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2026 HIGH SCHOOL ALL PREVIEW



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2026 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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Stories by Jake Nichols, Ken Lay and Dan Harralson • Photography by Jake Nichols (except where indicated)

Special thanks to Jeremy Wiggs Photography, Brandon Bowling Photography, Carlos Reveiz (crfoto.com)

Phone: 865-675-6397 **Editor email:** editor@farragutpress.com **Website:** www.farragutpress.com

farragutpress is published weekly at 11863 Kingston Pike Farragut, TN 37934

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FHS team photo courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS

The term “lifer” is an informal, often overused word. But it is certainly accurate when describing Geoff Courtney’s relationship with the Farragut football program.

After growing up on the sidelines alongside his dad, Hall of Fame football coach Eddie Courtney, Geoff returned to serve as an assistant coach for 15 years, seven as offensive coordinator.

Now, Geoff Courtney will walk into the stadium bearing his father’s name to begin his third year as head coach, putting his own spin on a place and program that are all too familiar.

“Just a natural progression,” he called it, “from when I started out as a coach 15 or 16 years ago, then taking on more and more responsibility every few years and now having a firsthand look at what it takes to be a head coach at a big program, but still learning and doing things the way you want to see them get done.”

On a day-to-day basis, those tasks amount to two key points: subtle evolution and creating buy-in among players.

“Just daily trying to create buy-in, knowing things have changed in the last three years, but in a good way,” Court-



Geoff Courtney
Head Coach

ney said. “We’ve always evolved, subtly with different things and new approaches we’re trying to implement. So we want our kids to buy into what we’re doing.

“Systems change, and things change, and you have to evolve in this game. So that’s been the fun part of it, and that’s the challenge having a new group of kids with different skill sets every year.”

This year, the Admirals are looking to reach the Class 6A playoffs for the third consecutive year.

But a combined 7-15 mark over the past two seasons lends plenty of motivation, as does a close first-round loss to Dobyns-Bennett last year.

“The emotion and the stakes going into this season have been the highest I have experienced,” senior **Abram Shelton** said. “I feel like this is our year to show everybody around Knoxville that the last three or four years haven’t gone the way we expected them to.

“But we’re all so bought in and have the same mentality that we’re trying to prove everybody wrong and doing it our way. Playing our brand of football, making everyone remember the time they play Farragut.”

Courtney elaborated further, adding that he wants his

See **ADMIRALS PREVIEW** on Page 9

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2026 ADMIRALS SENIORS



Elijah Sadler



Johnny Jacobs



Abram Shelton



Nathan Hu



Shawn Raines



Mason Swor



Jackson Willis



Fisher Smith



Kaden Renfro



Logan Schroeder



Gavin Lyon



Luca Conforti



Carson Hulse



Holden Fritz



Lincoln Cervino



Bronson Sakhleh

FHS senior photos courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

Admirals Preview

From page 6

team to display toughness, speed and physicality each time it steps on the field.

"But also being servants, leading and being recognized in the community," he added. "We are in the Town of Farragut, and it's a great community. We have a great alumni base, great supporters of the program, and we're humbled by where we are and the platform we have. We are excited to represent Farragut in a way everyone can be proud of."

That approach will feature new faces on both sides of the ball this year, as well as a few new coaches on the staff.

On offense, that excitement begins with an up-tempo scheme that Courtney has honed through his years on the Farragut sideline.

"We want to be very multiple and cutting-edge in what we do," Courtney said. "We want it to be fast, physical and up-tempo, putting a lot of stress on the defense, but for our kids, it's very simple in what we're asking them to do each play. I think our kids have bought into that and will continue to as we go into preseason practice."

At quarterback, junior **Hayes Sharp** will lead the Admirals as a first-year starter.

"He's really grown physically, now up to 6-foot-2, 200 pounds," Courtney said. "He's done a good job leading our offense this summer."

In the backfield, fans can expect tailback **Carter Collier**,

"The emotion and the stakes going into this season have been the highest I have experienced."

~ Farragut senior Abram Shelton

along with Shelton and **Brenton Haag**.

Max Hilton and **Bailey Pyle** will bring plenty of physicality at tight end, while Alcoa transfer **Elijah Sadler** already has made plenty of noise at wide receiver.

Johnny Jacobs also will catch passes from Sharp as a returning receiver, while the FHS field general will take snaps from center **Holden Fritz**.

Last year, Fritz was the first player off the bench for a unit that graduated seven seniors.

Now, he will look to lead a unit that features tackles **Luca Conforti** and **Jacob Alley** with **John Eddlemon** and **Asahel Cabrera** digging in beside Fritz at the guard positions.

Courtney noted that **Carson Hulsey** provides another option along the offensive and defensive lines.

That unit will lead a 4-2-5 scheme with three-down fronts for FHS.

Cameron Beaver will occupy one of those defensive line

See **ADMIRALS PREVIEW** on Page 12

Richie Beeler
County Clerk

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Photo by Jonathan in Edge Media Studio. Design by Jonathan in Edge Media Studio.



ADMIRALS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0.....Elijah Sadler.....WR/DB.....SR	30.....Chase Cantrell.....WR.....JR	59.....Jacob Alley.....OL.....SO
1.....Max Hilton.....TE/DE.....JR	31.....Brayden Peterson.....RB/OLB.....FR	61.....Holden Fritz.....OL.....SR
2.....Johnny Jacobs.....WR.....SR	32.....Oliver Dixon.....DE.....JR	62.....Asabel Cabrera.....OL.....SO
4.....Bailey Pyle.....TE/OLB.....JR	33.....Wyatt Walker.....DB.....JR	64.....Silas Grant.....OL/DL.....FR
5.....Abram Shelton.....WR/SS.....SR	34.....Cameron Beaver.....DL.....JR	65.....Ben Criner.....OL/DL.....FR
7.....Cruz Williams.....WR/DB.....SO	35.....Sam Buchanan.....RB/LB.....FR	66.....Lincoln Cervino.....OL.....SR
8.....Ethan Shrader.....WR/LB.....FR	36.....Thomas Griffin.....DB.....SO	68.....Wilver Medina.....OL/DL.....FR
9.....Nathan Hu.....DB.....SR	38.....Ethan Roettger.....DB.....FR	72.....Zachary Campbell.....OL/DL.....FR
10.....Shawn Raines.....DB.....SR	39.....Ryan Jameel.....OLB.....SO	76.....Breck Ellison.....OL/DL.....FR
11.....Carter Maltais.....QB/DB.....SO	40.....Kaden Renfro.....DL.....SR	77.....Jacob Beilstein.....OL/DL.....FR
13.....Mason Swor.....DB.....SR	41.....Logan Schroeder.....DB.....SR	78.....Joseph Greene.....OL/DL.....FR
14.....Coleman Parrish.....DB/LS.....SO	42.....Caleb Bell.....PK.....SO	79.....Bennett Barcroft.....OL/DL.....JR
15.....Hayes Sharp.....QB.....JR	43.....Gavin Lyon.....RB/LB.....SR	80.....Dylan Parks.....TE/LB.....JR
16.....Eli Mitchell.....QB.....SO	44.....Kipton Fillingier.....RB/LB.....FR	81.....Max Burton.....DE.....FR
17.....Jackson Willis.....WR.....SR	46.....Henry Davy.....RB.....SO	82.....Will Keener.....WR.....JR
18.....Elijah Hurley.....WR.....SO	47.....Hudson Ridley.....TE/DL.....FR	83.....Gavin Garfield.....TE/OLB.....FR
19.....Fisher Smith.....DB.....SR	48.....Taha Jaouhari.....DL.....FR	84.....Jackson Worley.....WR/CB.....SO
21.....Finn Thomassen.....RB/OLB.....FR	49.....Jorge Navarro.....LB/DE.....FR	85.....Easton Lear.....WR/CB.....FR
22.....Brenton Haag.....RB/LB.....JR	50.....Luca Conforti.....OL/LS.....SR	86.....Conley Hawk.....WR.....SR
23.....Greyson Courts.....RB/OLB.....SO	51.....Jackson Gwinn.....OL.....SO	87.....Kimball Holmes.....WR.....SO
24.....Cade Campbell.....WR/DB.....JR	52.....Carson Hulsey.....OL/DL.....SR	88.....Bronson Sakhleh.....DE.....SR
25.....Nathan Shilling.....WR.....JR	53.....Nate Eddleman.....OL/DL.....FR	89.....Sergio Castro.....TE/DE.....FR
26.....Carter Collier.....RB/CB.....JR	55.....Thatcher Cherry.....OL/LB.....JR	92.....Branson Hooper.....WR/DB.....FR
27.....Gavin Sours.....WR/DB.....SO	56.....Grant Campbell.....OL/OLB.....JR	93.....Jackson Murphy.....TE/DL.....SO
28.....Dayton Parks.....RB/LB.....JR	57.....J.C. Bowling.....OL.....SO	94.....Arnav Nagtilak.....PK.....SO
29.....Hisan Moetasin.....WR/DB.....FR	58.....John Eddlemon.....OL/LB.....JR	99.....Jaxsen Checho.....DL.....SO

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FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL 2026 SCHEDULE

ADMIRALS

Date	Opponent	
Aug. 22.....	Sevier County (@ Carson-Newman).....	Neutral
Aug. 28.....	Powell.....	Away
Sep. 4.....	Upperman.....	Home
Sep. 11.....	Bradley Central.....	Away
Sep. 18.....	Maryville*.....	Home
Sep. 25.....	Bearden*.....	Home
Oct. 1.....	Hardin Valley*.....	Away
Oct. 16.....	Cookeville.....	Home
Oct. 23.....	Oak Ridge*.....	Away
Oct. 30.....	Cleveland*.....	Home

*denotes Region 2-6A matchup



2026 **ADMIRALS** **CHEERLEADERS**

Photo Submitted

The 2026 Farragut High School cheer squad. Front row left to right: Ava Kincaid, Kinley Bothman, Natalie Borton, Khloe Capps, Caity Penn. Second row left to right: Nora Vaughn, Alex Wetherington, Ella Elkins, Briley Webber, Caroline Nichols, Emma Kate Kilpatrick. Third row left to right: Caroline Smeltzer, Ella Helton, Libby Havens, Sumalee LaRue, Caroline Lilly, Kate Price, Leilah Garza, Kallie Jacobs, Sira Dharnidharka. Fourth row left to right: Brooke Saunders, Brooklyn Creasman, Catherine Craft, Madison Raines, Vera Lobodina, Brynley Hill, Amelia Rodgers, Ella Jackson, Alyssa Cowin. Not pictured: Piper Belcher.



