

# **FOOTBALL**

## **Preview 2020**



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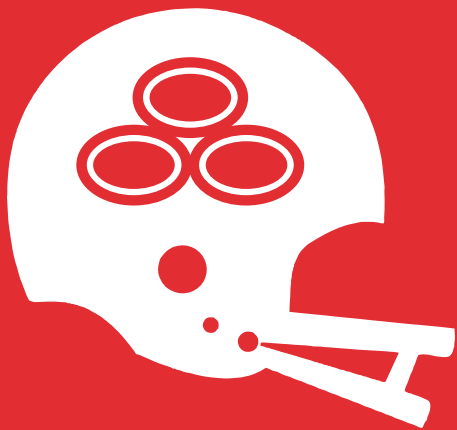


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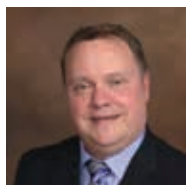


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**CHOCTAW CENTRAL WARRIORS**  
**LEAKE ACADEMY REBELS**  
**NESHOBA CENTRAL ROCKETS**  
**PHILADELPHIA TORNADOS**  
**UNION YELLOW JACKETS**



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# 2020 Football Schedules



## NESHOPA CENTRAL ROCKETS

Sept. 4 – Tupelo  
 Sept. 11 – West Lauderdale  
 Sept. 18 - Scott Central  
 Sept. 25 – Holmes County Central \*  
 Oct. 2 – at Vicksburg \*  
 Oct. 9 – Canton (HC) \*  
 Oct. 16 – at South Panola  
 Oct 23 – Ridgeland \*  
 Oct. 30 – Cleveland Central \*  
 \*Region 2-5A game



## PHILADELPHIA TORNADOES

Sept. 4 – at Leake Central  
 Sept. 11 – Noxubee County  
 Sept. 18 – at Madison Ridgeland Academy  
 Sept. 25 – Kemper County  
 Oct. 2 – at Scott Central \*  
 Oct. 9 – Lake \*  
 Oct. 16 – Forest  
 Oct, 23 – at Newton High \*  
 Oct. 30 – Union \*  
 \*Region 6-2A game



## CHOCTAW CENTRAL WARRIORS

Sept. 3 – at Nanih Waiya  
 Sept. 18 – Lake  
 Sept. 25 – at Richland  
 Oct. 2 – Kosciusko \*  
 Oct, 9 – Louisville \*  
 Oct, 16 – Northeast Lauderdale \*  
 Oct, 23 – at West Lauderdale \*  
 Oct, 30- Leake Central \*  
 \*Region 4-4A game



## UNION HIGH YELLOWJACKETS

Sept. 4 – McAdams  
 Sept. 11 - at Eupora  
 Sept. 18 – at Newton County  
 Sept. 25 – East Webster  
 Oct. 2 – Newton High \*  
 Oct. 9 – Stringer  
 Oct. 16 – at Scott Central \*  
 Oct. 23 – Lake \*  
 Oct, 30 – at Philadelphia \*  
 \*Region 6-2A game



## LEAKE ACADEMY REBELS

Aug. 21 – Winston, W 56-0  
 Aug. 28 – Jackson Academy, W 47-37  
 Sept. 4 – at Lamar \*  
 Sept. 11 – Hartfield \*  
 Sept. 18 – at Starkville Academy  
 Sept. 25 – at Park Place \*  
 Oct. 2 – Washington  
 Oct. 9 – at Wayne Academy  
 Oct. 16 – at East Rankin \*  
 Oct. 23 – Simpson \*  
 \*District game



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PHILADELPHIA

# TORNADOES



## Young Tornadoes team gearing up for season

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY  
*The Neshoba Democrat*

The 2020 football season was going to be a rebuilding season for the Philadelphia Tornadoes with the loss of eight starters on both sides of the ball to graduation.

Efforts to put the team together have been hampered by the Coronavirus Pandemic. As with all teams in Mississippi, there was no spring training, spring games, summer conditioning, 7-on-7 games or camps that players usually participate in. The Tornadoes did some limited conditioning drills during June and July. But the team came together for the first time a couple of weeks ago with the start of fall drills.

