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2024 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL REVIEW





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2025 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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FHS football photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

Among head coaches who go on to enjoy huge success at their high school alma mater, many point to their second season as one of major improvement.

Seemingly well-balanced with returning starters on both sides of the ball — plus one of East Tennessee's top kickers who also will punt again in 2025 — Geoff Courtney's second season as Admirals skipper with Farragut High School football features almost twice as many seniors as 2024 (26 versus 14).

"We're quite a bit older in the makeup of our team," Courtney said. "I'm just excited for this group."

"A lot of guys that got some valuable experience last year get their opportunity to go out and shine as the guys that start," he added.

Moreover, "I feel good about where we are developmentally," Courtney said. "I told the guys this before we left for the dead period (late June to first of July): 'that I think, on average per man, we're like 40 pounds stronger in the squat (versus 2024).'"

"On average, we're probably 30 or 40 pounds stronger in the bench press," the coach added versus 2024.

Players speak/offense

An unselfish attitude also will help.



Geoff Courtney
Head Coach

"I care less about how I play than the team as a whole, that we play really together," said **Noah Haag**, FHS stand-out senior linebacker/running back who is a converted quarterback. "Really, the ultimate goal really is the state championship game, but we've got to take one day at a time."

"We've each got to progressively get better, and I'm just really looking forward to seeing what I can do and what my teammates can do this season," he added. "I'll be a starting outside linebacker and then getting some running back reps."

With the change, "I definitely had to gain some more weight, so I gained about 15 to 20 pounds since the end of last season," Haag said. "But my speed and strength have definitely increased, though, for sure. And I think this year I'm definitely a lot better athletically."

Known especially for his running as the team's back-up quarterback in 2024, "I'll definitely be in there for wildcat packages (usually quarterback run plays) and other special packages, too," he added.

Leading Courtney's offense is returning starting quarterback **Corbin Hobson**, a junior.

"I just learned how to read a defense real-time and know what's happening around me and know my surroundings and know what I can do," Hobson said about his growth as a

See **ADMIRALS PREVIEW** on Page 12

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ADMIRALS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0 Maysn Apalategui JR RB/FS
 1 Harrison Smith JR WR/FS
 2 Johnny Jacobs JR WR
 3 Corbin Hobson JR QB
 4 Jackson Plumlee SR DE
 5 Abram Shelton JR WR/CB
 6 Donovan Lloyd SO RB/CB
 7 Ethan Farhat JR WR
 8 Luke Duenckel JR LB
 9 John Haskins SR WR
 10 Max Garfield SR WR
 11 Ernie Rodriguez SR WR
 12 Zain Kureshi-Smith SR WR/CB
 13 Anderson Glover SO WR/CB
 15 Hayes Sharp SO QB
 16 Noah Haag SR RB/LB
 17 Moses Burnette SR TE
 18 Kyle Clark SO QB
 19 Fisher Smith JR OLB
 20 Connor Parris SR LB
 21 Logan Wright SO RB/SS
 23 Cole McDonald JR WR/CB
 24 Charlie Noble SR RB
 25 Mihailo Kalinovic JR FS
 26 Carter Collier SO RB/CB
 27 Nathan Hu JR DB
 28 Jarrod Atkins SR FS
 29 Brenton Haag SO LB
 30 Chase Cantrell SO DB
 31 Maddox Craft JR OLB
 33 Wyatt Walker SO FS
 34 Cameron Beaver SO DL
 35 Fletcher Haddad SR LB
 36 Stephen Doubleday SR DE
 37 Ryan McCue SR P/PK

38 John Eddlemon SO RB/LB
 39 Cooper Sandidge SR WR
 40 Kaden Renfro JR LB
 41 Julian Melendy JR P/PK
 42 Colt Brooker SO LB
 43 Gavin Lyon JR LB
 44 Colton Liner SO OLB
 45 Aaron Heatherly JR TE
 46 Mohammad Salim JR OLB
 47 Conley Hawk JR WR
 48 David Lewen SR OLB
 49 Grant Campbell SO OLB
 50 Luca Hofer SR OL/DL
 51 Isaac Maine SO DL/LS
 52 Bryson Bassett SR OL
 53 Asher Watson JR OL
 54 Cole Disse JR OL
 55 Thatcher Cherry SO LB
 56 James Brown JR DL
 58 Ian McLay SR OL
 59 Tate Byrge JR DL
 60 Johan Graves JR OL/DL
 61 Holden Fritz JR OL
 62 Will Szucs SR OL
 63 Ayden Perez SR OL
 66 Drew Nuchols SO DL
 67 M.J. Keener SR OL
 68 Izaac Koga JR DL
 70 Michael Ullian SR OL
 72 Chase Perez SO OL
 73 Connor Frynkewicz SR OL
 78 Kolby Aldridge SO OL
 79 Bennett Barcroft SO OL
 80 Nathan Shilling SO WR
 81 Isaac Hurley SR WR

82 Will Keener SO WR
 83 Shawn Raines JR CB
 84 Liam Moeller SR WR
 85 Mason Swor JR FS
 86 Max Hilton SO TE
 87 Bailey Pyle SO OLB
 88 Bronson Sakhleh JR DL
 89 Jackson Willis JR WR
 90 Carson Hulsey JR DL
 91 Luca Conforti JR TE/LS
 92 Logan Schroeder JR WR
 94 Dayton Parks SO TE
 95 Dylan Parks SO OLB
 99 Owen Petoskey SR DL

Coaching Staff:

Geoff Courtney Head Coach
 Mickey Chait Defensive Coordinator
 Hal Brooker Inside Linebackers
 Joe Campbell Outside Linebackers
 Blaise Chait Cornerbacks
 Patrick Doucette Offensive Line
 Tom Doucette Defensive Line
 Marc Giles Running Backs
 Ryan Jacobs Wide Receivers / TE
 Gerald Robinson Specialists/Kickers
 Roy Robinson Defensive Analyst
 Bryan Phillips Offensive Assistant/QB's
 Logan Foody Defensive Assistant/Safeties
 Chase Scott Chief of Staff
 Eddie Courtney Director of Operations
 Ben Bercaw Video Coordinator
 Alex Cain Video Management
 Dr. Paul Becker, MD Team Doctor
 Jessica Frazier, MS, ATC Certified Athletic Trainer



FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL 2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23 (Saturday at Carson-Newman University)	@ Sevier County
Aug. 29	Powell
Sept. 4 (Thursday, 8 p.m. EDT)	@ Upperman
Sept. 12	Bradley Central*
Sept. 19	@ Maryville*
Sept. 26	@ Bearden*
Oct. 3	HVA*
Oct. 17 (8 p.m. EDT)	@ Cookeville
Oct. 23 (Thursday)	(Homecoming and Senior Night) Oak Ridge*
Oct. 30 (Thursday)	@ Cleveland*

* Denotes Division I Region 2-6A games

ADMIRALS



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Great 2025 Season!***

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2025 ADMIRALS SENIORS



Jacksonn Plumlee



John Haskins



Max Garfield



Zain Kureshi-Smith



Noah Haag



Connor Parris



Charlie Noble



Jarrod Atkins



Fletcher Haddad



Stephen Doubleday



Ryan McCue



Cooper Sandidge



Luca Hofer



Bryson Bassett



Ian McLay



Will Szucs

2025 ADMIRALS SENIORS



Ayden Perez



M.J. Keener



Michael Ullian



Connor Frynkewicz



Isaac Hurley



Liam Moeller



Owen Petoskey

Farragut High School
seniors
not pictured:

**Moses Burnette,
David Lewen and
Ernie Rodriguez**



2025 ADMIRALS DANCE TEAM

Farragut High School dance team for 2025-26, front row from left, are seniors Natalie Mahoney, Cassidy Stickley and Mary Aspin Scott. Middle row, from left, are sophomore Mary Ella Wendell and juniors Caroline Seagraves, Sydney Derr and Lydia Finnegan. Back row, from left, are sophomores Rylee Chronis and Natalee Mack and freshmen Sarah Shoup, Paisley Van Lant, Emma Kate Kilpatrick and Ella Marie Lambert. Coach, not pictured, is Macy Brink.

Photo submitted

2025 **ADMIRALS CHEERLEADERS**

Photo courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

Farragut High School cheerleaders for 2025-26 are, front row from left, Ava Kincaid (junior), Khloe Capps (junior), Kinley Bothman (junior), Camden Kraemer (junior), Laura Guinn (senior), Henley Bedwell (senior), Emelia Bellmore (junior), Natalie Borton (junior), Piper Belcher (junior) and Caity Penn (junior). Second row, from left, are sophomores Avery Ericksen, Briley Webber, Harper Hudgens, Addison Gohn and Cate Fowler. Top row, from left, are coach Mackenna Pease, freshmen Caroline Nichols, Lydia McCurry, Hailey Couter, Ella Elkins, Fallon McKeehan, Kiley Prosan, Nora Vaughn and Alex Wetherington and coach Dana Jacobs.

Admirals Preview

From page 6

sophomore, “And to just get the ball out or make a gain on a run.”

Looking back, “I think whenever I got under pressure, I made bad decisions, so my decision-making needs to be a little bit better this season,” Hobson said. “But I’ve been working on my speed and my strength, and I think those have been pretty good things in the offseason.”

“Both of these guys are great leaders, that’s why they’re here,” Courtney said of Haag and Hobson on Media Day at Three Ridges Golf Course in July. “They both lead by example, but they’re both really good at challenging and encouraging their teammates. They’re not afraid to speak up when they demand certain things from their teammates.”

Following a “practice and scrimmage with Greeneville and Daniel Boone” at Greeneville Friday, Aug. 1, Courtney said about his offensive positives, “we took care of the ball, we protected the quarterback and we were able to throw it and catch it well.

“We’ve got some work to do in the run game — but we had some bright spots there, too,” the Admirals skipper added. “**Charlie (Noble)** ran the ball well,” referencing the senior running back who led the Ads in rushing in 2024. “**Carter Collier** (sophomore) had some good runs and **Nathan Jacobs**, as a freshman, had some good runs.”

Returning offensive linemen **Connor Frynkewicz** and **Luca**

Hofer (seniors who started all 11 FHS last year) and part-time starter **Michael Ullian** (senior) should lead the way up front.

Seniors **Bryson Bassett** and **Ayden Perez** and junior **Cole Disse** were all part-time offensive line starters last season. “Those guys are going to help us as we move forward through the early part of the year,” the coach said. “We feel like we’ve got six or seven pieces there on the offensive line.”

Among his wide receivers is explosive junior **Ethan Farhat**, who also returned kicks in 2024 and should again this season.

Farhat is “one of our big playmakers coming back,” the Admirals skipper said.

Look for **Johnny Jacobs** (junior) and **Max Garfield** (senior) to also be key targets at wideout, having gained experience in 2024, along with senior tight-ends **Aaron Heatherly**, another returnee, and **Moses Burnette**.

Defense

“There’s a bunch of guys on defense that have a lot of experience,” Courtney said. “They might be retooled or reshuffled and in a new position this year like Noah, but we feel comfortable about where those guys are and just getting a bunch of game experience and them now being able to be productive.”

Junior **Harrison Smith** and senior **Zain Kureshi-Smith** return in the FHS secondary, while junior free safety **Maysn Apalategui** got some valuable experience last year.

