

An Annual Publication of The Forest-Blade • September 2, 2020



DEA Varsity Football Team



Varsity Football Roster

No.	Name	Grade
1	Dane Arrington	Senior
4	Timothy Braddock	Junior
5	Racyn Faircloth	Sophomore
8	Randon Williams	Freshman
10	Brayden Smith	Junior
11	Riley Griner	Sophomore
14	Heath Johnson	Sophomore
15	Jesse Moore	Sophomore
22	John Kersey	Freshman
24	Rylie Rowland	Junior
27	Jay Carter	Freshman
30	Ebb McCullough	Sophomore
32	Billy Martin	Freshman
55	Math McCullough	Junior
63	Ace Ely	Sophomore
84	Jace Scarboro	Freshman
94	Ben Flanders	Freshman



DEA Middle School Football Roster

Banks Booth Clayton Hood Hadden Nease Seth Williamson Cavan Calhoun **Peyton Lee** Jaxson Wiggins **Brody Fleming Richard Braddy Bryan Beasley** John Eskew Tucker Free Ethan Fields Paxton Dixon **Braydon Lawson** Layton Terwilliger Josh Tanner Karson Kettles **Ben Griner**





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HOME

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- COVENANT





7:30 PM

DEA Varsity Cheerleaders



Carrie Newsome Chloe Calhoun Alana Donaldson Jordyn Bell Allie Slater Findlay Griner Rachel Shaw Kaitlyn Reininger Liz Dye Moya Collier Grace Catherine Hood Peyton Free **Bailey Overstreet** Ashlyn Hall Lanna Douglas Kylee Page Emma Taylor Cayley Flanders Karoline Kettles Kaleigh Scarboro Ella Claire Claxton Hope Goodman Christen McCoy Alivia Fortner Hannah Goodman

Best wishes & Good luck to all area teams!



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DEA Middle School Cheerleaders

CITOCITORICIO
Kyli Bell
Addie Brown
Jada Lewis
Maggie Black
Addalyn Terwilliger
Maddie Grace Lane
Jayden Slater
Bailey McNure
Katelyn Kersey
Payton Peebles
Brook Flemming
Chloe Daniel
Myli Jane McCulough
Jillian Davis
Lyla Martin
Scout Hall
Emily McRae
Hensley Terwilliger
Gracie Scruggs
Zaylee Braddy
Madison Slater
Zaylee Braddy



DEA VARSITY EAGLE FOOTBALL

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
August 28	Twiggs Academy	Home	7:30 p.m.
September 3	Covington Academy	Away	7:30 p.m.
September 11	Crisp Academy	Away	7:30 p.m.
September 18	Coastal	Home	7:30 p.m.
September 25	OPEN	N/A	N/A
October 2	People's Baptist Academy	Home	7:30 p.m.
October 9	OPEN	N/A	N/A
October 16	Grace Christian	Home	7:30 p.m.
October 23	Vidalia Heritate Academy	Away	7:30 p.m.
October 30	OPEN	N/A	N/A
November 6	Covenant	Home	7:30 p.m.

DEA Middle School Football

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
September 10	John Hancock Academy	Home	6 p.m.
September 17	Vidalia Heritage Academy	Away	6 p.m.
September 24	Crisp Academy	Away	6 p.m.
October 1	John Hancock Academy	Away	6 p.m.
October 8	Crisp Academy	Home	6 p.m.
October 15	OPEN	N/A	N/A
October 22	Vidalia Heritage Academy	Home	6 p.m.



Senior Cheerleaders



Jordyn Bell



Findlay Griner



Kaitlyn Reininger



Liz Dye

Allie

Slater



Chloe Calhoun





Carrie Newsome







DAVIDE

Rachel Shaw



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Ocotber 7

October 15

Bulloch Academy

Edmund Burke

Away

Away

3:30 p.m.

TBD

Committed to Caring UHS PRUITT

DEA Middle School Softball Roster

Kyli Bell	Eighth
Addie Brown	Eighth
Jada Lewis	Eighth
Bailey McNure	Sixth
Madison Slater	Fifth
Brook Fleming	Sixth
Aubrey Scott	Fifth
Emily McRae	Fifth
Jayden Slater	Seventh
Addalyn Terwilliger	Seventh
Makayla Mallard	Seventh



Varsity Softball Team



IF IT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU, IT DOESN'T CHANGE YOU. GOOD LUCK!







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BEST WISHES TO ALL TEAMS AND PLAYERS!



Bullagi Countre Sciences Countre Sciences Scienc

ECI Bulldogs Varsity Football Team

ECI Bulldog Football Roster

			<u> </u>				
No.	Name	Year	Position	No.	Name	Year	Position
2	Takyle Foreman	Senior	RB/DB	13	Cordarius Lee	Sophmore	RB/DB
4	Brendan Boatwright	Senior	WR/DB	16	David Stapleton	Sophmore	WR/DB
11	Chase Whitehead	Senior	QB/DB	24	Gartrell Brown	Sophmore	RB/DB
12	Reggie Blockett	Senior	WR/DE	35	MacKenzie Davis	Sophmore	WR/DB
28	Trey Hughes	Senior	RB/DB	36	Shamya Edmond	Sophmore	WR/DE
45	Dalton McCoy	Senior	RB/DE	42	Samuel McBride	Sophmore	K
59	Brandon Hatcher	Senior	OL/DL	50	Rob Bell	Sophmore	OL/LB
83	Monroe Raymond	Senior	WR/DB	61	Malachi Philips	Sophmore	OL/DL
3	Natavus Robertson	Junior	RB/DB	64	Will Taylor	Sophmore	OL/DL
5	Jeremiah Mack	Junior	WR/DB	66	Adyn Holden	Sophmore	OL/DL
6	Dontay Washington	Junior	WR/DB	72	Melvin Akridge	Sophmore	OL/DE
7	Trevor Radford	Junior	WR/DB	76	Joseph Fullmore	Sophmore	OL/DL
15	Ty Handsom	Junior	WR/DE	85	Jordan Prew	Sophmore	WR/DB
17	Kobe Allen	Junior	RB/DB	88	Haden McCullough	Sophmore	WR/DE
20	Jacorey Snelling	Junior	RB/LB	10	Charlie Rehberg	Freshman	QB/DB
21	D.J. Jones	Junior	RB/LB	14	Aden McQuaig	Freshman	RB/DB
23	Kris Jackson	Junior	TE/DE	19	K.J. Carlyle	Freshman	WR/DB
26	Carlton Gamble	Junior	TE/DE	32	Davon Edmond	Freshman	RB/DB
52	Michael Kelly	Junior	OL/LB	34	Jack Walden	Freshman	RB/LB
53	Hagan Henry	Junior	OL/LB	40	Hudson Henry	Freshman	RB/LB
56	Bray Sherrod	Junior	OL/DL	51	Colton Allen	Freshman	OL/DL
58	Hoage Reynolds	Junior	OL/LB	55	J.T. Baker	Freshman	OL/DL
65	Payne Sanders	Junior	OL/DL	60	Jack Black	Freshman	OL/DL
1	P.J. Farnum	Sophmore	RB/DB	75	Heath Davis	Freshman	OL/DL
8	Bryce Kearson	Sophmore	QB/WR	78	Evan Tapley	Freshman	OL/DL
9	Lawson Mercer	Sophmore	TE/DE		GO DAWG	S!!!!	



