

GRIDIRON
GUIDE

2025

McKenzie Rebels
Huntingdon Mustangs
West Carroll War Eagles
Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Tigers
Gleason Bulldogs
Bethel University Wildcats

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE MCKENZIE BANNER | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025



Rebels Look to Continue Successful Run

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

The McKenzie Rebels began a new era last year, and the same can be said for this year's campaign.

Head Coach Keith Hodge took the helm last year after the 24-year tenure of Wade Comer, and the team didn't miss a beat, finishing with a 13-1 record and a semifinals appearance.

This year brings a transition of leadership at the player level as one large senior group replaces another and several underclassmen take on prominent roles.

Hodge spoke to The Banner near the end of the pre-season. "The leadership side of football always takes time, because you've got to figure out who grew up a little bit in the offseason, who matured a little bit. Right now we do have a big senior class, so we need them to be leaders as a whole. That takes a little time. We do have some kids I feel can step up, can lead. I can't tell you who just yet, because I don't know just yet. It's going to be different

ones. We're going to get that figured out though real quick.

"You've got [senior] Ryan Toombs that's going to be a three-year starter on the offensive line, he should definitely be a leader out there. You've got [junior] Cole Brown stepping into the quarterback role. The quarterback has to be a leader out there.

You've got some other seniors that have had some playing time, they're going to have to step up and become leaders. You don't want too many, you just want a group of guys that you can trust that's going to get things right and buy into it."

The coach laid out his assessment of the offense. "We're going to have a lot of different kids that you're going to see as the season goes on. With [senior] Timmy Arline coming back hopefully healthy, we don't know what week that's going to happen just yet, but we know that he's going to end up being one of our main guys. He got injured halfway through last season. He's a heck of a ball player, so we expect Timmy

to play a huge role when he is fully healthy and ready to go.

"We've got [junior] Avery Brown coming back after a lot of good experience last year at wide receiver that should have a lot of production.

"We've got a lot of different running backs, [senior] Aiden Legens, [sophomore] Jayden Callis, some different guys that are going to help us get yards and hopefully take care of the football.

"We've got a lot of different bodies, so I think it's going to take some time to figure out who's going to kinda be the go-to guy in all these different spots, and that's a good problem to have, because we've got a lot of competition going on right now, so I'm excited about that side of it and making guys compete and earn their roles on the offense."

On the defensive side, Hodge said, "Same kind of setup, some depth on the defensive line, we've got some kids coming back that do have some experience, [sophomore] Maddox Shiell should be one of our an-

chors on the defensive line, got a lot of playing time as a freshmen, tons of reps as a freshmen actually, you start talking about playoff games and everything else, the experience he gained. So we look at him to be an anchor and a leader on the defensive side even as a sophomore. We've got [senior] Mason Batten that had a lot of experience last year, as well as [senior] Aiden Callis. We know Aiden Legens has had a lot of experience over the years [Legens is a transfer from Gleason]. Obviously Cole Brown has started since he was a freshman. Lelan Gordon had a heck of a sophomore season at middle linebacker, so looking for big things out of him his junior year, take it up even another notch. I'm excited for those guys and what they're gonna bring.

"Another name that I think is going to have a huge senior year is Fletcher Holt that we got to come out his senior year. He's going to be a good ballplayer for us, big strong kid, smart kid. I know he's excited about Friday nights.

"Another one that didn't get to play last year was Xander Johnsey. We expect him to fill in one of those roles, like filling in for [Tate] Surber from last year, playing some safety, playing some line-backer for us, he put on a lot of weight in the offseason. It's going to be his senior year, so we expect a lot of good things out of him also.

Hodge said special teams is "probably the most different look you've got going from last year to this year.

"It's hard to replace a Skyler Fornera, an all-state kicker last year that had a phenomenal senior year kicking. We've been able to get a kid from soccer, [senior] Aiden Mason, who's an excellent athlete. We think he's going to be able to help us on offense this year at receiver, also he's going to be taking over the kicking duties, he'll be kicking and kicking off for us. So far he's looked really good. I think he's gonna have an excellent senior season and get us back on track and not have to worry so much about kicking because he's going to grow every week.

Punting will still be Cole Brown. He's a weapon to have at punter back there. He can boom it. That's a weapon you've got to utilize also."

McKenzie's Region 6-1A will have a different look this year. Returning are McEwen, Perry County and Hollow Rock-Bruceton. Wayne County and Collinwood replace Houston County and West Carroll to round out the region.

Coach Hodge said, "A little bit different matchups, going down to Collinwood this year's gonna be a little bit of a rough ride. I've never been there before, so that's going to be interesting.

Wayne County I feel like is one of the better-coached teams that we're going to face this year. They play hard, they're well-coached. They're going to get a quarterback back that's really good. So I could see Wayne County making some noise in our region, no doubt about that. McEwen's been tough the past couple of years, they've

See REBELS on Page 5

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McKenzie High School football managers (L to R): Kamdyn Tharpe, Sophie Cole, Olivia Cantrell and Kamyah Gordon.

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McKenzie High School cheerleaders (L to R) Front Row: Brooke Murphy, Madelyn Pewitt, Olivia-Kay Pate and Marlee Toombs. Second Row: Lola Sumrok, Kinsley Wilson, Hadley Smith and Frannie Trout. Back Row: Katelyn Prather, Addi Davis, Addison Milam, Tobey Brooks, Carleigh Lunn and Chloe Veliz.

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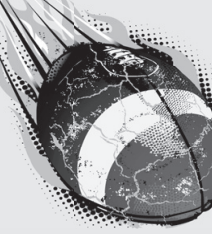
McKenzie High School football coaches (L to R): Ben Hargett, Merritt Spence, Trey Cantrell, Head Coach Keith Hodge, Austin Chapman, Kentrell Diggs and David Duncan. Not pictured are Chris Wall and Randy Thomas.

2025 McKenzie High School Football Roster

#	NAME	GR.	POS.
1	Parker Ross	Fr.	DB/QB
2	Aiden Legens	Sr.	DB/WR
3	Cole Brown	Jr.	LB/WR
4	Jackson Cantrell	Sr.	DB/WR
5	Aiden Orten	Jr.	DB/WR
6	Timmy Arline	Sr.	DB/RB
7	Jacobi Melton	Jr.	DB/WR
8	Xander Johnsey	Sr.	LB/RB
10	Mason Batten	Sr.	LB/TE
11	Cooper Davidson	So.	LB/QB
12	Kason Brown	So.	DB/QB
13	Avery Brown	Jr.	DB/WR
14	Jaden Blanton	Fr.	DB/WR
15	Gakhari Thomas	So.	DB/WR
16	Davarion Gilbert	Sr.	DL/OL
17	Aiden Mason	Sr.	DB/WR/K
18	Casey Cunningham	Jr.	DB/WR

#	NAME	GR.	POS.
19	Ryan Sherrod	Fr.	DB/WR
20	Dawson Reeder	Fr.	DB/WR
21	Malaki Harris	So.	DB/WR
22	Matthew Gaylord	Sr.	DB/WR
24	Matteo Tabada	Jr.	DB/RB
25	Cayden Gordon	Fr.	LB/WR
27	Jacion Townes	So.	LB/TE
28	Lelan Gordon	Jr.	LB/WR
30	Jayden Callis	So.	LB/RB
34	Fletcher Holt	Sr.	DL/TE
36	Bryson Smith	Fr.	LB/RB
40	Aiden Callis	Sr.	LB/TE
50	Shane Barrick	Sr.	DL/OL
51	Isaiah Leslie	Sr.	DL/OL
52	Brayden Mort	Fr.	DL/OL
54	Ashli Winston	Fr.	DL/OL
55	Ethan Batton	Sr.	DL/OL

#	NAME	GR.	POS.
56	Matthew Jackson	Fr.	DL/OL
57	Khamari Coleman	Sr.	DL/OL
62	TJ Johnson	Sr.	DL/OL
64	Landin Deatherage	Sr.	DL/OL
65	Connor Mann	So.	DL/OL
66	Maddox Shiell	So.	DL/TE
67	Hunter Sims	So.	DL/OL
71	Kenneth Ellis	So.	DL/OL
72	Hunter Shafer	Fr.	DL/OL
73	Ryan Toombs	Sr.	DL/OL
74	Alijah Darnes	Sr.	DL/OL
75	Landon Knight	Jr.	DL/OL
76	Raymond Vasquez	So.	DL/OL
77	Hunter Winstead	So.	DL/OL
78	Devin Dennie	Fr.	DL/OL



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MHS Schedule

Aug. 22	Huntingdon	7 p.m.
Aug. 29	Dresden	7 p.m.
Sept. 5	@ Christian Co. Ky	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	@ Perry Co. *	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	Camden HC	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	@ Chester Co.	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	@ Collinwood *	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	@ HR-Bruceton *	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	BYE	
Oct. 24	Wayne Co. *	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	McEwen * Sr	7 p.m.