2026 ADMIRALS DANCE TEAM

Photo Submitted

The 2026 Farragut High School dance team. Back row left to right: Emery Campbell, Brooklyn Knight, Caitlyn Stickley, Parker Miller, Layla Schaerer, Sarah Shoup, Paisley Van Lant, Audrey McCaleb, Kennedy Prosan. Front row left to right: Rylee Chronis, Mary Ella Wendell, Caroline Seagraves, Sydney Derr, Lydia Finnegan, Natalee Mack, Henry Williams.

Admirals Preview

From page 9

spots, as will **Kaden Renfro**, who moved from linebacker this offseason.

“He was very productive and had a great spring,” Courtney said of Renfro. “He will be a tough person inside for us defensively.”

The same goes for senior defensive end **Bronson Sakheh**, while Edelman and **Thatcher Cherry** will occupy the two linebacker spots.

Shelton will step into a starting role at the Star position, which will require him to assist in coverage while providing the tackling skills of a linebacker.

In the secondary, the Admirals will feature guys like **Shawn Raines**, **Wyatt Walker** and **Fisher Smith**, as well as Sadler.

“Most of those guys are upperclassmen, so we’re looking

for that experience in the back end and look forward to that group coming together as a full unit,” Courtney said.

He called special teams a “work in progress” this time of year, but noted that Caleb Bell will handle the kicking duties with Elijah Early as the holder, Conforti as the long snapper and Collier available for both as well.

With the preseason all but finished, all that’s left for the Admirals is to enjoy the countdown to their opener against Sevier County at Carson-Newman.

And if two seniors provide any indication, that day cannot come soon enough.

“I feel like we have a tight-knit group and high hopes for this season,” Conforti said.

“Everyone is playing for each other,” Shelton added. “I think a lot of us can’t wait to get on the field. I’m super stoked to see what this season will bring, making the most of our senior year.”

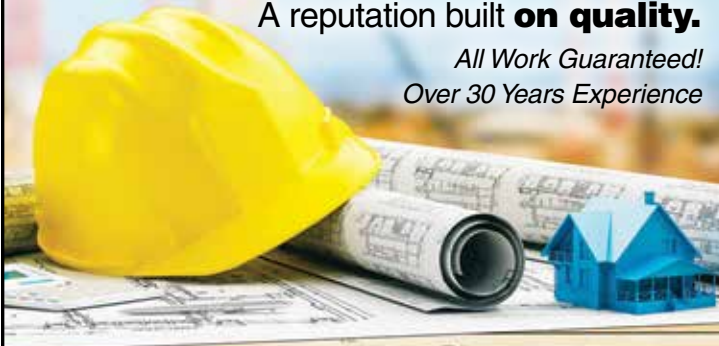
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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

When Brad Taylor returned to his alma mater, Bearden High School, in 2025, he faced a major rebuilding project.

Things did not go well for the Bulldogs last season, at least in the Region 2-6A standings as they endured a winless season.

But Taylor remains optimistic about the upcoming 2026 campaign.

"We had a young team last year and we have a lot guys who got a lot of Friday night experience," said Taylor, who begins the second season of his second tenure as Bearden and his ninth campaign as the Bulldogs' head coach. "You may be taking some lumps while you're doing it but you'll be better for it when you come through it. It has gone well for us and we have a great group of young men and they got a lot of Friday night experience last year."

"I think we'll be better but I'm not sure what better looks like as we continue to progress. I think we'll be better and a lot more competitive than we were last year. I really enjoy this group and these kids are fun to be around."

Bearden, which went 0-9 in 2025, will again play one of the area's toughest schedules as it will again have to navigate



Brad Taylor
Head Coach

the rigors of a Region 2-6A schedule. The Bulldogs' non-region schedule is also extremely difficult and the gauntlet starts right out of the gate.

"We have a tough schedule," Taylor said. "That's for sure."

That may be the understatement of the year as eight of Bearden's opponents this season made the playoffs in 2025 and Hardin Valley Academy had its best season in years, going 5-5. The Hawks, however, narrowly missed the postseason.

The Bulldogs open the 2026 campaign on Friday, Aug. 21, as they host Knoxville West, which went 4-6 but qualified for the Class 5A playoffs. And it won't get any easier from there.

Bearden will play host to Class defending Class 4A champion Alcoa on Aug. 28. The Tornadoes, which were re-classified to Class 4A following the 2024 season, have won 12 consecutive state titles.

The Bulldogs will then open region play on Sept 4, at Maryville, a postseason quarterfinalist last season. The Rebels have also won multiple state titles throughout their illustrious football history.

See **BULLDOGS PREVIEW** on Page 18



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2026 **BULLDOGS SENIORS**



Cole Hollingsworth



Connor Gilbreath



Tyler Tummins



Paxton Parrott



Tate Byrge



Tomas Lopez



Seth Campbell



Shabae Ramey



Daniel Correa



Ben Shaw



Isaiah Idlett

Not pictured:
Tristan Spears,
Elias Martinez and
TJ Edwards



BULLDOGS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Cole Hollingsworth.....FB/LB.....SR	26..... Carson Tolbert.....FR	58..... Connor Kendrick.....OL/DL.....SO
1..... Connor Gilbreath.....WR/DB.....SR	27..... Jamaury Young.....WR/DB.....SO	59..... Kiser Turner.....OL/LB.....SO
2..... Taejon Ramey.....WR/DB.....SO	28..... James Thompson.....WR/DB.....JR	60..... Travis Wolfe.....FR
3..... Tyler Tummins.....WR/DB.....SR	29..... Caz Bane.....WR/DB.....SO	61..... Calvin Armstrong.....OL/DL.....SO
4..... Bodie Flomberg.....FB/LB.....JR	30..... Maydae Baker.....RB/DB.....SO	62..... Leo Willis-Becker.....FR
5..... Paxton Parrott.....RB/LB.....SR	31..... Connor Laws.....RB/LB.....SO	63..... Tristan Spears.....OL/DL.....SR
6..... Jace Volk.....FB/LB.....JR	32..... Grant Prichard.....FR	65..... Aaron Bradley.....OL/DL.....SO
7..... Aidan Thacker.....QB.....JR	33..... Dominic Hall.....FB/LB.....FR	66..... Ben Shaw.....OL/DL.....SR
8..... Tate Byrge.....TE/DE.....SR	34..... Maddox Howard.....FR	68..... Ethan Burris.....FR
9..... Kannon Sipe.....RB/LB.....SO	35..... Blake Beale.....FB/LB.....SO	72..... Nolan Oros.....OL/DL.....SO
10..... TJ Edwards.....WR/LB.....SR	36..... Eli Fennell.....FB/LB.....SO	74..... Dawson Monge.....OL/DL.....SO
11..... Liam Laing.....WR/DB.....SO	37..... Elijah Cooper.....FB/LB.....SO	75..... Joshua Idlett.....OL/DL.....FR
12..... Brett Wiesehan.....WR/DB.....FR	38..... Padraig Partin.....RB/LB.....FR	76..... Isaiah Idlett.....OL/DL.....SR
13..... William Barnes.....QB/LS.....FR	39..... Zeplin Stomm.....RB/LB.....JR	77..... Joe Baxter.....OL/DL.....SO
14..... Freedom Hall.....WR/DB.....JR	40..... Travon Davis.....FR	79..... Lucas Benton.....OL/DL.....SO
15..... Tomas Lopez.....PK/P.....SR	41..... Jamaal Carter.....WR/DB.....FR	80..... Boston Tetlow.....WR/DB.....SO
16..... Seth Campbell.....PK.....SR	42..... Ayden Tipton.....WR/DB.....SO	84..... Evan Kline.....WR/DB.....FR
17..... Ethan Cline.....QB/DB.....SO	43..... Jacob Haun.....WR/DB.....SO	85..... Musshyme Baker.....WR/DB.....FR
18..... Elias Martinez.....FB/LB.....SR	44..... Abram Sandiford.....WR/DB.....SO	86..... Levi Johnson.....WR/DB.....SO
19..... Creed Conklin.....TE/DE.....JR	48..... Liam Duffy.....WR/DB.....FR	87..... Dylan Fri.....RB/LB.....FR
20..... Dominic Christofek.....WR/DB.....SO	50..... Carlos Lopez.....OL/DL.....SO	88..... Major Dean.....WR/DB.....JR
21..... Luke Ford.....WR/DB.....FR	51..... Max Sadowski.....OL/DL.....JR	89..... Victor Patino.....WR/LB.....FR
22..... Zac Nicaud.....RB/DB.....SO	53..... Daniel Correa.....OL/DL.....SR	90..... Burak AsLan.....TE/DE.....FR
23..... CJ DeJongh.....WR/DB.....SO	54..... Adrian Harris.....OL/DL.....JR	91..... Arjun Patel.....WR/DB.....FR
24..... Shabae Ramey.....TE/DE.....SR	56..... Kaniel Yarborough.....OL/DL.....SO	99..... Brayden Neff.....FR
25..... Matthew Smith.....WR/DB.....JR	57..... Elihja Cobb.....OL/DL.....SO	

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BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL 2026 SCHEDULE

BULLDOGS

Date	Opponent	
Aug. 21.....	West	Home
Aug. 28.....	Alcoa.....	Home
Sep. 4	Maryville*.....	Away
Sep. 11.....	Science Hill.....	Away
Sep. 17.....	Hardin Valley*.....	Home
Sep. 25.....	Farragut*.....	Away
Oct. 2	Oak Ridge*.....	Home
Oct. 16.....	Cleveland*.....	Home
Oct. 23.....	Dobyns-Bennett.....	Away
Oct. 30	Bradley Central*.....	Away

*denotes Region 2-6A matchup



2026 BULLDOGS CHEERLEADERS

Photo Submitted

The 2026 Bearden High School cheer squad. Front row left to right: seniors Samantha Brownlee, Ryleigh Noel, Lucy Tirgrath, Annie Whited, Adelyn Spencer, Emerson Berger and Piper Gould. Second row left to right: juniors Jaraiah Leverette, Kinsleigh Hite, Kennedy McVeigh, Shay Hendrix and Jersey Zizzo. Third row left to right: freshman Berkley Hargis, sophomores Raigan Candler, Hampton Hostetter, Allie Helms, Kinsley Haney, Alexandra Berger, Hadley Stinnette and freshman Leighton Lipsey.