To play or not to play that is the question

by RON WEATHER-FORD

With apologies to Shakespeare, and a play on words taken from <u>Hamlet</u>, he could have easily been writing about this fall's sports activities in Georgia.

The GHSA has already kicked the proverbial can down the road twice in rescheduling season start dates and cancelling scrimmages in football.

Practice schedules, guidelines and restrictions have already been deployed along with the cancelling scrimmage games so far this season. The start of fall season has also been pushed back two weeks that was to begin on August 21.

Some teams or school systems have postponed the season two more weeks while a few have cancelled football this fall altogether. Chatham Co. Schools announced August 12 they are only going to play intra-district games and have cancelled all games outside the county games and won't play their first games until October 1.

As of now the 2020 football season is scheduled to begin for those who wish to play on the fourth of September but remains fluid according the GHSA director Robin Hines.

Scrimmage games give coaches an opportunity to evaluate new starters and younger players thrust into the fray in game situations instead of practice. Without scrimmage games this season, the Bulldog coaches will have three games to evaluate new starting players and subs before region play starts.

"The 2020 ECI Bulldogs will have to grow up and grow up in a hurry," commented head football coach Chris Kearson. "They are deep in a lot of areas that they haven't been in while. But gone this year are most of their depth on both the offensive and defensive line."

With the old power ranking system, winning every game was crucial and counted in season power ranking and playoff seedings. No team or coach ever wants to lose any game. But since the only games that count to make the playoffs are region games now and without scrimmage games, coaches will have to evaluate and sub players to see how well they perform in earlier non-region games.

"Youth up front is a huge concern but with time they could develop into a pretty gritty unit," said Kearson about his young linemen.

"The scrimmage games against Clinch and Fitzgerald and the first 3 non-region games were going to be great tests," commented coach Kearson. "Now the three games against Savannah Christian, SCD and Vidalia will give us an early indication where the team needs improvement moving into region play,"

The Bulldogs were scheduled to have home scrimmage games against Clinch Co. and Fitzgerald. But they will start the season on September 4 in Pooler against Savannah Christian. This will be the first time the Bulldogs and Raiders have played in the regular season in several years. They have played a few times in that time span for the region championship. This will mark the first time the two teams will face each other and not be in the same region.

ECI will make a return trip to Chatham Co. the next Friday to play Savannah Country Day. The Bulldogs scrimmaged SCD the last couple years but it has been a few years since they played in the regular season.

"The backend of the defense and skill positions on offense should be a strength going into the season," commented Kearson.

The backend of the defense will get a workout against the Hornets as their returning quarterback threw for over 2,200 yards in 2019. They also return their top two receivers from last season. SCD was the east region champion in 2019 with an 10-0 regular season record.

ECI will have their first home game of the season on September 18 when they host Vidalia. Leading 21-3 in the third quarter the Bulldogs let the Indians off the hook in 2019 allowing 21 unanswered points in the second half to lose to Vidalia 24-21. The Indians have a new coach in Jason Cameron from Jenkins HS who replaces Lee Chomskis who took the head coaching job at Lincoln Co. after 13 seasons with Vidalia.

The Bulldogs have an open date the next week before region play begins on October 2 against a new face to Class A and region three. ECI will travel to Sylvania to play Screven Co. The Gamecocks dropped down to class A from class AA this year.

The Gamecocks were 7-4 last year losing to Metter in the first round of the state playoffs. While ECI has the growling bulldog, ECI fans will get to experience the screeching rooster over the PA system in Sylvania.

The Bulldogs will visit Portal on October 9 to play the Panthers. The Panthers have been going through a rough patch the last few years and would like nothing better than take out the Bulldogs.

Playing just their second home game of the season, ECI will host McIntosh Co. on October 16th. The Bulldogs and Buccaneers played a close battle in the state playoffs last year with ECI coming out on top 28-23.

After another open date ECI will host Claxton on Halloween weekend. The Tigers always give the Bulldogs all they can handle anytime they meet. Claxton lost in the first round of the state playoffs against Schley Co. and return several starters from that team.

The Bulldogs will host the neighborhood bash on November 16 against Jenkins Co. Always a well-attended game either at Rountree or Millen, the Eagles are looking to improve on their 3-7 record in 2019.

ECI will face Bryan Co. in Pembroke on November 13. The Redskins dropped back down to Class A after jumping up to Class AA in 2012. This will be the first time the two teams will face each other since they were in the same region in 2009.

The scuttlebutt on the street is the number one seed in the region will go through Metter this year. The Tigers were 11-2 in 2019, losing in the third round of the AA state playoffs to eventual state runner up Brooks Co.

The Bulldogs will host Metter the last game of the season on November 20 and will definitely have playoff and seeding implications. The Bulldogs and Metter have always met in their rivalry game, but Metter is back in class A and region 3 after being in class AA the last few years.

Metter had one of the better defenses in class AA in 2019 anchored by Florida State signee TJ Davis. Brooks was the only team to score more than 19 on the Tigers.

There is a quiet optimism and excitement around the program that this 2020 team could be pretty darn good.

The Bulldogs will be looking to make their eighteenth consecutive trip to the state playoffs in 2020.

And to the GHSA concerning the football season, a quote from legendary boxing referee Mills Lane before each bout, "Let's get it on."

Senior Profile 2020

NO РНОТО **AVAILABLE**

MONROE RAYMOND (#83 WR/DB)

Monroe is a first year player in the program and has been pushing for playing time at both WR and DB. He last played for the MS program.



REGGIE BLOCKETT (#12 WR/DE)

Reggie will be counted on to contribute in several areas of this years team. He recorded 5 TFL and 4 sacks from his DE position last year and will again be used in that capacity. He also will be utilized at TE,WR and LB. His unique duo of size and speed will help this team tremendously.



BRENDAN BOATWRIGHT (#4 WR/DB)

Brendan is entering his 2nd year of varisty football. He came on in 2019 and won the starting FS job and logged 65 tackles, 6 PBU's and 2 INT's. He looks to build off a solid 2019 campaign. He was an All Region HM DB.



CHASE WHITEHEAD (#11 QB)

Chase is a 3 YR starter entering his SR year. He has been a constant on the All Region team since 2017. With many young talented weapons around him he looks for a big year in the stat column.



