

# All the Way to State

## Football 2025

McKenzie, Tennessee

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025**

TSSAA CLASS 1A, 2A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Top, The TSSAA Class 2A Football State Champion Huntingdon Mustangs. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner Above, The TSSAA Class 1A Football State Runner-Up McKenzie Rebels. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

## Mustangs Claim 2A State Title

**BY RUSSELL BUSH**  
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CHATTANOOGA (December 6) — One of the oldest traditions for Huntingdon Mustang football has been the ritual of

ringing the bell after each victory. Although it has rung 708 times since 1930, Saturday night's pealing of the bell at Paul Ward Stadium was the second time in school history that it rang after a state title and

the first since 2003. Huntingdon defeated Marion County, the defending state champion, 20-7 in the same fashion that got them to the title

See MUSTANGS on Page 3

## Rebels are 1A Runner-Up

**BY BRAD SAM**  
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CHATTANOOGA (December 5) — The McKenzie High School Rebels are the TSSAA Class 1A Football State Runner-Up after a 42-

14 loss to South Pittsburg Friday in the BlueCross Bowl at Finley Stadium. The Pirates, led by game MVP Ja'Mychal Buckner, were explosive on offense in the first half, while the Rebels struggled to find mo-

mentum. South Pitt led 35-0 at the break. For the first time all season, and for many the first time in their high school

See REBELS on Page 3

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Top Left, Huntingdon's Kenton Smith was named MVP of the Bluecross Bowl. Top Right, Eric Swenson receives the coaches award as his Mustangs win their second gold ball in the history of the school. Above Left, Braylin Dearmon eyes the end zone for the Mustangs. Above Right, Kenton Smith stretches the ball for the pylon. Below Left, A herd of Mustangs tackle a Marion County runner. Below Right, Owen King bats down a Marion County pass. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



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1. Prior to the game, the McKenzie and South Pittsburg cheerleaders came together to remind fans about sportsmanship. 2. Rebel senior Timmy Arline runs for a big gain and a first down. 3. Rebel senior Xander Johnsey (8) wraps up Pirate Ja’Mychal Buckner with Cayden Gordon (25) in on the assist. 4. Rebel quarterback Cole Brown turns the corner on a keeper and deflects a defender with a stiff arm. 5. & 6. Rebel Kason Brown eyes an opportunity to knock the ball loose from Pirate Ja’Mychal Buckner (left photo), then makes the recovery and a return into the red zone (right photo) to set up a McKenzie touchdown. 7. Rebel Maddox Shiell (9) wraps up Pirate Ja’Mychal Buckner as Cooper Davidson (11) and senior Aiden Legens (2) close in to assist. 8. Rebel Jacobi Melton secures a catch in the open field. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



# Rebels

...From Front Page

careers, the Rebels were playing for pride and pride alone, and that pride shone like a beacon for the many faithful McKenzie fans who made the four-hour journey and those following back home.

The Rebels never quit, battling hard on both sides of the ball to hold the Pirates to one score in the second half while breaking through for a pair of touchdowns.

Despite the stakes and the energy in the stadium, it was a clean game played purely between the whistles with mutual respect and love for the game on display from start to finish.

Immediately following the loss, the team huddled and Assistant Coach Kentrell Diggs, the heart and soul of the coaching staff, told his team, “We’re going to continue on, we’re going to continue to build. We will be back. It just wasn’t our night tonight, guys. That’s life. Sometimes in life, things go good, sometimes it goes bad. Doesn’t always go our way... We came in here as a family locked together, and we’re going to leave as a family. I’m proud of each and every one of you. You have nothing to hang your heads about. We earned the right to be here... We’ll learn from

this. In the face of diversity shows the real true measure of a man. Y’all guys showed a lot of heart and fight and grit in the second half. I like the way you finished. I couldn’t be more proud of the team than I am tonight. I am grateful for each and every one of you.”

Head Coach Keith Hodge spoke to The Banner following the trophy presentations. “I think the number one thing is, these seniors are winners. [Most of] these seniors have played 59 games. A lot of them played those games together. I’m proud to be a part of these seniors’ lives. I’m proud of their effort. Proud of how they show up everyday. The main thing is, it’s a great group of kids. They’re going to be good husbands and fathers. So, I’m proud to be a part of it.”

Hodge addressed the tough start and how his team responded. “We ran into a buzz saw. We did not play a good first half, and that’s the result when you play that way in the first half against a very, very good, talented, loaded football team. But we came out and fought, we showed a little bit of character about us and fought through some adversity.”

He said of the team’s successful run and expectations, “We can’t be spoiled. It’s not easy to get here. It’s not easy to do. It’s going to take another nine months of grinding to get back here.” He added, “We

can’t be disappointed. We can’t hang our hats, because all we did was fight for an opportunity. And we came up short, obviously, but why else do you suit up and come out here? And we killed ourselves. Why kill yourself if you’re not going to be proud of getting this chance.”

The Rebels end the season at 13-2, with 13 straight wins bookended by losses to the Class 2A and 1A state champions, Huntingdon and South Pittsburg.

McKenzie won the coin toss and elected to defer possession.

The Pirates went three-and-out on their first drive. Rebel Maddox Shiell made a big stop on third down to force the punt.

McKenzie’s first drive was also a three-and-out, and Cole Brown’s punt was returned to the South Pitt 43.

Buckner took the first snap 56 yards to the Rebel 1, then punched it in for the first touchdown of the day. Alex Phillips kicked the PAT, and the Pirates led 7-0 half-way through the first frame.

The Rebels and Pirates traded three-and-outs, then C. Brown had a second-down pass intercepted by Dayon Cooper.

Buckner again scored on two touches, 31 and six yards, respectively. Phillips hit the PAT, and South Pitt led 14-0 with three minutes to play in the opening quarter.

McKenzie fumbled the ensuing kickoff, and Pirate

Anthony Gibbs made the recovery at the Rebel 13.

McKenzie’s defense held strong in the red zone, and a fourth-down field goal by Phillips missed.

The Rebels went three-and-out again as the game moved into the second quarter, and C. Brown’s punt was returned by Brandon Goldsmith for a touchdown. Another Phillips PAT put South Pitt up 21-0 early in the second.

McKenzie sustained a long drive, earning four first downs and getting down to the Pirate 4 before turning the ball over on downs.

The Rebel defense forced another three-and-out, but South Pitt returned the favor on McKenzie’s next possession.

Buckner took the first snap 63 yards for another score, and Phillips kicked to make it 28-0 with two minutes remaining in the first half.

McKenzie earned one first down before punting again.

Buckner was stopped for no gain by Aiden Legens and Cayden Gordon, then moved the chains with a 17-yard carry. Next, Pirate quarterback Caden Jones threw to Martavius Smith for a 75-yard touchdown. Phillips made it 35-0 with 13 seconds left before intermission.

The Rebels managed one play before time expired.

McKenzie received the second-half kick and started at the Rebel 25. On 15 plays,

the Rebels broke through as Timmy Arline went one yard for the touchdown. The PAT was no good, and South Pitt led 35-6 with under three minutes remaining in the third.

The Pirates scored again just before the end of the third quarter on a 48-yard pass from Jones to Cooper. Phillips kicked to give South Pitt a 42-6 lead.

The Rebels threatened again as the final frame began, earning three first downs before fumbling at the Pirate 13.

South Pitt ran two plays before fumbling as well. Rebel Kason Brown forced the fumble and made the recovery with a four-yard return to the 7.

C. Brown tossed to Lelan Gordon for five yards, then Arline punched it in from the 2. C. Brown kept for two points, and the score was 42-14 with five minutes to play.

The Pirates earned a pair of first downs, then Jones took a knee to run out the clock.

South Pittsburg had 368 yards of total offense (211 rushing, 157 passing) to McKenzie’s 224 (167 rushing, 57 passing).

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was seven of 18 passing for 57 yards. Pirate QB Caden Jones was five of eight for 157 yards with two touchdowns.