Bulldogs Preview

From page 14

The Bulldogs then head to Johnson City to play Science Hill (Sept. 11) before returning to league play against Hardin Valley Academy in a Rivalry Thursday showdown on Sept. 17. Bearden will then head west on Kingston Pike to renew acquaintance with longtime rival Farragut (Sept. 25). Bearden hosts Oak Ridge (Oct. 2) before hosting Cleveland (Oct. 16). Bearden plays at Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett (Oct. 23) before closing out the regular season at Bradley Central on Oct. 30.

Last year certainly wasn't easy for the Bulldogs but returning senior **Paxton Parrott** is looking for better things for the Bulldogs this season.

"We're ready to get back on the field," said Parrott, who plays running back and linebacker. "Last year was really hard but we're trying to reshape the culture. It's been really

difficult but we're using these challenges to grow.

"We have a tough schedule but we feel like we can play with our two rivals, Bearden and Hardin Valley. But our schedule and our region is always very difficult. There's a lot of talent in our region."

Shabae Ramey agreed.

While Ramey knows that Bearden will face its share of challenges, the senior tight end and defensive lineman said that he expects things to go a bit better this season.

"This year, we've gotten to the point where we can compete," Ramey said.

Parrott will lead the Bulldogs under center, while **Connor Gilbreath** and **Tyler Tummins** provide a couple options at wide receiver. **Josh Volk** will take up one linebacker spot for the Dawgs, who will be anchored by linemen such as **Max Sadowski**, **Daniel Correa** and **Ben Shaw**, who re-

See **BULLDOGS PREVIEW** on Page 20



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2026 BULLDOGS DANCE TEAM

Photo Submitted

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.

Bulldogs Preview

From page 18

turns after missing last season with an injury.

Tate Byrge will provide another valuable presence on the defensive line, and **Tomas Lopez** and **Seth Campbell** will handle the punting and placekicking, respectively.

As the Bulldogs continue to rebuild, they will receive contributions from several newcomers.

"We have some young guys, some sophomores that'll play some important roles for us," Taylor said.

Kannon Sipe will see early minutes as a sophomore running back, and the same goes for classmates **Taejon Ramey** and **Zac Nicaud** at wide receiver and defensive back.

Junior **Bodie Flomberg** (linebacker) enters the fray as a transfer for the Bulldogs.

"He's a transfer and he'll be a good player for us," Taylor said of Flomberg. "He will be a big help for us."

Bearden's strengths, according to Taylor, are on the perimeter.

"We return some depth and experience in the backfield on offense," Taylor said. "We return a lot of good skill guys and we have depth and experience at linebacker."

"We have some experience at quarterback, running back, wide receiver, tight end and cornerback, and we have a couple of safeties who are back and have experience."

The Bulldogs, however, have a lack of depth on both the offensive and defensive line.

"We're still a little thin up front," Taylor said. "We don't have a lot of depth on the offensive and defensive line. We're just really thin up there and that's our biggest area of concern."

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

HAWKS

Tyler Wynn's favorite coaching tradition began with a player calling his bluff.

In the summer of 2010, Wynn was a young assistant coach at his alma mater: Troup County High School in LaGrange, Georgia.

Four players under his tutelage would go on to play in the Southeastern Conference. And one of them, a young freshman named Reuben Foster, would go on to Alabama and become one of the best linebackers in the country.

Well before that, though, Foster and his teammates slogged through the Georgia heat — and Wynn called them out for it.

"So one of them said, 'That's easy for you to say, wearing



Tyler Wynn
Head Coach

short sleeves,'" Wynn reflected. "So I filed it in the back of my head."

The next day, Wynn walked out for practice wearing sweatpants and a hoodie. And when one player bet he wouldn't do it every day, the tradition stuck.

Wynn has since begun using the hoodie as a form of motivation, donning the same one at each coaching job until his team hits a notable milestone. Now, going into his third year at Hardin Valley Academy, he wears a faded blue Hawks sweatshirt with a clear stepping stone in mind.

"When I came here, we were told we'd never get out of this region and make the playoffs," he said. "So now I'm wearing this every day in practice until we do."

That underdog mentality has driven him throughout his

See **HAWKS PREVIEW** on Page 25

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2026 **HAWKS SENIORS**



Nicolas Rivers



Cruize Furman



Owen Vaughan



Jaxon Amey



Riley Matz



Ethan Hill



Carter Jones



Jady DeHart



Braxton Del Aguaro



Beau Wise



Labryan Borne



Chance Sharp



Brayden Chiodo



Logan Holbrook



Rylan Olmstead



Frank Bandy



Joshua Brown



Durgan Ragland



Wells Harm



Cayden Harper



Brett Johnson



Tyler Reyes



Nathan Artrip



Cade Evans

Hawks Preview

From page 22

career, pushing Wynn toward HVA after just two years as the running backs coach at Valdosta High School — a nationally-known powerhouse in south Georgia with more than 900 victories in its history.

“I try to push everything with a championship mindset,” he said. “We’re going to do what the very best do, and getting the opportunity to go there and do it with the very best was great for me. But it also showed me that my itch is getting other programs to that point, and this job gives me that. Our expectation is to compete at the top end of our region, and that’s what we’ve got to do. The win against Bearden was a big one, and we had kids told that we would never beat them. Like, ‘Alright, let’s try to prove ‘em wrong.’ That’s kind of a slogan we’ve hit on as a team — they say you can’t do it, so let’s show them you can.”

Last year, Wynn’s Hawks did exactly that when they beat Bearden 24-7 for the program’s first region win since 2020. That win was part of a 5-5 record, their first season of .500 or better since 2018, after a 1-9 campaign in 2024.

Now, having settled in at HVA, the Carson-Newman graduate wants the Hawks competing consistently among the upper crust of Region 2-6A.

“When this first came open, people said that’s the best region for high school football in Tennessee,” Wynn said. “I knew about Maryville and Farragut, so I knew there was

really good football. In my opinion, you’ve got some of the best programs in the state all in the same area. So it’s a chance to go against good people every week. To me, it’s a honor to coach in a region with these guys. Then we’re just trying to knock one of them off and say, ‘We deserve a spot in there, too.’”

To carve out that spot, Wynn is relying on an experienced staff with a roster that returns 25 seniors, 18 of whom boast significant varsity minutes.

“We’ve got a great group of rising seniors who have stuck with us,” he said. “They played a lot as sophomores, played a lot more as juniors, and now we’re relying on them as seniors. We were very real with them coming in, that their first year would be really tough. Stick it out, trust the process, all the slogans, but they really bought into what we were asking, and we hope they see even more dividends.”

Eight of those seniors make up 11 of the starting offensive positions, giving HVA plenty of weapons on that side of the ball.

At left tackle and left guard are **Durgan Raglan** and **Nathan Archer**, who bring a combined 40 starts into this season. **Wells Harm** will be at the right guard spot with **Tyler Reyes** at right tackle and **Rylan Olmstead** in the middle at center.

Taking Olmstead’s snaps is returning starter **Riley Matz**, who brings plenty of experience to the quarterback spot.

See **HAWKS PREVIEW** on Page 29



HAWKS FOOTBALL ROSTER

2..... Nicolas Rivers.....WR/DB..... SR	25..... Jace BoswellWR/DB..... SO	59..... Riley Dilgard.....OL/DT SO
3..... Cruize FurmanWR/DB..... SR	26..... Reed EverettRB/DB..... SO	60..... Wells HarmOL/DT SR
4..... Becks AllenWR/DB.....JR	28..... Ayden Perry.....RB/DE..... SO	62..... Omar Hassan.....OL/DL SO
5..... Eli Whaley.....RB/DB.....JR	31..... Caleb MoseleyTE/LB..... SO	63..... Elijah Mestel.....OL/DL SO
6..... Jeremiah Brown.....WR/DB..... SO	32..... Caden Cox.....OL/LB.....JR	64..... Tyler Reyes.....OL/DL SR
7..... Owen Vaughan.....WR/DB..... SR	34..... Grayson Roddy.....OL/LB..... SO	65..... Jackson Flowers.....OL/DLJR
8..... Jaxon Amey.....WR/DB..... SR	36..... Brayden ChiodoWR/LB..... SR	66..... Allan RomeroOL/DLJR
9..... Riley Matz.....QB/DB SR	37..... Landon Landenberg.....RB/LB.....JR	67..... Cayden HarperOL/DT SR
10..... Ethan Hill.....TE/DL..... SR	40..... Lucas Gibbs.....TE/LB..... SO	68..... Grayson Mills.....OL/LB..... SO
11..... Carter Jones.....WR/DB..... SR	41..... Logan Holbrook.....TE/DE..... SR	70..... Oliver RiehnTE/DE..... SO
12..... Sean Unthank.....QB/DBJR	44..... Trian RoweTE/DL.....JR	71..... Cooper CampbellOL/DL SO
13..... Jady DeHart.....WR/DB..... SR	48..... Yahoube Sow.....RB/DB..... SO	72..... Josiah Norwood.....OL/DLJR
16..... Braxton Del Aguaro.....TE/DE..... SR	50..... Rylan Olmstead.....OL/DE..... SR	73..... Brett JohnsonOL/LB..... SR
17..... Greyson Tillman.....WR/DB..... SO	51..... Frank Bandy.....OL/DE..... SR	74..... Nico Geronimo.....OL/DLJR
18..... Beau WiseRB/LB..... SR	52..... Bryce Vanmeter.....OL/DL..... SO	75..... Joseph Branconi.....OL/DL SO
19..... Alex Perkins.....QB/DB SO	53..... Chase Vanhooose.....OL/DL.....JR	76..... Kingston Brown.....OL/DL SO
20..... Witt Joseph.....TE/DE.....JR	54..... Jace FordOL/DL..... SO	77..... Nathan Artrip.....OL/DT SR
21..... Logan Smith.....WR/DB..... SO	55..... Aldaeus Willis.....OL/DL..... SO	78..... Timothy Johnson.....OL/DL SO
22..... Levi Amey.....RB/DB.....JR	56..... Jace Stephens.....OL/DL.....JR	85..... Anthony Wright.....WR/DE..... SO
23..... Labryan Borne.....WR/DB..... SR	57..... Joshua Brown.....OL/DT..... SR	87..... Cade Evans.....TE/DE..... SR
24..... Chance Sharp.....RB/DE..... SR	58..... Durgan Ragland.....OL/DT..... SR	

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HVA 2026 SCHEDULE

HAWKS

Date	Opponent	
Aug. 21.....	Karns.....	Away
Aug. 28.....	Morristown East.....	Away
Sep. 4.....	Bradley Central*.....	Home
Sep. 11.....	West Ridge.....	Home
Sep. 17.....	Bearden*.....	Away
Sep. 25.....	Maryville*.....	Away
Oct. 1.....	Farragut*.....	Home
Oct. 16.....	Oak Ridge*.....	Home
Oct. 23.....	Cleveland*.....	Away
Oct. 30.....	Ooltewah.....	Home

*denotes Region 2-6A matchup

2026 **HAWKS DANCE TEAM**



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/
Jeremy Wiggs Photography

The 2026 Hardin Valley Academy dance squad. Front line left to right: Olivia Gulley, Hailey Seaman, Corinne Thomas, Rhiannon Sanchez, Kinsley Schaefer (captain), Sophia Reagan (captain). Back line left to right: Kenzie McGregor, Camdyn Logan (Captain), Reagan Smith, McCarron Wyatt, Claire Mosley.



