

# FOOTBALL

## 2021



THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

**GOOD LUCK  
TO ALL  
AREA TEAMS!**



PHILADELPHIA-SECURITY INSURANCE  
*All Forms of Insurance*

802 Kosciusko Road  
- Philadelphia -  
601-656-4401  
www.philasec.com

**GOOD  
LUCK!**

**We want to wish  
all of our area  
teams a successful  
2021 season.**



**PHILADELPHIA AUTO SALES**

261 W Beacon St • Philadelphia, MS 39350 • 601-650-0020  
WWW.PHILLYAUTOSALES.COM

**Help us celebrate  
our area High School  
Bands & Cheer Squads  
this coming season.**



**BAND &  
CHEER  
2021!**

**Contact us today to reserve your space in  
this popular special section!**

Joy Stewart, 601-500-0746 • joy@neshobademocrat.com

Henley Wilson, 769-233-6985 • henley@neshobademocrat.com

**THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT**



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL  
OF OUR AREA TEAMS!**

We hope you  
have a safe &  
wonderful  
season.



*Since 1934*  
*General Contractors*

242 W BEACON ST • PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350 • PHONE: (601) 656-4283

**GOOD LUCK  
THIS SEASON**

TO ALL OF OUR AREA FOOTBALL TEAMS

**YATES**  
BUILDING SUPPLY

406 S. LEWIS AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, MS  
601.656.3065



**WANT THE BEST  
PRE-GAME MEAL OF  
THE SEASON?**

*Try our new items!*

Call Denise for help planning your  
next party or event! 601-750-1685

*Good Luck to all of our area teams!*



**THE  
JUNCTION**  
CONVENIENCE REDEFINED



Philadelphia • Carthage • Newton • Macon • Oxford • Ridgeland • Union • Scooba • Louisville





# INJURIES HAPPEN.

Some injuries require surgery and some require therapy. Some injuries require both. We are proud to say, Neshoba General offers both specialties...*right here on your home turf.*

**NESHOBA OUTPATIENT THERAPY**  
205 East Hospital Rd. • 601.663.1480

**NESHOBA ORTHOPEDIC SERVICES**  
2nd Floor of Neshoba General • 601.663.1200



DEDICATED TO  
**EXCELLENCE**  
IN HEALTHCARE

1001 HOLLAND AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA, MS • 601.663.1200 • WWW.NESHOBAGENERAL.COM

Neshoba County General Hospital - Nursing Home complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. / ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al (601) 663-1200. / CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số (601) 663-1200.



WE WANT TO SAY  
**GOOD LUCK**  
TO ALL OF OUR AREA FOOTBALL  
TEAMS THIS SEASON.



**CARTHAGE DISTRICT - HEADQUARTERS**  
107 EAST MAIN STREET  
CARTHAGE, MS 39051  
(601) 267-5671

**PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT**  
1045 HOLLAND AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350  
(601) 656-2601

**RANKIN DISTRICT**  
653 HOLLY BUSH ROAD  
BRANDON, MS 39047  
(601) 829-1201

**SEBASTOPOL DISTRICT**  
16387 HIGHWAY 21 S  
SEBASTOPOL, MS 39359  
(601) 625-7422

WWW.CENTRALEPA.COM

*Good Luck!*  
To all of our area Football  
teams this Season!



Community  
Development  
Partnership

*We Salute You!*

256 W. Beacon Street, • Philadelphia, MS  
601-656-1000 • www.neshoba.org

Chamber Industrial Development Main Street Tourism

**GOOD LUCK**  
TO ALL OF OUR AREA FOOTBALL  
TEAMS THIS FALL!

STOP BY AFTER  
**THE GAME!**



**SUBWAY**

595 EAST MAIN ST. - 601-656-6046  
1006 CENTRAL DR. - 601-389-0020  
INSIDE WALMART - 601-656-5200

# 2021 Football Schedules



## NESHOBA CENTRAL ROCKETS

Aug. 27 — Hernando W 32-16  
 Sept. 3 — at West Lauderdale  
 Sept. 10 — at Forest Hill \*  
 Sept. 17 — at Holmes County Central \*  
 Sept. 24 — at Provine \*  
 Oct. 1 — Canton \*  
 Oct. 8 — at Ridgeland \*  
 Oct. 15 — at Jim Hill \*  
 Oct. 22 — Vicksburg \*  
 Oct. 29 — Callaway \*  
 Nov. 5 — open  
 \*Region game 2-5A



## PHILADELPHIA TORNADOES

Aug. 27 — at Meridian High L 35-14  
 Sept. 3 — at Bay Springs  
 Sept. 10 — Leake Central  
 Sept. 17 — Winona  
 Sept. 24 — West Lauderdale  
 Oct. 1 — at Mize  
 Oct. 8 — at Nanih Waiya \*  
 Oct. 15 — Lake \*  
 Oct. 22 — at Kemper County \*  
 Oct. 29 — Newton High School \*  
 \*Region 5-2A game



## CHOCTAW CENTRAL WARRIORS

Aug. 27 — at Union L 39-13  
 Sept. 3 — at Cherokee, NC  
 Sept. 9 — Nanih Waiya  
 Sept. 17 — Lake  
 Sept. 24 — open  
 Oct. 1 — Kosciusko \*  
 Oct. 8 — at Louisville \*  
 Oct. 15 — at NE Lauderdale \*  
 Oct. 22 — West Lauderdale \*  
 Oct. 29 — at Leake Central \*  
 \*Region 4-4A game