* Denotes Region Game
HC Homecoming / **Sr** Senior Night

McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Keith Hodge
Assistant Coaches: Trey Cantrell, Austin Chapman, Merritt Spence, David Duncan, Kentrell Diggs, Chris Wall, Ben Hargett and Randy Thomas.
Managers: Olivia Cantrell, Sophie Cole, Kamyah Gordon and Kamdyn Tharpe.
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Left, Huntingdon High School Cheerleaders (L to R) Front Row: McKenzie Drinkard, Aubrie Harris, Claudia Cooper, Korra Doyle and Bella Souza. Second Row: Madisyn Barton, Katie Pratcher, Destiny Whitson, Baylee Douglas, Greenlee Hilliard and Aubrey McArthur. Back Row: Hailey Foster, Claudia Williams, Apryl Reindl, Eden Pritchard, Mary Cardon Smothers, McKinley Spellings and Harmony Webb. Right, Huntingdon High School Football Coaches (L to R): Assistant Coach Adam Parish; Assistant Head Coach Robbie Miller; Head Coach Eric Swenson; and Assistant Coaches Bryan Dickens, Trevor Burlison and Ben Carter. Not pictured is Assistant Coach Rick Wallace.

Mustangs Poised for Another Banner Season

BY RUSSELL BUSH
banner@mckenziebanner.com

Preseason predictions have the Mustangs to not have the type of season that Mustang fans are accustomed to. One prediction had the Mustangs finishing fifth in a seven-team region that features the state runner-up from last year, Milan, along with Union City, Trenton, Gibson County, JCM, Camden, and newcomer to the region Halls. The first state poll for 2-A had the Mustangs ranked eighth.

The main reason for skeptics to predict a down year for the Mustangs is the talent that was lost to graduation.

Gray Eubanks was a Mr. Football finalist at the QB position last season and, along with running back Brady Warbritton, rushed for 2,500 yards to lead the Mustangs to a 10-3 record last season and the third round of the playoffs.

The three losses for the Mustangs came to McKenzie 38-35 in the opening game of the season, and the Rebels advanced to the semi-finals. Huntingdon lost twice to Milan, with the second loss coming in the playoffs 28-25.

The Mustangs also lost two all-state players in center Braylon Rich and lineman Easton Byars, who was a staple on the Mustang defense. The Mustangs, who run a hybrid wing T offense depend a lot on the play of the QB position.

Senior Braylin Dearmon will be the choice to fill the shoes of Eubanks. Dearmon is 6'2 and has a strong arm and is a tough runner, and that will be a plus for the Mustang offense.

Lining up in the backfield with Dearmon will be fellow senior Tyreke Hutch, who will be among the fastest players in West Tennessee. At the wing back position will be Hayes Eubanks, a sophomore, who will split time with junior Kenton Smith, who is among the most talented players in the region. K'Shun Carter and Keimonte Strayhorn, both sophomores, will see a lot of time in the backfield.

Broox Bennett, a senior, will be the blocking back and is an excellent receiver. Owen King, a senior, and Zayden Connelly, a junior, will be the tight ends, and both will get a lot of opportunities in the passing game. Maddox Holmes, a sophomore, will see a lot of time at end and might be the team's best receiver.

The Mustangs return four interior linemen to anchor their running attack. Silas Sharp, a senior, and Bryson Whiteside, a junior, will be the guards. Ashtyn Donald and Brayden Davis, both juniors, will line

up at tackle.

At center will be sophomore Haven Dillahunt.

Defensively, the Mustangs will rely on a strong linebacker core. Eubanks and Bennett return as starters and have a nose for the football. Gavin Gray, a sophomore, will start at linebacker and gives the Mustangs a solid three in that spot.

Jeramyah Cannon, a senior, will anchor the defensive line along with DJ Armour, a senior and junior Taylin Strayhorn. Sharp, Donald and Davis will also see time in the trenches.

The Mustangs will be strong in the secondary, with Kenton Smith, Carter, Strayhorn and Dearmon at corner.

Lucas Smith, a junior, will start at safety.

One of the best strengths for the Mustangs might be in the kicking game. Juniors Greyson Anderson and Ethan Raffield will do the place kicking and handle kickoffs. Anderson has D1-type talent and might end up punting before the season ends. In preseason, Eubanks was solid punting the football.

If the first three scrimmages of the season are any indication, the Mustangs are not in for a rebuilding year but a year in which they reload.

The Mustangs have the talent to win ten games or more and advance deep in the playoffs.

HHS Schedule

Aug. 22	@ McKenzie
Aug. 29	@ Camden
Sept. 5	@ Milan
Sept. 12	@ Halls
Sept. 19	JCM
Sept. 26	@ Gibson Co.
Oct. 3	Riverside
Oct. 10	Harpeth HC
Oct. 24	Peabody
Oct. 30	Union City Sr

HC Homecoming / **Sr** Senior Night

HUNTINGDON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Eric Swenson
Assistant Head Coach: Robbie Miller
Assistant Coaches: Adam Parish, Bryan Dickens, Ben Carter, Trevor Burlison and Rick Wallace
Managers: Zachiryah Connelly-Webb
Ball Boys: Brock Miller, Liam Martin, Rhett Miller and Mac Eubanks
Statistician: Geno Dill
Film Crew: Derrick Hubble and Logan Boyd

2025 Huntingdon High School Football Roster

#	NAME	GR.	POS.
5	Tyreke Hutch	12	RB/DB
6	Owen King	12	TE/DL
7	Zayden Connelly	11	RB/DB
8	Hayes Eubanks	10	RB/LB
9	Taylor Jones	11	RB/DB
10	Ayden Woods	10	RB/DB
11	Braylin Dearmon	12	RB/DB
12	Lucas Smith	11	RB/DB
13	Gavin Gray	10	RB/LB
14	Keimonte Strayhorn	10	WR/DB
15	Jeramyah Cannon	12	RB/DL
16	Maddox Holmes	10	TE/DB
19	Benton Norman	9	WR/DB
20	Colt Wood	10	RB/DB
21	Brennan Meggs	11	TE/LB
22	Kenton Smith	11	RB/DB
23	Kylen Turner	11	RB/DB
24	Montrae Leyhew	9	WR/DB
25	Myles Pelonero	10	RB/DB
26	K'Shun Carter	10	RB/DB
27	Kingston Smith	9	RB/DB

#	NAME	GR.	POS.
28	Garvin Kee	10	RB/LB
30	Ayden King	9	WR/DB
40	Broox Bennett	12	OL/LB
50	Haven Dillahunt	10	OL/DL
51	Nick Smith	11	OL/DL
52	Silas Sharp	12	OL/LB
53	DJ Armour	12	OL/DL
55	Phoenix Barnhill	9	OL/DL
56	Brayden Davis	11	OL/DL
57	Kaden King	11	OL/DL
58	Taylin Strayhorn	11	OL/DL
61	Bryson Whiteside	11	OL/DL
62	Grant Wilson	11	OL/DL
63	Elijah Hays	9	OL/DL
64	Kyle Byrd	9	OL/LB
67	Riley Ford	9	OL/DL
75	Ashtyn Donald	11	OL/DL
81	Greyson Anderson	11	K
87	Jaden Gordon	12	WR/LB
88	Ethan Raffield	11	K

A close-up image of a football, showing the laces and the texture of the leather.

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A close-up image of a football, showing the laces and the texture of the leather.

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The logo for Farrell Cathoun, featuring the name 'Farrell Cathoun' in a stylized, cursive font with 'SINCE 1982' below it.

A7478



Above, West Carroll High School Cheerleaders. Below, West Carroll High School Football Coaches (L to R): Assistant Coach Chris Brackeen, Head Coach Jay Taylor and Assistant Coaches Billy Windsor and Nicholas Cobb.



