



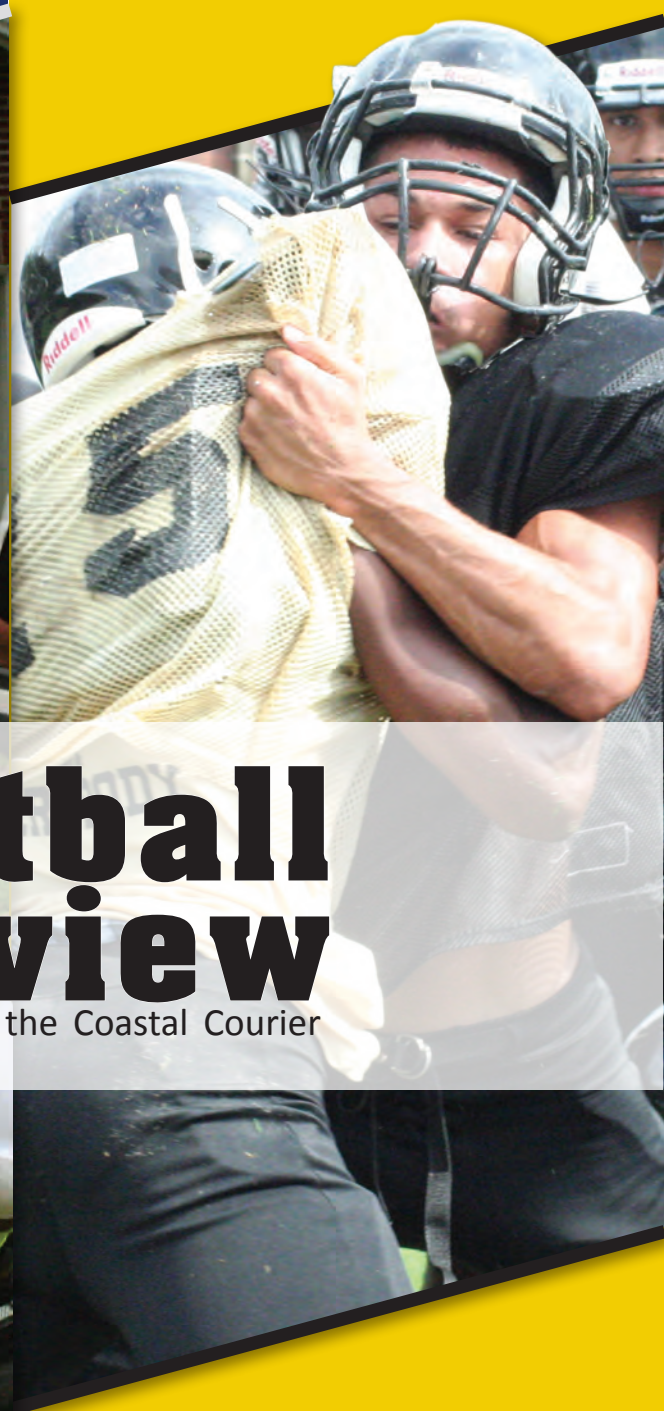
Bradwell Institute
TIGERS



FPCA
HIGHLANDERS



Liberty County
PANTHERS



2012 Football Preview

A supplement to the Coastal Courier

Highlanders will face solid GISA slate in inaugural season

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

It's difficult to evaluate how well a team will do when it has yet to take an official snap.

First Presbyterian Christian Academy has a wealth of student-athletes and a never-quit attitude.

The Highlanders are expected to pull together to get through their first season. Here's a look at the teams FPCA will come up against.

Aug. 31 vs. Bethesda Academy

Bethesda Academy finished fourth last season in the Georgia Independent School Association's Region 2-AA with a 6-5 overall record. The Blazers are ranked No. 287 in the state and were tied for first in the region in 2007.

Sept. 7 vs. St. Andrews High School

Savannah's St. Andrews High School plays in the South Carolina Independent School Association's Class A Region I. The Saints finished fifth in their region last season with a 1-8 overall record. The school is ranked No. 415 in South Carolina and No. 11,903 in the nation.