"I really don't know where we stand right now," said Coach David Frey. "We haven't played a game. And with the COVID-19 going on, I'm not sure who is going to be able to play. Right now, I have had two kids quarantined who are starters.

"I am playing it by ear right now until we can play a game and I can see where we are. Usually, I have an idea at this point but I haven't been able to see anything. It is going to be tough since we are so young. It will take a little while get used to stuff."

Frey said there are 44 players on the varsity roster. The Tornadoes open their season Friday night when they visit Leake Central. Last year, the Tornadoes defeated the Gators 26-7.

Philadelphia is coming off one of its best seasons as they finished with a 12-2 record. The Tornadoes made it to the third round of the playoffs before being eliminated by Taylorsville 47-30. The Tartars went on to win the state championship.

While discussing the Tornadoes' lineup, Frey emphasized it was very fluid with players being moved in and out of different positions daily.

Kadarius Calloway, an Alabama commit and a Dandy Dozen selec-



Philadelphia's Kadarius Calloway (2) returns an interception for a touchdown during a game last year. The team has not taken its team photo for the 2020 football year.

tion, is back at wide receiver and defensive back.

Marcus Beamon will take over as quarterback. Joining him in the backfield will be Imarion Black and Chance Greer,

Other wide receivers include Andrew Carter, Ja'naylon Dupree, Dedrick McWilliams and Trey

Peavey.

Ja Boris Matthews will start at center. Xavier Reed and Jar'dan Sanders start at the guards while Cleveland McAfee and Isaiah Autry are the tackles. Jatarian Hudson is the tight end.

Xavier Reed and Connor Long will play at nose guard. Zykileous

Moore, Andrew Carter and Laydrick Carter will play on the defensive front.

Hudson and Nathan Overstreet will play the inside linebacking positions while Jaderius Stephens and Tyrone Collier will be at the outside linebacking positions.

Making up the secondary will

be Dez McWilliams, Cameron Goss, Keyon Chamberlain and Ja'naylon Dupree.

John David Williams will do the punting and Long is the place-kicker.



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NESHOBA CENTRAL

# ROCKETS



## Rockets looking to launch towards championship

By PAYTON BISHOP  
*The Neshoba Democrat*

The Neshoba Central Rockets lead by head coach Patrick Schoolar are ready to make another run at a state title in 2020. The Rockets will look to experience this upcoming season after having a young team that fell short to West Point in the 5A North State Championship game.

Coach Schoolar says the goal for the year is to have a winning season and make another playoff run.

“The kids want to make another run at it, have a winning season and go to the playoffs are the goals for this season,” says Schoolar.

The rockets will look to continue their success through being a run-heavy offense with their senior running back Jarquez Hunter leading the charge.

“You have to run the ball to be successful at every level. It is no secret that we have Jarquez Hunter but we have other players that are going to contribute to that, as well,” Schoolar pointed out.

The team will look to rely on veteran presence throughout the team to push that narrative. They have 14 returning players, 6 on offense and 8 on defense. The offense will look to duplicate their 32 points per game. The defense recorded 31 takeaways last season and gave the team a +17 in the turnover margin.

“Those guys are battle-tested, we just have to avoid injury and virus and we will have a really good football team,” said Schoolar.

Schoolar says their two focal points on improving throughout the season will be on their offensive line and the defensive backfield. The offensive line will have four out of five new players.

“We are going to be weathering some storms on the front lines for the first few games until they gel together. Our defensive backfield is athletic but they are unproven and when they improve we will be a tough team to beat on defense,” said Schoolar.

Junior Quarterback Eli Anderson will look to take a step forward this



Neshoba Central's Jarquez Hunter (27) celebrates with Austin Day (6) during a game last year. The team has not taken its team photo for the 2020 football year.

upcoming season as he nearly recorded a thousand-yard passing

season despite on 58 completed in an offense dominated by the run.

Neshoba Central will look to start their season off on the right note on

against a tough opponent in the Tupelo Golden Wave at home.



# LEAKE ACADEMY REBELS



The 2020 Leake Academy football team has started off the year with two wins, including a 47-37 victory over Jackson Academy this past Friday.