West Carroll High School Roster

#	NAME	GR.	#	NAME	GR.
0	Qumarion Patterson	12	54	Jaiden Cecchini	12
2	Mason Taylor	10	55	Cole Mueller	11
3	Parker Newman	9	56	Landon Wilson	11
4	Braden Marise	10	64	Jordan Jeter	9
5	Eli Travelstead	12	68	Rylan Forrest	10
9	Kam Wood	11	70	Amaire Kelley	12
20	Chance Weatherford	12	74	Noah Cecchini	11
21	Keegan Mealer	11	75	Brayden Arnold	10
24	Joseph Brogdon	12	78	Peyton Gilford	12
29	Spencer Long	9	80	Alex Caveness	9
34	Caleb Vermillion	10		Bryan Alcantara	12
35	Nigel Butler	12		Tristan Bruce	10
52	Tyson Fuller	9		Jeremiah Petty	9
53	David Coleman	9		Hunter Stanfill	10

West Carroll High School Schedule

August 22	@ Gibson Co.	October 3	@ Lake Co.
August 29	@ Fayette Ware	October 10	@ Gleason
September 5	Dresden	October 24	Liberty Tech
September 12	TCA	October 31	South Fulton Sr
September 19	@ Humboldt		
September 26	Greenfield HC		

HC Homecoming / Sr Senior Night

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A1275

WEST CARROLL
JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL

West Carroll Hoping to Compete in New Region

BY MICHAEL ODOM

During the past six months, the West Carroll football team has been hit by multiple changes. The War Eagles got a new coach as Adam Dowland resigned and Jay Taylor took over.

The running game was going to change as Jayden Milton, who was one of the top rushers in the nation before getting hurt last season, graduated. The team was also hit by quite a few transfers leaving the team.

But Taylor is trying to keep this West Carroll team focused on competing for one of the top spots in Region 7-1A.

"It has been a great transition, and the kids have worked hard," Taylor said. "They have done everything that we have asked them to do. They have overcome some stuff with guys leaving."

Taylor feels like the players have bought in and are ready to continue the improvement to be ready for the season.

"You can see it in the weight room and 40s," Taylor said. "We didn't get to have a spring practice because they had already had it, but with anything we can measure, they seemed to have

bought in."

West Carroll is in a new region as the team moved to Region 7-1A to join the Weakley County trio of Gleason, Greenfield and Dresden along with Humboldt, Lake County and South Fulton.

"There is a lot less travel than they did have, and these are teams that I am familiar with," Taylor said. "I was at McKenzie and then two years at Peabody, this was the region we were in."

But the work continues to be ready for Week 1 against Gibson County.

"We don't need anyone getting hurt," Taylor said. "I told the kids at practice. You are going to make mistakes. But just block the wrong person at full speed. We will fix all of that on film. We want to get better every week."

Offense

West Carroll had 24 players on the roster going into the end of scrimmages, which even with the loss of players, is better than this point last year.

There are some young players in key positions, so West Carroll will have to run the ball.

"We just have to be able to catch the snap, hand it

off and not shoot ourselves in the foot, as easy as that sounds," Taylor said when asked about what the key to offensive success was. "Mason (Taylor) is good at running the ball, and we have some good linemen, so we should be able to move the football."

Both quarterbacks that West Carroll had on roster in 2024 transferred, so Taylor is going to have a young one at that position.

"Parker Newman, a freshman, is going to be our quarterback," Taylor said. "We are trying to keep everything simple for him. We don't want to overload him. We need him to be a game manager. We don't need him to be Tom Brady, just take care of the football"

Sophomore Mason Taylor took advantage of his time as starting running back when Milton went down, and Taylor will be the featured back this season.

"Mason was in the middle of baseball season when we got here, and he is a great kid," Taylor said. "We have put a lot on his plate with Parker being a freshman. We have leaned on Mason."

Freshman Spencer Long and senior Chance Weather-

ford will be available if Taylor needs to rest.

With a freshman quarterback, time will tell how much the War Eagles decide to throw the ball, but they have a quick receiver in senior Qumarion Patterson ready to make plays.

"We are going to see what Parker can do," Taylor said. "We are going to try some stuff in scrimmage, and we will try to add a little bit every week. Q(umarion) is the fastest kid that I have ever coached. We have ways that we will try to get him the ball."

Senior Eli Travelstead will also play a role in the receiving department.

"Eli is the silent assassin because he never says much," Taylor said.

Pinpointing the number of returning linemen for West Carroll is tough because two of last year's linemen have found a new spot on the field. Senior Nigel Butler is making the move from tackle to tight end, so he will be called upon to be a blocker also. Senior Joseph Brogdon has been moved to fullback.

Senior Amaire Kelley is a returner on the offensive line. Junior Noah Cecchini is going to step into the role

at center. Junior Cole Mueller will be left tackle. Senior Peyton Gilford is a transfer that the War Eagles got that will also help on the offensive line.

"We have a good mix on the line," Taylor said.

Defense

With 24 on the roster, West Carroll is going to have to play guys on both sides of the ball, but that is just a part of playing Class 1A football.

"We have tried to practice with a fast tempo, running at the end of practice, running at the beginning of practice," Taylor said about preparing his team for playing both ways. "The first couple of weeks with the heat, that will be a huge key early on."

So many of the players highlights on the offensive side of the ball will be key on the defensive side of the ball.

"We have to fly around," Taylor said. "I feel like we are way ahead on defense than we are on offense. Losing the quarterbacks really set us back. Defensively, we have to be able to tackle."

On the offense, seniors Nigel Butler and Joseph Brogdon moved positions, but defensively, those two will be called up as defensive ends.

Seniors Peyton Gilford and Amaire Kelley will play on the interior of the line, so the War Eagles will have experience up front.

"To me the defensive line is the strength of our defense," Taylor said.

Sophomore Caleb Vermilion and senior Jaiden Cecchini will be the linebackers to start the season.

Senior Qumarion Patterson will be the free safety to lead the secondary, and he can get anywhere on the field quickly.

There will be three guys rotating at the two cornerback positions with junior Keegan Mealer, freshman Spencer Long and senior Eli Travelstead.

Special Teams

West Carroll has the potential to kick extra points, but time will tell if they kick or go for two.

Freshman Parker Newman will kick extra points, while sophomore Mason Taylor will do most of the other kicking.

The War Eagles have options at kick and punter returners, but the obvious choices are senior Qumarion Patterson and sophomore Mason Taylor.

Rebels

...From Front Page

seemed to figure things out.

"It's going to be a battle at the top of the region. It's going to be interesting to see who comes out on top as the season goes on."

As usual, the Rebels took on a tough non-region schedule with opponents Huntingdon, Dresden, Chester County, Camden and Christian County (Kentucky).

"The main thing is the competition side of it, you wanna have tough nonregion games that are going to test you and test how resilient you're going to be and how well you can fight through adversity. Right out the gate, our first two games are about as tough as it gets. Dresden's going to have a

really, really good football team coming back this year. They'll be tough. We know Huntingdon every year is tough. It's just a battle, we know it's going to be a battle. [Huntingdon would win the contest, 41-21, prior to this publication.] Last year came down to the last play [for a McKenzie win], so it is what it is and that's what's going to make us tough enough. Work on our resilience, how we handle adversity. See how we match up with the tougher teams as we get further down the road. I really like our non-region schedule. It's a tough one, it's a good one. We're playing some teams that are local, but you also have a team in Kentucky that's going to give us a chance to get on the road and go far like you could in the playoffs and see how the kids respond to that. It's always different to go far

on a road trip to see how your kids are going to handle it. Last year we went to Giles and I think we played our best football all year long. We need to replicate that against Christian Co."

Hodge reflected on the expectations and adjustments of his first year, now beginning his second.

"I knew there was going to be an expectation for these kids to be successful, and success breeds success. We've got to continue down that road. You can always fall off and not dial in and focus. That starts with me first and it goes down the line. I've got to be dialed in and focused every day. Focus on what I've done in the past that's helped me with my journey of coaching and things that helped me along the way. Always go back to things that helped me in the past

and helped me figure things out and trust it. That's the main thing about coaching is you're going to have hiccups, expectations, you're going to fall short sometimes. You're going to do really well, better than you might have thought sometimes. Always go back to trusting yourself and doing what got you here. Remember those things. The main thing with me over the years, learning and experimenting, I think in life, in everything you do, surround yourself with smart, good people. We have a very good, smart staff of assistant coaches. Good people. They love the kids; they work hard.