## UNION HIGH YELLOW JACKETS

Aug. 27 — Choctaw Central W 39-13  
 Sept. 3 — Scott Central  
 Sept. 10 — at Leake Academy  
 Sept. 17 — Newton County  
 Sept. 24 — at Choctaw County  
 Oct. 1 — SE Lauderdale (HC) \*  
 Oct. 8 — at Enterprise \*  
 Oct. 15 — at Forest \*  
 Oct. 22 — Clarkdale \*  
 Oct. 29 — at Morton \*  
 \*-Region 5-3A game



## LEAKE ACADEMY REBELS

Aug. 20 — Winston, W 35-7  
 Aug. 27 — Jackson Academy L 27-13  
 Sept. 3 — at Starkville  
 Sept. 10 — Union High School  
 Sept. 17 — at Simpson \*  
 Sept. 24 — PPCA \*  
 Oct. 1 — Madison St. Joseph \*  
 Oct. 8 — East Rankin \*  
 Oct. 15 — at Heritage  
 Oct. 22 — at Lamar \*  
 \*MISA District 5A 2 game

**WISHING ALL THE TEAMS  
ACROSS OUR AREA,  
GOOD LUCK!**



**FOOTBALL 2021**

SEBASTOPOL FINANCE

**WEAVER**   
TAX & ACCOUNTING LLC

**SEBASTOPOL:** 20 SOUTH STREET • 601.625.7778  
**WALNUT GROVE:** 109 CHADWICK AVENUE • 601.253.9363  
VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.WEAVERTAXSF.COM](http://WWW.WEAVERTAXSF.COM)

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR  
AREA TEAMS THIS SEASON**  
FROM ALL OF US AT ATWOOD PERSONAL CARE HOME.



**Personal Care for Your Loved One**

AMMENITIES: Private rooms | 3 home-style meals per day | Laundry and Housekeeping |  
Scheduled daily activities | 24-7 care by qualified staff | Assistance with daily living tasks |  
Medication assistance Individual emergency call system for each resident | Outdoor walking track |  
Both homes are managed by nurses and on call 24-7!



PHILADELPHIA: 101 PILOT ST. • 601-656-7394 | KOSCIUSKO: 328 GOODMAN ST. • 662-289-2547

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS  
ARE BACK!**

**Good Luck to  
all of our area  
teams across  
Neshoba County.**

*Your pets are in good hands  
at Northside Animal Clinic.*



**Northside Animal Clinic**

12130 Pecan Ave • Philadelphia, MS 39350  
(601) 656-4310

**BEST WISHES TO ALL AREA  
TEAMS FOR A GREAT 2021 SEASON!**

*Commercial Bank is a proud sponsor of local students athletes.*



**COMMERCIAL  
BANK**

DeKalb  
743-5871

Collinsville  
626-7070

Briarwood  
485-5500

Meridian  
696-8000

Philadelphia  
656-7775

Personal service. Professional solutions. | [www.commercialbankms.com](http://www.commercialbankms.com)





PHILADELPHIA

# TORNADOES



Members of the Philadelphia High School football team are, front row from left, No. 2 Darius Grady, No. 3 Patrick Miller, No. 4 Andrew Carter, No. 5 Austin Donald, No. 6 CJ Rush, No. 7 Jaderious Stephens, No. 8 Cameron Goss, No. 9 Dylan Graham, No. 10 Marcus Beamon, No. 11 Bernard Parker; second row from left, No. 12 Keathan Graham, No. 14 Camarion Grady, No. 15 Laydric Carter, No. 16 Destin McAfee, No. 17 Trey Posey, No. 18 Talmer Burnside, No. 20 Jamarion Grady, No. 21 Cole Dupree, No. 23 Chancellor Greer, No. 25 Adrian Luke; third row from left, No. 26 Imarion Black, No. 27 Jamarion Tatum, No. 28 Jamarion Boyd, No. 29 Douglass Young, No. 30 Jashawn Parker, No. 44 Andris Simmons, No. 50 Keiland Coburn, No. 51 Jacarey Clemons, No. 52 Quinton Beamon, No. 53 Connor Dupree; fourth row from left, No. 54 Kenterrius Everson, No. 56 Omarion Dodd, No. 57 Kenyon Brown, No. 60 Tennyson Jordan, No. 61 Jarden Sanders, No. 64 Jeffrey Edwards III, No. 65 Cleveland McAfee, No. 72 Sultan Seales, No. 75 Zavien Spencer, No. 81 Jordan Latham.

## Offensive line to be key part of team's success

By **STEVE SWOGETINSKY**  
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Philadelphia Tornadoes look to quickly establish the running game during 2021, a long-time tradition in the red and black football lore.

"We aren't that big but we have some speed," said Coach David Frey. "Our offensive line is going to be the key. If they get going, the offense can have a good year. We had three starters back on the line and two new starters.

"We are going to be balanced. We are going to be able to throw the ball when we need to. Our receivers are young but our tight ends are veterans and they can catch it.

But the offensive line is the main thing."

