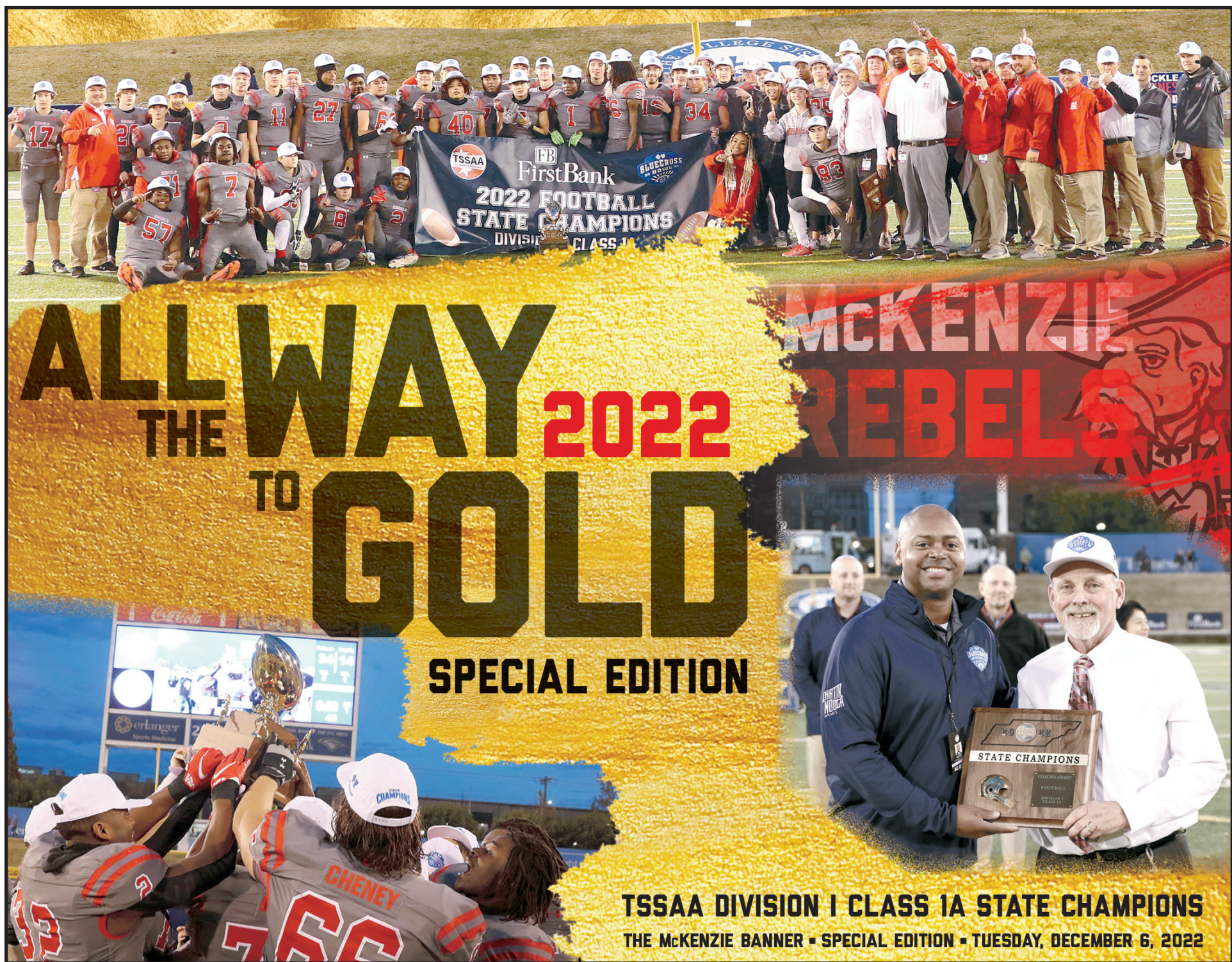




## The Perfect Season

BY BRITTANY MARTIN  
brittany@mckenziebanner.com

"What does it take to be a champion? Desire, dedication, determination, concentration and the will to win."  
— Patty Berg

The 2022 McKenzie Rebels have displayed all these qualities and earned their place in school history.

You were the first to achieve a 15-0, perfect football season at McKenzie, but you won't be the last. You have set the bar and showed what it takes to be a champion. You've inspired generations of Rebels to

follow in your footsteps and made every Rebel that ever walked the halls or donned a uniform so very, very proud. You deserve this moment. You worked so hard to get here. Last year, you fell short, but it didn't stop you; and the adversity you faced on game day didn't rattle you. You kept your focus while displaying the good sportsmanship and professionalism that is expected of McKenzie Rebels.

Never lose your humble attitude, it's one of the qualities that makes you great. Never stop driving towards your goals; you've proven you have what it takes to achieve the

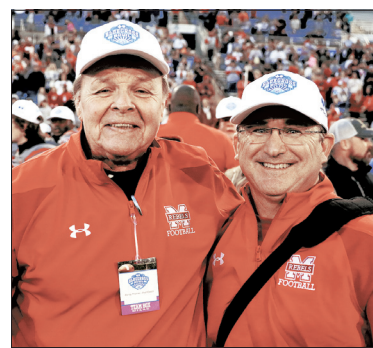
A Special Message to the McKenzie Rebels Football Team

"impossible." Always remember you have friends, family and an entire town behind you, cheering you on.

Life can get tough, but you are tougher. The leadership skills and teamwork you've gained will help you throughout your lifetime.

Congratulations, Rebels! With this special edition, we celebrate you, the 2022 Class 1A Football State Champions!

*Sincerely, The Banner Staff — Joel and Teresa Washburn, Jason and Brittany Martin, Janna Pratt, Karen Forester, and Billy and Debbie Fuzzell.*



Left, Assistant Coach David Duncan and Head Coach Wade Comer proudly display the state champions trophy. Right, Assistant Coaches Randy Thomas and Kelly Spivey share an emotional moment following the Rebel championship victory.  
Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



*Congratulations on a wonderful season!*



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Top Left, Marquez Taylor breaks free on the opening play for a Rebel touchdown. Top Right, #11 Jackson Cassidy breaks down to tackle Keaton Arms of Clay County. Above Left, Zach Aird boots the PAT putting McKenzie up 14-0. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner: Above Right, Zay Webber turns back to catch a 69-yard touchdown pass from Jackson Cassidy. Below Right, Etijay Tharpe picks up McKenzie's third touchdown of the game. Photos by Jason R. Martin/The Banner.

# Third Time's the Charm Rebel Football Brings Home Gold

BY JASON R. MARTIN  
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

CHATTANOOGA (December 2) — In their third appearance in the Championship Round of the TSSAA Football Playoffs (2007, 2021, and 2022) the McKenzie Rebels are bringing the gold ball home to McKenzie. After an undefeated regular season along with a last-minute playoff victory against Fayetteville, the Rebels knocked off Bulldogs Clay County 34-14 at the University of

Tennessee at Chattanooga. In their first championship appearance in 2007, the Rebels fell victim to South Pittsburg, 52-20. Last season, the Rebels finished the regular season undefeated before falling short 23-20 against their familiar foe South Pittsburg in the Championship Round. This season it was finally the Rebels' time. From Memphis to Chattanooga, McKenzie proved unstoppable. After four quarters on the final Friday of the high school

football season, the Rebels hoisted the Champion's Trophy with their 34-14 win. The 2022-23 senior leadership picked up 43 wins over their four seasons. More impressive is the fact the team went 29-1 in two seasons. That's the equivalent of playing three consecutive regular seasons due to their two consecutive state championship round runs in the BlueCross Bowl. In the Friday afternoon matchup, the odds were in favor of McKenzie. Accord-

ing to statistics provided by the TSSAA, Clay County and McKenzie both had 16 first downs. The Bulldogs ran the ball 42 times for 199 yards compared to McKenzie's 26 runs for 208. Leading the ground game for the Rebels was Marquez Taylor with 15 carries for 163 yards and one touchdown. Jackson Cassidy had nine carries for 45 yards followed by Etijay Tharpe

Continued on Next Page



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# Gold

**Continued from Page 2**

with one carry for 11 yards and one touchdown. For the Bulldogs, Joseph Marcom rushed the ball 22 times for 126 yards and one touchdown followed by Alex Kerr with nine carries for 80 yards and a touchdown.

The passing game separated McKenzie from Clay County. J. Cassidy was seven of 14 passing for 168 yards and three touchdowns with one interception. Keaton Arms of Clay County was four of eleven for 18 yards.

Receiving for McKenzie was led by Xavier Webber with 3 catches for 101 yards and two TDs. M. Taylor had one catch for 47 yards and a touchdown followed by Zach Aird with two catches for 15 yards.

