

# It's time for some football



[DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

This season promises to be one like we've never seen before  
2020 HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW, Wednesday, August 19, 2020, THE DECATUR DAILY



No Penalties  
for a  
**Face  
Mask**  
Stay Safe!

Excellent Care. Close to Home. **Close to You.**

 **Decatur Morgan  
Hospital**

[deaturmorganhospital.net](http://deaturmorganhospital.net)

# Table of contents

- 4. Austin Black Bears
- 6. Decatur Red Raiders
- 8. Decatur Heritage Eagles
- 10. West Morgan Rebels
- 12. Hartselle Tigers
- 14. Brewer Patriots
- 16. Priceville Bulldogs
- 18. Danville Hawks
- 20. Falkville Blue Devils
- 22. Hatton Hornets
- 24. East Lawrence Eagles
- 26. Lawrence County Red Devils
- 27. R.A. Hubbard Chiefs
- 28. Athens Golden Eagles
- 29. Tanner Rattlers
- 30. East Limestone Indians
- 31. Ardmore Tigers
- 33. Elkmont Red Devils
- 34. Clements Colts
- 36. West Limestone Wildcats
- 38. region predictions
- 39. team schedules

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# How do you play during a pandemic?

The season begins Thursday with uncertainty if there will be a finish

By David Elwell  
Sports Writer

Football coaches don't like surprises. They spend hours of preparation to take the unexpected out of the game.

Whether it is notes written on pages in a playbook, filed in a computer or just memories stuffed inside a noggin, football coaches want to be ready for every possibility.

Before this summer, it's doubtful that any coaches had a plan on how to play football during a pandemic. If there's ever been a season to prepare for the unexpected, this is it.

It was in March when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and all high school spring sports in Alabama shut down. That also raised concerns about football this fall. Even though the numbers for those suffering with COVID-19 continue to rise, it's full speed ahead for football season, which begins Thursday.

"I really don't know how all this is going to work," said R.A. Hubbard head coach Mac Hampton. "Are we going to go through all this work to get prepared to play only to have the plug pulled after something like two games? I hope not."

Steve Savarese, executive director of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, sees getting started as a good first step, but it doesn't mean there will be a complete season.

"We felt like let's get as many games in as we can," Savarese said. "If we can get them all in, that will be great. If not, if the health situation deteriorates, then we will stop at that time under a health order."

"Right now we wanted to get started,



**Brewer players keep their distance while listening to coach Geoff Walters.** [DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

get our folks out there, let our children return to their childhood, let our kids have a senior year."

High school organizations across the country have grappled with how to play football during a pandemic. At last check, 37 states are playing this fall. Utah started first on Aug. 13. Some states are delaying starts. Twelve states and the District of Columbia have pushed their seasons to after the first of 2021.

"It's scary to me because I want to play football my senior season," Austin's Tre Shackelford said. "I had friends who lost their senior seasons last spring, and I know how bad they were hurt."

"I wear a mask out in public for my safety and for the safety of others. I wear it because I want to play football."

The camaraderie of a football team can help teammates deal with the uncertainty.

"The best thing to do is enjoy every minute with your teammates," Decatur's Grayson Vermeire said. "I'm fearful about what could happen to our season. I just try to be positive all the time."

Masks and social distancing of at least 6 feet will be part of the playbook for this football season. The sidelines will look different for social distancing, with the team box for players, which was from the 25-yard line to the other 25, being expanded from 10 to 10. Coaches are still limited from the 25 to the other 25.

Only one captain will represent each team for the coin toss. Protective shields on helmets may be the norm rather than an exception. The footballs used in the game will be constantly wiped down.

How will the experience of Friday Night Lights be during the pandemic?

"I feel like most high school football fans have been cooped up for so long that they are itching to get out and watch some good football," Brewer head coach Geoff Walters said. "I just hope everyone wears a mask and follows the guidelines and we can all be safe."

— david.elwell@decaturdaily.com or 256-340-2395. Twitter @ DD\_DavidElwell.

# AUSTIN BLACK BEARS

## Lay of the land

There was some talk before last fall's reclassification that Austin might slide back to Class 6A. When the numbers came out from the Alabama High School Athletic Association, the average enrollment for Austin was 1,139.45. That's seven from the bottom among the 32 schools in 7A.

The Class 7A, Region 4 rivals are James Clemens, Florence, Sparkman, Bob Jones, Grissom, Huntsville and Albertville. James Clemens and Florence were first and second in the region last year. Sparkman and Austin were third and fourth. James Clemens and Florence won first-round playoff games before falling in the quarterfinals.

Austin's out-of-region foes are the season opener at Hartselle on Friday, vs. Decatur on Friday and the last game of the season Oct. 29 vs. Mountain Brook, which is now the largest school in Class 6A.

## Head coach

Jeremy Perkins is beginning his 11th season at Austin. The former Thompson and Hoover assistant coach is Austin's winningest football coach with a 71-44 record. Over the last five years, Austin has gone 46-17 with two region championships and five trips to the playoffs.

## Last season

After winning their first five games, the Black Bears lost three of their next five. The three losses were close region games: 24-21 at Sparkman, 36-28 vs. Bob Jones and 27-24 at James Clemens.

Austin finished fourth in Region 4 and lost in the first round of the playoffs at Thompson, 54-20.

## Last three seasons

After going 12-1 in the last season in Class 6A in 2017, the Black Bears have gone 7-4 and 7-4 in their first two years in Class 7A.

## Words to grow on

"I'm excited about this season," Perkins said. "This team has a world of potential. For everybody's sake I hope we get to play it out and see how far we can go."

## Quarterback

Senior Quincy Crittendon is back



**Austin High head coach Jeremy Perkins:** "This team has a world of potential. For everybody's sake, I hope we get to play it out and see how far we can go." [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

for a second season as the starter. The Class 7A All-State honorable mention selection threw for 2,217 yards and 21 touchdowns last season while completing 114 of 198 passes with just four

interceptions.

## Offense

The Black Bears have the potential to be explosive on this side of the ball. Along

with Crittendon returning, Austin also has back All-State receiver Tre Shackelford and running back Jevon Jackson. Both

# *Good Luck to all Area Teams!*

## **For Year-round Comfort.**



**We offer Emergency 24 hour and Same day Service**

We've been serving the community for more than 35 years, giving us the experience necessary to handle all your repairs and service.

**256-353-2004**

*Call the heating and cooling experts.*



**VALLEY**  
**HEATING & COOLING**

Serving The Tennessee Valley Since 1975  
ValleyHeatingandCooling.com

# DECATUR RED RAIDERS

## Lay of the land

Class 6A, Region 8 is the new home for the Red Raiders. It looks a lot like Class 6A, Region 7 did the last two years with Hartselle, Athens, Cullman, Muscle Shoals and Columbia. Madison County schools Hazel Green and Buckhorn round out to make it an eight-team region.

Decatur's out-of-region games are vs. Russellville in Thursday's season opener, at Austin on Aug. 28 and at Huntsville in the season finale. Huntsville is Decatur's longest-running rivalry with 90 meetings. Decatur leads the series 52-32-6.

## Head coach

This is season No. 25 as the Decatur head coach for Jere Adcock. His record is 172-102. The 64-year-old is just the fifth head coach at Decatur since 1933, when H.L. "Shorty" Ogle came to the River City.

## Last season

The 2019 season was not a good one for the Red Raiders (2-8). The defense

matched a school record by giving up 327 points. The 1966 team went 0-10 while giving up the same number of points. The last time Decatur won as few as two games was in 1994 (2-8). That was two years before Adcock became head coach.

## Last three seasons

The Red Raiders are 13-19 over the last three seasons. It's been a decade of winning records in the even years and losing records in the odd years.

## Words to grow on

"I did a poor job last year getting our team to where we needed to be so we could be as competitive as possible," Adcock said. "It was like we were searching for answers all season and could never find them."

## Quarterback

Grayson Vermeire (5-foot-10, 180

SEE RAIDERS, 7



Jere Adcock is beginning his 25th season as head coach of the Decatur Red Raiders. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

## Best of luck to all area teams!



Bob McMillan  
Broker  
256-566-2250



J. A. Phillips  
Agent  
256-227-0924



Chance Higdon  
Agent  
256-303-9858



Shelia Cotharin  
Agent  
256-566-9127



Sandra Ball  
Associate Broker  
256-642-9903



Jo Clifton  
Agent  
256-566-9598



Jerry Clifton  
Agent  
256-566-9599



Chris Adkinson  
Agent  
256-438-0024



Marvin Julich  
Associate Broker  
256-654-0570



Randy Gillespie  
Associate Broker  
256-565-7327



Toby Joseph  
Associate Broker  
256-303-7171



Teri Appleton  
Agent  
256-318-3288



Trayce Kelley  
Agent  
256-476-4753



Dianne Barrett  
Agent  
256-303-2947



Randall Green  
Agent  
256-656-7911



Alisha Phillips  
Agent  
256-502-0069



**COLDWELL  
BANKER**  
MCMILLAN &  
ASSOCIATES

(256) 340-0222



*Serving all Real Estate needs since 1982*

1906 CENTRAL PARKWAY SW • DECATUR, AL 35601  
TOLL FREE (800) 242-0198 • FAX (256) 351-0064  
mail@coldwellbankerdecatur.com • www.coldwellbankerdecatur.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

**www.coldwellbankerdecatur.com**



Decatur High quarterback Grayson Vermeire (7) goes through passing drills during practice. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

## RAIDERS

From Page 6

pounds) will be directing the offense. The senior saw quite a bit of duty last season after starter Turner Stepp was lost for the season with a shoulder injury. According to Adcock, Vermeire ended the season with a solid performance in a 21-14 loss at Sparkman.

“Grayson has worked hard to improve at quarterback, and he’s really taken on the role of leader of this team,” Adcock said.

### Offense

The Red Raiders return seven starters with Vermeire, running back Kean-dre Williams (5-9, 150, Jr.), receiver Charlie Taylor (6-1, 145, Sr.), H-back

Ethan Bates (6-1, 160, Sr.) and linemen Banks Murphree (6-3, 240, Sr.), Carter McCollum (5-10, 205, Sr.) and Hunter Claborn (6-3, 265, Jr.).

The hope is that experience from 2019 can lead to improvement in 2020. Last season, the Red Raiders scored more than 17 points in just three games.

### Defense

Adcock said improving the defense depends on how well the Red Raiders can stop the run.

“Even though most teams line up in the spread, the game has evolved more into a physical game (when) running the football,” Adcock said. “If you can’t stop the run, you can’t win.”

The coach hopes a couple of position changes make a big difference.

Kamerin Sandlin (5-8, 225, Sr.) moves from linebacker to nose tackle. Paxtin Dupper (5-9, 165, Soph.) moves from linebacker to safety.

“Kamerin is the strongest player on the team,” Adcock said. “His low center of gravity makes him perfect for the position.

“Paxtin will be like our quarterback on defense. He’s got a lot of football smarts. His job is to get everybody in the right position to make plays, and we have confidence in him.”

The linebackers will be Chase Jones (5-11, 165, Sr.) and Banks Dement (6-1, 205, Jr.). Jacob McRae (6-1, 235, Jr.) is a returning starter at defensive end. He’s started since he was a freshman.

The defensive backfield will be young with a chance that the four starters could all be sophomores.

### Must-see games

The River City Rivalry with Austin is always the big game. It’s the second game of the season, Aug. 28 at Austin. The Black Bears will be going for a sixth straight win in the series.

In reality the biggest game of the season could be the season opener at home Thursday with Russellville. If the Red Raiders are going to bounce back from a bad season, a win in the first game would be huge.

### Final word

“We are going to be a sophomore heavy football team this season,” Adcock said. “I like the work ethic and I see a lot of good chemistry in the field house and on the field. I really enjoy watching this team grow.”

— David Elwell

# DECATUR HERITAGE EAGLES



Decatur Heritage head coach Steve Meek is beginning his 10th season leading the Eagles. His record at Decatur Heritage is 67-36 with two region championships and six consecutive playoff appearances. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

## Lay of the land

Decatur Heritage makes the move to Class 1A, Region 8. R.A. Hubbard continues to be perhaps the biggest region rival. Other region opponents this season are Cherokee, Hackleburg, Phillips, Shoals Christian, Vina and Waterloo.

Decatur Heritage is familiar with most of the new region opponents. The Eagles played Phillips and Shoals Christian as non-region opponents last season. This year's non-region opponents are Falkville, Colbert Heights and Woodville.

## Head coach

Steve Meek is beginning his 10th season leading the Eagles. His record at Decatur

Heritage is 67-36 with two region championships and six consecutive playoff appearances.

## Last season

The Eagles (12-1) matched a school record with 12 wins last season before falling to Mars Hill Bible in the third round of the 1A state playoffs, 42-21. Mars Hill Bible advanced to the state championship game before losing to Lanett, 41-30.

Decatur Heritage lost 14 seniors from last year's team. That includes four All-State players in offensive lineman Carter Sample, linebacker Hank Davis, running back Colton Keith and defensive back Jackson Kyle.

## Last three seasons

It's been three years of success with a 27-8 record and three playoff appearances.

## Words to grow on

"We lost a lot from last year, but I'm excited about what we have coming back," Meek said. "It's an opportunity for a lot of young guys to step up. It's always exciting to see how young players accept a new challenge."

## Quarterback

After two years in a three-player rotation, junior Brayden Kyle (6-foot-2, 215 pounds) is ready to be the man leading

the offense. Kyle has experience after playing many meaningful minutes at the position over the last two seasons.

Sophomore Bo Solley will be backing up Kyle.

## Offense

For the previous five seasons, the Decatur Heritage offensive scheme has been to pound the defense with one of the Keith brothers at running back.

You can't argue with the success. Older brother Jackson in 2015 and 2016 and younger brother Colton for the last three years combined for 5,851 yards and



# Las Vias Mexican Grill



# FREE CHEESE DIP

WITH THIS COUPON AND PURCHASE OF ANY ENTREE.