Keiland Coburn will anchor the offensive line at center. Kenterrius Everson and Quinton Beamon start at the guard positions while the tackles are Jarden Sanders and Cleveland McAfee.

Marcus Beamon returns to start at quarterback. He is joined in the backfield by running backs Chancellor Greer, Imarion Black and C.J. Rush. The wide receivers are Dee Burnside and Darius Grady while the tight ends are Andrew Carter and Trey Posey.

The defense lines up in a 3-4-4 formation with five starters returning. Andris Simmons starts at nose guard. Andrew Carter and Laydric

Carter are the defensive tackles.

Austin Donald and Imarion Black are the outside linebackers while starting at the inside linebackers are Jaderious Stephens and C.J. Rush.

The secondary has Darius Grady and Cameron Goss starting on the corners and Marcus Beamon and Dee Burnside playing the safeties.

"Again, we are not big but we are kind of fast on defense," Frey said. "We are going to be young and we have some things to learn."

The position of punter is still up in the air as of this writing. Adrian Luke will be doing the placekicking.

The Tornadoes play in the Re-

gion 5-2A against Kemper County, Lake, Newton and Nanih Waiya.

But before they start playing region, they have a tough non-region list of teams to play. The Tornadoes were scheduled to open at Noxubee County but the COVID-19 pandemic shut the Noxubee Tigers down for a couple of weeks so Frey set up a game with the only team available, the Meridian Wildcats. That game had not been played as of this writing.

Next week, Philadelphia travels to play at always-tough Bay Springs and then open their home schedule against Leake Central. Winona comes in the next week followed by West Lauderdale. They close out their non-region

schedule at Mize.

"We want to play hard and we want to win," Frey said. "But the main purpose of playing those first six games is to get ready for our district schedule. Those games count and every one of those teams are going to be strong this year."

Still, Frey is optimistic about the upcoming season.

"I am expecting to have a pretty good year," Frey said. "We made the non-region schedule so tough to get us ready for the region. I like our team. They have worked hard and if we can stay health and away from COVID, we can be a pretty good football team."



Good luck  
teams!



For a career that supports your life  
[www.WY.com/careers](http://www.WY.com/careers)

Diamonds and Football,  
what better combination?



*Specializing in Bridal Jewelry since 1998*  
201 W. Beacon St. Philadelphia, • 601-656-9708  
*Bobby M. Smith and Bobbie Kay Waddell, Owners*



**GOOD LUCK**

**TO ALL OF OUR AREA FOOTBALL TEAMS THIS SEASON**

NESHOBA CENTRAL/PHILADELPHIA  
CHOCTAW CENTRAL/ UNION  
LEAKE ACADEMY



150 HOSPITAL ROAD • PHILADELPHIA, MS  
601.656.4343 • PRINCEOIL.COM



**Good Luck**

*to all of our area teams  
this football season!*



1163 Weyehaeuser St.  
Philadelphia, MS  
601.389.2020  
[www.glassworxllp.com](http://www.glassworxllp.com)





NESHOBA CENTRAL

# ROCKETS



## Rockets blast off into unknown season

By **STEVE SWOGETINSKY**  
steve@neshobademocrat.com

Coach Patrick Schoolar and the Neshoba Central Rockets have put a lot of work in over the spring and summer to prepare for the 2021 football season.

But like last year, the COVID-19 Pandemic is a factor they do not have a lot of control over.

Already, Neshoba Central's anticipated home opener with powerhouse South Panola was canceled because the Tigers had to go to virtual learning for two weeks and thus ineligible to play under the rules of the Mississippi High Schools Activities Association. The Rockets signed a one-year deal with Hernando. That game had not been played at this writing.

"It's going to be a different year," Schoolar said. "We are going to take them, one Friday night at a time," Schoolar said. "People are dropping like flies. We will do our best to make sure our kids are ready and we'll do our best to find a ball game for them to play in."

"We have got to figure out a way where we can co-exist with this thing because it's not going away."

The Rockets have won the Region 2-5A championship for two years in a row. They have won 10 games in each of the three seasons and have been to the state playoffs three years in a row.

This year, they will be playing without Mr. 5A Football Jarquez Hunter, who graduated and will be running the ball on Saturdays for the Auburn Tigers in the Southeastern Conference.

Eli Anderson is back at quarterback for the third year. He is backed up by Grayson Fulton.

Playing the running back position will be freshman Mekhi Gaddis, sophomore Darrian Ragsdale and junior Zander Kirkland.

"We are going to throw it around this year," Schoolar said. "Our players playset pushes us toward that. What you have is what you have to go with. Right now, that's going to be our strong suit. But we will run the defense, too. We have some