Leading the Rebels defensively was J. Cassidy with nine tackles followed by Tate Surber with six, Rashad McCreary with six and Camden Allison with 5.5 tackles two of which were for a loss. The only sack of the game was attributed to David Cheney.

The game opened with temperatures in the mid-50s under breezy conditions with a slight chance of rain. Clay County won the coin toss with a call for tails. The Bulldogs deferred to the second half and the Rebels set themselves for the opening kick.

Clay County attempted to catch McKenzie flat-footed as the kickoff was a mere pooch kick. The Rebels were prepared as they downed the kick and prepared for their opening drive from the McKenzie 45 yard line. It took M. Taylor one play to take the lead for McKenzie. Taking the handoff, he came off the right tackle where he rounded the corner and shifted towards the inside the hash marks before going up the left side of the field crossing the goal line in what was one of the most impressive plays of the night.

Z. Aird tacked on the extra point putting the Rebels 7-0 with 11:44 to play in the first quarter.

Clay County returned the kickoff to the 35 yard line. Runs by J. Marcom and A. Kerr to a Bulldog first down and moved the offense to midfield. Tackles by C. Allison and J. Cassidy stalled the drive and forced Clay County into punting on fourth-and-long. An illegal formation penalty called on the Bulldogs forced them to rekick the ball as the Rebels hoped to improve their field position, but the ball came to rest on the McKenzie 10 yard line.

Five plays and 90 yards later the Rebels were in the end zone. McKenzie came out passing as Z. Aird snagged an 11-yard pass from J. Cassidy. With a fresh set of downs, M. Taylor banged up the gut for

seven yards. Three plays later, J. Cassidy hit Z. Webber in stride for a 69-yard touchdown. Z. Aird split the uprights with 6:07 to play in the opening quarter.

The Bulldogs ran nine plays in their next possession. Key tackles by J.

**Continued on Next Page**

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Above Left, Zay Webber breaks a tackle picking up the first down and leaving the defender on his face. *Photo by Jason R. Martin / The Banner.* Above Center, Coach Wade Comer holds the gold ball trophy following McKenzie's win over Clay County. Above Right, Jackson Cassidy holds the MVP plaque. Below Left, Joseph Marcum for Clay County drops his shoulder hoping to pick up a few extra yards. Below Center, Coach Wade Comer congratulates #7 Marquez Taylor and #11 Jackson Cassidy. Below Right, Coaches huddle up with McKenzie players looking to make game time corrections during a Clay County timeout. *Photos by Joel Washburn / The Banner*



# Gold

Continued from Page 3

Cassidy, Drew Chappell, R. McCreary and C. Allison forced Clay County to turn possession back over to McKenzie with a punt from near midfield.

It appeared McKenzie was going to run away with the game as the Rebels picked up two first downs. An amazing run by M. Taylor was nullified by an offensive block in the back penalty. The drive sputtered into McKenzie lining up for its first punt of the game.

Clay County took over at the Rebel 41 yard line. On first and ten, A. Kerr busted loose for 39 yards. On first-and-goal from the two yard line, J. Marcum powered up the middle for the Bulldog touchdown. Lining up in the swinging gate formation, Clay County caught McKenzie off guard as they elected to slide into the endzone unscathed for the two-point conversion. McKenzie led 14-8 closing out the quarter.

The Rebels looked to have a strong second quarter, but a pass interception on the second play of the drive quickly slammed the door closed on an opening

scoring drive. The Bulldogs failed to capitalize on the McKenzie turnover. On second and eight, Clay County put the ball on the turf with McKenzie's Elijah Edmonson coming up with the recovery.

McKenzie went four-and-out on the next drive. The Roditis punt put Clay County deep in Bulldog territory. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty gave the Bulldogs a much-needed first down, despite the generous penalty, multiple incomplete passes stalled the drive into punting the ball away to McKenzie.

The Rebels found paydirt on the drive moving the ball 63 yards downfield in seven plays. After picking up two first downs, on second-and-third from the Bulldog 28 yard line, J. Cassidy's pass was caught by Z. Webber for the first down. A face mask penalty improved the catch 15 yards down the field. With a fresh set of downs and working from the Bulldog eleven yard line, E. Tharpe crossed the goal line. The Rebels failed to tack on the PAT but led 20-8 with 3:45 to play in the opening half.

Clay County closed out the half on offense. A big sack by D. Cheney led the

Bulldogs into eating up the remaining two minutes of the game in hopes of keeping McKenzie's offense off the field.

The Bulldogs up the second half with an impressive drive. Starting at their own 26 yard line, J. Marcom and K. Arms were able to move the ball across midfield and soon into the red zone. The Rebels' defense had their backs against the wall as Clay County was sitting on the three yard line with a first-and-goal. Big stops by E. Tharpe and D. Chappell forced the Bulldogs to turn the ball over on downs.

The remainder of the third quarter remained scoreless as it seemed the officiating squad became enamored with their prowess for playing flag toss.

The Rebels stood just 12 minutes away from its first football state championship to open the fourth quarter. McKenzie's swagger returned to open the final quarter. M. Taylor came alive picking up 50 yards in three plays. On first-and-ten from the Bulldog 25 yard line, J. Cassidy and Z. Webber teamed for the touchdown putting the Rebels up 27-8 following Z. Aird's PAT.

Clay County's offense came back on the field with something to prove as they moved the ball downfield 80 yards in a thirteen-play

drive. A. Kerr picked up the 16-yard touchdown, narrowing McKenzie's lead 24-14 with a missed PAT.

With 2:28 to play, McKenzie recovered Clay County's onside kick. As it appeared the Rebels drive would be forced into a punting situation. On fourth-and-eleven, Coach Wade Comer chose to keep his offense on the field. J. Cassidy stayed in the pocket and slung it down the field into the open hands of M. Taylor for the 47-yard touchdown. Aird tacked on the PAT closing the score at 34 McKenzie 14 Clay County.

The final minute of the game was a blur as the clock ticked away in favor of the Rebels in their third attempt at gold. In an excellent show of sportsmanship, the Rebels and Bulldogs met and midfield in a very cordial display. Jackson Cassidy was named player of the game and with a true sense of humility graciously accepted the award as did Coach Comer accepting the coach's trophy from Dexter Williams, a former West Carroll athletic standout.

The McKenzie Rebels finished the season as the unquestionably best team in Class 1A in Tennessee. Congratulations, Rebs on an unbelievable season.



Above, #47 for McKenzie, Thomas Grgic, brings down the Clay County Bulldog ball carrier. Below, Senior standout Marquez Taylor is interviewed at the end of the state championship game. *Photos by Joel Washburn / The Banner.* Bottom, A view of the final score from the State Championship jumbo-tron in Chattanooga. *Photo by Jason R. Martin / The Banner.*



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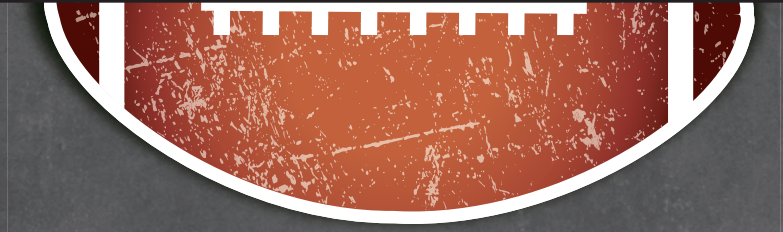
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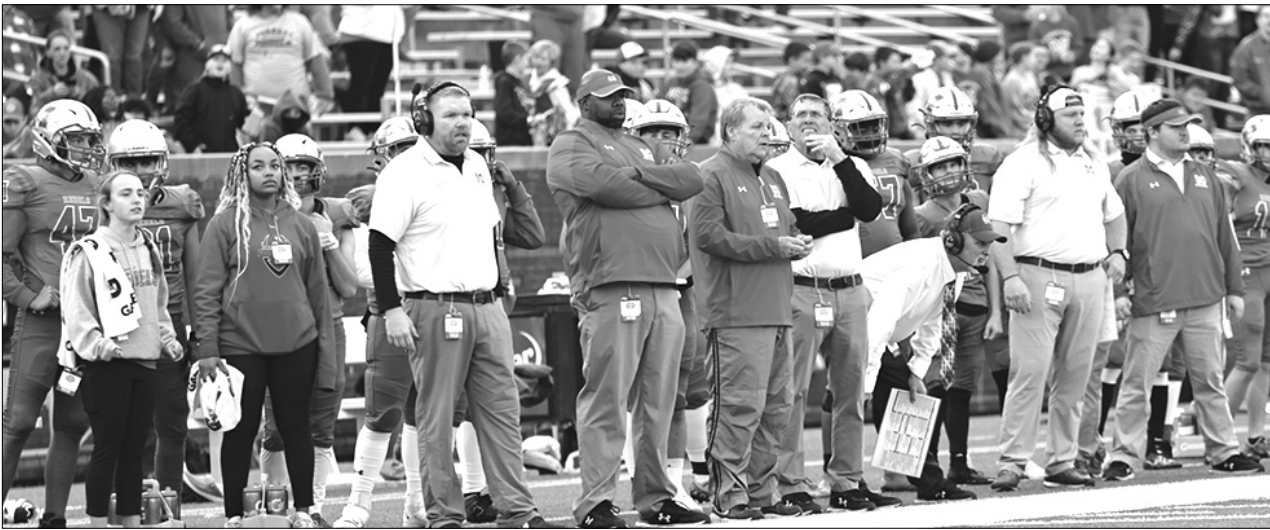
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Left, Staff and coaches look down field as the McKenzie Rebels move one step closer to winning the state championship. Right, Fans filled the stands in Chattanooga supporting their McKenzie Rebels their third appearance in team history. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner.

