





Beautiful new 3 BDR, 2 BA homes for sale in the Highlands Village.

- Multiple floor plans
- Affordable options
- Waterfront available
- Conveniently located on I-59 between Laurel and Hattiesburg
 - Lots available from .25ac to 2ac
 - CSPIRE fiber coming soon!

Call us with questions or to schedule a showing

601-649-9459

or visit our website at

tilleryproperties.com





Pro Flow Motorsports

1721 Old Amy Rd. • Laurel, MS 39440

601-425-2484 www.proflowms.com



VISIT POLARIS.COM FOR MORE OFFERS



2265 HWY 15 N. • (601) 649-7735 • wwwhillsinhousejewelers.com

POLARIS*

*Offers vary by model. Rebate offers valid on select 2015-2018 new and unregistered Polaris® RZR®, RANGER®, Sportsman®, GENERAL®, and ACE® models purchased between 7/25/18- 9/30/18 and financing offers valid on select 2015-2019 new and unregistered models purchased between 7/25/2018 and 9/30/2018. See your authorized dealer for complete details. Rates as low as 2.99% APR for 36 months. Examples of monthly payments required over a 36-month term at a 2.99% APR rates \$19.33 per \$1,000 financed. An example of a monthly payment with \$0 down, no rebate, an APR of 2.99% APR rates \$19.33 per \$1,000 financed. An example of a monthly payment with \$0 down, no rebate, an APR of 2.99% APR rates \$19.33 per \$1,500 financed. Si5.60.52/m. total cost of borrowing of \$57.94 with a total obligation of \$12,978.84. Down payment may be required. Other financing offers may be available. See your local dealer for details. Minimum Amount Financed \$1,500, Maximum Amount Financed \$50,000. Other qualifications and restrictions may apply. Financing promotions void where prohibited. Tax, title, license, and registration are separate and may not be financed. Promotion may be modified or discontinued without notice at any time in Polaris' sole discretion. WARNING: Polaris off-road vehicles can be hazardous to operate and are not intended for norad use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers, if permitted, must be at least 12 years old. All riders should always wear helmets, eye protection, and protective clothing. Always use seat belts and cab nets or doors (as equipped). Never engage in stunt driving, and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix. All riders should take a safety training course. Call 800-342-3764 for additional information. Check local laws before riding on trails. *2018 Polaris Industries Inc.



EDITOR'S LETTER

The Joy of Sharing with Teammates

By Kevin Williamson

Sports is an "escape" for many, a way to get step outside the obligations of work and responsibility and just enjoy a little downtime. For others it's the theater, a hiking trail, a deer stand or their favorite fishing hole. Come to think of it, I like all of those things! But let's keep the focus on sports, and football specifically, for the moment.

Football is fun to play, fun to watch and it requires a full team effort to pull out a win. Football is tough, much like boxing or the martial arts. With any of those sports, you will get hit and you will have to learn to navigate through adversity. But football may be the most intriguing of those sports, since it makes you depend on the discipline, effort and talent of the other guys on your team. In American boxing or karate, discipline, effort and talent are required, but the focus is on an individual. With football the focus is on the team – no matter how hard you try, ultimately success can only come if the entire team is functioning as one. You are dependent on the guys around you!

Life is like that. We cannot go through life solo and reach the peak of our potential. We need teammates to help facilitate the highest success. One can experience a degree of success sometimes without others, but it's not the highest level – that requires partners. Like football, life requires that we sometimes set aside our personal aspirations for the good of the marriage or the office or the civic club or the church we attend. Even if one could climb the tallest mountain of success alone, a lone wolf has no one to howl with, no one to share his or her accomplishments with. They find themselves standing at the top of the mountain . . . in solitude.

From that perspective, the lone wolf can look around and see others atop other pinnacles of success, their faces aglow, flashing wide smiles and sharing their success with others who helped them get there. There is joy in sharing with teammates, a bond, a creation of memories that buoy us when times are not so great. Old football teammates can get together after years of not seeing each other, and there is still some sort of closeness there. In just a few minutes they often start sharing old times from the gridiron, of when they were teammates, of grinding through tough games, of celebrating big victories. There is something special about that. That something special will be taking place this fall all over the nation and here in the Pine Belt on a football field near you. We here at IMPACT and Sports601.com hope you will go out this season and support your favorite team and help them create lasting memories!



a division of Buckley Newspapers, Inc.

Ronnie Buckley Publisher

Manager Kevin Williamson

Sales Betty Busby

Kim Wilbanks Carolyn Buckley Marquita Robinson

Graphic Design Stephanie White

Lorin Pugh James Pugh

Writers/Photographers Kevin Williamson

James Pugh Brad Crowe





From eye exams and disease treatment to glasses and contacts, you can get it all in one place at Eye Care Associates.

We offer treatment for Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, Macular Degeneration & Dry Eye.

eyecarelaurel.com • 601.649.1437 • 1431 West 10th St., Laurel



Automated Security Gates



Quality Fencing



Custom Decks

from, the design possibilities are endless!



ELITE VIII



Photo/Tim Bass

Byron Young WEST JONES MUSTANGS

SENIOR/SDE 6'5/250 LB



Photo/Darrin Herndon

Charles Cross

Laurel Tornadoes SENIOR/OL

6'6/269 LB



Photo/Robby Scruggs

John Mitchell

SOUTH JONES BRAVES SENIOR/QB

6'3/195LB



Photo/Robby Scruggs

Javier (Fafa) Magee

Northeast Jones Tigers SENIOR/QB

5'11/154 LB



Photo/Tim Bass

Jon-Micah Coleman

WEST IONES MUSTANGS

SENIOR/WDE

6'6/269 LB



Photo/Robby Scruggs

Levi Walker

Laurel Tornadoes

SENIOR/CB

5'9/175 LB



Photo/Robby Scruggs

Andrew Howard

SOUTH JONES BRAVES SENIOR/TE/OLB

 $6'_{2}/_{210\,LB}$



Photo/Robby Scruggs

Joi Jones

Northeast Jones Tigers

SENIOR/DE

6'I/I80LB

GO WITH THE HOME TEAM.

Local Agents · Competitive Rates · Fast, Friendly Claims

Farm Bureau is headquartered right here in Mississippi, and as a member of our community, we're passionate about helping you protect what matters most—your family. So go with the home team! Contact us today.



CHRIS STOCKMAN | CHANNING PARKER | JEREMY HOLLAND | CASEY COFFIN | MICHAEL BRAND | CODY WARD | JORDAN WALTERS | JT PICKERING

LAUREL (601) 649-2800 Jones County Farm Bureau

P.O. Box 1890 Laurel , MS 39441 **ELLISVILLE** (601) 477-2074



ICIC

Mascot Bobcats Head Coach Steve Buckley (Third Year)

2017 Stats

Overal Record 8-2

Conference Record

6-1

Points For

414 Points Against

212

Receiving Yards Per Game 191.4

Rushing Yards Per Game

261.8

10 - 1

2018 SEASON

Key Players
Fred Peters
Jonathan Haynes
Jamar Richardson
Marquez Bembry
Stetson Bennett
Key Games
vs. Hinds (9/13)
vs. MGCCC (9/20)
vs. PRCC (10/4)
Record Prediction



WHAT BUCKLEY SAYS ABOUT YEAR THREE

"It's year three for us.

Nobody puts more pressure or has higher expectations than this coaching staff. I tell people all the time that this is a process – it's not a one hit wonder. We have a process academically, we have a process strength and conditioning wise, and we have a process football wise.

"I completely understand that we are judged by the scoreboard and the win/loss record every year. But I think it's important to note that we brought 55 kids into the program in the last two years we have been here and 55 of them have graduated. We have had 46 kids sign with four-year schools in our two years here and 33 of those signed Division I. On this current roster right now, we have 22 kids with Division I offers. So, the process is recruiting. Our staff does a

tremendous job of evaluating, bringing in names and doing homework on kids. When you do a thorough job in recruiting, it makes life in July, August, September, October and November much better.

"I have learned a lot in the last two years. I had never coached junior college football before. It's been a learning curve for me and I'm not ashamed to admit that."

WHAT THE COACH SAYS

e are skewed on numbers. We had a huge signing class the first year and the second year we had a small signing class and this year we have a huge signing class. We are looking at 21 returning guys and 34 new kids in the program. It's a learning curve for about 65 percent of our team.

- ◆ "We played everybody last year and this group knows we are going to play everybody. People don't know this, but there are a lot of high expectations for the program this year none more so than from the coaching staff. But out of the 25 positions on the team 11 on offense, 11 on defense and our kicker, punter and snapper we only have three starters back.
- ◆"For the first time we have been here, we feel like we have numbers up front. I learned a long time ago from old coaches that football teams are built around offensive and defensive lines. There is a new way of coaching where teams build around skill guys, but I'm old school. It starts up front on both sides of the ball. We have 11 scholarship kids in the defensive line where we have been playing with eight.
- ◆"[Our quarterbacks'] heads are spinning right now because we are installing the offense, but we feel very confident about them. We feel very confident in both of those kids. Stet and Fred are what we want to do offensively. They are dual-threat quarterbacks. Both of them can run and they both have live arms. The number one thing they can do is think and process and get our young kids lined up correctly and be a coach and leader on the field.
- ◆"I can't say enough about our freshmen in the offensive line. They have picked up things quickly and have shown a willingness to learn. I say this to the team all the time, the offensive line is the hardest position on the field to learn to play, including quarterback. Quarterback is second to me. But those freshmen are learning fast, and they have got to be ready to play that first game."
- ♠"[In the backfield], Donte Edwards was with us in the spring and we are expecting big things from him [at running back]. We're also excited about Kalyn Grandberry. They are two talented kids and are very opposite types of runners. Donte is a downhill runner and is very physical. Kaylin is a speedy back. He is 190 pounds right now and is a 10.5 100-meter kid, so we are excited about both of those kids.
- ◆"We have eight freshmen wide receivers. They are high character kids. They can all run and they have length. We have some explosive movement and skill set at that position. We just have to do a good job as a coaching staff and teach them our system as quick as we can.
- ◆ "We love playing at home. But you can't relax on our schedule. You may have a team that did not win a game last year, but you can revamp a roster very quickly in this system. Nothing is taken for granted. There is very little room for error, so you had better be ready to play each week."



PROPERTIES, LLC. FORESTRY CONSULTANTS, INC.









Land Sales - Timber Sales - Appraisals - Drone Services

walleyproperties.com

103 West Holly St. Ellisville, MS 601.477.3014

Laurel

Mascot Tornadoes Head Coach

Todd Breland (Seventh Year)

2017 Stats

Overall Record

9-5

Region 3-5A Record

5-2

Points For

450 Points Against

274

Receiving Yards Per Game

146.5 Rushing Yards Per Game

206.9

2018 SEASON

Kev Players

Charles Cross

Levi Walker

Key Games

vs. Hattiesburg (8/25)

vs. Brookhaven (9/28)

vs. West Jones (10/12)

Record Prediction

10-4



WHAT THE OPPOSING COACH SAYS

"Laurel is and always has been an athletic team.

"The program is well-coached and the players always play hard. That is the way they've been over the last couple of years.

"Laurel has made it to the [MHSAA Class 5A] South State Championship like five years in a row. That right there tells anyone all they need to know about [how good] Laurel High School is

with its football program.

Another coach's view:

"Laurel is always one of the better teams in Class 5A every year.

"They always seem to be surrounded with talent. Year after year they have a large class of players that sign and play football at the next level. What they have been able to do [at Laurel] is special.

"Not many teams can say

they've made it to the semifinal round in as many years as Laurel has.

"From what I know they have a few skilled athletes coming back that will help them continue in their winning ways.

"They're one of the teams in their region that stays consistent year after year as far was wins and losses."

"Laurel can compete with anyone in any class."









649-1496 601-735

601-735-2541

WHAT THE COACH SAYS

think offensively this year, we're returning two of the better running backs in our area, and we're going to rely on those guys.

"We have a couple of trigger guys [quarter-backs] that can get the ball around, and we have a few receivers outside who can get the job done. We know who our quarterback is going to be; we're just giving those other guys some reps. We have packages for certain guys, and most importantly we have a plan.

"I think with the offensive line and running back we have, we'll run the football a good bit this year.

"Defensively, we're going to do what we always have done. We like to swarm the football and use our speed to our advantage. We also try to get those guys on and off the field as quick as possible.

"On special teams, we want to play solid. We can't afford to make mistakes on special teams so we can let our players play.

"Our region (Region 3-5A) is a tough one, and that's why we play those first four games [Callaway, Hattiesburg, Oak Grove and Petal] that we do.

"Of course, we have Callaway coming here the first week of the season. They'll have some athletes that are better than anybody else we have on our schedule.

"I know their coach, Coach Chad Germany. I've known him for a long time, and he's a good football coach. He'll have that bunch lined up and ready to play. They'll undoubtedly be a challenge for us, but our guys will be ready.

"There has been some talk about other games coming up, but I warned our guys not to overlook the group of guys that are coming here first.

"Our biggest concern right now is just getting in shape and staying healthy. There are some things we can control, and there are other things that we can't. We can control how we prepare for it.