Timmy Arline led the McKenzie ground attack with 21 attempts for 127 yards and two touchdowns.

C. Brown had 12 carries for 42 yards. Jayden Callis had one rush for five yards.

Ja’Mychal Buckner led South Pitt with 15 carries for 204 yards and three touchdowns.

Rebel Jacobi Melton had three catches for 18 yards. Lelan Gordon caught three passes for 16 yards. Avery Brown had one reception for 23 yards.

Pirate Dayon Cooper had four catches for 82 yards and a touchdown. Martavius Smith had one reception for a 75-yard touchdown.

Xander Johnsey led the Rebel defense with six solo tackles and two assists. Lelan Gordon had two solo and three assists with one tackle for a loss. Cayden Gordon and Cooper Davidson each had one solo and three assists.

Maddox Shiell and Cole Brown each had three solo tackles, Shiell with two for losses.

Kason Brown had two solo and one assist with one for a loss, plus a forced fumble and recovery. Mason Batten had two solo and one assist with one for a loss.

Ethan Batton, Avery Brown, Jayden Callis and Parker Ross each had a solo tackle.

Kemijah Harris led South Fulton with seven solo tackles. J.R. Hardrick had four solo and four assists.

# Mustangs

...From Front Page

game. The Mustangs, battle-tested from their first four playoff games, beat the Warriors with their running game and a pass that caught the Warriors off guard. The defense that created a turnover and held a potent Warrior offense to seven points.

A state championship was not on the list of predictions to begin the season, and some publications had the Mustangs finishing fifth in their region. Huntingdon, however, overcame the odds and a few injuries along the way to become a state champion for the second time.

The Mustangs finished 9-1 during the regular season and ran a gauntlet of some of the best teams in the state in the playoffs. The Mustangs took down a Memphis Business team 22-12 and their Division 1 prospect at tailback. Then the Mustangs defeated an 11-1 Lewis County team 49-22, an undefeated East Robertson squad 42-20, before avenging their only loss of the season with a 35-34 win over Milan.

In the title game, the

Mustangs faced a Marion County team that was 13-1 and won the state title last year with a win over Milan. The Mustangs, who for the season had created 28 turnovers by their opponents while only losing the ball seven times, created a fumble on the Warriors’ first drive of the game.

Marion County’s Mason Mays caught a pass but was stripped of the ball. Huntingdon’s Lucas Smith recovered the ball at the Warrior 36. The Mustang offense then leaned on two of its top runners to take it to the end zone. Kenton Smith gained five and four yards on the first two plays, and a penalty moved the ball to the 22. Braylin Dearmon ran seven yards to the 15, Smith eight yards to the seven, Dearmon six yards to the one, where Dearmon then bulled his way into the end zone. The point after was missed, and the Mustangs led 6-0 with 6:54 left in the first.

After holding the Warriors on downs, the Mustangs took over at their own 21. Behind Dearmon and Smith, Huntingdon moved to the Warrior 41. The Mustangs, with a first down from that spot, caught the Warriors off guard, as Smith

rolled to his left and found Zayden Connelly behind the secondary for a 41-yard scoring strike through the air. Greyson Anderson added the point after giving the Mustang a 13-0 lead.

Huntingdon narrowly missed scoring again before the half when a Smith pass on the last play of the half barely went through the hands of Connelly, ending the half with the Mustangs ahead 13-0.

The Mustangs started the second half with possession starting at their 29 and drove the length of the field to score in 11 plays. Huntingdon kept the ball on the ground and the big play of the drive game from Smith, who was named MVP. Smith scampered 22 yards when attempting to pass to give the Mustangs a first down at the Warrior 29. He scored the touchdown on a four-yard run with 7:03 left in the third. Anderson gave the Mustangs a 20-0 lead with the conversion of the PAT.

The Warriors scored with 8:12 left in the game on a fourth-down 12-yard pass from Zaiden Humphrey to Mays. The PAT kick was good, and the score stood at 20-7.

Marion County tried an

onside kick, but for the second week in a row, Smith covered the kick. Dearmon also intercepted a pass on Marion County’s last possession, and the Mustangs ran out the clock for the

win.

The Huntingdon Mustangs ended the season at 14-1, and Kenton Smith was named MVP as he ran for 111 yards on 21 carries and a TD. He was 1 of 3 passing

for 41 yards and a TD. Dearmon ran 16 times for 76 yards as the Mustangs ran for 217 yards in the game. Marion County ran for 139 and passed for 102 in the game.

## Congratulations to the McKenzie Rebels on a wonderful season!

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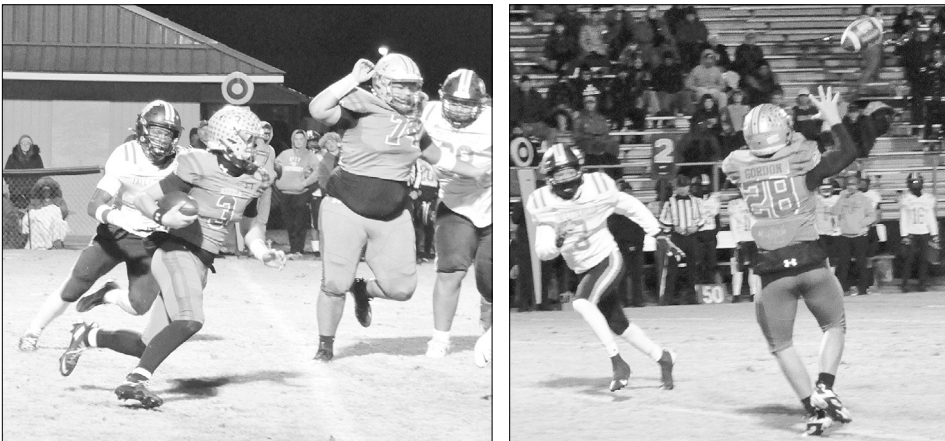
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Above Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown checks his passing options, then runs through a hole for a 72-yard touchdown. Above Right, Rebel Lelan Gordon makes a catch for a first down. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

# Rebels Dominate Tigers, Advance to Title Game

MCKENZIE (November 28) — For the fourth time in five years, the McKenzie High School Rebels will compete for the TSSAA Class 1A State Football Championship after a convincing 39-0 drubbing of Fayetteville in Friday's semifinal round.

McKenzie had 445 yards of total offense, 268 yards passing and 177 yards rushing. Fayetteville had 202 total yards, 42 in the air and 160 on the ground.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was ten of 12 passing for 268 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed four times for 80 yards with one touchdown.

Timmy Arline had eleven carries for 58 yards with one touchdown. Jayden Callis rushed six times for 39 yards and a touchdown.

Jacobi Melton had three catches for 169 yards and two touchdowns. Kason Brown caught one pass, a 38-yard touchdown. Jayden Callis had four



Above, Rebel Jacobi Melton looks back as he jets for one of his two long touchdown catches. Below, Rebel Kason Brown makes his lone offensive catch of the game, a 38-yard touchdown, to go along with three interceptions. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



catches for 30 yards, and Lelan Gordon had a 29-yard catch.

Xander Johnsey led the defense with seven solo tackles, two assists and a blocked punt. Aiden Legens had six solo and one assist, including one tackle for a loss. Cole Brown had five solo and three assists with one for a loss and an interception.

Cayden Gordon had five solo and four assists. Maddox Shiell had five solo tackles and one assist. Kason Brown had four solo and four assists along with three interceptions. Mason Batten had four solo and two assists. Cooper Davidson had four solo and one assist. Lelan Gordon had three solo and one assist. Ethan Batton had two solo tackles.