TREY HUGHES (#28 RB/DB)

Trey has played all over the backfield and secondary for 3 years. This year will be no different as his ability backfield and block relentlessly is what makes him so Region RB in 2019

NO РНОТО **AVAILABLE**

DALTON MCCOY (#46 RB/DE)

Dalton received the bulk of his snaps at DE and DL position last year. He tallied 24 tackles, 4 TFL and 1 sack. to catch the ball out of the He can help solidify a position that was hit hard by graduation in 2019. Dalton special. Trey was an HM All was an HM All Region DE in 2019.



BRANDON HATCHER (#59 OL/DL)

Brandon is returning to the team after having 2 ACL surgeries and taking2years off to heal. He looks to push for playing time at both OL and DL. He has had a great summer and early fall.

TAKYLE FOREMAN (#2 RB/DB) Takyle looks to be a consis-

tent contributor in the backfield where he'll see time mainly at FB. He will also be counted on in the secondary at CB. Takyle was All Region HM RB in 2019.





2019 – Not a typical season for ECI Football

by RON WEATHER- manning the Bulldogs FORD 21-0 in just 13 plays. Dub-

For a football team that averages 9-11 wins per season the last several years, a 6-6 win-loss record in 2019 had them playing average football and not what players were used to experiencing.

The Bulldogs showed some inconsistency in the two scrimmage games and it seemed to follow them the rest of the season.

In the first scrimmage game against Savannah Country Day, the Bulldogs varsity and JV won the limited format 21-6 with the offense breaking a couple long runs and the defense limiting just a JV touchdown. SCD would go on to win the region with a 10-0 regular season record.

In the second scrimmage against Telfair (which was limited to just one half of football because of lightning in the area), the ECI offense couldn't muster a drive to put points on the board while the defense gave up two touchdowns losing the 2 quarter scrimmage 13-0.

Weather would play a factor in the first regular season game. The Bulldogs hosted Dublin to start the season which ended early in the second quarter because of lightning. The Irish lived up to their top ranking out21-0 in just 13 plays. Dublin would go on to win the Class AA championship in December with a perfect 15-0 record.

ECI hosted Vidalia two weeks later with the Bulldogs taking a commanding 21-3 lead with 7 minutes left in the third quarter. The Indians turned the momentum and the game around after a 93 yard kickoff return and never looked back scoring 21 unanswered points in the second half to give the Bulldogs their second loss 24-21.

The Bulldogs traveled to Metter the third game of the season. Against the defense oriented Tiger team, ECI would only cross the goal line once losing their annual rivalry game to Metter 21-7, for their third loss in as many games.

ECI got their first win of the season on September 20th against Portal on homecoming night 36-0. Leading 29-0 at the half the defense limited the Panthers to just 40 yards the first two quarters. The Bulldogs took the foot off the gas winning the game 36-0.

The Bulldogs crossed the river the next week to play their neighbors in Millen, easily defeating the Eagles 50-16. ECI played great on both sides of the ball with the offense knocking out over 600 yards while the starting defense held the Eagles to minus 18 yards rushing in the first half with no first downs in the second quarter.

ECI lost their first region game of the season on October 4 against Johnson Co. 22-12. The Bulldogs opened the game scoring a touchdown in just 3 plays to take an early 6-0 lead but squandered a couple scoring opportunities in the game fumbling twice inside the 10 yard line after long drives.

The Bulldogs played Treutlen Co. the next game winning in the shootout 42-35. ECI led 27-14 at the half but let the Vikings stay in the game as the defense had trouble corralling their elusive quarterback. The Vikings scored 21 more points in the second half and thanks partly to three Treutlen turnovers in the game, the Bulldogs left Soperton with a win.

Wheeler Co. came calling at Rountree stadium on October 18. The Alamo Bulldogs haven't been very competitive in region three the last several years as ECI defeated Wheeler 42-7. Leading 35-0 at the half, the JV played the second half as ECI evened the season at 4-4.

The last game of the regular season had ECI playing Montgomery Co.

for the number 2 seed in the west side of the region. It was a physical game on both sides of the ball as the Bulldog offense scored double digits in every quarter except the first, defeating Montgomery 48-35.

Number two seed ECI hosted number 3 seed Calvary Day the next week in the region cross over or play-in game.

The Bulldogs and Cavaliers had an epic battle in 2017 with ECI winning in overtime. The Cavs returned the favor last year in another physical battle. With the game tied at 27 each, Calvary kicked a game winning field goal with 3 seconds left in the game to win 30-27.

The Bulldogs would advance to the state playoffs for the seventeenth consecutive year the next week.

The Bulldogs traveled down south to take on McIntosh Co. in the first round of the state playoffs. They defeated the Buccaneers on a wet night in Darien 28-23 to advance to the second round. The Bulldog defense shut down the Buc offense in the fourth quarter limiting them to just 7 yards rushing.

With the victory the Bulldogs captured their 500th win in school history. The Bulldogs faced the 2017 and 2018 state champions Clinch Co. in Homerville in the second round. The Panthers were ranked number two in state with their only loss to eventual champion Irwin Co.

The Panthers. featuring 4-star Georgia signee RB Tyler Morehead, jumped out to a 20-0 lead in the first half. ECI had a chance to cut into the lead in the second quarter but fumbled on the Clinch 5 yard line to end the drive. The Bulldogs got on the board midway in the third quarter to make to score 23-7. Both teams put 14 on the board in the fourth to make to final score 44-21 as Clinch advanced to play Warren Co. in the third round.

"The 2019 season was full of ups and downs," commented coach Chris Kearson about last season. "After a slow start the Dawgs won 5 out of the next 6 games and found themselves in the first round of the state playoffs. We won in the rained soaked, turnover filled game in McIntosh Co. to advance to the second round against Clinch Co. down in Homerville. The Panthers jumped on ECI early and never let up to end our season. Gone from last year are 7 first and second round All-Region players who will be missed."

Changes in store for Class A schools

by RON WEATHERFORD

There will be a few changes for class A schools beginning in the 2020 athletic season.

First major change is doing away with the power ranking system to determine playoff teams. It began with the top 16 teams in power rankings eligible for the state playoffs. Later it was changed to the top 24 teams.

Love it or hate it as some do, the PR system most of the time had the better and deserving teams in the playoffs based on wins and strength of schedule. Unlike other classifications, with the PR systems in Class A, making the playoffs was based on all 10 games instead of just region games.

The playoff system for class A will revert to the previous format with the top 4 teams in each region eligible for the state playoffs based on region record. This is the same system as the other classifications.

The other major change is a complete split between public and private schools. Public and private schools will be in separate regions.

In ECI's region three, that means the three private schools, Savannah Christian, Calvary and Country Day will play in their own region with other private schools.

With the reclassification schools move up and down in class based on FTE numbers and out of zone students attending.

The biggest news for class A is that the two teams who played for the AA state championship will move down in class A. Dublin and Brooks County are 2 of the major teams who will compete in Class A sports beginning in the fall of 2020.