At linebacker joining Haag, senior **Connor Paris** is back as a starter, while sophomore **Colt Brooker** saw some key play-

See **ADMIRALS PREVIEW** on Page 14

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Admirals Preview

From page 12

ing time as a freshman in 2024.

“Then we’ve got **Owen Petoskey**, who’s going to lead us up front on the defensive line,” Courtney said about his 6-foot, 240-pound senior standout defensive end.

“Owen is one of the toughest workers and probably one of the more vocal guys,” the coach added. “He was very productive all of last year. And he was really, really productive — maybe even more so — in our spring session. And (senior) **Stephen Doubleday** is back (at the other defensive end).”

Juniors **Izaak Koga, Johan Graves, Tate Byrge** and **James Brown** and senior **Jackson Plumlee** look to be important defensive line cogs.

Kicker

About senior star kicker **Ryan McCue**, “In our long line of good kickers that we’ve had the last 20 to 25 years, Ryan’s been the most accurate,” Courtney said.

Concerns

About concerns, “It’s just the challenge of the schedule,” Courtney said, which features six road games. “Early on, we’re going to open up with the 5A defending state champions (versus Sevier County at Carson-Newman University).” Also featured is Powell, a perennial Class 5A state power, along with Bradley Central and new Region 2-6A foe Oak Ridge plus road trips to perennial 6A powerhouse Maryville, along with Cleveland, rival Bearden and Class 4A power Upperman (Cookeville).

-Alan Sloan



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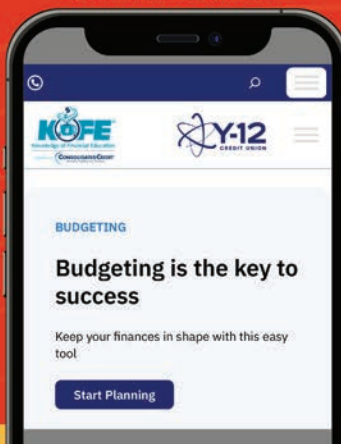
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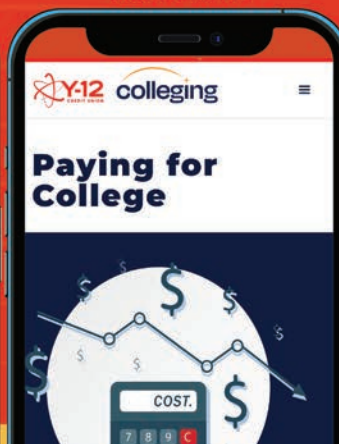
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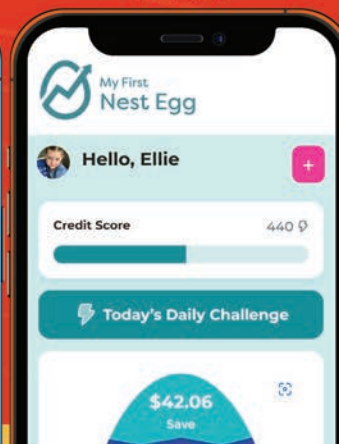
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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

Bearden High School has a new head football coach in 2025.

But he's no stranger to the local football scene and he's also a familiar face at BHS: an ex-Bulldog multi-position standout player in the early to mid-1990s (Class of 1994), then the head coach — starting a little more than 10 years later — who enjoyed lots of high moments in his first go-around.

Brad Taylor returns to his alma mater this season after two years away from the game. He most recently coached at Karns High School (nine seasons) before resigning after the 2022 campaign.

And he's glad to be back on the sideline wearing BHS maroon and gray.

"Bearden is a special place. This is home and it's a really good situation," said Taylor, who replaces Josh Jones after he and the school parted ways in February following three seasons. "I played here and I've coached here, and this was the only place where I would've come back to coach."

Taylor coached the Bulldogs from 2007 through 2013, leading Bearden to the Class 5A state semifinals during his first



Brad Taylor
Head Coach

season at the helm with the Bulldogs.

He inherits a team that went 8-4 in 2024 and returns some talented skill players from last season.

Strengths, weaknesses, region

"We have good skill players, receivers, running backs, defensive backs and linebackers," Taylor said. "But we're a little thin up front."

"We'll have to build depth up front on both the offensive and defensive lines," he added.

With a lack of depth up front, the Bulldogs definitely will face some monumental challenges as they navigate a Region 2-6A schedule, which includes the likes of Maryville, Farragut, Cleveland, Bradley Central, Hardin Valley Academy and league newcomer Oak Ridge.

Top players, newcomers

Top returners for the Bulldogs include: **Grant Cross** (senior, wide receiver/safety); **Liam Powers** (senior, linebacker); **Will Taylor** (the coach's son who will play tight end and H-Back, senior); **Seth Henry** (senior, long snapper); **Paxton Parrott** (junior, running back/linebacker); **Tyler Tummins** (junior, wide receiver/safety); **Jasston Chandler** (junior, linebacker) and rounding things off is **Mason**

See **BULLDOGS PREVIEW** on Page 18



BULLDOGS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Logan Lamont.....RB/LB.....SR	26..... Parker Tunnell.....WR/DB.....FR	56..... Kaniel Yarborough.....OL/DL.....FR
1..... Liam Powers.....FB/LB.....SR	27..... Tivone Green.....RB/DB.....FR	57..... Elihja Cobb.....OL/DL.....FR
2..... Tymeir Harris.....WR/DB.....SR	28..... Luke Carpenter.....WR/DB.....SO	59..... Elias Martinez.....FB/LB.....JR
3..... Tyler Tummins.....WR/DB.....JR	29..... Liam Laing.....WR/DB.....FR	60..... Mahdi Mughtafri.....OL/DL.....FR
4..... Grant Cross.....WR/DB.....SR	30..... Jamaury Young.....WR/DB.....FR	61..... Carlos Lopez.....OL/DL.....FR
5..... Paxton Parrott.....RB/LB.....JR	31..... Connor Laws.....RB/LB.....FR	63..... Aaron Bradley.....OL/DL.....FR
6..... Logan Carpenter.....QB/LB.....SR	32..... Hudson Towe.....WR/DB.....FR	65..... Kiser Turner.....OL/DL.....FR
7..... Mason Foster.....RB/DB.....SR	33..... Carter Jones.....RB/DB.....FR	68..... Tristan Speers.....OL/DL.....JR
8..... Aiden Thacker.....QB/DB.....SO	34..... Shabae Ramey.....TE/DE.....JR	69..... Xander Bird.....OL/DL.....SO
9..... Seth Henry.....LS/LB.....SR	35..... Blake Beal.....FB/LB.....FR	72..... Nolan Oros.....OL/DL.....FR
10..... Jackson Galka.....WR/DB.....SR	36..... Eli Fennell.....RB/LB.....FR	74..... Adrian Harris.....OL/DL.....SO
11..... Sean Thomas.....WR/DB.....SR	37..... Elijah Cooper.....FB/LB.....FR	76..... Amir Noble.....OL/DL.....SO
12..... Daevon Maynard.....WR/DB.....JR	38..... Javon Castle.....WR/DB.....JR	77..... Joe Baxter.....OL/DL.....FR
13..... Taraijie Edwards.....RB/LB.....SO	39..... Kannon Sipe.....RB/LB.....FR	79..... Lucas Benton.....OL/DL.....FR
14..... Charlie Lewis.....QB/DB.....FR	40..... Dominic Christofek.....FB/LB.....FR	80..... Boston Telow.....WR/DB.....FR
15..... Ken Sandoval.....WR/DB.....JR	41..... Isaiah Cobb.....RB/DL.....JR	81..... Knox Cornelison.....WR/DB.....SO
16..... Connor Gilbreath.....WR/FS.....JR	42..... Creed Conklin.....TE/DE.....SO	82..... Adriel Garcia.....WR/DB.....SR
17..... Ethan line.....QB/DB.....FR	43..... Carter Wallace.....FB/LB.....FR	83..... De'arris Dukes.....WR/DB.....SR
18..... Kaeo Travis.....WR/DB.....SO	44..... Azzerion Alderson.....FB/LB.....SO	85..... Will Taylor.....FB/LB.....SR
20..... Markeece Moody.....WR/DB.....JR	45..... Tomas Lopez.....PK/P.....JR	86..... Levi Johnson.....WR/DB.....FR
21..... Elijah Tunnell.....RB/DB.....JR	49..... Braden Cunningham.....WR/DB.....FR	87..... Charles Jackson.....WR/DB.....JR
22..... Zac Nicaud.....WR/DB.....FR	50..... Jace Volk.....OL/LB.....SO	88..... Michael Petty.....WR/DB.....SR
23..... Jamison row.....WR/DB.....SR	51..... Max Sadowski.....OL/DL.....SO	89..... Alonzo Sanchez.....PK.....SR
24..... Taejon Ramey.....WR/DB.....FR	52..... Jasston Chandler.....RB/LB.....JR	98..... Isaiah Idlett.....OL/DL.....JR
25..... Brayden Walter.....WR/DB.....SO	53..... Daniel Correa.....OL/DL.....JR	

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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL 2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23 (Saturday).....	@ West
Aug. 29.....	@ Alcoa
Sept. 5.....	Maryville*
Sept. 12.....	Science Hill
Sept. 19.....	@ HVA*
Sept. 26.....	Farragut*
Oct. 3.....	@ Oak Ridge*
Oct. 17.....	@ Cleveland*
Oct. 24.....	(Homecoming) Dobyns Bennett
Oct. 30 (Thursday).....	(Senior Night) Bradley Central*

*Denotes Division I Region 2-6A opponent

BULLDOGS

2025 BULLDOGS SENIORS



Logan Lamont



Liam Powers



Tymeir Harris



Grant Cross



Logan Carpenter



Mason Foster



Seth Henry



Jackson Galka



Sean Thomas



Will Taylor



Alonzo Sanchez

Bearden High School
seniors not pictured:

Jamison Crow,
Adriel Garcia and
De'Arris Dukes

All BHS football photos by Alan Sloan



Michael Petty

2025 BULLDOGS DANCE TEAM



Photo courtesy of Tammy Kregel

Bulldogs Preview

From page 15

Foster (senior, cornerback).

"Paxton is our basketball coach's son and he's a great athlete," Taylor said. "His older brother, Drew, was a great athlete and I would've liked to have a year with him. Paxton is a bigger kid."

"Coach Taylor is a great coach and I'm looking forward to the season," Powers said. "This will be fun and (Class) 6A football is the best football in Tennessee."

"We have a tough region with Farragut, Maryville and Hardin Valley," the senior added. "It just got tougher this year with Oak Ridge coming in. But this is going to be a fun year."

Key newcomers for Bearden, according to Taylor, are: **TJ Edwards** (sophomore, running back/linebacker/safety); **Alonzo Sanchez** (a senior kicker who transferred from Cookeville, who is the Cavaliers' all-time leading scorer); **Logan Carpenter** (a senior quarterback and linebacker who transferred from Cocke County) and **Aiden Thacker** (sophomore, quarterback).

"Alonzo's dad got a job here and they moved to West Knoxville and we're glad to have him," Taylor said. "He's Cookeville's all-time leading scorer and I'm sure that they're disappointed not to have him, but we're thankful to have him."