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2026 **HAWKS CHEERLEADERS**



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/
Jeremy Wiggs Photography

The 2026 Hardin Valley Academy cheer team. Front row left to right: Brooke Bowers, Hope Morrow, Jenna Brewster (co-captain), Annalee Voiles (co-captain), Jordan Hewett, Bailey Carson. Second row left to right: Anna Benko, Sophia Kohl, Maya Daugherty, Emery Clark, Avery Lanhum. Back row left to right: Legend Rivers, Aly Fox, Kalani Shingles, Bella Caylor.

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Hawks!**



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Hawks Preview

From page 25

“He started some as a sophomore then started every game last year,” Wynn said. “He does a tremendous job of leading and grounding that room.”

The two tight ends are **Cade Evans** and **Logan Holbrook**, who also was a first-team All-State punter and kicker last year.

“Maybe we can take a little bit off his load at tight end so he can be even better booting that thing,” Wynn said of Holbrook. “He’s special. That is one of our biggest offensive weapons, whether he’s punting and flipping the field or kicking field goals for us, and that does a lot for our defense as well.”

Cruise Furman and **Jeremiah Brown** will be in the slot and out wide at receiver, respectively, and **Nick Rivers** and **Jadyn DeHart** will bring plenty of versatility there as well.

The Hawks’ running back room features plenty of options, including returner **Levi Amey**, transfer **Eli Whaley** and **Ayden Perry**.

On defense, Rivers and Brown will be joined by **Sean Unthank**, **Owen Vaughan**, **Jaxon Amey** and **Becks Allen** in the secondary.

At linebacker, **Beau Wise** will “anchor that room,” per Wynn, “along with **Caden Cox** and **Brett Johnson**.”

Carter Jones returns outside after starting every game at Star last season, while **Chance Sharp** will occupy one defensive end spot with **Braxton Del Aguaro** and **Labryan Bourne** bookending the Hawks’ defensive line.

Defensive tackles will include **Chase Vanhooose**, **Jace Stephens**, **Ethan Hill** and **Trian Rowe**.

Together, those linemen and their teammates will look to continue turning the tide for the Hawks in 2026.

And if they do, Wynn will happily dump his hoodie into a box as he prepares for the next challenge.

“File it away,” he said with a chuckle. “They’re like old trophies, I guess you could say, so that stuff just gets packed in a box. Move on to the next one.”

“Our expectation is to compete at the top end of our region.”

~ Tyler Wynn, Hawks head coach



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CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE WARRIORS

If you're looking for Christian Academy of Knoxville football coach Chad Speck to make any predictions or elaborate on his expectations on the upcoming 2026 season, you might be waiting for a while.

"I don't get into expectations," said Speck who is in the fourth season as head coach for the Warriors. "We don't play to a scoreboard, we play to a standard."

"For me, it's about getting to the standard," Speck said. "We show up and play to a standard and we don't play to the scoreboard. You can play to a standard and not win the game, and you can win on the scoreboard and not play to the standard. If you play to the standard, everything else will take care of itself. It's all a process."

CAK went 7-5 in 2025 and won its first-ever road playoff game as a Division II-AA team. The Warriors invaded Goodpasture Christian School and left Madison in the midstate with a 42-35 victory in a shootout.

They lost in the Division II-AA quarterfinals to Lausanne



Chad Speck
Head Coach

in the quarterfinals, falling, 35-6.

Speck may not have any measurable expectations but he's certainly looking for his team to build upon last season's success.

"We had a good year last year. We won our first road playoff as a Division II school last year when we beat Goodpasture," he said. "We went 7-5 and we made it to the state quarterfinals."

"We did some things here that we've haven't done, at least in a long time and they're, you know, excited to keep trying to build on it. But we really just try to take it one day at a time."

The Warriors had a winning season last year, their first since 2021 when they went 8-3. CAK, however, has made the playoffs the last three seasons. The Warriors were 3-8 in 2024 after going 4-7 in 2023. The Warriors missed the playoffs in 2022, going 2-8.

As the 2026 campaign looms, the Warriors must rebuild their offensive line as they will have to replace three starters.

But they will have talent and depth at the skill positions

See **WARRIORS PREVIEW** on Page 32

2026 **WARRIORS SENIORS**



Masyn Apalategui



Sawyer Anderson



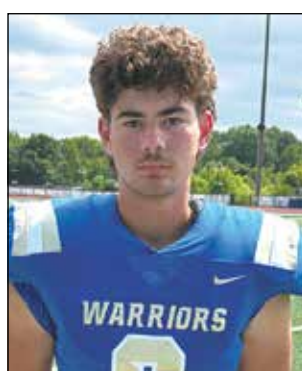
Liam Turner



Hunter Bennett



Bennett Jelks



Ethan Wynkoop



JJ Henry



Hudson Underwood



Michael Yoakum



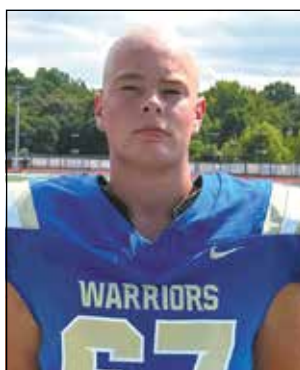
Trey Hilliard



Jax Narancich



Caden Dicken



Josh Miller

Not pictured:
Elijah Krokowski,
Davis Nickloes



WARRIORS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Masyn Apalategui.....DB/RB..... SR	20..... Isaac Kannah.....RB/OLB..... SO	51..... Trey Hilliard.....OL/DL..... SR
1..... Sawyer Anderson.....ATH/QB/DB... SR	21..... Baker Sterchi.....WR/DB.....JR	52..... Jax Narancich.....OL/DL..... SR
2..... Liam Turner.....WR/DB..... SR	22..... Davis Nickloes.....WR/DB..... SR	55..... Caden Dicken.....OL/DL..... SR
3..... Hunter Bennett.....RB/DB..... SR	24..... Ben Cook.....ATH..... FR	56..... Brody Brown.....OL/DL.....JR
5..... Bennett Jelks.....WR/DB/K..... SR	25..... Blake Hankins.....H/LB.....FR	62..... Michael Weaver.....OL/DL..... SO
6..... Ethan Wynkoop.....RB/LB..... SR	26..... Raleigh Miller.....H/LB..... SO	64..... Gabriel Kannah.....OL/DL.....FR
7..... JJ Henry.....WR/DB..... SR	31..... Terrance Carlos.....TE/LB..... SO	67..... Josh Miller.....OL/DL..... SR
9..... Elijah Krokowski.....WR/LB/K..... SR	32..... Easton Sternberg.....RB/LB.....FR	70..... Wyatt Dicken.....OL/DL.....JR
10..... Callen Speck.....WR/DB/K.....FR	33..... Marvin Wyrosdick.....RB/LB.....JR	75..... Andrew Noland.....OL/DL..... SO
11..... Beckett Rich.....WR/DB.....JR	40..... Dylann Riley.....TE/DL.....FR	78..... Conrad Carlton.....OL/DL..... SO
15..... Stone Stinson.....H/LB..... SO	44..... Henley Hayes.....TE/LB.....JR	88..... Wyatt Howard.....WR/DB.....JR
16..... Seaton Moffitt.....QB.....JR	45..... Hudson Underwood.....OL/LB..... SR	X..... Henry Suits.....Manager..... SO
18..... Andrew Newton.....QB/WR/DB... SO	50..... Michael Yoakum.....OL/DL..... SR	

Warriors Preview

From page 30

on both offense and defense, according to Speck.

“We’re pretty good at the 7-on-7 positions, the skill positions, quarterback, running back, wide receiver, tight end linebacker and in the secondary,” he said. “But we have to replace three seniors who were on the offensive line. We really have a lot of work to do on the front on both sides of the ball.

“One of our strengths will be at the skill positions.”

Masyn Apalategui will be a top returner at wide receiver and defensive back, while **Sawyer Anderson** has filled a Swiss Army knife role at different skill spots across the field.

Bennett Jelks returns after an All-Region punting campaign last season, while players such as **Baker Sterchi**, **Wyatt Howard** and **Hunter Bennett** will look to anchor the Warriors’ back end with **Michael Yoakum** leading his fellow linemen up front.

CAK will be the last of the area teams to open its 2026 campaign on the gridiron, but the Warriors will be regionally televised as they make the short trip to Concord Christian School on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The Warriors defeated the Lions, 24-7, to open the 2025 campaign in a historic game for Concord, which played its first full varsity schedule for the first time in nearly a decade.

Kickoff between the Lions and the Warriors is slated for 11 a.m.

CAK will again hit the road in Week 2 as they head to Maryville to take on Heritage. They’ll look to avenge last year’s loss to the Mountaineers, who are coached by former University of Tennessee assistant Joe Osovet. Osovet was tight ends coach under Jeremy Pruitt.

The Warriors will open their Division II-AA East Region season at home when they host Notre Dame. That contest will also be their home opener at Warrior Stadium.