EXPIRES DEC. 31, 2020

## Las Vias Mexican Grill

2224 6th Ave, Decatur • 256-686-3344  
1000 Beltline Road, Ste Q, Decatur • 256-552-7772  
711 Nanceford Road, Ste A, Hartselle • 256-751-1402

**\$5.99**  
**Daily Special**

**DECATUR**  
2224 6th Ave SE  
256-686-3344

**DECATUR**  
1000 Beltline Rd SW  
Suite Q  
256-552-7772

**HARTSELLE**  
711 Nanceford Rd  
Suite A  
256-751-1402

## Thank you for voting us Best Mexican Restaurant



# WEST MORGAN REBELS

## Lay of the land

West Morgan joins Priceville in moving west to compete with Shoals-area teams in Class 4A. The Rebels will be in Region 8 with Brooks, Central-Florence, Deshler, Priceville, Rogers, West Limestone and Wilson. West Morgan fell to Priceville, 24-22, last season but did not face any of its new region opponents in 2019.

It plays at home against Good Hope (Thursday), on the road vs. East Lawrence (Aug. 28) and on the road against Leeds (Sept. 25) for its non-region games. Its region schedule opens with Priceville on Sept. 4 at home.

“Historically speaking, it does hurt not having all of those Morgan County games we had the first two years,” West Morgan coach Mikel Riggs said. “We’re gonna miss those, but it will be neat to go play some people who we haven’t played in a long time.”

## Head coach

The Rebels made minor improvements in their second year under Riggs. After going 1-9 two seasons ago, his team went 3-7 last year. Three of West Morgan’s four wins under Riggs have come in region play.

## Last season

The Rebels rallied in the back half of the season after losing the first four games, including region losses to Randolph, 32-25, and Danville, 35-8. They then strung together two wins in a row and went 3-3 in their final six games to earn a 3-7 record overall and a 2-5 record in region play.

## Last three seasons

A big senior class led West Morgan to its best season of the 2010s in 2017 — the final year with coach John Ritter. The Rebels went 10-2 and made it to the Class 3A playoffs where they beat Holly Pond, 35-0, before losing to Sylvania, 48-21, in the second round. Ritter left to coach Russellville. Riggs took over, going 1-9 and 3-7 in his first two years. West Morgan is 14-18 in the last three seasons.

## Words to grow on

“We have a lot of potential because we have a lot of returning players,” Riggs said. “Potential is useless if you



West Morgan’s Jakobe Griffin, left, reaches for a pass as a teammate defends during practice. [PHOTOS BY JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

don’t tap into it. We want to convince these guys that they can do some things and win some ball games.”

## Quarterback

Glavine Segars returns for his third year as starter. The 5-foot-8 quarterback is experienced with the system and Riggs thinks he will be a strong leader for the Rebels.

“He brings confidence to the offense and to his teammates,” Riggs said. “He’s not the biggest or the strongest, but he knows how to compete. His teammates believe he will get the job done.”

## Offense

The Rebels return 10 starters with junior running back Adam Lucas leading the way. Lucas rushed for 1,128 yards

and eight touchdowns last season. Senior wide receiver Jakobe Griffin also returns to give Segars a big target at 6-foot-4. Riggs also expects the team to be strong up front with multiple multi-year starters, including seniors Elijah Dumas, Evan Newman and Nate Alexander as well as juniors Marcus Jones and Owen Coffey.

## Defense

West Morgan will have seven returning starters on defense, but the Rebels lost Tyler Pendegraph, who had 48 tackles with 6.5 for loss last season. Newman and Nate Alexander return on the defensive line. Junior Cade Alexander will lead the linebackers. Senior Drew Bradford, senior Caleb Terry and junior Kaden Cook will be key pieces in the secondary.



Mikel Riggs enters his third season as West Morgan’s head coach.

## Must-see games

West Morgan will face East Lawrence on Aug. 28 for the first time since 2017 when the Rebels won 55-0. The two teams have met 35 times dating to 1979. All but four of the matchups have been non-region games.

“Our kids are already excited about that one,” Riggs said. “When I told the players that game was back on the schedule, they were chomping at the bit to start getting ready.”

## Final word

“Our goal is to get to October and play our best football,” Riggs said. “Hopefully, at that point, we will have won enough to make the playoffs. I think this group has a chance to do that.”

— Matthew Speakman

**HARDWOOD**



**CARPET &  
CARPET TILES**



**TILE**



**BACKSPLASH**



***We thank the Morgan County Area  
for 32 years of support!***



**Superior Carpets**

**Design  
Center**

**Ceramic Tile • Hardwood • LVP • Carpet & More**  
Corner of 6th Avenue and 14th Street • (256) 351-9988  
superiorcarpetala.com

# HARTSELLE TIGERS

## Lay of the land

The Tigers are competing in Class 6A, Region 8 with seven other teams including longtime rivals Decatur, Cullman and Athens. Muscle Shoals is the defending region champion and probably the favorite to take the region championship this season. Filling out the rest of the region are Buckhorn, Hazel Green and Columbia.

## Head coach

Bryan Moore is the new man in charge. This is his sixth season to be a head coach. His record is 49-12 with five playoff appearances at Eufaula (three years) and Jasper (two years).

Moore is the Tigers' third head coach in three years. That's unusual for a program that prides itself on stability. Between 1957 and 2018, the Tigers had just five head coaches — J.P. Cain, Bucky Pitts, Don Woods, Michael Smith and Bob Godsey.

## Last season

The Tigers went 4-7 in Bo Culver's one season as head coach. The four teams Hartselle beat were Brooks, Columbia, Decatur and Hazel Green. Those four teams were a combined 9-32.

## Last three seasons

Hartselle has gone 21-12, including a region championship in 2018 with an 11-1 record.

## Words to grow on

"We got a lot of new around here," Moore said. "How well we do this season depends on how quickly our young players can compete. We'll need them to grow up in a hurry and be ready to go Friday nights."

Hartselle's roster is dominated by youth. There are eight seniors, 14 juniors and 76 sophomores and freshmen.

## Quarterback

A lot of the new starts at the quarterback position. Last year's starter, Cal George, is now playing at Athens.

Parker Sawyer, who was the starting quarterback at Jasper last season, has followed Moore to Hartselle for his senior season.



**Bryan Moore is Hartselle's new head coach. He has previously been head coach at Eufaula and Jasper.** [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

Junior J.T. Blackwood has made the move from Cullman to Hartselle. Sophomore Jack Smith, last season's backup, has returned.

Rounding out the group of five

quarterbacks are freshmen Landon Blackwood, J.T.'s brother, and Peyton Steele, who quarterbacked last year's eighth-grade team to a 9-0 record.

"These five guys know how to

compete," Moore said. "It may be the best group of quarterbacks I've ever had to work with."

# TIGERS

From Page 12

## Offense

The Tigers have weapons on offense. Start with receiver Izayah Fletcher. The speedster stepped in as a freshman last season and made an impact. His younger brother, freshman Ri, could have a role on offense this year.

Two new faces in the receiving group were recruited from the basketball team. They are senior Trent Wright and sophomore Coleman Mizell. Freshman Eli Tidwell is also expected to contribute.

The running game starts with junior Kaleb Moore, who will be looking to the offensive line to open holes up front. Seniors Mac Hardin and Ryan Garrison are both returning starters. Junior Braxton Quattlebaum and sophomore Andrew Crittenden are expected to fill two of the open spots in the line. Sophomores Tyde Witt and Jagen Barnette should also see playing time.

## Defense

The defensive line got a big boost when Kelvin Morris (6-2, 250) moved in from Clay-Chalkville. The college prospect teams with returning starter Seth

Lockett to give the Tigers two experienced seniors up front. Junior Isaac Osteen and sophomore Traece Oden will lead the linebackers.

Junior Devron Turney returns to be a leader in the defensive backfield. New to the group will be junior Dominic Simmons, who comes over from the basketball team.

## Must-see games

Hartselle opens the season with home games vs. Austin, Mae Jemison and Cullman. Austin has won four of the last five meetings with the Tigers. Those three opening games in front of the home crowd at J.P. Cain Stadium should help the youthful Tigers jell as a team. On the flip side, it means five of the last seven will be road games.

## Final word

"This has been a great summer for our team," Moore said. "I think we've made up a lot of ground after not having a spring practice, but we're still a really young team. We're not quite sure what we have since we didn't have the opportunity to go through a spring of blocking and tackling."

— David Elwell



Hartselle sophomore Jack Smith was the backup quarterback last year. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

**MARMAC**  
REAL ESTATE  
COMMERCIAL

Local, National and  
Internationally  
Connected



SERVICING  
YOUR  
COMMERCIAL  
REAL ESTATE  
NEEDS

Shane Odom  
Logan Wynn  
Brandon Allen  
Dustin Balch

**256-214-2196**

**MarMacCommercial.com**

# BREWER PATRIOTS

## Lay of the land

Brewer gained four new region opponents in Russellville, Mae Jemison, Lee-Huntsville and Lawrence County. They join East Limestone and Ardmore in the region. The Patriots are 1-7 all-time against Lee, 0-6 against Russellville and 8-8 against Lawrence County. They have not played Mae Jemison. Their region schedule opens with back-to-back road trips to Ardmore and Russellville. Brewer's home opener in region play is on Sept. 18 against East Limestone.

## Head coach

Geoff Walters enters his sixth season as coach of the Patriots with a 17-34 record as the team's head coach. Overall, Walters has a 49-68 record as a head coach in Alabama with previous stops in Sylacauga (one year) and Shelby County (five years) in the early 2000s.

His most successful season with Brewer came two seasons ago when the Patriots went 8-3 and made the playoffs. That's Brewer's only winning season of the millennium.

"Work habits and all are established," Walters said. "They're ingrained in Brewer football now."

## Last season

Record-wise, it was a step back for Brewer last year after making the playoffs in 2018 with only three losses. The Patriots went 3-7 despite opening the season with two wins in a row. Brewer lost seven of eight games to end the season, with its only win coming against Ardmore, 24-17. Its other wins came against Danville, 37-8, and Arab, 29-21.

## Last three seasons

Sandwiched in between that eight-win season and playoff appearance are two 3-7 seasons. Brewer is a combined 14-17 in the last three seasons, which gives it its best three-year run since 1997-1999, when the Patriots made the playoffs three years in a row under coach Glenn Lang.

## Words to grow on

"It may not be the most talented team that prevails this season. It may be the most unified team. There have been a lot of teams and programs that are disjointed by all of this."



Brewer players are seeking their second winning season in three years. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]



Geoff Walters is entering his sixth season as Brewer's head coach.

## Quarterback

Junior Wyatt Styles steps in after starting seven games last season when Patrick Johnson went down with a season-ending injury. Styles is a strong player whom Walters plans to use in the running game because of his size.

"He'll have to be a decision-maker and

a runner," Walters said. "When you have that it's a different type of threat. We feel like Wyatt will be tough to tackle, because he is a big kid."

## Offense

Walters expects Cole Rathbun, who is one of four seniors, to anchor the offensive line. He missed half of last season with an injury. Micah Steffen, a junior, returns at inside receiver while senior Braden Rusk will play out wide. Both will be important targets in the passing game. Sophomore Lukas Simpson and junior Gonzalo Ramirez will share the backfield after seeing some playing time last year.

## Defense

Walters said his defense will shift around this year to fit the personnel he has. The defense's strength is at linebacker, where Steffen will be the leader. Junior Lee Murray is a returning starter

in the secondary to anchor the group with some younger players. Walters also said Rusk will be a key player at safety.

"We're tweaking our scheme to fit what we have," Walters said. "We're going to use multiple fronts. We still want to preach the same things of complete, intense hustle on defense."

## Must-see games

A Sept. 11 road trip to Russellville will be a big test for Walters' team. The Golden Tigers went 8-3 last season and will be a contender for the region title this season.

## Final word

"Each team has a different personality," Walters said. "You have to learn those and work on those even though it's still Brewer football overall."

— Matthew Speakman

# GOOD LUCK AREA TEAMS

As we kick off another exciting football season, we'd like to wish the **Area High School Football Teams** good luck and much success. You're the best on the field, and we'll be cheering for you all the way to championships!

## DECATUR CONTAINER

5375 Marsha Avenue Decatur, AL 35603

**888-751-3802**

*Providing Quality, Low-Cost Storage Solutions Since 1995*

# PRICEVILLE BULLDOGS

## Lay of the land

Priceville moves west in Class 4A, joining a region mostly made up of teams from the Shoals area. The Bulldogs' only carryover opponent is West Morgan, which Priceville beat, 24-22, last season.

It will be in Class 4A, Region 8 with Brooks, Central-Florence, Deshler, Rogers, West Limestone, West Morgan and Wilson. Its non-region opponents are Brewer (Aug. 28), Danville (Sept. 25) and St. John Paul II (Oct. 30).

## Head coach

Chris Foster enters his second season with the Bulldogs after a historical first year last season. Foster joined Priceville late in the summer and led his team to an 8-4 record and its first playoff appearance since 2015. It is his first time being a varsity head coach.

"They know what I expect now," Foster said. "I understand where they're strong and weak at. I look for it to be a more comfortable environment and more streamlined this year."

## Last season

Priceville experienced just its fifth winning season since the program started in 2002. Priceville won seven of its 10 regular-season games and was close to earning a region title. The Bulldogs then won their first playoff game in program history, beating Rogers 44-23. Priceville's season came to an end in the second round with a 41-14 loss to Northside.

## Last three seasons

Before last year's playoff run, Priceville experienced a pair of 2-8 seasons under Jason Simmons, who left to be an assistant coach at Oxford, and Dirk Strunk. Priceville is 12-20 in its last three seasons.

## Words to grow on

"We want our kids to push each other to be better. That's really been the goal," Foster said. "Competition is what is going to drive us to get better."