## Leake Academy Rebels off to a hot start

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY  
*The Neshoba Democrat*

The Leake Academy football team is off to a 2-0 start and the Rebels have already scored a football victory that will be talked about for years.

Last Friday night, Leake Academy rallied, scoring 34 points in the fourth quarter, to defeat Jackson Academy 47-37.

"It was a huge win for our school," Coach Brian Pickens said. "Jackson Academy has a long winning tradition. They have a good group of players. They had returned

a lot from last year.

"We got down 30-7 in the third quarter. Our kids never quit. They did what we have always told them to do, to not worry about the score and to keep playing. Win your battles and keep playing.

How you practice is how you play. And they did that. They executed. As the game went on, you could see our guys getting better, playing more physical and faster."

The Rebels have more tough games ahead. They will be in a tough district game Friday night when they host Lamar School.

Leake Academy competes in

District 5-A along with East Rankin, Lamar, Hartfield, Park Place and Simpson.

The Rebels finished last season with a 7-5 record. Leake finished third overall in the district standings and qualified for the state playoffs. They made it to the second round of the state playoffs where they were eliminated by Heritage 35-0.

"We have returned a lot of starters, especially on offense," Pickens said. "Our quarterback has experience and a lot of our receivers have, too. We were young last year but our guys have grown up and improved,"

Rhett Atkinson starts at quarterback. He is joined in the backfield by Canon Parks, Whitt Welch, Bryce Watkins and Calvin Malone at the running back.

Playing the wide receiver positions will be Will Martin, Levi Brown, Riley Myers and Thomas Cheatham. Aiden Watkins lines up at tight end.

Playing center will be Abrey Guidry and Andrew Tate. Jerod Sims and Gunter Scott will start at offensive guard while Reed Young and Zac Kemp start at tackle. Joseph Scott will also see playing time on the offensive line.

The Rebels lineup in a 4-3 defensive formation. Joseph Scott and Landon Walley will start at defensive tackle while Jarrett Watkins and Gunner Scott are the defensive ends. Ethan Kinard will also see playing time on the defensive line.

Ethan Dunn, Nick Gomillion and Kade Marble will play at linebacker. Riley Myers and Parker Thomas are the safeties while Jake Brown and Thomas Cheatham will start on the corners.

Cole Arthur is handling the punting and kicking chores. Andrew Tate is the long snapper.



# CHOCTAW CENTRAL WARRIORS



The 2020 Choctaw Central High School football team opens their season on Thursday against Nanih Waiya.

## Warriors ready to square off on the gridiron

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY  
*The Neshoba Democrat*

The Choctaw Central Warriors will have a lot of catching up to do as they get ready to kick off their 2020 football season Thursday night at Nanih Waiya.

Usually, the Warriors spend the summer lifting weights, running sprints, playing 7-on-7 and attending football camps. But with the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was not able to get together until the end of July.

“We started July 30. That’s when we got the go-ahead,” Coach Pepper

Posey said. “We got in touch with the boys and they started coming in, lifting weights, stretching and running. We worked on conditioning for the first two weeks of August, and then we started practice.”

“That’s all the offseason preparation we have had.”

The Warriors open the 2020 season Thursday night at Nanih Waiya. Last year, Nanih Waiya defeated Choctaw Central 27-13.

Choctaw Central finished 4-6 last year. They compete in Region 4-4A along with Louisville, West Lauderdale, Northeast Lauderdale, Leake Central and Kosciusko. Last year,

the Warriors finished 2-3 in the region.

“It is going to be challenging. We are going to take it day by day,” Posey said. “We have been taking a lot of precautions to try and keep everyone safe.”

Posey said the Warriors lost eight players to graduation who were playing both ways. But now it is time to fill the holes in the lineup that were left by graduation and get ready to play.