If you look at the attendance numbers, it's hard to see how schools like Stewart Co. with 106 students and Warren Co. with 159 can compete in athletics with Dublin with 548 students and Screven Co. with 567. Screven was originally slated to stay in Class AA but won their appeal to drop down to Class A even with AA numbers.

While the committee approved Screven to play in Class A, in their infinite wisdom, they denied 5 Class A schools' petition to play up in class and compete in AA. Class A schools Christian Heritage, Darlington, Holy Innocents, Pace Academy and Wesleyan lost their appeal to play up to class AA.

ECI will remain in region 3 as in previous years but will not be split with A and B sides. Other schools in region 3 are Claxton, Jenkins Co., McIntosh Co., and Portal. Schools who dropped down from Class AA and playing in Class A region three with ECI are Metter, Bryan Co and Screven Co. Three other schools are in region three but do not play sports.

McIntosh Co. was origi-

nally scheduled to play in region 2 with Clinch, Charlton and Irwin Co, but won their appeal to play in region 3.

Wheeler Co. who played in region 3 the last several years will play out of region 4. Three other teams who played in region 3 won their appeal to leave region 3. Johnson Co., Treutlen Co. and Montgomery Co. will now play in region 4.

Past region rivals Savannah Christian, Calvary and Savannah Country Day will be in region 3 private along with Aquinas and one other non-football playing school. Which means that every team will make the playoffs each year, with the only mystery being seeding.

Private and public schools can still play each other in the regular season but will not count in region standing. ECI has Country Day and Savannah Christian on the non-region schedule early in the season along with Vidalia.





Young C-team looking to repeat as champions

by RON WEATHERFORD The ECI football C-team are young but eager to repeat as middle school champions.

The 2019 team was also young but grew up fast finishing the season with an 8-0 record and winning the Southeast Georgia Middle School League Championship. They defeated North Tattnall 8-0 scoring the only touchdown of the game with 16 seconds left in the fourth to take home the trophy.

The 2020 team will be without 16 eighth graders who will be playing at the next level this year.

"It will take a lot of hard work to repeat as champions, but that is our yearly goal," commented head coach Greg Kennedy. "Summer workouts have been well attended considering the Covid 19 restrictions, guidelines and apprehensions."

The Bulldogs return just 3 starters on the offensive side of the ball. QB Jackson Kennedy, wide receiver Kanyon Thompson and tight end Brian Steele are the only returning offensive players.

The inexperienced posi-

tions on the offensive will be on the line with no starters returning. Competing for the starting positions on the line are Cayden Jones, Carlo Salinas, Jon Wesley Oliff, Efrem Davis, Vyntavious Hughes, Creed Sanders, Nathan Marsh, Oisin Matthews, Dee Akridge, Jeremiah Budgett, Braxton Oliver, Wessyn Willoughby, Jacob Avery, and Gage Gay. "This group is really going to have to step up for us to be successful," stated Kennedy on his young group of linemen.

The backfield is where the experience is positioned for this year's team. Along with quarterback Jackson Kennedy, the Dawgs will have Brian Steele, Tuff Boddiford, Tyler Foreman, Gabe Lee, Clayton Stripling, MJ Williams, Revan Fortner, James Parker and Kanyon Thompson competing for playing time running the ball.

As with most small schools, a lot of the players mentioned above will see action on the defensive side of the ball also.

The 2019 defensive unit was a stingy bunch giving up

just 59 points in the 8 games. "This year's defense will need to mature quickly in order for us to make another playoff run," commented coach Kennedy.

Tuff Boddiford, Carlos Salinas and Gabe Lee are expected to lead the defense at the linebacker position. Brian Steele, Jacob Avery, Gage Gay and MJ Williams will vie playing time at the end position.

Seeing action in the secondary will be James Parker, Tyler Foreman, Revan Fortner, Clayton Stripling, Jackson Kennedy, Daon Bethea, Jesse Hirschy, Ab Marsh and Chase Johnson.

The defensive line will be anchored by Jeremiah Budgett, Cayden Jones, Dee Akridge, Terence Calryle, Oisin Matthews, Jon Wesly Oliff, Nathan Marsh, Efrem Davis, Vyntavious Hughes and Braxton Oliver.

Coach Kennedy is assisted again this year by Joey Korwin, Artie Fields and Chase Ellison.

"The goal of this team is to repeat as champions, but it will take a lot of inexperienced players to mature quickly and play disciplined, physical football." said Kennedy about the outlook for 2020. The Bulldogs open the season with road games against Bryan Co. and Metter and host South Tattnall on October 1 for the home opener.







Millsaps.

Stone.

The only freshman on

the team for 2020 is LaTyra

ECI cheerleaders ready for 2020 season to begin

by RON WEATHER-FORD

Along with other sport athletes, it has been an unusual summer preparing for the 2020 season for the ECI Bulldog Cheerleaders. But, along with the rest of fall sport athletes, they are ready to get it on.

And if you don't believe cheerleaders are athletes, you only need to watch as they lead the Bulldogs onto the field for each game.

They competed and attended three different camps and competitions in 2019 plus hosting their own mini--cheerleading camp for youngsters.

Because of the covid restrictions, the cheerleaders could not hold their mini-camp and all the normal camps and competitions have been cancelled.

They did hold their own in-house two-day camp conducted by Luci and Bob McNeely, working on new stunts, tumbling and jumps.

Captains for this year's squad are seniors Destiny Akridge and Sarah Beth Kersey. Other senior leaders are Emma Mason, Molly McBride, and Morgan Rehberg.

Alaya Hudson, Zana Taylor, and Faith Mincey return as juniors in 2020.

The large sophomore class includes Anna Claire Davis, Taylor Flakes, Sara Fordham, Aubrey Harrison, Macie McBride, Marti Woodward, and Lizzie



ECI CHEERLEADERS

The 2020 squad are under the direction again this year of Tabatha Downer and Brandi Davis. "These spirited girls are looking forward to cheering on the Dawgs this year.", stated Downer.



ECI Varsity Cheerleader Destiny Akridge *Sarah Beth Kersey Anna Claire Davis **Taylor Flakes** Sara Fordham Aubrey Harrison Alaya Hudson Emma Mason Macie McBride Molly McBride Lizzie Millsaps Faith Mincey Morgan Rehberg Zayna Taylor LaTyra Stone Aarti Woodward

*Cheer Captains: Destiny Akridge and Sarah Beth Kersey

Spirt of the Dawg Marching Band hoping for a normal year

by RON WEATHERFORD

The ECI marching band in a normal year would be practicing for both the halftime shows and band competitions in the fall.

While as of now halftime shows are still on tap for GHSA, schools hosting band competitions have either cancelled the events or not decided whether to host one.

Last fall they attended the Bulloch Band Blast and the Effingham Co. Coastal Empire Classic. They received Superior in Drum Major, Excellent in Percussion and Auxiliary and Excellent in Overall Band.

