:

Grayson Smith
Layla Allcorn
Audrey Britton
Harper Welch

Trumpet:

Kaelyn Williams
Lex Payne

Aidan Norris
Brayden Cain
Ryan Blankenship
Aiden Heptinstall
Zoey Briscoe
Quintin Martin
Kinsley Matson
Jacey Moore
Dante Fuentes
Brendan Vincemt

Trombone:

Treasure Corley
Maddie Mickle
Gabby Sartin
Drew Bates
Alyddia San Miguel
Cason Kretzschmar
J.J. Lawrence
Nick Miller
Trajan Norrell
Jack Phillips
Karissa Alexander
Braylen Rodriguez
Alayna Carroll
Tara Moon

Ryley Rogers
Oliver Parson

Baritone:

Lola Phillips

Tuba:

Lexi Chadwick
Will Akins
Ryder Tucker

Snares:

Brodie Lee
Joshua Jackson
Jackson Cupp
Jonathan Roberson

Tenors:

Jaleigh Busby
Jacob Yu
Hayes Nicholas

Bass Drum:

Nova-Leigh Good
Arrow Berry
Kevin Perez

Connor Self
Zander Goeller

Front Ensemble:

Cash Woods
Brayden Hankey
Henry Jennings
Zarybeth Flores
Thomas Jennings
Will Chapin
Hayden Hudson
Lukas Howlett
Brian Calloway

Color Guard:

Jordan Smith
Abril Martinez
Harper Branham
Presley Latham
Aaliyah Brown
Macy Christenberry
Elliana Belcher
Kelsyn Earl
Reagan Blackwood
Carrigan Sims
Natalie Cupp

Olivia McKinney
River Nelson
Katie Ruehl
Lily Sparks
Madi Sanchez
Emma Potter
Sofia Rodriguez
Gloria Leon
Zoey Beckwith
Katelyn Jowers

Majorettes:

Lily Shadeck
Hallie Page
Emilee Lee

Band Manager:

Ella Odle
Jett Roberts

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Fairview AGGIES

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

12-1

OVERALL RECORD

5-0

HOME RECORD

5-0

ROAD RECORD

6-0

REGION RECORD

66-80

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

33.9

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

13.7

REGION FINISH

1st

IN REGION STANDINGS



New-look Fairview Aggies enter 2026 season with the same winning standard and expectations



By: Lucas Gray

entirely new coaching staff and offensive backfield, this is still the same Fairview.

"Our goal has not changed, our standards have not changed and our passion has not changed. That's what I've told the team, I say 'why would you change something that's worked for 19 years?' Coach Redding and I did it together for so long, so we agreed that those key things are what we need to be good at and have in order to succeed. The only thing that's changed is who's printing off the schedule," Simmons said »

Turnover was the theme of the offseason for the Fairview Aggies, who, prior to the retirement of legendary head coach George Redding, went 12-1 with a run to 5A State Playoff quarterfinals.

Along with Redding, the Aggies lost superstar running back Jake Harper, quarterback Kolt Redding and wide receiver Zayden Cruce to graduation.

After 19 years as defensive coordinator, though, Brian Simmons has stepped into the head role, and looks to prove that, despite an almost



OUR **GOAL** HAS
NOT CHANGED,
OUR **STANDARDS**
HAVE NOT
CHANGED AND
OUR **PASSION**
HAS **NOT**
CHANGED.



FAIRVIEW HEAD COACH
BRIAN SIMMONS

earlier in the offseason.

The summer's been up-and-down for the Aggies, but in recent weeks those starting roles left behind by last season's 14 seniors have started to fill up. Replacing Kolt Redding at signal caller is Conner Scott, who started at wide receiver for the Aggies last season.

"He's doing a great job just taking command of the offense. He knows it well. He was a backup quarterback years prior, and a starting receiver, so he knows the offense well. He's just a natural leader, too, and a very good athlete," Simmons said on his new quarterback.

Helping Scott settle in is the fact that Fairview's offense will remain run-heavy. Filling the void that Harper and his 2100-plus yard 2025 season left, the Aggies have a duo of running backs they feel will both step up.

Describing sophomore running back Easton Fitch, Simmons said "This guy, man, he's got explosive speed and great vision." Also taking reps will be senior Ernesto Vazquez, whose speed and vision both have stuck out to the staff as well.

Clearing the way for the duo, Sebastian Garcia, Evan Smith and Braxton Kilpatrick return on the interior offensive line, but both tackle spots are still being worked out.

Garcia, the team's starting center, has not only continued to anchor the offensive line, but has also emerged as one of

the surprises of the offseason for the defensive staff.

"Last year, was a backup MIKE linebacker. Turns out, he's a really good defensive end- so he's moving. He may honestly be one of our starting ends this year. He's very quick off the ball, has good strength, very good football IQ- so that's kind of been a surprise for us, and definitely a good kind of surprise," Simmons said.

Along with the offensive scheme, the defense will remain the same after Simmons' bump to head coach. The Aggies' 3-3 stack scheme will stay in place, but

with an influx of speed on the defense, they'll feature some new blitz looks.

Both sides of the ball will be tested, and early, as the Aggies will move into the reformed Class 4A, Region 8 alongside Good Hope, Hayden, Guntersville and Scottsboro (who knocked them out of the playoffs last year), among others.

"This region is just loaded. I believe there's five teams in there who have hosted playoff games the last two years, and there's only going to be four spots open. So, one team that's been hosting for

two years is going to miss playoffs altogether- that tells you where this region's at. For us, we only have nine games because we never found a 10th, so eight of those nine are going to be region games. West Point will be the only non-region game, and that's the first. So from there, the rest of the year, you're playing games that are determining the playoff spots. But, we're also one of those five I mentioned that have hosted a playoff game, so we're just going to keep filling in these spots and keep rolling," Simmons said.



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FAIRVIEW AGGIES



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

TEAM ROSTER

#1 Ernesto Vazquez
#2 Collin Nelson
#3 Eli Gaines
#4 Easton Fitch
#5 Conner Scott
#6 Cayden Casey
#7 Konnor Dunkin
#8 Walker Gentry
#9 Rowan Ibrahim
#10 Omar Cruz
#11 Easton Batz
#12 Timber Reese
#15 Colt Dean
#17 Weston Tankersley
#20 John Short

#21 Ashton Knop
#23 Fisher Gaines
#24 Hagen Reese
#25 Kyle Knop
#26 James Short
#28 Ayden Batz
#33 Silas Morris
#34 Jacob Fales
#40 Drake Bosley
#42 Alex Garcia
#51 Lane Waldrop
#52 Patrick Nathaniel
#53 Carter Nicholas
#54 Travis Benson
#55 Joseph Harbison

#58 Aiden Smith
#59 Evan Smith
#60 Carson McCurdy
#62 Braxton Kilpatrick
#64 Jaxon Latham
#66 Sebastian Garcia
#68 Jackson Skaggs
#72 Conner O'Leary
#74 Donovan Hernandez
#77 Eian Hix
#80 Kaden Glascock
#88 Reece Garner
#88 Bennett Stanton

SCHEDULE

CLASS 4A, REGION 8

Aug. 21: at West Point
Aug. 28: vs. Hayden*
Sept. 4: at Scottsboro*
Sept. 11: vs. Guntersville*
Sept. 18: at Sardis*
Sept. 25: BYE
Oct. 2: vs. A.P. Brewer*
Oct. 9: at Good Hope*
Oct. 16: vs. Crossville*
Oct. 23: BYE
Oct. 30: at Cherokee County*



*REGION GAME
NOTE: FAIRVIEW'S OFFICIAL SCHEDULE
LISTS NINE GAMES AND TWO OPEN WEEKS





TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Nathan Kilgo | Assistant Directors: Kristy Harris and Sarah Ryan

Show Title: Teen Spirit | Song Selections: "Baba O'Riley", "Smells Like Teen Spirit", "Mr. Brightside", "Good Riddance", and "Brain Stew"