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Gleason Junior High School cheerleaders (L to R) Front Row: Jordynn Ellis, Carlie Black and Ella Roney. Second Row: Madalyn Jackson, Gracie Gallimore, Aniston Butler, Neely Morton and Aamira Hugueley. Back Row: Allie Adams, Kalyn Collins and Isabella Tolleson.

Have a Great Season!



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MANAGEMENT

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2025 GJHS Schedule

August 14	@ Bruceton	6:30 p.m.
August 21	@ Fulton County	6:30 p.m.
August 28	Greenfield*	6:30 p.m.
September 11	Obion County	6:30 p.m.
September 18	@ Dresden*	6:30 p.m.
September 25	Gibson County	6:30 p.m.
October 2	South Fulton* HC	6:30 p.m.

* Denotes Region Game / HC Homecoming

GJHS TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Noah Lampkins; Assistant Coaches: Albert Collins, Archie Rich, Bryan Sanders. Principal/AD: Lee Lawrence.

Gleason Junior High School Football Roster

#	NAME	GR.	#	NAME	GR.
1	Cayne Austin	8	50	Braxton Jones	7
2	Jase Dilday	6	52	Korbyn Ellis	7
3	Clint Riley Johnson	7	55	Knox Bennett	8
4	Corbin Cook	6	56	Landon Aeschbacher	7
5	Liam Williams	7	57	Hayden Roberts	7
7	Albe Collins	6	58	Aybel Black	6
9	Sawyer Lampkins	8	62	Jordan Irvine	8
10	Grant Pinkston	8	70	Landon Parsons	6
12	Joey Vargas	8	72	Nolan Orton	6
18	Deacon Lehmkuhl	6	75	Blaize Burnine	6
22	Kaylor Pineda	8			



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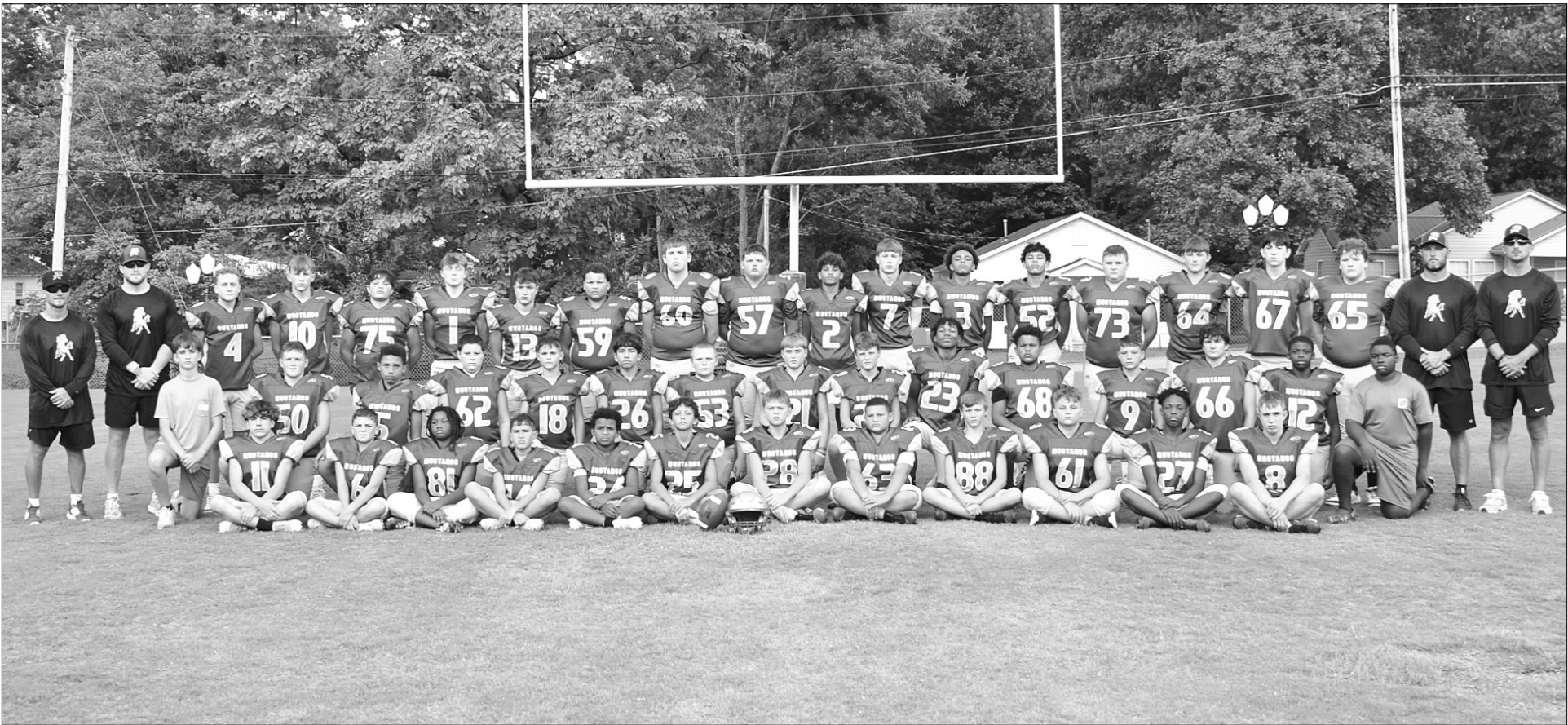
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Wishing All
Area Teams
A Safe and
Successful
Season!

A6465



Above, Huntingdon Middle School cheerleaders (L to R) Front Row: Bryleigh Thorn, Ava Gordon, Carlee Evans, Ava Napier and Haley Taylor. Back Row: Aelynn Sevarns, Madeline Sanders, Bennett Ramsey, Aubri Laman and Acelynn King. Below, Huntingdon Middle School Football Coaches (L to R): Assistant Coaches Scott Hampton and Cody Ezell, Head Coach Brody Franks and Assistant Coach Josh Gray.



HMS FOOTBALL TEAM INFORMATION
Head Coach: Brody Franks; Assistant Coaches: Josh Gray, Cody Ezell and Scott Hampton. Managers: Kynden Holder and Madden Webb.

HMS Roster

#	NAME
1	Bryson Bolen
2	Noah Goble
3	Davay Strayhorn
4	Case Raines
5	Iyan King
6	Layne Kyle
7	Noah Webb
8	Parker Wilkinson
9	Bryce Maddox
10	Elijah Harris
11	Schuyler Moon
12	Brylin Ford
13	Cohen Gray
14	Nathan Huss
18	Banks Butler
20	Griffin Todd
21	Garrett Fowler
23	Ilai Jordan
24	Jacob Chappell
25	Vincent Galindo
26	Tres Villalobos
27	Bakari Weatherford
28	Richard Lestienne
50	Max Kelley
52	Hayden Weathers
53	Hayden Haynes
57	Mason Smith
59	Drelyn Carter
60	Dayton Miller
61	Eli Rougier
62	Colton Ward
63	Theo Williams
64	Miller Holmes
65	Liam Maxwell
66	Eli Clark
67	Hunter Ward
68	Jaylin Webster
73	Colt Livingston
75	Dominic White
76	Colton Castleman
81	Jamieon Williams
88	Jed Shelton

HMS Schedule

Aug. 7	@ Lexington	Sept. 4	BYE
Aug. 14	@ JCM	Sept. 11	McKenzie
Aug. 21	@ Camden	Sept. 18	@ Riverside
Aug. 28	@ Milan	Sept. 25	Union City

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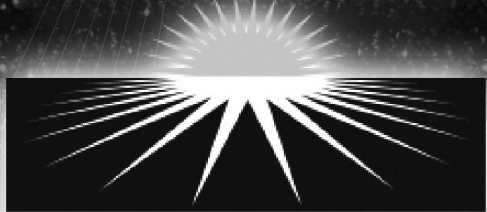
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A247

A group photo of five men, the football coaches, standing in a row. They are wearing dark polo shirts with a logo and baseball caps.

McKenzie Middle School football coaches (L to R): Cameron Kee, Jacob Fussell, Head Coach Paul Carroll, Jake Cassidy and Jeremy Allen.

**Good Luck
To All Area Teams!**

A black and white photo of football players in action during a game.

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McKenzie Middle School cheerleaders (L to R) Front Row: Jaden Pate, Callie Davidson, Maggie Nell Merrick, Kendyl Sherrod, Harper Allen, Taylor Little and Sami Mathis. Back Row: Coach Megan Broyles, Gracie Robertson, Alayna Twitty, Brianna Ryg, Izabelle Long, Emma Lifsey, Maggie Webb, Caleigh Ball, Tinley Smith, Adrianna Gordon and Coach Audra Atkins.