Carpenter and Thacker will compete for the starting quarterback position. "Logan is a good athlete and he'll play some

Bearden High School dance team members for 2025-26 are, top row from left, Whitley Sams, Kelsi Wright, Kaelyn Martinez, Brianna Wishoun, Abigail Sandifer, Baylor Brown, Stella Benevicz, Addie Duggan and Sofie Lewis. Bottom row, from left, are Taryn Jenkins, Avery Lemoncelli, Emily Carver, Sally, Smith, Cate Smithy, Brielle Pickett and Kaitlin Ramey. Not pictured is coach Hannah Keathley Dowland.

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See **BULLDOGS PREVIEW** on Page 20

2025 BULLDOGS CHEERLEADERS



Photo courtesy of Tammy Kregel

Bearden High School cheerleaders 2025-26, front row left to right, are junior Adelyn Spencer, junior Eva Mathews, junior Lucy Tirgrath, senior captain Ava Stinnette, senior captain Kyra Rasmussen, junior Annie Whited and junior Emerson Berger. Second row, left to right, are sophomore Kennedy McVeigh, sophomore Kinsleigh Hite, junior Ryleigh Noel, junior Piper Gould, junior Samantha Brownlee, sophomore Shay Hendrix and sophomore Jersey Zizzo. Back row, left to right, are sponsor Stephanie Panczer Garza, freshman Kinsley Haney, sophomore Jaraiah Leverette, freshman Alexandra Berger, Bulldog mascot, freshman Allie Helms, freshman Hampton Hostetter, freshman Hadley Stinnette and head coach Andrea Channell Kuykendall.

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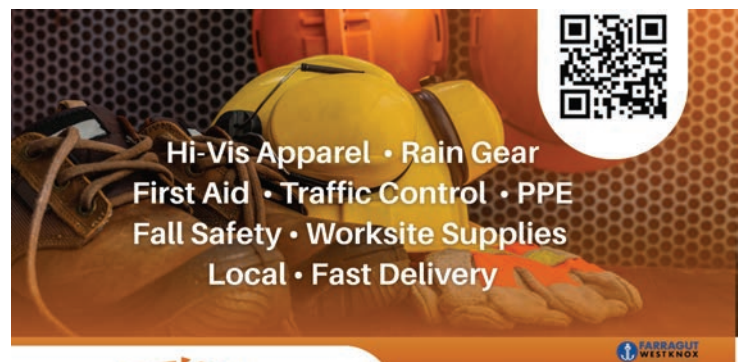


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Bulldogs Preview

From page 18

quarterback and linebacker for us and he'll give us some depth there," Taylor said. "Aidan is accurate and he has an extremely strong arm and he's done a good job picking up our offense."

'Best competition'

Bearden's non-conference slate features road games at Class 5A state power Knox West and new Class 4A member Alcoa (10-time defending Class 3A state champ) along with Tri-Cities foes Kingsport Dobyns Bennett and Johnson City Science Hill — both at BHS's Bill Young Field.

"As a coach, you want to play these teams; you want to play the best competition," Taylor said. "I'm excited."

Expectations may be modest at Bearden in 2025, but Taylor said he's enjoyed watching his new team during summer workouts.

"I really love the summer," he said. "I love the summer because that's where you concentrate on the process."

"We want to compete hard and compete in every game," Taylor added. "If you do that, the scoreboard, the results and everything else will take care of itself."

~ Ken Lay

A large advertisement for Tennessee State Bank. The background is a photograph of a man and a woman high-fiving. Overlaid on the image is the text "INVEST IN YOUR DREAMS WITH A TSB BUSINESS LOAN" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, "CONSTRUCTION • LAND/LOTS" and "EQUIPMENT • PURCHASE • REFINANCE" are listed in smaller, bold, white letters. At the bottom, there is an orange banner with the bank's address, phone number, logo, name, tagline, and website.

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H A R D I N V A L L E Y A C A D E M Y

HAWKS

What a difference a year makes.

For the first time as Hardin Valley Academy Hawks, its 2025 football seniors have the same head coach for a second straight season.

"I think coach (Tyler) Wynn has really been a big help and a big guidance to us, especially having the consistency within two years to have the same head coach," said **Samuel Mann**, All-Region 2-6A linebacker who led the Hawks in tackles last season. "It really does help seeing the same faces — seeing the same coaches, having the same system ready — it really does."

"In the second year we know the playbook already," the senior added. "Last year, we were new to the whole system. We've already been through for a whole season."

"We're way more experienced as well."

"This year we've had coach Wynn for the full winter. So we've been weight training, busting our tails in there, and we've been conditioning a lot more," senior defensive



Tyler Wynn
Head Coach

end/linebacker **Dylan Umansky** said. "We're way more in shape."

"Coach Wynn has really helped me slim down weight, along with being in the weight room getting stronger with maintaining muscle," the senior added. "And just along with the whole team — everybody is getting a whole lot stronger."

Investment

This head coach especially values "investment."

"When we're looking to build stuff, I want to go through the struggle with them," Wynn said. "I've got a son that is a rising fifth-grader that I want to see play for me someday at Hardin Valley."

"We love the community, love the area, love the investment from the kids," he added.

As for building a powerful program, "Do we have a long way to go? Heck yeah — but we're doing it together," Wynn said. "That's been the big thing, is that everybody understands: we're all rowing the boat in the same direction."

Returners, new positions

With 16 starters returning — eight on each side — "We've

See **HAWKS PREVIEW** on Page 25



HAWKS FOOTBALL ROSTER

1..... Garrett Lee..... SR DE/TE
 2..... Nicolas Rivers..... JR DB/WR
 3..... Cruize Furman..... JR DB/WR
 4..... Becks Allen..... SO DB/WR
 5..... Samuel Mann..... SR LB/RB
 6..... Brody Lamb..... SR DB/WR
 7..... Owen Vaughan..... JR DB/WR
 8..... Jaxon Amey..... JR DB/QB
 9..... Riley Matz..... JR DB/QB
 10..... Dylan Umansky..... SR LB/QB
 12..... Isaac Beeler..... JR LB/RB
 14..... Jaxyn Surret..... SR DB/WR
 15..... Andrew Perkins..... SR DE/TE
 16..... Harrison O'Dell..... SR DB/RB
 17..... Kolton Cook..... SR DB/WR
 19..... Haidin Gienow..... JR DB/WR
 20..... Sean Unthank..... SO DB/QB
 21..... Nathan Hancock..... SO LB/RB
 22..... Levi Amey..... SO DB/RB
 23..... Labryan Borne..... JR DB/WR
 24..... Chance Sharp..... JR DE/RB
 25..... Carter Jones..... JR DB/WR
 28..... Adyen Perry..... FR LB/RB
 29..... Jeremiah Brown..... FR DB/WR
 30..... Greyson Tillman..... FR DB/WR
 33..... Michael Freeman..... SO LB/RB
 34..... Jack Brinke..... SO DB/WR

35..... Patrick Jennings..... SO LB/WR
 36..... Cameron Clark..... SO DB/WR
 38..... Riley Caylor..... SR DB/WR
 41..... Logan Holbrook..... JR DE/TE
 45..... Gavin Ralston..... SR DB/WR
 46..... John Geiger..... SR STAR/TE
 49..... Damonii Ealey..... JR DE/WR
 50..... Rylan Olmstead..... JR DE/OL
 51..... Frank Bandy..... JR DE/OL
 52..... Kristof Simicka..... JR DL/OL
 53..... Chase Vanhooose..... SO DL/OL
 54..... Emilio Lara..... SO DL/OL
 55..... Mikeal Arce..... SR DL/OL
 56..... Jace Stephens..... SO DL/OL
 57..... Joshua Brown..... JR DT/OL
 58..... Durgan Ragland..... JR DT/OL
 60..... Benjamin Wells Harm..... JR DT/OL
 61..... Caden Cox..... SO DL/OL
 62..... Henry Parisi..... SO DL/OL
 63..... Jaden Kirby..... SR DT/OL
 64..... Jackson Tucker..... JR DL/OL
 65..... Jackson Flowers..... SO DL/OL
 66..... Augustia Herrera..... SO DL/OL
 67..... Trian Rowe..... SO DL/OL
 68..... Marwan Abu Hatab..... JR DT/OL
 70..... Cayden Harper..... JR DT/OL
 71..... Juan Feliciano Rivera..... SR DT/OL

72..... Josiah Norwood..... SO DL/OL
 73..... Brett Johnson..... JR LB/OL
 74..... Nico Geronimo..... SO DL/OL
 75..... Micah Williams..... SO DL/OL
 76..... Alex Sink..... SO DL/OL
 77..... Nathan Artrip..... JR DT/OL
 84..... Witt Joseph..... SO DE/TE
 87..... Cade Evans..... JR DE/OL

Coaching Staff:

Head Football Coach: Tyler Wynn

Asst HC, Special Teams

Coordinator, Linebackers: Rudy Furman

Offensive Line Coach,

Recruiting Coordinator: Jonas Small

Defensive Coordinator,

Leadership Committee Lead: Ryen Minton

Wide Receivers: Kelli Gottardo

Secondary Coach: Jeremy Collins

RBs/TEs: William Bethel

Defensive Line: John Brewster

Head Freshmen: Troy Price

Freshmen Asst: Tyler Bishop

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HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY 2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 22.....	Karns
Aug. 29.....	Morristown East
Sept. 5.....	@ Bradley Central*
Sept. 12.....	@ West Ridge
Sept. 19.....	Bearden*
Sept. 26.....	Maryville*
Oct. 3.....	@ Farragut*
Oct. 17.....	@ Oak Ridge*
Oct. 24.....	Cleveland*
Oct. 31.....	@ Ooltewah

* Denotes Division 1 Region 2-6A games

HAWKS

2025 **HAWKS SENIORS**



Garrett Lee



Samuel Mann



Brody Lamb



Dylan Umansky



Jaxyn Surret



Andrew Perkins



Harrison O'Dell



Kolton Cook



Riley Caylor



Gavin Ralston



John Geiger



Mikeal Arce



Jaden Kirby



Juan Feliciano Rivera

Hawks Preview

From page 22

got a good group of kids that are bought in, they're resilient, they're invested, they're selfless and they give great effort," Wynn said. "I was trying to build it from the bottom up.

"We have a couple of guys we moved around and pieced in at different places," the coach added.

One of the Hawks' starting quarterbacks in 2024 "is going to play linebacker (and defensive end) for us this year," Wynn said about Umansky. "But he's a returning starter, right? He'll just be at a different spot. He's a bigger kid. He wasn't a traditional quarterback."

Offensive strengths

"Our traditional quarterback, **Riley Matz**, is going to be our starter barring something happening," the coach said about the junior. "He broke two fingers last year right before the season started, and we didn't get him back until week four, and then we slowly tried to plug him in there at times.

"But I feel like he's a lot more experienced now, and he's ready to go," Wynn added.

As for catching the ball, "We got some good skill guys at receiver that are returning," the coach said. "**Nick Rivers**, who was an All-Region kid last year (ex-defensive back), is coming back. He'll only be a junior, so I'm super excited about him.