Percussion Instructor

Caleb Garrison

Drum Major

Tucker Kimbrough

Assistant Drum Major/

Band President

Desi Pruett

Percussion Captain

Jaxon Lopez

Color Guard Captain

Cloie Watwood

Color Guard Assistant Captains

Karli Trivette and Alyssa Casey

Alto Saxophone

Melanie DeLeon
Isabella Garcia
Ivan Gomez
Abel Gomez
John Gwathney
Grayson Hale
Jacquelyn Mendoza-Gonzalez
Ezra Pace

Baritone

Braiden Ryan
Katie Wells

Clarinet

Giselle DeLeon

Alexis Gorff

Addison Heaton

Molly Jenkins

Desi Pruett

Carma Purser

Eli Rodriguez

Katelyn Swartz

McKenzie Williams

Color Guard

Alyssa Casey
Gabriella Dhondt
Katelynn Ehlman
Harper Fairbanks
Addie Gardner
Dixie Gentry
Misty Gibbons
Aurora Griffin
Alexis James
Maddilynn McKenzie
Isabella Paulino
Adysen Rutherford
Shelby Sims
Hannah Tate
Karli Trivette
Cloie Watwood

Flute

Grayson Butler
Ollie Chamblee
Emory Dollar
Axel Hidrogo
Eleanor Howe
Rosallynn McDearmond
Evolett Rodriguez

Majorette

Cora-Lee Ashley

Emily Rogers

Emma Grace Tapscott

Jesslyn Wyatt

Mellophone

Jamie Ehlman

Percussion

Otto Bachelor
Samarah Bolzle
Sarah Burkhalter
Conner Campbell
Eli Crump
Allie Davis
Kimberleigh Huckabee
Bradin Lancaster
Daxton Lane
Jaxon Lopez
Jackson Marlowe
Joselyn Mendoza-Gonzalez
Aiden Rutherford
Colton Silguero
Nevaeh Tarvin
Hunter Tate
Alli Taylor

Sousaphone

Terry Hunkeapillar
Gage Newman
Colton Jones

Trombone

Brayden Alexander

Camila Arteaga

Audrey Grycza

Landon Jordan

Aiden Lynn

Justin Martinez-Nelson

Issac Perkins

Trumpet

Zaylie Guthrie

Olivia Hackney

Joesph Keck

Kade Lackey

Gale Meherg

Mordekai Mullet

Jace Ogle

Thomas Ramey

Stephanie Rodriguez

Emily Sanchez

Myla Schneider

Adeline Vaughn

Anthony Wells

Levi Winchester

VARSITY CHEER

Adalee Marsh, Adria Allen, Annabella Dye, Ashlyn Vick, Brinlee Day, Cadence Daniel, Dianna Peralta, Emma Henry, Emmalynn Hood, Janie Claire Pace, Lexi Carr, McKenna Anderson, Molly Lindsey, Rachel Simmons, Ragean Jones and Savanna Calvert.



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Good Hope RAIDERS

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

10-3

OVERALL RECORD

5-0

HOME RECORD

3-2

ROAD RECORD

6-1

REGION RECORD

89-60

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

31.6

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

12.3

REGION FINISH

2nd

IN REGION STANDINGS



Good Hope eyeing playoff return behind a strong veteran group



By: Lucas Gray

The Good Hope Raiders, led by head coach Alan Scott, rode a scorching hot offense to an 8-2 record and a playoff appearance in 2025.

With wins over Cherokee County and West Morgan, the Raiders made it all the way to the third round of the state playoffs, where they eventually fell to Plainview, 21-7.

While they'll open their 2026 campaign with a shot at revenge over the Bears on August 21, the Raiders are mentally leaving their incredible '25 season behind and starting fresh.

"Every individual team has to just kind of take their own identity. Obviously, every team wants to leave a legacy so these guys, especially these seniors that have been in the program for four years- they want to have success," Scott said. He added, "I've liked our attitude this summer. We had really good attendance. The kids have worked hard. I think the standard's been set from the teams before and about what it takes to be successful."

Returning to lead an offense that scored over 31 points per game last season is senior quarterback Parker Johnson. In 2025, Johnson passed for just under 1500 yards and added over 1100 on the ground with a total 26 touchdowns accounted for.

The 5-9 signal caller leads an offense that Scott said he "hates to put a word on," to describe it, instead saying the priority is to find ways to get their best players the ball.

The Raiders mostly do that by running the football, and utilize power and counter rush attacks in a variety of formations. Leading the backs will be returning senior Karson Hollis, who will be complemented by senior Kayden Collins and junior Ryker Hancock.

Returning on the offensive line are three starters in senior Isaiah Owens, junior Eli Drake and sophomore Hank Johns. On the line as a whole, Scott said, "We've got a

lot of a lot of pieces of the puzzle back, so hopefully they can get the other guys to rally around them and make some plays."

On the other side of the ball, the defensive line projects to be a strength for the Raiders, with 6-3 defensive end Ross Clark, an ASWA 4A honorable mention last season, returning to wreak havoc on quarterbacks once again.

Collins, who plays linebacker in addition to running back, will be in the middle of what's been one of the strongest defenses in the state as of late.

They'll look to stay hot in a new region that includes 2025 5A playoff teams in Scottsboro, Fairview and Guntersville. Additionally, they've also ended up in the same region as Cherokee County, who they knocked off in last season's playoffs.

"I think it's a very, very difficult region," Scott said. He added, "We just always want to play as hard as we can. We want our kids to be disciplined and give great effort. I know that's coach speak, but it's really who we pride ourselves on being. If these guys will go out there and put themselves in a good position- you can never predict wins and losses- but if it's good enough by the end of the night, then we hope we get the W."



**I THINK THE
STANDARD'S BEEN
SET FROM THE
TEAMS BEFORE
AND ABOUT WHAT
IT TAKES TO BE
SUCCESSFUL."**

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Left to right: Kelly Duke, place 3 - Kerry Watson, place 1 - Jeff Clemons, Chairman - Corey Freeman, place 4 - Garry Marchman, place 2



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GOOD HOPE RAIDERS



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

TEAM ROSTER

#0 Jonathan Pitts	#18 Trip Hudson
#1 Kade Smith	#19 Ross Clark
#2 Christian Elliott	#20 Jaxson Richter
#3 Mason McDonald	#21 Karson Hollis
#4 Ayden Young	#22 Kayden Collins
#6 Cullen Phillips	#23 Colt Green
#7 Parker Johnson	#24 Apollo Hutchinson
#8 Ryker Hancock	#25 Jonathan Williams
#9 Aiden Fite	#26 Kamden Collins
#10 Canaan Burgess	#27 Hunter Miller
#11 Web Buchanan	#30 Chance Brock
#12 Caleb Boles	#32 Lee Dickerson
#13 Tristan Denson	#33 Mason Wright
#14 Chase Boles	#36 Breyelee Woodard
#15 Caden McDonald	#43 Jackson Bates
#16 Bryce Armstrong	#50 Titus Montgomery
#17 Caleb Raper	#51 Alex Lay

#52 Jaxton Jones
#53 Hank Johns
#54 Jayden McHan
#55 Zayden Clopton
#56 Aiden McGill
#58 Tatum Wilson
#59 Gage Shedd
#60 Isaiah Owen
#63 Wesley Schwaiger
#65 Eli Drake
#70 Grant Gibbs
#72 Bryson Wilson
#75 Triston McMullen
#76 Carter Cordes
#79 Elijah Mize
#80 Sam Dingler
#98 Chase Prewett

SCHEDULE

CLASS 4A, REGION 8

Aug. 21: vs. Plainview
Aug. 28: at A.P. Brewer*
Sept. 4: vs. Guntersville*
Sept. 11: BYE
Sept. 18: at Crossville*
Sept. 25: at West Point
Oct. 2: vs. Sardis*
Oct. 9: vs. Fairview*
Oct. 16: at Cherokee County*
Oct. 23: vs. Hayden*
Oct. 30: at Scottsboro*