2022 High School Roster

Varsity Schedule

| #  | NAME             | POS.  | GR. | #  | NAME             | POS.  | GR. | #  | NAME                | POS.  | GR. |
|----|------------------|-------|-----|----|------------------|-------|-----|----|---------------------|-------|-----|
| 1  | Etijay Tharpe    | RB/LB | 12  | 17 | Owen Walker      | WR/DB | 9   | 56 | Christopher Beck    | OL/DL | 11  |
| 2  | Camden Allison   | WR/LB | 12  | 20 | Carson Hill      | WR/DB | 10  | 57 | KaDarius Cunningham | OL/DL | 10  |
| 3  | Zach Aird        | WR/DB | 12  | 22 | Matthew Gaylord  | WR/DB | 9   | 60 | Hunter Harvey       | OL/DL | 12  |
| 4  | Zay Webber       | WR/DB | 12  | 24 | Mason Batten     | RB/LB | 9   | 61 | Ethan Batton        | OL/LB | 9   |
| 5  | Landon Brown     | R/DB  | 10  | 25 | Gage Crosland    | WR/DB | 10  | 64 | Caden Tucker        | OL/DL | 9   |
| 6  | Timmy Arline     | R/DB  | 9   | 26 | Rashad McCreary  | RB/LB | 12  | 66 | David Cheney        | OL/DL | 12  |
| 7  | Marquez Taylor   | RB/DB | 12  | 27 | Martez Teague    | R/LB  | 10  | 67 | Jacob Smith         | OL/DL | 10  |
| 8  | Brady Brewer     | WR/LB | 11  | 30 | Dalton Hatley    | TE/LB | 11  | 72 | Cameron Flippin     | OL/DL | 11  |
| 9  | Jake Cassidy     | TE/LB | 11  | 34 | Ty Anderson      | TE/LB | 12  | 73 | Ryan Toombs         | OL/DL | 9   |
| 11 | Jackson Cassidy  | QB/DB | 12  | 47 | Jakob Grgic      | TE/LB | 12  | 74 | Jose Luna           | OL/DL | 12  |
| 12 | Colt Norden      | RB/DB | 10  | 50 | Ace Fisher       | OL/DB | 11  | 77 | Daniel Latimer      | OL/DL | 12  |
| 13 | Stafford Roditis | WR/DB | 11  | 51 | Craegen Travis   | OL/DL | 10  | 83 | Matthew Garriott    | WR/DB | 12  |
| 14 | Tate Surber      | QB/DB | 10  | 52 | Elijah Edmonson  | OL/DL | 12  |    |                     |       |     |
| 15 | Drew Chappell    | RB/LB | 11  | 54 | Davarion Gilbert | RB/LB | 9   |    |                     |       |     |

|                                 |                |         |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Aug. 19                         | @ Huntingdon   | W 34-12 |
| Aug. 26                         | Chester Co.    | W 49-28 |
| Sept. 2                         | South Fulton   | W 54-6  |
| Sept. 9                         | Obion Co.      | W 54-6  |
| Sept. 16                        | @ Perry Co.    | W 56-0  |
| Sept. 22                        | @ West Carroll | W 51-0  |
| Sept. 30                        | @ Dresden      | W 40-7  |
| Oct. 7                          | Gleason *      | W 56-0  |
| Oct. 14                         | OPEN           |         |
| Oct. 21                         | Bruceton       | W 49-0  |
| Oct. 28                         | @ McEwen       | W 21-6  |
| Nov. 4                          | Wayne County   | W 63-0  |
| Nov. 11                         | Moore County   | W 56-21 |
| Nov. 18                         | Fayetteville   | W 20-18 |
| Nov. 25                         | @ MASE         | W 34-0  |
| Dec. 2                          | Clay Co.       | W 34-14 |
| Division I - 1A State Champions |                |         |



High School Coaches (L to R): Assistant Alex Hayes, Assistant Trey Cantrell, Assistant David Duncan, Head Coach Wade Comer, Assistant Kentrell Diggs, Assistant Dylan Benson, Assistant Randy Thomas and Assistant Nick Cobb.



Managers: Alyse Lowe, Taniyah Diggs and Jaylean McGaw.



ZACH AIRD

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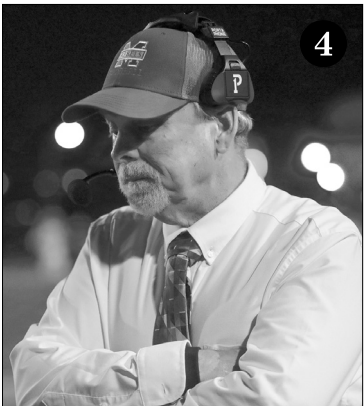
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ALLEGION

A5456/49-1



GAME 14 — MCKENZIE 34 MASE 0



1. Marquez Taylor scores a touchdown for the Rebels. 2. Landon Brown and other Rebels tackle a MASE ball carrier. 3. Jackson Cassidy rushes for yardage past MASE defenders. 4. Coach Wade Comer on the sideline. He led his team to the championship round. Photos by Tammy Graves

McKenzie Routs MASE in Semi-Finals, Advances to Championship

MEMPHIS (November 25) — McKenzie Rebels fans had Thanksgiving twice following the Friday, November 25 victory over Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering. The semi-final championship round was not much of a contest for the Rebels, 14-0, as they claimed a 34-0 victory over the Memphis team.

With the victory, McKenzie earned a return trip to the Class 1A championship game in Chattanooga scheduled for Friday, December

2, 2 p.m. CST at Finley Stadium against Clay County, 13-1.

McKenzie controlled the whole game and gave younger players valuable field time in the fourth quarter.

Marquez Taylor scored first at the 7:29 mark in the first quarter. Zach Aird added the PAT for a 7-0 lead.

Quarterback Jackson Cassidy scored on a 11-yard run at the 3:50 mark. It was followed by a failed two-point conversion.

Taylor scored again at the

2:26 mark and Aird added the PAT to make the score 20-0 in the first quarter.

Cassidy again scored on a 44-yard run in the second quarter and Aird added the PAT for a score of 27-0.

Taylor added the final touchdown on a four-yard run in the third quarter. Aird added the PAT for a 34-0 score, which was the final score of the game.

Jackson Cassidy had 51 passing yards, 80 rushing yards, and two rushing touchdowns. Cassidy was

five of eight on passing with the longest being 22 yards.

MASE's Demetrious Visor had 9 passing yards on four completions of 18 attempts.

Marquez Taylor had 32 receiving yards for the Rebels.

Kumaro Brown had 70 rushing yards to lead the MASE team.

MHS rushing included: Taylor, 11 carries for 59 yards and two TDs; Rashad McCreary, four carries for 54 yards; Etijay Tharpe, one carry for 9 yards; Brady Brewer 3 carries for -2 yards.

MASE rushing included: Kumaro Brown, 13 carries for 70 yards. The remainder of the team had 30 yards.

MHS receiving included: Taylor, three for 32 yards; Aird, two for 19.

MASE receiving included K. Brown, 1 for -2 yards; the remainder of the team had three receptions for 11 yards.