Above Right, Braylin Dearmon is tackled just short of the goal line. Below Left, Taylin Strayhorn forces an offbalance throw for Milan. Below Right, Broox Bennett flies through the air for a Huntingdon tackle. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



# Huntingdon Defeats Milan Advances to State Championship Game

MILAN (November 28) — The Huntingdon Mustangs exorcised some demons Friday night with a 35-34 win over Milan. The win earned the Mustangs a spot opposite Marion County in the Class 2-A TSSAA BlueCross Bowl title game. Huntingdon will take the field on Saturday, December 6 at 2 p.m. at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.

Coming into Friday night's game, the Mustangs had lost to the Bulldogs three consecutive times, including a 34-9 loss on September 5 this season. Since 1996, the Mustangs have played a semifinal round 11 times, including Friday, and three of those matchups were against Milan. Since 1996, the Mustangs and Bulldogs have met eight times in the playoffs, and the Mustangs have won five of those matchups.

The appearance in the state title game will be the second for the Mustangs since Eric Swenson became head coach in 2008, with the first appearance in 2012 when the Mustangs lost to Gordonsville 21-20. This marks the fifth time the Mustangs have reached the title game. The Mustangs finished runner-up in 1999, 2003, 2004, and 2012, having won the championship in 2003.



Braylin Dearmon finds running room against Milan. Above Left, Kenton Smith meets a Milan tackler head on. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

The Mustangs gained revenge against the Bulldogs after the 34-9 loss in September, after not scoring an offensive touchdown in the first match-up, and were held to 120 yards total offense. Friday, the Mustangs scored on their first five possessions of the game and were never really slowed down by a Bulldog defense that had been allowing fewer than ten points a game this season.

Even with the offensive success by the Mustangs, the game came down to its defense and an unfortunate bounce of the football on an onside kick. The Bulldogs, who trailed 35-21 entering the fourth quarter, scored with 2:04 left in the game to trail 35-34.

The Bulldogs decided to go for two to win the game and gave the ball to Mr. Football finalist, Jaydon Peete, who ended the game with 248 yards rushing on

28 carries and scored all five touchdowns for the Bulldogs. The Mustang defense had different ideas and led by linebacker Broox Bennett, who had 14 tackles in the game, stopped Peete a yard short to preserve the one-point lead.

The Bulldogs tried an onside kick, and the ball seemed to bounce around the playing surface at Johnnie Hale Stadium for several minutes with both teams trying to recover the kick until Kenton Smith pounced on the ball at the Mustang 39. On third-and-one, Smith picked up nine yards and a first down, allowing the Mustangs to run out the clock for the win.

The Mustangs rushed for 309 yards, and Smith added 88 yards to Dearmon's 176. Tyreke Hutch ran for 45 yards on nine carries. The Bulldogs ran for 330 yards and passed for 51.



## Congrats on a great season!

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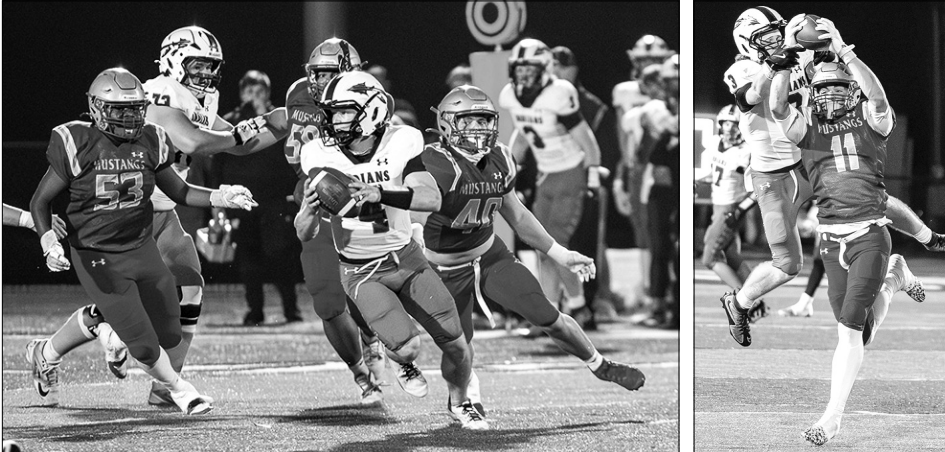
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Above Left, Ashtyn Donald blocks for Kenton Smith in Mustangs win over East Robertson. Above Right, Three Mustang defenders tackle an East Robertson ball carrier. Below Left, DJ Armour and Broox Bennett chase an East Robertson runner. Below Right, Braylin Dearmon battles an Indian receiver. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



## Mustangs Outrun Indians To Advance to Semifinals

HUNTINGDON (November 21) — The Huntingdon Mustangs punched their ticket to the semifinals of the TSSAA Class 2-A playoffs and a rematch with the Milan Bulldogs this past Friday night at Paul Ward Stadium as they defeated the East Robertson Indians 42-20. The Indians had entered the game undefeated and ranked second in the state, but the Mustangs took advantage of their running game and some timely passes to win and improve to 12-1 for the season.

The game was sloppy for a quarter-final round, as 22 penalties were called against both teams combined. The Mustang offense rushed for 285 yards, and QB Kenton Smith rushed for 120 yards and scored four touchdowns, and threw for 96 yards on 3 of passing and one touchdown.

The Mustang defense played well against a high-scoring Indian squad, holding East Robertson to 62 yards on the ground. The Indians, who never had the lead in the game, went to the passing game, and QB Kason Young completed 27 of 47 passes for 354 yards.

## Rebels Take Sting Out of Greenfield Yellowjackets, Advance to Quarterfinals

MCKENZIE (November 14) — For the sixth consecutive season, McKenzie High School will compete in the state football quarterfinals after a 56-6 second-round win over the Greenfield Yellowjackets.

Rebel fans were stunned as Greenfield took a 6-0 lead on a long pass play to start the contest. It was only the third time this season that McKenzie has been trailing in a game and the first since September 26.

The Yellowjacket lead was short-lived as the Rebels quickly regained the advantage, scoring 56 unanswered points.

The Rebels had 347 yards of total offense, 172 in the air and 175 on the ground. Greenfield was held to 86 yards total, 68 passing and 18 rushing.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was nine of 14 passing for 163 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed five times for 90 yards and two touchdowns.

Timmy Arline had seven carries for 50 yards and a touchdown. Jayden Callis rushed five times for 39 yards and two touchdowns.

Avery Brown had three catches for 67 yards and a touchdown. Lelan Gordon caught three passes for 58 yards and a touchdown.

Xander Johnsey led the defense with seven solo tackles and four assists, including one for a loss. Cooper Davidson had four solo and three assists. Aiden Legens had four solo and two assists with two for a loss, including a sack.

Dawson Reeder had three solo tackles and five assists, including one for a loss. Cole Brown had three solo and two assists with two for a loss, including a sack. Aiden Callis had three solo and two assists, including a sack. Cayden Gordon had three solo and one assist.

Aiden Mason was a perfect eight-for-eight on PATs and had six touchbacks on nine kickoffs.



Above, Rebel Lelan Gordon dives for a touchdown, avoiding a Greenfield defender. Below Left, Rebels Cole Brown and Aiden Legens sack Greenfield quarterback Easton Sullivan for a big loss. Below Right, Rebel Aiden Callis sacks Yellowjacket quarterback Easton Sullivan deep in Greenfield territory. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## Mustangs Stampede Past Lewis County to Advance to Quarterfinals

HOHENWALD (November 14) — The Huntingdon Mustangs are no strangers to advancing to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs, and with the 49-22 win over Lewis County in the second round Friday in Hohenwald, the Mustangs have now reached the quarters for eight of the last ten football seasons. The Mustangs have also qualified for the playoffs for the past 20 football seasons.