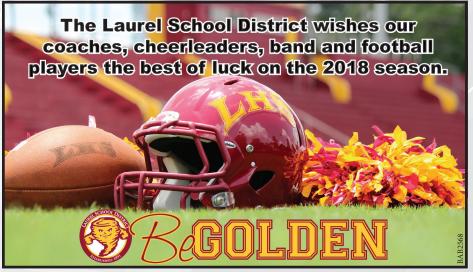
"We like to focus on the little things as well, making sure we don't turn the ball over, etc. The little things can make big things happen.

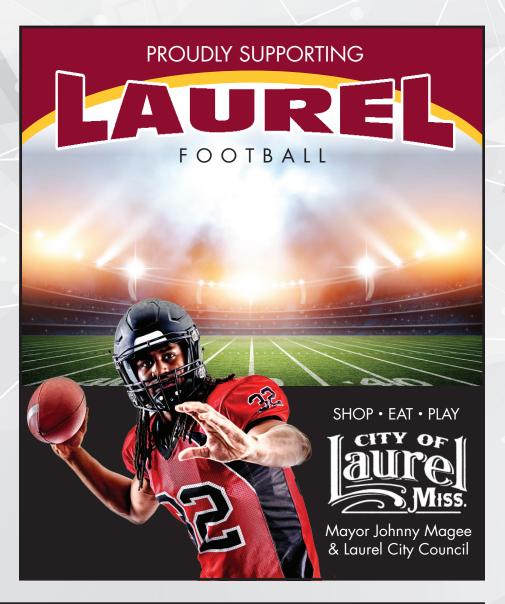
"Overall, we're expecting the same things this year that we expect every year, the Brookhaven's, the West Jones' and tough road games to the JPS schools and Natchez.

"And with teams like South Jones, etc., anything can happen because they're rivalry games. We can't take anything for granted.

"Our region is just well coached and we have some great athletes. Region 3-5A has always been that way."







"Your Builder's Super Market" Since 1954...But so much more



- Shirts Pants,
- Overalls Hats







- Metal Roofing
- Lumber Tools
- Hardware
- Rental Department























1104 HWY 15N • LAUREL 601-649-0855

WWW.PHILLIPSBUILDINGSUPPLY.COM

West Jones

Mascot Mustangs Head Coach

Scott Pierson (Sixteenth Year)

2017 Stats

Overal Record 8-4 Region 3-5A Record 6-1 Points For 246 Points Against 197 Receiving Yards Per Game

Rushing Yards Per Game

2018 SEASON

Key Players
Byron Young
Jon-Micah Coleman
Key Games
vs. Wayne County (8/17)
vs. Laurel (10/12)
vs. Brookhaven (11/2)
Record Prediction
10-3



"[West Jones] returns so many players on defense this season. Now I don't know all of those kids by name, but I do remember their faces and bodies. They're built for football.

"West Jones always has some strong country offensive lineman, and they always seem to find a guy who can squirt the ball around at the quarterback position. I'm sure they'll have a couple big running backs as well.

WHAT THE OPPOSING COACH SAYS

"[On special teams] they always seem to have a kicker. The guy [Walker Thompson] they have this year, who also played for them last season, is a good one and as you know, he's going to Ole Miss after graduation.

"Of course, they've always been tough in that area of the game.

"They also have a great coaching staff year after year, and they always have their guys well prepared. "West Jones always plays such sound, fundamental and hard-nose football. Just them having so many back on defense will present a big challenge for us.

"They're just a solid football program. Pierson has done a great job at West Jones.

"Our region is very tough [and its that way year after year], that is why we play such a tough non-district schedule. We have too to prepare for Region 3-5A."









-1496 601-735-2541

WHAT THE COACH SAYS

expect to compete. Wins and losses will take care of themselves based on how hard you work, how much talent you have and how well you execute on Friday night. Since I've been here, I think our guys have always played hard, and that's the one thing I'm proud of.

"The thing I like about our team this year is our senior class. We have 23 of them, and they're a close-knit group who have worked hard to get where they are. I say that to say this, in eighth grade they didn't win a game and in ninth grade they didn't win a game. To have evolved to where they are now has been great to watch.

"Everyone has different philosophies when it comes to coaching and football. Defense has typically been our strength over the years. We're always going to play defense. If you're a striker and a runner, then defense is what you're going to play at West Jones. We lost one guy from our front four, but we have a young guy that we believe is just as good. I think our front four is as good as we've ever had. Now we don't have the depth there that we've had in the past, but the four we put out there are really, really good.

"We feel like our linebackers are going to be good eventually. We have two kids playing there that have never played linebacker before, but I feel they'll come along. In the backfield, we have a situation in which we feel like we don't have enough bodies. We have kids that will have to play wideout and in the secondary and we haven't had that situation in a long time. To be honest, that scares us a little bit.

"Offensively, we're in the same boat [we've always been in]. We have four guys repping at quarterback, and I don't think that any of them is as good as the others. One day it's one kid and the next day its another kid. It's good and bad. It's good that you have four kids you think could do well, but it's bad because you're not able to get all of them enough reps because you can't decide which is the best out of the four.

"At running back, we have three or four that could be good. But we're in the same situation as with our quarterbacks. We don't have a 'bell cow' like we had last year with Austin Land. His younger brother Michael Neal is a game changer in space, but he is little. He's not a guy that can get 20-30 touches a game.

"[On special teams] we are fortunate enough to have Walker Thompson. I don't believe there's a guy better than him in the state. He can kick it deep and has the ability to kick it right, left, fake punts and on-side kicks. Thompson is a lethal weapon, and we'd be a fool to not use him in all the ways he's capable of being used."

Right at Home In Home Care & Assistance

THE RIGHT CARE---RIGHT AT HOME

Now Accepting Medicaid Waivers

Do you or someone you know need help with:

- Transportation to Appointments Light Housekeeping
- Grocery Shopping
- Hair Appointments

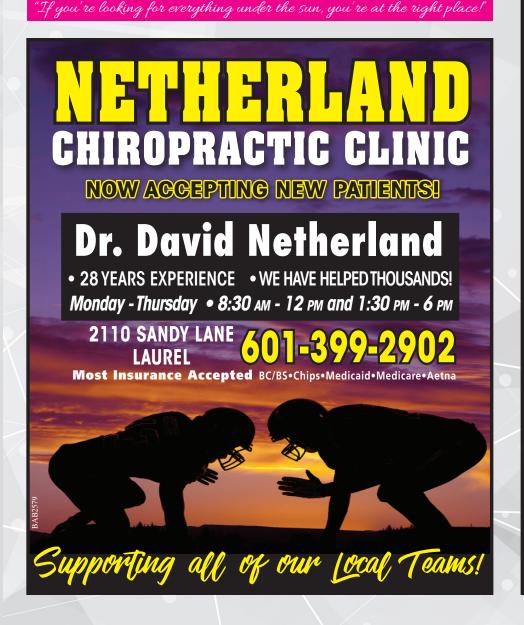
• Smile Country Orthodontist

- Recovering from a Hospital Stay
- Safety Monitoring
- And Much More!

FREE CONSULTATIONS **601.426.6333**



Shop





South Jones

Mascot Braves Head Coach Roger Satcher (First Year)

2017 Stats

Overal Record 8-5

Region 3-5A Record

4-3

Points For

430 Points Against

336 Receiving Yards Per Game

140.3

Rushing Yards Per Game

189

2018 SEASON

Key Players John Mitchel Xxxxx Xxxxxx Key Games

vs. Northeast Jones (9/7)

vs. Natchez (10/5)

vs. West Jones (10/19)

Record Prediction

2-10



WHAT THE OPPOSING COACH SAYS

"South Jones has done a great job of changing the [football] culture in Ellisville over the last couple of years.

"Those guys play with a lot of good effort and intensity.

"I know their quarterback [John Mitchell] is back for his senior season. He is an all around great player and he did some great things for them last year. But as far as that goes, I don't know too much about them other than Mitchell coming back behind

enter.

"I know they have several coaching changes so obviously things are going to be different for them maybe on both sides of the ball.

"The main things about South Jones will not change, though. They have always been a team that plays with a lot of effort and a lot of discipline on Friday nights.

"They're a program that you can never count out. They'll always give you a good game and a hard fought battle.

"Like I've said before, they have done a really good job at changing the culture there [especially over the past several years with Cory Reynolds, who is at Petal now].

"They're a good program and a good MHSAA Class 5A school.

"We look forward to playing them every year because its always a fun rivalry matchup for us, our kids and our community."









649-1496 601-735-2541

WHAT THE COACH SAYS

hen you look at our team, you'll see we have two guys that caught passes last year [that will return this year]. We have two guys returning on defense and two returning starters on offense. So you'll see a team that has lost its head coach [Cory Reynolds], who was a great leader and a great guy to be around.

"We have an entirely new coaching staff on the offensive side of the ball, and we have players who have been in our system but have not been on the field to be tested. We have small numbers compared to the past, but our younger kids are out in high numbers. With that said, our future looks bright.

"We've changed our offense to more of a power-run game. Obviously, we have John Mitchell returning at quarterback, so a lot of our offense is built around him. We're going to do things that give him the opportunity to make the plays. Last year Mitchell came close to 2,000 yards passing and 1,000 yards rushing. We expect more output from him this year. Unfortunately, we are putting a lot of the pressure on his shoulders [due to our personnel].

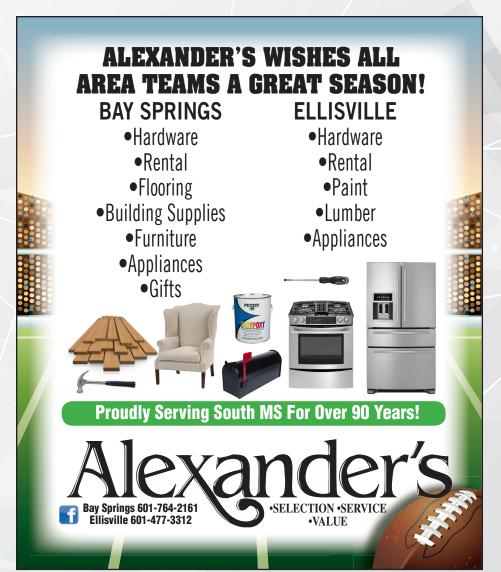
"Because everyone knows what we have offensively, and with Mitchell, we're going to change things up a bit. We don't have the offensive line we had a year ago, so we must be quicker about the things that we're going to do so that Mitchell doesn't have to stay in the pocket as long. We also may play the run/pass option a little more.

"We have a fullback (Davon Campbell) that was a defensive end last year. We expect to see some amazing things from him. He didn't play fullback last year, but we still expect him to be good at that position.

"The place that will hurt us on defense is our inside four. We lost all of them to graduation. Last year we had an inside four that good teams had a problem running against. Right now that is our biggest question mark.

"We'll probably start out slow. Last year during our athletic banquet we looked over the room and saw all the seniors we were losing and knew the next year would be tough. This year we only have 12 seniors, some who haven't played much, but they're hungry for the opportunity to prove themselves. There are a lot of things and situations that you can emulate in practice. But once they get some experience, things should get better for us on the field.

"From a coaching standpoint, we see potential in our young team. I feel like we'll surprise a lot of people. In some areas, we're head and shoulders better than we were [in the spring]."







NORTHEAST JONES

Mascot Tigers Head Coach Keith Braddock (Ninth Year)

2017 Stats

Overal Record
3-7
Region 5-4A Record
2-3
Points For
214
Points Against
300
Receiving Yards Per Game

Rushing Yards Per Game

2018 SEASON

109.2

145.7

Key Players
Javier (Fafa) Magee
Joi Jones
Key Games
vs. South Jones (9/7)
vs. Northeast Lauderdale (9/28)

vs. Mendenhall (10/19) Record Prediction

5-5



WHAT THE OPPOSING COACH SAYS

"Northeast Jones is one of the better teams we play early. They have several good athletes, and they'll be the better test for us [out of our non-division schedule]. They'll be ready to face us.

"They battled a lot of injuries last season. We certainly don't want any team to have injuries, but when we played them last year, they had a lot of players [I believe at least four of their best players] out

with injuries.

"They're a competitive team, and they always want to beat us. Especially the last few seasons, some of the better football games in Jones County, in my opinion, have come between Northeast Jones and us. We're expecting to have another barnburner game this year against them. I'm hoping that at that point in our season we're still healthy and going

full throttle. If we are, I think we will give them a good game. We're one injury away from having to move a lot of guys around, so we're hoping that doesn't happen. I know if we face them and that's the case, they will not feel sorry for us because they were in the same situation last year when we played them.

"You always want to beat your friends, and that's certainly the case here."









01-649-1496

601-735-2541

WHAT THE COACH SAYS

e're excited about football and the football season. We struggled last season, and at the time there didn't seem to be much hope, but we ended on a positive note. Our kids had every opportunity to tap out, yet they didn't. They battled and kept believing. It's like I've said many times it's not the storm that defines you, its how you go through it. And how our coaches and kids handled last year showed just how great of a character they had. Losing is never fun, and we don't want any part of that. We want to put a winning program on the field but things happened, and we struggled a little bit [with injuries], but the way we finished said a lot about our kids and coaches.

"[Winning our last two games] propelled us into the offseason. There's excitement about getting back on the field and picking up where we left off with the group of guys coming back.