MHS tackles included: Jackson Cassidy, 7 and 2 assists; Tate Surber, 3 and 1 assist; Landon Brown, 3; Colt Norden, 2; Brady Brewer, 1;

Drew Chappell, 1; Camden Allison, 1; Jake Cassidy, 1; David Cheney, 1; Stafford Roditis, 1; remainder of team, 5;

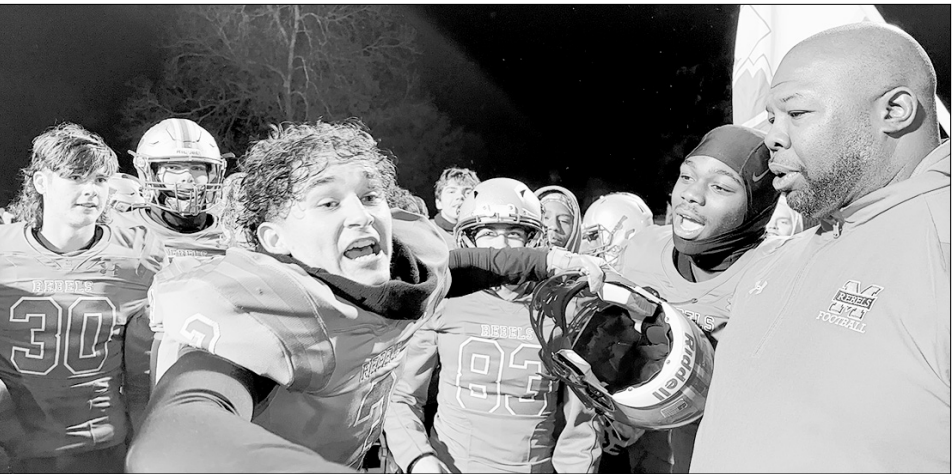
MASE had a total of six tackles.

MHS had two interceptions; Jackson Cassidy had 1 and Rashad McCreary had 1.

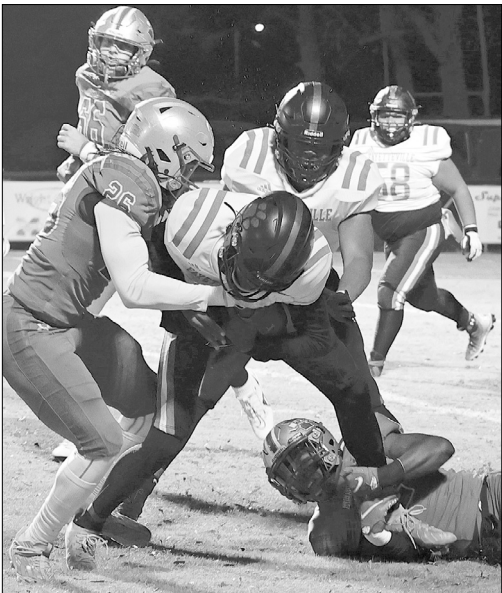
Kickoffs for MHS were five for S. Roditis for 251 yards; Z. Aird, 1 for 45 yards.

MHS had 3 punts by Roditis with an average of 33 yards.

GAME 13 — MCKENZIE 20 FAYETTEVILLE 18



Top Left, Zach Aird boots the winning field goal with just four seconds remaining. Tate Surber held the ball. Above Right, Aird (#3) celebrated in the post-game gathering on the field. Below Left, Rashad McCreary makes a tackle. Below Center, QB Jackson Cassidy looks for a receiver before rushing down field in the waning moments of the contest. Below Right, Marquez Taylor rushes for the Rebels.



Rebels Advance to Semi-Finals

MCKENZIE (November 18) — McKenzie Rebels (13-0) advance to the semi-final round of the Class 1A football playoffs after an impressive 20-18 win over Fayetteville at Rebel Stadium. The Rebels met an outstanding team from Fayetteville, who matched the Rebels in skill on the play-

ing field in this third round of playoffs. Rebel fans showed up and cheered for their home team despite the temperatures in the upper 20s.

The Rebels controlled the scoreboard until 8:19 in the fourth quarter, when Fayetteville went ahead on a 14-yard touchdown pass.

The two-point conversion failed and the score stood at 20-18. Faced with a win or go home situation, the Rebels found a way to win with the seasoned players.

Wade Comer, head coach for McKenzie, said he had confidence in his senior leadership to find a way to win. With runs and passes,

QB Jackson Cassidy advanced his team within field goal range. With just seconds remaining and as the clock ticked down to 4 seconds, Comer called for a timeout. It was Zach Aird's talent as a kicker that the Rebels depended.

Already witnessing Aird's 40-yard field goal in the first half, Fayetteville decided to try to ice Aird by calling a timeout. The first successful kick did not

count because of the last second timeout. So with Tate Surber holding, Aird booted the winning 20-yard field goal advancing the Rebels to the semi-final round.

Coach Comer said Zach has ice in his veins.

Not only was that the winning kick, it was Aird's 100th point of the season. At the post-game, mid-field gathering, Comer reminded the players, cheerleaders

and fans that there is one more game to get back to Chattanooga, where the state championship is Friday, December 3 at 3 p.m. EST. The team celebrated their win, praised Aird, and prayed the Lord's Prayer.

The game was won with the true tenacity of the Rebels. It was a culmination of passing, blocking and tackles that led to the win.

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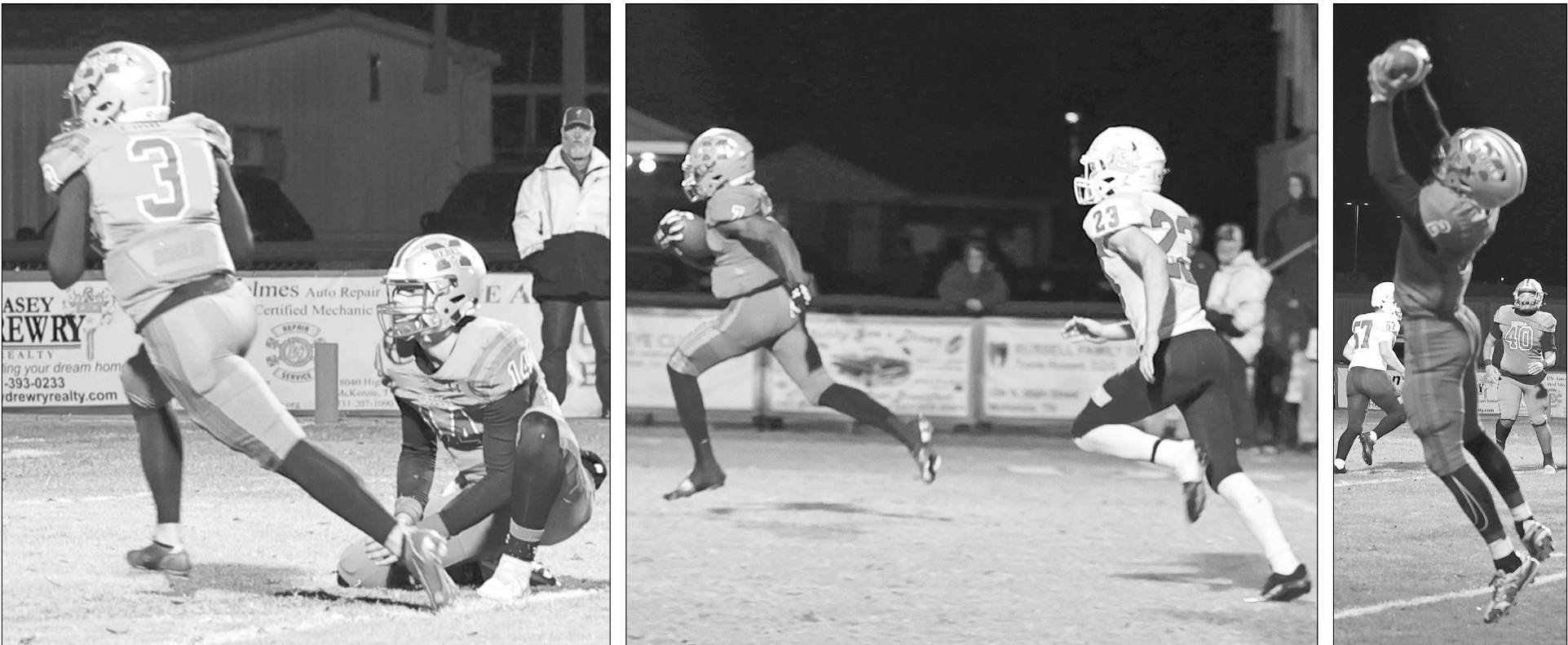
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GAME 12 — MCKENZIE 56 MOORE COUNTY 21



Above Left, A fake point-after led Zach Aird (#3) to a 2-point conversion. When his progress stalled, his fellow team mates successfully pushed him into the end zone. Tate Surber (#14), who holds for the PAT, watches as Aird moves forward. Above Center, A common sight — Marquez Taylor runs past his defenders for a TD. Above Right, Camden Allison intercepts a Moore County pass. Below Left, Rashad McCreary tackles Moore County’s quarterback. Below Right, At the half, McKenzie Banking Company representatives Shawna Fowler and Lisa Stewart present a \$2,000 check to McKenzie High School Principal Kelly Spivey.