*REGION GAME



MARCHING BAND

Band Director:
Jeremy McFall

Tuba

Briton Bibiano
Parker Jett
Sofia Moore
Miles Wood

Trumpet

Axel Cortes
Johanna Denson
Ariyah Hall
Noah Martin
Aeden McFatridge
Jacob Willingham

Trombone

Thomas Flamen
Jessica Ransum
Kevin McFatridge
Yaretzi Parra
Xander Williams

Tenor sax

Ella Lee

Percussion

Briana Bibiano
Xander Fowler
Greyson Gamble
Kaley Hartwig
Naomi Hennessey
Logan Howse
Ethan Lee
Jose Lopez
Maddie McDonald



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Reina Rodriguez
Caylian Sellers
Aiden Thompson
Fuller Williams
Xander Williams

Mellophone
Cameron Brooks
Bryant Shelton

Majorette
Mary Grace Dickey

Flute
Elyssa Brand

Allison Day
Adrian Greenlee
Karly Lynn

Dance line
Haley Ballard
Olivia Clemons
Mia Contreras
Lena Elliott
Mackenzie Fuson
Christin Mathis
Emma White

Color guard
Kassidy Aycock

Audrina Bagwell
Lexi Briscoe
Kelsi Denny
Olivia Grund
Hailey Roat
Erika Rodriguez
Tori Williamson

Clarinet
Angie Covarrubias
Adriana Garner
Anna Housler
Braxton Isbell
Alianna Overton
Rayanna Rusk

Baritone sax
Leatha Roat

Baritone
Jahzlin Martinez
Xander Williams

Alto sax
Zoey Canady
Aliyah Hallmark
Kaselyn Patrum
Michele Puebla

VARSITY CHEER

Back row, from left: Lakyn Burgess, Paizlee Armstrong, Delaney Robinson, Paislee Seckfort, Kaylynn Guthery, Anna Gossett, Layla Franks, Mary Alysa Lambert and Hayden Kilpatrick. Front row, from left: Madie Green, Aubrey Gable, Makayla Leusby, Sammie Johns, Cahaba Falls, Kinsley Wright, Brylee Benefield, Emma Loggins, Ariyah Adcock and Kloe White.



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

JUNIOR VARSITY CHEER

Back row, from left: Jewell Doran, Donica Rodriguez and Campbell Drake. Middle row, from left: Abigail Anderson, Khloe Moore, Zoie Patrum, Maya Caudle and Veronica Horvath. Front row: Rylee Bates.



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Hanceville BULLDOGS

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

0-10

OVERALL RECORD

0-5

HOME RECORD

0-5

ROAD RECORD

0-7

REGION RECORD

58-48

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

23.7

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

66.3

REGION FINISH

8th

IN REGION STANDINGS



After late coaching change, Sellers' Hanceville Bulldogs finding confidence in revamped defense

By: Lucas Gray

Following a 0-10 season for the Bulldogs, changes were made in Hanceville, just not when anyone expected. Less than six weeks from the start of the 2026 season, former head coach Levi Estes stepped down from his position, and former offensive play caller Cody Sellers was given the reins.

It would be easy for any program, especially coming off the season the Bulldogs had, to spiral after such a late change. Instead, there's a new buzz in the air in Hanceville.

"Oh, it's been a surprise, but exciting. I was definitely shocked when it all went down, but very excited and very blessed with a great group of kids. I couldn't ask to work with a better group of young men. The attitude and the efforts have been tremendous. We've even got more turnout than we had originally, and you can just kind of feel a little hope and excitement in the air, and that's really kind of powering us through," Sellers said.

The first-time head coach will shoulder the weight of calling both the offensive and defensive plays. Despite most recently being the offensive coordinator for the 'Dawgs, Sellers has prior experience as a DC, learning under Matt Geohagan at Bibb County, who he called "one of the greatest defensive guys in the state of Alabama."

The 2025 Hanceville defense struggled, to say the least, giving up 66.3 points per contest. Over the summer, that glaring area of concern has become a bright spot for the Bulldogs, with Sellers saying the defense is, "One of the things I'm most excited about so far."

Sparking that excitement is the return of middle linebacker (and quarterback) Jackson Sellers, who tore his ACL prior to the '25 season. He and Nick Davis will patrol the middle of the field behind an even defensive front in their scheme.

"I'm very excited about our secondary as well, where you got Leusby and Xavier Malcolm on the same side of the field. It just gives you, as a coach, so much confidence. The back side, you have Irvin Lucedo, you have Ezra Pruitt and you have Brayden Rogers," Sellers said. He added, "We'll struggle with depth this year, but one of the places that we don't struggle with depth as much is going to be on that defensive back end. As coach right now if you asked me 'what part of this football team are you most confident in?', it's the back half of our defense."

Up front, the defensive and offensive lines will have faces and questions in common. After starting four freshmen on the lines last year at times, those same players have come back with new strength, experience and wisdom.

"If you watched last year, you're going gonna think, 'wow, where did these lines come from?' It's going to be the same kids, they're just older, they're wiser. They're not thrown into the mix so

much. They had to step up and play some real quality 3A ball as freshmen, and even though we took our lumps with them last year, you can just see the confidence and comfort in them this year," Sellers said.

Who exactly the offensive line will be protecting at quarterback is unclear for the Bulldogs, with the position battle still underway. The first option, senior Jackson Sellers, was described as "your more traditional quarterback," with a big body and arm, and a power-running style. The other is senior Xavier Malcolm, listed at 5-7. The size may not be traditional for the position, but the decision making, speed and change of direction certainly are. Both play a different style of football, which Sellers said could give the team an advantage, holding a positional "1-2 changeup."

Adaptability is a theme of the Bulldogs' offense, with Sellers saying the team will use multiple looks after building the playbook around his players' strengths.

"I'm one of those, 'take what you got' coaches. First you have to look at your personnel, then we devise our scheme around the strengths of our players. I believe a coach's number one job is to put a player in a position to succeed. There's an old saying, you know, 'you can't do it for him' and I understand that, I believe that, but you shouldn't consistently ask a kid to do something that is not in his wheelhouse. So we are very multiple on offense. We like to do a lot of different looks, a lot of different formations, a lot of different motions. We may line up five-wide empty, we may line up in two tight i-formation. We will mix it up from time to time, but we won't have something the kids don't feel comfortable in, because comfort's going to equal confidence and confidence usually equals results," Sellers said.

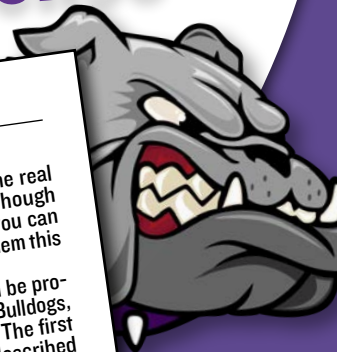
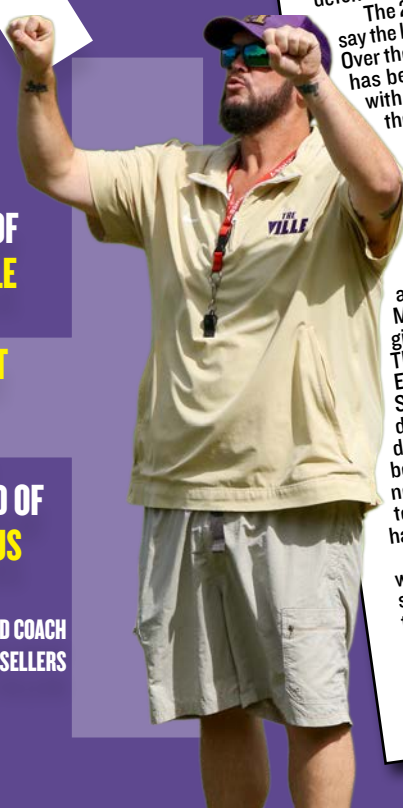
Leading the group of offensive playmakers is 6-foot sophomore receiver Ezra Pruitt, who's complemented by Nick Davis and A.J. Carnathan, who Sellers described as, "one of the most vocal leaders on the team."