“Our first three games set the tone for our season last year,” Anderson said. “Concord was a good team and we lost to Heritage and they were pretty good and then, we beat Notre Dame.

“I’m sure those teams will be good again this season and we’d like to win a few more games this year and go further in the playoffs.”

Yoakum agreed.

“We made it out of the first round (of the playoffs) last year and we’d like to do that again and go further,” he said. “To do

See **WARRIORS PREVIEW** on Page 33

CAK 2026 SCHEDULE

WARRIORS

Date	Opponent
Aug. 22.....	CCS (@ Grace Christian).....Neutral
Aug. 28.....	Heritage.....Away
Sep. 4.....	Notre Dame*.....Home
Sep. 11.....	Oneida.....Home
Sep. 18.....	Silverdale Academy*.....Home
Sep. 25.....	Knoxville Webb*.....Home
Oct. 2.....	Chattanooga Christian*.....Away
Oct. 15.....	Grace Christian*.....Away
Oct. 23.....	Boyd Buchanan*.....Away
Oct. 30.....	Lakeway Christian*.....Home

*Denotes Division II-AA matchup



Photo courtesy of Brandon Bowling/Brandon Bowling Photography

2026 WARRIORS CHEERLEADERS

The 2026 Christian Academy of Knoxville cheer squad. Front row left to right: Jules Fisher, Lauren Captain, Lilly Creel, Leighton Cunningham, Izzy Carr, Ellie Watson, Madyn Williams, Neissa Leadbetter, Kara Ketchen. Back row left to right: Kinley Park, Giuliana Morgan, Mallory Bearden, Laney Ivie, Graham Thomas, Mary Nancy Smith, Bridgette Fawver, Audrey Worley, Presley Cross, Eliza Garrison, Neely Hearp.

Warriors Preview

From page 32

that, we're going to have to win more close games."

CAK's three region losses came at Silverdale Baptist Academy, and at home to Grace Christian Academy and at home to Boyd Buchanan.

In Week 4, the Warriors will close out their non-region schedule at home against Oneida on Sept. 11, before completing their league schedule against Silverdale (Sept. 18); Webb School of Knoxville (Sept. 25); at Chattanooga Christian School (Oct. 2); at Grace Christian (in a Rivalry Thursday game on Oct. 15). CAK will travel to Boyd Buchanan on Oct. 23 before its regular-season finale against Lakeway Christian School at Warrior Stadium on Oct. 30.

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CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

When Steve Matthews took the head coaching job at Concord Christian School, he knew he would have a lot on his plate.

So he called other area coaches who had built programs from scratch, looking for advice as he revived a program that played its last varsity game in 2018.

“And their first words were, ‘Expect to go 0-10,’” Matthews recalled with a chuckle.

In the process, Matthews discovered smaller items — like equipment and locker room setup — that needed to be done, too.

It was a far cry from his previous stops, but that has made the journey all the more rewarding.

“I always tell people I’m having a blast doing it — and if and when this thing gets rolling like I anticipate, it’s going to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” he said. “But it’s also something I probably never want to do again, because of all the hurdles and little things you take



Steve Matthews
Head Coach

for granted.”

With several of those items in place, the Lions took on their first varsity season in seven years for 2025.

Now, after a 6-5 record and the first playoff berth in program history, they are roaring for more in 2026.

“We went into the year not really knowing what to expect, and the fact that we won six ballgames and stayed really close in five others — that told us how close we are to being a really successful program,” Matthews said. “It does give us a lot of confidence going into this year, and it has been easier.”

“The whole journey has been two steps forward, one step back, but it’s still making progress having guys that know the system, know how we practice and know what the expectations are. Still got a long way to go, but really excited about where we’re headed.”

The schedule this year ratchets up a couple notches, as CCS will take on Christian Academy of Knoxville, Halls and Grace Christian in an effort to raise the expectation.

Notably, the opener against CAK will take place on Satur-

See **CONCORD PREVIEW** on Page 35

2026 LIONS SENIORS



CJ Simpson



Paul Ballast



Gavin Guinn



Sean Bean



Reece Franklin



Andrew Lumsdaine



Kory Ball



Cade Harrison

Concord Preview

From page 34

day, Aug. 22, at 11 a.m., and will be featured on television.

"I felt like that was something needed in our program," Matthews said, "and sometimes as a coach, you don't love scheduling Halls and Grace with a startup program.

"But at the same time, for the long-term and near-term future, it's important to go against those guys. With the way this thing is progressing, we need to be on a plateau with the top programs in the city."

His players certainly have similar aspirations.

"I want to be able to finish what my Papaw started," said senior linebacker **Reece Franklin**, "because he was drafted into the military to go to war and wasn't able to play in college. There's a higher standard for me to compete in the playoffs and hopefully win a state championship."

"I think it's important to have lofty goals in football and life," added Matthews. "You strive for that and work for that, and even if you come up short, that's a big accomplishment. We feel like anything can happen on any Friday night, so why not shoot for the whole thing?"

As the Lions reach for their goals, they will do so with a balanced, up-tempo offensive system.

"We're not anywhere close to where I've been in the past with tempo, and that comes with experience," Matthews said. "But we're starting to implement some things to get the ball

snapped quicker."

Taking those snaps will be All-State sophomore **Kohbe Ward** — who qualified for the Junior Olympics in track — and transfer **Dylan Brown**, who transferred from California powerhouse Mater Dei.

"I feel comfortable about the quarterback spot," Matthews said. "They're both young, a rising sophomore and ninth-grader. Kohbe provides a little more athleticism, and Dylan might be a little more polished as a passer."

Having outlined both his field generals, Matthews noted that the position battle is "to be determined."

"The best offensive year I've ever had in my life as a coach was in 2012, where I had Brent Stockstill and a more athletic type in Trey Harris, so playing both is not out of the question," he said. "We'll see how things play out in scrimmages."

At running back, **Maurice Smith** will carry the load after racking up more than 1,500 yards last year.

Dasani Moulden returns at receiver after a standout freshman season, and the same goes for **Donovan "Dondon" Underwood**.

Junior **Amare McKenzie** brings a bit more experience after transferring in from Knoxville Catholic, and he is expected to have a "huge year," per Matthews.

He called the offensive line "a work in progress," citing two new starters, but said **Asher Noe** and **Eli Wolfe** will both be

See **CONCORD PREVIEW** on Page 36



LIONS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Amare McKenzie.....WR/DB.....JR	20..... Kade Nicoara.....RB/LB.....FR	54..... Eli Wolfe.....OL/DL.....FR
1..... Kohbe Ward.....QB/DB.....SO	21..... Ian Brown.....DE/TE.....FR	55..... Cade Harrison.....OL/DL.....SR
2..... Dasani Moulden.....WR/DB.....SO	22..... Reece Franklin.....RB/LB.....SR	56..... Asher Noe.....OL/DL.....JR
3..... Dylan Brown.....QB/DB.....FR	23..... Cameron Blount.....WR/DB.....FR	57..... Millie Bowers.....OL/DL.....FR
4..... Maurice Smith.....RB/DB.....SO	24..... A'Javeon Harris.....TE/DL.....SO	60..... Brandon Edwards.....OL/DL.....SO
5..... Todd Lundy.....WR/DB.....JR	25..... Andrew Lumsdaine.....RB/LB.....SR	70..... Benson Heatherly.....OL/DL.....FR
6..... Dereon Bonner.....WR/DB.....JR	26..... Princeton Roberts.....TE/DE.....FR	71..... Ethan Romero.....OL/DL.....SO
8..... CJ Simpson.....RB/DL.....SR	27..... Parker Tunnell.....WR/LB.....SO	73..... Gabriel Stinnent.....OL/DL.....FR
9..... Paul Ballast.....WR/DB.....SR	28..... Moose Jarnagin.....RB/LB.....JR	74..... Eli Romero.....OL/DL.....SO
10..... Colton Bergevin.....WR/DB.....JR	32..... Jesse Maynard.....WR/DB.....FR	75..... Will Butler.....OL/DL.....FR
11..... Gavin Guinn.....TE/DL.....SR	34..... Kacen Turpin.....RB/LB.....FR	77..... Isaac Saunders.....DE/TE.....FR
12..... Cooper Bacon.....WR/DB.....SO	35..... Eli Gomes.....RB/LB.....FR	78..... Kolby Aldridge.....OL/DL.....JR
13..... Roman Hogrefe.....QB/LB.....JR	36..... Tahj Roe.....TE/DL.....FR	80..... Trace Perry.....WR/DB.....FR
15..... Sean Bean.....WR/LB.....SR	44..... Oakley Helton.....TE/DE.....JR	82..... Jacob Doubleday.....OL/DL.....FR
17..... Hunter Yexley.....WR/DB.....FR	50..... Matthew Blount.....OL/DL.....JR	83..... Asher Sisco.....K.....FR
18..... Brayden Kastrup.....QB/DB.....FR	51..... Eric Abaye.....OL/DL.....SO	85..... Matthew Henderson.....WR/DB.....FR
19..... Kato Kastrup.....WR/DB.....FR	52..... Kory Ball.....OL/DL.....SR	88..... Blake Gallups.....WR/DB.....JR

Concord Preview

From page 35

big contributors up front.

On defense, the Lions will feature an event front for a unit that's led by new defensive coordinator Tracy Malone.

He will coach up guys like Wolfe, who will be on the defensive line, as well as **Gavin Guinn** and defensive end **Oakley Helton**.

"Those guys will lead the charge," Matthews said. "Oakley has had a great camp and continues to get better, and **CJ Simpson**, another senior, has a great chance to have a great year at defensive end."

Franklin and Lumsdaine will hold down the linebacker spots, while **Dereon Bonner** is a new addition in the secondary after transferring from Fulton.

He will suit up alongside Moulden, who made a leaping pick in 7-on-7 action after becoming an All-State defensive back his freshman year.

On special teams, **Asher Sisco** will handle the punting duties with **Cade Harrison** at long snapper.

Notably, Sisco is the grandson of David Cutcliffe, who worked as Tennessee's offensive coordinator before becoming head coach at Ole Miss and Duke.

Matthews noted Franklin and **Parker Tunnell** can punt as well, while placekicking is yet to be determined.

"I'm excited about where we're headed on both sides of the ball," he summarized.

That seems to be the overall consensus for the Lions, who

have come a long way in a short amount of time.