That matchup between FPCA and St. Andrews is a nonconference game.

Sept. 14 at Curtis Baptist

Augusta's Curtis Baptist Crusaders finished 4-6 overall last season and tied for fifth place in the GISA's Region 1-A. According to maxpreps.com, the Crusaders have a small roster — much like the Highlanders — and should provide a good matchup against FPCA's first-year team. The Crusaders will start the season ranked No. 445 in the state.

Sept. 21 at David Emanuel

The Eagles finished 3-7 overall last season and tied with Curtis Baptist for fifth place in the conference. The Eagles are one notch behind Curtis Baptist, ranked No. 446 in the state.

Sept. 28 at Memorial Day

The Matadors, ranked No. 155 in the state, were a GISA Region 2-AA powerhouse last year. Their 7-0 region record was good for first place last season, and they finished 11-3 overall. Last season, the Matadors blew out Curtis Baptist, 61-6, and manhandled David Emanuel, 38-8. They were the region champions in 2010 and '11 and two-time state champions in '08 and '09.

Oct. 12 vs. Frederica Academy*

St. Simons Island's Frederica Academy has developed a friendly yet intense rivalry with FPCA in basketball and girls' soccer, and the Highlanders will host the Knights to open region play.

The Knights are coming off their own inaugural season last year, and they will start this season ranked No. 465 in the state.

Oct. 19 vs. Toombs Academy*

Toombs Academy (4-7 in 2011) is going to be another formidable foe for FPCA. The team from Lyons was the region champion from 2003-06 and won state championships in '03 and '04.

Oct. 26 at Crisp Academy*

The Highlanders will travel to Cordele to face the Wildcats of Crisp Academy. The Wildcats finished 5-5 overall and 2-4 in the region last year. They are ranked No. 375 in the state and won a conference title in 2003.

Nov. 2 at Randolph Southern*

The Patriots will start the season ranked No. 456 in the state and are looking for a spark after a dismal 1-8 season last year.

Nov. 9 vs. Fullington Academy*

The Highlanders will close the regular sea-

2012 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 vs. Bethesda

Sept. 7 vs. St. Andrews School

Sept. 14 at Curtis Baptist

Sept. 21 at David Emanuel

Sept. 28 at Memorial Day

Oct. 5 Bye week

Oct. 12 vs. Frederica Academy*

Oct. 19 vs. Toombs Academy*

Oct. 26 at Crisp Academy*

Nov. 2 at Randolph Southern*

Nov. 9 vs. Fullington Academy*

Notes:

All games are at 7:30 p.m.

Bold denotes home game at Long Bell Stadium

* Denotes region opponent

son at home against the Trojans of Pinehurst.

Fullington Academy is another squad looking to improve on a 3-7 overall record and sixth-place finish in the region.

In 2006, the Trojans won the GISA Class A south conference title.

*Denotes region opponent

ERA

Continued from page 8

Reginald Castile is handling the defense this season. Castile, who coached at Snelson-Golden Middle School for three years, said football is his dream sport.

He said the plan for the defense is simple.

"We are looking at more of a 44 set with a backup of a 43 defense," Castile said. "The whole thing right now is to keep it simple. We are getting the basics down and teaching them the basic lanes they run through and block in — nice and simple."

He said Harris will be the defensive captain, but the coach still is developing the linemen and linebackers. Roberts and Guilfo likely will see some time as corners, Castile said.

"At corners we are looking at our receivers because it's an easier transition," he said. "All of them bring a lot to the table, especially our basketball kids because they are already in shape from basketball season."

Castile said he isn't worried about having to find the right players for the right positions

because the boys have an abundance of talent.

"These kids have the right athletic mindset and academic mind-set. It makes it easier to work with them," he said. "If they are used to conditioning for one sport, it just takes minor adjustments to train them for football."

Daniel Dotson will work with the receivers and defensive backs. Dotson, who has about seven years of experience coaching at the middle school and high school levels, said the most difficult challenge is keeping the players motivated.