In the backfield is one of the largest surprises of camp thus far according to Sellers, running back Irvin Macedo, who will share reps with Leusby. Powered by their momentum from offense will need to keep their momentum from '25 after landing in a new region with former 4A teams like Oneonta, Etowah and Susan Moore.

On the shaken up region, Sellers said, "I think it's going to be tough every single week, especially in our position. There's no off week. There's no, 'okay, we kind of let our guard down a little bit and breathe.' No, I mean, every week's going to be a dog fight, but I am excited. I am excited about the newness of the region. I am excited to travel in the region, we won't have to go as far as other times. So, you know, the Lord, don't make mistakes and everything just lines up the way it's supposed to."

YOU CANW
JUST KIND OF
FEEL A LITTLE
HOPE AND
EXCITEMENT
IN THE AIR,
AND THAT'S
REALLY KIND OF
POWERING US
THROUGH."

HANCEVILLE HEAD COACH
CODY SELLERS



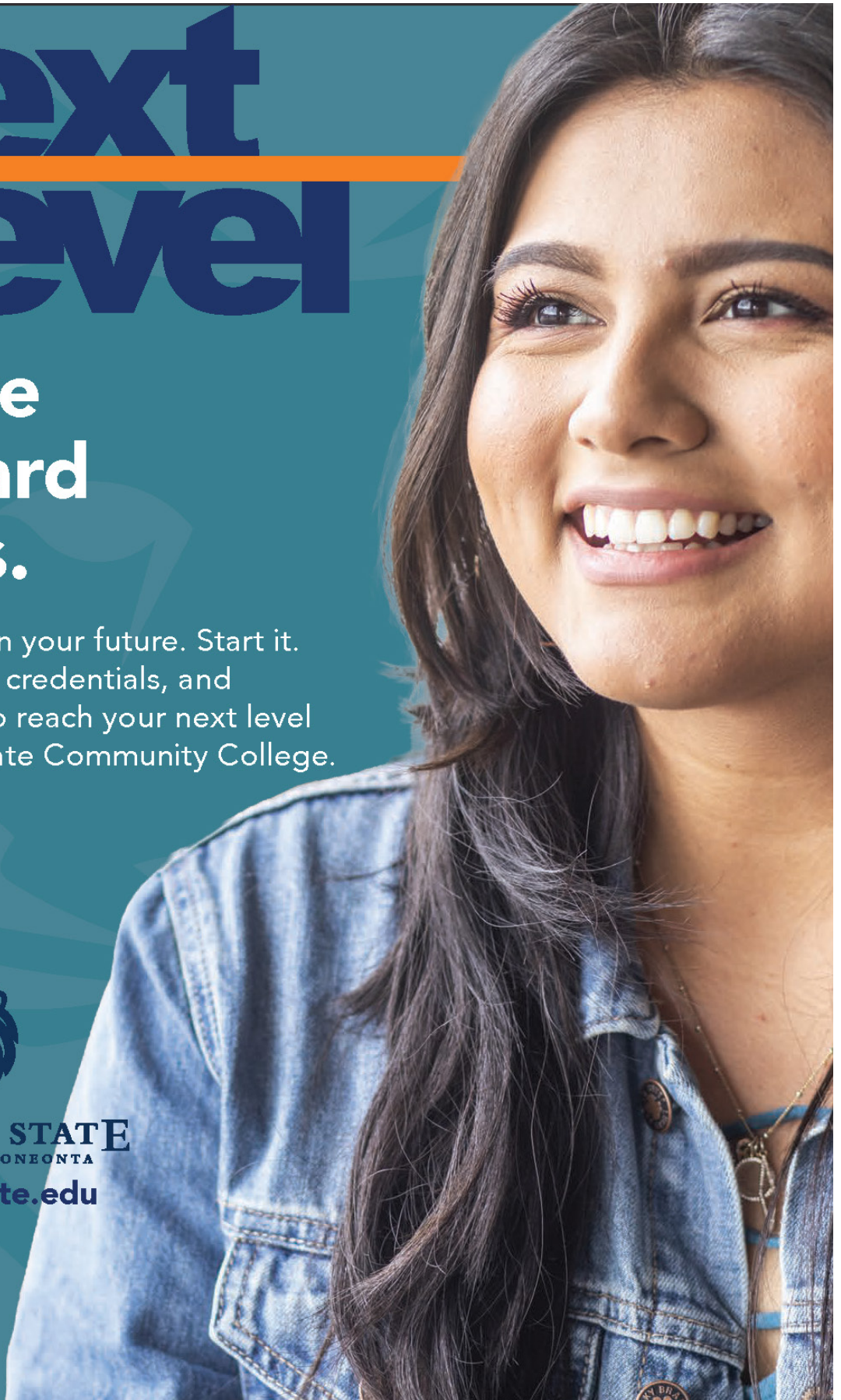
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HANCEVILLE BULLDOGS



PURE GAME PHOTOGRAPHY

TEAM ROSTER

#1 Jackson Sellers
#2 Javus Leusby
#3 Irvin Macedo
#4 Nick Davis
#5 Xavier Malcom
#6 Rhett Barnett
#8 Carson Moore
#10 Griffin Quick
#12 Mason Smith
#13 Ezra Pruitt

#14 A.J. Carnathan
#15 Cayden Langley
#17 Braden Rogers
#21 Dylan Moore
#27 Rylee Woods
#30 Justin Geitz
#44 Jax Diffy
#50 Joseph Casias
#52 Franklin Bailey
#54 Gavin Bice

#55 Henry Malagon
#56 Jaxon Smith
#58 Landry Core
#60 Victor Lucas
#63 Eduardo Garcia
#64 Michael McElwee
#72 Isiah Mariano
#75 Keith Smith

SCHEDULE

CLASS 3A, REGION 6

Aug. 21: vs. Carbon Hill
Aug. 28: at Tanner
Sept. 4: at Vinemont*
Sept. 11: vs. Holly Pond*
Sept. 18: at Glencoe*
Sept. 25: BYE
Oct. 2: vs. Susan Moore*
Oct. 9: at Etowah*
Oct. 16: vs. Hokes Bluff*
Oct. 23: vs. Oneonta*
Oct. 30: at Elkmont



*REGION GAME

VARSITY CHEER

Front row, from left:

Samantha Edwards, Sophie Flanigan, Millie Brown, Keely Wood and Mia McGriff.

Middle, kneeling, from

left: Crimson Hurter, Peyton Lambert, Ava Ward and Harloe Johnson

Standing, from left:

Kabri Wilson, Amiyah Chisem and Ava Whatley.