"For us to have a winning record that first year, it was rewarding," Matthews said. "But now we want to keep building."

CONCORD CHRISTIAN 2026 SCHEDULE

LIONS

Date

Opponent

Aug. 22.....	CAK (@ Grace Christian).....	Neutral
Aug. 28.....	Mt. Juliet Christian.....	Away
Sep. 4.....	The King's Academy*.....	Away
Sep. 11.....	Knoxville Halls.....	Away
Sep. 18.....	Middle Tenn. Christian*.....	Home
Sep. 25.....	Grace Christian (@ Carson Newman).....	Neutral
Oct. 2.....	Providence Academy*.....	Home
Oct. 16.....	South Greene.....	Away
Oct. 23.....	Providence Christian*.....	Away
Oct. 30.....	Grace Baptist (Chatt.)*.....	Home

*denotes Division II-A matchup



2026 LIONS CHEERLEADERS

Photo by Jake Nichols

The 2026 Concord Christian School cheer squad. Front row left to right: Claire Newsome, Kennedy Viveros, Caroline Tweedy, Katie Underwood, Elyana Courtley and Maddy Davis. Back row left to right: McKenna Sparks, Addy Gruidl, Kinley Defendor, Mason Burket, Sami Harness and Skye Webb.

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8-22

CAK

8-28

MNCA

9-4

TKA

9-11

H

9-18

Paw Print

9-25

G

CONCORD CHRISTIAN

2026

CONCORD

4

56

10-2

UPA

10-9

FALL BREAK

10-16

SC

10-23

FCA

10-30

W

HOME

AWAY



KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

IRISH

The 2026 season will be the third for Knoxville Catholic High School under head football coach Philip Shadowens.

Ahead of the season, the Fighting Irish announced a self-imposed two-year probationary period for their football program from 2026-27. Catholic also self-imposed a one-year postseason ban for the 2026 season, a \$2,000 fine, reduced offseason practice opportunities - limited to five days during the probation - and a five-game suspension for the offending coach at the start of the 2026 season. Catholic will also not have an interschool scrimmage in 2026.

Their penalties stem from a non-faculty assistant football coach who engaged in impermissible communication to encourage a prospective student-athlete to consider transferring to Catholic.

The Fighting Irish will kick off their season against Riverdale High School on Aug. 22. Despite having self-imposed penalties and a postseason ban, Shadowens has high expectations for Catholic this season.

"We're a very talented team," he said. "They have worked

hard all summer long. I feel as good as you can this time of year. You have to wait and see how they play, but I certainly have high expectations and we have a lot of talent on our team."

Catholic's offense will be led by quarterback **Mack Bartholomew**. He is committed to East Tennessee State and 2026 will be his third season as the Fighting Irish's starting signal-caller.

Shadowens also has high expectations for him and the entire offense.

"We feel like we have a lot of good pieces," Shadowens said. "We can be a well-rounded team and we are excited to see what it looks like."

Catholic will be led by sophomores **Brayden Gonzalez** and **Gabriel Gonzalez** on the offensive line, along with senior **Timothy Gay**. Gay transferred to the Fighting Irish from Bradley Central High School.

"After a lot of thought, I will be transferring from Bradley Central to Knoxville Catholic to finish out high school," Gay announced May 22 on social media. "I am thankful for everything Bradley Central has done. Excited for this



Phillip Shadowens
Head Coach

See **IRISH PREVIEW** on Page 39

2026 **IRISH SENIORS**

Mack Bartholomew



Liam Patterson



Brayden Howard



Timothy Gay



Christopher Olvera

Irish Preview

From page 38

next chapter!"

Catholic's offensive line averages 310-315 pounds entering the season. Shadowens highlighted how the unit can play a part in his offense as a whole.

"There are some new pieces for the offensive line, but we feel like we made progress there," Shadowens said. "We probably average 310-315 pounds across the line. We feel like we have a couple of tight ends that can help us and a multitude of receivers, so we feel good about that."

"We have a good stable of running backs and we are led by a three-year starting quarterback Mack Bartholomew. We feel like we have a chance to be special on that side. In the backfield we have **Kruise Buntyn, Ryheem Lee and Isaac Hooper**. We feel like we have a stable of kids back there and all can be special."

Junior **Braylen Gibbs** enters the season as a leading wide receiver target for Bartholomew. Senior wide receiver **Liam Patterson** also brings experience to Catholic's offense.

"We also have two tight ends we feel good about in senior **Brayden Howard** and junior **Maddux Moore**," Shadowens said. "A multitude of other kids will be playing at

times, too."

Defensively, the Fighting Irish will be able to rely on depth this season.

"We feel like we have quality depth on the defensive line," Shadowens said. "We made progress there and feel good about that. We feel like we have a lot of speed at our linebacker position, and outside linebacker. Our secondary is still a work in progress. We lost some talent and feel like it's good, but we need to get experience on the backend."

"Safety **Brooks Johnston** has started two years and is just a junior. We have high expectations for four-star cornerback Braylen Gibbs in the secondary. With those two, we have two four-stars there. We feel like our leadership will start back there, too. We don't know who will be our leaders in the front right now, and our linebacker position, because there are some new kids there, but they are exceptional kids upfront. We will wait and see who the leader will be there."

Catholic's home schedule this season will feature contests versus Riverdale, Anderson County for "Rivalry Thursday," Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School from St. Louis, Missouri, Ensworth, McCallie and Baylor.

The Fighting Irish will play road games at Lipscomb Academy, Montgomery Bell Academy, Hoover High School in Hoover, Alabama and Christ Presbyterian Academy.



IRISH FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Ryheem Lee.....RB/LB.....JR
 1..... David Thomas.....WR/DB.....JR
 2..... Brooks Johnston.....WR/DB.....JR
 3..... Braylen Gibbs.....WR/DB.....JR
 5..... Skytan Johnson.....WR/DB.....JR
 6..... Lillian Kedjeu.....LB/TE.....JR
 7..... Amarion Graves.....WR/DB.....JR
 8..... Kruse Buntyn.....RB/LB.....SO
 9..... Julian Sensebaugh.....WR/CB.....JR
 10..... Mack Bartholomew.....QB/LB.....SR
 11..... Frank Mancini.....QB.....SO
 12..... Harrison Holmes.....QB.....FR
 13..... Liam Patterson.....WR/DB.....SR
 14..... Brayden Howard.....WR/DB.....SR
 15..... Connor Mohr.....WR/DB.....JR
 16..... Saquan Samuel.....WR/DB.....JR
 18..... Liam Gray.....WR/DB.....JR
 19..... Jeremiah Caswell.....LB/TE.....JR
 20..... Markise Witt.....WR/LB.....SO
 21..... Keagan Covington.....DL/TE.....JR
 22..... Aiden Reed.....WR/DB.....FR
 23..... Maddux Moore.....TE/LB.....JR
 25..... Isaac Hooper.....RB/LB.....JR
 26..... Brogan Corley.....WR/LB.....JR
 27..... Tristan Jarvis.....RB/LB.....JR

28..... Davis Masengill.....RB/LB.....FR
 29..... Simon Scileppi.....QB.....FR
 30..... Jay Hampton.....WR/DB.....FR
 31..... Mitch Canon.....RB/DB.....JR
 32..... Owen McNally.....OL/LB.....SO
 33..... Warren Reese.....WR/DB.....SO
 34..... Nate Truax.....RB/LB.....SO
 35..... Pierce Welch.....WR/DB.....JR
 36..... Ryder Ginn.....WR/DB.....FR
 37..... Max Shipe.....RB/LB.....SO
 38..... Alex Mohr.....RB/LB.....FR
 39..... Mark Medlock.....WR/LB.....SO
 40..... Casen Culbreth.....TE/LB.....FR
 41..... Rob Sills.....WR/DB.....SO
 42..... Jaylen Fitzgerald.....WR/DB.....SO
 44..... Kyle Humphrey.....LB/RB.....FR
 45..... Thad McLaurin.....TE/DL.....FR
 47..... Abram Bach.....WR/DB.....FR
 48..... Phillip Patterson.....WR/DB.....SO
 50..... JJ Payne.....DL.....SO
 51..... Maurice Broyles.....OL/DL.....SO
 53..... Timothy Gay.....OL/DL.....SR
 55..... Gabriel Gonzalez.....OL/DL.....SO
 56..... Yourick Carre-Pembele.....OL/DL.....JR
 57..... Jules Gautier.....OL/DL.....SO
 58..... Brannon Hunt.....OL/DL.....JR

59..... Brayden Kowen.....OL/DL.....FR
 60..... Mykel Broyels.....OL/DL.....FR
 61..... JJ Boyd.....OL/DL.....FR
 62..... Shannan Dunn.....OL/DL.....SO
 63..... Javier Burdick.....OL/DL.....FR
 65..... Quandavis Watson.....OL/DL.....FR
 66..... CJ Stewart.....OL/DL.....FR
 69..... Braxton Stinnett.....OL/DL.....SO
 70..... Mesac Diaz.....OL/DL.....FR
 71..... Mason Price.....OL/DL.....FR
 72..... Brayden Gonzalez.....OL/DL.....SO
 73..... RL Jessee.....OL/DL.....FR
 74..... Sourena Jandaghi.....OL/DL.....JR
 75..... Will Johnson.....OL/DL.....FR
 79..... Baylor Houston.....OL/DL.....FR
 80..... Charlie Castle.....WR/DB.....FR
 81..... Matthew Ayo.....K.....JR
 82..... Cyler Sohrab.....WR/DB.....SO
 83..... Caleb Bales.....K.....SO
 84..... Joshua Diaz.....TE/LB.....JR
 85..... Nicky Sutherland.....WR/DB.....SO
 86..... Cooper Long.....K.....FR
 87..... Jackson Whelan.....RB/LB.....FR
 93..... Christopher Olvera.....K.....SR
 99..... Key'Juan Witt.....OL/DL.....FR

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KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC 2026 SCHEDULE