"**Cruise Furman** is another one of those receivers that

started 10 games for us, and he's coming back," Wynn added about the junior. "**Logan Holbrook** (junior) is our tight end. He started 10 games for us and he's coming back. ... Then you've got guys like **Brody Lamb** (senior), who played secondary last year, who has stepped over and he's playing receiver for us.

"Really excited about that receiver core."

Defensive strengths

Then from a defensive standpoint, Mann "had 110, 115 tackles last year," Wynn said about the senior linebacker. "Was an All-Region guy.

"And then adding Umansky with him, I'm really excited about that linebacker corps," he added. "That's very big ... just the experience that they have of calling it, seeing it and getting guys lined up, getting them in the right place, setting things up to help us to be better."

Though listed as a linebacker, "As of right now, I'm playing and practicing more at the end, trying to help out there for depth reasons," Umansky said. "I think it's where I can help the team the most. ... But I'll be playing a little bit of both.

"Me and coach (**John Brewster**, my defensive end coach, has really been working with me and helping me learn the position better," he added. "I think I've gotten a lot better in playing the defensive end position."

In the HVA secondary, "a lot of guys are returning,"

See **HAWKS PREVIEW** on Page 27



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2025 **HAWKS DANCE TEAM**




Hardin Valley Academy dance team for 2025-26: from left (combining both rows) are Addison Aldrich (senior, co-captain), Sophia Reagan (sophomore), Trinity Kargbo (senior, co-captain), Aubrey Bauer (sophomore), Emily Buhrow (senior), Camdyn Logan (sophomore), Sarah Katherine Greene (senior, captain), Kinsley Schaefer (sophomore), Jovie Raddon (senior), Corinne Thomas (freshman), Riley Beemer (senior) and Kenzie McGregor (freshman). Not pictured is coach Emmy Archer.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/
Jeremy Wiggs Photography

**Have a great season,
Hawks!**





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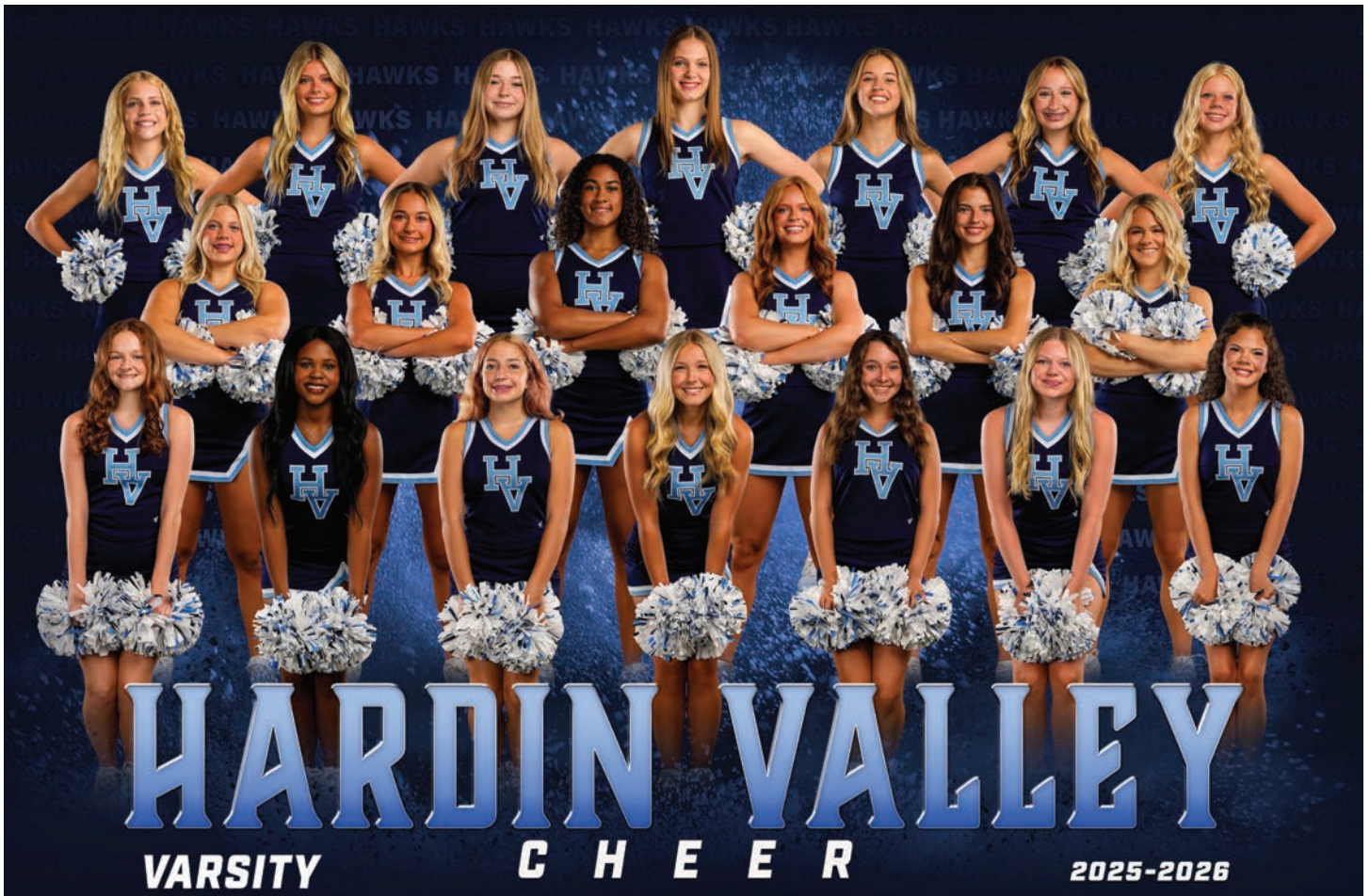
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2025 **HAWKS CHEERLEADERS**

Front row, from left: Anna Benko and Legend Rivers (sophomores), Jordan Hewett (freshmen), Annalee Voiles (junior), Bailey Carson (freshman), Brynlee Thomas (sophomore) and Jenna Brewster (junior). Middle row, from left, are seniors Lizzy Johnson, Eastonne Pitstick, Amia Kelley, Kaitlyn Bailey, Emily Fletcher and Emily Ford. Back row, from left, are Janessa Perloff (freshman), Maya Daugherty (sophomore), Aspen Sanford and Sophia Kohl (freshmen), Ellie Cragwell (sophomore) and freshmen Avery Lahnum and Brooklyn Dishner. Not pictured is coach Christy Ronea Murray.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography

Hawks Preview

From page 25

Wynn said. “**Owen Vaughan** (junior) played corner last year. He’s coming back. **Becks Allen** started for us as a freshman last year at safety. He’s coming back.

“We got two other guys that saw a good amount of time that are back in a rotation,” the coach added, “including senior **Gavin Ralston**, who’s come along. He’s done everything we asked him to do since the time we got here. He’s finally inched his way into that starting lineup. So we feel pretty decent about those guys” featured on defense.

“You’ve got guys like **Nick Rivers**, he also can play on defense if you need to go play some coverage (linebacker) or ‘we need you at defensive end.’”

“They got experience on both sides, so that’s a good thing.”

Up front, running backs

“I think up front, always, when you’re playing in our region, that’s one thing to look at,” Wynn said about his offensive and defensive lines. “Everybody’s got good lines on both sides, the offensive line and defensive line.

“We’ve got a few guys — I wouldn’t say it’s a weakness — but we’re a little bit smaller up front than some of the people we’re going to play,” he added.

However, “We are super experienced on offensive line,” Wynn said. “But we’re still smaller than most of the people we’re playing.”

On the defensive line, “We’re replacing Michael Stewart, who played defensive end last year; First-team All-Region,” the coach said. “You’re replacing Nathan Holbrook, who kicked for

See **HAWKS PREVIEW** on Page 28

Hawks Preview

From page 27

us last year but also played outside linebacker.”

However, “I would say the interior line, that’s the place that, I guess, will be an area of improvement,” Wynn said.

With the graduation of Kaden Cutcher, the team’s rushing leader from 2024, “a few guys are going to fight for that position,” the second-year coach said.

Special teams

To replace Holbrook as kicker and punter, the leader seems to be Logan Holbrook, Nathan’s younger brother.

“He’s a three-tool guy, and then he also plays tight-end,” Wynn said. “And he’s had a really good offseason, so we’re excited to see him. Replacing Nathan is tough. If I got to replace him with anybody in the world, I wanted it to be his little brother.”

However, “we’ve got about four guys that we feel all fit the mold,” the coach said. “Some of them didn’t even play last year. One of them, he never played football before and he was a soccer player, and so they won the state championship.

“He came out the day after the state championship (match),” Wynn added. “He was like, ‘hey, coach, I want to play football.’”

How much better?

Overall, “We’re going to be better, but that gap (in Region 2-6A) was big; is better enough? That’s the question: how much better?” the coach said about improvement leading to victories.

“If you do anything for a year, you’re going to be better at it the next year,” Wynn added. “I feel like our guys have done the things we’ve asked them to do, and they’ve bought in.

“They’re going to be better, but are they better enough?”

~ Alan Sloan

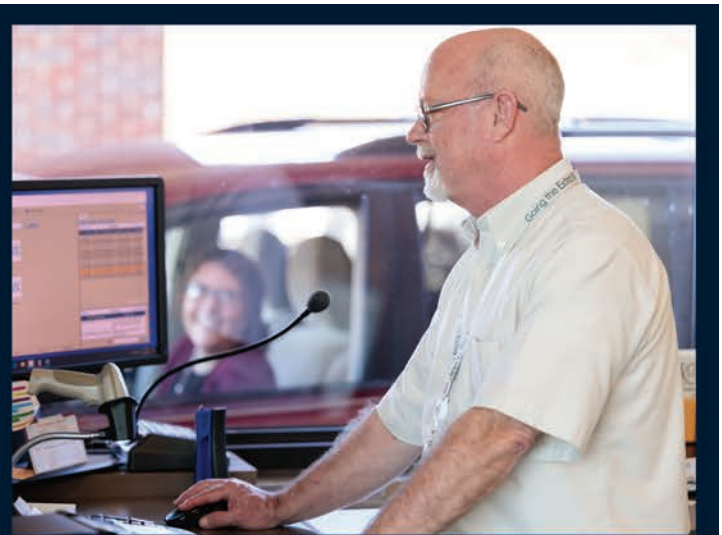
“They’re going to be better, but are they better enough?”

-Tyler Winn
HVA head coach



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CAK team photo courtesy of Pro Photo

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

Beginning his third season leading Christian Academy of Knoxville football, Chad Speck didn't hesitate when asked about the strength of his 2025 Warriors, which return roughly 13 starters from last season.

"The offensive line is going to be the strength of the team," he said. "I mean, four of the five guys from last year return at that position. Our quarterback returns and one of our starting wide receivers returns. There's six returning starters on offense."

On the other side up front, an All-State defensive linemen returns. "We should be pretty strong up front defensively," Speck said.

Offense and more

Among his front wall on offense, Speck specifically pointed to seniors **Tucker Darga** (5-foot-9, 250 pounds), **Cooper Houser** (5-foot-11, 250) and **Benton Blevins** (5-foot-11, 230). "All those guys are senior starters on the offensive line; just great guys," he said. "I mean, they're the heartbeat of our team. We're real big on the idea that everything starts up front. We want



Chad Speck
Head Coach

to celebrate our offensive linemen, they're the most selfless guys on the team and they make it go."