SEE BULLDOGS, 17



Head coach Chris Foster, center, holds up a playbook for his players to see as football practice resumes at Priceville High School. [DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

# TEAM SPIRIT!

**MARCO'S PIZZA  
SUPPORTS THE MORGAN COUNTY  
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS!**

**DOWNLOAD  
OUR APP**

TO ORDER WITH EASE

SEARCH MARCO'S PIZZA



**DECATUR**

**2699 SANDLIN RD**

NW Corner of Beltline & Sandlin Rd.

**256-822-1300**

**HARTSELLE**

**1091 US-31 NW**

Dollar Tree Shopping Center

**256-773-0500**

**ORDER ONLINE AT MARCOS.COM**



**HELLO PRIMO®**

**DELIVERY / DINE IN / CARRYOUT**



# BULLDOGS

From Page 16

## Quarterback

Wyatt Hurt returns as the team's quarterback after starting the entire season last year. While most of Priceville's offense centered on the running game, Hurt was a reliable leader. He enters his senior season.

## Offense

The center of Priceville's offense, running back Jerry Burton, will be back after a productive junior season. The finalist for the Alabama Sports Writers Association's Class 4A Back of the Year rushed for 2,510 yards and 33 touchdowns. That came after rushing for 1,350 yards his sophomore year.

Priceville will have some work to do on the offensive line, however, after losing three seniors. Foster expects a lot of open competition on the offensive line and also sees Burton playing a big part in the offense once again. Senior Koal Legg and junior Tyler Cappi return up front.

"(Jerry) wants to help his team compete and win any chance he gets," Foster said. "He does anything the coach asks him to do."

## Defense

Outside linebackers Tristan Holmes and John Looney will lead the Priceville defense. They're returning starters who enter their senior seasons. Looney had 94 tackles, and Holmes recorded 93 tackles.

Hurt and senior James Calvin Estes are also players who will return for their senior seasons on defense. Burton is also expected to play a big role on defense.

Foster described the unit as a "bend, don't break" type of defense that picks and chooses when it will be aggressive.

## Must-see games

Priceville opens its region schedule with a road trip to West Morgan for both an in-county game and a region game on Sept. 4.

"Anytime you open with a game that's both in your county and a region game, that's always going to be a big game," Foster said.

## Final word

"It's our second year, so I want to see our returning kids show that they have a good grasp of what we were doing last year, so we can build that," Foster said. "We don't want to restart from the ground up."

— Matthew Speakman



Lineman Tyler Cappi, left, breaks past another player during a drill as football practice resumes at Priceville High School. [DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

# EAGLES

From Page 8

62 touchdowns in 62 games.

The Keith pipeline has gone dry, but that may be OK. Because of Kyle's arm the Eagles might become more of a passing team. There's a talented group of receivers returning in Alex Malone, Maddux Terry, Tyler Founds, Cole O'Brien and Ty Tyson.

Two newcomers could make the pass receiving group even better. Seniors Sean Zerkle and Jack Slyman have transferred from St. John Paul II in Huntsville. Zerkle (6-1, 175) was a Class 4A first-team All-State selection last year with 80 receptions for 1,720 yards and 25 touchdowns. He averaged 21.5 yards a catch and 143.5 yards a game. The 80 catches were the most in any classification last season.

When Decatur Heritage does run the ball, expect senior Michael Cheng and junior Tyler Olive to be the main backs.

The biggest challenge for Decatur Heritage could be in the offensive line. There's just one starter back in senior Justin Densmore. Linemen being counted on to step up are Sam Waters, Lemzel Johnson, Saxon Sample and

Charlie Hellard. The Eagles may have to count on some eighth-graders for depth.

## Defense

There are six starters returning on an undersized defense that counts on quick-hitting gang tackling.

One of the returning starters is Founds, an All-State defensive back. He had six interceptions and 57 tackles in nine games.

Olive and Cheng are expected to man the inside linebacker spots with Nash Rippen at outside linebacker. Sample will be the nose guard. Tyson will be in the defensive backfield.

## Must-see games

The Falkville game is always big. This season the rivalry is the season opener on Friday at Falkville. Decatur Heritage has won two out of the last three meetings, but Falkville leads the series, 4-2.

## Final word

"Last year was a special season with a special group of young men," Meek said. "I hope this group can recapture the way we played last year."

— David Elwell



Decatur Heritage's Tyler Founds (4) was an All-State defensive back last season after grabbing six interceptions and making 57 tackles in nine games. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

# DANVILLE HAWKS

## Lay of the land

Danville moves down to Class 3A after spending six years in Class 4A. The Hawks competed in Region 7 and Region 8 during its last run in Class 3A, which lasted from 1984-2013. (The AHSAA's region format began in 2000.) Danville will be in Region 8 this time around with Clements, Colbert Heights, East Lawrence, Elkmont, Lauderdale County and Phil Campbell. It opens its region schedule with a road contest against Colbert Heights on Sept. 4. Its home opener in region play will be two weeks later against East Lawrence on Sept. 18.

Danville will face Brewer at home on Friday for its first non-region game. Its other non-region contests include a road game against Falkville on Aug. 28, a home game against Priceville on Sept. 25 and a road game against Lawrence County on Oct. 30.

## Head coach

Shannon McGregor enters his third year as head coach, with a record of 5-16 at Danville. He is 50-79 in the state of Alabama. He had previous stops at Colbert Heights (1998-2004) and South Lamar (2013-2015) before becoming the defensive coordinator at Danville and later head coach.

## Last season

If McGregor promised improvements in year two, he lived up to them. The Hawks went 5-6 with a playoff appearance a year after going 0-10 in his first year. Danville won four region games against North Jackson, West Morgan, Priceville and DAR. It was 5-3 before losing the last three games of the season, including a 44-6 loss to Deshler in the first round of the playoffs.

"I think that was a very good step for us," McGregor said. "This year is going to be interesting regardless because of everything going on."

## Last three seasons

Danville went 3-7 in 2017— its last season under Josh LouAllen. McGregor took over in 2018, and the Hawks failed to win a game before making the playoffs last year. Danville is 8-23 in its last three seasons. Its last winning

season came in 2009 when it went 7-4.

## Words to grow on

"In order to have success, you have to experience success," McGregor said. "It increases your appetite for success. It makes you hungrier."

## Quarterback

McGregory said the quarterback position is wide open heading into the season. The Hawks lost senior Luke Nail, who will play for North Alabama this year. Nail threw for 1,197 yards and six touchdowns while rushing for 854 yards and 14 touchdowns. Dylan Parker, Gage Taylor and Percy Smith will compete for the position.

## Offense

Running back Cameron Moore returns after a productive junior season. He rushed for 915 yards and 12 touchdowns on 157 carries. He also had 235 receiving yards and one touchdown. McGregor said Tyler Sumerel and Lane Flowers will be key players on the offensive line as seniors.

## Defense

McGregory said Ryan Jones will be a key player up front but said the unit will have a lot of question marks. He also pointed out Justice Huff, a linebacker, as another key player on defense.

"We're not going to have a lot of depth on defense," McGregor said. "We're going to need more guys to step up and fill some holes."

## Must-see games

Danville opens its season with Morgan County rival Brewer in a non-region game. That will be a test for Danville, which lost to the Patriots 37-8 last season.

## Final word

"We have talent and potential to be a pretty good team," McGregor said. "Depth will be an issue. Everything is good until someone gets hurt, so if we stay away from injuries and get better every day, we can end up having a positive season."

— Matthew Speakman



Danville head coach Shannon McGregor gives instructions during summer practice. [PHOTOS BY JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]



Danville's Ethan Sapp, left, and Tyler Sumeral at summer practice.

# AMANDA G. SCOTT, CPA - Revenue Commissioner - Morgan County, Alabama



The Revenue Commissioner is elected by the people of Morgan County for a six year term and is responsible for the mapping, appraising, assessing, and collecting of ad valorem taxes as levied by the government. The office collects approximately 62 million dollars annually.

Since my election in 1996, I have made every effort to serve you and simplify the process of ad valorem property tax for the citizens of Morgan County. To accomplish this goal, our website offers online property tax data, tax maps, and online payment services to the public. We have satellite offices in Hartselle and Lacey's Spring for your convenience.

I appreciate the support and trust you have placed in me as Revenue Commissioner of Morgan County. It is my goal and privilege to continue to serve you, and I look forward to every opportunity to make a difference for you and Morgan County.

Thank you,

*Amanda G. Scott*



## AGE 65 OR OLDER

If you are 65 years of age or disabled, you may qualify for an exemption which will result in a decrease of your property tax. Please call our office for further information.

## TAX SALE

Each May, tax delinquent property is auctioned off to the highest bidder in front of the Morgan County Courthouse in Decatur, Alabama. Tax sale property is advertised during the month of April. The tax sale will be Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Go to our website, [www.morgancountyrevenue.com](http://www.morgancountyrevenue.com), to view a list of delinquent properties.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Appraisal Division	256-351-4694	Mapping Division	256-351-4698
Assessment Division	256-351-4690	Business Personal Property	256-351-4862
Collection Division	256-351-4691	Board of Equalization	256-351-4674

Phone: 256-351-4690 Fax: 256-351-4699 • [ascott@co.morgan.al.us](mailto:ascott@co.morgan.al.us)

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**Mailing Address**  
Amanda G. Scott, CPA  
Revenue Commissioner  
P.O. Box 696  
Decatur, AL 35602

**Morgan County Courthouse**  
302 Lee Street, NE  
Second Floor  
Decatur, AL 35601

**Hartselle Satellite Office**  
241 Highway 31, SW  
Crestwood Shopping Center  
Suite 10  
Hartselle, AL 35640

**Lacey's Spring Satellite Office**  
423 Union Hill Road  
Somerville, AL 35670  
Mon.-Thurs. 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

# FALKVILLE BLUE DEVILS



Coach Tyler Mitchell watches his players work out during Falkville's football practice. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

## Lay of the land

Falkville moves up to Class 2A after spending two years in Class 1A. The Blue Devils will be in Region 7 with just one common opponent, Tanner, from their last stint in Class 2A in 2017. Falkville's other region opponents are Ider, North Sand Mountain, Pisgah, Section and Whitesburg Christian.

It opens the season with two non-region home games against Decatur Heritage (Friday) and Danville (Aug. 28). Its other two non-region games feature road trips to Cold Springs on Sept. 25 and Winston County on Oct. 30. Its region opener will be at home against Whitesburg Christian on Sept. 4.

## Head coach

Tyler Mitchell enters his second year, taking over for Joel Schrenk before the start of last season. He was previously an assistant at East Limestone. This is his first head coaching job.

## Last season

Mitchell kept up the success that Schrenk had with the Blue Devils in his seven

years as head coach. The Blue Devils went 7-5 overall and 4-2 in region games. Falkville made the playoffs and won its first-round game before losing to Pickens County, 21-20, in the second round.

"We want to continue to have the same attitude of coming to work every day," Mitchell said. "We control what we can control and learn and improve. Our players are becoming leaders."

## Last three seasons

Falkville went 7-4 in 2017 and made the playoffs before losing in the first round. It followed that up with its highest win total in school history, going 11-1. It had an undefeated regular season and made the playoffs. The Blue Devils lost in the second round to Pickens County, 34-15. Falkville is 25-10 in its last three seasons, which is one of the most successful three-year runs in school history.

## Words to grow on

"I tell them that we can be good if I lead, but we will be great if you lead us," Mitchell said. "Our players are taking those roles."



Falkville players lift weights during practice.

## Quarterback

Falkville returns senior quarterback Peyton Sallee but sophomore Caden Burnett is expected to see action as well. Sallee started last season, but Burnett earned some playing time down the stretch. Mitchell pointed to leadership and arm strength as positives for Sallee and noted Burnett's work ethic as a strength for him.

"We're fortunate to have two guys that we trust to have the ball in their hands," Mitchell said.

## Offense

Two All-State players in senior running back Christian Angulo and senior wide receiver Mikel Philyaw return for the Blue Devils. Angulo rushed for 1,300 yards and 18 touchdowns. He has been an All-State selection all three years of his career with his first two selections coming at wide receiver. Philyaw caught 48 passes for 721 yards and nine touchdowns.

## Defense

Angulo and Philyaw also shined on

defense. Angulo had 68 tackles and an interception last season. Philyaw recorded 69 stops and an interception. Senior linebacker Luke Fitzgerald returns as well after having 94 tackles last season. He was an All-State selection. Wyatt Tomlin will play middle linebacker. Mitchell also said Lorenzo Ochoa, a sophomore, will earn some more playing time after a strong end to last season.

## Must-see games

Falkville will open up the season with rival Decatur Heritage at home. The Blue Devils came close to handing the Eagles their first regular-season loss in 2019, losing 21-14 on the road.

## Final word

"If we stay healthy and take care of business, we have a chance to win any of our games," Mitchell said. "Again, we have to play the game. There's going to be some type of adversity that comes up."

— Matthew Speakman

# AUSTIN

From Page 4

seniors have several Division I offers.

Shackelford averaged nearly 22 yards a reception as Austin's leading receiver last year. He had 40 catches for 872 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Jackson rushed for 893 yards and 10 touchdowns, caught 14 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns and returned one kickoff for a touchdown.

Four starters return on the offensive line. They are seniors Alex Machado, Colton Collier, Jaylon Munford and Griffin Sikes.

## Defense

The Black Bears return six starters on defense. It starts in the middle with senior nose guard Jalik Malone. Last year he did a great job clogging up the interior of the line while making 74 tackles.

Senior Daiontrelle Hubbard returns at defensive end. Also back are three senior linebackers in Braxton Lyle, Jakari Fuller and Ronald Fletcher.

After last season, the defensive backfield looked like a weakness going into this season with only senior Jaden Baker returning. Now it may turn out to be a

strength.

Senior Kendall Scales, who split time last year between offense and defense, is expected to start in the defensive backfield. Junior Tra Stover has transferred in from Madison Academy. Junior Eddie Mitchell, who is a talented basketball player, is expected to contribute in the defensive backfield in his first year to play football.

## Must-see games

Take your pick out of Austin's first five games. The first two games are huge rivalry matchups at Hartselle and at home vs. Decatur.