"Being the first year of the program, it's all about showing the guys that we are moving forward and that we are serious about this," Dotson said. "We are getting them on board, and we want them to know that although this is our first year, that doesn't mean we can't be successful. We have to keep them energized and positive."

Dotson said his receivers need to learn and run precise routes.

"You don't have to be the fastest guy, but if you are able to run the right route, you can create the distance necessary to gain the advantage of the defensive opponent," he said,

adding that the defensive backs have to be elusive, athletic and know the game well enough to make plays against the opposing offense.

"The biggest improvement I've seen is that they are learning the game and how to do the things they are supposed to do out on the field," Dotson said. "I don't care if you are a seasoned player or you never played the sport, everything leads back to fundamentals — it is the key to everything. Once you establish the fundamentals, then you can put in your schemes and build from there."

The Highlanders have an ambitious task ahead of them with several well-established teams on their schedule.

"We are facing two defending state champions from the past two years," Yanzetich said. "We also face a state runner-up, so we are facing some stiff competition right off the bat. We will learn from it."

Although the other programs have a few seasons under their belts, the coach said those teams still face the same challenges when it comes to filling rosters.

"In the league we are playing in, if we get anywhere close to having 30-40 players, we

will be playing against schools that have the same amount of kids," Yanzetich said. "I think we have better athletes than most programs. ... We can make a presence in the league without a doubt."

Two things that Yanzetich does not have to worry about are the team's uniforms and equipment.

"We received a lot of donations from different schools. A lot of private donations that want to see football work out here have helped out," he said. "One of my really good friends owns a sporting goods store in Atlanta, so we've been getting a lot of donations through them."

"And right now, we have all the equipment we need in the sense of shoulder pads, helmets and kneepads," Yanzetich continued. "Also, we aren't looking at fielding 80-90 players, so we don't need that much equipment. ... It won't be as costly as bigger schools."

He said the team is trying to get more sponsors and spent the summer raising funds to help cover costs.

"The first year is going to be expensive, but it won't be so bad after that," the coach said.

With Thornton gone, all eyes now on linebacker McMillan



Liberty County High School junior Raekwon McMillan is getting a lot of attention. He's considered one of the top linebacker prospects in the country.

Patty Leon



BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

The Panthers had a tough season last year. After finishing 2-8 overall, Liberty County is looking to beef up its squad and produce more wins.

One bright spot last season was the successful completion of a breakout career for running back Shadrach Thornton.

Thornton started to make a splash as the Panthers' running back during his freshman year. Although he only played in two varsity games that season, he had 17 carries for 143 yards and a touchdown.

Head coach Kirk Warner knew he had a workhorse in Thornton, who went on to break the 1,200-yard mark in his sophomore and junior years and ran for 1,700 yards his senior season.

Thornton ended his high school career with 726 carries for 4,345 yards, 45 touchdowns and six two-point conversions.

He was a three-time winner of the Courier's Player of the Week award last year

and finished his senior season as the LCHS Player of the Year.

After garnering several offers from top universities around the nation, Thornton signed with North Carolina State, making him the first Division I signee during Warner's coaching tenure.

It seems Warner might have another Division I prospect in junior linebacker Raekwon McMillan.

McMillan earned varsity time in his freshman year, playing in seven games. The newcomer had 33 solo tackles and 16 assists.

Last year as a sophomore, McMillan dominated the defense with 97 total tackles, an interception and a pass deflection.

As highlight videos spread on YouTube, McMillan's size, speed and aggressiveness started to catch the eyes of top football schools.

McMillan made last year's Region 2A-AAAA First-Team Defense and received the Courier's Player of the Week award. He was named to the 2011 U.S. Air Force

Sophomore All-American Team and the 247sports.com Class of 2014 All-American Team.

During the spring, McMillan attended a Nike training camp in Atlanta and was one of the 20 players from the class of 2014 selected to participate in the Rivals 100 Five-Star Challenge.