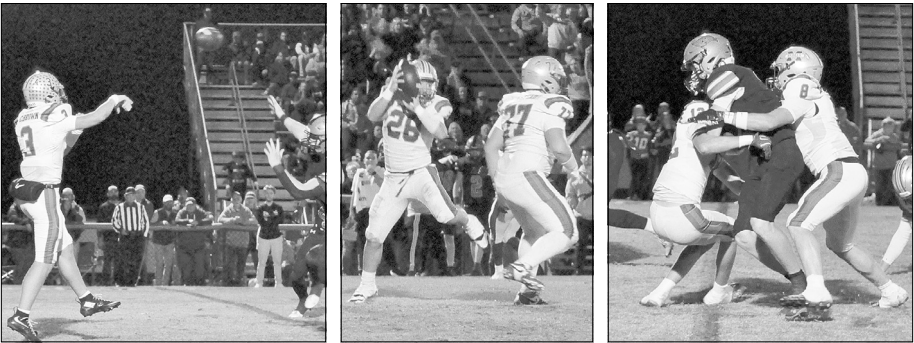
Huntingdon's speed proved too much for the Panthers as the Mustang offense piled up 534 yards of total offense for the game. The Mustangs rushed 31 times for 439 yards in the game, with senior Tyreke Hutch rushing eight times for 207 yards and three TDs, all of which came in the first half. Braylin Dearmon was a great compliment to Hutch as he amassed 145 yards on 14 carries and one score. Kenton Smith completed two of two passes for 95 yards and two touchdowns. Gavin Gray led



Above, Led by Broox Bennett and Gavin Gray, Mustang tacklers surround a Lewis County runner. Below Left, Tyreke Hutch breaks away for a Mustang touchdown. Below Right, Braylin Dearmon follows the block of Brayden Davis against the Lewis County defense. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



Huntingdon's defense that held a high-scoring Lewis County to 106 yards on the ground and 11 of 25 passes for 149 yards. Gray recorded 20 tackles and a sack. Broox Bennett had 13 tackles for the Mustang defense.



Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown completes a short pass. Center, Rebel Lelan Gordon makes a catch and turns upfield. Right, Rebels Kason Brown (12) and Xander Johnsey (8) wrap up a Raider ball carrier. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

## Rebels Escape Richland with Last-Second Field Goal, Will Host Black Friday Semifinal

LYNNVILLE (November 21) — For the fifth consecutive year, McKenzie High School has advanced to the TSSAA Class 1A Football State Semifinals after a thrilling, 24-21 road win over Richland in Friday's quarterfinal round.

Momentum was hard to come by Friday night as McKenzie and Richland went back-and-forth, but the Rebels ended up with the ball at the end of a tie game. Aiden Mason kicked a 32-yard field goal as time expired to seal the win.

The Rebels earned 322 yards of total offense, 147 passing and 175 rushing. Richland had 227 total yards, 42 in the air and 185 on the ground.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 12 of 17 passing for 147 yards and one touchdown. He had 13 carries for 116 yards and two touchdowns.

Jayden Callis rushed six times for 39 yards. Timmy Arline had five carries for 20 yards.

Avery Brown had five receptions for 71 yards and a touchdown. Jacobi Melton had two catches for 24 yards. Arline caught two passes for 16 yards. J. Callis had one reception for 13 yards, and Lelan Gordon caught two passes for nine yards.

Cole Brown led the defense with nine solo tackles and five assists, including one for a loss. Maddox Shiell had six solo and one assist. Mason Batten had five solo and five assists.

Cooper Davidson had four solo tackles and four assists. Aiden Legens had four solo and three assists with a sack. Kason Brown had four solo and four assists with one for a loss.

Aiden Callis had three solo and two assists. Matteo Tabada and Cayden Gordon each had two solo and three assists.

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# Rebels Cage Wildcats, 41-0

MCKENZIE (October 24) — McKenzie High School hosted Wayne County Friday for a region football contest. The Rebels dominated both sides of the ball and cruised to a 41-0 victory.

It was an exciting night off of the field as well.

At halftime, participants in the Little Rebel Cheer Camp held earlier in the week showed off the skills they learned from the MHS cheerleaders.

It was also Youth Football Night at the stadium. Future MHS cheerleaders were followed by future Rebel players from the McKenzie Youth Football League. Teams and their coaches were recognized on the field.

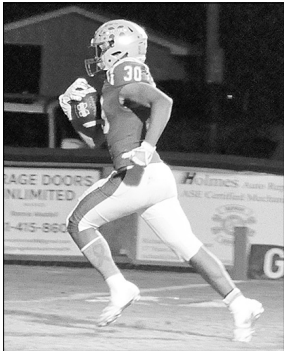
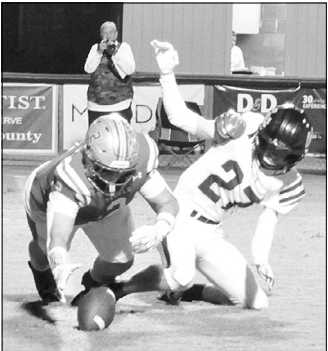
And it was Pink Out Night, where players, cheerleaders and fans wear pink alongside their red and gray in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Between the first and second quarter, MHS teacher Traci Lunn was honored as a survivor and recognized in the stands.

McKenzie had 408 yards of total offense, 260 on the ground and 148 in the air. Wayne County was held to just 80 total yards, 59 rushing and 21 passing.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 11 of 15 passing for 148 yards and a touchdown. He also had eleven carries for 127 yards and



Above, Rebel Cole Brown splits a pair of defenders for a big gain across midfield. Below Left, Rebel Aiden Legens forces a fumble and recovers it to set up a McKenzie touchdown. Below Right, Rebel Jayden Callis trots into the end zone untouched for one of his two touchdowns. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



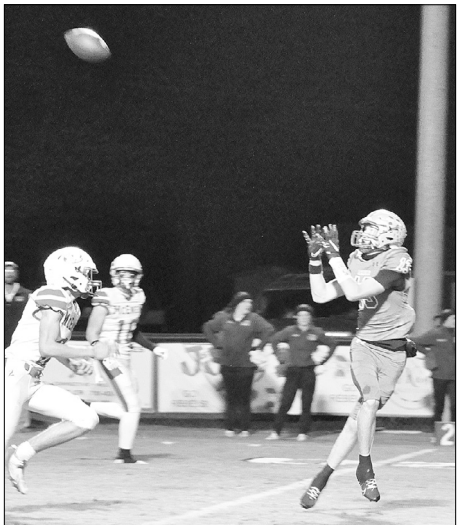
three touchdowns.

Jayden Callis had 15 rushes for 125 yards and two touchdowns.

Jacobi Melton caught four passes for 60 yards and a touchdown. Callis had two catches for 48 yards. Avery Brown caught three for 23 yards, and Kason Brown had a pair of catches for 17 yards.

Aiden Legens had five solo tackles and two as-

sists, with two tackles for a loss including a sack. C. Brown had five solo and two assists with one for a loss. Dawson Reeder had five solo tackles and four assists. Avery Brown had five solo and two assists. Lelan Gordon had two solo and four assists, and Matteo Tabada had two solo and three assists.



Above Left, Rebel seniors Mason Batten (10) and Aiden Callis (40) converge on a McEwen ball carrier at the line of scrimmage. Above Right, Rebel Avery Brown turns to make a 48-yard touchdown catch. Below, Rebel Jacobi Melton hurdles a McEwen defender for a large gain. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## Rebels Rout Warriors for Region 6-1A Title

MCKENZIE (October 31) — McKenzie High School claimed the Region 6-1A championship Friday night with a 54-0 drubbing of McEwen in the regular season finale.

It was also Senior Night at Randy Thomas Field. 17 senior football players, one manager, one cheerleader and five band members were honored before the game with family members on the field.

The Halloween night game was certainly scary for McEwen as the Rebel defense was smothering and the offense was running on all cylinders.

The Rebels had 460 yards of total offense on a balanced attack of 254 passing yards and 206 rushing. The Warriors were held to 61 total yards, 37 in the air and 24 on the ground.

McKenzie quarterback Cole Brown was 16 of 19 passing for 254 yards and four touchdowns. He also had six carries for 80 yards and three touchdowns.