Austin then opens region play with the three teams that finished ahead of it in last season's standings – vs. Florence, vs. James Clemens and at Sparkman. Winning two of those three region games should mean a good chance to be in the playoffs. Winning all three games could mean a good chance for a home game in the first round of the playoffs.

## Final word

"After two years in 7A, I think we are ready to turn the corner on being where we need to be to compete in the playoffs," Perkins said.

—David Elwell



Jevon Jackson will be one of Austin's big weapons on offense. Last year, he rushed for 893 yards and 10 touchdowns, caught 14 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns and returned one kickoff for a touchdown. [DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]



**Thank you Hartselle  
and all of North Alabama.  
We're honored to be voted best  
new, used and service dealer!  
Hope to see you soon!**

SENIOR CLASS OF 2020  
HONORARY MEMBER

1st row: Eddie Preuitt, Trent Preuitt, Shelley Moore, Roger Barber, Donnie Teegles, Mike Bolding, Jay Rogers, Stacy Weems, Jonathan Matheny, Danny Skinner, Lori Turner, Tim Beck 2nd row: John Elliot, Adam Sharp, Randy Hyche, Jim Bolding, Tim Hall, Jason Preuitt 3rd row: Charles Haggermaker, Brandon Anders, Billy Williams, Cole Shows, Johnny Chandler, Bobby Morris, Gene Preuitt Not pictured: Sherry Bucklewe

363299-1

**Congratulations to  
TRENT PREUITT**  
voted Best of the Best  
Automotive Salesperson!



# EDDIE PREUITT FORD

710 Hwy. 31 North • Hartselle  
256-773-2578 • eddiepreuittford.com



# HATTON HORNETS

## Lay of the land

The Hornets are in what may be the toughest region in Class 2A. Region 8 includes Mars Hill, Red Bay, Colbert County, Sheffield, Tharptown and Lexington. The lone loss for Mars Hill (14-1) last season came in the Class 1A state championship game. Red Bay (12-1) was the 2A, Region 7 champion. Colbert County (6-5) and Sheffield (6-5) both advanced to the playoffs.

## Head coach

Denton Bowling (17-23) is starting his fifth season at Hatton. Rebuilding the program has been a slow process, but it may finally be paying off. This senior class has been through the weight room program for five years. The result is a stronger team with more weapons with speed.

## Last season

The Hornets (5-5) lost four of their first five games but finished strong, winning four of the last five.

## Last three seasons

Hatton is 13-17 over the past three seasons. Last year's 5-5 mark follows a 6-4 season in 2018. That was the first time Hatton had a two-year stretch without a losing season since 1997 and 1998.

## Words to grow on

"I can honestly say that I am as optimistic as I have been as head coach at Hatton," Bowling said. "Our numbers are up, and our talent level is higher. I'm really excited about this season."



SEE HORNETS, 23

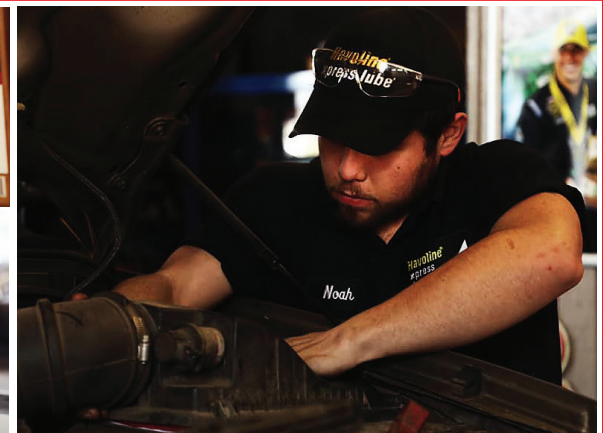
Hatton head coach Denton Bowling is entering his fifth season leading the Hornets. [DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

## Oil, Lube, and Filter Service

featuring **Havoline motor oil**  
(other major brands available)  
**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

Oil change includes a

**16-POINT  
STAR  
SERVICE  
CHECKLIST**



**Havoline** xpress lube

1202 Highway 31 N.W., Hartselle, Alabama 35640

**256-751-1050**

Follow us on Facebook

# HORNETS

From Page 22

## Quarterback

Not too many high school coaches would be excited about having a sophomore at starting quarterback, but when the sophomore is a returning starter, it's a different story.

Sophomore Briley Kerby (5-foot-11, 185 pounds) is back to direct the attack. Midway through last season the Hornets changed offensive formations from the Wing-T to the spread. That seemed to be a better fit for Kerby's skills. After scoring a total of just 41 points in the first five games (1-4), Hatton scored 139 in the last five games (4-1).

"Briley stepped up and did a great job last season," Bowling said. "He can run and he can throw. He's our guy who can get the job done."

## Offense

Two of Kerby's main weapons are seniors Jaxson Mitchell and Carter Reed. Mitchell (5-6, 175) was a first-team All-State selection at defensive back, where he had six interceptions. He's just as valuable on offense with nine rushing touchdowns last season. He had 1,220 all-purpose yards.

"Jaxson is an exceptional kid and great leader for our football team," Bowling said. "We have to get the ball in his hands as much as possible."

Reed (5-10, 174) is another receiver/running back who brings a lot of talent to the table. Zane Harville (5-5, 126) is another shifty senior receiver.

Senior Ridge Harrison (6-2, 180) could be an intriguing addition to the offense from the basketball program. He runs a 4.5-second 40-yard dash and has a 38-inch vertical leap.

"The only athlete I have ever coached with a higher vertical jump was Bo Scarbrough (at Northridge in Tuscaloosa)," Bowling said. "Ridge could be another big weapon for us."

James Jones (6-0, 155, Jr.) is another big target for the Hornets.

The offensive line is missing Gage Saint, who is now a freshman at Troy, but there is some experience mixed with size for this season. They are Eli Gann (5-9, 225, Sr.), Aiden Smith (5-11, 280, Jr.), Braden Stafford (6-3, 303, Soph.) and Weston Burney (6-1, 274, Fr.)

## Defense

Senior Brock Pace (5-10, 184), a three-year starter, is the leader of the



Sophomore Briley Kerby returns as Hatton's starting quarterback. [DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

defense at linebacker.

Mitchell and Reed are both four-year starters on defense. Mitchell will be in the defensive backfield. Reed will be at linebacker.

Also at linebacker will be Wil Terry (5-8, 156, Sr.) and Blake Whitaker (5-8, 167, Soph.). Another possibility at the position is senior Gunner Lovelady (5-8, 188), who has missed two seasons with injuries.

## Must-see games

After hosting Lawrence County in a jamboree contest the first week of the season, Hatton hits the road for non-region games vs. Central-Florence and Winston County. The first home game of the season is a region contest with Mars Hill.

"What that program has done is amazing," Bowling said. "I know it was in 1A, but it would be amazing if it was 6A."

## Final word

"Putting a football program together is like doing a jigsaw puzzle," Bowling said. "You start with the edge pieces and work your way to the middle. I feel like we are finally working on the middle pieces. The final pieces would mean a trip to the playoffs. That's the goal for our program."

— David Elwell

# EAST LAWRENCE EAGLES



Levi Barnes played some quarterback as a sophomore at East Lawrence, switched positions as a junior and is now back at quarterback for his senior year. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]



Zachary Lemay and the East Lawrence Eagles are seeking their first playoff berth since 2008.

## Lay of the land

East Lawrence will compete in Class 3A, Region 8 with Clements, Colbert Heights, Danville, Elkmont, Lauderdale County and Phil Campbell. East Lawrence opens its region schedule against Lauderdale County on Sept. 4. Its first road game in region play will be against Danville on Sept. 18.

The Eagles' non-region games include home games against Sulligent (Friday) and West Morgan (Aug. 28) to start the season. Road games against Hatton (Sept. 25) and Sheffield (Oct. 29) round out the non-region games.

## Head coach

Bo Culver comes to East Lawrence after spending one year at Hartselle. The Tigers went 4-7 and made the Class 6A playoffs. Culver previously coached at Deshler, Haleyville and Phil Campbell before heading to Hartselle. He spent three years or less at each stop and has a record of 54-48 in 10 years as a head coach in Alabama.

"I've spent individual time with position groups," Culver said. "Those are things that I haven't done in the past but have been forced to do right now.

It's been really good as far as getting to know the kids on a more personal level faster."

## Last season

East Lawrence went 5-5 under coach James Moore, winning two games in its region. The Eagles finished fifth in their region and went 3-1 in non-region games. Their five wins were the most since 1997 when they went 7-4 and won the 4A, Area 15 title.

## Last three seasons

East Lawrence definitely showed improvement when Moore took over. The Eagles won no games the year before he arrived. They then won two in 2018 and five in 2019. East Lawrence has not been to the playoffs since 2008, when it went 4-7. It is 7-23 in three years.

## Words to grow on

"Our ultimate goal is to always build men of character and do things the right way," Culver said. "We're going to do that, but we still count wins and losses. If you do that, the goal is always going to be to win every game and win a state title. That's never going to change."

## Quarterback

Senior Levi Barnes will lead the offense this year. The 5-foot-10 signal caller played some quarterback his sophomore year before breaking his collarbone. Barnes switched positions last season before coming back to quarterback this offseason.

"He's a very good athlete," Culver said. "He has a natural wiggle to him. He has things you can't coach. He is explosive and is the first one at practice almost every single day."

## Offense

East Lawrence returns three starters on the offensive line in seniors Blaine Fagan, Zack Terry and Gabe Terry.

"We have some good size," Culver said "We also have some guys who have experience. I think we're doing a good job right now of preparing them to do what we need to do."

Senior Nate Tucker at 6-foot-1 is going to be a big target for Barnes at wide receiver. Culver said Tucker will be a big part of the offense, which he expects to look similar to the offenses he ran at stops before Hartselle.

"We were probably as different at Hartselle as we've been," he said. "It's

still going to be what we do. Each place is different, though, so you have to cater to the personnel. We will still base out of the spread."

## Defense

Culver pointed to senior Karson Terry as a key player up front for the Eagles. Seniors Juan Lopez and Zachary LeMay will head up the linebacker unit. Senior Neal Blaxton will start at outside linebacker. In the secondary, senior Payton Davenport will lead the group at safety. Junior Dawson Terry will be a strong corner.

## Must-see games

A home game against Sulligent, which went 9-3 last season, on Friday to open the season will be a strong test for the Eagles. A rivalry game against West Morgan follows, with the region opener against Lauderdale County occurring the week after.

## Final word

"We're not going to carry the weight of the past 22 years on our back," Culver said. "We're going to be worried about this team and this year right now."

— Matthew Speakman



# REGIONS AND RANKINGS FOR 2020

## REGIONS FOR 2020-2021

**Class 7A, Region 4:** Austin (7-4 last season), Bob Jones (4-6), Florence (7-5), Grissom (3-7), Huntsville (6-4), James Clemens (9-3), Sparkman (8-3), Albertville (5-6). Combined 2019 records: 49-38.

**Class 6A, Region 8:** Decatur (2-8), Hartsville (4-7), Athens (8-4), Columbia (0-10), Cullman (6-6), Muscle Shoals (12-1), Buckhorn (4-7), Hazel Green (1-9). Combined records: 37-52.

**Class 5A, Region 8:** Brewer (3-7), Ardmore (2-8), East Limestone (4-6), Lawrence County (4-6), Lee (1-9), Mae Jemison (5-6), Russellville (8-3). Combined records: 27-45.

**Class 4A, Region 8:** Priceville (8-4), West Morgan (3-7), West Limestone (6-4), Brooks (6-5), Central-Florence (3-8), Deshler (9-4), Rogers (3-8), Wilson (2-7). Combined records: 40-47.

**Class 3A, Region 8:** Danville (5-6), Clements (6-5), East Lawrence (5-5), Elkmont (1-9), Colbert Heights (6-5), Lauderdale County (9-3), Phil Campbell (4-6). Combined records: 36-39.

**Class 2A, Region 7:** Falkville (7-5), Tanner (1-9), Ider (2-8), North Sand Mountain (9-4), Pisgah (4-7), Section (3-7), Whitesburg Christian (first season).

Combined records: 26-40.

**Class 2A, Region 8:** Hatton (5-5), Colbert County (6-5), Sheffield (6-5), Tharptown (2-7), Red Bay (12-1), Mars Hill Bible (14-1), Lexington (1-9). Combined records: 46-33.

**Class 1A, Region 8:** Decatur Heritage (12-1), R.A. Hubbard (5-5), Cherokee (0-10), Hackleburg (5-7), Phillips (2-8), Shoals Christian (1-9), Vina (3-8), Waterloo (8-3). Combined records: 36-51.

## RANKINGS

The Alabama Sports Writers Association preseason high school football rankings with first-place votes, last year's record and total poll points (\*—team played in a different classification last season):

### CLASS 7A

Team (first-place)	2019 W-L	Pts
1. Thompson (23)	12-1	285
2. Central-Phenix City (1)	12-2	203
3. Hewitt-Trussville	6-4	186
4. Hoover	10-3	178
5. Auburn	9-4	144
6. Fairhope	6-5	106
7. James Clemens	9-3	59
8. Dothan*	8-3	55
9. Theodore	8-3	41
10. Prattville	9-3	27

Others receiving votes: Austin (7-4) 23, Daphne\* (5-5) 20, Spain Park (4-6) 18, Sparkman (8-3) 8, Florence (7-5) 6, Oak

Mountain (4-6) 4, Vestavia Hills (7-4) 3, Enterprise (5-6) 2.

### CLASS 6A

Team (first-place)	2019 W-L	Pts
1. Oxford (18)	14-1	267
2. Mountain Brook* (5)	8-3	222
3. Pinson Valley	10-3	160
4. Blount	8-3	151
5. McGill-Toolen* (1)	11-1	146
6. Opelika	11-2	141
7. Eufaula	9-3	54
8. Clay-Chalkville	10-3	47
9. Spanish Fort	9-5	38
10. Gardendale	8-4	37

Others receiving votes: Saraland (10-1) 33, Lee-Montgomery\* (7-3) 22, Muscle Shoals (12-1) 19, Stanhope Elmore (9-3) 15, Briarwood\* (12-2) 8, Park Crossing (5-8) 8.