Sophomore quarterback **Seaton Moffet** "took over about halfway through the season" as a freshman in 2024, Speck said. "A really exciting player; we expect him to have a phenomenal career."

The returning wideout is senior **Gabe Linkous**. "A really good player," the coach said. "He's got an offer from Tusculum and he's gotten a couple of Division 2 offers."

What's more, "Linkous will lead us in the secondary as well, starting both ways for us," he added.

In the backfield behind Moffett "is a new kid here, **Ryan Gibson** (5-foot-9, 215), who's going to be a really good player for us," Speck said about the senior who's also penciled in at linebacker.

"He's an exciting player and going to be a great addition for us, great fit for us," the coach added. "His dad is a pastor out in Seymour — just a great family."

Defense

Senior defensive end **Collin Crider** (6-foot-3, 230) "was a unanimous All-State player last year," Speck said. "He just

See **WARRIORS PREVIEW** on Page 31



WARRIORS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0.....Beckett Rich.....WR/DB.....SO	23.....Rio Curry.....WR/DB.....FR	66.....Benton Blevins.....OL/DL.....SR
1.....Sawyer Anderson.....ATH/QB/DB.....JR	24.....Harrison Harwell.....RB/DB.....SO	67.....Tucker Darga.....OL/DL.....SR
3.....Hunter Bennett.....RB/DB.....JR	27.....Jeremiah Wilson.....DL/TE.....SO	70.....Wyatt Dicken.....OL/DL.....SO
4.....Ryan Gibson.....RB/LB.....SR	28.....Teeno Hutchinson.....WR DB.....SR	75.....Andrew Noland.....OL/DL.....FR
5.....Bennett Jelks.....WR/DB/K.....JR	31.....Terrance Carlos.....TE/LB.....FR	76.....Sam Scoggins.....OL/DL.....FR
7.....JJ Henry.....WR/DB.....JR	32.....Raleigh Miller.....H/LB.....FR	77.....Hudson Underwood.....OL/LB.....JR
8.....Bayden Walsh.....WR/DB.....JR	33.....Marvin Wyrosdick.....RB/LB.....SO	78.....Conrad Carlton.....OL/DL.....FR
9.....Elijah Krokowski.....WR/LB/K.....JR	39.....Ricky Parker.....WR/DB.....FR	82.....Beck Weigel.....WR/DB/K.....FR
10.....Kyler Cook.....RB/LB.....SR	42.....Jack Elliott.....TE/DL.....FR	83.....Ethan Flowers.....WR/DB.....FR
11.....Gabriel Linkous.....WR DB.....SR	45.....Wesley Butler.....TE/DE.....SR	88.....Wyatt Howard.....WR.....SO
12.....AJ Scott.....QB/TE/LB.....SO	50.....Michael Yoakum.....OL/DL.....JR	
13.....Leif Claassen.....WR/DB.....SO	51.....Trey Hilliard.....OL/DL.....JR	
15.....Stone Stinson.....H/LB.....FR	52.....Jax Narancich.....OL/DL.....JR	
16.....Seaton Moffett.....QB.....SO	55.....Graham Yoakum.....OL/DL.....SO	
17.....Lawson Hearp.....WR/DB.....SO	56.....Javon Winton-Smith.....OL/DL.....SR	
18.....Andrew Newton.....QB/WR/DB.....FR	60.....Cooper Houser.....OL/DL.....SR	
19.....Jack Traylor.....QB/DB.....FR	62.....Michael Weaver.....OL/DL.....FR	
21.....Baker Sterchi.....WR/DB.....SO	64.....Andrew Dungan.....OL/LB.....JR	
22.....Collin Crider.....DL.....SR	65.....Henley Hayes.....OL/DL.....SO	

ASSISTANT COACHES:

Bart Kareken, Craig Carter, Darell Keith,
Dan Phillips, Daniel Matherly, Jordan Hannah,
Bart Snider, Jordan Delaney, Max Smith,
McKrae Guinn, Trace Pate, Chris Cook

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CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE 2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 22	Concord Christian School
Aug. 29	Heritage High School
Sept. 5	@ Notre Dame High School*
Sept. 12	@ Oneida High School
Sept. 19	@ Silverdale Baptist Academy*
Sept. 26	@ Webb School Of Knoxville*
Oct. 3	Chattanooga Christian*
Oct. 17	(Homecoming) Grace Christian Academy*
Oct. 24	Boyd Buchanan*
Oct. 30 (Thursday).....	@ Lakeway Christian Academy*

* Denotes Division II-AA East Region games

WARRIORS

2025 WARRIORS SENIORS



Ryan Gibson



Kyler Cook



Gabriel Linkous



Collin Crider



Javon Winton-Smith



Cooper Houser



Benton Blevins



Tucker Darga

Christian Academy of Knoxville seniors not pictured:
Teeno Hutchinson and Wesley Butler

CAK senior photos by Alan Sloan

Warriors Preview

From page 29

picked up an offer from The Citadel a week or so ago. A really good player; I'm excited about him. He should have a huge year — I mean, he's a real problem for people.

"It's all based around Collin Crider and him returning, but we've got a couple of new faces that'll help up there," the coach added without mentioning their names, except to add, "We'll see how they do. ... A couple of those offensive linemen will rotate there on the defensive line, as well, to give us some good snaps inside."

Alongside Gibson, senior **Kyler Cook** "is going to be a stalwart at inside linebacker for us," Speck said. "He's played a lot of snaps for us already going into his senior year, so he should really lead that unit from a leadership perspective, making calls and plays and that kind of thing."

In the secondary, "We're going to be a little young on the back-end outside of Gabe, but it'll be exciting to see how those (new) guys can play," the coach said.

Look for junior **Sawyer Anderson** to help in the second-

ary at strong safety or add still more talent to the linebacking corps.

"He'll start both sides of the ball; he's a guy you can move around on offense," Speck said.

As for special teams, "We have new kickers and punters," the coach said, but praised both of his new kickers as being "really good:" junior soccer players **Bennett Jelks** and **Elijah Krokowski**.

"The kickoff guy is Elijah Krokowski and the field goal kicker is Bennett Jelks," Speck said.

Concerns

In addition to his starting secondary, "depth's always a concern, especially at a school our size," the coach said. "You lose a couple of players and all of a sudden it's a pretty significant drop off.

"But that's just the way it goes when you got a roster of 45, 50 guys, and about half of those guys aren't playing on Friday nights," Speck added.

~ Alan Sloan

2025 **WARRIORS CHEERLEADERS**



Christian Academy of Knoxville cheerleaders for 2025-26 are, front row from left, Angie Amaya (freshman), Neissa Leadbetter (junior), Senior captains Bella Smith and Caroline Jack, sophomores Claudia Chamberlain and Bridgette Fawver, and Grady Thomas (junior). Back row, from left, are Jordan Werner (freshman), juniors Leighton Cunningham and Isabella Carr, freshmen Mary Nancy Smith, Alexis Boone, Laney Ivie and Audrey Worley and sophomore Mira Sanford. Not pictured is coach Brooke Cunningham.

Photo by Alan Sloan

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CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

When Steve Matthews undertook the task of rebooting the Concord Christian School high school football program, he knew it would be a challenge.

But it was a challenge he embraced.

During his first season with the Lions, the team went 8-2 while playing a split schedule: five junior varsity opponents and five varsity games during the school's first season since 2018.

The coach has had conversations with others who have started or restarted programs, and they've told him to expect some difficulty in 2025 — Concord's first in seven years as a full-fledged TSSAA playoff eligible program in Division II-A East Region.

But he's not listening to naysayers.

"I've talked to some coaches around the state, at both small and large schools, who have done startups, and they tell me that Year 2 might be a little tough," said Matthews, who was previously the head coach at Knoxville Catholic High School where he led the Irish to a pair of state champi-



Steve Matthews

Head Coach

onships. "But we're excited and I'm optimistic.

"We have about 40 guys on our roster, and that looks to be a good number for our league," he added. "I think we can win some ballgames."

The Lions were slated to play a 10-game varsity schedule this season. The schedule, however, has dropped to nine games as The King's Academy in Seymour and The Webb School in Bell Buckle recently announced they would not field teams in 2025, costing Concord a pair of region contests.

The Lions have replaced their game against Bell Buckle, which was scheduled for Sept. 12, with a tilt against Christ School (North Carolina). The game against The King's Academy, slated for Sept. 26, had not been replaced at press time.

Concord, which was independent in 2024, will compete in the East Region of Division II-A, which now includes Middle Tennessee Christian, Providence Academy (Johnson City), Providence Christian School (Murfreesboro) and Grace Baptist (Chattanooga).

See **CONCORD PREVIEW** on Page 35



LIONS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Lyric Jackson.....WR/LB.....SO	14..... Jude Wiggins.....RB/DB.....SO	52..... Kory Ball.....OL/DL.....JR
1..... Dondon Underwood.....WR/DB.....FR	16..... Zach Clemmer.....QB/DB.....FR	54..... Eli Wolfe.....OL/DL.....FR
2..... Dasani Moulden.....WR/DB.....FR	18..... Muluken McBrayer.....WR/DB.....SO	55..... Cade Harrison.....OL/DL.....JR
4..... Maurice Smith.....QB/DB.....FR	19..... Sean Bean.....WR/LB.....JR	56..... Asher Noe.....OL/DL.....SO
5..... Todd Lundy.....WR/DB.....SO	21..... Alistair Middlebrook.....RB/DB.....SO	60..... Brandon Edwards.....OL/DL.....FR
6..... Patrick Rhea.....WR/DB.....SR	22..... Reece Franklin.....WR/LB.....JR	71..... Ethan Romero.....OL/DL.....FR
7..... Kohbe Ward.....QB/DB.....FR	23..... Cameron Blount.....WR/DB.....FR	74..... Eli Romero.....OL/DL.....FR
8..... CJ Simpson.....RB/DL.....JR	24..... Braxton Mcdonald.....WR/DB.....SO	75..... Caleb Gomes.....OL/DL.....SO
9..... Paul Ballast.....WR/DB.....JR	25..... Andrew Lumsdaine.....RB/LB.....JR	77..... Jake Johnson.....OL/DL.....SR
11..... Gavin Guinn.....TE/DL.....SO	26..... Moose Jarnigan.....RB/LB.....SO	78..... Christopher Sherman.....OL/DL.....SR
12..... Cooper Bacon.....WR/DB.....SO	40..... Elijah Riley.....LB/RB.....SO	85..... Pedro Sabat.....K.....JR
13..... Roman Hogrefe.....QB/LB.....SO	44..... Oakley Helton.....LB/RB.....SO	88..... Evan Hckey.....WR/LB.....JR
	50..... Matthew Blount.....OL/DL.....JR	
	51..... Eric Abaye.....OL/DL.....SO	

“We have a great group of young men and they’re all hard workers and we have a lot more depth than we’ve had in the past.”