# McKenzie Rebels Advance to Quarterfinals, Defeat Moore County

McKENZIE (November 11) — McKenzie Rebels are 12-0 on the season after their defeat of Moore County on Friday, November 11. Moore County struck first with a 16-yard pass from QB Dawson White to Will Baker with 45 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Blake Bradford added the PAT for the 7-0 lead.

Just twenty seconds later, McKenzie Quarterback Jackson Cassidy scored on a 65-yard run. Zach Aird added the PAT to tie the game at 7 points.

Moore County’s Baker scored on a 7-yard pass from White and Bradford added the PAT at the 7:09 mark in the second quarter. Again, 18 seconds later, McKenzie scored with Marquez Taylor on a 63-yard run to make the score 13-14.

Taylor scored twice more in the second quarter on a 19-yard run. Aird had a two-point conversion, and Taylor followed with a 23-yard pass from Cassidy and Aird added the PAT for a 28-14 lead going into the half.

In the third quarter, Cassidy had a 31-yard run for a TD and Aird a PAT. Marquez Taylor had a 65-yard run for a TD and Aird added the PAT for 42-14 score.

In the fourth quarter, White had a two-yard TD run for Moore County and Bradford added the PAT for a 42-21 score. The last two touchdowns were by Taylor on a 47-yard run and Etijay Tharpe on a 35-yard interception return. Aird added the PATs for both fourth-quarter TDs.

McKenzie ran 27 plays compared to Moore County’s 79. Total yards were 417 for McKenzie and 340 for Moore County. McKenzie had 320 rushing yards and 97 passing.

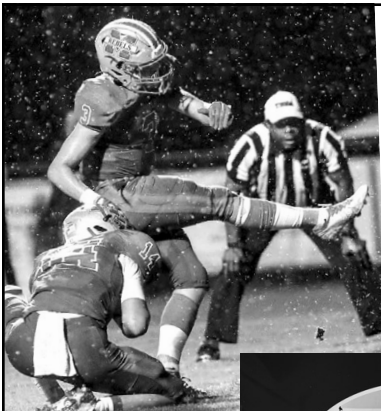
Cassidy was 7 of 10 on passing for 97 yards and 1 TD. Dalton White (Moore Co) was 14 of 25 on passing for 159 yards and 2 TDs and 2 interceptions.

Taylor had 11 rushes for 219 yards and four TDs. Jackson Cassidy had one rush for 31 yards and a TD.

MHS receiving was Taylor, two for 49 yards; Zay Webber, 2 for 31 yards and Zach Aird 1 for 4 yards.

MHS tackles were Rashad McCreary with 8 and 3 assists; Jackson Cassidy 7 and 1 assist; Drew Chappell 7; Tate Surber 5, 3 assists and 1 sack; Camden Allison 5; M. Taylor 4, Etijay Tharpe 3; Brady Brewer 1, Z. Webber 1 and 1 assist; David Cheney 1 and 1 assist; Daniel Latimer 1 and 1 assist; KaDarius Cunningham 1 and 1 assist; Jose Luna 1; Stafford Roditis 1; Jake Cassidy, 1 assist; Ace Fisher 1 assist; Landon Brown 1 assist.

Z. Aird had six PATs and one kickoff. Stafford Roditis 8 kickoffs for 400 yards and two punts; Jackson Cassidy 1 for 11 yards.



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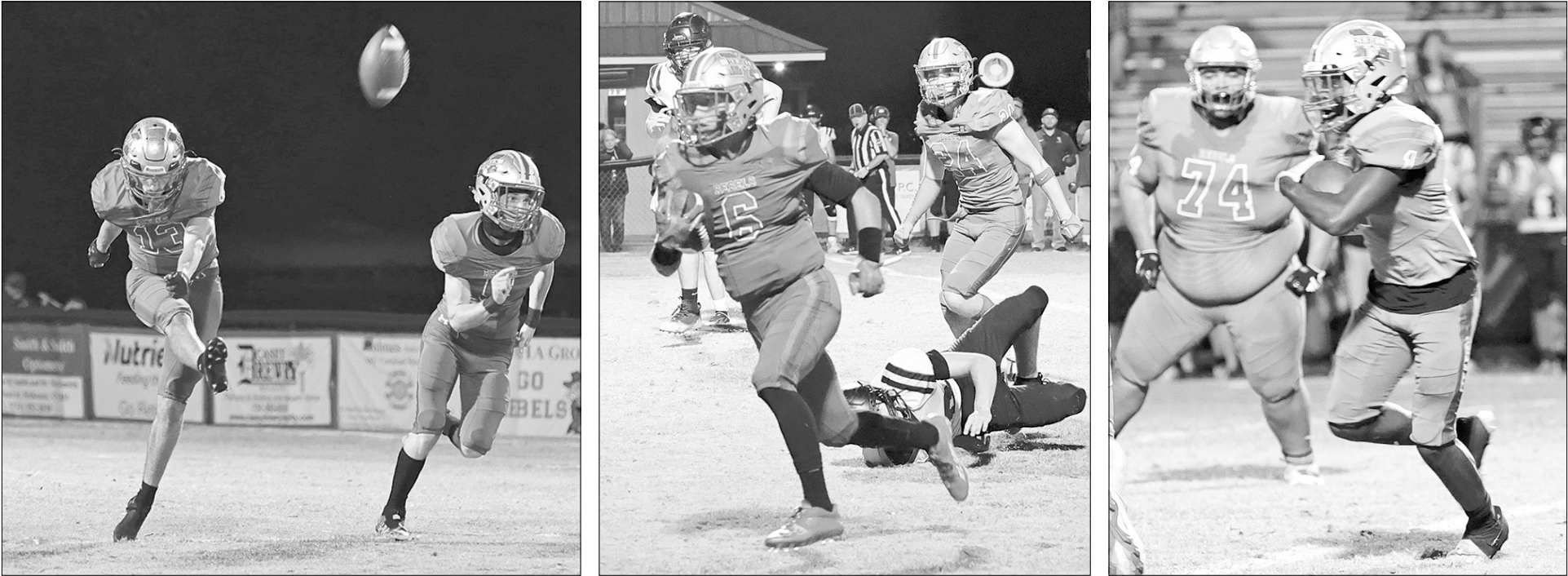
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GAME 11 — MCKENZIE 63 WAYNE COUNTY 0



Left, Stafford Roditis had nine kickoffs in the game against Wayne County. Center, Tim Arline makes a 28-yard run for a TD. Right, Etijay Tharpe scores on a 74-yard rush.

McKenzie Defeats Wayne County in First Round of Playoff

MCKENZIE (November 4) — McKenzie Rebels defeated Wayne County 63-0 in the first round of the Class 1A football playoffs at Rebel Stadium on November 4. McKenzie had 181 passing yards by Cassidy, 162 yards rushing by Taylor, and 138 yards receiving by Taylor. McKenzie ran 36 plays for 516 yards, had 181 passing yards, 335 rushing yards including 162 by Taylor, 74 by Tharpe, 45 by Jackson Cassidy, 17 by McCreary, and 7 by Brady Brewer. Wayne County completed two of six passes for 15 yards and 1 interception. MHS tackles included: Drew Chappell for five tackles and one assist; David Cheney with 4 tackles and 1 assist; Jackson Cassidy with 3 tackles; McCreary with 3 tackles; Landon Brown with 3 tackles; Ace Fisher with 3 tackles; Zach Aird with 1. E. Tharpe with 1; Camden Allison with 1 tackle with one assist; Daniel Latimer with 1 tackle and 1 assist; and Zay Webber with 1 tackle. Kicker Stafford Roditis had 9 kickoffs for 490 total yards and Z. Aird had 1 kickoff for 60 yards and a touchback.