### CLASS 5A

Team (first-place)	2019 W-L	Pts
1. Central-Clay Co. (12)	13-2	244
2. Pleasant Grove (8)	13-2	238
3. St. Paul's* (3)	8-4	199
4. Ramsay	10-3	177
5. UMS-Wright* (1)	14-0	126
6. Guntersville	8-3	81
7. Andalusia*	10-4	76
8. Faith-Mobile	11-1	75
9 (tie). Alexandria	8-3	45
9 (tie). Fairview*	9-3	45

Others receiving votes: Tallassee (5-4) 23, Center Point (9-4) 16, Fairfield (3-7) 7,

Pike Road\* (11-1) 7, Carroll-Ozark (3-6) 4, Demopolis (7-4) 4, Sylacauga (8-3) 1.

### CLASS 4A

Team (first-place)	2019 W-L	Pts
1. American Chr. (8)	11-2	206
2. Bibb Co.* (9)	12-1	205
3. Vigor* (4)	4-7	188
4. Etowah*	9-2	153
5. Jacksonville (3)	12-3	119
6. Deshler	9-4	116
7. Gordo*	12-1	73
8. Madison Co.*	10-3	66
9. Madison Aca.*	5-6	65
10. Anniston	9-5	61

Others receiving votes: Williamson (7-4) 50, Good Hope (8-3) 28, Geneva\* (8-3) 20, Cherokee Co. (6-4) 6, Priceville (8-4) 6, Mobile Chr.\* (9-5) 4, St. James\* (10-2) 2.

### CLASS 3A

Team (first-place)	2019 W-L	Pts
1. Piedmont (24)	14-1	288
2. Fyffe*	15-0	215
3. Hillcrest-Evergreen*	7-5	173
4. Catholic-Montgomery*	12-1	163
5. T.R. Miller	9-5	136
6. Providence Chr.	10-2	130
7. Pike Co.	10-1	66
8. Walter Wellborn	12-2	53
9. Reeltown*	13-2	50
10. Flomaton	11-2	42

Others receiving votes: Ohatchee\* (10-1) 31, Opp (4-7) 14, New Brockton\* (5-6) 4,

Collinsville\* (12-2) 2, Excel (3-7) 1.

### CLASS 2A

Team (first-place)	2019 W-L	Pts
1. Leroy (18)	11-3	269
2. Lanett* (4)	14-0	217
3. Mars Hill Bible*	14-1	176
4. Randolph Co.* (2)	11-2	169
5. Red Bay	12-1	141
6. Ariton	10-3	103
7. G.W. Long	10-3	86
8. Luverne	11-1	53
9. Addison	8-3	39
10. Spring Garden*	11-2	39

Others receiving votes: Clarke Co.\* (2-8) 33, Elba\* (8-4) 15, North Sand Mountain (9-4) 14, Falkville\* (7-5) 5, Westbrook Chr. (8-4) 5, Highland Home (3-7) 3, J.U. Blacksher (9-3) 1.

### CLASS 1A

Team (first-place)	2019 W-L	Pts
1. Brantley (16)	11-2	261
2. Sweet Water (7)	11-2	227
3. Pickens Co.	11-3	182
4. Maplesville (1)	9-3	175
5. Linden	6-5	128
6. Decatur Heritage	12-1	123
7. Cedar Bluff*	7-4	110
8. Notasulga	6-5	79
9. Southern Choctaw*	4-6	30
10. Marengo	6-5	21

Others receiving votes: Fruitdale (5-6) 20, South Lamar (10-2) 10, Donoho (9-2) 2.



**Wishing all area teams a successful season!**

The Decatur Daily  
**BEST OF THE BEST**  
**2019**  
READER'S CHOICE POLL  
**WINNER**



**RENTAL WORLD**

**For all your equipment and party rental needs call us!**  
**256-350-3333**

2713 Spring Avenue SW  
Owner: Jeff Johnson

363342-1



**TORO**

**Own the Best on the Block!**



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

**Dixie** Dixie Auto Parts  
525 Hwy 72 W, Athens, AL  
256-232-8811 [www.dixieautoparts.com](http://www.dixieautoparts.com)

863955-1

# LAWRENCE COUNTY RED DEVILS



Brody Sparks steps in at quarterback. [PHOTOS BY JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

## Lay of the land

Lawrence County joins Brewer, East Limestone and Ardmore in Class 5A, Region 8 after playing opponents to the south before the realignment. Lee-Huntsville, Mae Jemison and Russellville round out the schedule. Lawrence County opens its region schedule with a road trip to Ardmore on Sept. 11. It plays at Hazel Green, at West Point, at Westminster Christian and at home against Danville for its non-region schedule.

"I like the travel," Lawrence County coach Rich Dutton said. "The travel will be a lot easier. We've faced these teams in the past as well."

## Head coach

Dutton enters his ninth season as Lawrence County coach, providing the team with some long-term stability after the previous four coaches left after three years or less. So far, Dutton has a 33-50 record with three playoff appearances in three straight years from 2015-2017. The Red Devils lost in the first round all three years.

## Last season

Lawrence County went 4-6 with a 2-5 record in its region. It beat Hayden, 27-14, and Dora, 37-14. Its non-region wins came against Decatur, 27-25, and Rogers, 41-20. A run of four straight region losses in the back half of the season kept Lawrence County from a playoff appearance.

## Last three seasons

It's been three years of losing seasons for the Red Devils, but one did come with a playoff appearance. In 2017, Lawrence County lost to Mortimer Jordan in the Class 5A first round to finish 5-6. Lawrence County followed that with a disappointing 2-8 season and a 4-6 season last year. It is 11-20 in its last three seasons.

## Words to grow on

"Be thankful that we all have the opportunity to show up," Dutton said. "Don't forget to enjoy this. We want to sit back and enjoy everything, because it's all uncharted waters."



Lawrence County coach Rich Dutton is in his ninth season leading the Red Devils.

## Quarterback

The Red Devils will turn to senior Brody Sparks after losing Ty Hutto, who threw for 2,103 yards and 11 touchdowns in his lone year as starter. Sparks previously started at safety and receiver.

"The two quarterbacks before him broke about every record the school had," Dutton said. "Sparks gets his turn even though it's his final season. Any other time in this program, I think he would've been a two- or three-year starter."

## Offense

Seniors Allen Johnson and Gage Dutton will get most of the carries at running back. Both have experience carrying the ball. Senior Kaden Edwards will be a main target at receiver. At tight end, senior Garrett Lee returns for his fourth year as a starter. The offensive line will return all five starters from last year, including seniors Chandler Stevenson and Colton Reeves.

## Defense

The defensive line will be a mix of youth and experience. Senior Xander

Montgomery pairs with junior Cameron Gholston at defensive end. Lee will also play on defense at linebacker. The Red Devils lost important players in Colton Johnson, who had 129 total tackles last season, and Tayi Strickland, who recorded five interceptions. Dutton expects his secondary to be inexperienced.

## Must-see games

Lawrence County opens with a road trip Aug. 28 to Hazel Green. Dutton also pointed to region games against Ardmore (Sept. 11), Russellville (Sept. 18) and East Limestone (Oct. 2).

"Hazel Green will be a really good test for us right off the bat," Dutton said. "We're taking on a Class 6A program on the road. We will see where we are."

## Final word

"The energy level is high for us," Dutton said. "We want to have fun playing this sport and play to our potential. We want to let the chips fall where they may."

— Matthew Speakman

# R.A. HUBBARD CHIEFS

## Lay of the land

Reclassification has moved the Chiefs into Class 1A, Region 8 with a lot of familiar opponents. The region lineup includes Decatur Heritage, Cherokee, Hackleburg, Phillips, Shoals Christian, Vina and Waterloo. The non-region opponents are Sheffield, Colbert County and New Hope.

R.A. Hubbard is the seventh smallest school in the AHSAA that fields a football team. The average daily attendance is listed at 63. The largest school in the state is Hoover with an average of 2,126.15.

## Head coach

Mac Hampton is in his fourth season as head coach. The Chiefs have gone 15-16, including a playoff appearance in 2018.

## Last season

Last year's 5-5 record was a disappointment for a team with 10 experienced seniors.

"I really thought we could win at least seven and maybe eight or nine games," Hampton said. "I think we learned a lesson that it's the little mistakes that can beat you."

After starting out at 3-0, the Chiefs lost a close one at home vs. Decatur Heritage, 28-20. They then lost four of their next five, including a season-ending 47-0 loss at home to East Lawrence.

The Chiefs averaged scoring 25.7 points a game while allowing an average of 23.5.

## Last three seasons

The Chiefs are 15-16.

## Words to grow on

"We feel like we are talented enough to win a lot of games this season," Hampton said. "It comes down to football savvy. Do we understand how to do the little things that it takes to win a football game?"

## Quarterback

The Chiefs want more out of their offense this season, and having starting quarterback DJ Wiggins returning for his junior season should help.

"It's always great to have a starting quarterback returning," Hampton said. "DJ can do a lot of good things with the football."

Junior Cookie Cobb and sophomore Quintez McCoy both have other roles on offense, but don't be surprised to see them take some snaps at quarterback.



Quarterback and wide receiver Cookie Cobb, left, throws the ball during a drill as football practice resumes at R.A. Hubbard High School. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

## Offense

Joining Wiggins, Cobb and McCoy as playmakers on offense will be seniors Omar Napier, who has battled injuries for the last two years and Tyrus Johnson, who starts at free safety on defense.

"If Omar can stay healthy and Tyrus can help us out at receiver, we should be solid on offense," Hampton said.

Two of the most talented players on the team are linemen Xavier Horton and Montavious Orr. Horton (6-foot-2, 265 pounds, Sr.) is a three-year starter in the offensive line. Orr (6-1, 285, Jr.) has played primarily on defense, but the plan is for him to play both ways this season.

## Defense

Having a roster that numbers in the low 20s means it's necessary for most players to go both ways. Horton has not played defense before this season, but he will this season.

Orr, the strongest player on the team, is expected to dominate again at nose guard.

"I've seen him squat 500 pounds and bench 365 to 370," Hampton said. "I tell him all the time that if his maturity ever

catches up with physicality, he could make a lot of money playing football."

Johnson is the leader of the defensive backfield.

## Must-see games

After opening at Sheffield, the Chiefs host Colbert County on Aug. 28. It harkens back to the Alabama Highway 20 rivalry between Courtland and Colbert County that was last played a quarter-century



Head coach Mac Hampton directs his players as football practice resumes at R.A. Hubbard High School.

ago.

"Coach (Brett) Mask (at Colbert County) and I thought it would be great for both communities if we played each other again," Hampton said. "It was some great football in the past and we hope it will be again."

Courtland and the Indians met 10 times with each team winning five games. The Courtland Chiefs won the last meeting, 20-9, in 1995. Head coach Louis White's team went on to win the Class 1A state championship that year.

## Final word

"When you are the head coach of this football program, it's huge to continue the legacy of the football programs at Courtland and Town Creek," Hampton said. "You also want these kids to do successful. With the return of our youth program I feel like we're moving in a good direction that will mean success now and in the future."

— David Elwell

Use your *passion* to follow your *dreams*.

Work hard. Have fun. And win big!  
Best of luck to all area teams!

**MARMAC**  
REAL ESTATE  
www.marmac.us



# ATHENS GOLDEN EAGLES

## Lay of the land

The Golden Eagles move from Class 6A, Region 7 to Region 8 this season. It looks a lot like Region 7 with Decatur, Hartselle, Cullman, Muscle Shoals and Columbia. New to the group is Hazel Green and Buckhorn.

The non-region schedule had to be changed after two players tested positive for COVID-19 on Aug. 9 and forced practice to be shut down until today. Friday's game with Fort Payne was canceled. The Aug. 28 game with James Clemens has been moved to Aug. 29.

For the first time in many years, Athens is not playing county rival East Limestone or Class 7A Austin.

## Head coach

Cody Gross (24-20) is beginning his fifth season at Athens. The Golden Eagles have won eight games each of the last two seasons, been to the playoffs three years in a row and won a playoff game last year for the first time since 2013.

## Last season

After falling to Gardendale, 21-14, in the season opener, the Golden Eagles (8-4) won six in a row before losing at Muscle Shoals, 49-21, in the game that decided the region championship. The other two losses were to Austin and Clay-Chalkville. The combined records of the four teams that beat Athens were 37-12.

Athens's eight wins include victories over longtime rivals Hartselle, 28-19, and Decatur, 27-14. That was the first time Athens had beat both teams in the same season since 2006, when the Golden Eagles were Class 5A state champions.

## Last three seasons

The Golden Eagles have gone 21-13 with three playoff appearances.

## Words to grow on

"Last year was a big step forward for our program," Gross said. "We need to keep progressing. Despite losing seven players who were three-year starters, we have a lot of



# TANNER RATTTLERS

## Lay of the land

It's a new season, a new region and 10 new teams on the schedule for the Rattlers.

Tanner remains in Class 2A but moves from Region 8 to Region 7 to face some new rivals. The other teams in Region 7 are Falkville, Ider, North Sand Mountain, Pisgah, Section and Whitesburg Christian.

"We don't know a whole lot about the schools to the east," head coach Oscar Bonds said. "We do know they like to play physical football."

The Rattlers' non-region opponents are Ardmore, Lexington, Columbia and Waterloo. Ardmore is the only Limestone County school on the schedule. Tanner last played Ardmore in 2011.

For the first time in many years, there's no East Limestone, West Limestone or Clements on the schedule.

## Head coach

Bonds (2-18) returns for his third season.

## Last season

The Rattlers went 1-9 with the lone win coming against Tharptown, 39-3. Tanner allowed an average of 38.2 points a game while scoring an average of 17.9 points.