Members of the Neshoba Central football team are, front row from left, Bryceton Spencer, Dez McWilliams, Tryeston Thompson, Peyton Gray, Elijah Ruffin, Beau Holley, Brayden Reynolds, Ja'Naylon Dupree, Kelbee Holmes, Will Williams, Mekhi Scott, Eli Anderson, Dakiren Wilson, second row from left, Grayson Fulton, Zack Ruffin, R.B. Hardin, Jalandon Williams, Joseph Price, Carmelo Whitfield, Mark Kirkland, Jonterrius Stribling, Darrian Ragsdale, Ken Drummond, Charles Stevenson, Brylee Reynolds, Silas Massey, third row from left, Mekhi Gaddis, Jalyas Winters, Hunter Bavetta, Garrett Martin, Isaiah Beckham, Bryson Smith, Will Huffman, Aiden Pettit, Denarkez West, Keegan Thompson, Ladavis Clancy, LaDamien Jones, Joseph Vargas, Zander Kirkland, Austin Norton, Clint Bishop, Grayson McDonald, fourth row from left, Jaharon Griffin, Jakob Knight, Jashawn Mathis, Christian Ellis, Jaran Terry, Payton Flake, Cameron McGee, Jaylon Brazzle, Demyais Mingo, Maxton Woodward, Brodie Ben, Kevin Jackson, Cameron Carothers, Fred Rush, fifth row from left, Victor Morales, David Miles, Wright Becham, Johkyler Stribling, Leroyce Hernandez, Brady Parkerson, Ben Massey, Dillon Hutchinson, Jaylon Comby, Zander Ben, Avers Chickaway, Cody Eastes, Luke Pettigrew, Tyrone Collier, Braydon Gibson and Anthony Hobson; back row, coaching staff members from left, Kip Fulton, Jacob Johnson, Corbin Bolton, Brady Anderson, Brian Anderson, Patrick Schoolar, Shannon Ruffin, Daryl Carter, Curt Blackburn and David Huffman.

good young backs and they will be able to do their part."

The wide receivers will be Ja'Naylon Dupree, Bryceton Spencer, Dez McWilliams, Elijah Ruffin and Fulton.

The tight ends will be Ken Drummond and Keegan Thompson.

The Rockets are breaking in a new offensive line. Jaylon Brazzle is the only returning starter. He started at center last year but has been moved to tackle. Leroyce Hernandez

is the other tackle. Brodie Ben will start at center while Zander Ben and Cameron Carothers are the guards.

"They are getting better as a group every day," Schoolar said. "They are bonding as a group. They are figuring out what we want done."

On defense, the Rockets bring back eight starters. Maxton Woodward anchors the defensive guard at nose guard. Those playing at defensive tackle are Jashawn Mathis,

Damarkez West and Braydon Gibson.

The outside linebackers are Beau Holley and Joseph Vargas, while Kelbee Holmes and Jaharon Griffin start at the inside linebacking position. Dakiren Wilson and Dez McWilliams will be the starting cornerbacks while the safeties are Elijah Ruffin and LaDamien Jones. Brayden Reynolds will also play at safety.

Hunter Bavetta does the place kicking while Fulton is the punter.

The Rockets will be playing in Region 2-5A along with eight other teams. Those teams include Holmes County Central, Jim Hill, Forest Hill, Callaway, Vicksburg, Provine, Canton and Ridgeland.

"The Jackson Public Schools didn't play last year," said Coach Schoolar. "I have an idea about Provine and Callaway but I don't know that much about Jim Hill and Forest Hill."



LEAKE ACADEMY

# REBELS



## Leake Academy reloads for title run

After claiming the school's first state championship in football, the bar has been set high at Leake Academy.

And with a hoard of starters returning off a 13-0 team, longtime head coach Brian Pickens knows there are high exceptions for the Rebels.

"I think the bar gets set higher after a state championship," Pickens said. "We still have the same basic goals that you have coming into every season. Your first goal is to have a good opening week and get to a position where you can make the postseason. You want to go win district and then set your playoff goals. I think the expectations are higher and that's by the kids as well. It's not just outside expectations. They know what they have the ability to do."

On offense, the Rebels return a host of starters. In the backfield, quarterback Rhett Atkinson returns after showing for 1,413 yards and 19 TDs last year. He also rushed for 501. Joining Atkinson in the backfield is senior Canon Parks who rushed for 712 yards on 124 carries while junior Whitt Welch returns after rushing for 909 yards and 20 TDs on 154 carries.

On the outside, junior Riley Myers, a Mississippi State commit in baseball, returns after having 456 yards on 14 catches while senior Levi Brown returns after having 426 yards on 20 catches and 10 TDs. Junior Aiden Watkins returns and will play tight end and also an outside wide receiver. Also expected to see time with the receivers will be junior Jake Brown and sophomores Benjamin Jackson and Charlie Brantley. Senior transfer Gavin White will be the H-back.

On the offensive line, the Rebels return three starters. Senior Gunter Scott anchors the group along with senior Reed Young, who started the first two games last season before a season-ending hip injury. Junior Jared Sims returns at guard while juniors Colton Burns and Grant Barnes are vying for playing time. Senior transfer Rope Lovern and

sophomore Carter Walsworth are also competing for a starting spot and are expected to see playing time.

"We bring back the nucleus of our line and all of our backfield," Pickens said. "We bring back half of our wide receiver core. Looking from the outside, we should be an effective offense and that's our goal. We can fine tune and put a wrinkle in. I'm excited about seeing our offense on the field. When you bring back so many starters, you hope you pick up where you left off. We just have to keep working and getting better."

On defense, the Rebels peaked at the championship game, pitching a 10-0 shutout over Adams County Christian.

Up front, the Rebels have plenty of options as seniors Gunter Scott and Joseph Scott, both all-MAIS players from last year, will anchor the defensive line. Sims, Watkins and White will rotate at defensive end while Lovern, Young and Gabriel Quick will also see time at defensive tackle.