Jayden Callis had eleven carries for 126 yards with one touchdown.

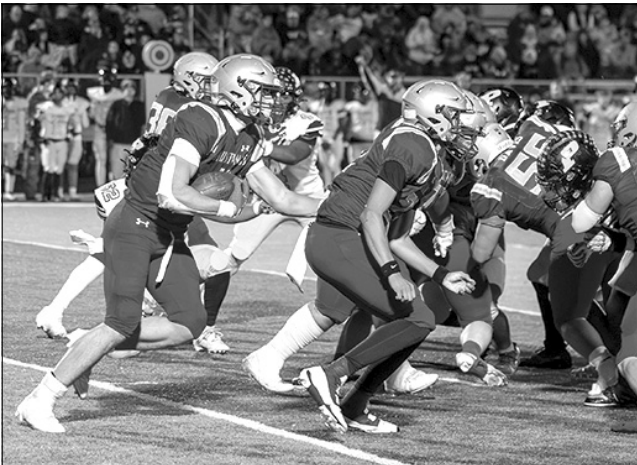
Avery Brown had sev-

en catches for 135 yards and two touchdowns. J. Callis caught three passes for 42 yards. Jacobi Melton had three catches for 38 yards. Kason Brown caught three passes for 34 yards with a touchdown. Lelan Gordon had one catch, a five-yard touchdown.

Dawson Reeder led the defense with five solo tackles and two assists. C. Brown had four solo and two assists, including one for a loss. Cooper Davidson had four solo and two assists with two for a loss. Aiden Legens

had four solo and an assist with one for a loss. Lelan Gordon had four solo and one assist.

Maddox Shiell had three solo tackles and four assists, including two for a loss and a sack. Mason Batten had three solo and four assists with one for a loss. Avery Brown had three solo and one assist. Aiden Callis had two solo and two assists. Davarion Gilbert had a solo and two assists. Ethan Batton had one solo tackle and one assist.



Above Left, Hayes Eubanks dives for the pylon to score a touchdown. Above Right, Braylin Dearmon follows a convoy of blockers. Below Left, Huntingdon's Owen King leaps to block a pass. Below Right, Hayes Eubanks looks to escape a tackle for the Mustangs. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



## Mustangs Stem the Tide With Second Half Surge

It was a tale of two halves for the Huntingdon Mustang football team as they hosted Trenton Peabody Friday night at Paul Ward Stadium. The Golden Tide entered the game undefeated and ranked third in the Class 2-A poll, and the Mustangs came in ranked

fifth in the same poll and with a record of 7-1.

The first half was a shootout as the score was tied at the half at 21-21, but Huntingdon's defense dominated the second half, and the Mustang offense kept the pressure on Trenton's defense and outscored the

Golden Tide 19-0 in the second half.

The first half saw Trenton throw for 144 yards, and two of their ten completions went for touchdowns. The Tide also ran for 48 yards in the first half but only managed 23 in the second half. The Mustang offense ran for 191 yards in the first half and 192 in the second half. The Mustangs also completed 3 of 4 passes for 61 yards in the game.

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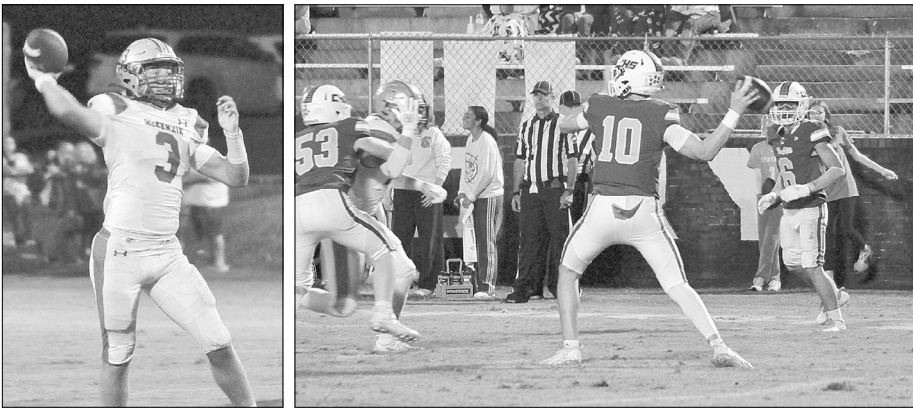


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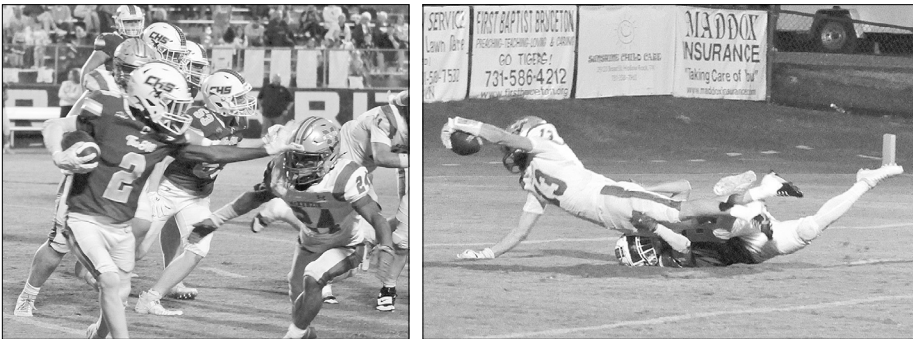
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Above Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown makes a running pass. Above Right, Tiger quarterback Braxton Howard fires a long touchdown pass. Below Left, Tiger Nic King battles for extra yards with a stiff arm. Below Right, Rebel Avery Brown stretches for the goal line after a catch, but is stopped at the 1 by Tiger Grayson Thompson. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## Rebels Win Big at Central

BRUCETON (October 10) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Tiger hosted McKenzie Friday for a region football contest. The Rebels jumped out to an early lead and cruised to a 49-6 win.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 19 of 23 passing for 316 yards and three touchdowns. He also had six carries for 37 yards and three touchdowns.

Jayden Callis rushed ten times for 121 yards with a touchdown.

Avery Brown caught four passes for 92 yards. Callis had two receptions for 61 yards and a touchdown. Kason Brown caught two passes for 49 yards and a touchdown. Jacobi Melton had seven receptions for 47 yards with one touchdown. Cooper Davidson had two catches for 38 yards, and Lelan Gordon had two for 29 yards.

Aiden Legens led the



Rebel Jayden Callis emerges from the pile on his feet for a big gain. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie defense with six solo tackles and five assists, with three for a loss and two sacks. Matteo Tabada had six solo and one assist, including one for a loss. Lelan Gordon had six solo and two assists.

Maddox Shiell had four solo tackles and two assists with two for a loss and one sack. Dawson Reeder had four solo and three assists.

Jackson Cantrell had four solo and one assist.

Central quarterback Braxton Howard was three of 12 passing for 63 yards and a touchdown.

Korbin Brown had five carries for 49 yards, and Brady Roberts rushed five times for 22 yards.

Carter Lowe had one catch for a 64-yard touchdown.



Left, Zayden Connelly catches a pass for a Mustang touchdown. Right, Tyreke Hutch looks back at a Harpeth defender. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner

## Mustangs Dominate on Homecoming

HUNTINGDON (October 10) — The Huntingdon Mustangs scored on all of their seven first-half possessions and coasted to a 59-6 win on homecoming night as the Mustangs improved to 7-1 for the season. Senior running back Tyreke led the way as he scored four touchdowns, all in the first half, on five carries. Hutch scored on runs of 50, 37, 51, and 17 yards, rushing for 169 yards on the night. He also had a pass reception in the game.

As a team, the Mustangs ran for 353 yards in the game and passed for 12 yards. Kenton Smith completed 2 of 2 passes. Smith had a touchdown run in the game, and one of his two completions went for a TD.