## Last three seasons

Tanner is 5-26 over the last three seasons. The Rattlers had 15 winning seasons with two state championships and nine region championships in the previous 15 seasons.

## Words to grow on

"I think we will be a more confident team this season," Bonds said. "We played a lot of freshmen last season and had to do a lot of teaching. Now they are sophomores and we expect to be doing more fine tuning instead of teaching."

Tanner has just four seniors and four juniors on the roster.

## Quarterback

Skylar Townsend (6-0, 150) was one of those freshmen who played a lot last season. Bonds said the sky is

the limit for his quarterback.

"He's still growing into the position and he definitely knows the game," Bonds said. "He's got the wing span of someone who is 6-3 or 6-4."

Townsend is a cousin of former Tanner All-State quarterback Chadarious Townsend, who played at Alabama before transferring to Texas Tech this summer.

## Offense

The Rattlers plan to lean on two senior running backs in Evan Fuqua (6-3, 240) and Michael Guster, who is the fastest player on the team. Freshman Nez Orr is another weapon out of the backfield.

The offensive line has size with Eric Jefferson (5-10, 260, Sr.), D'andre Chandler (5-11, 265, Jr.), Jamari Malone (6-2, 265, Fr.), Darrell Howard (5-11, 255, Fr.) and Jakeem Fletcher.

"Not only are these guys big, but they can move," Bonds said.

## Defense

The strength of the defense is in the line. Howard and Fletcher are the defensive tackles. Lawson Johnson and Fuqua are the defensive ends.

Leading tackler Nick Gibson returns at linebacker. Michael Guster and Nick Garth will fill out the linebacker trio.

Making up the defensive backfield are Orr, Karl Parham, Alex Guster and Jerrick Thompson.

"Our secondary is young but has a lot of talent," Bonds said.

## Must-see games

Getting off to a great start would be big. The season opener is a home game Thursday vs. Ardmore. The Rattlers play four of their first five games at home.

## Final word

"Some guys play football just to be playing football," Bonds said. "Most of the players on our team play football because they want to get better every day. That attitude will take this team a long way and get this program back to where it needs to be."

— David Elwell



Sophomore quarterback Skylar Townsend returns to direct the Tanner offense. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]



## PECK-GLASGOW

*Insurance Since 1922*

HOME • AUTO • BUSINESS • LIFE

# EAST LIMESTONE INDIANS



East Limestone will have one of the biggest offensive lines in the area. According to head coach Jeff Pugh, his offensive line averages 6-foot-3, 260 pounds. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

## Lay of the land

The Indians are back in Class 5A, Region 8, but the region has a new look. Ardmore and Brewer are the only region rivals from the last two years returning. Madison Academy, Madison County and Scottsboro are gone. New teams in the region are Lawrence County, Lee-Huntsville, Mae Jemison and Russellville.

Out of the seven schools, only Mae Jemison and Russellville made the playoffs last season. Russellville (8-3) was the

only team with a winning record.

East Limestone's out-of-region opponents are Guntersville, Mars Hill Bible, West Limestone and Sylvania. The Indians open the season with home games vs. Guntersville and Mars Hill. Missing from the schedule are county rivals Athens and Tanner.

## Head coach

Jeff Pugh, 58, is starting his 15th season at East. His record is 84-69 with seven

trips to the playoffs and one region championship.

## Last season

The Indians battled a rash of injuries to go 4-6 and miss the playoffs. They averaged 25.6 points a game on offense and allowed 26.6 points a game on defense.

Turnovers were a huge factor. Pugh said his team averaged three turnovers a game to one for their opponent.

Holding on to leads was also a problem.

The Indians lost four games after having the lead in the fourth quarter.

## Last three seasons

East Limestone has gone 18-14. That includes going 9-3 in 2018 after a 5-5 season in 2017.

## Words to grow on

"I'm optimistic about this team," Pugh

# ARDMORE TIGERS

## Lay of the land

Ardmore's region opponents of East Limestone and Brewer carry over from last season. The Tigers add new opponents in Russellville, Mae Jemison, Lee-Huntsville and Lawrence County. Ardmore plays non-region games at Tanner (Thursday), at home against Elkmont (Aug. 28), at Clements (Sept. 25) and at West Limestone (Oct. 29).

Its region schedule opens with a home game against Brewer on Sept. 4. It then hosts Lawrence County on Sept. 11.

## Head coach

PJ Wright is 6-14 in his two years with the team. After a 4-6 season his first year, the Tigers went 2-8 last season. Despite being an assistant for over 10 years, this is Wright's first time being a head coach.

## Last season

The Tigers got off to a good start when they beat West Morgan, 27-9, and Elkmont, 22-8, in the first two games of the season. Unfortunately, their fortunes went down the drain the rest of the season. They lost seven games in a row and went winless in their region. Ardmore closed the season with four straight double-digit losses.

## Last three seasons

Winning seasons have been hard to come by for Ardmore. In the last three seasons, the Tigers are a combined 9-21 with a 3-7 season in 2017, a 4-6 season in 2018 and a 2-8 season last year. Their last winning season came in 2013, when the Tigers went 6-5 and made the playoffs.

## Words to grow on

"I want us to be a closer-knit team than we were last year," Wright said. "I thought we fell apart last year. I want us to be closer. That's what we hang our hat on."

## Quarterback

Owen Doss, a 6-foot-2 senior, returns for the Tigers after starting last season at quarterback. Wright said that Doss' experience in the offense will be a big plus for his team.

"He's gotten bigger over the summer, and his arm strength has improved," Wright said. "His understanding of



Ardmore's offensive and defensive linemen clash during practice. [PHOTOS BY JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

football has improved. He has great leadership abilities."

## Offense

Wright expects more passes from the pocket from Doss since it's his second year. One of Doss' weapons includes senior Luke Hogan at running back. Hogan started for the Tigers last year. Juniors Thomas Colston and Houston Vickers will also get carries. Out wide, senior Conner Harbin, a returning starter, will be a key target along with senior Chris Allen.

## Defense

Allen will lead the Tigers' secondary at safety. The two corners will be junior William Ricks and senior Jeffrey Barton. Dylan Lanier will be the other safety. Junior Brody Dunn, junior Kaden Newton and junior Shamarion Nard are expected to be up front. Wright said he

expects Nard to be an impact player.

## Must-see games

Ardmore plays every team in Limestone County with four of those coming in non-region games. Wright said he also expects an Oct. 2 home game against Russellville and an Oct. 8 trip to East Limestone to be important region matchups.

"It's going to be tough for us," Wright said. "We hope to be competitive in those games."

## Final word

"I want to see us have a better product on the field every Friday," Wright said. "It's out of the realm of expectation for us to win every game, but I want to see us produce what we do in practice on the field on Friday night."

— Matthew Speakman



Ardmore quarterback Owen Doss throws during practice.

# Have a safe and successful school year!

From your Superintendent and the Morgan County Board of Education



## Proud to Support and Celebrate Student Success!

- Emphasis on Student Leadership
- Teacher Mentor relationships for all students
- Nationally Recognized Robotics- Morgan County Mech Tech Robotics
- Six-Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools of Excellence (Cotaco, Danville-Neel, Priceville Elementary, Priceville Jr. High, MCS Technology Park, Union Hill)
- District-wide, 9th-12th grade, 1-1 Chromebook initiative
- Annual District-wide Musical Production
- School Resource Officers on every campus
- Career Technical Education in all schools, grades 7-12
- A+ College Ready programs in all high schools and middle schools
- Award Winning Morgan County Schools Technology Park
- Nurses on every school campus
- Annual Fine Arts Festival


**For updates and the latest information,  
please stay connected to MCS through our social media platforms:**

Like us on Facebook  - Morgan County Schools

Follow us on Twitter  - @MorganCoSchools

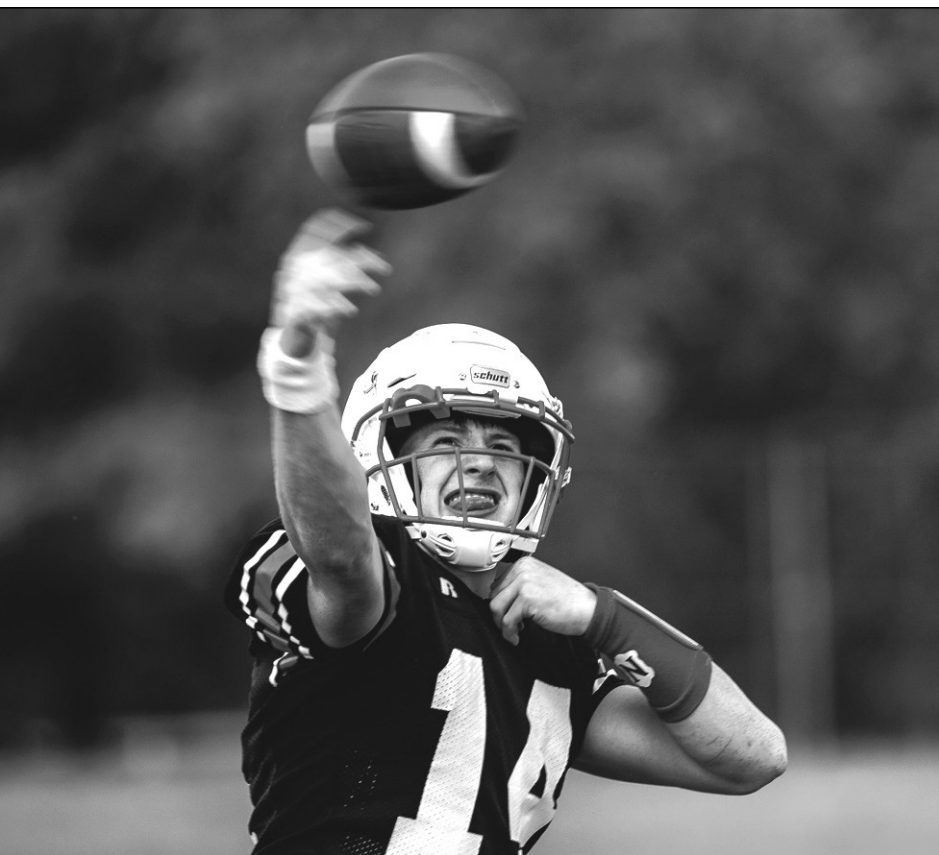
Check your email for our monthly  "Connect" newsletter

Please visit our website: [www.morgank12.org](http://www.morgank12.org)

Go to [www.morgank12.org](http://www.morgank12.org) and download our app: 



# ELKMONT RED DEVILS



Rowe Allen returns as Elkmont's starting quarterback. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

## Lay of the land

The Red Devils drop to Class 3A this season after competing in Class 4A for two years. Elkmont is the 17th largest school in 3A with an average daily attendance of 267.05. Region rival East Lawrence is the largest school in 3A with 282.90 students.

Elkmont will compete in Class 3A, Region 8 with Danville, East Lawrence, Clements, Lauderdale County, Colbert Heights and Phil Campbell. The Red Devils' non-region opponents are Randolph, at Ardmore, at Lexington and Hanceville.

## Head coach

Duane Wales is starting his fourth season as head coach at his alma mater. His combined record is 4-26.

## Last season

Elkmont went 1-9 with a 16-14 win over Lexington. The Red Devils averaged 8.6 points a game on offense while allowing an average of 51.5 points on defense.

## Last three seasons

It's been a rough last three years for the Red Devils with a 4-26 record that includes a forfeit from Deshler in 2018.

## Words to grow on

"We are excited to be back in Class 3A," Wales said. "We are in a competitive region with no clear favorite. We can be competitive and win some games. When it comes to making the playoffs, I say why not us?"

## Quarterback

Junior Rowe Allen (5-foot-11, 186 pounds) is the returning starter. After breaking his leg as a freshman, Allen returned late last season. Because of his throwing ability, the Red Devils are switching to the spread.

"He does a great job throwing the ball and we need to take advantage of that," Wales said.

## Offense

After averaging just 8.6 points a game last season, the Red Devils could use a



The Elkmont Red Devils are looking for their first winning season since 2014.

spark on this side of the ball. They may have found it with some improved speed. Three players broke the 4.5-second mark in the 40-yard dash over the summer.

"The guys have been working hard this summer," Wales said. "When we had the three break the 4.5 mark, it was like a big win for the team. We haven't had much to cheer about lately and this was something to get excited about."

The three players were junior Ryan Boyd and seniors Hunter Broadway and Colby Murphy. All three will be passing targets for Allen and have key roles in the defensive backfield.

Expected to handle most of the rushing duties are Nick Chambless (5-9, 144, Soph.) and Brent Harville (5-7, 166, Fr.). The offensive line is led by left tackle Bryse Blade (6-1, 327, Jr.).

"Last season we had a lot of young kids get playing time," Wales said. "We expect it to pay dividends this season."

## Defense

The Red Devils are looking for big improvements at stopping opponents. The defense allowed a school-record 515 points.

"Last year we played so many young

people that they had to think too much about what they were supposed to do," Wales said. "This year they should understand our defense better and be more reactive."

The heart of the defense is three-year starter Clay Boley (6-0, 186, Soph.) at middle linebacker. Braxton Cox (5-8, 150, Sr.) returns at outside linebacker. Two possible starters at defensive end are Brandon Clem (5-11, 205, Soph.) and Chase Haggermaker (5-9, 153, Jr.).

## Must-see games

Nothing would be better than getting the season started on a winning note. The Red Devils host Randolph on Friday. On Aug. 28, they travel to Ardmore for the 75th meeting in that Limestone County rivalry.

## Final word

"Elkmont is my home and I'm tickled to death to be the head football coach here," Wales said. "I feel like we are moving in the right direction. I am ready for these kids to experience some success on the football field. They deserve it."

— David Elwell

# CLEMENTS COLTS



Clements head coach Michael Parker talks to one of his players during practice. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

## Lay of the Land

Clements will compete in Class 3A, Region 8 with Colbert Heights, Danville East Lawrence, Elkmont, Lauderdale County and Phil Campbell. The Colts open their region schedule at home against Phil Campbell on Sept. 11. Clements beat Phil Campbell, 44-27, last season. Its first region game on the road will be against Colbert Heights the next

week.