"Having experience at quarterback under Javier (Fafa) Magee will be very good for us. Our running game was strong towards the end of last season under Antonio Hayes and Tony Barnes. Both of those guys are good players [and return]. Mason Smith and Jay Jones return as wide receivers and will play both sides of the ball.

"I feel good about our kicking game. I have no clue if our kicking game is that good right now or if it's the fact that we actually have a few guys who can at least line up back there who can at least attempt it. Jason Garica will kick field goals, and Patrick Little will do the punting. From where we were at, at the end of last year to now, sure we're excited to be where we're at.

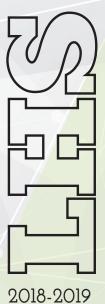
"At tight end and defensive back, I think we have a guy [Brady Blackwell] that is going to have a good year. Another one of our better players is Karson Broadway. He's not a really big kid or a speedy kid, but he's a 'football playing jessie.' Joi Jones is another kid. Jones plays defense, so he's not a guy that [going to get his name called for scoring touchdowns], but he's a ballplayer and a difference maker.

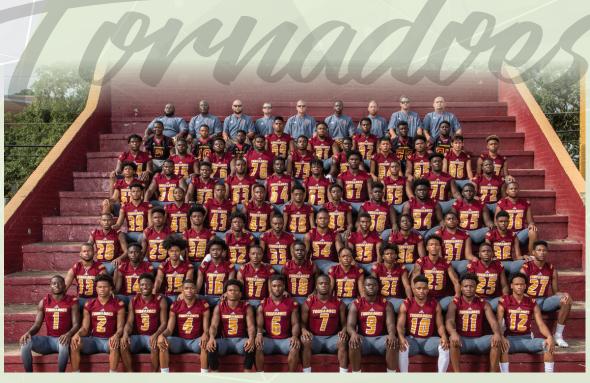
"Our schedule will be tough [again this year]. The fact that Collins, Taylorsville and Bay Springs are good and have everyone back will make things tough on us. West Jones is going to be good again this year and so forth, so our non-division schedule will make it challenging for us. In division play, I think everything is up in the air. A lot of teams return a good group of guys, so hopefully we can have everything figured out by the time we get into [Region 5-4A play]."













Photo/Darrin Herndon

- Jontarium Henderson
- Javion Smith
- Keno Shelby
- Sinclar Ulmer
- Amir Smith
- Levi Walker
- Michael Terrell
- Tylus Keys
- Xavier Evans
- Kanarius Johnson 12 Brandon Gavin
- 13 Melyjah Windham
- 14 Jeremiah Henderson

- Keanu White

- Kaymin Ulmer 19 Bryce'ton Page
- 20 Zion Kelly
- 21 Demonte Milsap
- 23 Marquavios Naylor
- 24 Kendrick Jacks
- 25 JR Pruitt
- 26 Za Mariyen Gavin
- 27 Jamison Jones
- 28 Cameron Terrell

- 16 Dexter Scott
- 17 Teon George
- - 33 JaMarious Odom
 - 34 Zias Perryman
 - 35 Dale Diaz
 - 36 Daniel Coleman
 - 37 Jordan Crosby

29 Kiron Benjamin

30 Fernando Frazier

32 Rontavious Thomas

31 Keuntae McGee

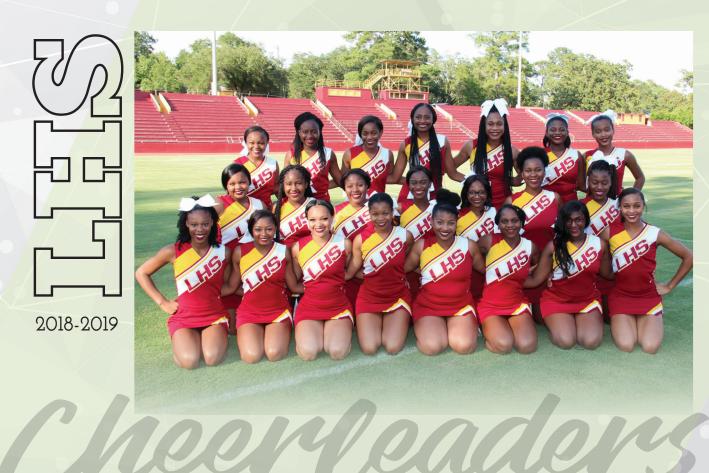
- 38 Ajaveon Hatten
- 39 Deanthony Walker
- 40 Quinterious Seals
- 41 Quonsheye Evans

- 43 Toney Mosley
- 45 Ashun Pruitt
- 48 Ty Grady
- 49 Mitchell Chapman
- 50 Lauris Evans
- 51 Rashad Love
- 54 Jerome Caldwell
- 55 Arjalen Marshall
- 56 Khylin Dixon
- 57 AG McSwain
- 58 Michael Brown
- 59 Demarcus Rhodes 62 Sydarius Byrd

- 63 Eric Burks
- 64 JaMier Chapman
- 65 Briceton Shelby
- 67 Charles Cross
- 69 Bryce Harper
- 71 Charles Fletcher
- 72 Tocarra McClellan
- 74 Bryan Cooley Isaiah Hughes 75
- 76 Michael Thompson
- 78 Xavier Porter
- 79 Anton Loftin 81 Jalen Eubanks

- 83 Adrian Perry
- 84 Erveng Alvarez 85 Simon Shanks
- 86 Mareo Hogue
- 87 Okeme Parker
- 88 Amir Johnson
- 89 Abraham McKenzie
- 91 Radarious Milsap
- 92 Ryan Fuller





Front Row (L-R):

Michaela Gray, Co-Captain Lexi Jones, Head Captain Darrein Hardy, Captain Jaylessa Guston, Captain Yasmine Drummer, Captain Mikayla Julien, Co-Captain Makyah Moore, Captain Kristian Edwards, Co-Captain

Middle Row (L-R):

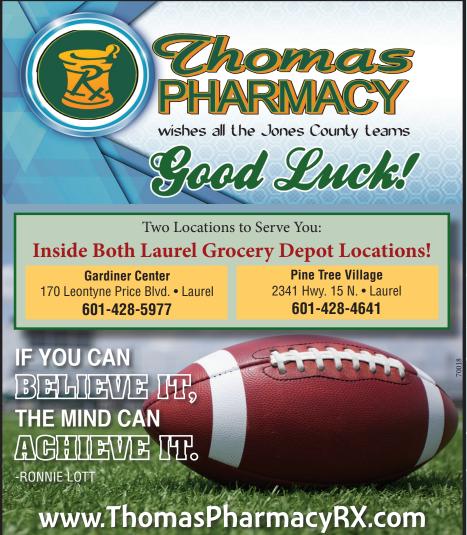
Harmony Moore
Tyler Gavin
Destiny McDonald
Ashlyn Jones
Allison Dexter
Nyah Evans
Cappricia McCullum

Back Row (L-R):

Aziyah Collier Skylar Dase Mkenzii Frazier Caitlin Cooke Lavender Mack Kelsey Odom Ariel Moffett

Photo/Lacey Slay





2018-2019





Photo/Robby Scruggs

- Qudarian Page
- James Smith
- Vakeilon Campbell
- **Tegarrius Roberts**
- Andrew Howard
- JaQuan McGilberry
- Chaddrick Moses
- John Mitchell
- 10 Quindarrius Whigham
- 11 Trayvon Esters
- 12 Chad Locklear
- 13 Travis Conner
- 14 Connor Mitchell
- 15 Carson Davis
- 16 Case McMullen
- 19 Alex Stewart
- 20 Garrett Rouse
- 21 Timothy Beech
- 22 Damien Newell
- 23 Mark Diers
- 24 Ethan Ellzey
- 25 Christopher Walters
- 26 Caymen Ellington
- 27 Joseph Adkins
- 31 Brean Hawthorne
- 33 Reeves Crowder
- 35 Luther Thompson
- 36 Sawyer Griffith
- 37 Colby Dunn
- 38 Micaiah Davis
- 39 Jackson Carpenter
- 40 Dalton Keys
- 44 Dawson Shepherd
- 45 James Harris
- 48 Randy Anderson 49 Christopher Cox
- 50 Patrick McLemore
- 51 Tyler Harper
- 52 Nicholas Hutchinson
- 53 DeMarcus McGilberry
- 54 Kaylob Busby
- 55 Justin Crawford
- 56 Austen Breland
- Colton Bennett 58 Davis Brown
- 59 Cameron Glenn
- 63 Max Grimaldo
- 68 Antonio Aldazaba
- 69 Wesley Carmical
- 70 Warren Gavin
- 75 Ethan McMellon 76 Brendan Palmer
- 82 Nash Phillips

South Ridge Family Clinic



Hometown Healthcare with a Human Touch



Marlana P. Hedgepeth, FNP

Most Insurances Accepted:

- Commercial
- Medicare
- Medicaid



Best to all





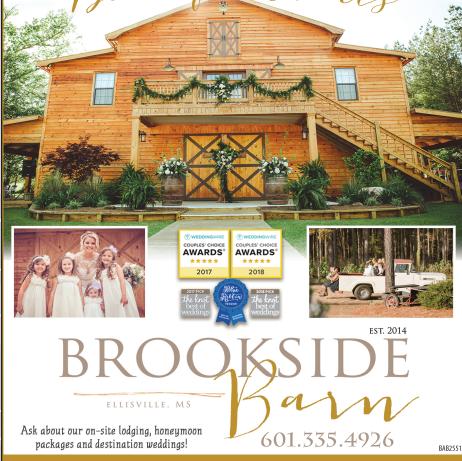
Jenna K. Cole, FNP

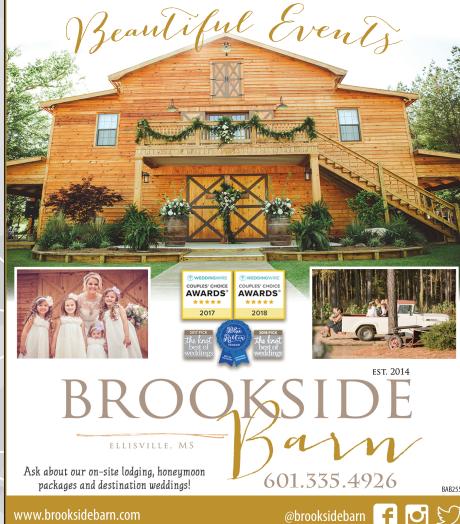
Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm Same Day Appointments or Walk-ins accepted

- Acute Illness or Injury
- Chronic Illness
- Wellness Exams
- DOT Physicals

80 Hal Crocker Road • Ellisville

601-477-2221









Front Row (L-R):

Kelsi Jackson Autumn Henderson Halie Moffett Kaitlyn Millsap

Middle Row (L-R):

Gabby Walley Mary Mac Cooley Kennedy Dale

Back Row (L-R):

McKenzie Lee Anna Kepley Shaqueria Mack Clairrease McLendon Madison Dial Haleigh Reed Mystikal Dennis

Photo/Darrin Herndon

play hard.

We are cheering you on every

step of the way!

Good luck for a successful

2018 season!

ENDOM

Trailer Sales

SERVICE • LEASING

1198 Hwy 588 • Ellisville, MS Phone: 800.530.7348 Fax: 601.477.9293

BAB2409

Advantage One Insurance, Inc.