Defensively, the Mustangs were led by Taylin Strayhorn, who recorded seven tackles, four tackles for a loss, and had four sacks in the game. Hunting-



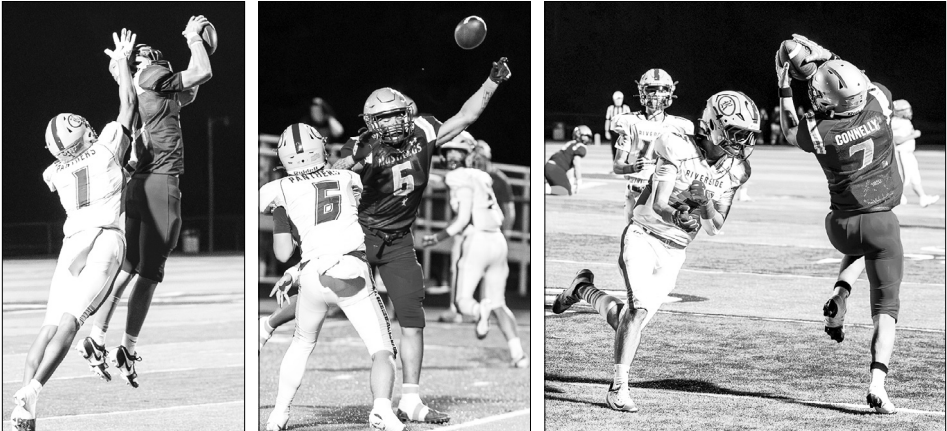
Taylin Strayhorn and Gavin Gray tackle a Harpeth player. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

don held Harpeth to 15 rushing yards and 93 yards through the air on 6 of 14 passing.

The Mustangs scored five times in the first quarter to race to a 35-6 lead after one stanza. Hutch started the scoring with his 50-yard run and coupled that with a 37-yard run, as Hunting-

don took a 14-0 lead after running only two offensive plays.

The Mustang reserves got in the act in the second half and posted two scores. Kylen Turner scored both JV touchdowns on runs of 22 yards and 15 yards. Raffield made a PAT to make the final 59-6.



Left, Kenton Smith goes high for an interception. Center, Owen King just misses knocking down a Riverside pass. Right, Zayden Connelly catches a pass for the Mustangs. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner

## Mustangs Capitalize on Turnovers for 49-0 Win

HUNTINGDON (October 3) — The high-powered offense of the Huntingdon Mustangs football team saw Christmas come early as the defense of the Mustangs forced seven Panther Riverside turnovers. Huntingdon turned the gifts into points in a 49-0 win over Riverside to improve to 6-1 for the season.

The Mustangs intercepted five Panther passes and recovered two fumbles. They returned one interception for a touchdown, had a scoop-and-score, and also had a kickoff return for a touchdown.

Mustang junior quarterback Kenton Smith had a career night for the Mustangs as he accounted for three Mustang touchdowns. Smith completed 3 of 4 passes for 91 yards and a touchdown, returned an in-



Tyreke Hutch follows his blockers for yards in the Mustangs win over Riverside. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

terception for a touchdown, and ran a touchdown from a yard out.

Sophomore K'Shun Carter had a big night with two intercepted passes, caused a fumble, recorded three tackles for the game, and returned a kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown to begin the second half. Junior Zayden

Connelly caught two passes for 80 yards with a touchdown and scooped up a fumble and returned it for a touchdown.

Huntingdon ran for 144 yards for the night, and Eubanks ran 10 times for 51 yards. The Mustangs held Riverside to 68 yards on the ground and 5 of 16 passing for 81 yards.

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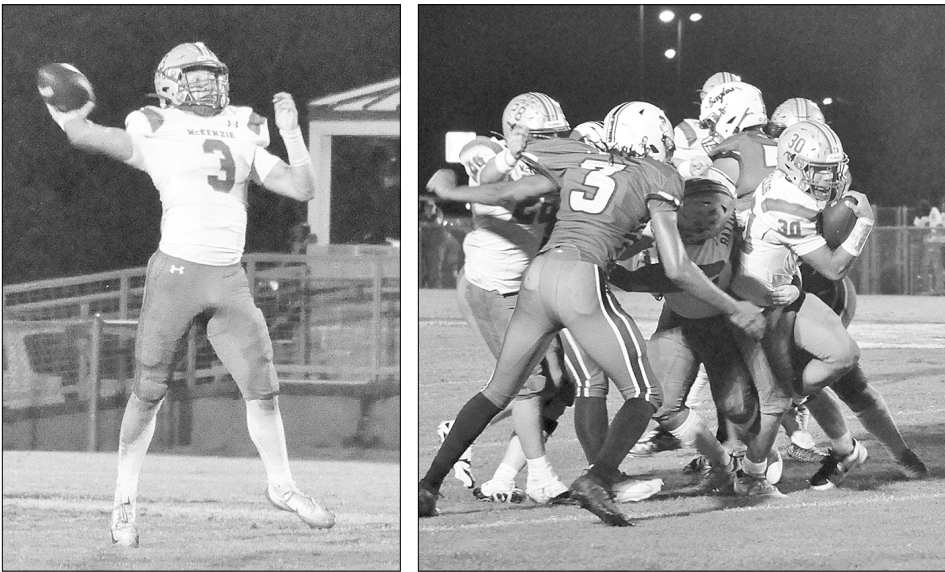
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Above Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown makes a long touchdown pass. Brown was 16 of 20 passing for 278 yards and four touchdowns. Above Right, Rebel Jayden Callis bursts up the middle for a gain. Callis had 13 carries for 91 yards. Below Left, Rebel Jacobi Melton takes a pass to the outside for a huge gain. Melton had ten receptions for 147 yards and a touchdown. Below Right, Rebel Avery Brown makes a running catch in the end zone. Brown caught five passes for 111 yards and two touchdowns. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## Rebels Roll at Chester County, 41-7

HENDERSON (September 26) — McKenzie traveled to Chester County High School Friday for a non-region football contest and came home with a 41-7 victory.

The host Eagles stunned the large contingent of Rebel faithful that made the trip with a touchdown on the first play of the game, but 41 unanswered points gave the McKenzie fans plenty to cheer about.

McKenzie had 528 yards of total offense, 278 in the air and 250 on the ground. They held the Eagles to 119 yards total, 83 in the air and 36 on the ground.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 16 of 20 passing for 278 yards and four touchdowns. He also had 13 carries for 107 yards and two touchdowns.

Jayden Callis had 13 carries for 91 yards, and Matteo Tabada rushed eight times for 41 yards.

Jacobi Melton had ten receptions for 147 yards and a touchdown. Avery Brown caught five passes for 111 yards and two touchdowns. Lelan Gordon had one catch, a 19-yard

touchdown.

Dawson Reeder and Jacion Townes each had three solo tackles and three assists. Cole Brown had three solo and an assist, including one for a loss. Lelan Gordon had three solo and two assists. Maddox Shiell had two solo and two assists. Aiden Callis had two solo, including a sack. Xander Johnsey had two solo and three assists. Aiden Legens and Mason Batten each had two solo and an assist. Hunter Winstead had two solo tackles.

## Callis, Rebels Run Rampant Over Trojans

COLLINWOOD (October 3) — McKenzie High School made the long trek to Collinwood High School Friday for a region football contest and made another strong statement with a 55-6 win.

The Trojans had no answer for the Rebel offense, particularly for sophomore Jayden Callis, who ran for 296 yards and five touchdowns in his second week as the Rebels' primary running back.

McKenzie had 525 yards of total offense, including 367 on the ground and 158 in the air. Collinwood was held to 158 yards, 138 rushing and 20 passing.

Rebel Jayden Callis had 296 rushing yards on 16 carries for five touchdowns. Cole Brown ran seven times for 71 yards and two touchdowns.