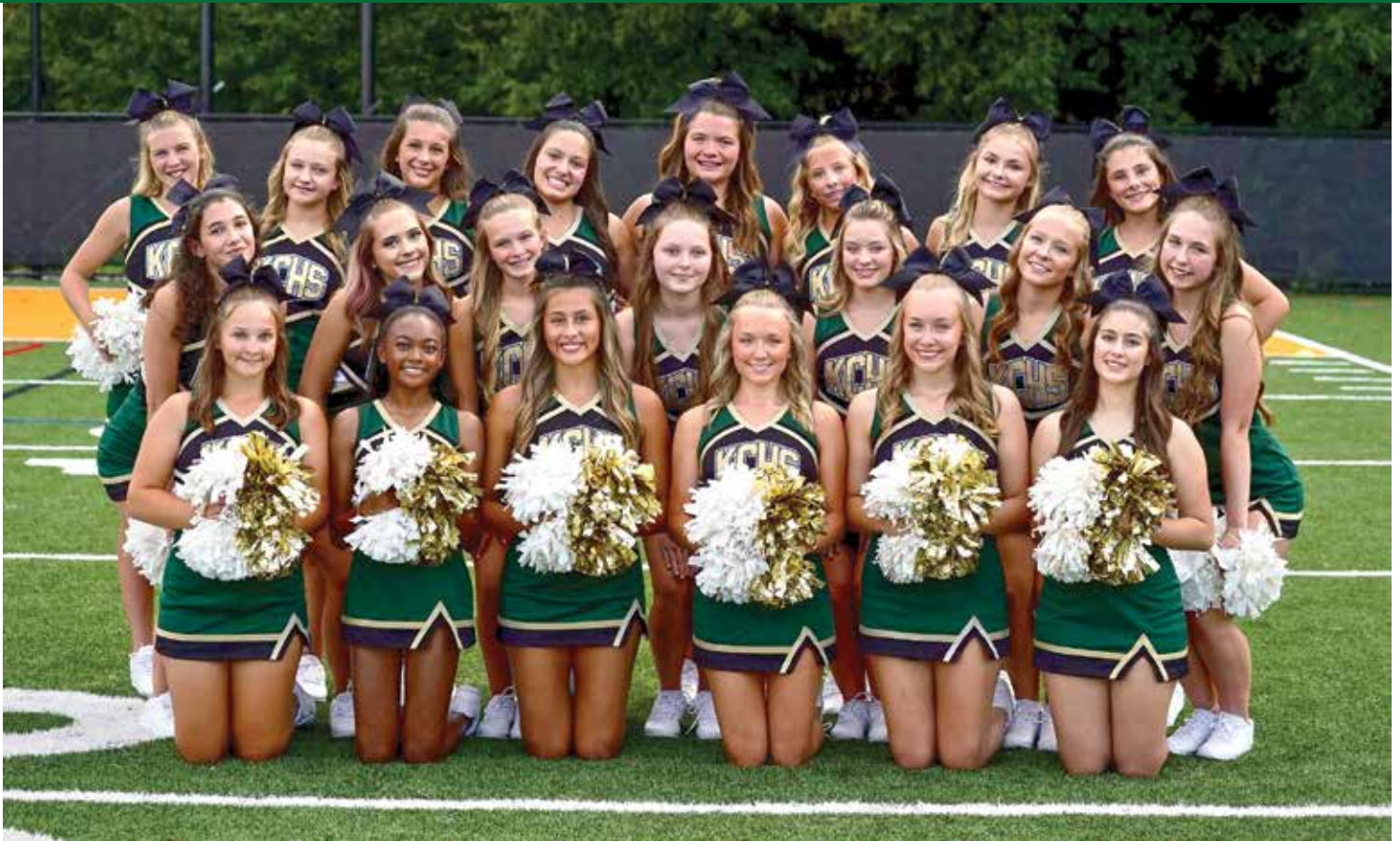
IRISH

Date

Opponent

Aug. 21..... Riverdale..... Home
 Aug. 27..... Anderson County..... Home
 Sep. 4..... Lipscomb Academy..... Away
 Sep. 11..... Cardinal Ritter (MO)..... Home
 Sep. 18..... Montgomery Bell Academy*..... Away
 Sep. 25..... Hoover (AL)..... Away
 Oct. 2..... Ensworth*..... Home
 Oct. 9..... McCallie*..... Home
 Oct. 23..... Christ Presbyterian Academy*..... Away
 Oct. 30..... Baylor*..... Home

*denotes Division II-AAA matchup

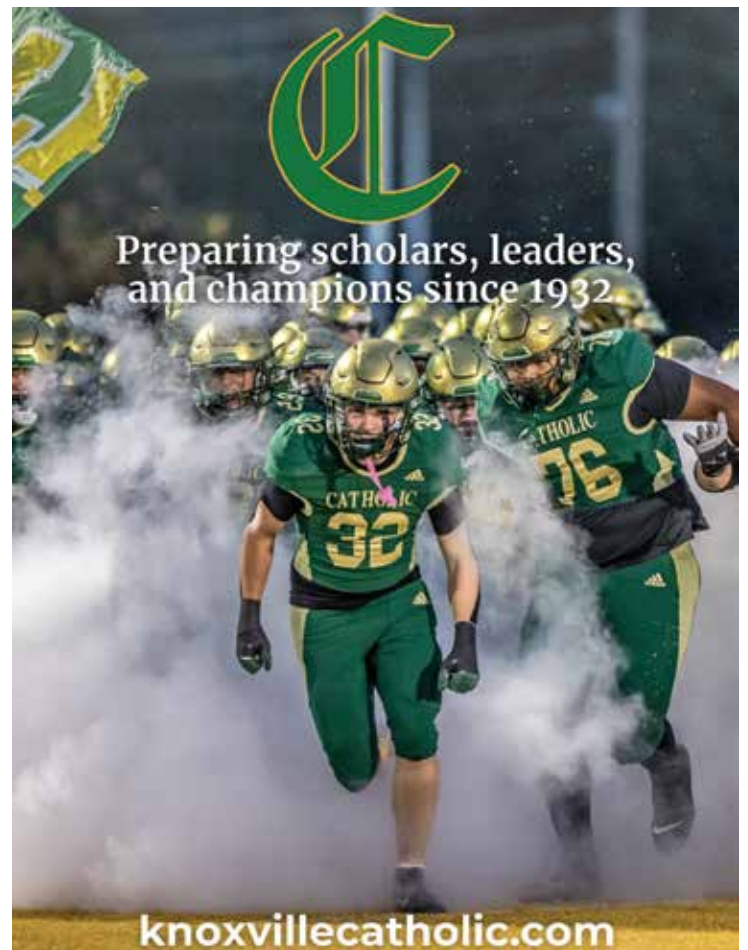


2026 **IRISH** **CHEERLEADERS**

The 2026 Knoxville Catholic cheer squad. Bottom row left to right: Tess Laco, Gabby Christof, Giselle Zayas, Izzy Robertson, Milly King, Charley Blaché. Middle row left to right: Izzie Brickner, Campbell Ross, Olivia Kate Masengill, Addison Peters, Avery Hill, Reagan Yarbrough, Madie Pagel. Top row left to right: Catherine Roovers, Sofia Plemons, Frances Shafer, Brielle Corley, Kinsley Belk, Aniston Bishop, Harper Wilhoit.

"They have worked hard all summer long. I feel as good as you can this time of year. You have to wait and see how they play, but I certainly have high expectations and we have a lot of talent on our team."

~ Philip Shadowens, Knoxville Catholic head coach





2026 **IRISH** **DANCE TEAM**

The 2026 Knoxville Catholic dance team. First row left to right: Ava Salzenstein, Reagan Marlowe (captain), Mia Compton, Anna Maria Medlyn (co-captain), Alexa Thompson. Middle row left to right: Mabry Layman, Annabelle Helton, Jocelyn-Marie McClintock, Danielle Hill, Veronica Bartholomay. Third row left to right: Davaylah Hill, Ella Drew, Leah Herda, Emily Swain. Not pictured: Sophia Trapuzzano.

Photo courtesy of Andrew Medlyn

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WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE

SPARTANS

George Quarles' résumé speaks for itself.

In 18 years as head coach at Maryville High School, he racked up 11 state titles, won 250 games and even led the Rebels on a 74-game win streak at one point. So illustrious was his career that the Rebels named a street after their former head coach, who resigned in 2016 to take an assistant job at Furman University.

From there, he continued on to East Tennessee State as head coach before landing at Austin Peay to lead the Governors' tight ends.

But now, after a total of nine years at the college level, Quarles has returned to the East Tennessee prep level to lead the Webb Spartans in a new era.

The surroundings may be familiar for Quarles, who noted how good it feels to be back among so many friends.

This challenge, however, is brand new, as Quarles looks to resurrect a Webb program that went 1-9 last year, suffering plenty of roster attrition in the process.



George Quarles
Head Coach

"It's been good," Quarles said of the months since his December hiring. "It's been challenging, exciting, educational, learning a new ballgame in a lot of ways. The jobs I've taken, I took over a state championship team at Maryville. Then at East Tennessee State, they had just come off the greatest season in school history.

"This is the first time I've taken a job where it was down a bit. So there is some uncertainty. But it's also exciting, because this is an opportunity to do something that a lot of people say can't be done at a place like Webb. I think we can and that we're going to, though — we just have to get it flipped."

To begin that process, Quarles has been transparent about the Spartans' depth — or, in this case, lack thereof.

"I've never been in a program where you had this few in numbers," he said plainly. "But our good ones are good — we've got players as good as I've had at Maryville and other places. But our job as coaches is to figure out what we're good at, and it's hard to do that when you can't go against each other in a true 11-on-11. It still comes down to

See SPARTANS PREVIEW on Page 44

2026 SPARTANS SENIORS



Javon Dirl



Ty Tomberlin



Brailen Robinson



Caleb Davis



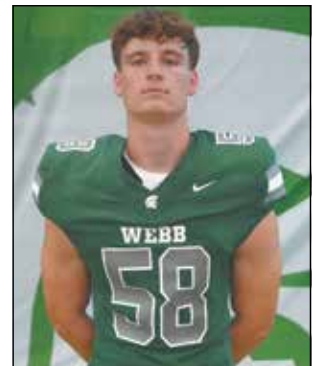
Brayden Rivers



Bryce Teutimez



Amar'e Cruse



Will Overton

Spartans Preview

From page 43

figuring out what we're good at, who our go-to guys are, and we may not know that until we start scrimmaging or even playing."

In the meantime, Webb has begun a cultural shift under Quarles, and it goes far beyond the charcoal gray numerals featured on the Spartans' new green jerseys.