Agent Kenny Odom

Ellisville's ONLY Independent Agent

AUTO • HOME • BONDS • COMMERCIAL

205 Adams St. • Ellisville **601-719-3525**





- Zack Pearson
- Alan Follis
- Jalen Graham
- Londarrius McRunnels
- Tmyko Foster
- Jasper Jones
- Michael Neal
- Jalen Keyes
- Jon-Micah Coleman
- **Hunter Parish**
- 11 Walker Thompson
- 12 Slade Hicks

prom

GOOD

13 Tajrick Randolph

- 23 Tavis Wilson
- 26 Kentrel Pruitt
- 27 Jaylon Keyes
- 15

- 21 Cedric Bender
- 22 Jared Knotts
- 24 Hector Pitti
- 25 Colin Maggard
- 28 Dylan Butler

- 14 Kendorean Russell
- **Evans Pitts**
- **Dusty Cook** 17
- Antonie Kirk

- 29 Cooper Herrington
- 30 Cade Thompson
- 31 Damarie Windham 32 Isaac Housley
- 33 Sley Lyon
- 34 Detorurean Crosby
- Tyrone Thompson 35
- 36 Isaiah Thames
- 37 Deonta Crosby
- 38 Jalen Johnson
- 39 Caleb Nichols 40 Jairus Keyes

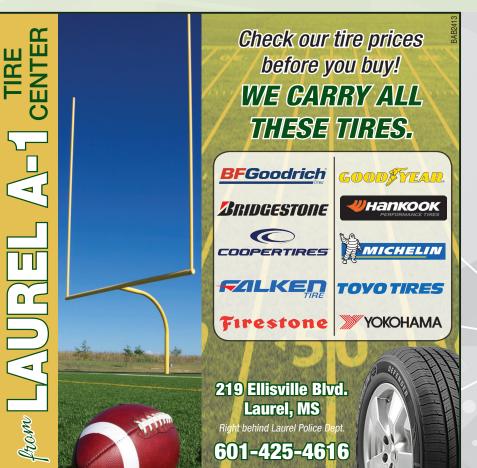
- 41 Davion Barnes
- 42 Justin Grayson
- 43 Joshua McDonald
- 44 Parker Robinson
- 45 Jake Smith
- 46 Damion Cunnigham
- 47 Byron Young
- 48 Matt Parker
- 50 Collin Holifield
- 51 Carter Kilpatrick 52 Payton Sullivan
- 54 Brody Beach

- Landen Saul
- Micah Stockstill 56
- Noah Hosey
- 58 Clay Sharp
- 59 Cole Spradley
- 60 Harrison Day
- 61 Dakota Hamilton
- 62 Mason Nettles
- 63 Todd Rogers
- 64 C.J. Owens 66 Creed Broom
- 68 TyHenry Walker

- 70 Dalton Files
- 72 Ilan Habersham
- 75 Hikiem Carmichel

Photo/Tim Bass

- 76 Conner Johnson
- Kanyon McCormick
- 81 Antwoine Gavin
- 82 Devin Neal
- 85 Dalton Minter
- 87 Omari Marsh
- 88 Mason Craven
- 89 Neil Barnes
- 90 Dedrick Hicks 99 Tyjuan Keyes



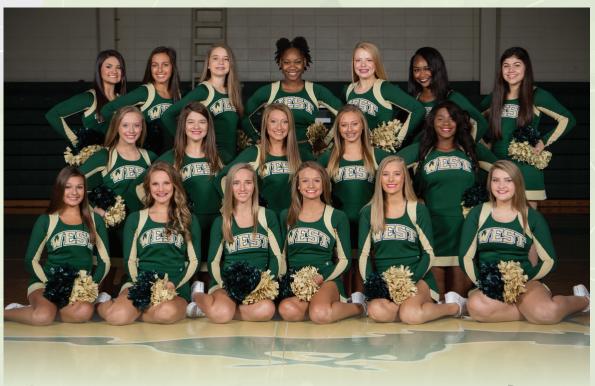
Hours:

M-F 7:30 A.M. - 5:00 PM SAT. 7:30 AM - NOOON





2018-2019



Front Row (L-R):

Marley Hoover Rivers Johnson Madison GiegeR Kennedy Jordan Lexey Butler Jada Bright

Middle Row (L-R):

Abby Stauffer Hallee Kate Windham Brianna Griggs Darby Byrd **Brishell Gray**

Back Row (L-R):

Macy Kate Malone Sophie Hoover Madalyn Stringer T'Kiaya Pough Karlee Green Aarionna Nickey Paula Gomez

Photo/Darrin Herndon









1514 W. 10th St., Ste. 2 Laurel, MS 39440

O: 601-319-1950 C: 601-651-1900

BAB2550

www.NCarterRealEstate.com

Marie Carter Cochran, BS, RDCS, RVT, SRS, ABR, RENE Realtor









WILLIAMS FAMILY DENTISTRY

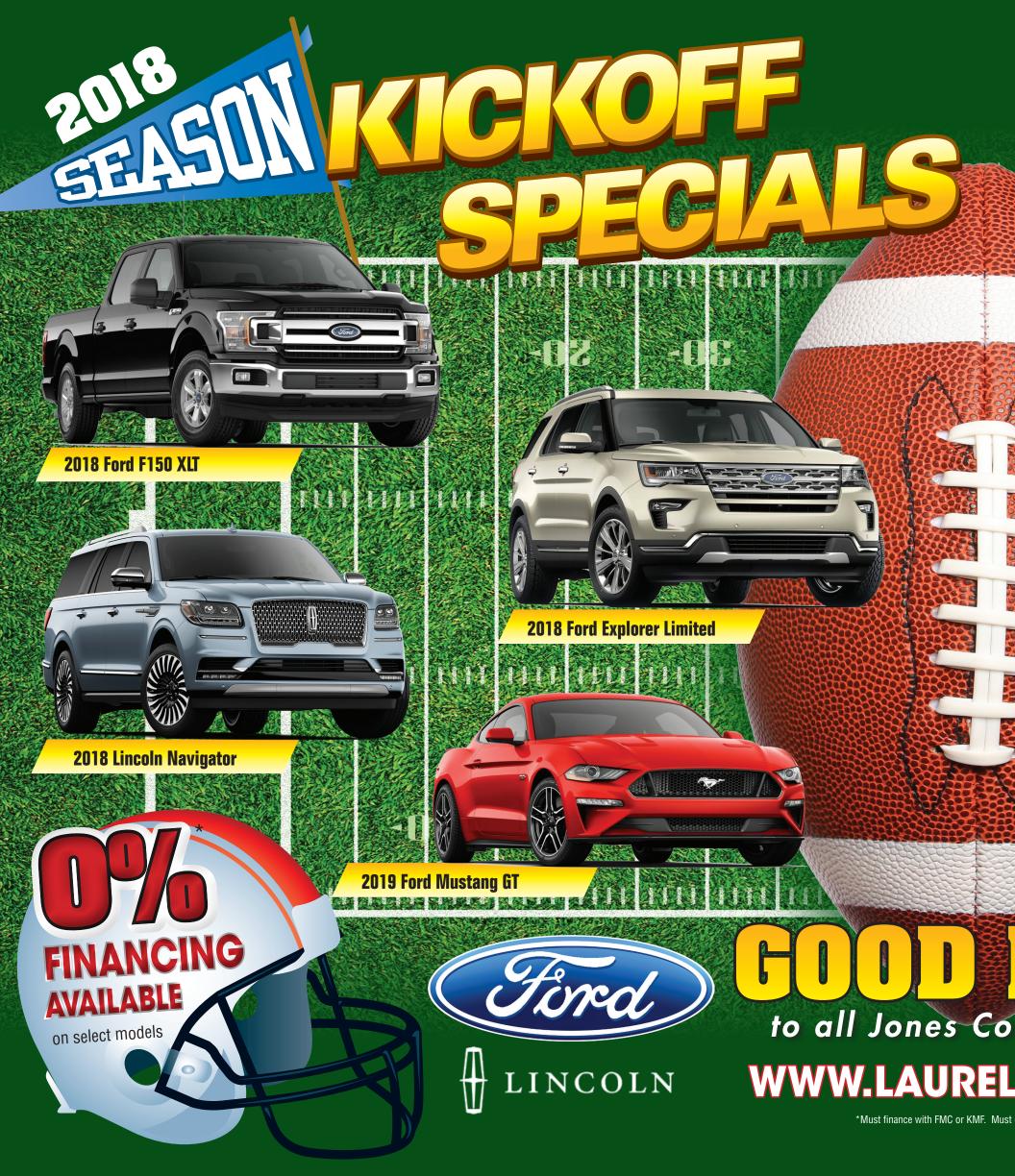
Dr. Tracy L. Williams, DMD

General & Cosmetic Dentistry 3223 Audubon Drive • Laurel, MS 39440

601.651.6790

Proudly Supporting our Local Teams And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, And not unto men; Colossians 3:23





LAUREL



KIN Call Today! 601-649-4511

2018 Hwy. 15 N. • Laurel, MS



2018 Kia Stinger

2018 Kia Soul

2018 Kia Sorento

2018 Kia Optima

County Teams!

RELHASIT.COM

OF LAUREL



KMF. Must qualify for all rebates. W.A.C.





Photo/Robby Scruggs

- Karson Broadway
- Joey Withers
- Jay Jones
- Ty'Quan Jasper
- Charlie Strickland
- Antonio Hayes
- Makenzie Frazier
- Colton Edmonds 10 Mason Smith
- 11 Tony Barnes
- 12 Cody Hiatt
- 13 Javier Magee
- 14 Jaylon Hudson
- 15 Mason Peak

- 16 Creed Johnson
- 18 Dustin Walters
- 19 Conner Wade
- 20 ZyMarrian Ducksworth
- 21 Ka'Juan Bruner
- 22 Joi Jones

- 26 Jazaylon Morris
- 27 Chance Waldrup
- 17 JaMarkus Sampson

- 24 Cameron Pippen
- 25 Brandon Hinton

- 28 Zac Rogers
- 30 Blake Waltman
- 31 Patrick Little
- 33 Tyquan Trunnell
- 34 Zephanian Scott
- 35 Bobby Rowzee
- 37 Logan Hicks
- 38 Scott Coghlan 39 Brantley McMillan
 - 40 David Brownlee
 - 41 Noah Cotten

- 42 Caiden Jefferson
- 43 Carson Ellis
- 44 Michael Waite
- 47 A.J. Young
- 48 Ben Knight
- 49 Teyton Nickey
- 50 Waylen Washington
- 52 Johnny Hicks
- 53 Keagan Davis
- 54 Bryce Brown
- 55 Sam White

- 56 Lawson Moncivais
- 57 Leo Simpson 58 Caleb Walters
- 59 Cole McClain
- 60 Brendon Bennett
- 61 Levi Proctor
- 62 Ethan Moss
- 63 Justin Montgomery
- 64 Jackson Flynt
- 65 Quintin Moore 66 Darius Craft
- 67 Dawson Peak 68 Allen McCree
- 69 Joel Scott
- 70 Braxton Dykes
- 71 Alex Fulgham
- 72 Haden Smith
- 73 Shavarius Edwards
- 74 Rashad Loston
- 75 Corveyon Harrison
- 76 Ty Hoze 77 Luke Geddie

- 80 Jalin Naylor
 - 81 Justin Ulmer 82 Brady Blackwell

78 Cole White 79 Solomon Staples

- 83 Chris Walkers
- 84 Xavier Barnett
- 85 Ethan Wade
- 86 Cole Ward 88 Christian Lowery
- 89 Ja'Kerriah Mapp
- 90 Landon Dennis
- 91 Matt Taylor
- 92 Jason Garcia 95 She para Latham







601-649-7454 1978 HWY 184 E. • LAUREL







Front Row (L-R):

Ta'Shiera Jones Eden Adams Jana Stewart Savanna Brown Katelyn Herrin

Middle Row (L-R):

Madison Tidwell Tristen Gendusa Khloe Shafer Madison Coats Magan Arnold

Back Row (L-R):

Faith Mapp, Kensley Hodge (capt.) Payzely Mapp (capt.) Bilyana Magee

Photo/Robby Scruggs









1518 BUSH DAIRY ROAD LAUREL, MS 39440

7:30a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday











JOIN US

4TH ANNUAL COTTON GIN MARKET

Vendors from all over the South will come together deep in the Piney Woods for a curated showcase of craftsmen, artisans, makers, purveyors of vintage and antique goods, delicious southern food, and the sounds of South Mississippi!

OCTOBER 27, 2018 9AM-4PM

179 BERNIS HILL RD, SOSO, MS 39480 OCOTTONGINMARKET



Executive Director



Rashad N. Ali, MD, JD, FACOG

Medical Director



Bernard De Asis, MD

Family Health Center

"Quality Care...Because We Care So Much"

Internal Medicine • Obstetrics & Gynecology • Pediatrics • Pharmacy • Dentistry

Sports Physicals & Immunizations too!

Board Certified Physicians & AAAHC Accredited Organization

- Veterans Welcome
- Allergy Testing Available
 - Ryan White Program
- Tobacco Cessation Available

Additional Services

- WIC Family Planning Social Services
- EPSDT Screening/Medical Screening

LAUREL - MAIN CLINIC

117 South 11th Ave • Laurel, MS • 601-425-3033		
Mon & Tues	8:00 am -	7:00 pm
Wed & Thur	8:00 am -	5:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am - 1	12:00 pm
Saturday		
	(Pediatric	s Only)

LAUREL - OB-GYN CLINIC

113 South 12th Ave • Laurel, MS 601-399-1959 Mon & Tues8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Wed & Thur8:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday......8:00 am - 12:00 pm



Serving Jasper, Jones, Clarke, Wayne and Smith Counties www.LFHC.net

PREDICTIONS

West Jones Mustangs

ll the evidence points to another good season in Soso - such welcoming news for a program that's had its ups and downs in recent years.

With that said, this year's team will face many of the same problems the program has faced for years now. Defense will be its strength; its offense could, or will, be its weakness.

Few teams will find success running the ball against West Jones. Byron Young, who recently committed to Alabama, anchors the defensive line as its SDE. So why not try to run against the opposite side of the line, away from Young? Two reasons: Jon-Micah Coleman and Damion Cunningham. Head coach Scott Pierson sings high praises not just on Young, but in regards to Coleman and Cunningham.

The defensive secondary yields the same ole story - it needs some work and depth.

On offense West Jones still doesn't have a quarterback that is an outright shoe-in for the starting job. As the old hymn sings, "I've heard an old, old story..."

West Jones will have to rely on its run game, and it isn't quite what it needs to be.

Prediction: 10-3

Laurel Tornadoes

magine hearing this phrase, "Laurel made it to the Class 5A South State Championship last season, but it was a down year."

Yeah, I know that doesn't sound right. But there is some truth to it. Laurel finished Region 3-5A in 2017 as the No. 3 seed. A loss against Brookhaven and a stunning defeat against county rival West Jones put Laurel in unfamiliar territory. Still, Laurel survived, making a run in postseason play that put them back into familiar territory.

Laurel has a history of playing

an air-raid offense. But last season, the Tornadoes relied heavily on the run. This year will be much of the same.