GAME 10 — MCKENZIE 21 MCEWEN 6

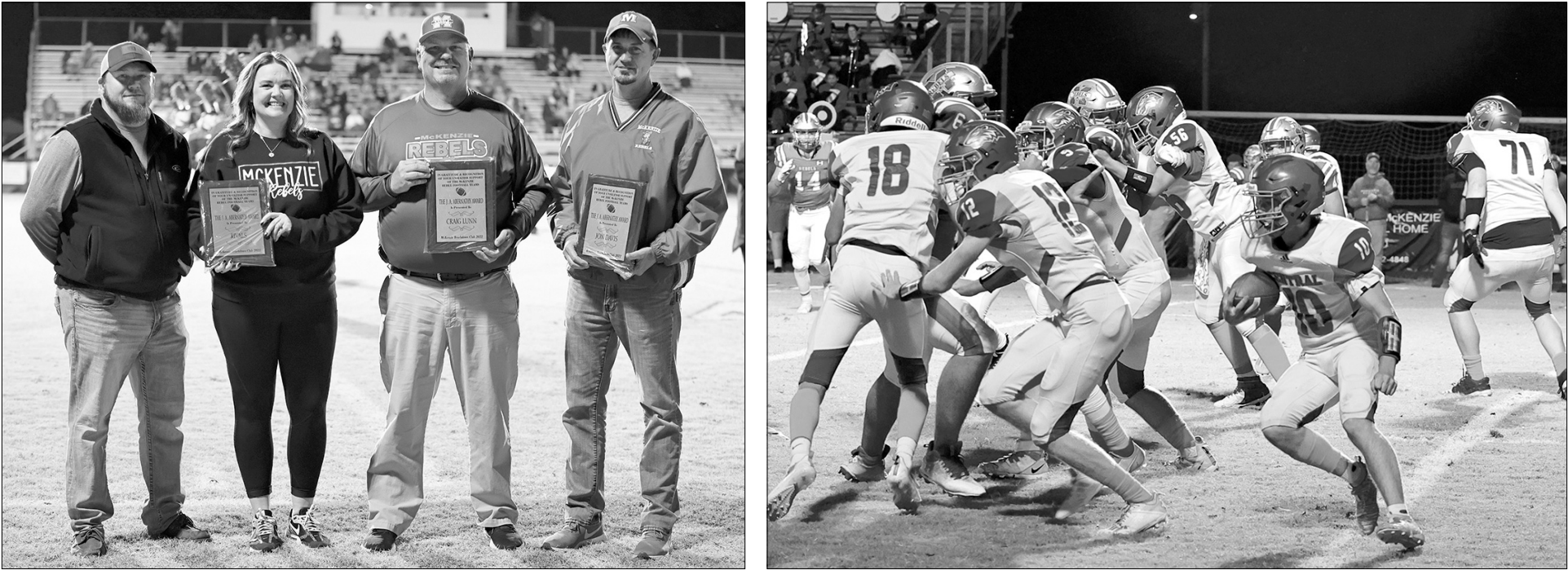
McKenzie Finishes Regular Season Undeclared

MCEWEN — McKenzie's Rebels made the trip into Middle Tennessee to face McEwen in the final regional and regular contest of the season. The Rebels ran into a loud crowd and suspect officiating, but still were able to take care of business winning 21-6 and finishing their second straight regular season without a loss. Despite McEwen running almost three times as many plays as McKenzie, it was the Rebels that made better use of their possessions in the game. Neither team scored in the opening quarter of the game. McKenzie drew first blood in the second quarter when Marquez Taylor got loose for a 58-yard touchdown romp. Zach Aird was good on the PAT for a 7-0 Rebel lead. McKenzie outgained McEwen 228 to 214 with Jackson Cassidy throwing for 144 of those yards. The Rebels rushed for 84 yards on the night. Marquez Taylor rushed 7 times for 104 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Zach Aird, Stafford Roditis, and Drew Chappell caught passes for the Rebels. Defensively, Rashad McCreary led the way with 10 tackles while Zach Aird and Tate Surber had five tackles each for McKenzie. A number of other Rebels recorded tackles during the contest as the defense totaled 35 tackles.

GAME 9 — MCKENZIE 49 HR-BRUCETON 0



Above Left, McKenzie High School seniors and their parents were honored during pre-game ceremonies. Seniors include: #1 Etijay Tharpe, #2 Camden Allison, #3 Zach Aird, #4 Zay Webber, #7 Marquez Taylor, #11 Jackson Cassidy, #26 Rashad McCreary, #34 Ty Anderson, #47 Jakob Grgic, #52 Elijah Edmonson, #60 Hunter Harvey, #66 David Cheney, #74 Jose Luna, #77 Daniel Latimer, and #83 Matthew Garriott. Cheerleader was Alajah Gilbert, and Marching Rebels Grace Seiber and Amya Gilbert. Above Right, Zay Webber scores a touchdown after intercepting a pass. Below Left, J.A. Abernathy Award — Luke and Erica Rawls of Rivals Sports Bar and Grill and Craig Lunn and Jon Davis all receive the J.A. Abernathy Award from George Cassidy, president of the McKenzie Touchdown Club. Below Right, #10 Tiger, Preston Hollingsworth, finds running room as he works his way around the end.



Rebels Are 9-0 After Defeat of Tigers

MCKENZIE (October 21) — McKenzie Rebels are 9-0 on the season after its 49-0 defeat of the Hollow Rock-Bruceton Tigers at Rebel Stadium last Friday. It was the Rebels last home game in the regular season and the seniors were honored during pre-game ceremonies. In the Friday night contest, McKenzie Rebels scored four touchdowns in the first quarter with Zay Webber on a 16-yard pass from QB Jackson Cassidy, Zach Aird on a 25-yard pass from Cassidy, Webber on a 23-yard pass from Cassidy, and Marquez Taylor on a 76-yard pass from Cassidy. In the second quarter, Cassidy on a QB keeper, trotted into the end zone on a seven-yard rush followed by a 7-yard rushing touchdown by Marquez Taylor. Zay Webber added the final touchdown in the third quarter on a 23-yard interception return. Senior Zach Aird was perfect on seven point-after touchdown kicks adding seven points. Cassidy was six for eight on passing for 127 yards and three touchdowns. Tate Surber was one for one on passing for 15 yards. Taylor had 6 rushes for 165 yards and two touchdowns. His longest rush was 76 yards. Etijay Tharpe had 3 carries for 36 yards, Brady Brewer had 5 carries for 14 yards, Jake Cassidy had 1 carry for 7 yards, and Colt Norden had 2 carries for 4 yards. McKenzie High School tackles included Aird with 2, Rashad McCreary with 2, Jackson Cassidy with 1, Tate Surber with 1 and two assists, Dalton Hatley with 1 and 1 assist, Camden Allison with 1, Mason Batten with 1, David Cheney with one assist, Daniel Latimer with 1, Landon Brown with 1 assist. Stafford Roditis had 5 kickoffs for 268 yards with the longest single kick at 60 yards and one touchback. Zach Aird had 3 kickoffs for 164 yards with the longest at 58 yards. The Rebels have dominated their regular season opponents, thanks, in part, to a senior-heavy squad. In some contests, the Rebels' opponents were kept to negative rushing yards. That was not the case for the Tigers, who attained 52 rushing yards and 53 receiving yards.

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GAME 8 — MCKENZIE 56 GLEASON 0



Above Left, Gleason’s Garrett Pinkston carries the ball as Ace Fisher makes the tackle. Above Right, Zach Aird boots one of his eight point-after-touchdown points. Below Left, Zay Webber scored four touchdowns.



# Rebels are 8-0 After Win Over Gleason

MCKENZIE (October 7) — McKenzie claimed a 56-0 victory over visiting Gleason on Friday, October 7 and the Rebels moved to 8-0 on the season and 4-0 in the region.

The powerful Class 1A home team dominated the contest from the beginning, but to Gleason’s credit, the team had positive yardage, unlike the Rebels’ opponents in the previous two weeks.

Zay Webber had four of the eight touchdowns. The Rebels scored three touchdowns in the first quarter; Zay Webber on a 40-yard pass-rush from QB Jackson Cassidy; Webber on a 60-yard pass-rush from QB Cassidy, and Marquez Taylor on a 37-yard pass-rush.

McKenzie had 31 total plays, 416 total yards, 280 passing yards and 136 rushing yards.

Gleason had 45 plays for 105 yards, of which 12 were passing yards. Kyzer Crochet is the Gleason QB.

On rushing, Marquez Taylor had 65 rushing yards and 1 TD; Jackson Cassidy had 2 carries for 35 yards, Brady Brewer had 6 carries for 17 yards and a TD.

MHS receiving included Webber with 4 for 183 yards and 4 TDs; D. Hatley had 1 for 51 yards and a TD; Landon Brown had 1 for 21 yards; Z. Aird had 1 carry for 13 yards; and S. Roditis had 1 reception for 10 yards and a TD.

MHS tackles include Hatley with 4 and one assist; L. Brown with two; Drew Chapell with 2 and one assist; Daniel Latimer with 2 tackles and one assist; Jake Cassidy with two tackles; Ace Fisher with two tackles, one sack for a loss; Jackson Cassidy 1 tackle and 1 assist; Tate Surber with 1 tackle; M. Taylor had 1 tackle; E. Tharpe had 1, Mason Batten had 1 and 1 assist; David Cheney with 1 tackle and 1 assist; M. Teague had 1 tackle;

Stafford Roditis had one punt for 40 yards for the Rebels, and Aiden Legens had 5 punts for an average of 39 yards.