The marching band has been hard at work preparing for the 2020 halftime show. This year it will feature songs from Andrew Lloyd Weber's Phantom of the Opera. Songs will include "Masquerade," "Music of the Night" and "Phantom of the Opera."

"The members are very excited and HOPEFUL to present their show during the upcoming football season," commented band director Ashley Akridge.

The band is under the leadership of drum major Ada Godwin, assistant drum major Precious Heath, percussion captain Jerica Scott, brass captain Ohm Patel, woodwind captain Jackelyn Hebert, sergeant Conner Merier and dance line captains Karmen Thompson and Shelby Roberson.

"We are looking forward to a fun year and cheering our ECI Dogs to victory," stated Akridge.



ECI BAND



Spirit of the Dawg Marching Band Members

	rdrug service	
Name	Grade	
Madison Walker	7	Clarinet
Carolyn Cox	7	Drum Line
Cailey Fann	8	Flute
Kelcie Morris	9	Flute
Jackelyn Hebert	9	Flute
O'Zion Reese	9	Trumpet
Wallee Kersey	9	Trombone
Henley Johnson	9	Dance Line
Aleigha Ducker	10	Flute
Caleb Clements	10	Drum Line
Kellie Howell	10	Dance Line
Madison Murray	10	Dance Line
Maggie Smith	10	Dance Line
Toddrianna Watson	10	Dance Line
Ohm Patel	11	Baritone
Joshua Flanders	11	Drum Line
Diamond Daughtry	11	Dance Line
Jalasia Gordon	11	Dance Line
Shelby Roberson	11	Dance Line
Karmen Thompson	11	Dance Line
Ada Godwin	12	Alto Sax
Precious Heath	12	Drum Line
JericaScott	12	Drum Line
Haylee Roberson	12	Dance Line
Madison Barwick	12	Dance Line



Talent and experience take the field for 2020 Lady Dawgs

by RON WEATHERFORD The 2020 ECI softball team will enter the season fielding one of the most experienced and talented groups the Bulldogs have had.

The 2019 Bulldogs had a record setting year ending the season at 25-6. They won their fifth consecutive region championship and their third trip to the Elite 8 of the state playoffs.

"The 2020 team is one of the most balanced teams we have had in terms of experience and talent," commented head coach Frank Wimberly. "Our core group are seniors and sophomores. Our seniors have won three region

championships with two trips to Columbus."

The Bulldogs have some holes to fill in four key positions for 2020. They will have to fill three spots on the infield beginning with the catcher where Makayla Clifton wore the mask committing just five errors in 2019.

Another position to be filled is first base where Zera Edenfield played in 2019 and batted .349 for the season.

The hot corner at third will need to be filled where Ansley McQuaig played and could always be heard.

ECI will have one outfield empty position where Rhikanna Lee roamed



around in 2019.

The Bulldogs return five starters from the 2019 team.

Returning for the Bulldogs are 3-year starter Mattie Grimm, 3-year starter and 2x all-region player Taylor Radford and 4-year starter and 3x all-region player Kelly Joseph. Kelsey Harper, who was all-region as a freshman, returns at shortstop. Pitcher Charla Clifton, who was first team all-region, region player of the year, and first team all-state as a freshman, returns to toe the rubber for the Bulldogs.

On a side note with C. Clifton's selection last year, it marked the seventh consecutive year a Bulldog softball player was chosen as region player of the year.

Sophomore Sullie Bodiford will join C. Clifton in the circle for the Bulldogs.

Other players who will be counted on this year for the Bulldogs are Jesley Snellgrove, who has battled through injuries the past couple of years but came up big in the playoffs, returns.

Jaci Martin will compete

ECI SOFTBALL TEAM AND COACH for a corner infield spot along the five with Semya Williams who is on m. battling for one of the open for ogs positions for the Bulldogs. both

> "With the experienced senior leadership and large very talented sophomore group who have contributed early in their careers, and add two juniors who will play every game and a few freshmen who have bought in and it makes for another promising season for ECI softball," commented Wimberly about his outlook for this season.

> Just like in the rest of the sports the Bulldogs will have some new faces to play in region games this year with the addition of Bryan Co. and Screven Co. Metter enters region 3 but the two teams have been playing each other in the past.

> Gone also along with other sports is the power ranking system which put pressure on teams and coaches since all games determined playoff spots and seedings. This year only region games will count in the playoff picture.

The Lady Dawgs played in

the Tattnall Co. tournament on August 7-8 to warm up for region play. They lost to both higher class teams in AAAAA Apalachee 8-0 and AAA Pierce Co. 5-3.

The team hosted former region foe Johnson Co. on August 10. Leading 4-0 the game was called in the second inning due to continuous lightning in the area.

ECI has three more games plus tournament games in Crisp Co. before region play begins on August 25 against Jenkins Co.

So far, softball is one of the few team sports that haven't been affected by the Covid restrictions as for as games and practice being cancelled or rescheduled.

The Lady Dawgs are led by head coach Frank Wimberly with assistant coaches Mikel Clifton and Deven Bennett. Bennett comes to ECI from Cherokee High School where she was MVP and Golden Glove recipient her junior and senior year. Bennett attended Brewton Parker College where she played softball for four years.

ECI VARSITY SOFTBALL ROSTER 2020

First Name	No.	Grade
Kelly Joseph	6	12
Taylor Radford	7	12
Jaci Martin	10	12
Briana Rich	13	12
Mattie Grimm	22	12
Jesley Snellgrove	23	12
Semya Williams	3	11
Macy Canady	11	11
Charla Clifton	2	10
Sullee Bodiford	4	10
Shayla Stephens	5	10
Karly Oliff	8	10
Kaylan Lamb	14	10
Ally Taylor	20	10
Lily Robertson	21	10
Kelsey Harper	33	10
Asia Gibbons	12	9
Jarei Oglesby	16	9
Amber Harden	18	9





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COACH KEARSON AND FAMILY

Meet the Coach:



Name: Chris Kearson Age: 48 Hometown: Waycross

Family: Wife, Dedra; son, Bryce, 9th grade; and daughter, Jayna, 7th grade **Education:** Bachelor of Science from Union College, Master of Education from Southwestern State University, and Education Specialist in Administration from Cambridge College

Playing experience: Played football and baseball at Union College in Kentucky **Previous coaching experience:** Eighth year as head coach at ECI, defensive coordinator at ECI for nine years, and 69-16 record at ECI; assistant coach at Peach County High School; 6-time Assistant Coach of the Year; 2012 Class A State Championship; 2012 Class A Coach of the Year; 13-1 and one state championship at ECI (2012); 2002-2009 at ECI; three region Class A championships (2006-2008); GHSA Class A runner-up (2008); GHSA state champions (2007)

1996-2001 at Peach County; GHSA Class AAA runner-up (1998); coached in four state championship games, one at Peach County and three at ECI; UGA coaching clinic in 2012; region championship in 2015-2017 at ECI; semifinals of playoffs in 2015-2017 at ECI

Senior Softball Players



TAYLOR RADFORD



KELLY JOSEPH



JACI MARTIN



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BRIANA RICH



MATTIE GRIMM

JESLEY SNELLGROVE

ECI Lady Dawgs Softball Schedule 2020

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
September 1	Bryan Co.	Away	5:30 p.m.
September 3	Screven Co.	Away	5:30 p.m.
September 9	Portal	Away	5:30 p.m.
September 10	Claxton	Home	5:30 p.m.
September 12	Jeff Davis Tournament	Away	TBA
September 15	Metter	Away	5:30 p.m.
September 17	Jenkins	Away	5:30 p.m.
September 22	McIntosh Co.	Away	5:30 p.m.
September 24	Bryan Co.	Home	5:30 p.m.
September 29	Screven Co.	Home	5:30 p.m.
October 1	Portal	Home	5:30 p.m.
October 6	Claxton	Away	5:30 p.m.
October 8	Metter	Home	5:30 p.m.