PURE GAME PHOTOGRAPHY



PURE GAME PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Jesse James

Flutes

Jacoby Williams
Abigail Bates
Makinlee Hurter
Breanna Drago
Chloe Mathis
Emma Able
Zakary Rogers
Elizabeth Brooks
Maydelis Bautista

Clarinets

Riley Williams
Brooklyn Barton
Madison Purdy
Sienna Joslyn
Kylie Chandler
Rosalee Campbell
Harley Troxell
Avery Lee
Hayleigh Wilson

Alto Sax

Charlotte Little
Alex Arledge
Belinda Rodriguez
Paul Romero
Josie Mann

Tenor Sax

Levi Little
Tucker Stephens

Baritone Sax

Kayleigh Jones

Trumpets

Alex Rodriguez
Celeste Hamby
Brooklyn Sharp
Jason Franks
Dalton Howard
Kenzie Gallagher

Dylan Meyers
Amery Brasher
Icker Martinez
Mason Baker
Mellophones:
Adon Graves
Tyler Nash
Jayden Slatton

Trombones

Logan Johnson
Shane Phillips
Dylan Pugh
Mia Johnson
Baritones:
David Able
Rehana Sutton
Konner Stephens
J.J. Hunter

Tubas

Malachi Stisher
Josh Butler
Joseph Joslyn
Brody Watson

Front Ensemble

Ayden Grant
Aaron Bales
Jissell Amador
Anthony Phillpot
Ed'Davion Clayton
Donovan Reid

Battery

Stephen Briscoe
Jase Gray
Evan Murphy
George Lara
Eli Burney
Tristan Curley
Isaiah Sharp
Max Johnson

Bentley Richards

Color Guard

Aspen Henderson
Laikyn Rodehaver

Madison Pigg
Brooklyn Phillips
Maranda Davis
Scarlett Joslyn
Sadie McCowan

Majorettes

Callie Aker
Zadey Brown
Adalynn Sharp
Blakeney Wright

Drum Major

Jonathan Tarvin

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Holly Pond BRONCOS

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

5-5

OVERALL RECORD

3-2

HOME RECORD

2-3

ROAD RECORD

3-4

REGION RECORD

50-58

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

30.6

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

25.0

REGION FINISH

6th

IN REGION STANDINGS



Holly Pond hopeful that fresh faces in key offensive spots will lead them to the postseason in 2026



By: Lucas Gray

Photos: Mike Witcher

In Will McDaniel's third season at the helm, the Holly Pond Broncos are looking to take another step forward, get over the hump and into the playoffs.

While the season ended 5-5, Holly Pond's offense was explosive with Boston Gibbs at signal caller in '25, averaging over 30 points per game.

This season, the Broncos will need major contributions from fresh faces, after the departure of Gibbs, tight end Cade Albright and tackle Braden Ivey, all of whom are now playing at the collegiate level.

Taking over the offense this season will be Grayson Baggett, a freshman who started the last two seasons for the junior high Broncos. Baggett slots in with three total years of learning Holly Pond's Wing-T playbook, which they run at all levels.

That playbook was altered last season following a late injury that forced Gibbs into the starting role, giving the offense more looks in shotgun. This season, with Baggett taking over, Broncos head coach Will McDaniel said they'll return to their preferred approach.

"The Wing was still in everything we did play call-wise and blocking scheme-wise, we just altered the formation a little. We got in the shotgun, but it was still very much our offense. We're back under center this year, which is where, ideally, we think there's more variety within our scheme," McDaniel said. On Baggett's emergence, he added, "He's got a bright future. He's grown a lot in the last year or so and he's handled adversity really well."

Helping break in a new QB is a backfield with a variety of experience. Senior halfback Miguel Garcia will return and will be complemented by fullback Hunter Tolbert, who was

originally slated to start at quarterback last season.

Vital to the Wing-T offense, the starting tight end spot was left open with Albright's departure. Returning to the position this year and grabbing that spot is Braxton Rice.

"He's gained a lot of weight in muscle. We feel really good about the things he can do, especially in the passing game. He's a very willing and violent blocker, and played mostly defense last year and will continue to play both ways this year," McDaniel said.

Clearing the way for the backs, the Broncos' offensive line is in good shape despite the departure of Ivey, who's now at Morehead State University. Returning from an injury last season, though, Holly Pond has yet another college prospect at its disposal with tackle Braxton Yarbrough.

On the situation around Yarbrough, McDaniel said, "We'll start two ninth graders on the line who both started the last three or four games last year and really held their own, that's Travis Horton and Zander McAbee. Jack Sims converted to an offensive lineman as the season went on, too and we saw some good things from him. Connor Mallon, who played center for us last year, he's probably going to kick out to a guard position. So we've got four guys with a lot of experience."

As much as the Broncos want to run the ball on offense, they want to stop other teams from doing the same. They'll employ an odd man front defense, stacking the box as much as possible when necessary.

Leading the charge on the line is, again, Yarbrough, who McDaniel and the staff hope can stay healthy enough to play both ways. Rushing on the outside will be Jesse Daniel and Jalen Taylor, who hope to make life

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS TEAM BECAUSE I JUST THINK THEY'RE EXTREMELY HUNGRY."

HOLLY POND HEAD COACH
WILL MCDANIEL



easy on the secondary where there's plenty of fresh faces as well.

On his team's youth, and their mentality heading into 2026, McDaniel said, "With this team, there's a lot of newness and I think that their mentality is just to come to work every day. If you look at it generally there's not a lot of guys who have gotten to be stars in this group- like the seniors from the 2024 team and the seniors on last year's team that really shined. These guys come to work every day, there's not a lot of ego and they've been a lot of fun to work with. I'm really looking forward to this team, because I just think they're extremely hungry."



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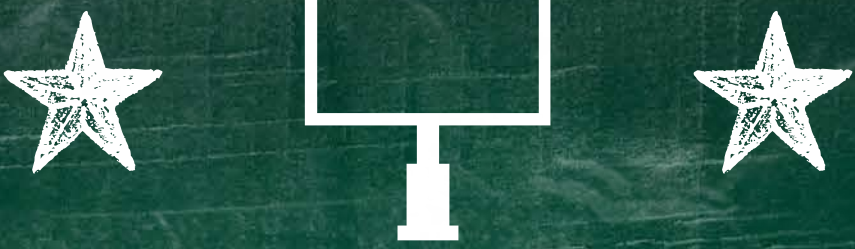
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Cooperative

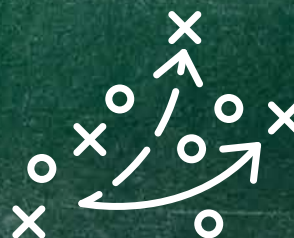
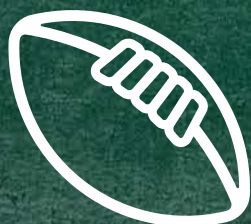
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HOLLY POND BRONCOS



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

TEAM ROSTER

#0 Benji Garcia

#1 Miguel Garcia

#2 John Hamby

#3 Ayden McAbee

#4 Hunter Tolbert

#5 Braxton Rice

#6 Memphis Grimes

#7 Tylar Cunningham

#8 Grayson Baggett

#9 Gabe Hernandez

#10 Nathan Castro

#18 Weston Cook

#20 Tristan Taylor

#21 Preston Cook

#22 Kort Freeman

#50 Skyler Thomas-Kelly

#52 Connor Mallon

#54 Jesse Daniel

#57 Jaylen Taylor

#58 Jack Sims

#60 Zander McAbee

#68 Braxton Yarbrough

#74 Manuel Saldana

#75 Travis Horton

#79 Xander Adamson

SCHEDULE

CLASS 3A, REGION 6

Aug. 21: at J.B. Pennington

Aug. 28: BYE

Sept. 4: vs. Oneonta*

Sept. 11: at Hanceville*

Sept. 18: vs. Vinemont*

Sept. 25: vs. Cold Springs

Oct. 2: at Hokes Bluff*

Oct. 9: vs. Glencoe*

Oct. 16: at Susan Moore*

Oct. 23: vs. Etowah*

Oct. 30: at Falkville



*REGION GAME

VARSITY CHEER

Dailynne Nelson, Cira Thrift, Addison Benitez,

Nadia Gibbs, Gracie Hines, Bellah Carr, Maci

Folds, Madeline Hill, Ily Wilbanks, Jaycie

Pitts, Rylee Tolbert, Emma Howard, Tara

Abney, Ryli Jo Norris, Mya Hebel, Kinady

Mayfield, Peyton Reid and Kalli Rewis.