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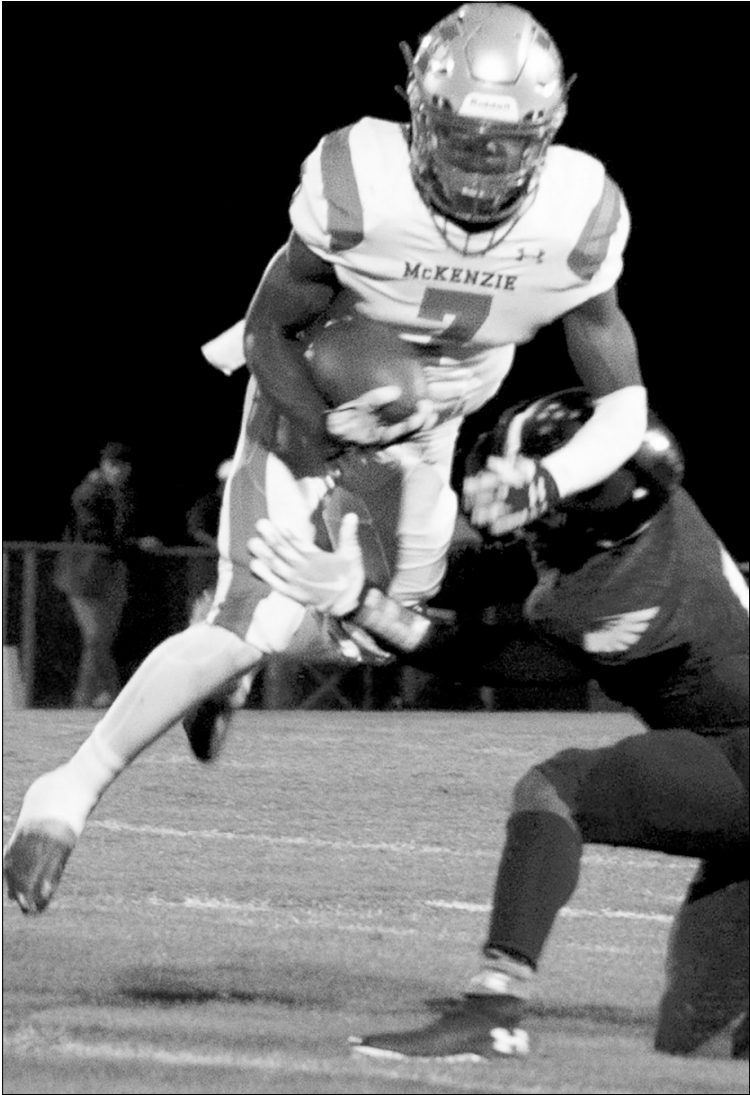
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**and Staff**



GAME 7 — MCKENZIE 40 DRESDEN 7



Left, Jackson Cassidy (11) gets some of his 151 rushing yards. Center, Marquez Taylor goes airborne against a Lion defender. Right, Rashad McCreary finds running room against the Lions. Photos by Jim Potts and Jessa Potts/The Banner

Rebels Tame Lions in Region Match-up

DRESDEN (September 30) — In a much talked about region contest, McKenzie’s Rebels defeated the Dresden Lions 40-7 to take command of the Region 6A lead. Jackson Cassidy and Marquez Taylor both had a big night against the Lions.

The Rebels won the coin toss and elected to defer to the second half so Dresden got the ball first to start the game. It was the Lions who struck first two plays after receiving the kickoff when Dresden scored on a 92-yard touchdown play

with the extra point good for a brief 7-0 lead. The McKenzie defense spoke loud and clear in this contest holding an opponent to negative yardage running the football. Dresden was -3 yards rushing while West Carroll was -9

yards rushing the previous game. The Rebels did give up 146 yards passing and a score, but allowed no first downs on third down plays. The Rebel offense was dominating pounding out 295 yards rushing and 178 passing yards. Jackson

Cassidy had a big game completing 13-21 passes for 178 yards and a touchdown while giving up two interceptions. Cassidy also had 11 carries for 151 yards and two touchdowns. Marquez Taylor ran 23 times for 131 yards and a pair of touch-

downs. Tate Surber recorded four tackles including a sack and two tackles for loss While Drew Chappell had two tackles and two assisted tackles along with a sack and two tackles for loss.

GAME 6 — MCKENZIE 51 WEST CARROLL 0



Left, Zach Aird (3) heads for a TD after a catch. Center, Tate Surber (14) picks up yards against the War Eagles. Right, West Carroll’s Jay Long finds running room against the Rebels. Photos by Jessa Potts

Rebels Defeat War Eagles

ATWOOD (September 25) — The McKenzie Rebels traveled to Atwood on a rare Thursday night contest due to a TSSAA ruling earlier this year requiring

schools to schedule at least one Thursday game to alleviate a shortage of game

officials. The Rebels were hitting on all cylinders in a 51-0 win over the War Eagles. Neither team crossed the 50-yard line the entire game. McKenzie’s defense kept West Carroll on their

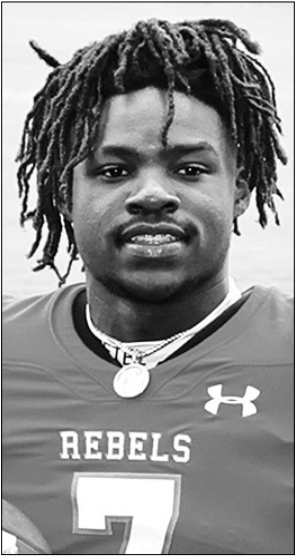
end of the field while the Rebel Offense camped out in the War Eagle end of the field all night. McKenzie exploded for 30 points in the first quarter setting the tone for the game. With a running clock

in the second half, McKenzie played a lot of different people with the remaining time left on the clock and secured the win. McKenzie improved to 6-0 on the season while West Carroll falls to 4-2 on the season.

GAME 5 — MCKENZIE 56 PERRY COUNTY 0

Rebels Blank Perry County in Region Contest

LINDEN (September 16) — McKenzie Rebels blanked Perry County Vikings in a Region 6-1A contest on Friday, September 16. The Rebels traveled 1.5 hours to the middle Tennessee town of Linden. The Rebels scored four unanswered touchdowns in the first quarter, and three in the second quarter leaving a halftime score of 49-0. The third quarter was scoreless and the Rebels scored once in the fourth to close the game with a score of 56-0. Marquez Taylor scored the first four touchdowns on runs of 48, 37, 45, and 39 yards respectively. Taylor added two TDs in the second quarter on runs of 6 and 32 yards. Etijay Tharpe had the final TD of the first half with a 10-yard run. Zach Aird boot eight point-after-touchdown (PATs) to continue his perfect, record-break-



Marquez Taylor

ing season with PATs. The final score was by Landon Brown on a 45-yard pass from QB Tate Surber with Aird kicking the PAT. MHS rushing included:

Taylor with eight carries for 222 yards and 6 touchdowns, which ties a MHS record for touchdowns in a single game. Etijay Tharpe had 41 yards rushing and one TD, Rashad McCreary had 16 yards, Brady Brewer had 14 yards, Drew Chappell had 10 yards, quarterback Jackson Cassidy had 7 yards rushing. MHS receiving included Landon Brown for 1 reception for 45 yards and a TD. Stafford Roditis had 2 receptions for 23 yards and Zay Webber had 1 reception for 11 yards. Tackles made include: Ace Fisher with 3, Dalton Hatley with 2, Camden Allison with 2, Drew Chappell with 1, Landon Brown with 1, Roditis with 1, E. Edmonson with 1, and Colt Norden with 1. Stafford Roditis had 8 kickoffs for a total of 410 yards.

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GAME 4 — MCKENZIE 49 OBION COUNTY 14



Above Left, Landon Brown hauls in a Tate Surber pass. It was negated by a penalty. Above Right, Camden Allison (#2) scores for the MHS Rebels. Below Left, Zay Webber (#4) missed a pass due to pass interference on an Obion Central defender. Below Right, Brady Brewer rushes for yardage against the Obion County Rebels. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



# McKenzie Rebels Claim Win Over Obion County

McKENZIE (September 9) — McKenzie Rebels are 4-0 after defeating the Obion County Rebels 49-14 on Randy Thomas Field on Friday, September 9. The senior-heavy MHS Rebels controlled the game on offense and defense, leaving the visitors feeling the strength of the 2021 Class

1A runners-up. McKenzie had 49 plays 290 yards of which was 105 passing from Jackson Cassidy and Tate Surber, 185 yards rushing, 16 first downs. Obion County had 43 plays, 116 yards of which 74 were passing and 42 rushing and eight first downs.