At linebacker, all three starters return as Nick Gomillion will man the middle. At outside linebacker, Ethan Dunn will be on the strong side while Kade Marble will be at the week side.

In the secondary, Myers returns at one of the safety spots after leading the team with five interceptions last season while junior Bryce Watkins is expect to man the other safety spot. At cornerback, junior Jake Brown returns on one side while senior Jackson Freeny and junior Marshall Robertson are competing for the other cornerback spot.

"Last year, we had a lot of new starters on defense," Pickens said. "When I talked about coachability, defense is where we were seeing that. They were working as hard on fundamentals in midseason as you see in the first of the season. It was fun to watch them continue to work fundamentals. It takes a high number of reps to get fundamentally sound. When we got to about week nine or 10, the defense was clicking



Members of the Leake Academy football team are, front row from left, Rhett Atkinson, Canon Parks, Charlie Brantley, Levi Brown, Jackson Freeny, Cole Arthur, Riley Myers, Nick Gomillion, Jake Brown, Ethan Dunn, Marshall Robertson, Camden Marble, Kade Marble, second row from left, Ben Jackson, Jake Adams, Lucas Thomas, Cameron Howell, Whitt Welch, John Riley Sanders, Gabriel Quick, Dennison Adams, Bryce Watkins, Brayden Hall, Dylan Massey, Gavin White, Evan Carroll, Dylan Jones, third row from left, Aiden Watkins, Gunter Scott, Jarod Sims, Joseph Scott, Garrett Joiner, John Donovan, Rope Lovern, Seth Martin, Reed Young, Carter Walsworth, Tanner Johnson, Andrew Tate, fourth row from left, coaches, Billy Harkins, Garrett Myers, Lee Myers, Josh Ray, Kooper Lane Darby, Grant Barnes, Colton Burns and coaches Brian Pickens, Cory Burns, Shane Brown and Robbie Robertson.

like I had never seen it and in the state championship, that was their peak night and that's what you want. They played lights out and it was very impressive to watch. They were flying all over the field and making plays. Now we are bringing back so much that you do feel good."

The Rebels also have plenty of talent on special teams as well. Senior Cole Arthur has multiple college

offers and will handle all kicking duties. Arthur was 6-of-9 on field goals last year and had one of 50-plus yards while putting 45 of 82 kickoffs in the end zone. Arthur also averaged 37.9 yards a punt on 25 tries. Senior long-snapper Andrew Tate also returns and is also expected to sign.

"When you look at special teams, it will make a coach lose a lot of sleep at night," Pickens said.

"We've got two individuals that are really good at it. Yes you have to work at it but you know they have the capability to be good. The field goals are a big part of high school football and when you can kick a field goal, it's a big deal."

The Rebels will compete in district play with Lamar, Simpson, Park Place, Madison St. Joseph and East Rankin.



# CHOCTAW CENTRAL WARRIORS



The 2021 Chocataw Central High School football team continues to practice hard for the season.

## Warriors trying to improve on 2-6 record

By **STEVE SWOGETINSKY**  
steve@neshobademocrat.com

The Chocataw Central Warriors are trying to stay well for the 2021 season.

The COVID-19 pandemic kept things up in the air last season as the team finished with a 2-6 record. Coach Pepper Posey said he and his assistant coaches have been mindful of the threat of COVID-19 and the different variants. At the same time, he said participation has been good.

Still, work goes on to put a team on the field.

Posey said the Warriors will re-

turn seven starters on offense from last year. However, the player losses were on the offensive line.

“We are going to be young on our offensive line,” Posey said. “We lost eight out of 11 starters on defense. We are going to see what some of our younger guys can do, but we will have some guys going both ways.

“Our focus right now is finding the guys who are going to fill these open positions.”

Eli Joe starts at quarterback and Brydon Wesley starts at running back. The wide receivers are Elias Bell, Taiton Stokes and Braylon McMillian. Gage Lewis is the tight

end.

Gannon Vaughn will start at center. The guards are Kookie Thompson-Steve and Quinten Dixon while the tackles are Andrew Cotton and Brendon Morris.

The defense lines up in a four-man front. Richie Shoemake is the nose guard while Brendon Morris starts at tackle. The defensive ends are Notah Tubby and Arral Frazier. Starting at linebacker is Andreas Jim, Kazden Henry and Jorgan Vaughn.

Elias Bell and Taiton Stokes will start at the cornerbacks while Keshawn Ben and Channing Jimmie are the safeties.

Keshawn Ben will be handling the kicking and punting duties.

The Warriors earned a place in the playoffs and battled Pontotoc tough before dropping a 38-24 season.

“We had a pretty good summer,” Posey said. “We lifted weights for most of the summer and had good participation. Between junior and varsity, we have 60 out. That was one of the things when I was hired, we wanted to do, get the numbers up.

“We have some mini-camp workouts to see where we are. We are ready to get started.”

The Warriors compete in Region 4-4A along with Kosciusko, Louisville, West Lauderdale, North-east Lauderdale and Leake Central.

The Warriors went to several camps over the summer, including Mississippi State.

The Warriors were slated to open at Union last Friday. Results of that game were not available as of this writing.