Within months, McMillan was being touted as a five-star prospect, according to 247sports.com, and the second-best linebacker in the nation for the class of 2014. He is rated as No. 1 in the state, and he was in high demand by the end of the summer.

McMillan has received offers from Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Georgia State, Georgia Tech, University of Miami, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Notre Dame, Ohio State, South Carolina and Texas. UCLA and USC have expressed interest but have not made formal offers.

The 6-foot-3, 235-pound linebacker visited Clemson and UGA and twice vis-

ited the Buckeyes. He even spent some one-on-one time with Ohio State coach Urban Meyer at Friday Night Lights on July 27.

McMillan posted on Twitter that his top three choices, in no particular order, are Ohio State, UGA and Clemson, but that has changed periodically. At one point, Auburn was among his top three.

He is in no hurry to make a choice this early in his high school career and has said he plans to hold off on announcing his decision until the 2014 Under Armour All-American game.

LCHS speed coach Nathan Mims said McMillan used the off-season to shave some time off his 40-yard dash — going from 4.9 to 4.6 seconds — while improving his overall strength in the weight room under the direction of strength coach Keith McGee.

If McMillan has another breakout year, it is likely that several more schools will come knocking on his door and he will be the player to watch at LCHS this season.

Despite losing key back, Panthers expect to be able to move ball

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

The Panthers lost a running back who posted 4,345 rushing yards in four seasons, but they are hoping the offensive success will continue this season. Several players are returning, a few of whom will be shifted from the defense.

Shadrach Thornton's high school career would be hard to duplicate, but the Panthers have several veterans who can get the job done on the ground.

Thornton's backup, Andre Haggray, returns to the Panthers as a senior. Last year, Haggray posted 89 yards on 19 carries in five games.

Incoming junior Jordan Moody is likely to take some snaps in addition to lining up in the backfield. Moody ran the ball just once last season but took off for a 20-yard gain against McIntosh County Academy.

Offensive coordinator Ryan Glazer said he plans to switch veteran Trentice Williams to offense and give him an opportunity to move the ball.

"In the spring, he really impressed us with how he ran," Glazer said. "He ran really well and we were kind of surprised, but he has been telling us for two years that he is a running back and we had always put him as a defensive back."

"He is a little wrecking ball," speed coach Nathan Mims said of Williams. "He is very strong, and he is working on his vision (seeing the gaps and finding the holes).

"We've done a lot of resistance training, but for the most part we are working on correct form. With form comes speed and everything else, so we've been working on the forms and the mechanics."

Glazer said there are two incoming freshmen who could compete at the varsity level, depending on how well they do in full gear.

"Jacquez Williams and Michael Williams (no relation to each other or Trentice) were able to hang with the varsity guys pretty well during the spring," Glazer said.

Of course, the Panthers have returning veteran Raekwon McMillan, who spent the summer attending various camps and quickly gained notoriety.

The future five-star recruit has 18 Division I offers as a linebacker, but the coaching staff may throw him in on offense every once in a while.



The Panthers have several returning players that will help them move the ball on the ground despite losing their top running back from last year — Shadrach Thornton. LCHS also has three veteran receivers expected to help the passing game.

Patty Leon

"When you are an athlete, you have to be able to help out the team as much as you can, so we will use him on offense as much as we can," head coach Kirk Warner said. "Of course, we won't run him for 20-30 plays in the game, but we will pick our spots to use him as a running back in goal-line situations."

McMillan ran the ball in spurts last season. He had 18 carries for 64 yards in five games.

Warner said he will stick to the spread offense this season.

"It will serve as our base, but we will throw in a few wrinkles now and then with some I-formations, and we've been working on some things so we can run the best formations with the players we have," he said.

As for who will take the snaps, one returning player has a slight advantage.

"We are hoping one of the quarterbacks will go ahead and step up," Warner said. "JJ (Grant) obviously has the inside track, being a two-year starter, but we are going to play it by ear.

"Right now he is the starter, but he got hurt late last year and it's been a little slow about getting him cleared, but we expect him to be clear before the first scrimmage and he can get back to work. But right now, he is the starter and it is his as long as he can hold on to it."