MMS Schedule

Aug. 2	Jamboree	4 p.m.
Aug. 7	@ Union City	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 14	Henry Co.	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 21	@ Gibson Co.	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 28	Lexington	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	@ Stewart Co.	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	@ Huntingdon	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Henderson North	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	Camden	6:30 p.m.

McKENZIE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Paul Carroll
Assistant Coaches: Cameron Kee, Jeremy Allen, Alec Meddings, Jacob Fussell and Jake Cassidy.
Managers: Chris Chunn, Tino Piro, King Howard and Jaxon Hochreiter
Principal: Josh Kee
Vice Principal: Beth Mathis

2025 McKenzie Middle School Football Roster

#	NAME	POS.	GR.	#	NAME	POS.	GR.
1	Jackson Barden	WR/DB	8	43	Kaiden Wallace	WR/DB	7
2	Seth Stafford	QB/DB	8	45	Jonah Henson	WR/DB	7
3	Lane Brown	WR/DB	8	50	Leighem Broyles	OL/DL	8
4	Jaibreon Horton	WR/DB	8	51	Brantley Eaves	OL/DL	7
5	Dierks Ghyers	FB/DB	8	52	Graham Seavers	OL/DL	7
6	Cooper Jones	WR/DB	8	54	McCoy Merrick	FB/DL	8
7	Kamden Lee	WR/DB	8	55	Parker Standridge	OL/DL	8
8	Tyler Davis	RB/OLB	8	56	Kage Gwaltney	OL/DL	8
9	Zayden Webb	RB/OLB	8	57	Reed Gaskins	OL/OLB	7
10	Mason Davidson	WR/DB	7	58	Fisher Allen	OL/OLB	8
11	Kendon Coleman	QB/DB	7	59	Owen Epperson	OL/DL	7
12	Da'Von Webb	WR/DB	7	60	Cooper Cunningham	OL/DL	7
13	Makhyn Gilbert	RB/DB	7	62	Kingston Gibbs	OL/DL	7
14	Ryan McCann	WR/DB	8	63	Case Wall	OL/DL	8
18	Harley Davidson	WR/OLB	7	64	Riley Crafton	OL/DL	8
20	Jake Ghyers	WR/ILB	8	65	Daniel Carroll	OL/DL	7
21	Thomas Howard	WR/DB	7	66	Andrew Arnold	OL/DL	8
22	Rex Thompson	OL/ILB	7	67	Jordan Graham	OL/DL	7
23	Navadius Owens	RB/DB	7	68	Armani Seats	OL/DL	7
24	Deacon Barden	WR/OLB	7	74	Jaydin Belk	OL/DL	7
25	Jeremy Sims	FB/ILB	8	75	Brenton Hickerson	OL/DL	8
30	Khalil Robinson	FB/ILB	7	77	Reid Warman	OL/DL	8
36	Johnny Vazquez	RB/ILB	7				

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Above Left, Mustang Kenton Smith escapes a tackle at the end of a 38-yard touchdown run. Above Right, Rebel Matteo Tabada makes a tackle in the open field. Below Left, Rebel Timmy Arline catches a short pass with a defender closing in. Below Right, Rebel Jacobi Melton returns a kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Mustangs Top Rebels in Season Opener, 41-21

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (August 22) — The high school football season kicked off Friday night as the McKenzie Rebels hosted rival Huntingdon. As usual, a huge crowd gathered at Randy Thomas Field for the highly-anticipated contest.

The Mustangs capitalized on costly McKenzie turnovers to take a big lead early. The Rebels rallied in the midgame, but Huntingdon pulled away down the stretch for a 41-21 win.

Huntingdon won the coin toss and deferred possession. McKenzie managed a first down, but Mustang Broox Bennett intercepted a pass by Rebel quarterback Cole Brown in McKenzie territory.

The Mustangs kept the ball on the ground for a seven-play, 28-yard drive capped by a two-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal by Kenton Smith. Greyson Anderson kicked the PAT, and Huntingdon led 7-0 halfway through the first frame.

Rebel Jacobi Melton made an excellent return to the McKenzie 44, and the Rebels earned a pair of first downs to get to the 17. Mustang Tyreke Hutch intercepted C. Brown's pass in the red

zone for another McKenzie turnover.

Huntingdon scored their second touchdown on six plays for 91 yards, with Smith going 38 yards for the score. Ethan Raffield kicked the PAT, and the Mustangs led 14-0 early in the second quarter.

C. Brown completed several passes to Melton to get the ball near midfield, but the drive stalled and Brown punted.

The Mustangs took over at their 20, and Hutch went 80 yards on the first snap for the touchdown. Anderson kicked again, and Huntingdon led 21-0 with 7:42 to play in the first half.

McKenzie had a burst of momentum as Melton returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown. Aiden Mason kicked the PAT, and the Mustang lead was cut to 21-7.

The Rebel defense got its first stop of the night, forcing a Mustang punt near midfield.

The teams traded three-and-outs, then Mustang DJ Armour recovered a Rebel fumble with under a minute to play.

Huntingdon got the ball down to the Rebel 2, but



Mustang Tyreke Hutch dives to make an interception deep in Huntingdon territory. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

the defense held to keep the score 21-7 at the half.

The Mustangs received the second-half kick, but a fumble on the first snap was recovered by Rebel Maddox Shiell at the Huntingdon 26.

C. Brown kept for five, then threw to Lelan Gordon to set up first-and-goal at the 4. Brown needed two tries to punch it in, and Mason's kick cut the Rebel deficit to 21-14 early in the third quarter.

McKenzie's momentum was brief as Mustang quarterback Braylin Dearmon kept the first snap for a 63-yard touchdown. Anderson

en-play series resulted in a 13-yard touchdown pass from Brown to Melton. Mason kicked, and the Huntingdon lead was 35-21.

Play turned chippy as the third quarter wound down, with both teams earning unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, but things cooled off when the fourth began. The Mustangs kept it on the ground, mixing in carries by Dearmon, Smith and Eubanks. Dearmon got the final touch, a one-yard keeper. Huntingdon went for two, but a host of Rebels stifled the play. With 8:24 to play, the Mustangs led 41-21.

McKenzie went three-and-out, then Huntingdon ran off a chunk of clock but ultimately turned the ball over on downs.

The Rebels took over with two minutes to play, but turned it over with a fumble. Dearmon took a knee three times to run out the clock.

Huntingdon had 475 yards of total offense, 449 rushing and 26 passing, with 17 first downs and one turnover.

McKenzie had 244 yards of offense, 187 passing and 57 rushing, with eleven first downs and four turnovers.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 17 of 29, passing

for 187 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions.

Mustang Braylin Dearmon was 1 of 4 for 26 yards.

Dearmon led the Huntingdon ground game with 22 carries for 222 yards and two touchdowns. Tyreke Hutch had two carries for 93 yards with a touchdown. Kenton Smith had two rushing touchdowns.

C. Brown led McKenzie with ten rushes for 19 yards and a touchdown. Timmy Arline had seven carries for 38 yards.

Jacobi Melton had ten receptions for the Rebels for 132 yards and a touchdown. Avery Brown had three catches for 33 yards.

Xander Johnsey led the Rebel defense with four tackles, two for losses. Cole Brown had three tackles and two assists. Lelan Gordon had three tackles (one for a loss) and three assists. Matteo Tabada had three tackles and an assist. Mason Batten had three tackles, one for a loss.

Broox Bennett led Huntingdon with three tackles.

McKenzie (0-1) hosted Dresden Friday, while Huntingdon (1-0) traveled to Camden.

Good Luck To All Area Teams!

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
War Eagles Rout Pioneers, 52-7

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

DYER (August 22) — The West Carroll War Eagles began their 2025 football campaign with a big road win, 52-7, over the Gibson County Pioneers.

West Carroll scored twice in the first frame, three times in the second quarter and once each in the third and the fourth, holding the Pioneers to a single touchdown in the second frame.

The War Eagles had 488 yards of total offense to Gibson County's 167.

West Carroll's Mason Taylor ran for 346 yards on 13 carries with four touchdowns, including one for 90 yards. Parker Newman had seven carries for 77 yards and two touchdowns. Quamarion Patterson had one carry, a 65-yard touchdown.

Taylor was four of five on two-point rushing attempts, and Newman converted his single attempt.