Clements' non-region games include road games against Wilson on Friday and West Limestone on Aug. 28. It plays Ardmore (Sept. 25) and Hatton (Oct. 30) as well.

## Head coach

Michael Parker returns for his third season after enjoying success last season.

Parker's run at Clements is his third head coaching job in Alabama. He coached Speake for three years from 2000-2002 and Phil Campbell for one year in 2008. He has a record of 24-39 in Alabama and 10-12 at Clements.

## Last season

Clements finished third in its region last season with an overall record of 6-5

and a region record of 4-2. The Colts opened the season with three wins in a row with one of those coming against Parker's old school, Phil Campbell, 44-27. After three losses in a row, Clements won three more games in a row to secure a spot in the playoffs. It lost to Geraldine in the first round, 49-16.

# INDIANS

From Page 30

said. "If we can take care of the football and avoid the mistakes that hurt us last year, we can be a playoff team."

## Quarterback

Dillon Parris is the returning starter. Pugh wants more consistency out of the senior. Fellow senior Isaiah Sutherland could push Parris. Last year, Sutherland quarterbacked East Limestone to a season-opening win over West Limestone while Parris was out recovering from offseason shoulder surgery.

## Offense

One of Pugh's concerns is a "thin offensive line." He's talking about numbers of linemen and not size. East Limestone's offensive line may be one of the biggest around. Pugh says it averages 6-foot-3, 260 pounds.

Leading the way is three-year starter Tyler Moore (6-5, 335). The senior already has several Division I offers. Also returning are senior Blake Cross at center and Ty Kelly at tight end. Senior Ethan Waddle, junior Brennan Marsh and

freshman Andrew Holman are expected to fill in the rest of the line.

Taking advantage of the blocking up front is expected to be senior Kollin Swart, who rushed for over 700 yards last season despite being slowed by injuries.

Freshman Jamison Drake will be the blocking fullback. Also getting their hands on the ball out of the backfield will be sophomores Fortune Wheeler, Alex Mason and Aiden Griffin.

## Defense

The Indians are looking for improvement on defense, and it can start with third down. According to Pugh, last season the East Limestone defenders stopped opponents on third down just 14% of the time.

"We just didn't stop people on third down," Pugh said. "If you can't do that, you won't win a lot of games."

Senior Noah Bye takes over at middle linebacker this season.

"He's a football player," Pugh said. "He makes tackles all over the field."

The line will feature Drake and senior Josh Cunningham at the tackles. Kelly and Cross will be the ends. Juniors Hunter Gates and Jordan Gardner are

expected to be the outside linebackers.

Senior Gage Hill leads the defensive backfield at safety. Corbin Lacy and Garrett King also return. Junior Brendan Abernathy, a transfer from Muscle Shoals, is expected to contribute.

## Must-see games

The Indians open the season with two home games vs. non-region opponents Guntersville and Mars Hill. Guntersville was a region rival last season. East had the lead with eight minutes left in the game at Guntersville only to get beat 28-26. Mars Hill is in Class 2A after playing in the Class 1A state championship game last season.

East Limestone plays two county rivals this season — West Limestone at home on Sept. 25 and Ardmore at home on Thursday, Oct. 8.

## Final word

"Our region is going to be so evenly matched that, if you are not ready to play each week, you will have your hands full," Pugh said. "We need to find ways to make big plays on offense and defense this season."

— David Elwell



Dillon Parris returns at quarterback for East Limestone. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

# COLTS

From Page 34

## Last three seasons

After a string of 1-9 seasons from 2010-2015, Clements went 4-6 in back-to-back seasons in 2016 and 2017. The Colts went 4-7 in Parker's first year and made the playoffs for the first time since 2009. It went 6-5 last season. Clements is 14-18 in the last three seasons.

"They know we go to work now," Parker said. "They don't even ask if we're working out or practicing anymore. They are ready to go."

## Words to grow on

"We try to emphasize integrity in everything that we do," Parker said. "Every rep we do, we try to do it perfectly. If we can't do that, we try again."

## Quarterback

Clements has a senior in Seth Frazee and a freshman in Jaden Gilbert battling for the right to start quarterback. Frazee was the backup quarterback the previous two seasons and is recovering from an ACL tear. Parker said Gilbert is a "natural athlete" with a strong arm

who catches on to concepts quickly. He added that Frazee is a strong athlete and that he knows the offense really well from experience.

"It's going to be a fun battle for us leading up to the season," Parker said.

## Offense

The biggest question mark for Clements is replacing running back Jarrice Pryor, who ran for 1,755 yards and 28 touchdowns. He was a Class 3A All-State selection. Junior Ian Ezell and sophomore Riley Gosser are expected to replace him.

"(Gosser) is a bruiser who will try to run over you," Parker said. "Ian Ezell is an athlete. He returns kicks for us. He returned three for touchdowns last season."

Senior Colin Hargrove returns as a three-year starter at center to anchor the offensive line. Senior Hunter Hall returns at receiver to give either Frazee or Gilbert a playmaker on the outside. Senior Deontae Crenshaw is another player that Parker expects to have an impact at receiver.

## Defense

Sophomore Brady Moore will play

inside linebacker and will be a leader for the Colts. Senior Josh Gallien will pair with him at the other inside linebacker position. Frazee is also expected to play outside linebacker. Senior Alan Aguirre, an addition to the Colts after sitting out last season, is a 6-foot-3 defensive lineman that Parker described as a "hoss."

## Must-see games

Clements starts the season with two non-region tests on the road against Wilson and West Limestone. The Colts host Colbert Heights in a rematch of a double-overtime win for Clements last season. That will be on Sept. 18.

"We're not going to dominate anyone in our region," Parker said. "I still think we can compete with them. We're going to compete, and we can be in every game we play."

## Final word

"I think it could be something special for us this season," Parker said. "We just need to stay healthy. I think we can be really competitive. It will be a fun year for us."

— Matthew Speakman



Clements quarterback Seth Frazee runs the ball during practice. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

# WEST LIMESTONE WILDCATS

## Lay of the Land

West Limestone competes in Class 4A, Region 8 with Brooks, Central-Florence, Deshler, Priceville, Rogers, West Morgan and Wilson. The Wildcats lose Elkmont, which dropped to Class 3A, but gain Priceville and West Morgan.

They open their region schedule with a trip to Central-Florence on Sept. 11 and close it out with a home game against Priceville on Oct. 23. Their non-region opponents are Clements, East Limestone and Ardmore.

## Head coach

Shelby Davis, in his first stint as a head coach, is heading into his third year with the Wildcats after seeing solid improvement in year two. The Wildcats improved their win total by three in his second season, finishing 6-4 and barely missing out on the playoffs. His first year didn't go as well, but West Limestone still managed to win three games. The Wildcats are 9-11 in two years under Davis.

## Last season

West Limestone had an up-and-down year for the most part, matching almost every win with a loss. Its one streak came when it won two games in a row against Clements, 41-8, and Wilson, 45-12, midway through the season. The Wildcats finished 6-4 but missed out on the playoffs thanks to a tiebreaker because of a 3-3 region record that featured losses to Rogers, 23-19, and Central-Florence, 42-37, which both made the playoffs.

"That was a huge stride from year one to year two," Davis said. "I could not have been more pleased with the ground that we covered, but we could have been a lot more consistent."

## Last three seasons

Before Davis took over, West Limestone went 4-7 under Jordan Cantrell and made the playoffs but lost in the first round. The Wildcats then went 3-7 in Davis' first year before going 6-4 last season. They are 13-18 in the last three seasons.

## Words to grow on

"We just want to focus on what we can control," Davis said. "With everything going on, you can't worry about what you can't control. Control your attitude and effort."



West Limestone coach Shelby Davis watches his players during tackling drills. (PHOTOS BY JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY)

## Quarterback

The quarterback position is undecided. Davis said the team had "three or four" guys competing for the position when the team entered preseason camp.

"That's a big question mark right now for us," Davis said.

## Offense

Wide receiver River Helms returns for his senior season and is commanding a lot of attention from college coaches. Helms, who is 6-foot-4, has offers from blue blood programs such as Georgia and Florida State. He had 13 touchdowns.

The running back position is not a concern for Davis, who said he has as many as five players who can play that position. Running back Thorne Slaton, a senior, is another player Davis pointed to as key for the offense. Seniors Travis Newman, Brady Adams and Ryan Britt are returning players on the offensive line.

## Defense

West Limestone will have to replace nearly its entire secondary and defensive line after the key players in those units

graduated. Junior Brett Beckworth is a two-year starter who will play middle linebacker. Junior Dakota Hilliard is another two-year starter coming back who will play defensive end.

"We're having some young guys that are going to step in," Davis said. "Those two guys that really have had the most experience who are coming back."

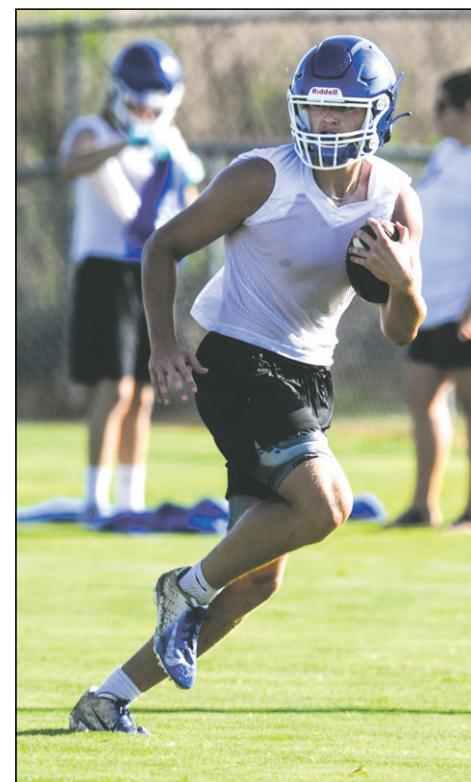
## Must-see games

A Sept. 4 home game against Deshler will serve as the team's region opener and its second game of the season. Deshler made it to the state title game two years ago and won a region title last season. A road trip to East Limestone on Sept. 25 for a rivalry game, and a region game at Brooks on Oct. 2 should be big as well.

## Final word

"This group shows up and goes to work," Davis said. "I feel like they're really bought in to what we're trying to accomplish. They want to try and go out and win a region championship."

— Matthew Speakman



West Limestone's River Helms has scholarship offers from Georgia and Florida State.



**2050 Beltline Road SW  
Decatur, AL 35601**

**www.deanslistrealty.us**

<https://www.facebook.com/DeansListRealty/>



**Brian Dean**

Broker, Owner, REALTOR®, GRI  
256-975-9244  
brian@briandean.us



**Galvin Gray**

Associate Broker  
256-227-4281  
galvingray@gmail.com



**Linda Blue**

REALTOR®/MRP  
256-227-0417  
lindablue73@outlook.com



**Tami Graham**

REALTOR®  
256-432-7597  
tami.graham.realtor@gmail.com



**Richard Graham**

REALTOR®  
256-432-7470  
richard.graham.realtor@gmail.com



**Stephen Pate**

REALTOR®  
256-654-2080  
stephenpate10@gmail.com

***Constantly Striving For Real Estate Excellence!***

## PREP PREDICTIONS

# New regions change landscape on path to playoffs



DAVID ELWELL

If you have turned the pages in this section looking for some predictions, you are at the right place.

This is where we look at the regions for all 20 schools and make as “educated” a guess as possible.

This is the first football season since the reclassification after the 2019 season. Some of the new is just a different region number for a group of schools that annually battle it out. Three area schools did change classification. Danville and Elkmont dropped to Class 3A. Falkville moved up to Class 2A.

Last year, eight area teams advanced to the playoffs. Only four made it to the second week. Decatur Heritage was the only area team to go to the third round.

Here’s a look at each region followed

by our predictions:

**Class 7A, Region 4:** Austin (7-4 last season), Bob Jones (4-6), Florence (7-5), Grissom (3-7), Huntsville (6-4), James Clemens (9-3), Sparkman (8-3), Albertville (5-6). Combined records: 49-38.

**Prediction:** Austin, Florence, Sparkman and James Clemens will again be the four teams out of Region 4. Where Austin falls in this order could be mostly decided before October. The Black Bears’ region schedule for September is vs. Florence, vs. James Clemens and at Sparkman.

**Class 6A, Region 8:** Decatur (2-8 last season), Hartselle (4-7), Athens (8-4), Columbia (0-10), Cullman (6-6), Muscle Shoals (12-1), Buckhorn (4-7), Hazel Green (1-9). Combined records: 37-52.

**Prediction:** Muscle Shoals, Athens, Cullman and Decatur. The last decade saw Decatur posting winning records in even years and losing records in odd years. This is an even year. Hartselle at Decatur on Sept. 11 is an early game that could be key to deciding if the Tigers or Red Raiders are in the playoffs.

**Class 5A, Region 8:** Brewer (3-7), Ardmore (2-8), East Limestone (4-6), Lawrence County (4-6), Lee (1-9), Mae Jemison (5-6), Russellville (8-3).

Combined records: 27-45.

**Prediction:** Russellville, East Limestone, Mae Jemison, Lawrence County. The last playoff spot could be decided in the last week of region play when Brewer visits Lawrence County on Oct. 23.

**Class 4A, Region 8:** Priceville (8-4), West Morgan (3-7), West Limestone (6-4), Brooks (6-5), Central-Florence (3-8), Deshler (9-4), Rogers (3-8), Wilson (2-7). Combined records: 40-47.

**Prediction:** Deshler, Brooks, Priceville, West Limestone. If West Morgan can find a way to win one of its first two region games (vs. Priceville and at Deshler) the momentum could mean the Rebels make the playoffs.

**Class 3A, Region 8:** Danville (5-6), Clements (6-5), East Lawrence (5-5), Elkmont (1-9), Colbert Heights (6-5), Lauderdale County (9-3), Phil Campbell (4-6). Combined records: 36-39.