Posey listed his starters as follows: Elias Bell, wide receiver/defensive back; Braynon Jim, wide receiver/linebacker; Jerriah Jimmie,

running back/defensive back; Cohen Keats, wide receiver/defensive back; Dregen Denson, wide receiver/defensive back; Jawarrick Hickman, wide receiver/defensive back; Brydon Wesley, running back/defensive back; Billie Isom, running back/linebacker; Dylan Stephens, wide receiver/defensive back; Traiton Martin, tight end/linebacker; Gage Wesley, running back/linebacker; Eli Joe, quarterback/defensive back;

Amzie Anderson, tight end/linebacker; Brendon Morris, running back/linebacker; Trevell Vivians, offensive lineman/defensive lineman; Gannon Vaughn, offensive line-

man/defensive lineman; Kylan Jefferson, offensive lineman/defensive lineman; Jacob Jim, offensive lineman/defensive lineman; and J.D. Bell, offensive lineman/defensive lineman.

Posey said the Warriors will run a multiple set formation on offense.

“Right now, we are putting in the basic stuff,” Posey said. “We didn’t have a spring training or summer workouts so it is going to take a little while to get everything in.”

“We are going to be a multiple set. Hopefully, we will run one back-set and the spread. We will have a tight end sometimes.”



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UNION

## YELLOWJACKETS



The 2020 Union High School Yellowjackets enter the season with a new head coach.

## Yellowjackets ready to swarm opponents this year

By PAYTON BISHOP  
*The Neshoba Democrat*

The Union Yellowjackets, under first-year head coach Jordan Wren, look to have an exciting year in 2020.

Jordan Wren took over the head coach position at Union following coach Brad Breland's retirement from coaching Union the past 19 years. Wren previously coached at 6A Olive Branch and 4A West Lauderdale.

Union is traditionally known running on 90% of its plays. This year Coach Wren looks to balance out the offense with implementing a more spread air raid offense.

"I was bred in the spread offense coming from the 6A level. If they are going to load the box we are going to throw it and if they empty it we are going to run it. I wouldn't be upset with being 50/50 but traditionally I want to be 60/40 run-pass would be ideal," Coach Wren said.

Junior Kenyon Clay will look to lead the Yellowjackets this upcoming season. Clay is a 4.0 student and a member of Beta Club. Coach Wren believes Clay is improving his knowledge and game at every practice.

"He has picked up the offense really well, he is smart and asks all the right questions. He is one of those



Jordan Wren

kids you are glad you get to coach," said Wren.

Two of the main focal points for the Yellowjackets to look towards are Seniors Jamarcus Jones and Jaylon Buckley. Jones is a 6'4" wide receiver commit to the University of South Alabama next fall.

Wren says, "That is a major focal point where can Jones be effective enough for them to have to unload the box and open up the running game."

Buckley is the returning running back that rushed for nearly 600 yards last season. He will look to be a staple in the backfield beside Clay.

"He is 5'10" 190 pounds so he is a plug out there so we expect a lot of

big things out of him this upcoming year," said Wren.

The team is coming off a 6-5 season with a first-round exit to Taylorsville. This year's expectations by Wren is for his team to give maximum effort on every play

"Here is my expectation for 160 plays I expect them to do these three things; have all your focus, energy, and technique designated to one player," said Wren.

The Union Yellowjackets will open the season September 4th against McAdams at Union High School.

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Sept. 25 at Park Place

Aug. 28 Jackson Academy

Oct. 2 Washington (HC)

Sept. 4 at Lamar School

Oct. 9 at Wayne Academy

Sept. 11 Hartfield Academy

Oct. 16 at East Rankin

Sept. 18 at Starkville Aca.

Oct. 23 Simpson Academy



**Good Luck and Have a Great Season  
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**2020 CCHS WARRIOR  
FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

SEPTEMBER 9	NANIH WAIYA	AWAY	7 P.M.
18	LAKE	HOME	7 P.M.
25	RICHLAND	AWAY	7 P.M.
OCTOBER 2	*KOSCIUSKO	AWAY	7 P.M.
9	*LOUISVILLE*	HOME	7 P.M.
16	*NORTHEAST LAUDERDALE	HOME	7 P.M.
23	*WEST LAUDERDALE	AWAY	7 P.M.
30	*LEAKE CENTRAL	HOME	7 P.M.

\*District Games