*Editor's Note: A team photo was unavailable as of press time but will be published in the Democrat at a later date.*

**FARM  
BUREAU  
INSURANCE**

Auto • Home • Life

Good Luck  
to all of our hometown  
teams this season.

Always the Home Team™



**MICHAEL VICK**  
Agency Manager, LUTCF

704 E Main Street  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
(601) 656-1484



**Dr. Nicole F. Harrison**  
FAMILY DENTISTRY  
UNION, MS

*Good Luck!*

WISHING ALL OF OUR AREA TEAMS A  
SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

COMMITTED TO GIVING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT.



**Dr. Nicole Harrison, DMD**  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

GENERAL DENTISTRY | WHITENING | BOTOX

25043 HIGHWAY 15 • UNION, MS 39365  
(601) 774-9949 • NICOLEHARRISONDMD.COM

# EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



Fans can watch all ECCC home  
athletic events live at  
[www.eccclive.com/gold](http://www.eccclive.com/gold).  
Follow us on social media by  
searching ECCCAthletics or visit  
[www.ecccahletics.com](http://www.ecccahletics.com) to stay  
up-to-date on the Warriors!

#WarriorStrong

## FOOTBALL

Sept. 2	at East Miss	7 P.M.
Sept. 9	at Miss Delta	7 P.M.
Sept. 16	JONES*	6:30 P.M.
Sept. 23	at Southwest*	7 P.M.
Sept. 30	PEARL RIVER*	6:30 P.M.
Oct. 7	at Gulf Coast*	7 P.M.
Oct. 14	CO-LIN* (HC)	6:30 P.M.
Oct. 21	at Hinds*	7 P.M.
Oct. 28	COAHOMA	6:30 P.M.

\*MACCC South Division | (HC) Homecoming

## SOCCER

Aug. 20	at Jones*	6/8 P.M.
Aug. 27	at Southwest*	2/4 P.M.
Aug. 31	MUW	1/3 P.M.
Sept. 4	at Gordon State&%	7 P.M.
Sept. 6	at Daytona State&%	12:30 P.M.
Sept. 7	at Pearl River*^	5 P.M.
Sept. 10	NORTHWEST*	5/7 P.M.
Sept. 14	at Itawamba*	1/3 P.M.
Sept. 17	WILLIAM CAREY JV^	4 P.M.
Sept. 21	HOLMES*	1/3 P.M.
Sept. 24	at Hinds*	5/7 P.M.
Sept. 28	GULF COAST*^	4 P.M.
Oct. 1	at Columbia State&#	3 P.M.
Oct. 1	at Oxford College^#	5 P.M.
Oct. 5	CO-LIN*	4 P.M.
Oct. 5	at Belhaven&	5 P.M.
Oct. 8	MERIDIAN*	5/7 P.M.
Oct. 12	at Northwest*	1/3 P.M.
Oct. 15	ITAWAMBA*	5/7 P.M.
Oct. 22	at Holmes*	1/3 P.M.
Oct. 27	HINDS*	5/7 P.M.

& Women Only | ^ Men Only | \*MACCC | % Pensacola, FL | # Meridian, MS

UNION

# YELLOW JACKETS



## Union Yellow Jackets ready for Region 5-3A

By **ROBBIE ROBERTSON**  
news@neshobademocrat.com

There is plenty of change in the Union football program this season.

The Yellow Jackets moved up to Class 3A this season and have one of the most challenging non-district schedules in recent memory.

But the one constant for the Yellowjackets is quarterback Kenyon Clay.

Clay is coming off a monster season for the Yellowjackets that saw him rush for 1,307 yards and throw for another 1,521 yards and was a second-team Class 2A all-state player.

“We have to make other people besides Kenyon make plays,” said Jordan Wren, Union coach. “We aren’t going to run Kenyon 30 times to win a non-district game. And we don’t have the big down-the-field threat like we did last year with Mark Jones. We think the defense is going to be the strength of this team and that’s no secret. Defense has all the athletes but we have the trump card at quarterback. I think he’s probably one of the best athletes in the state of Mississippi. But he’s going to have to get more people involved in the offense and we’ve worked really hard on that in the offseason.”

Clay, who will be backed up by U’Darrian Hickman, will be joined in the backfield by Carlos Hickmon and Ky’Yon Harris. At wide receiver, Clay will be throwing to Kaleb Casey, Matthew Lott, Brandon Killen, Bankston Rush, Brylen Edmondson and Xavier Boler. Vaiden Boudier will be the H-back.

On the offensive line, Arkansas State commit Cameron Pascal returns at right tackle along with Zach Collins at right guard. Also on the line will be Kale Grayson at right guard, Blane Cooper at center, and Dayton McDonald at left tackle. Also working on the line is Jimmy Pinter and Michael Gibson who are also expected to see playing time.