Grant, now a senior, was 22 of 48 for 227 yards last season. His longest pass was 65 yards.

Glazer said Grant's rehabilitation has slowed his return to practice, but the team is

confident with two solid backups.

"Jordan Waters has been able to take some snaps, and we have a freshman, Ty Coles, who is actually very impressive," he said.

Receivers coach Sam Richards said he has three veterans with steady hands.

"Alton Sapp, Paris Boles and Joey Irizarry return as receivers," he said. "The great thing about Alton is that his work ethic has improved immensely from previous years. He has increased his speed a little bit and his strength, and he is catching everything now.

"With Paris, he's always had speed, but he has improved his routes.

"Joey Irizarry fills out the third spot, and he is running great routes and he is tough minded and has also increased his speed."

Sapp had 16 receptions for 201 yards and a touchdown last year. Boles had nine catches for 118 yards. Irizarry had three receptions for 31 yards and a touchdown.

Richards said his receivers have their timing down with all three quarterbacks and did well at a summer passing camp in Pierce County.

"We are so confident in our receivers that we are not going to worry what the defense does," Richards said. "They are going to have to adjust to us, and we are going to be successful in what we do. That's the way an offense should be."

Meanwhile, the offensive line is ready to help create the blocks and open holes.

"The one thing that should be our strength

that wasn't last year is our offensive line," Glazer said. "We started a lot of young guys the last two seasons — especially last year, where we started three sophomores that will be starting again this year. And we have three seniors as well that we can rotate.

"We are a little deeper there than we've been. We've got about seven guys we can rotate on the offensive line."

Offensive line coach Darryl McCulley said it is one of the strongest offensive lines the Panthers ever have fielded.

"Strength coach Keith McGee has done a wonderful job with them in the weight room and he's had them in there all summer, and even some of my JV linemen have made the numbers for the lifts we've posted for them," McCulley said. "We have good size on the JV and a lot of quickness on the varsity, and they are smart."

McCulley said the O-line will be anchored by senior Cornelius Butler and junior Kharn Collier-Ellison.

"They are basically our leaders on the offensive line," he said.

"It definitely begins with our offensive line," Warner added. "We bit the bullet playing some guys early the last couple of years, but now we have juniors and seniors on the O-line.

"We are expecting a lot from our front line, and they definitely have to step up their game since we lost a 1,700-yard rusher. We

MOVE continues on 15

Sills takes over as defensive coordinator at Liberty County

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

Liberty County High School will start the season under the leadership of its new defensive coordinator, Derek Sills.

A graduate of Georgia Southern University, Sills lives, eats and breathes football. He is guided by the principles of the one guy Sills calls the greatest coach in the world — GSU's legendary Erk Russell.

"I believe that Erk Russell was the greatest coach that ever walked the sideline, and I bring that every day," Sills said. "These kids know that I have two rules: GATA and do right —GATA on the field and do right off the field."

Sills has coached high school football for 17 years at Metter, Tattnall and Swainsboro high schools.

"I've known Derek for four to five years, and I've admired his work with the recreation league from afar," Panthers head coach Kirk Warner said. "And I knew he had coached high school football for 17 years and had been successful at it. This year I convinced him to come aboard, and I think he will be



Patty Leon

The Panthers new defensive coordinator Derek Sills brings 17 years of high school coaching experience to LCHS. Sills gave his squad some serious pep talks and thinks Liberty has the talent to be a championship team.

a good asset."

"He called and asked me if I would be the defensive coordinator, and I thought about it, and I think that Liberty has got a lot of talent and we want to take that talent and win championships," Sills said. "I was interested. I came and talked to him, and I liked what he had to say. He has a commitment to excellence, and we were going to work to be a championship football team because that is what you want to be."

The kids at the local high schools have a wealth of talent, he said, and if he could help a few of the players at Liberty go on to bigger and better things, he definitely wanted to be a part of it.