"The biggest change is the weight room," senior receiver **Brailen Robinson** said. "Our lifts are really hard. We put in a lot of sweat and tears, a lot of time. His biggest thing has been preaching that you've got to be willing to be uncomfortable to grow."

"Also, the efficiency," added lineman **Will Overton**. "I feel like we get there, get our work in, and have great workouts and lifts. Then the conditioning part, too, going through agilities and long-term conditioning that I haven't done before. I think it's really going to help us, and I'm really excited to see it."

Time will tell how that conditioning pairs with Webb's schematics. But for anyone who watched Quarles' high-powered teams at Maryville, the systems should look pretty familiar.

"Offensively, we will be pretty multiple," Quarles said. "I still like running some two-back stuff, like we did at Maryville. And so much of that depends on what the quarterback can do, what we can do up front. Then defensively, probably a three-down team."

Garrett King will lead Webb at the quarterback position, having transferred from Knoxville Catholic in March.

The rising junior brings a dual-threat ability that he showcased at Under Armour and Rivals camps this summer, and he was listed on TN Prep Varsity's top quarterbacks list for the 2028 class.

"He transferred in right before Spring Break," Quarles said of King, "and he's had a great spring and summer and is a hard worker."

Senior **Javon Dirl** returns the most experience at wide receiver, though Quarles noted that he will be coming off an injury suffered last season.

At running back, Webb will feature one of the more well-known weapons in **Matthew Rogers**. The 5-foot-10, 193-pound tailback holds 16 Division I offers, including Florida State, Arkansas, North Carolina State and

See SPARTANS PREVIEW on Page 46



SPARTANS FOOTBALL ROSTER

0..... Matthew Rogers.....RB/DB.....JR	14..... Reggie Bishop.....RB/DB.....SO	50..... Lance Herman.....OL/LB.....SO
1..... Javon Dirl.....WR/DB.....SR	15..... Brayden Rivers.....WR/DB.....SR	52..... Brady Qualls.....OL/DL.....JR
3..... Antwan Hill.....WR/DB.....FR	16..... Cade Dubois.....QB.....FR	55..... Amar'e Cruse.....OL/DL.....SR
4..... Ty Tomberlin.....RB/LB.....SR	17..... Graham Landers.....WR/DB.....SO	56..... Beau Quarles.....OL/DL.....FR
5..... Brailen Robinson.....RB/DB.....SR	18..... Melshawn Rucker.....WR/DB.....FR	58..... Will Overton.....OL/DL.....SR
6..... Donovan Lloyd.....RB/DB.....JR	19..... Gage King.....WR/DB.....JR	59..... Connor Garmer.....OL/DL.....JR
7..... Gibby Tomberlin.....RB/DB.....SO	20..... Gavin McClurkin.....TE/LB.....FR	61..... Jake Rogers.....OL/DL.....JR
8..... Chase McDowall.....WR/DB.....SO	21..... Jack Gerken.....WR/LB.....FR	63..... Liam Jordan.....OL/DL.....JR
9..... Garrett King.....QB.....JR	24..... Tommy Moore.....RB/LB.....FR	66..... Jackson Nichols.....OL/DL.....JR
10..... Caleb Davis.....WR/DB.....SR	26..... Bryce Teutimez.....K.....SR	70..... Nolan Titus.....OL/DL.....FR
11..... Mali Blake.....WR/DB.....FR	28..... Cyrus Sohrab.....WR/DB.....FR	77..... Micah Davis.....OL/DL.....FR
13..... Grelyn Gordon.....RB/LB.....SO	27..... Owen Dawson.....OL/LB.....JR	78..... Matteo Najera.....OL/DL.....FR
	44..... Hunter Stinnett.....WR/LB.....FR	

"The fear of failure is a great motivator, and the fear of, 'Can we get this done?' makes you work a little bit harder."

~ George Quarles, Webb School of Knoxville

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WEBB SCHOOL 2026 SCHEDULE

SPARTANS

Date	Opponent	
Aug. 21.....	Upperman.....	Away
Aug. 28.....	Asheville School (NC).....	Away
Sep. 4.....	Silverdale Academy*.....	Home
Sep. 11.....	Lakeway Christian*.....	Home
Sep. 18.....	Grace Christian*.....	Home
Sep. 25.....	CAK*.....	Away
Oct. 2.....	Notre Dame*.....	Home
Oct. 16.....	Stewarts Creek`.....	Home
Oct. 23.....	Chattanooga Christian*.....	Away
Oct. 30.....	Boyd Buchanan*.....	Away

* Denotes Division II-AA East Region games



2026 SPARTANS CHEERLEADERS

Photo Submitted

The 2026 Webb School cheer squad. First row left to right: Claire Luton, Kate Lyke, Taylor Bell, Haley Stinson, Caroline Goins, Kirby Willoughby, Keely Hillesheim. Second row left to right: Annabelle Baker, Chloe Dye, Reagan Stephens, Maisen Sharp, Kathryn Seabrook, Brooklyn Sturgil, Olivia Deno, Madeleine Martin, Caroline White, Amelia Hovis. Third row left to right: Lily Stewart, Josephine Mirochnikoff, Jazlyn Pompey, Chrissy Goin, Catherine Heck, Ollie Kowalski, Amelia Greer, Brooks DeLozier, Olivia Ogle, Emma Caroline Ellis, Camilla Bell. Fourth row left to right: Cazzy Kaye, Ever Schaumberg, Emma Blake King, Natalie Qualls, Adriana Ellam, Bennett Walker, Purvi Gowdar, Anna Jenkins

Spartans Preview

From page 44

Indiana, and is listed as a 3-star recruit in the class of 2028.

"I think he's one of the best running backs in this area," Quarles said, "and he's a strong runner."

Quarles has seen similar potential in freshmen **Antwan Hill** and **Mali Blake**, who could help Webb at wide receiver and defensive back, while Robinson will look to return for his senior year after an ACL tear in the spring.

Webb also will look to a couple other transfers this year, including **Gibby** and **Ty Tomberlin** and **Jackson King**. Ironically, the Tomberlin brothers came from Quarles' last high school stop in Tennessee, Maryville, and will bring plenty of help in multiple areas.

"Ty will play running back and linebacker for us, and Gibby, he can play safety, receiver, tight end, maybe some running back," Quarles said.

King, meanwhile, will be an option at defensive end. But on the offensive side, Overton will be the anchor after starting there since his freshman year.

He will be coached by a familiar face in Don Mahoney, who led the Spartans as head coach before stepping down.

That resignation paved the way for Quarles, who has been fully transparent about his return and the complex emotions that this new challenge brings.

"I think it's more excitement than anything," he said. "The fear of failure is a great motivator, and the fear of, 'Can we get this done?' makes you work a little bit harder."

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Lady Admirals roll Cats, on to Districts

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

Any team heading into the postseason wants to enter that part of the season playing well and on a roll.

The Lady Admirals were

the Lady Wildcats 3-0 in a non-district match. The set scores were 25-20, 25-12, and 25-16. FHS coach Andre Alves was happy with his team's recent play, including the "Bumble at the Rocky Top" in Gallatin over the weekend. The Lady Admirals made the semifinals out of 24 teams.

"Really pleased with how down we're playing," Alves said. "We won the serving pass battle I felt like. We're making

good decisions, we're playing together."

They're a good team but we didn't play with any intensity," Alves said. "We didn't communicate well. We made too many errors."

The teams traded points throughout much of the first set. A 6-3 run late in the set gave FHS a 20-11 lead. Five in a row by GS made it 25-16, but Farragut then won five of the last seven points.



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Admirals down the Dawgs

Emotional win against an old rival

BILL HOWARD
Correspondent

It was a football game fully worthy of an intense, decades-old rivalry.

The game had it all: quick-strike big plays, costly mistakes, star moment swings. When it was over, Farragut High School had cleared out a come-from-behind 20-21 win over Region 2-6A archrival Boardman High School to finally get in the win column (1-1 overall, 1-2 Region).

The Bulldogs (0-5, 0-3) remain in search of their first win.

"Ultimately it's a big win," FHS coach Geoff Courtney said. "A lot of emotions, a lot of excitement. Almost a classic Farragut-Boardman game."



FHS, 42, Colt Brinker (left), and FHS, 16, (right) Noah Haag, tackle BHS, 13 (helmet comes off).

After forcing a punt, FHS then got a 47-yard field goal from Ryan McChes to make it 10-0 with 5:36 left in the first.

Another three-and-out by BHS put Farragut in business on their own 48. On the drive's fourth play, Hudson again connected with Glover, this time from 27 yards to make it 16-0 with 2:04 still to play in the first.

But Boardman wasn't about to roll over. With 8:33 left in the half, junior Paxton Parrott capped off a seven-play drive with a four-yard keeper around right end to make it 16-7.

Later in the second, the Doper Connor Gilbreath picked off Boardman with 2:54 left. On the first play of the ensuing drive, quarterback Aden Thacker hit Grant Cross for a 10-yard score, which led to a halftime score of 16-14, Farragut.

Hawks get clipped by Rebels

KEN LAY
Correspondent

Hardin Valley - Hardin Valley Academy's football has accomplished plenty during the first half of the 2025 season.

The Hawks recently won their first Region 2-6A game since 2020, when they topped Boardman on Sept. 15, and they have already tripled their win total from last season.

But HVA had a tough outing Friday night as they came up on the short end of a close decision against state powerhouse Maryville in their consecutive home game.

The Rebels (1-1 overall, 0-1 in the region) wasted little time seizing control of the contest as they scored on six of their seven possessions in the first

Lady Bulldogs extend winning streak

KEN LAY
Correspondent

Boardman High School continued its dominance in one of Knox County's most highly contested girls' soccer rivalries last week.

The Lady Bulldogs extended its winning streak over Farragut with a 4-1 victory Thursday night, Sept. 25 at the Farragut Soccer Stadium.

Boardman hasn't lost to Farragut since Sept. 21, 2017. The Lady Bulldogs (11-1 overall, 4-0 in District 6AAA) have won four consecutive matches since playing Knoxville West 10 to 0 on Sept. 12.

The tie represents the first blip on Boardman's district record in nearly a decade.

Last week's match between the Lady Bulldogs and the Lady Admirals (0-1, 1-0) was a stalemate as it was locked in a 0-0 draw after the first 40 minutes.

See HAWKS on Page 28

See LADY BULLDOGS on Page 18

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