War Eagle Mason Taylor had 346 yards on 13 carries with four touchdowns in West Carroll's big win over Gibson County. File photo

Newman also intercepted a Gibson County pass.

Nigel Butler led the War Eagle defense with five solo tackles, three for a loss. Braden Marise had four solo tackles and one assist with one tackle for a loss. Caleb Vermillion had two solo and one assisted tackle with two and a half for a loss. Joseph Brogdon had a solo tackle and four assists with one for a loss.

West Carroll (1-0) traveled to Fayette-Ware Friday.



Above, West Carroll Junior High School Cheerleaders. Right, West Carroll Junior High School Football Coaches (L to R): John Morris, Head Coach Benjamin Bane, and Brady Duggin. Not pictured: Pam Bane.



2025 West Carroll Junior High School Football Roster

#	NAME	#	NAME
1	Rodney Nicholes	44	Drake Herndon
3	Kevin Pryor	48	Cooper Latch
5	Chance Long	50	Karson Polinski
7	Isaiah Lott	53	Braylynn Adams
12	Caleb Martin	55	Emmitt Ramsey
14	Brayden Hilliard	63	Hunter Seiber
19	Jameson Thurmond	67	Jeremiah Holley
20	Keelynn Edmonson	70	Ayden Taylor
22	Teddy Zamecnik	71	Eric Pinson
25	Zane Farmer	75	Nathan Davenport
35	Chris Pruitt	77	Marcos Cruz
40	Brayden Newman	87	Ryker Cherry

TEAM INFORMATION

Coaches: Benjamin Bane, John Morris and Brady Duggin. Team Admin: Pam Bane.

WCJHS Schedule

- Aug. 7 Henry County
- Aug. 14 @ South Fulton
- Aug. 21 Stewart County
- Aug. 28 @ Perry County
- Sept. 4 @ Henderson Co. South
- Sept. 11 @ Bruceton
- Sept. 18 Halls

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GHS Schedule

Aug. 22	@ Fulton Co.	7 p.m.
Aug. 29	Bruceton	7 p.m.
Sept. 5	@ Obion Co.	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	Dresden*	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	@ Lake Co.*	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Perry Co. HC	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	@ South Fulton*	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	West Carroll*	7 p.m.
Oct. 24	@ Humboldt*	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	Greenfield* Sr	7 p.m.

* Denotes Region Game
HC Homecoming / **Sr** Senior Night

GLEASON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Noah Lampkins
Assistant Coaches: Albert Collins, Archie Rich, Bryan Sanders
Manager: Karli Mercer
Principal/AD: Lee Lawrence



Gleason High School Cheerleaders (L to R): Front Row: Kaylee House, Zoe Healy, Sophie Beasley and Aniston Ross. Second Row: Emili Tillman, Marley Crews, Brooklyn Hitchens, Addison Aeschbacher and Shelby Mayo. Back Row: Haylye Roberts, Chloe Buie, Drake Murray, Lilith Geissler and Natalie Tidwell.

2025 Gleason High School Football Roster

#	NAME	POS.	GR.	#	NAME	POS.	GR.
1	Ashton Morgan	S/WR	12	50	Trey Mayo	T/LB	12
3	Parker Morgan	C/TE	12	52	Brennan Cook	RG/DT	10
4	Wylan Gustafson	LB/RB	12	58	Andrew Bruce	LG/DE	10
6	Bryce Pettit	S/RB	12	62	Clayton Swatzell	LG/LB	9
10	Bo Tyler Bailey	LB/QB	10	64	Tyler Earls	LT/DT	11
12	Conner Ballew	TE/DE	9	65	Rowen Ellis	LT/DT	9
13	Cooper Sawyers	S/WR	9	72	Benji Snider	RG/DT	11
14	Jack Muzzall	RB/LB	9	75	Keilyn Albritton	RT/DT	9
15	James Flaurr	C/WR	10	76	Briley Horner	C/DT	10
18	Drake Lehmkuhl	S/QB	12	79	Wes Wainscott	PT/DT	12
20	Noah Aeschbacher	C/WR	12	89	Brody Sanders	TE/LB	12
24	Gage Byington	S/RB	11				
28	Eli Barber	DB/WR	12				

Bulldogs Want to Bounce Back from Last Season

BY MICHAEL ODOM

When Drake Lehmkuhl went down less than a month into the 2024 season due to a non-football injury, the trajectory changed for the Gleason football team. The Bulldogs went from 3-0 to start the season to losing the final seven games of the season to finish last in Region 7-1A.

Lehmkuhl is healthy and this Gleason team wants to get back in the hunt for a playoff spot.

“A big part of us losing seven straight is the fact we lost our quarterback,” Gleason coach Noah Lampkins said. “We went through five weeks without him, and when he did play at the end, he was 70 percent. We then lost our center with a torn ACL, so we went two starters down. It was just a chain reaction. We aren’t really worried about last season.”

Gleason has 24 players on the roster this season, so the team is holding steady numbers-wise. But it has been tough trying to fight through the heat and gain stamina.

“We have been conditioning,” Lampkins said. “Numbers are small, but when you look at numbers, we have 24 and we probably only have 50 to 55 boys in the high school. We are getting nearly

50 percent of the population to play football.”

There isn’t much of a change in the region, except the top two teams from last year are now in Class 2A. So Gleason will still play county foes Dresden and Greenfield along with Humboldt, Lake County, South Fulton and West Carroll.

Gleason has been working through the scrimmages to be ready for Week 1 when the Bulldogs play Fulton County (Ky.).

“We have to continue to be competitive and see how aggressive we are,” Lampkins said. “We have to play fast, but not try to do too much.”

Offense

With Lehmkuhl healthy, the pieces can return to their normal starting spots, which was disrupted last year. And that should bring the offense back into rhythm.

“We have to create a little more balance,” Lampkins said about the key to success offensively. “That is on me. I like to run the ball. That is my nature. I have to be willing to open up the offense. We have the guys to do it.”

The offense is going to run through junior Gage Byington. Last season in nine games, Byington had 36 receptions for 828 yards and 11 touchdowns, which is

23 yards per reception, and he had 87 rushing attempts for 732 yards and six touchdowns, which is 8.4 yards per carry.

“Teams know our offense runs through him, and that is why we play him at so many different spots,” Lampkins said. “I wouldn’t trade him for anybody in the county. He is a great kid and does everything the right way.”

With Lehmkuhl back at quarterback, Gleason has experience as this will be his third season to start in that position.

“He has done a great job of stepping up and being more of a leader and being more mature,” Lampkins said. “I have been pleased with his work ethic. A big thing with him was maturity, and he has taken more of a command of the offense and he takes coaching better. He is a perfectionist.”

While Byington will be relied upon in the backfield, Gleason lost its other running back, so senior Bryce Petit and senior Eli Barber are two to watch to join Byington running the ball.

“We have three guys in the backfield with speed,” Lampkins said. “Those two should take some pressure off Gage.”

At wide receiver, Byington will be a big option catching the ball, and he will be joined

by seniors Ashton and Parker Morgan. Senior Brody Sanders will play tight end and be able to roll into the flat to catch some passes.

“We have to do a better job getting Brody the ball,” Lampkins said. “He is a playmaker.”

Gleason also has the benefit of returning all five linemen in starting roles after playing six lineman last year.

Junior Benji Snider is back after getting hurt last season, and he will play guard. Junior Tyler Earls will play tackle. Sophomore Briley Horner moved into the center position last year when Snider went down, and he will play center again this year to allow Snider to play guard. On the left side, sophomores Andrew Bruce and Brennan Cook will split time at guard, and senior Trey Mayo will play tackle.

“They are all juniors and sophomores, so they are still working on getting better,” Lampkins said.

Freshman Keilyn Albritton will be the No. 7 option at lineman as he adapts to play high school football.

Defense

With 24 guys on the roster, it is just a fact that Lampkins is going to have to play guys both ways.

“Conditioning is going to

be a factor, and it has been tough because of the heat,” Lampkins said. “By the time you get things going, you have to come in because of regulations. But when you are short-manned, every practice is like conditioning.”

Gleason’s defense gave up 36 points per game last season, so that is something that has to improve if the Bulldogs are going to fight for a playoff spot this year.

“Each player just has to do their job and not try to do too much,” Lampkins said. “We struggled last year with people trying to do too much and playing from behind.”