–Steve Matthews, CCS head coach

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CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 22	@ CAK
Aug. 29.....	Mt. Juliet Christian (<i>Blakenship Field In Oak Ridge</i>)
Sept. 5.....	Orlando, Florida
Sept. 12.....	@ Christ School, North Carolina
Sept. 19.....	@ Middle TN Christian *
Sept. 26	Open Date
Oct. 3.....	Providence Academy * (<i>At Carson-Newman University</i>)
Oct. 17.....	South Greene (<i>2 p.m. @ Concord field</i>)
Oct. 24.....	Providence Christian School* (<i>Blakenship Field</i>)
Oct. 31.....	@ Grace Baptist Academy*

*Denotes Division II-A East Region opponent

LIONS

2025 LIONS SENIORS



Patrick Rhea



Jake Johnson



Christopher Sherman

Concord Preview

From page 33

The Lions have non-region tilts against Christian Academy of Knoxville, Mt. Juliet Christian, Orlando Christian Academy and South Greene.

“We open against CAK and that will be a big game, a big challenge for us because they’re the next division up from us,” Matthews said. “We’re excited — and I’m an optimist.”

Top players

The Lions will feature a talented mix of veterans who return from the 2024 squad and a young crop of newcomers looking to make an impact early in their high school careers.

Top returners include: **Jake Johnson** (senior, offensive lineman); **Oakley Helton** (sophomore, linebacker); **Reece Franklin** (junior, linebacker); **Asher Noe** (sophomore, offensive lineman); **Jude Wiggins** (sophomore, running back/linebacker); **Andrew Lumsdaine** (junior, running back/linebacker); **CJ Simpson** (junior, tight end/defensive lineman); **Caleb Gomes** (sophomore, offensive lineman); **Christopher Sherman** (senior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman) and **Paul Ballast** (junior, wide receiver/defensive back).

That nucleus of veterans will be joined by key newcomers: **Kohbe Ward** (freshman, quarterback/defensive back); **Dasani Moulden** (freshman, wide receiver/defensive back); **Dondon Underwood** (freshman, wide receiver/defensive back); **Maurice Smith** (freshman, running back/defensive back); **Eli Romero** (freshman, offensive lineman/defensive lineman); **Gavin Guinn** (sophomore, tight end/defensive lineman) and **Eli Wolfe** (freshman, offensive lineman/defensive lineman).

Team strength

Matthews noted his team’s biggest strength will be experience of front on both sides of the line of scrimmage.

“I think we have the most experience on the offensive and defensive lines,” he said. “Defense will also be a strength for us and I like where we are right now.

“We have a great group of young men and they’re all hard workers and we have a lot more depth than we’ve had in the past.”

Concerns

While Matthews is looking for the Lions possibly to surprise

some people this season, the coach acknowledges that some key players in key positions will have to grow up quickly.

“Our biggest issue is youth,” Matthews said. “It all depends on how quickly our young guys develop and mature.

“The other thing for us is to continue to build depth.”

Final scheduling thoughts

Looking back to 2024, “I think we built this the right way,” Matthews said. “We did this the right way by playing five varsity games and playing five JV games.”

CCS also faces another unique challenge this season, as it will have only one true varsity home game. The Lions will host South Greene beginning at 2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17. They’ll play Providence Academy at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City.

Concord will play its other home games at Blankenship Field in Oak Ridge.

~ Ken Lay



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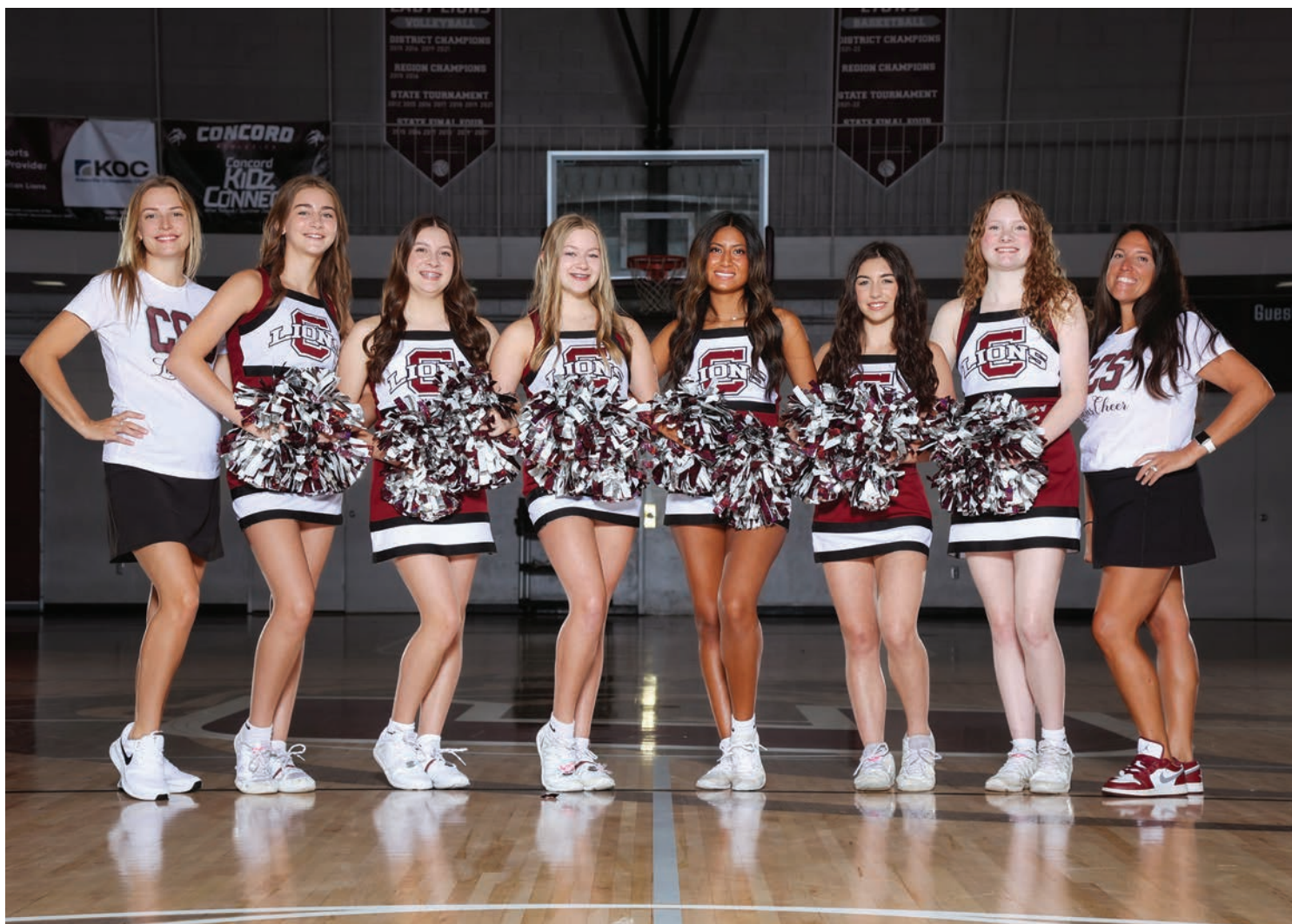


Photo courtesy of Pro Photo

Concord Christian School cheerleaders and coaches for 2025-26, from left, are assistant coach Rachel Semple, cheerleaders Mason Burket, Abby Daugherty, Claire Newsome, Lola Schneider, Elyana Courtley and Addy Gruidl, and head coach Erica Kane.



The hard work behind the scenes is evident for head coach Steve Matthews' Concord Christian School Lions. This photo reflects the attention to detail needed, which comes during preseason practices leading up to that first CCS regular season game. The Lions — fully restored as TSSAA members in Division II-A East Region — begin the 2025 season out of region against Christian Academy of Knoxville, at CAK, Friday evening, Aug. 22.

All CCS football photos by Alan Sloan



KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

IRISH

While Knoxville Catholic has 19 starters returning according to head coach Phillip Shadowens, one stands out in a huge way.

Shadowens might be biased about the degree of Fighting Irish skill position talent, but he's been told something quite special "from the college coaches around that I've called."

What? "**Tyreek King** is probably the best high school receiver in America," the third-year KCHS coach said about his senior superstar. "To be that, that means he runs really good routes, has got great hands — the whole package. ... And his ability to get off the ball; he's really impossible to press at the line of scrimmage."

"He's committed to Tennessee, but everybody that has seen him — including this summer in his camps (a 5-Star camp among them) — the feedback I get from college coaches is that he was the best one there at every camp," Shadowens added.

"He's got something that you can't teach, and that's the ability to get in and out of a break and be explosive and at full speed in one step."



Phillip Shadowens
Head Coach

Though King is only 5-foot-11, 175 pounds, "There's probably nobody that has as much explosiveness and wiggle and shake and then straight-line speed as Tyreek has," the coach added. "He's a 4.4 (second runner in the 40-yard dash). ... That's running with a laser (measurement), which is very accurate. That was with sweat pants on when he did that."

"And he's worked hard in the weight room this summer as well, probably put on 5 pounds of muscle this summer. He'll have to get a little thicker at the next level."

Other offense

"Our on-the-field strength is our skill positions, especially at receiver," the coach added.

Even beyond King, "We're very talented ... with a bunch of other kids," Shadowens said about his other receivers. "(Senior) **Casen Jenkins** is special. A big group of young kids that can really play: **Brooks Johnston**, **Brayden (Howard)** and **(Braylen) Gibbs**, **A'mare McKenzie** all those kids are young." All are sophomore except Howard, a junior.

Jenkins said about his receiving goals this season, "a thousand yards and a hundred catches."

"Our whole offense is coming back, with (quarterback) **Mack (Bartholomew)** starting and all of our receivers and