**Prediction:** Lauderdale County, Clements, Colbert Heights, Danville. Moving to 3A should help Danville’s chances of back-to-back playoff seasons for the first time since 1994 and 1995.

**Class 2A, Region 7:** Falkville (7-5), Tanner (1-9), Ider (2-8), North Sand Mountain (9-4), Pisgah (4-7),

Section (3-7), Whitesburg Christian (first season). Combined records: 26-40.

**Prediction:** North Sand Mountain, Falkville, Section, Tanner. Winner of the Pisgah at Tanner game on Oct. 23 makes the playoffs.

**Class 2A, Region 8:** Hatton (5-5), Colbert County (6-5), Sheffield (6-5), Tharptown (2-7), Red Bay (12-1), Mars Hill Bible (14-1), Lexington (1-9). Combined records: 46-33.

**Prediction:** Mars Hill, Red Bay, Colbert County, Sheffield. This is probably the toughest region in 2A, if not the state.

**Class 1A, Region 8:** Decatur Heritage (12-1), R.A. Hubbard (5-5), Cherokee (0-10), Hackleburg (5-7), Phillips (2-8), Shoals Christian (1-9), Vina (3-8), Waterloo (8-3). Combined records: 36-51.

**Prediction:** Decatur Heritage, Waterloo, Hackleburg, R.A. Hubbard. The season for R.A. Hubbard could come down to its last three region games, all at home vs. Decatur Heritage, Waterloo and Shoals Christian.

— david.elwell@decaturdaily.com or 256-340-2395. Twitter @ DD\_DavidElwell.

## ATHENS

From Page 28

players back who have played a lot of football.”

### Quarterback

The Golden Eagles have a couple of experienced seniors to call on in Jordan Scott (5-foot-9, 160) and Cal George (5-10, 205). Scott stepped up big last season when he moved from receiver to quarterback. George is a transfer from Hartselle, where he was the starting quarterback.

“They are unselfish kids that want to do whatever it takes to help this team win,” Gross said. “I think it’s going to be exciting because they are different style players who can do so many things that will help us win.”

Scott has the quickness and speed of a wide receiver. George is the more physical player and does not shy away from contact. Gross said there will be

times when they both will be on the field.

### Offense

Senior Jaylen Gilbert gives Athens experience at running back. Senior Heath Carden is moving from linebacker to running back. Juniors Jaymen Draper and Dylann Roper are expected to get some carries.

The Golden Eagles lost three experienced receivers. Gross expects junior Jayden Jude, senior Avonte Thompson and Roper to fill the void at receiver.

Senior A.J. Horton (6-3, 290) is the leader returning in the offensive line at left tackle. Seniors Josiah Trotman (6-3, 315) and Isaiah Orr (6-0, 290) are projected as the starting guards. Senior Jacorey Harris (5-8, 240) takes over at center.

### Defense

The heart of the Athens defense is linebacker Rush Boyett. The senior was an All-State honorable mention

selection last season. Junior Jack Tregoning is expected to join Boyett at linebacker.

Besides playing running back, Gilbert is projected to also start at safety. Others in the defensive backfield are Draper, Jeremiah Rice, Tylin Suggs and Cam Anderson.

Senior Malachi Kirby (6-0, 260) anchors the defensive line.

### Must-see games

After canceling Friday’s scheduled opening game with Fort Payne, Athens now begins the season with a Saturday home game on Aug. 29 against James Clemens.

### Final word

“Despite all the uncertainty, we’ve had a really good summer,” Gross said. “I think our players enjoy being here for football. They are incredibly focused on being successful this season.”

— David Elwell



Quarterback Jordan Scott led Athens to its first playoff victory since 2013 last season. [DAN BUSEY/DECATUR DAILY]

# 2020 HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULES

Subject to change  
(\* region games)

## Class 7A

### Austin

Aug. 21 - at Hartselle  
Aug. 28 - Decatur  
Sept. 4 - Florence\*  
Sept. 11 - James Clemens\*  
Sept. 18 - at Sparkman\*  
Sept. 25 - open  
Oct. 2 - at Grissom\*  
Oct. 9 - at Huntsville\*  
Oct. 16 - Albertville\*  
Oct. 23 - at Bob Jones\*  
Oct. 29 - Mountain Brook (Thursday)

## Class 6A

### Decatur

Aug. 20 - Russellville (Thursday)  
Aug. 28 - at Austin  
Sept. 4 - at Muscle Shoals\*  
Sept. 11 - Hartselle\*  
Sept. 18 - at Buckhorn\*  
Sept. 25 - open  
Oct. 2 - Cullman\*  
Oct. 9 - Hazel Green\*  
Oct. 16 - at Columbia\*  
Oct. 23 - Athens\*  
Oct. 29 - Huntsville (Thursday)

### Hartselle

Aug. 21 - Austin  
Aug. 28 - Mae Jemison  
Sept. 4 - Cullman\*  
Sept. 11 - at Decatur\*  
Sept. 18 - Columbia\*  
Sept. 25 - at Russellville  
Oct. 2 - at Athens\*  
Oct. 9 - Muscle Shoals\*  
Oct. 16 - at Hazel Green\*  
Oct. 23 - at Buckhorn\*  
Oct. 30 - open

### Athens

Aug. 21 - at Fort Payne, canceled  
Aug. 29 - James Clemens  
Sept. 4 - Columbia\*  
Sept. 11 - at Hazel Green\*  
Sept. 18 - at Muscle Shoals\*  
Sept. 25 - Hueytown  
Oct. 2 - Hartselle\*  
Oct. 9 - at Buckhorn\*  
Oct. 16 - Cullman\*  
Oct. 23 - at Decatur\*  
Oct. 30 - open

## Class 5A

### Brewer

Aug. 21 - at Danville  
Aug. 28 - Priceville  
Sept. 4 - at Ardmore\*

Sept. 11 - at Russellville\*  
Sept. 18 - East Limestone\*  
Sept. 25 - Arab  
Oct. 2 - Lee-Huntsville\*  
Oct. 9 - at Mae Jemison\*  
Oct. 16 - Fairview  
Oct. 23 - at Lawrence County\*  
Oct. 30 - open

### Ardmore

Aug. 20 - at Tanner (Thursday)  
Aug. 28 - Elkmont  
Sept. 4 - Brewer\*  
Sept. 11 - Lawrence County\*  
Sept. 18 - open  
Sept. 25 - at Clements  
Oct. 2 - Russellville\*  
Oct. 8 - at East Limestone\* (Thursday)  
Oct. 16 - Lee-Huntsville\*  
Oct. 22 - at Mae Jemison\* (Thursday)  
Oct. 29 - at West Limestone (Thursday)

### East Limestone

Aug. 21 - Guntersville  
Aug. 28 - Mars Hill  
Sept. 3 - at Lee-Huntsville\* (Thursday)  
Sept. 11 - Mae Jemison\*  
Sept. 18 - at Brewer\*  
Sept. 25 - West Limestone  
Oct. 2 - at Lawrence County\*  
Oct. 8 - Ardmore\* (Thursday)  
Oct. 16 - at Russellville\*  
Oct. 23 - at Sylvania  
Oct. 30 - open

### Lawrence County

Aug. 28 - at Hazel Green  
Sept. 4 - at West Point  
Sept. 11 - at Ardmore\*  
Sept. 18 - Russellville\*  
Sept. 25 - at Westminster  
Oct. 2 - East Limestone\*  
Oct. 9 - at Lee-Huntsville\*  
Oct. 16 - Mae Jemison\*  
Oct. 23 - Brewer\*  
Oct. 30 - Danville

## Class 4A

### Priceville

Aug. 28 - at Brewer  
Sept. 4 - at West Morgan\*  
Sept. 11 - Brooks\*  
Sept. 18 - Wilson\*  
Sept. 25 - at Danville  
Oct. 2 - at Rogers\*  
Oct. 9 - Central-Florence\*  
Oct. 16 - Deshler\*  
Oct. 23 - West Limestone\*  
Oct. 30 - St. John Paul II

### West Morgan

Aug. 20 - Good Hope (Thursday)  
Aug. 28 - at East Lawrence  
Sept. 4 - Priceville\*

Sept. 11 - at Deshler\*  
Sept. 18 - West Limestone\*  
Sept. 25 - at Leeds  
Oct. 2 - at Central-Florence\*  
Oct. 9 - Brooks\*  
Oct. 16 - at Wilson\*  
Oct. 23 - Rogers\*  
Oct. 30 - open

### West Limestone

Aug. 21 - open  
Aug. 28 - Clements  
Sept. 4 - Deshler\*  
Sept. 11 - at Central-Florence\*  
Sept. 18 - at West Morgan\*  
Sept. 25 - at East Limestone  
Oct. 2 - at Brooks\*  
Oct. 9 - Wilson\*  
Oct. 16 - at Rogers\*  
Oct. 23 - Priceville\*  
Oct. 30 - Ardmore

## Class 3A

### Danville

Aug. 21 - Brewer  
Aug. 28 - at Falkville  
Sept. 4 - at Colbert Heights\*  
Sept. 11 - at Lauderdale County\*  
Sept. 18 - East Lawrence\*  
Sept. 25 - Priceville  
Oct. 2 - open  
Oct. 9 - Elkmont\*  
Oct. 16 - at Clements\*  
Oct. 23 - Phil Campbell\*  
Oct. 30 - at Lawrence County

### East Lawrence

Aug. 21 - Sulligent  
Aug. 28 - West Morgan  
Sept. 4 - Lauderdale County\*  
Sept. 11 - open  
Sept. 18 - at Danville\*  
Sept. 25 - at Hatton  
Oct. 2 - Elkmont  
Oct. 9 - at Clements\*  
Oct. 16 - at Phil Campbell\*  
Oct. 23 - Colbert Heights\*  
Oct. 29 - at Sheffield (Thursday)

### Clements

Aug. 21 - at Wilson  
Aug. 28 - at West Limestone  
Sept. 4 - open  
Sept. 11 - Phil Campbell\*  
Sept. 18 - at Colbert Heights\*  
Sept. 25 - Ardmore  
Oct. 2 - at Lauderdale County\*  
Oct. 9 - East Lawrence\*  
Oct. 16 - Danville\*  
Oct. 23 - at Elkmont\*  
Oct. 30 - Hatton

### Elkmont

Aug. 21 - Randolph



West Morgan's Malachi Chambers reaches for the ball during preseason passing drills. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

Aug. 28 - at Ardmore  
Sept. 4 - at Phil Campbell\*  
Sept. 11 - Colbert Heights\*  
Sept. 18 - Lauderdale County\*  
Sept. 25 - at Lexington  
Oct. 2 - at East Lawrence\*  
Oct. 9 - at Danville\*  
Oct. 16 - open  
Oct. 23 - Clements\*  
Oct. 30 - Hanceville

## Class 2A

### Falkville

Aug. 21 - Decatur Heritage  
Aug. 28 - Danville  
Sept. 4 - Whitesburg Christian  
Sept. 11 - at Pisgah  
Sept. 18 - open  
Sept. 25 - at Cold Springs  
Oct. 2 - at Section  
Oct. 9 - Tanner  
Oct. 16 - Ider  
Oct. 23 - at North Sand Mountain  
Oct. 30 - at Winston County

### Tanner

Aug. 20 - Ardmore (Thursday)  
Aug. 28 - Lexington  
Sept. 4 - at Section  
Sept. 11 - Ider  
Sept. 18 - North Sand Mountain  
Sept. 25 - at Columbia  
Oct. 2 - at Whitesburg Christian  
Oct. 9 - at Falkville  
Oct. 16 - open  
Oct. 23 - Pisgah  
Oct. 30 - at Waterloo

### Hatton

Aug. 28 - at Central-Florence  
Sept. 4 - at Winston County  
Sept. 11 - Mars Hill Bible\*  
Sept. 18 - at Colbert County\*  
Sept. 25 - East Lawrence  
Oct. 2 - at Lexington\*  
Oct. 9 - Red Bay\*  
Oct. 16 - at Tharptown\*  
Oct. 23 - Sheffield\*  
Oct. 30 - at Clements

## Class 1A

### Decatur Heritage

Aug. 21 - at Falkville  
Aug. 28 - Colbert Heights  
Sept. 4 - at Phillips\*  
Sept. 11 - at Vina\*  
Sept. 18 - at Shoals Christian\*  
Sept. 25 - Woodville  
Oct. 2 - Waterloo\*  
Oct. 9 - at R.A. Hubbard\*  
Oct. 16 - Cherokee\*  
Oct. 22 - Hackleburg\* (Thursday)

### R.A. Hubbard

Aug. 21 - at Sheffield  
Aug. 28 - Colbert County  
Sept. 4 - at Cherokee\*  
Sept. 11 - at Hackleburg\*  
Sept. 18 - Phillips\*  
Sept. 25 - open  
Oct. 2 - at Vina\*  
Oct. 9 - Decatur Heritage\*  
Oct. 16 - Waterloo\*  
Oct. 23 - Shoals Christian\*  
Oct. 30 - at New Hope

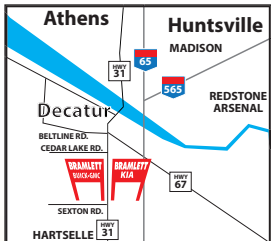
No Games, No Gimmicks... Just Great Deals!

# BRAMLETT *of Decatur*

We Proudly Support Our Community



## Crowd-Pleasing Savings and Service! on new GMCs, Buicks and Kias, PLUS a huge selection of quality Pre-Owned



**BRAMLETT GMC**  
3305 Highway 31 South  
Decatur • 256-353-6232  
[BramlettAutomotive.com](http://BramlettAutomotive.com)



**BRAMLETT KIA**  
3326 Highway 31 South  
Decatur • 256-353-6232  
[BramlettKia.com](http://BramlettKia.com)

Sales Hours: Mon-Sat 9AM-6PM • Service Hours: 7:30AM-5:30PM