Laurel returns its quarterback and two impressive running backs which will make for quite a show. Sure, Laurel still has the ability to throw-and-catch, but not in the form it once could with quarterbacks like Keon Howard and wide-outs like Omar Bayless and Octavious Cooley (both who are playing at the D1 level).

Laurel will play a tough schedule like always but expect a similar season like last year with probably an added win.

Prediction: 10-4

South Jones Braves

should just come out and say it.
Sometimes,
unfortunately,
the truth isn't
pleasant to hear. So is the case

South Jones graduated nearly 20 seniors last year, a class that gave the program its first playoff appearance since 2009.

When a class like that comes and goes, it leaves a void and certainly a lot of shoes to fill. Only two starters on offense and two starters on defense return this season and South Jones have a new head coach (Roger Satcher) to replace Cory Renolds, who returned to Petal as its offensive coordinator. Reynolds held the same position at Petal before coming to South Jones in 2014.

The one bright spot for South Jones is the return of its quarterback John Mitchell. Mitchell committed to PRCC in the offseason to play baseball despite having several offers to play football, including a few D1 universities. Everything will be placed on Mitchell's shoulders this year.

This is a bleak and long season on the Reservation. But it could be a season that pays off later down the road as some young talent gathers experience.

Prediction: 2-10

NE Jones Tigers

ast year was a challenging year for the Tigers on Northeast Jones Drive. No man could have foreseen the trials and struggles that would come. By game four of the season, between 4-8 true starters were sidelined with severe injuries. It was hard for Keith Braddock and Company to overcome. Near the end of the season, the 'never give up' attitude shown by the entire program paid off. Northeast Jones ended the 2017 season with a two-game win streak, even knocking off the No. 1 team in its region (Region 5-4A).

The two wins NEJ finished the season with gave a much needed spark for the program in the offseason. Northeast Jones hopes to pick up where it finished the season last year.

The Tigers return several key starters, most notably quarterback Javier (Fafa) Magee. His playmaking abilities are second-to-none. With the help of a few others, there is no reason the Tigers can't finish this year with a better standing than a year ago, barring another injury prone season.

Their schedule, though, will be a tough one. By that's the way Braddock likes it.

Prediction: 5-5



Aches · Breaks · Sprains We Treat All Foot Problems

Many Locations to Better Serve You!

Dr. Michael Zaleski, Diplomat Board Certified Dr. Gachavis M. Green, Board Eligible Foot Doctor Dr. Clifford L. Peele, Board Qualified Foot Doctor Dr. Aaron Israel, Board Qualified Foot Doctor







HATTIESBURG 34 Franklin Rd.



PETAL 123 S Main St. (Across from Corner Market)



COLUMBIA 104 Partnership Way



MERIDIAN 2310 4th Street Suite A



RICHTON 208 Bay Avenue



TOTAL FOOT

totalfootcareclinics.com



LARGE SELECTION TO CHOOSE

COUNTING!













2008 CADILLAC DTS 148K MILES

N AUTO SALES, INC

BUY HERE...PAY HERE. NO CREDIT CHECK!

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

GH SCHOOL

JASPER/SMITH COUNTY AREA TEAMS

Bay Springs Bulldogs

Head Coach: Dan Brady

Assistant Coaches: PJ Graham, Ben Justice, Regrick Young, Corey Mackey, Ken Carter, Frankie Beamon, Terrence Smith

Returning Offensive Starters: Derrien Lee (WR), Adrain Cole (WR), Anson Windham (RB), Jatron Thigpen (WR), Dallen Jones (RB), Jamarious Hosey (FB), Jakhorey Page (TE), Kristopher Newell (OL), Jakobe Jones (OL), Akili Jackson (OL)

Defensive Returning Starters: Derrien Lee (DB), Adrain Cole (DB), Peyton Pickens (LB), Dominick Myers (LB), Jacario Ducksworth (DB), Fred Barnes (LB), Demarcus Denham (NG), Jakharus Page (DL), Jakobe Jones (LB),

2017 Record: 8-6 (2-2)

Quote: "I am excited about the returning starters we have back on both sides off the ball. The sky is the limit for this group if they continue to work the way they have over the summer and fall."

Heidelberg Oliers

Head Coach: Marchello Evans

Assistant Coaches: Dupree Magee, Jason Fisher, Jimmy Jones, John Walker, Gabe Hood, Harold Terrell, Mendell Page, Dexter, Millsap, Jerrod McLane

Returning Offensive Starters: Tavare Jones (RB), Carlos Nixon (RB), Darrius Arrington (OL), TyJuan Jones (OL), Javeon Jones (OL), Justin Wilson (OL)

Defensive Returning Starters: Darrius Arrington (OL), TyJuan Jones (OL), Javeon Jones (OL), Justin Wilson (OL), Joshua Satcher (LB), Allen Jones (LB), Tashun Clark (DB), Demontae Barnett (LB), JaQuez Watts (DB)

2017 Record: 7-6 (3-1)

Quote: "We lost 24 seniors [to graduation]. That's about 50 percent of our team since we had 48 on the roster. We'll have a young team this year. About half of our guys are ninth/tenth graders."

Stringer Red Devils

Head Coach: John Brown

Assistant Coaches: Charlie Fall, Morris Cascio, Brandon Jennings, Chandler Blakeney, Jody Rowell, Wade Weathers

Returning Offensive Starters: Keyshawn Dease (WR), Anthony Thomas (RB), Caleb Dyess (QB), Omarion Bridges (ATH), Conner Hicks (WR), Devin May (RB), Malcolm Campbell (OL), RJ Holifield (OL), Jake Parker (OL), Taylor McCormick (OL), Chris Dagen (OL)

Defensive Returning Starters: Keyshawn Dease (DB), Anthony Thomas (DB), Omarion Bridges (ATH), Cooper Rogers (LB), Devin May (LB), RJ Holifield (LB), Landry Dyess (LB), Dalton Walley (DL), Taylor McCormick (DL), Zae Strong (DL)

2017 Record: 10-4 (4-2)

Quote: "Our kids bought in during the summer and worked hard. They've gotten a little stronger and quicker. This year we have so much depth, especially for a 1A team."

Sylva Bay Saints

Head Coach: Terry Underwood

Assistant Coaches: Cole Holden, Brett Dean

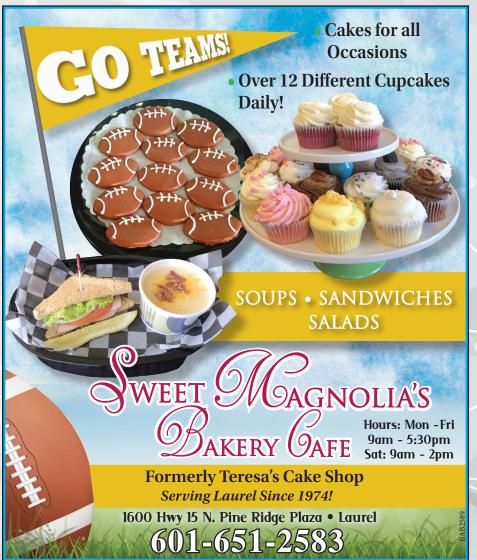
Returning Offensive Starters: Phillip Anderson (QB), Ty Crosby (RB), Tanner Cotten (WR), Atlee Hamm (WR), Keagan Tumblin (OL), Cambell Graves (OL), Will Henry (OL), Josh Knotts (OL)

Defensive Returning Starters: Phillip Anderson (DB), Ty Crosby (LB), Hunter Sykes (LB), Tanner Cotten (LB), Atlee Hamm (LB), Blake Smith (LB), Keagan Tumblin (DL), Cambell Graves (DL), Will Henry (DL), Josh Knotts (DL)

2017 Record: 3-8 (2-2)

Quote: "We're improved in a lot of areas [from last year]. We have a lot of guys back with playing experience. We have 10 on defense that played a good bit last year and 8 on offense that started and played. We also have some new guys that have come out to play. Some from our campus and a few from other schools in the area."







Husqvarna MZ54 Zero-Turn Mower

Husqvarna 125B Blower



Top Hat 5x10 Trailer

Husqvarna 129LK Trimmer





Contact us today to get this bundle for as low as \$134 a month!

Find your Husqvarna at:

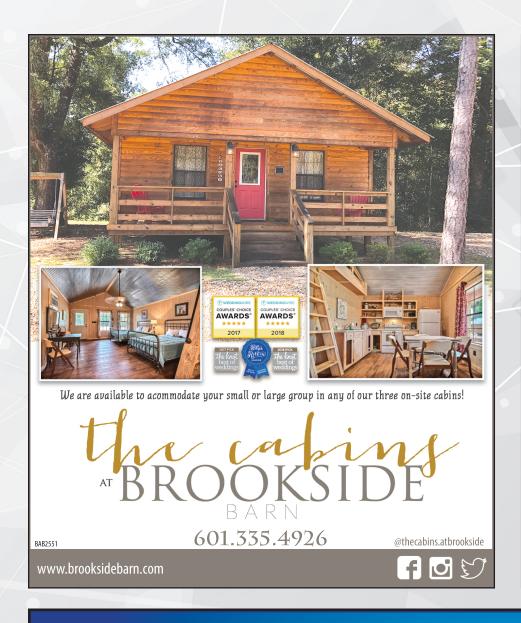
Ellisville Auto Supply 704 Hill Street Ellisville, MS 601-477-8577



Connect with us online at HUSQVARNA.COM



7003



on the Home Team to a winning season.





LAUREL / 16TH AVE / 601-649-5770 LAUREL / PINE TREE / 601-399-6677 ELLISVILLE / WEST JESSAMINE / 601-477-9361 ELLISVILLE / HILL ST / 601-477-9368 CALHOUN / 601-649-5771 SANDERSVILLE / 601-649-3032

f ♥ . COMMUNITYBANK.NET . MEMBER FDIC .





Get back in the game

Proudly supporting our Local Athletes!





Now Offering Dry Needling - The latest in musculoskeletal relief!

Lori Landrum, PT, DPT

Sara Norval, DPT

Convenient location. Easy access.
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

204 N 15th Ave. • Laurel • 601-342-2344 Mon-Fri 8-5







Taylorsville Tartars

Head Coach: Mitch Evans

Assistant Coaches: Mason Woodrow, Norman Johnson, Donavan Baucum, Mason Grissom, Ricky Brown

Returning Offensive Starters: Raven Arrington (WR), CJ Williams (RB), Julian Regalado (TE), Ty Keyes (QB), Zarrian McGill (OL), Keyshawn Keyes (WR), Kenner Todd (K)

Defensive Returning Starters: CJ Williams (LB), Julian Relgado (DT), Branson Sharpley (LB), Keyshawn Keyes (DB), Hunter Lee (DE)

2017 Record: 15-1 (4-0)

Quote: "The first [championship] is always easier than the second. It's easier to be the hunter than to be the hunted. But our expectations as a team always remain the same. We strive to compete for championships here at Taylorsville."

Raleigh Lions

Head Coach: Chad Collums

Assistant Coaches: Larry Means, Jay Young, Russ Pate, Scott Nash, Miles Butler, Jeremy Gavin

Offensive Returning Starters: Braxton Burkett (RB), Latrayvis Atwood (OL), Jaleel Harris (OL), Will Adcock (OL), Margro Perkins (QB), Pete Lofton (WR)

Defensive Returning Starters: Sherpaul Boykin (DL), Nick Grimme (LB), Darius Windham (LB), LJ Johnson (OLB), Braxton Burkett (S), Margro Perkins (S), Pete Lofton (CB)

2017 Record: 4-8 (3-2)

Quote: "The attitude and comradery of this group has been amazing. With this being my second year, I feel like they've adjusted to being with me and I've adjusted to them as well. I'm just really pleased with the group we have coming into this season."