See **IRISH PREVIEW** on Page 40



IRISH FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Matthew Rogers..... RB/DB..... SO	24..... Jalen Wrancher..... RB/DB..... JR	51..... Shaud Broyles..... OL/DL..... FR
1..... A'mare Mckenzie..... WR/DB..... SO	25..... Isaac Hooper..... RB/LB..... SO	52..... Braxton Stinnett..... OL/DL..... FR
2..... Brooks Johnston..... WR/DB..... SO	26..... Brogan Corley..... WR/DB..... SO	53..... Kaden Duffield..... OL/DL..... SO
3..... Braylen Gibbs..... WR/DB..... SO	27..... Tristan Jarvis..... RB/LB..... SO	54..... Jax Nichols..... OL/DL..... SO
4..... Chaz Smith..... WR/DB..... SR	28..... Quentin Smith..... WR/DB..... SO	55..... JR Fowler..... OL/DL..... SR
5..... Xavier Bowman..... WR/DB..... SO	29..... Connor Gray..... WR/DB..... SR	57..... Anton Hamilton..... OL/DL..... SR
6..... Dominic Daddabbo..... WR/DB..... SR	31..... Mitch Canon..... RB/DL..... FR	60..... Zeke Chestnutt..... OL/DL..... JR
7..... Tyreek King..... WR/DB..... SR	32..... Kaleb Johnson..... TE/DE..... SR	61..... Brady McConville..... OL/DL..... SR
8..... Kruise Buntyn..... RB/LB..... FR	33..... Gavin Jones..... TE/LB..... SR	62..... Shannon Dunn..... OL/DL..... FR
9..... Garrett King..... QB/DB..... SO	34..... Nate Truax..... RB/LB.....	63..... Bryson Kirkpatrick..... OL/DL..... FR
10..... Mack Bartholomew..... QB/LB..... JR	35..... Pierce Welch..... WR/DB..... SO	67..... Owen McNally..... OL/DL..... FR
11..... Frank Mancini..... QB..... FR	36..... Ciaran Sullivan..... RB/LB..... SO	68..... Val Wentworth..... OL/DL..... JR
12..... Connor Welch..... WR/DB..... SR	37..... Max Shipe..... RB/LB..... FR	70..... Kamden Carter..... OL/DL..... JR
13..... Ethan Utley..... QB..... FR	38..... Dylan Ball..... K..... FR	71..... Issiaga Yattara..... OL/DL..... SR
14..... Brayden Howard..... WR/DB..... JR	39..... Mark Medlock..... WR/LB..... FR	73..... Jacob Rice..... OL/DL..... SR
15..... Connor Mohr..... QB/DB..... SO	41..... Rob Sills.....	75..... Trey Sudderth..... OL/DL..... FR
16..... Casen Jenkins..... WR/DB..... SR	42..... Jaylen Fitzgerald..... WR/DB..... FR	76..... Jeremy George..... OL/DL..... SR
17..... Skytan Johnson..... WR/FS..... SO	43..... Deklan Meisner..... RB/DB..... FR	77..... Caleb King..... OL/DL..... JR
18..... Andrew Ballengee..... WR/DB..... SR	44..... Bode Flomberg..... WR/LB..... SO	80..... Matthew Ayo..... K..... SO
19..... Saquan Samuel..... RB/DB..... SO	45..... Ethan Hill..... FB/LB..... JR	81..... Ty Wilson..... WR/DB..... FR
20..... Markise Witt..... WR/LB..... FR	46..... Deonta Rouse..... FB/LB..... JR	82..... Liam Gray..... WR/DB..... SO
21..... Liam Patterson..... WR/DB..... JR	48..... Phillip Patterson..... WR/DB..... FR	83..... Caleb Bales..... K..... FR
22..... George Mancini..... WR/DB..... SR	49..... Cole Latham..... WR/DB..... JR	89..... Ethan Hoskins..... WR/DB..... JR
23..... Gage King..... WR/DB..... SO	50..... JJ Payne..... OL/DL..... FR	93..... Christopher Olvera..... K/OL/DL..... JR

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 2025 SCHEDULE

IRISH

Date	Opponent
Aug. 22	@ Riverdale
Aug. 28 (Thursday)	@ Anderson Co.
Sept. 5	Lipscomb Academy
Sept. 12	Open date
Sept. 19	Montgomery Bell Academy*
Sept. 26	(Homecoming) Silverdale Baptist Academy
Oct. 3	@ Ensworth*
Oct. 17	McCallie*
Oct. 24	(Senior Night) Christ Presbyterian*
Oct. 31	@ Baylor*

* Denotes Division II-AAA East Region games

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2025 **IRISH SENIORS**



Dominic Daddabbo



Frank Mancini



Connor Welch



Ethan Utley



Casen Jenkins



George Mancini



Connor Gray



Kaleb Johnson



Gavin Jones



JR Fowler



Anton Hamilton

All KCHS football photos by Alan Sloan



Brady McConville



Jacob Rice

Knoxville Catholic
High School
senior
not pictured:
Jeremy George

Irish Preview

From page 37

running backs coming back,” the senior added.

Running the football will be “our tailbacks: **Matthew Rogers** (sophomore) and other kids who are coming on, **Kruise Buntyn** (freshman) and **Isaac Hooper** (sophomore),” Shadowens said.

Bartholomew, a junior, started all 11 games in 2024, with three-year starting quarterback Jayden Neal missing his entire senior season due to injury.

“His offseason has been incredible,” Shadowens said about Bartholomew. “We expect him to be a big-time player.

“You can’t do anything to replace experience, you’ve just got to get it,” the coach added. “... To be able to handle those situations and all the pressure that sometimes you feel from a Friday night and to be able to deal with that throughout the year, it’s priceless.”

“It’s just really made me tough,” the junior quarterback said about his 11 games last season. “It made me know what to expect this year in the season. Just to get that experience under my belt, learning what it takes, how much work you have to put in to really be successful in our league. It’s really just helped with all that.”

While praising King in the passing game, “That opens up everything else on the backside with having Casen on the outside, getting open, just sitting in the windows, especially in zone,” Bartholomew said. “He just really, really sits in the window when they’re over there doubling Tyreek.”

Bartholomew “couldn’t play his freshman year because he tore an ACL,” Shadowens said.

Up front, “We’re probably less experienced on the offensive front, but we’ve got kids that have come in and moved in that are big, strong, physical kids,” the coach said without giving names.

Defense

“We have three kids over there that lead our defense,” Shadowens said.

Senior safety/outside linebacker **George Mancini** “was out with an ACL (knee) injury last year. ... It really hurt us

because he’s so talented,” the coach said. “He’s going to be a really special part of our defense.”

Senior inside linebackers **Dominic Daddabbo** and **Gavin Jones** “really set the tone for our defense,” Shadowens said. “Great leaders on and off the field; physical, strong kids.

A “young secondary features a bunch of those kids that started as freshmen who are going to be sophomores,” the coach said without giving details. “They’ve been offered by numerous colleges around the country. They’re very, very talented — but it’s nice to have that senior leadership role that can keep it all together.”

Along the defensive line, “We feel like we’ve certainly made a lot of progress up front,” Shadowens said. “**Anton Hamilton** (5-foot-9, 265, senior) is an unblockable big lineman that we have to go along with some other kids. But that is the name that I would mention right now.”

Biggest strength

“The biggest team strength is, I think, our leadership,” Shadowens said. “We’ve got a group of seniors that are true leaders in and out of the locker room. I think that’s what you have to have in high school football. You have to have players that set the tone for you from a kid’s perspective. I think that would be our biggest strength.”

Concerns

“Probably be in our league, you need as much depth as you can up front,” Shadowens said. “Everybody two-platoons up front, but we’re not quite to the point that we can completely two-platoon.

“We do have more linemen in our program that are going to be able to really function at a high level in our league, but we still won’t be able to completely two platoon those guys,” he added. “... We still need to gain more depth. That’s some-

“We know we play the toughest schedule in Tennessee, but probably the toughest schedule in all the Southeast I would venture to say, based on the quality of our league.”

~ **Phillip Shadowens**, Head Coach

See **IRISH PREVIEW** on Page 42



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2025 **IRISH DANCE TEAM**

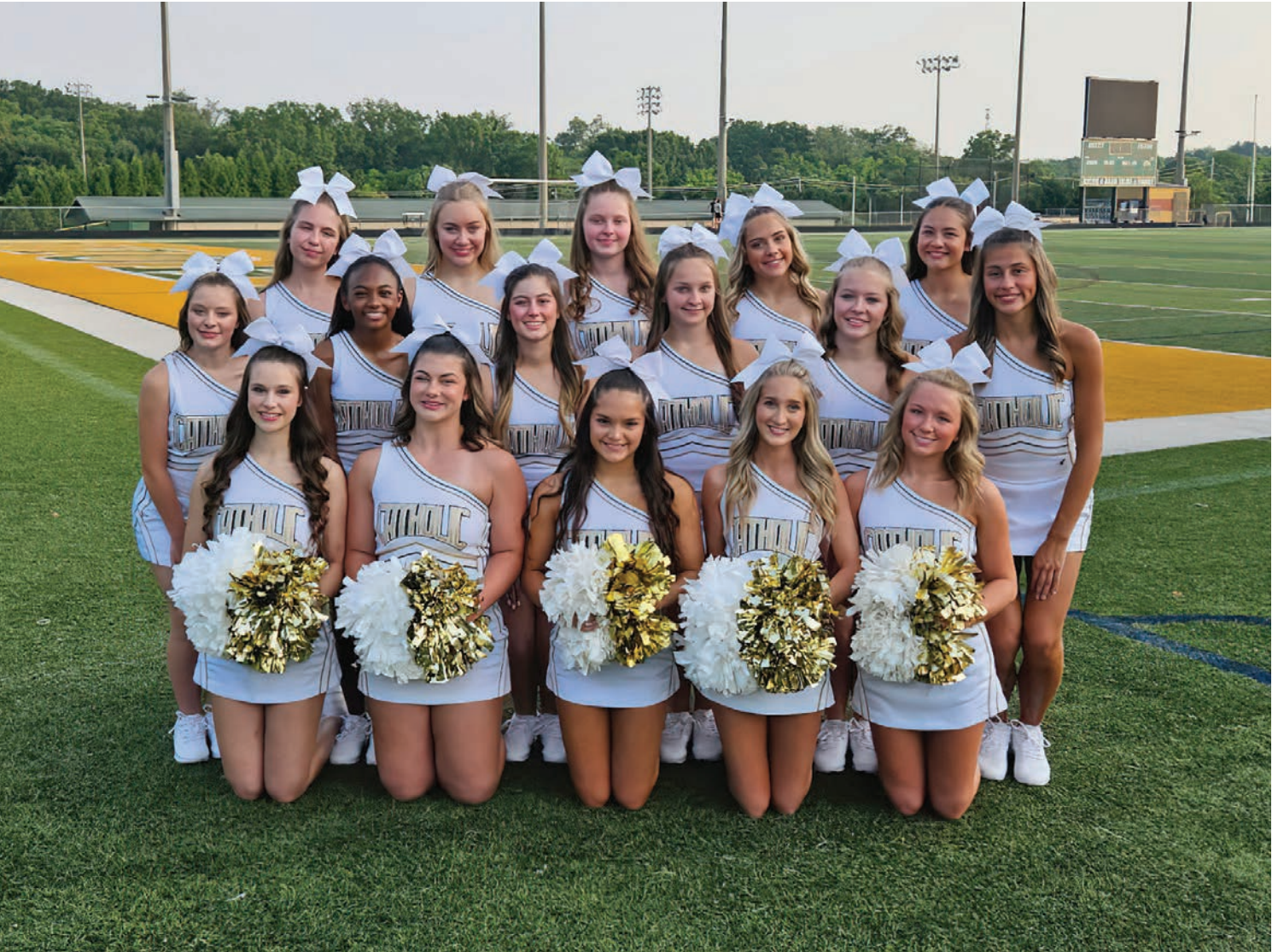


Knoxville Catholic High School dance team for the 2025-26 season, bottom row from left, are Danielle Hill (freshman), Alexa Thompson (sophomore), Eden Perkinson (captain/senior), Anna Maria Medlyn (sophomore) and Veronica Bartholomay (junior). Top row, from left, are Mabry Layman (freshman), Jocelyn-Marie McClintock (freshman), Reagan Marlowe (sophomore), Ava Salzenstein (sophomore), Annabelle Helton (sophomore) and coach Katrina Rouse.

Photo courtesy of Andrew Medlyn



2025 **IRISH CHEERLEADERS**



Irish Preview

From page 40

thing we got to grow as a program.”

Division II-AAA: how good?

Shadowens said about the Division II-AAA level of teams, “We’re ranked the fourth toughest conference in America.