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GAME 3 — MCKENZIE 56 SOUTH FULTON 6



Left, Brady Brewer and Rashad McCreary tackle South Fulton’s Dallas Whitehead on a run. Right, Rebel Zay Webber #4 strips an interception from #5 Hunt Pipkin of South Fulton for a 37-yard pass reception from Tate Surber to Webber.

McKenzie Defeats South Fulton on Homecoming

MCKENZIE (September 2) — McKenzie Rebels easily captured a victory over the visiting South Fulton Red Devils on Friday and now stand at 3-0 on the season.

Jackson Cassidy was five for five on passing with 155 yards and two touchdowns. Tate Surber was six for 10 on passing for 105 yards.

South Fulton’s McFarland was eight for 16 on passing for 133 yards.

McKenzie had 39 total plays for 474 total yards, 261 passing and 213 rushing. South Fulton had 46 plays for 161 yards, 133 passing and 28 rushing.

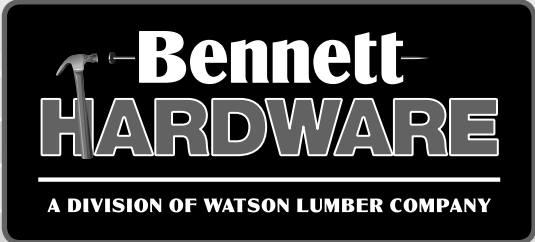
Rushing for the Rebels

includes M. Taylor with 6 for 127 yards and 3 TDs; E. Tharpe with 1 rush for 56 yards and 1 TD.; Brady Brewer with 4 rushes for 10 yards; Colt Norden for 1 rush for 6 yards; Tate Surber 2 rushes for 4 yards.

MHS receiving was: Z. Webber 4 receptions for 119 yards one 1 TD; Z. Aird with 3 receptions and 91 yards and 1 TD; Stafford Roditis, who provided many of the kickoffs, had one reception for 18 yards. C. Norden had 1 reception for 14 yards; Dalton Hatley had 1 reception for 13 yards; and Jake Cassidy had 1 reception for 6 yards.



McKenzie Cheerleaders include: Janai Tabada, Emmy McMullin, Laila Scott, Brett Toombs, Ava Jones, Macey Mayo, Parker Lyons, Belle O'Brien, Ava Warman, Reese Gallimore, Alajah Gilbert and Sykelor DeLoach.



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GAME 2 — MCKENZIE 49 CHESTER COUNTY 28



# McKenzie Victorious Over Chester County

MCKENZIE (August 26) — McKenzie Rebels dominated the visiting Chester County Eagles at Rebel Stadium on Friday, August 26. A deep arsenal of running backs, receivers, with the leadership of a seasoned and accurate quarterback in senior Jackson Cassidy provided the Rebels with the scoring power needed to win the non-district contest, 49-28.

McKenzie's Marquez Taylor had 219 yards and 4 touchdowns, and an inter-

ception at the end zone. Colt Norden had two touchdowns and quarterback Jackson Cassidy had a 42-yard run for a touchdown. Zach Aird had 7 PATs.

In passing, Cassidy was 8 of 14 for 218 yards and Tate Surber's one pass for 37 yards.

In rushing, Taylor had 219 yards, Norden, 66; Cassidy 47, and Brady Brewer 10.

David Cheney and Marquez Taylor each had an interception.



Above Left, #14 Tate Surber disrupts an Eagles pass by Judiaz Prather resulting in a recovery by #66 David Cheney. Above Right, #12 Colt Norden makes a pass reception from QB Jackson Cassidy. Far Left, McKenzie Band Field Commander Caidenz Nunnery. Left, #7 Marquez Taylor receives a pass from Jackson Cassidy. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

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**GAME 1 — MCKENZIE 34 HUNTINGDON 12**



Above Left, McKenzie's Marquez Taylor (#7) breaks free on the opening kickoff for an 85-yard touchdown. Above Center, Rebel Zach Aird (#3) comes down with a touchdown catch. Above Right, Huntingdon's Gray Eubanks (#9) drives through a throng of McKenzie Rebels for the touchdown. Below Left, McKenzie's Drew Chappell (#15) takes down Huntingdon's Meal Leavitt (#6). Below Right, The McKenzie and Huntingdon flag corps stand together during the Star Spangled Banner. *Photos By Joel Washburn/The Banner*

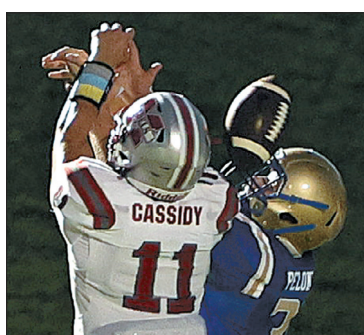


# Rebels Dominate Mustangs in Season Opener

HUNTINGDON (August 19) — The 2022 season for the McKenzie Rebels started with a bang Friday night as the Rebels picked up a 34-12 week one win over in-county rival Huntingdon. In their 92nd meeting, McKenzie's speed on both sides of the ball left Huntingdon in search of an answer.

Huntingdon ran 67 plays to McKenzie's 31. The Rebels accumulated 312 offensive yards, 173 in the air and 139 on the ground. The Mustangs had 144 yards rushing and 95 yards passing. Huntingdon had 12 first-downs to McKenzie's nine.

Both teams had eight penalties with McKen-



Left, McKenzie Senior quarterback and defensive back Jackson Cassidy (#11) breaks up a Huntingdon pass to C.J. Pelonero (#36). Right, The McKenzie and Huntingdon High School bands came together at the start of the game to perform the National Anthem. *Photos By Joel Washburn/The Banner*



zie assessed 61 yards and  
Huntingdon called for 42  
yards.

Jackson Cassidy was eight for 13 passing with

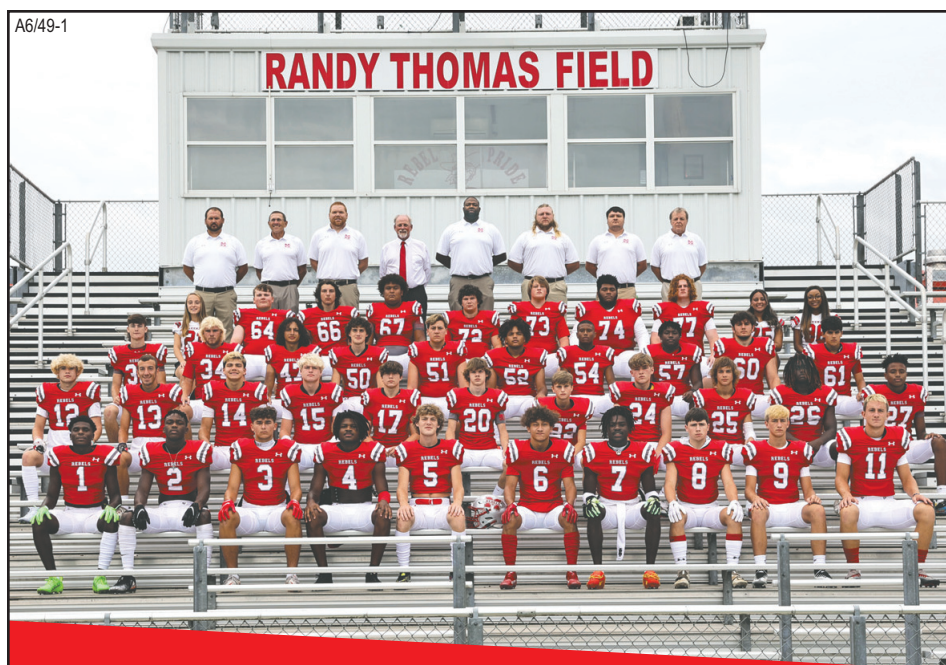
two touchdowns. Leading receivers for McKenzie were Zay Webber had three catches for 105 yards and one touchdown; Zach

Aird had one catch for 33 yards and one touchdown; Marquez Taylor had three catches for 29 yards; Drew Chappell had one catch for

six yards.

Leading the Rebel rushing attack was Cassidy with four carries totaling 74 yards and one touchdown.

Taylor had carried the ball seven times for 35 yards and Etijay Tharpe had two carries for 30 yards.



Congratulations  
McKenzie Rebels!

*Job well done  
Daniel Latimer!*



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# Congratulations on a great season, Rebels!



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