“The offense is going to be different this season,” Wren said. “There’s no Mark Jones to throw to. I think we



Members of the Union High School football team are, front row from left, Matthew Lott, Xavier Boler, Ky’Yon Harris, Tank Haralson, Cameron Jackson, Kaleb Casey, William Hughlett, Kenyon Clay, Tristan Wallace, U’Darrian Hickman, Keon Hutchins; second row from left, Davarian McDonald, Collin Rigdon, A.J. Wilson, Bankston Rush, Brady Casey, Vaiden Boudier, Latayveon Wilson, Brandon Killens, Zues Thompson, Dequan McBeth, third row from left, Nate Killen, Omari Holliday, Brylen Edmondson, Carson Kennedy, Kale Grayson, Eli Rigdon, Carlos Hickmon, Dayton McDonald, Jaylon Rogers, Germaine Pickens, Blane Cooper, fourth row from left, Michael Gibson, Jacolby McGee, Cameron Hickmon, Hayden Dolan, Karter Cockerham, Walker Edwards, Jimmy Pinter, Wyatt Gore, Zach Collins, Weston Gore, Eythan Wallace, fifth row from left, Cameron Pascal, Jacob Weeks, Rodney Nance, Mason Tucker, Jacob Smith, Braden Herrington and Tristian Williamson.

have more playmakers who can help us on offense.”

On defense, the Yellowjackets return eight starters. On the defensive line, Nate Killen, Cameron Hickmon, Davarian McDonald and Jaylon Rogers will be the starters while Dayton McDonald and Cameron Pascal will also get reps. At linebacker, Eli Rigdon and Tristan Wallace returns and will be joined by Xavier Boler. At cornerback, Cameron Jackson and Dominique Haralson will be the starters. At safety, Harris returns after leading the team in interceptions last year while William Hughlett will man the other safety. Clay and Hickmon

will both see playing time.

“Up front, I would say that we are smaller than your average 3A team,” Wren said. “I think they will be difficult to deal with because of their quickness. We have a Division I right tackle and he has an issue of blocking them every day. They all have pretty good motors. Our most experienced returners are in the secondary. No doubt, we are going to heavily rely on our defense. They are going to have to carry us through the first four or five weeks of the season.”

Wren said Clay will handle the punting duties while the field goal and kickoff duties are still up in the

air.

The Yellow Jackets will compete in district play with Southeast Lauderdale, Morton, Forest, Enterprise and Clarkdale. Union’s non-district schedule includes Class 4A teams Choctaw Central and Newton County along with 2A powers Scott Central and Choctaw County. The highlight of the non-district schedule is a week three matchup with Leake Academy, the defending Class 5A state champion from the MAIS.

“Our week two through five opponents were 42-6 last year,” Wren said. “We scheduled like that because we are going to 3A and figured we

needed to play some tougher opponents. We scheduled a hard non-district to prepare for what we have later in the year. As for the district schedule, all I can go on is what other people have said. Everybody seems to think it will come down to the last game of the year between us and Morton. But you have teams like Clarkdale and Enterprise who run that wing-T that is no cakewalk. Then you have very athletic teams like Southeast Lauderdale and Forest.”

# GOOD LUCK!

We hope all of our area football teams have a safe and successful season.



**Alli Vick, Agent**

601.562.8039

avick@summitgroupins.com

HOME - AUTO - BUSINESS



**Summit Insurance GROUP**  
HOME-AUTO-BUSINESS

423 CENTER AVE • PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350 • 601-389-7070

Real People. Real Insurance. Real Promises.

# WISHING **GOOD LUCK** TO ALL OF OUR AREA FOOTBALL TEAMS THIS FALL.

CONDITIONS **WE TREAT**

BACK & SPINE PAIN | BODY PAIN

CANCER RELATED PAIN | HEAD & NECK PAIN

HIP & KNEE PAIN | NERVE PAIN | SHOULDER & ARM PAIN

# Total **Pain** Care

CALL **601-482-9224** TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Visit our website for additional information on common conditions we treat and many of our treatment options that are available. [www.totalpaincare.org](http://www.totalpaincare.org)

MERIDIAN OFFICE: 1001 14TH STREET • TOLL FREE: 1.877.482.9224 • (601) 482.9224  
PHILADELPHIA SATELITE OFFICE: MEDICAL ARTS CLINIC, SUITE 103 • 1003 HOLLAND AVENUE  
TOLL FREE: 1.877.482.9224 • (601) 482-9224

# DETERMINATION. COMMITMENT. TEAMWORK.

A winning team knows a thing or two about teamwork; the ability to blend talents and abilities with one common goal. Successful banking begins with a strong sense of teamwork, too, and we invite you to discover how the resources of The Citizens Bank stand ready to make your financial future a winner.



Proudly serving Attala, Forrest, Lamar, Lauderdale, Leake, Kemper, Madison, Neshoba, Newton, Oktibbeha, Scott and Winston counties.

[www.thecitizensbankphila.com](http://www.thecitizensbankphila.com)