There have been some changes with personnel defensively this season. Senior Brody Sanders moved from defensive end to linebacker. Junior Tyler Earls is now playing at defensive end.

“I think this move is going to pay off for us,” Lampkins said. “We are going to be more athletic. He has the potential to be an all-state player.”

Joining Earls at defensive end will be a freshman in Conner Ballew.

“It will be a transition for Conner, but he has competed in practice well,” Lampkins said.

The rest of the offensive line will rotate in the interior of the offensive line with a

four-man front.

Joining Sanders at linebacker will be senior Trey Mayo, who led the team in tackles last season.

Another movement defensively is Lampkins has moved senior Drake Lehmkuhl to free safety. Junior Gage Byington will also spend time at free safety.

Senior Bryce Petit and senior Ashton Morgan will play the other two safety positions.

At cornerback, senior Eli Barber and senior Noah Aeschbacher will fill those roles, so the back side of the defense has plenty of veteran players.

“All of our starters in the secondary were starters last year,” Lampkins said.

Seniors Parker Morgan and Wylan Gustafson will give the Bulldogs depth in the secondary.

Special Teams

Senior Ashton Morgan is set for punting duties this season at Gleason. Senior Drake Lehmkuhl will do the place kicking duties.

As for returners, junior Gage Byington and senior Ashton Morgan will be the two back returning kickoffs and punts.

“We are experienced on special teams too,” Lampkins said.

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Editor’s Note: The Bethel University Football roster was unavailable at press time.

A New Era Begins in McKenzie Under Bethel Head Coach Chris Springer

MCKENZIE — With a new head coach, a refreshed staff, and a roster loaded with both experience and emerging talent, the 2025 Bethel University Wildcats are set to launch an exciting new chapter in program history.

Following a strong 7-3 campaign in 2024, the Wildcats are preparing to once again compete in the always-tough Mid-South Conference—this time with a new vision and renewed energy.

Springer’s inaugural staff features several exciting additions, including multiple coaches from a record-setting season at Illinois College:

Drew Chance, Offensive Coordinator, looks to bring a fast, dynamic style to the Wildcats’ offense.

Mike Salerno, serving as both Special Teams Coordinator and Wide Receivers Coach, also joins from Illinois College.

Riley Ried, Offensive Line Coach, and Adam Frey, Running Backs Coach, round out the group of newcomers from Illinois College.

Will Barto coaches the Tight Ends, adding depth to a well-rounded offensive staff.

On defense, continuity and legacy lead the way:

Defensive Coordinator Kris Beauchamp returns to lead a battle-tested unit.

Bethel alumnus Bret Peterson will coach the linebackers, while Jaylen Montague leads the secondary.

Zack Young also returns as a defensive assistant, contributing valuable experience to the staff.

Terrell Jackson returns as a defensive analyst.

Offensive Outlook

The offense returns five starters, including key veterans Jayden Taylor and Christian Harden on the offensive line, tight ends Jacob Bowles and Ivan Arroyo, and running backs Jordan Cason and Jarvis Stockton. Wide receivers Ethan Bunch, Alonzo Russell, and tight end Clay Powell are poised to step into larger roles.

With standout contributors Avont Burrus, Logan Davis, and Tyrell Wynn having graduated, the Wildcats will lean on new faces to spark the offense. Senior transfer quarterback Destin Chance enters the fold, bringing leadership and experience. Speed and explosiveness arrive at wide receiver through newcomer Rashawn Harvey. On the line, Aaron Robinson, Mason Duke, and Adrian Fisher are expected to make an immediate impact.

Defensive Outlook

The Wildcats return six starters on defense, with a strong front seven that includes TJ Hart, Travis Shaw, Randall Foster, Tyrone Johnson, Amari Chapman, Darrien Lewis, Tyson Hornbuckle, Brylan Jordan, Tatum Oliver, Ethan Dabbs, and Malik Brown.

The secondary brings depth and experience with KJ Murden, Jakobe Gibson, Jose Joiner, Kalen Justice, Detarius Douglas, Nick Butler, and Durrell Miller all returning.

Despite the loss of key veterans Jacious Clark, Dee Hines, and Jamel Goulbourne, the defense is expected to be bolstered by promising newcomers such as Jordan Jackson, Deshawn

Love, Darrell Howard, and Caleb Garner adding to an already stout defensive front. Sean Martin, Brenton Hall, Brandon Hall, Meshach Jones, Harrison Brownlee, and Kadarius Rancier will all add depth and length to the secondary.

Special Team’s Outlook

Special Teams Coordinator Mike Salerno inherits a reliable and experienced unit. Jaylyn Johnson returns as long snapper, with Stafford Roditis handling punting duties. Kickers Oziel Hernandez, Josiah Arcadi-pane, and Zach Clutch bring consistency to the kicking game.

The Road Ahead

The Wildcats look forward to fall camp and are ready to embrace the challenges of the 2025 season. The Mid-South Conference remains one of the most competitive in the NAIA. The Wildcats will kick off the 2025 season on the road with a rematch against the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor at 6 pm. on September 6.

Coach Springer’s Thoughts on the Team, Season

“This team is ready,” said Coach Springer. “We’re building something special in McKenzie—on and off the field. We’ve got a talented roster, a hungry locker room, and a staff that knows how to win. Every day is about getting better, staying connected, and competing with toughness and pride. Our fans should expect a team that plays fast, plays physical, and plays for each other.”



Bethel University Head Coach Chris Springer

Schedule

Sept. 6	@ M.H. Baylor (TX)
Sept. 13	@ Keiser
Sept. 20	Webber Intl. (FL)
Oct. 4	@ Faulkner
Oct. 11	Cumberland
Oct. 25	@ Cumberlands
Nov. 1	Georgetown
Nov. 8	@ Campbellsville
Nov. 15	Lindsey Wilson



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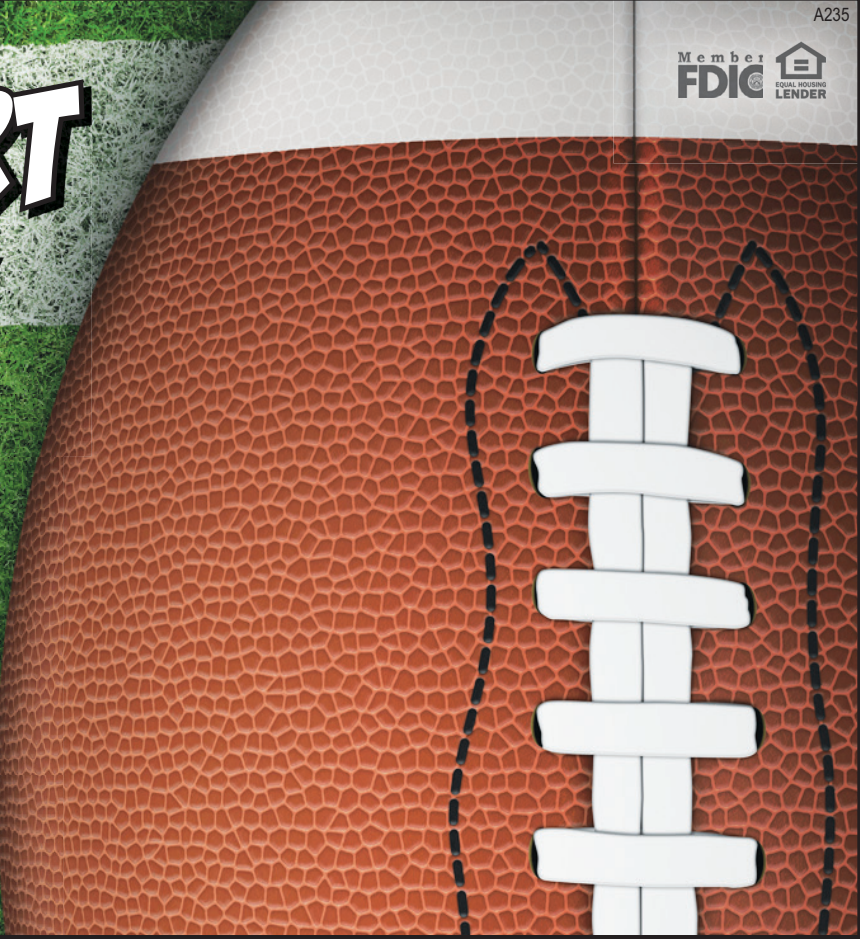


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Above, Central High School Football Coaches (L to R) Kneeling: Head Coach Clay McMackins. Standing: Assistant Coaches Braden Frye, Garrett Graves and David Thomas. Below, Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School Cheerleaders (L to R) Front Row: Sophie Cook, Joseph Franklin and Bryleigh Sauls. Second Row: Abigail Floyd, Avery Hollingsworth, Taylor Graves, Stella Higdon, Leah Bradley and Ava Finley. Back Row: Audrina Castillo, Kaitlyn Burza, Alayah Hill, Anna Frazee and Olive Cole.