GOOD LUCK AREA TEAMS FROM SPORTS601.COM









FOR YOUR FUEL AND LUBRICANT NEEDS CONTACT RONNIE LOFTON - Manager

EMAIL: RLOFTON@KELLEYCOMPANIES.COM

* 24 HOURS *

OFFICE: 601-649-1496 CELL: 601-735-7788 FAX: 601-649-1512

229 NORTH 11TH AVE. LAUREL, MS 39440

Good Luck TEAMS! **BLACKWELLS** RNITU PRICES ARE STILL LOW, CAUSE MOMMA WORKS CHEAP! 601-649-6111 5200 HWY 84 WEST



LUNCH SERVED 11:00AM ~ 2:30PM

ADD CHEESE SAUCE TO ANY DISH 1.55

SPECIALS

POLLO with CHEESE

Grilled chicken breast topped with cheese sauce and served with rice, refried beans & tortillas 9.25

FAJITA BURRITO

Your choice of meat grilled with onions & peppers; served with rice and beans topped with cheese CHICKEN 8.75 ~ STEAK 9.55 ~ SHRIMP 10.75

LUNCH FAJITAS

Your choice of meat served with rice, beans, lettuce, sour cream, and tortillas CHICKEN 8.75 ~ STEAK 10.55 ~ SHRIMP 11.25

SPECIAL NACHOS

Chicken nachos topped with lettuce, sour cream, tomatoes, and jalapeños 7.55

TACO SALAD

Your choice of beef or chicken on bed of lettuce, sour cream, tomatoes, and shredded cheese, topped with cheese squce 6.75

MUCHO BURRITO

Large flour tortilla stuffed with chicken, ground beef, and beans covered with cheese; topped with lettuce, sour cream, & tomatoes 7.25

FISH FILET

Grilled tilapia or salmon filet served with rice and steamed vegetables (carrots, broccoli cauliflower) 10.75

TEXAS QUESADILLA

Grilled steak, chicken, shrimp with bell peppers & onions; with rice, lettuce, & sour cream 8.75

HOUSE FAJITA QUESADILLA

Large tortilla stuffed with your choice of meat grilled w/onions & peppers; with rice & beans CHICKEN 8.25 ~ STEAK 9.25 ~ SHRIMP 10.50

A.C.P. (Arzo con Pollo)

Your choice of meat cooked with onions & peppers & covered w/hot melted cheese sauce; served on a bed of rice CHICKEN 8.75 ~ STEAK 9.75 ~ SHRIMP 10.75

POLLO NORTENO

Marinated & grilled chicken breast served with rice, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, and tortillas 9.25

AVOCADO BURRITO

Your choice of meat served with rice, lettuce, avocado, tomatoes, and sour cream CHICKEN 7.75 ~ STEAK 8.75 ~ SHRIMP 9.75

FISH TACOS

Two soft tacos served with rice, lettuce, tomatoes, and sour cream 9.25

SPEEDY GONZALEZ

One taco & one enchilada served with rice and beans 6.15

ALL SPECIALS

- One enchilada, one burrito & rice 7.05
- One bean burrito topped with chile con carne and rice 7.05
- Two ground beef enchiladas and one taco served with rice 7.05
- Burritos de Huevo (two small burritos filled with scrambled eggs covered in a cheese sauce with pico de gallo and served with rice and beans) 7.05
 - Two supreme hot tamales topped with lettuce, tomatoes, and sour cream; served with rice 7.05
- SP#6 One ground beef burrito with rice and beans 7.05
- One ground beef burrito covered in hot melted cheese sauce and topped with lettuce, tomatoes, and sour cream; served with rice and beans
- Chicken chimichanga covered with hot melted cheese; served with rice & beans 7.05
- One chicken and cheese quesadilla with rice and beans 7.05
- Two supreme ground beef enchiladas topped with lettuce, tomatoes, and sour cream; served with rice and beans 7.05
- One chile relleno (a poblano pepper stuffed with ground beef); served with beans and guacamole salad 7.05
- Scrambled eggs: your choice of bacon or chorizo; served with rice, beans, and tortillas 9.05

Chicken Tenders & Fries Lunch 6.25 ~ Dinner 8.25

Deep fried and served with French Fries

Reyes Philly Steak & Fries 9.25
Philly Steak cooked with Onions & Peppers topped with Cheese and served with Fries

Fajitas Hawaiianas
Chicken 12.25 ~ Steak 13.25 ~ Shrimp 14.25
Grilled with bell peppers, onions, and pineapple; served with rice, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream and tortillas

Mexican Fajitas Chicken 12.25 ~ Steak 13.25 ~ Shrimp 14.25 Choice of meat, chopped and cooked with jalapeños, onions, & tomatoes; served with refried beans, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream,



Monday-Thursday 11 am-10 pm · Friday & Saturday 11 am-11 pm · Sunday 11 am - 9:30 pm

2015 Hwy. 15 N. Suite B. Laurel · 601.649.0908

Located behind Applebees

COLLEGE PREVIEWS

There is football and then there is SEC football! Fans in the South are rabid about the game of helmets and cleats . . . even football recruiting has its own season here. Seventeen and 18-year-old kids suddenly find themselves adored or disparaged by otherwise emotionally stable adults, simply for making a decision to play football for a particular university.

Down South there is little that is emotionally rational when it comes to Saturday inside the Stadium. Fans arrive early, stay late, scream themselves hoarse and buy concession stand goods (that's so pricey they must place tariffs on the food) to sustain their hollering. The fanaticism knows few socio or economic parameters — rich and poor, preschoolers and papaws . . . they are all involved. So, with that in mind, let's take a look at all 14 SEC schools (and USM) and prognosticate how we think their seasons will unfold.

SEC WEST

Alabama Crimson Tide

2017 RECORD: 13-1, 7-1 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 vs. Louisville (Orlando) Sept. 8 host Arkansas St.

Sept. 15 at Ole Miss

Sept. 22 host Texas A&M

Sept. 29 host UL Lafayette

Oct. 6 at Arkansas

Oct. 13 host Missouri

Oct. 20 at Tennessee

Oct. 27 (Open)

Nov. 3 at LSU

Nov. 10 Mississippi St.

Nov. 17 Citadel

Nov. 24 Auburn

THE WRAP ON ALABAMA . . .

The Tide won the national title last year, which has become quite commonplace under Head Coach Nick Saban. Bama returns six starters on offense and just two on defense. That's normally not a problem, as Saban simply reloads his talent pool every recruiting cycle. However, Bama better be aware in 2018, as an inexperienced defense, albeit talented, could struggle with the offenses of Auburn, Ole Miss and Miss. State during the regular season and with the Georgia offense, if the Tide sneaks into Atlanta for the SEC title game. One big bright spot on the Alabama defense will be former Meridian, MS, star Raekwon Davis (6'7, 308). Some of us local fans got to see him play at the 6A high school level a few years ago . . . he looked like a giant among boys back then.

If Alabama is crowned the SEC Champs again, the likely reason will be that sophomore QB Tua Tagovailoa, the hero from the national championship tilt a year ago, matures into the consistent passer that the Tide has not had in a few years. He, or Jalen Hurts if he wins back his QB job, will call plays behind an

offensive line that returns four starters, and the Tide signal-caller will have All-SEC tailback Damien Harris to hand off to. For the Tide to win the SEC and be in the mix for another national crown, Tua and the offense will have to carry a larger load this season, at least until the inexperienced defense matures. The opening game versus Louisville is intriguing and should be a test for Bama – at least for the first half! 2018 Regular Season Projection: 11-1, 7-1 SEC

Mississippi State Bulldogs

2017 RECORD: 9-4, 4-4 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Stephen F. Austin

Sept. 8 at Kansas State

Sept. 15 host Louisiana

Sept. 22 at Kentucky

Sept. 29 host Florida

Oct. 6 host Auburn

Oct. 13 Open

Oct. 20 at LSU

Oct. 27 at Texas A&M

Nov. 3 host Louisiana Tech

Nov. 10 at Alabama

Nov. 17 host Arkansas

Nov. 24 at Ole Miss

THE WRAP ON MISSISSIPPI STATE . . .

Dan Mullen is gone. The man who engineered one of the best 9-year runs in school history now coaches a bunch of Gators down in Gainesville. His replacement is blue-collar offensive genius Joe Moorhead, who many credit with saving James Franklin's job at Penn St. Whether that's justified or not can be debated, but what cannot be disputed is that wherever Moorhead coaches, his team scores a lot of points. Moorhead will inherit a proven QB (Nick Fitzgerald), a 1,000-yard rusher (Aeris Williams), five offensive lineman who have all started, and a stable of big, athletic tight ends – the new head coach uses the TEs nearly as much as he utilizes wide-outs in his passing scheme.

The defensive front for State runs 3-deep, and one of the team's starting linebackers from 2017 is projected to run second-team behind a younger player this season. Collins native Mark McLaurin teams with former JCJC star Johnathan Abram to form one of the better safety tandems in the SEC. If the team's cornerbacks can carry their part of the load, the Bulldogs could have a special year in 2018. A four-game stretch in the middle of the season (Florida, Auburn, LSU and Texas A&M) could determine if the Bulldogs compete for national honors or a mid-tier bowl. 2018 Regular Season Projection: 10-2, 6-2 SEC

2017 Record: 10-4, 7-1 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 vs. Washington Sept. 8 host Alabama St. Sept. 15 host LSU

Sept. 22 host Arkansas

Sept. 29 host Southern Miss

Oct. 6 at Mississippi St.

Oct. 13 host Tennessee

Oct. 20 at Ole Miss

Oct. 27 (Open)

Nov. 3 host Texas A&M

Nov. 10 at Georgia

Nov. 17 host Liberty

Nov. 24 at Alabama

THE WRAP ON AUBURN . . .

Auburn loses four offensive line starters from a year ago, which may be their opposition's best defense against QB Jarrett Stidham. The senior ace tossed 18 TDs for over 3,100 passing yards in 2017, making it very hard for defenses to stack the box against Auburn's traditionally strong running game. However, having to replace four/fifths of an offensive line could put Stidham under pressure he didn't face last year. How quickly the young line progresses could be the key to the Tigers' season.

Auburn defeated both Georgia (40-17) and Alabama (26-14) in the regular season last year, and those two big wins can largely be chalked up to their stout defense. The defense looks to be strong again, with six starters coming back. November will be the key month for the Tigers, as they face Texas A&M, Georgia and Alabama during the regular season's final four weeks. Liberty is the only respite for the Tigers during that final month.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 9-3, 5-3 SEC

Texas A&M Aggies

2017 RECORD: 7-6, 4-4 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Northwestern St.

Sept. 8 host Clemson

Sept. 15 host UL Monroe

Sept. 22 at Alabama

Sept. 29 vs. Arkansas

Oct. 6 host Kentucky Oct. 13 at South Carolina

Oct. 20 Open

Oct. 27 at Mississippi St.

Nov. 3 at Auburn

Nov. 10 host Ole Miss

Nov. 17 host UAB

Nov. 24 host LSU

THE WRAP ON THE AGGIES . . .

Former head coach Kevin Sumlin was shipped off after another so-so season in 2017. The Aggies power brokers were just not content with 7-8 wins per year, which had become the norm, so they raked up \$75 million and handed it to then Florida St. coach Jimbo Fisher. That was enough dollar bills to persuade Fisher to change his address to College Station, TX ... the fortunes of the Aggies are now in his hands.

A&M returns seven starters from a lackluster de-

fense a year ago, but those returnees are now under the guidance of former Notre Dame defensive coordinator Mike Elko. There should be improvement on that side of the ball. The offense has two proven quarterbacks (Kellen Mond and Nick Starkel) and some playmakers at wide-out and running back. What they don't have is a settled offensive line, a requirement in the SEC West. That fact alone will keep them from challenging for the conference championship this season.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 8-4, 4-4 SEC

LSU TIGERS

2017 RECORD: 9-4, 6-2 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 vs. Miami, FL Sept. 8 host SE Louisiana Sept. 15 at Auburn

Sept. 22 Louisiana Tech

Sept. 29 host Ole Miss

Oct. 6 at Florida

Oct. 13 host Georgia

Oct. 20 Mississippi St.

Oct. 27 Open

Nov. 3 host Alabama

Nov. 10 at Arkansas

Nov. 17 host Rice

Nov. 24 at Texas A&M

THE WRAP ON LSU ...

It's hard to pick LSU to lose more than two games when you look at their recruiting success over the past decade (there is just so much talent on that roster), but it's their coaching staff that casts a dark shadow over this program. It's just hard to trust Ed Orgeron to win consistently in the SEC (can't wipe his Ole Miss tenure from my mind).

The Tigers will boast a pretty strong offensive line in 2018, but they lost their starting QB and star running back (Darius Guice) from last fall. Ohio St. transfer Joe Burrow has arrived in Baton Rouge with plenty of press clippings, and he may solve the QB dilemma, but the noticeable lack of a star running back and a young receiving corps could spell trouble for the Tigers' offense. Jonathan Giles, a transfer from Texas Tech, could be the top outside receiving threat for new offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger, who was a position coach (tight ends) a year ago.

The defense will be powerful, not only because of the talent on that side of the ball but primarily because of defensive mastermind Dave Aranda, who became recognized for his defensive prowess during his years at Wisconsin. He installed his scheme in Baton Rouge last year, so expect the Tigers' defense to play at a much higher level this year. While the defense should be the bright spot for the Tigers, the schedule is brutal. Losses to Miami in week one and to Auburn in week three, producing a 1-2 start, would spark great murmuring in the Land of Purple & Gold. It's possible that happens.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 8-4, 4-4 SEC

OLE MISS REBEL

2017 RECORD: 6-6, 3-5 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 vs. Texas Tech Sept. 8 host Southern Illinois Sept. 15 host Alabama Sept. 22 host Kent State Sept. 29 at LSU

Oct. 6 host UL Monroe

Oct. 13 vs. Arkansas

Oct. 20 host Auburn

Oct. 27 (Open)

Nov. 3 host South Carolina Nov. 10 at Texas A&M

Nov. 17 at Vanderbilt

Nov. 24 host Mississippi State

THE WRAP ON OLE MISS . . .

Jordan Wilkins, a thousand yard rusher, is gone. That's bad. A.J. Brown, a 1200-yard receiver, is back. That's good . . . very good! Teamed with DK Metcalf – whose photos on social media gives one the impression that he's a starting SEC defensive end (yes, he's that big) – Brown is half of perhaps the best pass-catching duo in the nation. Junior left tackle Greg Little, who likely will have his name called early in the next NFL draft, will anchor a very experienced offensive line that should give QB Jordan Ta'amu ample time to find Brown and Metcalf for big plays.