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Steven Porter

9th grade

Briscoe, McKenna
Darnell, Myra
Fuller, Brookelyn
Ritter, Brayden
Savard, Ava
Wigginton, Seth
Williams, Olivia

10th grade

Bentley, Alex (Jonathon)
Bennett, Kabrie
Drummond, Erika
Nichols, Peyton
Jeremiah Pate

11th grade

Bentley, Xavier
Brown, Taten
Camp, Ethan
Laporte, Allison
Pierce, Aeron
Sansing, Skyler

12th grade

Barksdale, Ella
Briscoe, Payton
Collier, Noah
O'rear, Katelyn
Parker, Alizandor
Pierce, Jordan



Berry, Berry, Little & Chaney

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Meek TIGERS

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

8-4

OVERALL RECORD

4-1

HOME RECORD

3-2

ROAD RECORD

5-2

REGION RECORD

62-70

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

36.33

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

21.75

REGION FINISH

3rd

IN REGION STANDINGS



Veteran QB, offensive line looking to take Meek back to the playoffs

By: Lucas Gray

To say it's been an impressive start to Daniel Evans' career at Meek High school would be a disservice.

In three seasons, the head coach has led the Tigers to three playoff appearances, two postseason wins and a 22-13 overall record.

Adding to that resume is not only the goal this season, but it's likely, as the Tigers return all but one starter on the offensive line, plus four-year starting quarterback Evan McCay.

Despite losing Aiden Benson, who played on both the offensive and defense lines and is now at Berry College, Evans said, "The offensive line is probably as deep as we've been in the last three or four years. We lost our best offensive lineman from last year (Benson), but we've got more guys. We had to get a lot of guys a lot of reps last year because we got hurt, and we had kids get hurt during the year at pretty pivotal times. So we've got young guys that are now going to be, you know, sophomores and juniors that've got a lot of reps under their belt because of the injuries that we dealt with last year. So we got about eight and nine guys that I feel comfortable with playing on the offensive and defensive line, which is a luxury."

The beefed up O-Line will give way to McCay, who helped run Evans' 21-personnel offense at an extremely high level in 2025, fueling the Tigers' 36 points-per-game mark.

He's the complete package at quarterback, with a deep understanding of the offense, decision making and has a good arm, but is also a weapon himself out of the backfield in run-pass options. The offensive arsenal starts in the backfield next to McCay, with running back Hunter Wyatt returning and sophomore fullback Ethan Miles.

"(Hunter) Wyatt's kind of a do-it-all guy on offense and defense. He's played defensive line, he's played linebacker and he could play secondary for us if we needed him to, but he runs the ball real physically, he's put some weight on, too, so I expect big things from him this season," Evans said on Wyatt. He added, "Ethan (Miles) is only a sophomore, but he's got a lot of games under his belt. He's got a

real football mindset, too."

On the perimeter, the Tigers expect contributions from Meek basketball star Parker Ferguson, who stands at 6-foot-6. Additionally, Evans named senior receiver Colby Williams as a player who's vastly improved both physically and mentally, and expects the senior to have a big impact this season.

After running a 4-4-5 scheme defense the last three seasons, the Tigers made a change, and have shifted to a 3-3 stack.

On the adjustment, Evans said, "It's taken some time getting used to that, but it's been really good for us. It lets us be a little more athletic up front and at the inside linebacker spot, and it also allows our secondary guys to basically see what's going on in the backfield and react to it. We feel more comfortable that way. So we've spent all summer installing that and getting that ready to go and we feel pretty good about it."

That stacked box features what the Tigers believe is the strength of the defense in their interior line and inside linebackers. It's a group Evans said they feel "extremely fortunate to have," with some of them having 25-30 games of varsity experience already.

"Don't sleep on the secondary, though," Evans said. While the group struggled at times last season, Meek believes the group, and the team as a whole, have benefitted from the 7v7 camps they've taken part in, as well as the scheme change.

The scheme's not the only thing changing, though, as the Tigers will walk into a reformed region that now includes Red Bay, a 2A playoff team last season and Belgreen, a recently-established program that took a drastic step forward from 2024 to 2025.

Meek's confident in their roster's ability to handle the change, plus any other challenges this season, mainly due to the work they've put in, with Evans saying, "We've just got some young guys that had to grow up last year for us, so they've got that experience now, but then they've got another year in the weight room and they're stronger and they're taller. We're bigger than we've been in the last couple of years, and it's a testament to them working their tails off in the weight room."

WE'RE BIGGER THAN WE'VE BEEN IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, AND IT'S A TESTAMENT TO THEM WORKING THEIR TAILS OFF IN THE WEIGHT ROOM."

MEEK HEAD COACH
DANIEL EVANS



MEEK TIGERS



CHAD FELL/NORTHWEST ALABAMIAN

TEAM ROSTER

#0 Hunter Wyatt
#1 Parker Ferguson
#2 Max Powe
#3 Ethan Miles
#4 Tyler Thomas
#5 Jonah Holt
#6 Riley Baldwin
#7 Reese Guthrie
#8 Dalton Freeman
#9 Payton Deerman

#10 Cole Williams
#13 Carson Lawrence
#16 Colby Williams
#17 Evan McCay
#20 Alex Baker
#23 McKinnon Guthrie
#33 Christian Leslie
#54 Wesley Mitchell
#55 Liam Brown
#58 Taylen Daniel

#60 Casen Harbin
#61 Antonio White
#62 Ben Cochran
#65 Jacob Cain
#70 Jacob Barnes
#71 Cam Henderson

SCHEDULE

CLASS 1A, REGION 7

Aug. 21: at Curry
Aug. 28: vs. Winston County
Sept. 4: at Hackleburg*
Sept. 11: vs. Cherokee*
Sept. 18: at Addison*
Sept. 25: BYE
Oct. 2: vs. Waterloo*
Oct. 9: at Belgreen*
Oct. 16: vs. Phillips*
Oct. 23: vs. Red Bay*
Oct. 30: at Berry



*REGION GAME



CHAD FELL/NORTHWEST ALABAMIAN

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Zach Cleghorn

Drum Major
Zaylee Shehan

Harper Hood
Kinsley Sides

JL Mashburn

Percussion

Kristen Johnson

Jazmin Galvan

Aubrey Sandlin

Flute
Winter Twilley

Euphonium
Clayton Logan

Asher Martin

Phoenix Benson

Ryan Schledorn

Lily Patterson

Liam Rogers

Natalie Beard

Ollie Richardson

Lucy Cagle

Grayson Latham

Sophie Large

Killian Martin

Ava Sandlin

Autumn James

Ava Esch

Clarinet
Madison Williams
Brooklyn Cleghorn

Trumpet
Gabriel Eubanks
Jack Pierce

Trombone
Able Wagner

Alto Saxophone

Mello
Aaron Greig

Tuba
Jaina Farley

Auxiliary

VARSITY CHEER

Back row, from left: Phoenix Benson, Lily Patterson, Avery Cotton, Lexi Brown, Audrey Barnett and Jaylee Rouse. **Front row, from left:** Daffnie Infantino, Makayla Phillips, Lillie Caldwell, Ella Woodard and Ralynn Laurent.



CHAD FELL/NORTHWEST ALABAMIAN



Vinemont EAGLES

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

6-5

OVERALL RECORD

3-2

HOME RECORD

3-3

ROAD RECORD

5-2

REGION RECORD

63-55

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

24.

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

26.5

REGION FINISH

3rd

IN REGION STANDINGS



Vinemont aiming for 2026 postseason return behind recovered running back trio

By: Lucas Gray

Photos: Christy Anyan

VINEMONT

Fresh off a promising 2025 season where the Eagles went 6-5, Vinemont, in Stephen Robinson's tenth season at the helm, will aim for a third straight playoff appearance in '26.

With the summer coming to a close and the roster taking shape, Robinson said the staff has seen great effort and buy-in from the team, which features a balanced starting lineup in terms of age.

The Eagles' 2025 season, especially on the offensive side of the ball, is made more impressive by the fact that both of this season's projected starting running backs were slated to contribute, but suffered season ending injuries.

"I think the biggest thing has been seeing Caleb Slain and Gabriel Herrera back. They were kind of unknowns coming into the summer, and once they were released to start playing again we didn't know how quickly they'd get back into the swing of things. They've both been pleasant surprises with how quickly they've rebounded and started looking closer to normal. Gabe tore his ACL, which is honestly tougher to come back from than a broken leg, mainly because mentally you have to learn to trust that knee again. Both of them coming back and being what they are has been the biggest encouragement of the offseason," Robinson said.