Central High School Football Roster

#	NAME	#	NAME	#	NAME
0	Dalton Howard	10	Braxton Howard	44	Johnny Tilley
1	Brady Roberts	11	Mason McGee	45	Hunter Soto
2	Nic King	12	Tanner Walters	51	Brittian Moudy
3	Corben Wortham	13	Gavin Case	52	Brenden Moudy
4	William Holder	14	Niko Golden	55	Sal Sala
5	Seth Thomas	15	Carter Lowe	57	James Robertson
6	Korbin Brown	16	Braxton Laws	62	Zander Stepp
7	Oliver Bennett	17	Zayden Williams	64	Carter Gooch
8	Grayson Thompson	23	Emmett Pierce	71	Peyton Maness
9	Cameron Foster	25	Drake Whittenburg	78	Liam Piersol

EDITOR'S NOTE: Central Middle School photos of the football team, coaches, and cheerleaders were not available at press time. Thank you to the school for helping us get the info provided here.

Central High School Schedule

Aug. 22	@ Scotts Hill
Aug. 29	@ Gleason
Sept. 5	Greenfield
Sept. 12	@ Fulton Co. Ky
Sept. 19	Wayne Co.
Sept. 26	@ Collinwood
Oct. 3	Liberty Tech HC
Oct. 10	McKenzie
Oct. 24	McEwen Sr
Oct. 31	@ Perry Co.

HC Homecoming
Sr Senior Night

2025 Central Middle School Football Roster

#	PLAYER	GR.	POS.
3	Keylan Gregory	7	RB/LB
4	Skylar Jourdan	7	WR/DB
5	Jace Treadway	7	WR/LB
10	Briar Weatherly	7	QB/DB
14	Dominic Golden	6	WR/DB
15	Asa Gonzalez	8	WR/DB
16	Nate Dupree	8	TE/LB
18	Channing Dougherty	6	QB/DB
26	Tuff Wortham	8	WR/DB
30	Will Roberts	6	WR/DB
47	Jake Pardue	8	FB/LB
54	Gage Patterson	8	OL/DL
60	Waylon Campbell	8	OL/DL
61	CJ Patterson	7	OL/DL
66	Colton Lancaster	6	OL/DL
67	Isaiah Sadler	8	OL/DL
68	Hunter Deaton	8	OL/DL
70	Blake Merkel	8	OL/DL
75	Ty Edwards	8	OL/DL
76	Gabe Frazee	7	OL/DL
81	Eli Parker	7	WR/DB
85	Easton Bullington	8	TE/LB
88	Scottie Wittenburg	7	FB/DL

Head Coach: Haden Williams
Assistant Coaches: Ryan Bullington, Garrett Graves, Noah Hampton, and Keith McGee. Managers: Maddie Cole, Seiley Parrish, Eli Edwards, and Abby Baker.

Central Tigers Cheerleaders Roster

HIGH SCHOOL		
SENIORS	Ava Finley	Addi Hastings
Sophie Cook	Abigail Floyd	Joci Oatsvall
Joseph Franklin	Anna Frazee	Kennedy Patton
Bryleigh Sauls	Alayah Hill	Sadie Jo Thomas
JUNIORS	COACH	Whitley Walters
Leah Bradley	Courtney Oatsvall	
Kaitlyn Burza	MIDDLE SCHOOL	
Taylor Graves	8TH GRADE	Lottie Brown
Stella Higdon	Bentley Blankenship	Grace Gipson
Avery Hollingsworth	Kylie Craig	Makhyla Hayman
SOPHOMORES	Kynlee Irwin	Olivia McConahie
Audrina Castillo	Haven Neely	Ella Page
Olive Cole	7TH GRADE	Preslei Sterling
	Paisley Floyd	COACHES
		Shirley Boyd
		April Davis

Central Middle School Schedule

Aug. 14	Gleason
Aug. 21	@ Greenfield
Aug. 28	@ HC South
Sept. 4	Perry County
Sept. 11	West Carroll
Sept. 18	@ Stewart County



McMackins' Tigers Lean on Senior Leadership, Experience

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School Head Football Coach Clay McMackins spoke to The Banner ahead of the 2025 season about his team and their goals.

McMackins is beginning his second year as head coach following one year as an assistant. He spoke about two points of focus: the experienced core of nine senior players that will lead the team this year and his larger goal of establishing a successful program with sustained success.

"My senior class has really got a lot of leadership. I've been here three years, so I've watched this senior class since they were freshmen. I came in and watched the last three games of their freshman year and got to come in as they were sophomores for a full year as an assistant. So I've been with them for a while.

"Braxton Howard will be taking over at quarterback for us this year. Brady Roberts is a standout wide receiver that we have. Peyton Maness has really played; this will be his fifth year of high school ball. He got to move up as an eighth grader and started as an eighth grader.

"So those three, and really those nine seniors, are leading the group, the whole team, in the direction that I've envisioned and what they've envisioned and what they want to make out of this

season for themselves.

"On offense, Brady will be a standout for us, he'll move around from wide receiver to running back. He's what you would call a gadget player. He'll be everywhere, he'll take some snaps at quarterback even this season. Nic King has moved to running back this year [from receiver]. I'm looking forward to him having a good little breakout year. It's something new he's never done before. He's really excited about it. You loved seeing kids getting excited and passionate about stuff. Really good speed, really fast kid. He's put on some good weight this year, looking to make that transition.

"Not in our senior class, Korbin Brown is an upcoming sophomore that had some good playing time last year towards the end when we had some injuries. He never really had a breakout game, but he sparked some plays here and there where you thought 'Hey, he could make something of himself,' and he's worked really hard this offseason. So, I'm excited to see him make some sparks.

"Defensively, we're really relying again on our seniors. Brenden Moudy will be at linebacker. He's very vocal. He's gets everything lined up and he gets everybody into position where they need to go. He always gets the play call in.

"Johnny Tilley, he's another great linebacker, he'll be a junior. He was side-

lined with some injuries about three-quarters of the season last year. But I think he's someone people really haven't gotten to see very well. Excited to see what he can do, because he's worked really hard to prove himself and now he's gonna get the chance to.

"Peyton Maness anchors our defense right at the nose tackle position. He'll move around a little bit. He's a big kid and he's fun to watch.

"On special teams, Tanner Walters, also our tight end, plays a little bit of nickel safety, but he's a kicker on the side. He kicked a 47-yarder versus Gleason last year. He'll be our kicker and punter. He has a really good, strong leg.

"On returns, Brady and Nic are really special to watch."

The coach spoke about the new look of Region 6-1A.

"The new teams, Wayne County and Collinwood, I think they'll fit right in. This region is pretty exciting just on the fact that you're probably going to see every run style offense from the 60s up til modern day.

"Wayne County has a strong tradition of winning and running the ball. They have a little bit of a Veer system that they mix some spread with. Collinwood runs some triple options, flexbone- and wishbone-type stuff. I think it fits with McEwen trying to run their Maryland I that they ran last year. They've always got big kids and they try to

run you over and wear you out. You look at Perry County with their single wing.

"Traditionally, we've always been a Power I team here, but the past three years we've not, we've been a spread team. For us and McKenzie to be spread and everybody else to be power run, it's interesting to go week by week. You've gotta be on your toes, and you've gotta be ready.

"We've put two 3A teams on the nonregion schedule. We're staring off the season with Scotts Hill, and another one is Liberty Tech. We're also playing Gleason and Greenfield, a couple of local schools we usually play, and then Fulton County out of Kentucky. A little bit different ball up there."

McMackins spoke about his long-term goals.

"The state of the program from prior to where I got here, I'm the third head coach in four years. So I'm really looking to establish some stability within the program and among the kids and keep them on a straighter path. Just stability and consistency and understanding what it takes to make a good program.

"I tell them all the time, a program is a team that wins multiple years, not just has one year up, one year down. That's what we're trying to build and establish, a program that has consistency in the win column and has a good demeanor about them year in and year out. That's really the main objective."

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