"There is a lot of talent in Liberty County," Sills said. "I see it every year. ... You see cats that have gone on to play in Division I football. We have one playing in the NFL, and that tells you that talent is there. When you put the talent with the work ethics, that's how championships are won."

Sills has some work to do. The Panthers lost several defensive players who contributed solid performances last season.

Liberty lost Anthony Dabson, who posted

10 sacks and 72 tackles last year.

Melvin King, who is set to play football at Georgia State, had 65 tackles and two sacks last year.

Also gone are Javious James (61 tackles), Tay Tay Bacon (59), Marcus LeCounte (56) and Rodney Goffney (48), all of whom put up big numbers for the Panthers last season.

But the Panthers do have several players who were sophomores and juniors last season and already have seen some varsity action.

"There are some guys that got some playing time last year, like Jeremy Caldwell and Cory Lazenby," Warner said. "Those guys are going to be junior and seniors that played a lot but had not necessarily started games."

Lazenby is slated to play defensive end in addition to his kicking duties. He made 45 tackles, deflected two passes and blocked a field goal last season. As a punter, he had 27 punts for a total of 872 yards.

Warner said the team also has a crop of new players to help the defense this year.

"We still have some young bucks that haven't been in the fire as much as we'd liked

SILLS continues on 15

GOT A GAME PLAN?

Contact us today and we'll help you create a winning game plan to help you reach your goal!

OFFENSE

Mortgage and Auto Loans, Buying your first or second home, buying a new or used car or truck.

EXTRA POINTS

Home Equity Loans for home improvement or educational expenses.

DEFENSE

Savings options with security and long-term value in mind.

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham or Liberty Counties.



912-368-2477

www.geovistacu.com



A look at the Liberty County Panthers' 2012 schedule

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

Aug. 31 at Bradwell

Most of the football players from Liberty and Bradwell know each other well and even play on the same recreational football teams, but all bets are off when it comes to a game that will count toward a win or loss.

The Tigers would love nothing more than to win their first game at their state-of-the-art, newly constructed Olvey Field. And the Panthers would like to initiate the turf at Olvey with a little LCHS pride.

According to ga.prepcountry.com, the Tigers lead the series, 4-0, from 2001 until '04, which was the last time the two schools played each other in the regular season.

BI shut out Liberty, 56-0 and 57-0, in the first two games documented online.

But when the Liberty County School System allowed the games between the two schools to resume as scrimmages in 2010, the Panthers have gone 2-0.

Folks should arrive early if they want to get good seats because a large crowd is expected for the game.

Sept. 7 at Appling County

The Pirates and the Panthers have played three times since 2001, and Appling County holds a 2-1 record against Liberty County.

According to maxpreps.com, the Pirates will start the season ranked No. 50 in the state.

Appling County finished 12-2 overall and 6-1 in Region 2-AA, clinching second place behind Pierce County last season. The team made it all the way to the state finals before falling to Calhoun.

Sept. 14 vs. Johnson

The Atomsmashers have posted back-to-back losing seasons the past two years and moved from Region 3-A-A-A-A to 1-A-A-A this year. According to maxpreps.com, they return the majority of their offense from last season, including their top quarterback, Shyheim Roberts; top wide receiver, Darell Myers; and running back Corbin Mitchell.

However, they are projected to return only four starters in their defense and have a very young secondary.

Sept. 14 vs. Cross Creek

The Razorbacks will make their first visit to Donell Woods Stadium this year as the Panthers' subregion opponent. The team

hailing from Augusta went 5-5 last season and finished 2-3 in Region 3S-AAA.

Now assigned to Region 3B-A-A-A-A, the Razorbacks are ranked No. 358 in the state. They averaged 24.3 points per game last season but allowed 34.8.

Sept. 28 at Hephzibah

Hephzibah is another subregion opponent, and the Panthers are 1-1 against them.

According to maxpreps.com, Hephzibah will return four offensive starters and four defensive starters this season, including their top two-way running back/defensive back, Marcus Smith.

The Rebels are coming off a dismal 1-9 season, and the Panthers are slated to be one of their toughest opponents this year.