It's the other side of the ball that tempers the enthusiasm of some Rebels' fans. Last year's defense gave up an average of 270.5 rushing yards per game, and that unit loses two of its brightest stars - big end Breeland Speaks and Marquis Haynes.

The schedule is very challenging, but at least the Rebels will catch Alabama, Auburn and Miss. State all at home. Another plus for Ole Miss is that their head coach, Matt Luke, may not be as flashy as some of his SEC counterparts, but he's Mississippi born and bleeds Ole Miss.

There's probably not another job in the world that he would leave Ole Miss for, so he will give 110 percent every day to make sure the Rebs climb back up the SEC rung. That kind of dedication to one school (not looking for the next big opening) counts for something!

2018 Regular Season Projection: 6-6, 3-5 SEC

Arkansas Razorbacks

2017 RECORD: 4-8, 1-7 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Eastern Illinois

Sept. 8 at Colorado State

Sept. 15 host North Texas

Sept. 22 at Auburn

Sept. 29 vs. Texas A&M

Oct. 6 host Alabama

Oct. 13 vs. Ole Miss

Oct. 20 host Tulsa

Oct. 27 host Vanderbilt

Nov. 3 (Open)

Nov. 10 host LSU

Nov. 17 at Mississippi St.

Nov. 24 at Missouri

The Wrap on the Razorbacks , , ,

When Bret Bielema was hired from Wisconsin to Arkansas four years ago, it seemed the Razorbacks had wooed a coach to Little Rock that could position them to challenge Alabama for SEC West supremacy. It didn't happen.

After winning 74 percent of his games at Wisconsin, including two trips to the Rose Bowl in seven seasons, Bielema flopped in the SEC, going 29-34 in five years there. Next up is Chad Morris, the former SMU head coach who created some dynamic offenses while coordinating for Dabo Swinney at Clemson. Morris compiled a less than stellar record at SMU

(14-23 over three seasons), but he did take the program from just two wins in 2015 to seven last year.

Morris will lead the charge for a team that returns a veteran but under-performing offensive line, a loaded offensive backfield (remember the names Devwah Whaley and T.J. Hammonds, who are potentially rushing stars in the making), and an average receiving group.

It will be interesting to see how well Morris' offense, which soared at Clemson from 2011-2014 with high level talent, will function in the SEC with just above average talent.

The Razorbacks defense will be led by DC John Chavis, who has experienced success in the SEC over the years but struggled to revive a lackluster defense at Texas A&M the past two years.

The talent he inherits at Arkansas certainly will not surpass the talent level he had at his disposal at A&M.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 5-7, 2-6 SEC

THE SEC EAST

Georgia Bulldogs

2017 RECORD: 13-2, 7-1 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 host Austin Peay

Sept. 8 at South Carolina

Sept. 15 host Middle Tennessee

Sept. 22 at Missouri

Sept. 29 host Tennessee

Oct. 6 host Vanderbilt

Oct. 13 at LSU

Oct. 20 Open

Oct. 27 vs. Florida

Nov. 3 at Kentucky

Nov. 10 host Auburn

Nov. 17 host Massachusetts

Nov. 24 host Georgia Tech

THE WRAP ON GEORGIA . . .

The Tide of the East! That's what third-year Head Coach Kirby Smart has the Bulldogs playing like. If any one team is presently poised to take Alabama off the SEC Throne, it's Georgia. Smart has recruited talent to Athens at a torrid pace, and he came within two minutes of winning the national title against Saban & The Tide last year. Will this be the year Smart wins it all? With seven starters returning on offense, including sophomore stud QB Jake Fromm, the Bulldogs will score a "kennel full" of points. The offense did lose star running backs Nick Chubb and Sony Michel to the NFL, but the up and coming group of young backs will do just fine.

Georgia's defense is sprinkled with five returning starters, but the linebacker corps did take a big hit from graduation (three of four starters are gone), and the secondary returns only one starter. If there is to be an Achilles heel to the Georgia season, it could happen early in the season against South Carolina or Missouri. Both of those games are in September, and the young defense may struggle against the Gamecocks and/or the Tigers, both of which are capable of posting big offensive numbers.

The game against Missouri could be particularly interesting, as Tigers' QB Drew Lock, a high profile passer, will no doubt test the inexperienced Georgia secondary. Also keep an eye on these dates for potential tough tests for Georgia: October 27 (Florida) and November 10 (Auburn).

2018 Regular Season Projection: 11-1, 7-1 SEC

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

2017 RECORD: 9-4, 5-3 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Coastal Carolina

Sept. 8 host Georgia

Sept. 15 host Marshall

Sept. 22 at Vanderbilt

Sept. 29 at Kentucky

Oct. 6 host Missouri

Oct. 13 host Texas A&M

Oct. 20 Open

Oct. 27 host Tennessee

Nov. 3 at Ole Miss

Nov. 10 at Florida

Nov. 17 host Chattanooga

Nov. 24 at Clemson

THE WRAP ON THE GAMECOCKS . . .

South Carolina Head Coach Will Muschamp has nearly as much difficulty keeping an offensive coordinator on staff as former Miss. State coach Dan Mullen had in keeping a defensive coordinator. Muschamp has introduced his fourth OC in just seven seasons, as Bryan McClendon has been moved from receivers coach room to the OC chair. McClendon has the experienced Jake Bentley, a once highly touted recruit, back at QB along with veteran wide-outs Deebo Samuel and Bryan Edwards. The running back position has question marks, and the offensive line reeks average. Highly touted incoming offensive linemen Dylan Wonnum, Jovaughn Gwyn and Maxwell Iyama could find immediate playing time.

Muschamp has long been known for his defensive ingenuity, and with seven starters missing from last year's defense, 2018 might strain him more than ever on that side of the ball. A spotty defense against a schedule that includes Georgia in Week 2, Missouri, Texas A&M, high-scoring Ole Miss, rejuvenated Florida and fierce rival Clemson could spell a down season for the fans in Columbia, SC.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 8-4, 5-3 SEC

Florida Gators

2017 RECORD: 4-7, 3-5 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Charleston Southern

Sept. 8 host Kentucky

Sept. 15 host Colorado St.

Sept. 22 at Tennessee

Sept. 29 at Mississippi State

Oct. 6 host LSU

Oct. 13 at Vanderbilt

Oct. 20 Open

Oct. 27 vs. Georgia (@ Jacksonville)

Nov. 3 host Missouri

Nov. 10 host South Carolina

Nov. 17 host Idaho

Nov. 24 at Florida State

THE WRAP ON THE GATORS . . .

It's hard to believe that a head coach could take an SEC school to Atlanta to compete for the SEC title in his first two years on the job and then get fired before his third year is even complete. But that's what happened to former Gators' head coach Jim McIlwain. Now Dan Mullen, who took Miss. State to eight straight bowl games, takes over, and the Florida fans are giddy to see the offensive numbers he will produce.

Mullen is known as a "quarterback whisperer," but this year he may have to scream to get the kind of numbers from his quarterback that he pulled from Chris Relf, Dak Prescott and Nick Fitzgerald at MSU. Last year's Florida QB, Felipe Franks, who will likely start game one under Mullen, completed less than 55 percent of his tosses and had just one more TD (9) than interceptions (8). The Gators do have an experienced offensive line, and since transfer WR stars Van Jefferson (Ole Miss) and Trevon Grimes (Ohio St.) were recently ruled eligible for 2018, the offense will get an instant jolt of big-play energy.

The Gators best hope for a colossal first season under Mullen might come as a result of the defensive coordinator Mullen brought with him, Todd Grantham. Grantham runs an aggressive 3-4 defense that makes a lot of plays behind the line of scrimmage. The schedule is manageable and includes Mullen's first trip back to Starkville since his resignation and a crucial battle against Florida St. (for recruiting reasons) in the season finale.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 8-4, 5-3 SEC

MISSOURI TIGER

2017 RECORD: 7-6, 4-4 SEC

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Tennessee-Martin

Sept. 8 host Wyoming

Sept. 15 at Purdue

Sept. 22 host Georgia

Sept. 29 Open

Oct. 6 at South Carolina

Oct. 13 at Alabama

Oct. 20 host Memphis

Oct. 27 host Kentucky

Nov. 3 at Florida

Nov. 10 host Vanderbilt

Nov. 17 at Tennessee

Nov. 24 host Arkansas

THE WRAP ON MISSOURI . . .

"Whew!" That's what Missouri Head Coach Barry Odom probably said after last season's "deep valley, mountain top, roller-coaster" experience. The Tigers won their opening game over Missouri St. but then lost five straight, including SEC tilts to Auburn, Kentucky and Georgia. Odom's firing seemed imminent. Then the Missouri offense caught fire, averaging 51 points per game over the last half of the regular season and winning six straight. Odom is still employed in Columbia, MO, and optimism is raging among Tigers' fans.

Potential All-America QB Drew Lock is back, and he will have his entire offensive line and top two running backs with him. Emanuel Hall, who averaged right at 25 yards per catch last season for over 800 total yards, will likely be his top WR target. To say the Mizzou offense is loaded is an understatement.

The Tigers defense returns all of its linebacker corps and its starting cornerbacks. Tackle Terry Beckner Jr. will anchor the front wall, but there is not a lot of experience returning around him on the D-line. Beckner's front line running mates will have three weeks to get up to speed, as the team opens the season with Tennessee-Martin, Wyoming and Purdue, all winnable games. Then the Tigers will encounter a daunting slate of competition, as they will face Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama back-to-back-to-back. The one glimmer of help in that stretch is that they get an open date between the Georgia

and South Carolina tilts. If the Tigers are able to steal one of those three games, it could be a special season. 2018 Regular Season Projection: 7-5, 4-4 SEC

KENTUCKY WILDCATS

2017 RECORD: 7-6, 4-4

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Central Michigan

Sept. 8 at Florida

Sept. 15 host Murray State

Sept. 22 host Mississippi State

Sept. 29 host South Carolina

Oct. 6 at Texas A&M

Oct. 13 Open

Oct. 20 host Vanderbilt

Oct. 27 at Missouri

Nov. 3 host Georgia Nov. 10 at Tennessee

Nov. 17 host Middle Tennessee

Nov. 24 at Louisville

THE WRAP ON THE WILDCATS ...

You didn't have to watch a lot of Kentucky football last year to quickly realize that Benny Snell is the high octane fuel that makes this team go. The junior tailback rushed for over 1,300 yards and accounted for 19 total TDs in leading the Wildcats offense. Head coach Mark Stoops will likely lean on Snell heavily this fall, since his QB corps is void of experience . . . as in no candidate for the starting Kentucky QB job has ever started a D-1 college game. Whoever gets the starting signal-caller nod will have tight end C.J. Conrad to throw to. Conrad averaged nearly 18 yards per reception in 2017 and pulled in 4 TDs. The other receiving targets do not dazzle, at least on paper, as much as Conrad does, but the offensive front has four good starters coming back. Those Big Cats may be the primary reason the UK offense is not totally stagnant in Lexington this fall.

The Wildcats defense ranked 91st in the final FBS standings in 2017, giving up 426 yards per game. That's nearly 200 more yards per game than the top-ranked defense in the FBS. Stoops, a defensive-minded coach, must get his defensive troops to be more active at the line of scrimmage. Sophomore Quinton Bohanna, all 340 pounds of him, will be instrumental for any defensive improvement the Wildcats may enjoy this fall. Tymere Dubose (6'5" 315) is another potential run-stopper for UK. If the Wildcats can't slow down their opponents' rushing attack, then determining who the QB will be won't matter that much in the long run. The slate of opponents in 2018 will be tough, as the Cats will tangle with Florida, Miss. State and South Carolina before September is over.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 5-7, 2-6 SEC

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

2017 RECORD: 4-8, 0-8

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 vs. West Virginia (Charlotte, NC)

Sept. 8 host East Tennessee St.

Sept. 15 host UTEP

Sept. 22 host Florida

Sept. 29 at Georgia

Oct. 6 (Open)

Oct. 13 at Auburn

Oct. 20 host Alabama

Oct. 27 at South Carolina

Nov. 3 host Charlotte Nov. 10 host Kentucky Nov. 17 host Missouri Nov. 24 at Vanderbilt

THE WRAP ON THE VOLS . .

Remember when the third college football Saturday in September was all about Tennessee and Florida. There were sometimes other big games, but the Vols and Gators would be on CBS and would dominate the college gridiron headlines that day. Not any more. Both teams are trying to become relevant again, especially Tennessee, which suffered through a brutal 2017 campaign that saw them enjoy a win just one time in their last eight contests, and that win was against a Conference USA foe. Their head coach, Butch Jones, was fired and the coaching search that followed was nigh near folly - it even cost the athletic director his job. Finally, Jeremy Pruitt, the 2017 defensive coordinator from Alabama, was brought on board to right the Big Orange Ship.

Exactly what type offense Pruitt will employ in Knoxville is unclear, but most presume it will resemble Bama's run first, "throw when you have to" scheme. Grad transfer Keller Chryst, who won 11 games as a starter at Stanford, is the likely starter at QB. He will be protected by an offensive line returning just one starter (former overall No. 1 recruit Trey Smith, who plays left tackle), but the running back and receiver groups are deep and experienced.