ECI Varsity Bulldogs Football Schedule 2020

Date	Opponent	Location
September 4	SCPS	Away
September 11	SCD	Away
September 18	Vidalia	Home
September 25	OPEN	N/A
October 2	Screven	Away
October 9	Portal	Away
October 16	MCA	Home
October 23	OPEN	N/A
October 30	Claxton	Home
November 6	Jenkins Co.	Home
November 13	Bryan Co.	Away
November 20	Metter	Home

ECI Varsity Softball Schedule					
September 1	Bryan Co.	Away	5:30 p.m.		
September 3	Screven Co.	Away	5:30 p.m.		
September 9	Portal	Away	5:30 p.m.		
September 10	Claxton	Home	5:30 p.m.		
Contombor 12	Jeff Davis	A 111-011	TBA		
September 12	Tournament	Away	IDA		
September 15	Metter	Away	5:30 p.m.		
September 17	Jenkins	Away	5:30 p.m.		
September 22	McIntosh Co.	Away	5:30 p.m.		
September 24	Bryan Co.	Home	5:30 p.m.		
September 29	Screven Co.	Home	5:30 p.m.		
October 1	Portal	Home	5:30 p.m.		
October 6	Claxton	Away	5:30 p.m.		
October 8	Metter	Home	5:30 p.m.		







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EMMA MASON



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MORGAN REHBERG

Bulldog Senior Band Members



ADA GODWIN



PRECIOUS HEATH



JERICA SCOTT



HAYLEE ROBERSON



MADISON BARWICK





ECI FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF

ECI Bulldogs Middle School Team Roster

Eighth Graders Efrem Davis Kanyon Thompson **Brian Steele Clayton Stripling** Carlo Salinas Cayden Jones Jesse Hirschy Nathan Marsh **MJ** Williams Gage Gay Jacob Avery Gabe Lee **Oisin Matthews** James Parker **Seventh Graders** Vyntavious Hugues Dalton Morris Creed Sanders Tuff Boddiford Jackson Kennedy Braxton Oliver Jeremiah Budgett Wesson Willoughby **Revan Fortner** Coaches

Greg Kennedy--Head Coach Artie Fields

Tyler Foreman Daon Bethea **Brodie Fagler** Jon Wesley Oliff Dee Akridge Javori' Stokes **Sixth Graders** Ab Marsh Gage Johnson Davis Johnson Brayden Rich **Tarence Carlyle** Holden Bowen **Turner Bryant** Aaron Matthews Aiden Cumbee Ryver Tharpe Caleb Mobley Marcus Gadson Randon Durden Laravius Carlyle Hagan Bowen Chase Johnson Landon Frederick Patron Mack

Joey Korwin Chase Ellison

ECI Middle School Football Schedule 2020

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
September 17	Bryan Co.	Away	5 p.m.
September 24	Metter	Away	5 p.m.
October 1	S. Tattnall	Home	5 p.m.
October 8	Jenkins Co.	Away	5 p.m.
October 15	Screven Co.	Home	5 p.m.
October 22	N. Tattnall	Home	5 p.m.
October 29	Playoffs	TBA	5 p.m.
November 5	Championship	TBA	5 p.m.

ECI JV Softball Schedule 2020

Date	Opponent	Location	Time	
September 9	Portal	Away	4 p.m.	
September 10	Metter	Away	4:30 p.m.	
September 14	Toombs	Home	5:30 p.m.	
September 15	Metter	Away	4 p.m.	

ECI C-Team Softball Schedule 2020

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
September 1	Metter	Home	4:30 p.m.
September 3	Toombs Co.	Home	4:30 p.m.
September 10	Metter	Away	4:30 p.m.
September 17	S. Tattnall	Away	4:30 p.m.
September 22	Jenkins Co.	Home	4:30 p.m.
September 24	Wm James	Away	4:30 p.m.
September 29	Toombs Co.	Away	4:30 p.m.







Good luck and best wishes to all Emanuel County teams! Compliments of Sheriff J. Tyson Stephens and deputies of the School Resource Unit.



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Swainsboro High School Cheerleaders

Treazure Franklin	Brooke Hannah
Ray'Shona Hooks	Antoria Hodges
Etta Key	Hayleigh Jordon
Jaylee Justice	Victoria McRee
Caroline Mason	Jada O'Quinn
Ashlyn Deloach	Lawrewn Wadley
Caitlyn Fleming	Kai'Yanna Henderson
Malaysia Lockett	Allie Hendrix
Blaze Morris	Analise Newsome
Jada Murphy	Maggie Palmer
Melanie Purcell	Ayla Thompson
M	adison Williford
	Coaches
Whitney Brown	Bekkha Wheeler
Luc	ri & Bob McNeely

2020 Swainsboro Tigers Football Preview

by TROUP BRINSON

The Swainsboro Tigers enter the 2020 season ready to compete for a region title and make a deep run through the state playoffs. Head Coach Scott Roberts enters his 4th season as the man in charge for the black and gold and will have a talented group of Tigers on the field. This team will be young in comparison to the team Swainsboro competed with last season, but very athletic and exciting as new names get their chance to shine.

The schedule will be a bit different as Region 2-AA lost two teams and added one. Gone are Metter and Bryan County from the region schedule, though Swainsboro opens the season with Metter as a non-region foe, and in are

our neighbors to the west, East Laurens. As usual, Swainsboro stacks the early season with the toughest competition around, with Metter, Jefferson County, Statesboro, and Washington County. Metter has taken gigantic strides under head coach Rodney Garvin and will likely be the odds-on favorite in their new region 3-A. The other three teams are perennial playoff teams with no disclaimer necessary. With only 6 teams in the region, Swainsboro, Vidalia, Toombs County, and Jeff Davis will be the front runners with East Laurens and Bacon County needing to make a huge move to earn a playoff spot as each team finished at 1-9 in 2019.