Behind Slain, a senior who Robinson said, "looks faster than he was before he broke his leg, somehow," and Herrera, also a senior, the Eagles' staff has also been pleasantly surprised by the emergence of sophomore Travis Speer. Last season as a freshman, on one of the first days of in-helmet practices, Speer also tore his ACL, missing the entire season as a result.

"We've got the young guy, too, who I think's going to be a huge piece of this team, and that's Travis. He's just a tenth grader, and he just works hard, man. I feel like he could have a very beneficial year to help the team in a lot of areas, including defense," Robinson said.

The trio of backs nearly becomes a quartet when factoring in starting quarterback Joshua Rhodes, who Robinson said "is also like a

running back for us," in their run-heavy offense.

The veteran signal caller enters his third year in control of the offense, and after learning and preaching the scheme for so long, Robinson said, "He's such a veteran guy, I really think he could run practice if I wasn't there. He knows all the plays, all the formations, all the situations, he's just been around it for that long."

On the offensive scheme, Robinson said, "We really just want to get up there and run straight through you, we'll take shots over the top, but we're really just 'line up and see who's tougher.'"

Making that possible is an offensive line composed of three returning starters from center-left tackle. On the right side of the line, however, Vinemont is breaking in two sophomores.

Defensively, the Eagles run a 3-4 scheme, and feature another strong position group that Robinson called, "the strength of the team." Leading the linebackers is Brandon Johnson, 2025's All-Region Defensive Player of the Year, who's entering his senior season.

"He kind of runs the defense, he likes to take control, and he does a good job of it- he also doesn't mind hitting you, either. He'll get you pretty good, he's strong, and his little brother Zach is gonna be starting right beside him as of now. We got a senior next to a sophomore there, which helps that learning curve," Robinson said.

Zach Johnson projects to be the only non-senior starting linebacker in a veteran group that helped power the 2025 defense.

In a new region with former 4A teams Oneonta and Etowah, plus their usual county rivals of Hanceville and Holly Pond, the Eagles have their work cut out for them.

On the season outlook, Robinson said, "I think for us to be able to get into the playoffs, we're gonna have to win some close games, and to do that you just have to do the little things right. I feel like we have a defense that is capable of flying to the football, and if we can fly around to the football on defense and then play sound football on the offensive end without making mistakes, I think we can be successful in a lot of areas this year."

WE REALLY JUST WANT TO GET UP
THERE AND RUN STRAIGHT THROUGH
YOU. WE'LL TAKE SHOTS OVER THE

TOP, BUT WE'RE
REALLY JUST

'LINE UP
AND SEE
WHO'S
TOUGHER.'"



VINEMONT HEAD COACH
STEPHEN ROBINSON



VINEMONT EAGLES



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

TEAM ROSTER

#1 Will Conquest
#2 Josh Rhodes
#3 Preston Hanners
#4 Brandon Johnson
#5 Jaxon Marotz
#6 Aaron Salgado
#7 Travis Speer
#8 Karson Arbet
#9 Zach Johnson
#10 Kaleb Speegle
#11 Brennan Marlow
#12 Gabriel Herrera
#14 Thrower Sandlin
#15 Yojan Patino
#16 McClain Roberts
#17 Brayden Wallace

#18 Deacon Foell
#20 Lukas Ming
#23 Hayden Puckett
#24 Ryne Dalton
#25 Gabe Hurtado
#30 Alex Pantoja
#32 Noah Bailey
#33 Landon Hanners
#34 Caleb Slain
#50 Ethan Yahn
#52 Brayden Parris
#54 Alex Romero
#56 Cole Aaron
#63 Mateo Romero
#64 Christian Dell
#67 Elijah Burgess

#68 Owen Rust
#72 Colby Stewart
#73 Cade Jankowski
#76 Avery Netherton
#78 Rhylan Neave
#79 Kaden Speegle
#80 Garrett Boland
#81 Weston Pritchett
#84 Tucker Robinson
#85 Daniel Lee

Coaches: Stephen Robinson,
Anthony Pace, David
Stokes, Brad Johnson, Trey
Guthery, Rudy Rudolph.

SCHEDULE

CLASS 3A, REGION 6

Aug. 21: vs. Falkville
Aug. 28: at Cold Springs
Sept. 4: vs. Hanceville*
Sept. 11: at Oneonta*
Sept. 18: at Holly Pond*
Sept. 25: at Appalachian
Oct. 2: vs. Etowah*
Oct. 9: vs. Hokes Bluff*
Oct. 16: at Glencoe*
Oct. 23: vs. Susan Moore*
Oct. 30: BYE



*REGION GAME

VARSITY CHEER

Arabella Harden, Jenny Price, Aubrey
Butler, Marley Williams, Brooklynn Marsh,
Maci Payne, Arleigh Bender, Madison
Vinson, Berklee Clark, Kadance Davis,
Kyleigh Gossett, Ally Grace Wildmon,
Ellie Ruiz, Paisley Tankersley, Mackenzie
Phillips, Natalie Heaton, Hagen Young
, Alyvia Smyth, Hayden Cooley, Addilyn
Howard, Khloe Cox, Oakley Marlow



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Skylar King

Drum Major
Abigail Wang

Horn
Kadiance Henderson

Flute
Lilly Hagl
Brianna Baker

Trombone
Owen Rust*
Ty Stevens
Keygan Haggard
Alyssa Pair

Saxes
Marley Lamon*
Sipsey Drake
Sophia Veal

Percussion
Grady Tankersley
Noah Daniel
Luke Wang
Aubrey Beckman
Mason Veal
Helena Goodwin

Clarinet
Rayne Baker
Abigail Doyle
Brinleigh Anderson
Brindle Drake

Synth
Stevi Worthington

Bass Clarinet
Davian Warmath

Majorette
Katie Holmes*

Tenor Sax
Kimberlyn Rodriguez

Color Guard
Lilli Hock
Makayla Brown
Peyton Hock*
Katelyn Brown
Alex Runge
Sophia Brown
Kenleigh Morrison

Bari Sax
Emi Heaton

Trumpet
Gracie Speakman*
Crimson Bowers
Ella Lee
Annabelle Tucker
Atarah Skipper

Indicates senior *



TIM SULLIVAN/SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

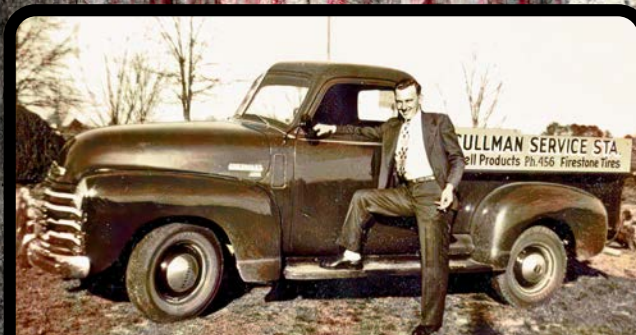


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West Point WARRIORS

2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

5-6

OVERALL RECORD

3-2

HOME RECORD

2-3

ROAD RECORD

3-3

REGION RECORD

61-63

OPPONENT RECORD

POINTS PER GAME

19.8

POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME

25.3

REGION FINISH

4th

IN REGION STANDINGS



West Point Warriors focused on establishing rush attack, overall consistency in 2026

By: Lucas Gray

Headed into head coach Kevin McCravy's third season at the helm, the West Point Warriors are looking to return to the playoffs after a 5-5 regular season and first-round loss to eventual 5A semifinalist Scottsboro in 2025.

The Warriors took a leap, going from two wins in McCravy's first season to five in '25. While the coach continues to settle into his position, West Point will face new challenges after the AHSAA classification shake-up moved them into Class 4A, Region 7 during the offseason.