“If you take the state of Tennessee, when you come out with the rankings of teams — the top seven teams in the state (counting all levels, private and public) — six of those are on our schedule,” he added. “We know we play the toughest schedule in Tennessee, but probably the toughest schedule in all the Southeast I would venture to say, based on the quality of our league.”

Knoxville Catholic High School cheerleaders for 2025-26, top row from left, are Madie Pagel, Milly King, Addison Peters, Campbell Ross and Mila Yau. Middle row, from left, are Avery Hill, Gabby Christof, Charley Blaché, Tess Laco, Reagan Yarbrough and Giselle Zayas. Bottom row, from left, are Kylie Stout, Emma Moss, Elly Varner, Sophie Bunch and Izzy Robertson. Not pictured is head coach Randi Nelson.

Photo by Alan Sloan

~ Alan Sloan



WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS

Two years ago, in his first year as head football coach at Webb School of Knoxville, Don Mahoney and the Spartans won 10 games

Last year, due to graduation and numerous injuries, Webb fell to 5-5. "I've never been a part of as many injuries as we were hit with last year," Mahoney said.

A year later, Mahoney is confident his team is headed back in the right direction.

"Really excited about this crew overall," Mahoney said. "I really like this group of seniors and the leadership they've provided. We've had as productive a spring as we've had since I've been here."

The Spartans return eight starters on both sides of the ball, and, just as important for Mahoney, a former lineman, both sides' lines should be strengths.

"If you don't have (good offensive and defensive lines), you don't have a chance," Mahoney said.

Gage Porter (6-foot-1, 185 pounds) will likely start at



Don Mahoney
Head Coach

quarterback. "I'm happy to see the progress he's making, the consistency of what he's done this spring and summer," Mahoney said of the senior, who has limited experience.

Sophomore **Parks Lederer** (6-foot-2, 180) will back up Porter. "He has all the physical tools," Mahoney said.

Senior **Baxter Johnson** (6-foot, 177) returns at running back in Mahoney's run-first offense. "Outstanding player," Mahoney said. "He can run away from you and he also won't shy away from contact."

Junior **Brailen Robinson** (5-foot-9, 160), a receiver last year, and freshman **Grelyn Gordon** (5-foot-10, 165) will get carries as well.

"Brailen did some really good things for us last year," Mahoney said. "I think Grelyn has a really bright future."

When Mahoney chooses to throw the ball, his quarterbacks will have a wealth of talent at receiver.

A pair of tight ends — Junior **Thaj Bowers** (6-foot-5, 2-40) and sophomore Jackson Walters (6-foot-4, 230) — will be weapons. Bowers returns as a starter; Walters played guard last year.

Two speedy senior wide receivers return to the position:

See SPARTANS PREVIEW on Page 45



SPARTANS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0 Shavar YoungSRWR/DB
 1 Greg Tate IIISRWR/DB
 3 Gage PorterSRQB/DB
 4 Parks LedererSOQB/DB
 5 Brailen RobinsonJRWR/DB
 6 Da'Ran TaylorSOTE/DE
 7 Beckett RiversSOWR/DB
 8 Tahj BowersJRTE/DE
 10 Caleb DavisJRWRR/DB
 11 Javon DirlJRWR/DB
 13 Grelyn GordonFRRB/DB
 14 Cullen HeckSOWR/DB
 15 Brayden RiversJRWR/DB
 18 Ben BaisleySOWR/DB
 20 Chase McDowallFRWR/DB
 21 Sammy SteimerFRWR/DB

22 Drew JohnsonJRWR/DB
 24 Caz BaneFRTE/DL
 28 Clay FultzSRK
 30 Brody KulisekSOTE/DE
 32 Aidan LindwallJRPunter
 34 Lance HermanFRTE/DL
 42 Baxter JohnsonSRRB/LB
 44 Jackson WaltersSOOL/DL
 54 Hudson WoodsJRLB
 55 Gabriel GonzalezFROL/DL
 56 Michael PembertonSROL/DL
 58 Will OvertonJROL/DL
 59 Connor GarmerSOOL/DL
 60 Jay LowerySROL/DL
 61 Jake RogersSOOL/DL
 64 Brayden GonzalezFROL/DL

75 Jamil ThompsonFROL/DL
 77 Marvin HickeSROL/DL
 Henry JenkinsMGR.....

Coaching Staff:

Head Coach: Don Mahoney
 Offensive Coordinator/ Wide Receivers: Chris Brown
 Pass Game Coordinator/ Quarterbacks: Angelo Raga
 Running Backs: Sam Brown
 Tight Ends: Chris Hickman
 Offensive Line: Don Mahoney
 Defensive Coordinator/ Linebackers: Kevin Julian
 Defensive Line: Billy Beron
 Secondary: Toby Strange
 Director of Football Operations: Tim Huddleston

"I really like this group of seniors and the leadership they've provided. We've had as productive a spring as we've had since I've been here."**"**

~ Don Mahoney, Head Coach

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WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE 2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 22Upperman
Aug. 29Asheville School
Sept. 5@ Silverdale Baptist Academy*
Sept. 12@ Lakeway Christian*
Sept. 18 (Thursday)@ Grace Christian*
Sept. 26CAK*
Oct. 3@ Notre Dame*
Oct. 17 (8 p.m., EDT)@ Stewarts Creek
Oct. 24Chattanooga Christian*
Oct. 31Boyd Buchanan* (Senior Night)

* Denotes Division II-AA East Region games

SPARTANS

2025 SPARTANS SENIORS



Shavar Young



Greg Tate III



Gage Porter



Clay Fultz



Baxter Johnson



Michael Pemberton



Jay Lowery



Marvin Hicke

All Webb School of Knoxville football photos by Alan Sloan

Spartans Preview

From page 43

Shavar Young (6-foot, 185), a Clemson commit, and **Greg Tate III** (5-foot-8, 160).

“Good balance,” Mahoney said of his ball-catchers. “Good speed (Young and Gray); tight ends are good targets.” Webb also is well-stocked with backup receivers.

Mahoney’s offensive line has size, experience and depth. Senior **Marvin Hicke** (6-foot-4, 240) returns at left tackle. Freshman **Gabriel Gonzalez** (6-foot-2) will start at left guard.

Sophomore **Connor Garmer** (5-foot-7, 190) and freshman **Brayden Gonzalez** (6-foot-2, 285) will compete at center. Garmer started at the position last year.

Junior **Will Overton** (6-foot-2, 230) will start at right guard. Overton started two years ago but was hurt last year. **Jake Rogers**, a 6-foot-4, 300-pound sophomore, will take reps at right guard as well.

Senior **Michael Pemberton** (6-foot-3, 240) will man right tackle. Freshman **Jamil Thompson** (6-foot-5, 305) also get snaps. “We have size and competition (on the offensive line) we’ve never had here before,” Mahoney said.

Hicke and sophomore **Da’Ran Taylor** (6-foot-1, 215) will be in the interior of the defensive line; both return as

starters. Pemberton will return at one defensive end; the other will be a battle between Bowers, who returns to the position, and Walters. Backups will give the starters rest.

“Good depth,” Mahoney said of his D-line. “I’m excited about them.”

Mahoney’s most work-in-progress unit will be the linebackers in his 4-3 scheme. Likely starters are junior **Brayden Rivers** (5-foot-11, 160) and sophomore **Brody Kulisek** (5-foot-11, 160) on the outside and Garmer in the middle.

“Running and striking ability,” Mahoney said of Garmer.

Young and Tate — “they’re the whole deal,” Mahoney said — will return to the secondary as starting cornerbacks. Johnson returns to play safety (“outstanding player, total package”), along with sophomore **Cullen Heck** (6-foot-1, 160). Juniors **Javon Dirl** and **Caleb Davis** can help.

Porter will punt. Senior **Clay Fultz** returns as kicker. Young, Tate and Johnson will return kicks and punts.

“I’m trying to make it a player-led team,” Mahoney said. “I’m excited for this group; I like the direction it’s heading.”

~ Bill Howard

2025 SPARTANS CHEERLEADERS



Webb School of Knoxville cheerleaders for 2025-26, first row, from left, are freshmen Chrissy Goin, Camilla Bell, Lily Stewart, Keally Counts, Brooks DeLozier, Olivia Ogle, Devon Lederer, Amelia Greer and Emma Ellis. Second row, from left, are seniors Maggie Galbreth, Mimi Johnson, Genevieve Sterrett, Payton McNally, Jack Kalosieh, Lila MacFawn, Helen Bruner, Scarlett Parrott and Gracen Kinley-Lawrence. Third row, from left, are seniors Teagan Green, Sybella Crane, Hannah Beth Bibee, Lilly McMillin, Maggie Jenkins, Payton Jordan, Caroline Carter, Katie Ray and Reagan Loveday. Fourth row, from left, are ju-unions Keely Hillsheim, Kate Lyke, Caroline Goins, Haley Stinson, Claire Luton, Taylor Bell and Kirby Willoughby. Fifth row, from left, are sophomores Amelia Hovis, Chloe Dye, Reagan Stephens, Maisen Sharp, Katie Seabrook, Caroline White, Annabelle Baker and Berkley Melhorn. Not pictured are freshmen Ellie Kate Barber and Catherine Heck and head coach Susie Norris.

Photo submitted




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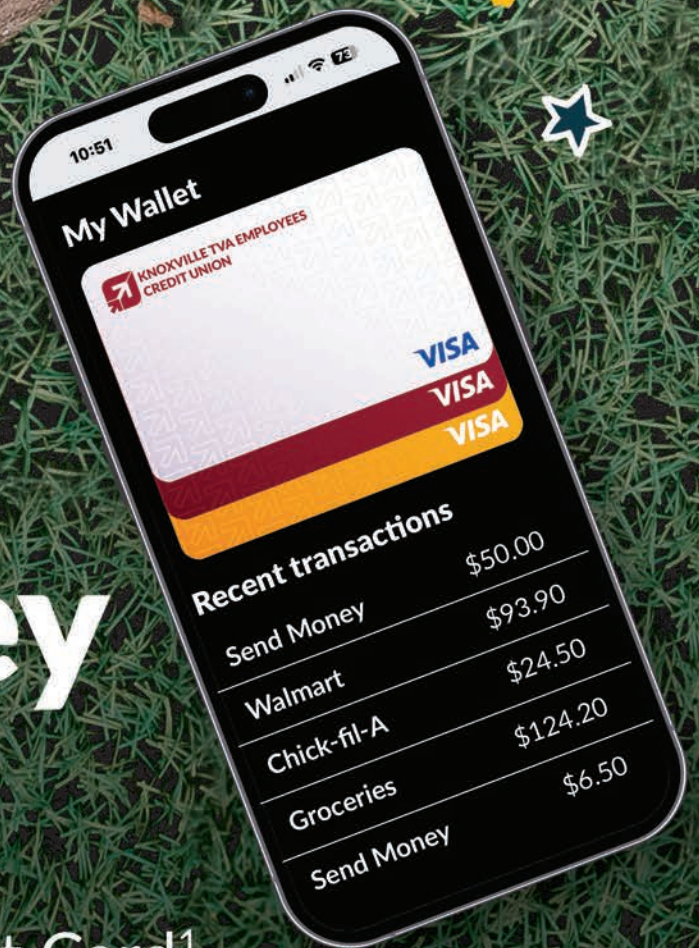
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