Offensively, Swainsboro will be breaking in a new

QB. The Tigers graduated a fun to watch him continue OB who threw for 60 touchdowns the past two seasons in Kade Youmans. This season, sophomore Ty Adams will take over the reins and bring a running element back to the offense. With talented receivers Fred and Cedric Seabrough as experienced receiving targets, Adams will have a chance to put big numbers on the scoreboard.

"We lost a lot of experience and leadership in Kade, but I am really excited about the growth of Ty Adams as a QB in the last year," said head coach Roberts. "You can tell that he took advantage of learning how to lead and learning the offense last year. As a sophomore, he has emerged as a leader in the locker room. It's going to be

to grow."

On the defensive side of the ball. Swainsboro lost a ton of experience and play-making ability. However, they were also a team with tremendous talent waiting in the wings and pushing for playing time even last season. Zabrien Harden will lead this group and is without a doubt one of the top defensive players in the region. Harden is a standout linebacker who has been punishing ball carriers since his freshman season and as a senior, he is prepared to show why he is such heavily prized recruit on the college level. The Seabrough twins will make a formidable trio of defensive playmakers but Swainsboro will need to see some young players step up

on the defensive line to truly make this a stout unit.

The Tigers may not be as senior-laden as last season, but they are not without leadership in 2020.

"We have 12 seniors on the roster," said Roberts. "This is the first group of freshmen we had when I got here. It's been an awesome experience watching them develop from the spring of their 8th grade year into the young men they have become. This group does a great job of representing our program in the community, in the school, and I can't wait to see how they finish off their high school careers on the football field."

The Tigers look to make the playoffs for the 3rd consecutive season, a feat they haven't accomplished since 2004.

SHS Tiger Football Schedule 2020						
Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Den Leaders		
Sept. 4	Metter	Home	7:30 p.m.	Scott Roberts-Head Coach		
Sept. 11	Jefferson Co.	Away	7:30 p.m.	Dwight Smith-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line		
Sept. 18	Statesboro	Home	7:30 p.m.	Neal David-Defensive Backs		
Sept. 25	Washington Co. (HC)	Home	7:30 p.m.	Morgan Jersey-Linebackers		
Oct. 2	Dublin	Away	7:30 p.m.	Chase Giddens-Co-Offensive Coordinator/OL		
Oct. 9	Open	N/A	N/A	Ashely Hooks-Co-Offensive Coordinator/WR's		
Oct. 16	*East Laurens	Home	7:30 p.m.	David Ray–Running Backs		
Oct. 23	Open	N/A	N/A	Dr. Delan Gaines, Orthopedic Surgeon–Team Doctor		
Oct. 30	*Bacon Co.	Away	7:30 p.m.	Mindy Ellis-Athletic Trainer		
Nov. 6	*Jeff Davis (SR)	Home	7:30 p.m.	Ron Hurst-Assistnat Princiapl/Athletic Director		
Nov. 13	*Toombs Co.	Away	7:30 p.m.	Brandon Andrews-Assistnat Principal		
Nov. 20	*Vidalia	Away	7:30 p.m.	Dr. Denis Warncok–Principal		
	To Be Noted:			Dr. Kevin Judy–Sunerintendent		
			Michael Singletary–Video Coordinator			
HC—Homecoming SR—Senior Night *Region Games			Go Tigers!!!			

2019 Swainsboro Football Review

by TROUP BRINSON

In 2019, the Swainsboro Tigers were a senior-laden team that impressed with a dominant defense and a potent balanced offense which put them in the Top 10 for most of the season. Record setting senior QB Kade Youmans kept the offense churning and the Tigers punished opponents with a defense that was among the most talented groups in the state. Swainsboro finished the season at 8-4 after a second round playoff loss as a rash of injuries to key defensive playmakers in the final few games put the Tigers in a precarious po-

sition when they needed to be close to full strength. Swainsboro got record-setting production for the 2nd consecutive season from QB Youmans as he put together a two year total of 4400 passing yards and 60 touchdown completions, easily tops in program history. Youmans had a trio of receivers that benefitted in 2019 in Cedric Seabrough, Frederick Seabrough, and Javon Brown who accounted for 118 of the team's 138 receptions. Robert Allen carried the load at running back with over 1000--yards rushing including a 224yard effort in a victory in

playoffs. Ka'yun Davis led the defense with an incredible 32 tackles for loss.

Swainsboro wasted no time in finding out what they were made of in 2019, playing three Top 10 level teams in their first four games. The Tigers drubbed Jefferson County 37-14 before losing to eventual state champion Dublin Irish 35-13. Swainsboro blew up Cross Creek 48-0 and then went to the House of Pain to take on the #5 ranked Golden Hawks of Washington County. The Tigers got out to a 21-0 lead and cruised to a 27-7 victory behind 240 yards passing

the first round of the state from Youmans in a game that announced Swainsboro as a legitimate contender in 2019.

> Swainsboro then went on to win their next four region games by a combined score of 140-28, leading the region with only games remaining. two However, the injury bug hit the Tigers as they lost their top two tacklers in ZaBrien Harden and John Henderson, linebackers who accounted for most of the Swainsboro's run stopping prowess. The Tigers lost to run heavy teams Jeff Davis 21-14 and Toombs County 31-20 to send Swainsboro into the

playoffs as a No. 3 seed.

The Tigers took to the road for the first round of the State Playoffs against Harlem. Heavy rains and mud made this an extremely sloppy game, but Swainsboro won in a blowout 37-3 as Allen rushed for 224 yards on 32 carries.

The Tigers ran into an offensive juggernaut in Hapeville Charter in the second round of the playoffs. Nothing went right for Swainsboro as they turned the ball over and made lapses defensively, trailing 35-0 after one quarter. Hapeville rolled to a 70-28 victory.