"It's going to be an extremely competitive region this year, there's no doubt about it. We were in a competitive region last year. I wouldn't say it was the strongest, but you had Fairview and Russellville, who are always gonna be up there, but then the other playoff teams were going to be wild cards and maybe sneak in- like we did. So, you're taking what we had, teams we were having to fight every week and placing us into a really, really tough 4A Region with West Morgan, who have won a ton of games since Coach Phillips has been there. Then you've got Hamilton, who I haven't lined up against in 15-16 years, you know they'll always be very competitive, then you've got Deshler and Brooks, who are always strong. So you're taking some really good teams out of that old 4A region and putting them in with some of these teams from 5A, and I think top to bottom it will be one of the most competitive regions in the state," McCravy said.

While the region is new, the Warriors' offensive philosophy remains the same. No matter the formation- spread, Wing-T or empty set, the head coach said, "Our goal is to run that football."

Supporting returning 2025 All-Cullman

County running back Titan Thornton will be an offensive line featuring a mix of returning starters and fresh faces. Led by Julio Fuentes, another All-County selection, McCravy said the line may not be the largest, but their overall speed and athleticism will allow them to get the ball carrier downfield.

Establishing the run will allow the Warriors' new quarterback to settle in as well, but it's still unclear who the starting signal caller will be on August 21 in their regular season opener vs. Fairview.

"We're in the middle of a competition right now. We have Max Patterson, who started last year when our starter went out with a broken hand- he started two ballgames, and then Colton Kimbrel. Right now, they're neck-and-neck and we're trying to get them out here competing every day," McCravy »



OUR GOAL IS
TO RUN THAT
FOOTBALL."

WEST POINT
HEAD COACH
KEVIN
MCCRABY



said.

No matter the quarterback, one of the priorities for West Point will be finding consistency in their production. Despite three games with 30-plus points in 2025, there were as many with only eight or less points scored, leading the Warriors to average just 19.8 points per game.

"The goal is to not be 'feast or famine,' and it's not something we necessarily harp on, but as coaches, we know. We go out and score 40 one week, that's great, but then next week if we go out and score

zero, what good does it do? That's why we averaged around 20 points per game. That's not something we really focus on with the kids, though. It sounds cliché but we're just trying to work on ourselves every day. We don't want to really hammer down with statistics, just going to do what we do to get better in any situation," the head coach said.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Warriors will stick to using a multiple-look defense that adjusts to the game situation. Cornerback Nolan Franklin and linebacker Bryant

Moon return to lead a unit that's seeing an emerging leader in sophomore Ayden Shoemaker.

"Ayden is going to have a bigger role for us this year, he's being asked to do a lot right now, but he's so football smart that he's able to handle it at a young age. Like I said, he's a sophomore, he's playing inside and outside receiver, he's playing inside and outside linebacker, he's playing free safety. You can throw all that stuff at him, though, because he just absorbs it all then he goes and tells everybody else what they're

supposed to do because he's got a good mind for it," McCravy said.

The defensive unit will also work towards consistency after giving up 25.3 points per game last season.

Overall, McCravy said on the season, "The goal is to get better every day, that's our motto. We always talk about just working and getting better, competing with ourselves and those around you. We want competition, so for this season to be deemed successful I just really want to see us be competitive week-in and week-out."

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WEST POINT WARRIORS



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TEAM ROSTER

#1 Carter McAfee
#2 Ayden Shoemaker
#5 JJ Minck
#6 Logan Campbell
#7 Max Patterson
#8 Bryant Moon
#9 Colton Kimbril
#10 Lucas Fortenberry
#11 Justice Crawford
#12 Teagan Heaton
#13 Cooper Ball
#14 Cayden Self
#15 Skylar Echols
#16 Camden Cooley
#17 Jacob Reiss
#18 Ian McGuire
#20 Kam Garrison
#21 Malachi Rivera

#22 Jonah Gillilan
#23 Ayden Wyatt
#24 Bradon Carter
#25 Nolan Franklin
#26 Dalton Freeman
#28 Essa Cruz
#29 Mason Wilkins
#30 Kaden Hampton
#31 Reid Hudson
#33 Braxton Ellis
#34 Titan Thornton
#35 Rylan Holland
#36 Jesse Harding
#39 Maddox McGuire
#45 JP Mancaso
#49 Bryce Harbison
#50 Sean Cranford
#51 Slayde Clayton

#52 Julio Fuentes
#53 Brayden Beasley
#54 Enrique Reza
#55 Cayden Eaves
#60 Colton Campbell
#61 Lee Shannon
#62 Liam Steele
#64 Bentley Aker
#67 Dalton Cooper
#68 Xavier Smith
#70 Joseph Reed
#72 Brody Gilliland
#74 Peyton Crawford
#76 Declan Dingler
#78 Brayden Hampton
#81 Riley Jones

SCHEDULE

CLASS 4A, REGION 7

Aug. 21: vs. Fairview
Aug. 28: at Cleburne County
Sept. 4: vs. Priceville*
Sept. 11: at West Morgan*
Sept. 18: at Ardmore*
Sept. 25: vs. Good Hope
Oct. 2: at Brooks*
Oct. 9: vs. Hamilton*
Oct. 16: at Lawrence County*
Oct. 23: vs. Deshler*
Oct. 30: BYE



*REGION GAME





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MARCHING BAND

Band Director: Thad Walker

Flute

Emmaly Shaddix
Rachel Casper
Acacia Payne
Malee Kilgore
Ray Douglas
Phala Hooten

Clarinets

Haley Pike
Jeremiah Owens
Peyton Lamb
Presley Cranford
Jackson Sharp
Joshua Pace
Whitley Cooper

Alto saxophone

Brayden Johnson
Jasper McHann
Gracie Horton
Judy Salter
Athena Lewis
Bryson Knowles

Tenor saxophone

Dante Beard
Nolan Baker

Bari saxophone

Evan Cooper

Trumpet

Kayden Klie
Reece Hutson
Carson Ball
Kailey Clark
Lucas Adcock
Kinlee West

French horn

Koltin O'Rear

Trombone

Michael Clark
Lane Shedd
Jacob Reithman
Declan Rawls
Zenn Erklenz
Andrew Rickmon
Christopher Casper

Baritone

Christian Sandoval
Troup Bridges
Derrik Kilgore
Jonah Silva

Tuba

Lawrence Nichols
Mason Fulmer
Aleks Swafford
Hudson Mann
Evan Lewis

Percussion

— **snare**
Madison Billings
Thatcher Armstrong

Percussion

— **tenors**
Alicia Garmon
Kasen Duke

Percussion

— **bass drum**
Cameron Cassidy
Isaiah Tompsett

Braxton Bryant
Gavin Hembree

Front ensemble

— **marimba**
Tara Gillespie

Front ensemble

— **vibraphone**
Lillian Capps

Front ensemble

— **xylophone/bells**
Savanna Adair

Front ensemble

— **rack**
Gabe Lewis

Front ensemble

— **synth**
Layla Bowers

Front ensemble

— **bass**
Caleb Clark

Color guard

Skylie Clay
Kiera Sanders
Zady Guthrie
Caroline Espinoza
Addison Bridges

Majorettes

Cara-Grace
Ashley
Jaci Guthrie

Drum major

Jayda Fulenwider

VARSITY CHEER

Eliza Ballew, Roxy Orshoski, Marlee Marks, DJ Sigala, Auburn Burtis, Makayla Sterritt, Emma Thrasher, Elizabeth Covarrubias, Clair Wright, Audrey Goodlett, Bella Jones, Kylie Fitzgerald, Adalynn Bowers, Elle Harbison, Sam Lee, Payton Walton, Hallie Hudson



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JUNIOR VARSITY CHEER

Olivia Yancy, Bryli McCroy, Yarely Fernandez, Harper Kimbril, Roxie Graveman, Stormey Clayton, Lilly Kate Bryant, Olivia Watts, LucyKate Burchett, Abbie Moore, Lily Steele, Cara Humanes, Brissa Hernandez, Brooklynn Coggins



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