Pruitt operated a stout defense at Alabama, but he inherits a defensive unit in Knoxville that gave up an average of five TDs a game over the last six games of 2017. He will need to address that in a hurry, since his Vols will face high-powered West Virginia in the season-opener and then catches Florida, Georgia, Auburn, Alabama and South Carolina in a row in the middle of the season. If the defense doesn't improve drastically, it's reasonable that Tennessee could enter November at 2-6.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 5-7, 2-6 SEC

VANDERBILT COMMODORES

2017 RECORD: 5-7, 1-7

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Middle Tennessee

Sept. 8 host Nevada

Sept. 15 at Notre Dame

Sept. 22 host South Carolina

Sept. 29 host Tennessee St.

Oct. 6 at Georgia

Oct. 13 host Florida

Oct. 20 at Kentucky

Oct. 27 at Arkansas

Nov. 3 (Open)

Nov. 10 at Missouri

Nov. 17 host Ole Miss

Nov. 24 host Tennessee

THE WRAP ON VANDY . . .

The Commodores started 3-0 last year . . . and then played Alabama in their SEC opener. A blowout loss to the Tide sent them on a 2-7 downward spiral the rest of the way; the Dores grabbed their only SEC win in the last game of the season against Tennessee. It was such a disaster that Head Coach Derek Mason could be standing in the unemployment line if his team has such a repeat performance in 2018.

Vanderbilt returns star QB Kyle Shurmur - a senior who chunked 26 TDs and had over 2,800 passing yards in 2017 – and the entire offensive line. The top two receivers have left town, but tight end Jared Pinkney (22 catches, 279 yards, 3 TDs) returns. The offense has enough experienced components to hold their own in the rugged SEC, but their defensive counterparts were not very good at holding back any opposition last year, allowing 43 points per game in SEC play. That dismal performance prompted Mason to give up his defensive play-calling duties and hire Jason Tarver. Tarver brings 16 years of NFL experience to Nashville, including last year with the San Francisco 49ers.

If the new DC can produce more stops from the defense this year than his boss did last year, Vanderbilt could possibly squeeze out enough wins to become bowl eligible. Their first two games of the season against Middle Tennessee and Nevada and the contest against Tennessee St. on September 29 are crucial; if the team drops any of those three games, Mason is likely coaching his last season in Music City.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 4-8, 1-7 SEC

SOUTHERN MISS

2017 RECORD: 8-5, 6-2 C-USA

2018 SCHEDULE:

Sept. 1 host Jackson St.

Sept. 8 host UL Monroe

Sept. 15 at Appalachian St.

Sept. 22 host Rice

Sept. 29 at Auburn

Oct. 6 at (Open)

Oct. 13 at North Texas

Oct. 20 host UTSA

Oct. 27 at Charlotte

Nov. 3 host Marshall

Nov. 10 at UAB

Nov. 17 host Louisiana Tech

Nov. 24 at UTEP

THE WRAP ON SOUTHERN MISS...

Who will be the Southern Miss starting QB on September 1 when the Eagles host in-state foe Jackson St. It won't be Laurel native Keon Howard, who was a star in high school and had some good moments as the part-time starter for the Eagles last year; however, Howard decided to transfer before fall camp this year (his likely destination is Tulane). That means either Kwadra Griggs, who shared snaps with Howard last year, or JUCO transfer Jack Abraham, a former high school standout at Oxford, MS, will likely take the first snap against JSU.

Whoever lines up under center will have good offensive line to operate behind, as the left side of the line (Drake Dorbeck and Arvin Fletcher) return along with right tackle Ty Pollard, a former Oak Grove High School star.

Southern Miss fans will have to get accustomed to not hearing Ito Smith's name called, but at least the outstanding back will be replaced by three seniors who have taken plenty of snaps - Tez Parks, T'Rod Daniels and George Payne. The latter might be the most capable of the three, if he can stay away from injury. So far in his career, he has not been able to do that.

The Southern Miss defense might look like an Eagle trying to fly with one wing in 2018, at least early in the season. There is some talent on that side of the ball, but only three starters return; two of them are linebackers, meaning most of the defensive front and all of the secondary from last year will have to be replaced. One bright spot for the Eagles' secondary will be local product Picasso Nelson Jr., who did not play in 2017 due to an injury but is slated to return to a starting position this fall.

The Southern Miss schedule is challenging, with resurgent UAB, always steady Louisiana Tech, C-USA West Division favorite North Texas, Sun Belt up-and-comer Appalachian State, and SEC power Auburn all likely games the Eagles will be tabbed to lose. For the Eagles to steal one or two of those games and win the ones they should, head coach Jay Hopson will have to settle on the right QB and get his callow defense playing at a high level quickly.

2018 Regular Season Projection: 6-6, 4-4



Remembering 50 Years Ago

THE 1968 BOBCATS ...

By Dale McKee

"If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day. That's a heck of a day, You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special," said Jim Valvano, former basketball coach at North Carolina State, as he was accepting the Arthur Ashe Courage and Humanitarian Award at the first televised ESPY Awards in 1993. Valvano was in his final stages of a battle with bone cancer.

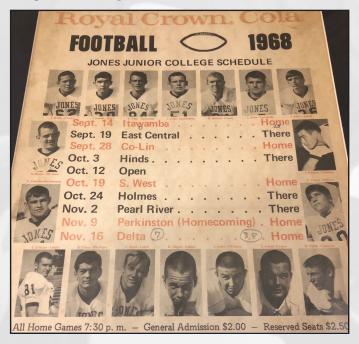
It has been 25 years since Valvano echoed those words, and it has been 50 years since one of my favorite football teams won a national championship. Those Jones County Junior College Bobcats of 1968 did all three things in winning the first national championship for the school.

A Changing World

The year of 1968 changed the world. Sadly Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated. Surveyor 7 made a historic soft landing on the moon and began sending back photos. The blood and gore of the Vietnam War was televised in our living rooms each night on the national news. The youth of America challenged the establishment. And civil unrest saw riots in the streets and protests at the Olympics.

That year in sports was the beginning of Archie's Army in Oxford and was also the final season of O.J. at USC. Vince Lombardi coached his last game with the Green Bay Packers, and a New York Jets quarterback named Joe "Willie" Namath was marching his team to a most unexpected finish.

On the local scene, the sleepy little town of Ellisville, Mississippi, was awakening to what would prove to be one of the most memorable football seasons in Jones County Junior College history. As fall workouts began that season, an optimistic Bobcats head coach Sim Cooley told one of the local civic clubs, "We've got the best ball club we've had in a long time." Jones was returning 18 sophomores and had a couple of transfers that made the Bobcats a team to watch. The previous season Jones had returned only 13 sophomores-so many of the sophomores of 1968 had gained a lot of experience during their first season at JCJC.



in the nation They Laughed, They Thought, and Most of the guys of

"We knew that we had a very talented team. We blended well together on and off the field and are still that way almost 50 years later," said Richard Thoms, former Richton Rebel and leading receiver of the team. Thoms laughingly recalled one of the many shenanigans that he and some of his teammates pulled off the field. In several cars the guys headed to the Laurel drive-in one night. Thinking that they would pull one over on the operator of the drive-in, some of the guys hid in the trunks prior to entering the premises. Thoms said that it is likely that the operator had the last laugh, however, since the guys purchased their weight in food and drinks.

They Cried

Raleigh's Billy Clingon, who was one of the Bobcats' team captains and was named an All-American offensive lineman, also remembers the special bond that still exists for these students of the game. "The coaches prepared us well. They did an outstanding job of teaching us the game and bringing us together. I could tell we were developing after the spring game against Perkinston. We had unity, and players were motivating and encouraging each other as we wanted no weak link in the chain," said Clingon. "The student body at Jones really got behind us that year both at home and on the road, which only increased our sense of unity," Clingon added.

Bobcats quarterback David Abercrombie said the team had a solid nucleus. "We worked hard, and practices were pretty tough. We had great leadership, and we had tough coaches that demanded toughness," said the Seminary native. "We had several Division I players on that team. The only reason we were overlooked was because we had played at small high schools," he added. Abercrombie himself went on to play at Tulane University, where he led the Green Wave to the 1970 Liberty Bowl win and was named MVP of the game.

The team was a ground-oriented team with the likes of Laurel's Steve Bailey and Taylorsville's Lynn Horn carrying the load. Horn scored six touchdowns against East Central and led the Bobcats with 114 points in nine games. "Every team we played was very physical. We played a winless Hinds team, but they hit harder than any team we played. It was a tough league for sure," said Horn.

Waynesboro's Johnny Walker remembers the Perkinston game. Both JCJC and Perkinston were undefeated entering the game at Bush-Young Field. "That had to be the biggest crowd ever at JCJC. The fans were lined up around the track, and every seat was filled," related Walker.

Most of the guys on the team had played against each other in high school, so they all knew each other, according to Walker. They had a camaraderie that would see them through tough times. "Those days," Walker said, "were incredibly demanding." Players would routinely practice long hours that tested them physically and mentally. Oftentimes they would think they had run their last series at practice as the evening drew near only to have Coach Cooley turn on the lights for another couple of hours of grueling workouts. The passion that drove the team to endure week after week developed a fortitude that resulted in tears of joy in the end.

For these guys, laughing, thinking and crying seven days a week every week gave them something that was indeed special.

The 1968 Jones County Junior College Bobcats were graduates from 18 different high schools in the JCJC district. Following is a list of the high schools and the players from that school that played on the 1968 JCJC National Championship team.

R.H. Watkins:

David Jones, Kenny Gaskin, Jim Toney, Steve Bailey, Carl Monk, Josey Altmyer

Oak Park: Terry Nix

Northwest Jones:

Phil Sumrall, Sammy Ulmer, Jimmy Lowe, Herman Shows

South Jones:

Lavon James, Danny Shows, Johnny Morris, Richard Crowder, Mike Sanford

Northeast Jones:

Randy Stevens, Roy West, Danny Collins, Wayne Howard

Beat Four:

Charles Bell, Jimmy Whatley

Collins:

Lonnie Wilson

Enterprise:

Joe Williford, David Overby, Mike Smith, Larry Murray

Leakesville:

Mac Douglas

Mize: Bubba Allen, Larry Eubanks, Joe Howell

Raleigh: Billy Clingon

Richton:

Richard Thoms

Runnelstown:

Troy Creel

Sandersville:

Ray Tisdale

Seminary: David Abercrombie, Richard Thames, James Williams

Taylorsville: Lynn Horn, Al Moore, Ted Yates

Quitman: Larry Mathis, Bill Barry, Gary Kinley, David Bohl

Waynesboro

Central: Johnny Walker, Johnny Coxwell, Larry Waller











FURNITURE • HOME DECOR • GIFTS





Make Rubies your football and fall decor headquarters!

LOCATED ON 16TH AVENUE

Rubies Home Furnishings 2139 MS-15 • Laurel, MS 39440 601-428-0198

www.rubieshomefurnishings.com



























A BETTER WAY TO BUY

OUTDOOR • KITCHEN • HEALTHCARE • ELECTRONICS HOME & GARDEN • SPORTING GOODS



HowardStore is our online shopping center that includes a little bit of everything, from fashionable jewelry, clothing and home furnishings to trending beauty, health and wellness supplies; the latest electronics and sporting goods. It's all there. Whether you're an individual consumer or a professional retailer, HowardStore gives you more of what you're looking for.





LAUREL

Aug. 17 Aug. 25 Aug. 31 Sept. 7 Sept. 14	Callaway Hattiesburg Oak Grove Petal OPEN	Home Away Home Away
Sept. 21	South Jones	Away
Sept. 28	Brookhaven	Home
Oct. 4	Wingfield	Away
Oct. 12	West Jones	Home
Oct. 19	Forest Hill	Away
Oct. 26	North Pike	Home
Nov. 2	Natchez	Away

WEST JONES

Aug. 17 Aug. 24 Aug. 31 Sept. 7 Sept. 14	Wayne Co. Northeast Quitman Bay Springs OPEN	Home Home Away Away
Sept. 21	Forest Hill	Home
Sept. 28	Natchez	Away
Oct. 5	North Pike	Home
Oct. 12	Laurel	Away
Oct. 19	South Jones	Home
Oct. 26	Wingfield	Away
Nov. 2	Brookhaven	Away

NORTHEAST JONES

Aug. 17	Taylorsville	Home
Aug. 24	West Jones	Away
Aug. 31	Collins	Home
Sept. 7	South Jones	Away
Sept. 14	Bay Springs	Away
Sept. 21	OPEN	
Sept. 28	N.E. Lauderdale	Home
Oct. 5	W. Lauderdale	Away
Oct. 12	Quitman	Home
Oct. 19	Mendenhall	Home
Oct. 26	Newton Co.	Away

SOUTH JONES

Aug. 17	Sumrall	Home
Aug. 24	Hancock	Away
Aug. 31	West Marion	Home
Sept. 7	Northeast	Home
Sept. 14	Bay St. Louis	Away
Sept. 21	Laurel	Home
Sept. 28	Forest Hill	Away
Oct. 5	Natchez	Home
Oct. 12	North Pike	Away
Oct. 19	West Jones	Away
Oct. 26	Brookhaven	Home
Nov. 2	Wingfield	Away