C. Brown was 11 of 16 passing for 158 yards.

Jacobi Melton had five receptions for 82 yards. Avery Brown caught two passes for 34 yards. Jaden Blanton had two catches for 13 yards. J. Callis caught one pass for 16 yards, and Kason Brown had a 13-yard catch.

C. Brown led the defense with eight solo tackles and three assists, including two for a loss and a sack. Cooper Davidson had five solo and four assists with two for a loss and a sack. Aiden Legens had six solo and three assists with a sack.

Dawson Reeder had six solo and five assists, with one for a loss. Maddox Shiell had six solo and an assist. Lelan Gordon had four solo and six assists. Mason Batten had three solo and five assists. Aiden Callis had two solo and one assist, with two for a loss and a sack.



Left, Taylin Strayhorn pounces on a fumble in Huntingdon's win over Gibson County. Right, Kenton Smith escapes a shoestring tackle. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner

## Mustangs Romp Over Pioneers

DYER (September 26) — One rule of football is that if you keep the ball away from a team's offense, you improve your chances of winning. That rule didn't play out in the Huntingdon Mustangs' 44-6 win over Gibson County in Dyer, as the Mustangs were efficient with their offense, as they ran nine offensive plays and scored 35 points on those nine plays. The Mustangs also scored on a punt return and recorded a safety in the win.

All the Mustang's points came in the first half as the second half was six-minute quarters with a running clock, and the Mustangs never ran an offensive play in the second half. The Mustangs had their second lowest offensive output of the year as they ran for 123 yards and passed for 104. The Mustang defense posted their lowest numbers of the year as they held the Pioneers to 23 yards on the ground and 52 passing yards.



Garvin Kee hauls in a pass for a TD for the Mustangs. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner



Left, Mustang K'Shun Carter stiff arms a Cougar defender. Right, Hutch goes over a JCM defender to catch a pass. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner

## Mustang Defense Stifles JCM

HUNTINGDON (September 19) — On a night when the Huntingdon Mustangs' offense seemed a little sluggish, the Mustang defense turned in its best performance of the season in a 27-7 win over JCM.

The Mustangs held the Cougars to 64 rushing yards on 23 attempts and 9 of 18

passing for 99 yards and forced one turnover.

Senior linebacker, Broox Bennett who has missed the last three games for injury, led the Mustang defense with 14 tackles, four for loss and intercepted a pass.

The Mustangs, now 4-1 for the season and 2-1 in region 7-2A, rushed for 263

yards on 42 attempts and completed 3 of 3 passes for 53 yards.

Junior QB Kenton Smith ran for 37 yards and completed 3 of 3 passes for 53 yards, Tyreke Hutch ran for 86 yards and Hayes Eubanks contributed 72 yards on the ground.

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# Rebels Cage Lions on Homecoming, 50-14

McKENZIE (September 19) — McKenzie High School capped off a week of Homecoming festivities Friday night with a 50-14 win over the Camden Lions.

The lopsided win came in spite of excessive miscues by the Rebels and an injury early in the game to offensive weapon Timmy Arline. Defense was the bright spot for McKenzie; Camden was held to just 73 total yards of offense and one touchdown from scrimmage.

McKenzie had 404 yards of total offense, 240 in the air and 164 on the ground. Camden was held to 73 total yards, earning 119 in the air but losing 46 yards on the ground.

The Rebels earned 18 first



Left, Rebel Lelan Gordon turns upfield for a gain. Center, Rebel Avery Brown makes a circus catch for a touchdown. Right, Rebel Cole Brown tackles Lion Antoine Banks for a loss. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

downs and held the Lions to five. McKenzie was six of eight on third downs, while Camden was three of ten. The Rebel defense blanked the Lions of fourth down conversions, 0-for-5.

A weak spot for McKenzie was penalties as they racked up 20 compared to Camden's two.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 15 of 23, passing for 240 yards and three

touchdowns. He also had eleven carries for 62 yards and two touchdowns.

Timmy Arline had two carries for 51 yards and a touchdown. Matteo Tabada rushed nine times for 51 yards and a

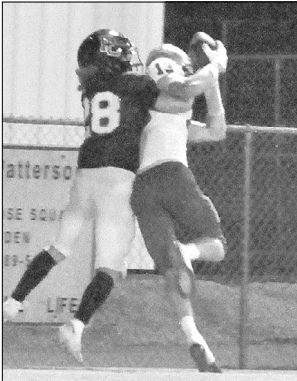
touchdown.

Avery Brown had three receptions for 64 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Jacobi Melton caught five passes for 56 yards. Lelan Gordon had three catches for 43 yards.

Aiden Legens had a pair of receptions for 34 yards, and Tabada caught one pass for a 22-yard touchdown.

Maddox Shiell led the defense with six solo tackles and two assists, including three for a loss and a sack. Lelan Gordon had five solos and two assists. Mason Batten recorded four solo and two assists with two for losses and a sack.

Jacion Townes had four solo and three assisted tackles. Aiden Legens had three solo and two assists with one sack. Dawson Reeder had three solo and two assists. Aiden Callis had three solo tackles and two assists, including two for a loss and a sack. Cole Brown had two solo and an assist with a sack.



Left, Rebel Avery Brown makes a contested catch in the end zone for one of his three touchdowns (two receiving, one fumble return). Right, Rebels Lelan Gordon and Jacion Townes bring down Viking Ayden Flowers. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

## Rebels Sink Vikings, 42-0

LINDEN (September 12) — The McKenzie High School Rebels began region play Friday at Perry County. The Rebels scored early and often en route to a 42-0 victory over the Vikings.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 8 of 10 passing for 146 yards and two touchdowns. He had four carries for 19 yards.

Timmy Arline carried eleven times for 108 yards and three touchdowns.

Avery Brown had four receptions for 91 yards and two touchdowns. Jacobi Melton caught three passes for 37 yards, and Lelan Gordon made one catch for 18 yards.

Gordon led the defense



Rebel Dawson Reeder set the tone early with an interception and long return to spoil the Vikings' opening drive. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

with six solo tackles and four assists. Cooper Davidson had four solo and four assists. Mason Batten had four solo tackles and one assist, including a sack.

Jacion Townes had three solo tackles and two assists. Aiden Callis had three solo and one assist, including a sack. Xander Johnsey had three solo and one assist.



Left, Tyreke Hutch cuts back for yards. Right, Colt Wood steps across the goal line for a TD. Photos By Russell Bush/The Banner

## Mustangs Romp Back with 49-6 Win Over Halls

HALLS (September 12) — After only scoring nine points and rushing for 107 yards last week against Milan, the Mustangs bounced back with 355 yards of total offense and defeated Halls 49-6 to improve to 3-1 for the season and 1-1 in Region 7-2A. The Mustangs also intercepted two passes and returned one for a TD for the second week in a row, and held the Tigers to 46 yards and 14 of 26 passes for 155 yards in the game.

The Mustangs scored three times in the first half, and the first touchdown came after a Tiger punt. Tyreke Hutch on the Mustangs' second play from scrimmage, scampered for 42 yards to paydirt. Greyson Anderson made the first of his seven PATs for the night



A pair of Mustangs defenders take down a Halls runner. Photo By Russell Bush/The Banner

to give the Mustangs a 7-0 lead.

Hutch led the Mustangs with 133 yards on six car-

ries. Eubanks ran for 103 yards on 10 carries and Smith added 62 yards on nine carries.

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## Rebels Dominate on Kentucky Road Trip

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (September 5) — The McKenzie High School Rebels made a long road trip for a short game Friday night at Christian County High School. The game was called after the first half due to lightning, but McKenzie had already amassed a 42-12 lead over the Colonels.

During halftime, severe weather moved into the area. Facing a lengthy lightning delay after an already long first half (and a long ride home for the visiting Rebels and fans),

the game was called for a 42-12 McKenzie victory.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was four of seven, passing for 190 yards and three touchdowns.

Timmy Arline had a dozen carries for 122 yards and three touchdowns. C. Brown rushed three times for 45 yards.