# GOOD LUCK THIS YEAR TO ALL OF OUR AREA TEAMS!

## FEED THE FAMILY!



10 CANAL PLACE • PHILADELPHIA  
**601-389-1100**

HWY 19 SOUTH • MERIDAN  
**601-693-6277**



Members of the 2021 Warrior football team include (front row, from left) Mike Coats, Desmond Williams, John Hilbert, Corey Goldwire, Anthony Thomas, Caleb Parten, Larry Wilson, Gabriel Larry, Ray Gibson, Ed Ross, Tony Gibson, and Kesean Johnson; (second row, from left) Alex Henton, Jacob Stevenson, Tay Simms, Ross James, Keyser Booth, Damon Mapp, Jaden Mann, Trustin Northington, Jaylin Thompson, Josten James, Daniel Swain; (third row, from left) Carlos Walker, Eric Simmons, Ryan Kimbrall, Austin Day, Al'jurae Arnold, Courtland Harris, Matthew Day, Keaston Pearson, Llanes Dickerson, Deiondre Fox, J'alex Hardy, Rish Alford, Carlonte Walker; (fourth row, from left) Tori Mulkey, Treyon Wash, Noah Tice, Jaren Van Winkle, John Campbell, Ryan Whitfield, Charles Constatino, Ethan Bond, Jacob Moore, Logan Campbell, Kemani Shaffer; (fifth row, from left) Eli Gooden, Drake Carroll, Sam McMullen, Eli Cooper, Christian McGee, Bryce Parkerson, Raidon Williams, Ethan Dailey, Manny Hillman, RK Cain, Steven Turner, Erick Short; (sixth row, from left) Kobe Thompson, Thomas Anderson, Dareon Goodrum, Dra Brown, Peyton Posey, Jonathan Bates, Mike Leflore, Jahiem Johnson; (seventh row, from left) Mickey Mays, Eontay Evans, Scott Sallach, Ken Karcher, Dennis Alexander, Cason Bicknell, Chris Stamps. (not pictured: Garrett Day and JJ Johnson)

## ECCC Warriors ready for unknown in 2021

The 2020 East Central Community College football season was strange, to say the least, but despite the trials, the Warriors posted a 2-3 record with a shutout, 21-0, win over Southwest, and a stellar 13-10 overtime victory against the Co-Lin Wolf Pack in Wesson.

The season was cut short the following week due to concerns over COVID-19, and a year later, the Warriors are ready to get back on the gridiron despite facing another round of challenges.

"This year could be even crazier than last," said ECCC head football coach Ken Karcher, "but our men are hungry to play. One of our main focuses right now is for everyone, from players to coaches, to be flexible and be ready at any moment."

The Warriors return some players on both sides of the ball this year, and Karcher plans on keeping the same offensive and defensive core while allowing room to adapt based on the abilities that each player brings to the team. Though it is too early to tell what will be ECCC's biggest offensive weapon, the running game has shined in the opening weeks of practice.

It's too early to tell what our biggest strength is going to be this year," said Karcher, "but I do know that we will be a very hard-nosed football

team that has the ability to be very balanced on the offensive attack."

The Warriors were pretty balanced a year ago in the shortened season as the team posted 766 passing yards and 582 rushing yards through five games while scoring three touchdowns in both the running and passing game.

The run game is highlighted by talented backs, but the group plowing the way up front deserves a lot of the credit. Karcher and the Warrior coaching staff look to utilize some out-of-state players on the offensive line in 2021 to beef up quarterback protection as well as create running lanes.

Defensively the Warriors will be led by a veteran group in the secondary. Experience is key in the MACCC, and with four returners the Warriors are set to have possibly the best defensive backend in the country.

ECCC is talented on the defensive line and linebacker positions as well with players that can stretch the field and quickly get into the backfield to disrupt the opponent's offensive timing.

The Warriors' special teams are also falling into shape with heated competition for the punting position, as well as a strong leg in the kickoff and placekicking game. Pair this with one of the

top long snappers in the league and ECCC is poised to continue the tradition of one of the most effective and well-disciplined groups of specialists in the MACCC.

With a solid group of returners and an incoming class of young men ready to battle it out for playing time, the Warriors of ECCC are ready to take the field by storm in 2021.

"Our success is not measured entirely on the field," said Karcher. "We want to see our play-

ers and coaches grow as men, and we want to challenge for the conference championship."

The team opens the season with a pair of road trips to East Mississippi on Sept. 2 and to Miss Delta on Sept. 9, but will return to Decatur for the season home-opener on Thursday, Sept. 16 vs. Jones College at 6:30 p.m. All ECCC home games can be watched live at [www.eccc-live.com/gold](http://www.eccc-live.com/gold).

# GOOD LUCK!



**WE WANT TO WISH ALL OF OUR AREA  
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS THE  
VERY BEST OF LUCK THIS SEASON!**

**Beck** Funeral Homes  
and Cremation Services

*"Three Locations to Better Serve You Since 1978"*

226 North St  
Louisville  
662-773-3291

10460 Rd 561  
Philadelphia  
601-656-1191

13554 Hwy 16 W  
DeKalb  
769-486-5067

[www.beckfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.beckfuneralhomeinc.com)

**B AND G**  
**EQUIPMENT**  
LOGGING EQUIPMENT FULL SERVICE DEALER

**10430 ROAD 383  
PHILADELPHIA  
(601) 656-7011**

[www.bandgequip.com](http://www.bandgequip.com)

# LEAKE ACADEMY REBELS FOOTBALL 2021



# GOOD LUCK REBELS



## 2021 SCHEDULE

- 8/20...@ Winston Academy
- 8/27...**JACKSON ACADEMY**
- 9/3.....@ Starkville Academy
- 9/10...**UNION HIGH SCHOOL**
- 9/17...@ Simpson Academy
- 9/24...**PARK PLACE**
- 10/1...**ST. JOSEPH**
- 10/8...**EAST RANKIN**
- 10/15...@ Heritage Academy
- 10/22...@ Lamar School