Derrick Jones	1	Senior	DB/WR	Nautis Hall	39	Sophmore	DB/W
ZaBrien Harden	4	Senior	LB/FB	Jamie McCoy	41	Sophmore	LB/WI
Juan Brown	5	Senior	DB/WR	Kenneth Moore	42	Sophmore	LB/FB
Joseph Summerset	9	Senior	DB/RB	Zac Roberson	46	Sophmore	DB/W
Elijah Loyd	11	Senior	DB/WR	Dakota Blount	54	Sophmore	OL/DI
Elijah Freeman	14	Senior	DB/WR	Ozzie Gonzelez	59	Sophmore	OL/DI
DeMonte Smith	20	Senior	DB/WR	Tra'lyvion Harris	60	Sophmore	OL/DI
Robert Allen	31	Senior	LB/RB	Quan Starnes	65	Sophmore	OL/DI
Taylon Martinez	52	Senior	OL/DL	Landen Scott	69	Sophmore	OL/DI
Matthew Hancock	76	Senior	OL/DL	Omarion Foster	72	Sophmore	OL/DI
a'Quavious Lattimore	3	Junior	DB/WR	Kenyuan Jackson	73	Sophmore	OL/D
Cedric Seabrough	7	Junior	DL/WR	Bryan Youman	80	Sophmore	DB/W
Fredrick Seabrough	8	Junior	DL/TE	Aden Hernandez	88	Sophmore	K
Antione Carlyle	16	Junior	DB/WR	Lenox Lively	12	Freshman	QB
Daron Coleman	26	Junior	DL/FB	Keshon Deloach	21	Freshman	DB/W
Trevon Waller	33	Junior	DB/WR	Jordon Williams	22	Freshman	DB/RI
Rafiek Walker	34	Junor	DB/WR	Jerrod Steward	23	Freshman	LB/FB
Ryan Gilmore	55	Junior	OL/DL	Demello Jones	29	Freshman	DB/W
JoVaughn Davis	77	Junior	OL/DL	Cameron Lockett	35	Freshman	LB/RE
Ty Adams	2	Sophmore	QB/DB	R'Tavien Green	36	Freshman	DB/W
Jonorian Foots	6	Sophmore	LB/FB	Lamarqus Webb	43	Freshman	DB/W
Dorien Foots	10	Sophmore	DB/WR	Kam'Ron Tillman	45	Freshman	DB/W
Zach Grant	13	Sophmore	DB/WR	Jaydon Worthen	47	Freshman	FB/DI
Jeffrey Brown	15	Sophmore	LB/FB	Kason Palmber	51	Freshman	OL/DI
Zach Lee	17	Sophmore	LB/WR	Shanon Ricks	56	Freshman	OL/DI
Jakari Nobles	18	Sophmore	DB/WR	TJ Curry	57	Freshman	OL/DI
Jaiquam Wells	24	Sophmore	DB/WR	Gauge Coxwell	64	Freshman	OL/D
Ryan Dekle	25	Sophmore	LB/RB	Cameron Franklin	68	Freshman	OL/D
Jawaun Washington	28	Sophmore	DB/WR	Solomon Johnson	71	Freshman	OL/DI
River Greene	30	Sophmore	DB/WR	Thomas Hancock	74	Freshman	OLIDI

SHS Tiger Football Roster

Leader of the den: *Coach* Roberts

Name: Scott Roberts **Age:** 46 Hometown: Ocilla Family: Riley, Lainey, and Ty, children **Education:** BBA, finance from Georgia Southern

Master's, kinesiology also from Georgia Southern

Playing experience:

Irwin County High School

South Georgia College, collegiate baseball

Previous coaching experience:

Head coach at Swainsboro High School, 2008-2009; Offensive coordi-



ROBERTS

nator at Bainbridge High School 2013-2017; and Tift County High School 2011.

Position Coach: Colquitt County, Fitzgerald, Cairo, and Washington County

Taking it to the next level

by TROUP BRINSON

The Swainsboro Tigers are rarely a program without special athletes from sideline to sideline. That is almost a given, but special on the high school field and potentially special on the college field can be determined by grades, speed, height, weight, and mental makeup. If a player has that rare combination of attributes and they produce for their high school team, recruiters come calling. ZaBrien Harden, Frederick Seabrough, and Cedric Seabrough are those types of athletes.

Senior linebacker Harden was leading the Tigers in tackles last season before an injury in game #8 versus Vidalia short circuited a terrific season. At 6'3" 230 lbs, Harden has the size to get things done on the football field. Even as an underclassman before he hit a growth spurt, Harden was known as a very good tackler with a nose for the football. As he his body has grown to match his abilities, Harden has distinguished himself as the type of player

offenses game-plan to stay away from. He's caught the attention of numerous college programs and the offers have been plentiful. Harden committed to Arkansas State over the summer and looks to add to his resume with a spectacular senior season

It's easy to just say "the twins" when speaking of Cedric and Fred Seabrough, but it doesn't do justice to the amazing athletes that they have become, individually. Always standouts on the basketball court, realizing their potential on the football field didn't come as quickly. Cedric starred as a WR as a sophomore, becoming Kade Youmans' goto receiver with 52 catches for 600 yards. He followed that up with a junior season of 58 catches for 800 yards. Fred flashed potential, but his coming out party was his junior seasona when his talent turned into production where he averaged almost 20 yards per reception over 37 catches. Together, they are a tandem that gives defenses nightmares, making difficult catches and pun-

sen as the type of player unite	un cateries	unu	Pun			
SHS Tiger Seniors						
Seniors	Position	HT.	WT.			
Robert Allen	RB	5'8"	175			
Juan Brown	WR	6'5"	180			
Elijah Freeman	DB	5'11"	180			
Mathew Hancock	OL	5'6"	230			
ZaBrien Harden	LB	6'3"	230			
Derrick Jones	WR, FS	6'1"	180			
Elijah Loyd	WR	5'10"	160			
Talon Martinez	OL	6'1"	210			
Cedric Seabrough	WR, DE	6'3"	225			
Frederick Seabrough	TE, DE	6'3"	220			
Demonte Smith	WR	6'2"	175			
Joseph Summerset	DE	5'10"	160			

match up the physical nature of how they play. Both brothers stand at 6'3" in the

ishing defenders who don't been tracking the Seabrough twins for some time now, with the brothers choosing to let schools know they 225 lb range. Colleges have were a package deal. North

Carolina State received their commitment this summer and Cedric and Fred are prepping for a monster senior season.



Have a great season Tigers, Eagles, & Bulldogs!

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2020 Swainsboro softball preview

Senior Football Players

by TROUP BRINSON

The Swainsboro Tigers softball team has been working hard and ready to kick sports off for the school year. Head coach Alicia Hendrix and assistant coach Bryanna Riner have this team prepared to challenge for the region playoffs and this season should be an exciting one.

Seniors Phoebe Durden, Juliana Hood, and Kedaysha Snelling will lead a squad hungry to win. Phoebe Durden has been a 4--year starter and is the complete package. She pitches and plays shortstop and is one of the top hitters in the region. Her leadership is key for this team and she has the resume to prove she can get it done

on a softball field.

"Phoebe is extremely talented and is the hardest working player on our team, both on and off the field," commented Hendrix.

Julianna Hood has also been a 4--year starter and should be a dependable veteran presence in the lineup. She expects to get most of her time in left field. Snelling joined the team as a junior and is one of the hardest workers, earning starts in right field last season and providing depth and leadership.

Swainsboro will field a young team again this season with three freshmen starters. They will battle some growing pains due to the youth and inexperience on the high school level and the lack of practice time due to the pandemic, but as this team grows together the talent should begin to turn into results.

The Tigers have already gotten into their season's schedule and Durden has been strong from the mound in the early going with Millie Hooks, Erin Hood, and Jocie Hendrix providing some offensive punch to a team that will be learning on the fly.

It's been a trying offseason with no practice games or scrimmages and limited preparation time, but the Swainsboro Tigers are anxious to get as many games under their belt as possible and dig into their region schedule.



DERRICK JONES



ZaBRIEN HARDEN



JUAN BROWN







ELIJAH LOYD



ELIJAH FREEMAN







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