Kason Brown was the leading receiver with two catches for 150 yards and two touchdowns. Jacobi Melton had one catch, a 28-yard touchdown.

Maddox Shiell led the Rebel defense with three

tackles and one assist, including two for a loss and one sack. Dawson Reeder had three tackles and five assists, one for a loss. Cole Brown had three tackles and two assists. Mason Batton had two tackles and one assist, two for a loss.

Avery Brown had two tackles and four assists. Aiden Legens had two tackles and two assists, two for a loss.

Cooper Davidson had one tackle and two assists, including a sack. Davarion Gilbert had one tackle, a sack.



Above Left, Rebel Avery Brown battles double coverage to make the catch in the end zone for the touchdown. Above Right, Rebel Timmy Arline sheds a defender for extra yardage during a long McKenzie scoring drive. Below Left, Rebel Dawson Reeder wraps up a Lion ball-carrier for the stop. Below Right, Rebel Aiden Legens dives into the end zone with a Dresden fumble for the first points of the game. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## Rebels Rout Lions, 44-7

MCKENZIE (August 29) — The McKenzie High School Rebels bounced back in a big way from a season-opening loss with a dominant win over Dresden, 44-7.

A defensive touchdown got McKenzie on the board early, but Dresden scored on their second possession. From there, the Rebels scored on six consecutive possessions for the lopsided victory.

McKenzie won the toss and deferred possession.

The teams traded punts, with Rebel Cole Brown booting one 57 yards to pin the Lions deep at their own 6. On third down, a Dresden fumble was recovered by Rebel Aiden Legens, who dove into the end zone for a touchdown. Aiden Mason kicked the PAT, and McKenzie led 7-0 with 7:10 to play in the first frame.

Dresden would punt again, but McKenzie fumbled early in the drive, with Lion Jacoby Sutton making the recovery at the Rebel 31.

The Lions quickly faced fourth-and-long, but McKenzie was flagged for pass interference and Dresden got a fresh set of downs. Quarterback Bruce Willis kept for a 16-yard touchdown, and the PAT by Vlad-

imir Hammer Pederson tied the score at 7-7 with 3:08 to play in the opening quarter.

McKenzie took the lead for good with a six play, 63-yard drive capped by a 40-yard pass from C. Brown to Avery Brown. Mason kicked, and the Rebels led 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Dresden started the second frame with a quick three-and-out. A. Brown made a good return on the punt to the Lion 38.

C. Brown took the first snap 27 yards, and, two plays later, he threw to Kason Brown for an 11-yard touchdown. The Mason PAT gave McKenzie a 21-7 lead with 8:30 to play in the first half.

After another quick Dresden three-and-out, Rebel Jacobi Melton made a ten-yard punt return to set McKenzie up near midfield.

The Rebels went 52 yards on eight plays, the last a nine yard pass from C. Brown to Lelan Gordon. With Mason's kick, McKenzie led 28-7 with three minutes to play in the second quarter.

The Lions put together a promising drive, including a 39-yard pass from Willis to Aiden Carrington, to get to the McKenzie 17 before Willis' second pass attempt was intercepted by Rebel

Cooper Davidson and returned to the Dresden 22.

With under a minute on the clock, McKenzie needed a fourth-down conversion to get a first-and-goal. A holding penalty negated a touchdown, but Mason kicked a field goal as time expired to give the Rebels a 31-7 halftime lead.

The Rebels received the second-half kick and went 57 yards on five carries by Timmy Arline and a one-yard keeper by C. Brown. Mason missed the kick, but McKenzie led 37-7 with 9:13 to play in the third quarter, triggering a running clock.

The Lions managed a pair of first downs, but the drive stalled near midfield.

McKenzie took over and exhausted the third quarter clock on three plays. The first play of the final frame was a 12-yard touchdown pass from C. Brown to A. Brown. Mason hit the point-after, and the Rebels led 44-7 early in the fourth.

Dresden went three-and-out, and McKenzie sent out its offensive reserves. The Rebels turned the ball over on downs, but used up enough clock to allow the Lions just two plays before time expired.



Left, Mustang Hayes Eubanks looks for running room against Milan. Right, Mustang Owen King tackles a Milan ball carrier. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner

## Mustangs Corralled by Bulldog Defense

MILAN (September 5) — Lightning struck the Huntingdon Mustangs from two different directions Friday in Milan as the Mustangs lost their first game of the season, 34-9, to the Milan Bulldogs to fall to 2-1 for the season and 0-1 in region play.

It was the third straight game on the road to start the season for the Mustangs.

Lightning came in the

form of Mother Nature as the weather created over an hour delay with 3:19 remaining in the third quarter with the Bulldogs leading 27-9 and from the legs of Milan senior running back Jaydon Peete, who scored two touchdowns and intercepted a pass to lead the Bulldogs.

The Mustangs seemed to be in control for the first half despite a poor night offensively.

The Bulldogs then would go on to score 28 unanswered points in the second half and shut down the Mustang offense to claim the win.

The Mustangs were held to 107 yards on the ground and Hayes Eubanks carried eight times for 32 yards.

The Mustangs passed for 20 and K'Shun Carter recorded 14 tackles. Milan rushed for 240 yards and passed for 35.



Above Left, Kenton Smith goes high in the air to intercept a pass. Above Right, Kenton Smith looks downfield for a receiver. Below Left, Braylin Dearmon finds a path for a touchdown in Mustangs. Below Right, Braylin Dearmon jumps in an attempt to deflect a pass. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



## Mustangs Hold Lions Scoreless in 35-0 Win

CAMDEN (August 29) — The Huntingdon Mustangs overcame a night in which they committed seven penalties, several bad snaps, and fumbles that were recovered by the boys in blue, to defeat a good Camden Lions team 35-0. Both the Mustangs and Lions were coming off wins over teams that had been on the winning side the last few years, as Camden was coming off an overtime win over Riverside, and the Mustangs defeated McKenzie for the first time in six years.

Even though the Mustangs at times seemed a little out of sync offensively, they rushed for 321 yards on the ground and completed 2 of 3 passes for 23 yards. The Mustangs, who were battling the injury bug, got a huge game from backup running back Colt Wood. Wood, a sophomore, rushed seven times for 110 yards and scored a long TD



Hayes Eubanks tries to get through two defenders. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

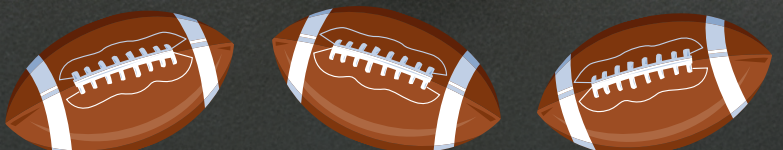
on the final play of the first half.

Braylin Dearmon, the Mustang senior QB, turned in a stellar performance against the Lions. Rushing for 128 yards on 11 carries and scoring twice in the game. Dearmon reeled off a 68-yard run for a TD against Camden.

The Mustangs' defense for the second week in a row had a good night. The Lions only

threatened to score twice, and the last came at the end of the game. The Mustangs, who had held McKenzie to 63 yards on the ground, bettered that against Camden, holding the Lions to 45 yards on the ground and 7 of 17 for 89 yards in the air.

The Mustangs took advantage of two Lion turnovers, with the first one coming to start the game.



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# 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 led 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 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 kicked to make it 28-14.

The Rebels earned a pair of first downs before stalling at the Mustang 36 with an incomplete pass on fourth down.

Dearmon again broke free on the first snap, but was stopped at the 1 by C. Brown. Hayes Eubanks punched it in on the next play, and an Anderson kick gave Huntingdon a 35-14 advantage halfway through the third.

McKenzie put together a solid drive, mixing passes

from C. Brown to Melton and Avery Brown with runs by Timmy Arline. The seven-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



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



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) hosts Dresden Friday, while Huntingdon (1-0) travels to Camden.



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