Oct. 5 vs. Glenn Hills

Glenn Hills is another team trying to improve on a 1-9 season last year.

The Spartans, also from Augusta, beat the Panthers, 22-13, in 2004; 35-34 in 2005; and 35-27 in 2006. The Panthers finally earned a 28-8 victory in 2007.

The Spartans will start the season ranked No. 400 in the state and are used to competing against some of the larger powerhouse programs like Washington County; Burke County; and Lakeside, Evans.

Moving from 3S-AAA to 3B-A-A-A-A will give the Spartans a chance to be more competitive and make a run for a region title.

Oct. 12 at Statesboro

The Blue Devils will start the 2012 campaign ranked No. 88 in the state. But Statesboro lost a good chunk of the players who took them to back-to-back region championships. The Blue Devils will return only five veterans on offense.

LCHS has played tough against Statesboro. The Panthers made a statement in 2010 by handing the Blue Devils the first of three losses with a 29-0 shutout at Donell Woods Stadium.

Last year, Statesboro avenged the loss with a 17-14 victory.

Oct. 26 vs. Wayne Co.

Head coach Jody Grooms turned the Yellow Jackets around after they posted back-to-back losing seasons in 2008 and '09.

With emerging quarterback Greyson Lambert on board, the Yellow Jackets had a 5-5 season in 2010 before faltering a bit and finishing 4-5-1 last season.

Lambert is playing at Virginia now, and the Jesup squad will be somewhat inexperienced at the quarterback spot.

The Wayne County team has a 2-0 record against LCHS, but again, the final scores don't tell the whole story.

Last year, it was a battle to the finish, but the Jesup team won, 21-20.

In addition to the Liberty-Bradwell matchup, this is another fan favorite. It has evolved into a good local rivalry, and this season they are region opponents.

Nov. 2 at South Effingham

The Mustangs have a 6-1 record against the Panthers since 2001.

The last time these two squads faced off, the Panthers tamed the wild Mustangs, 50-24.

Much like the Panthers, the Mustangs will return eight offensive starters, including veteran quarterback Brandon James and running back Josh Mercer.

While they will field only four veterans on defense, they are slated to have a lot of

2012 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 at Bradwell Institute

Sept. 7 at Appling County

Sept. 14 vs. Johnson High School

Sept. 21 vs. Cross Creek

Sept. 28 at Hephzibah

Oct. 5 vs. Glenn Hills

Oct. 12 at Statesboro*

Oct. 26 vs. Wayne County*

Nov. 2 at South Effingham*

Nov. 9 vs. region play-in opponent

Notes:

All games start at 7:30 p.m.

Bold denotes home games at Donell Woods Stadium

* Denotes region opponent

experience on the offensive and defensive lines.

Nov. 9 vs. region play-in opponent

The Panthers will host a region opponent based on their record to determine final seeding for the playoffs.

TAKING CARE OF ALL YOUR FOOT AND ANKLE NEEDS



(912) 876-8637



All Ways Feet Of GA, PC Henry A. Taylor, II, D.P.M.
127 MacArthur Drive, Hinesville • Open Monday - Thursday
"Let us love your feet"

Move

Continued from page 12

have some good, young backs, but it definitely is going to be backs by committee and it is going to start up front with our offensive line.”

A critical area for the Panthers last year was the inability to add extra points or kick deep punts.

More often than not, the Panthers would try for the two-point conversion instead of attempting to kick the extra point. But this year, the coaches think they have a better kicking game to help the special-teams unit.

“We still have our punter, Corey Lazenby, and we have our kicker, Joaquin Lemapu, moving up,” Warner said. “He played linebacker for us last year, too, and he has been a pleasant surprise over the summer, so I think things will pick up in our kicking game.”

Glazer said both kickers also play defense.

“They practice defense then afterwards go kick, and they’ve been

practicing kickoffs and punt returns right now,” Glazer said. “Last year, it killed us where we scored a touchdown and we would miss the extra point, and when you look at the scoreboard and you see six, it’s not the same as seeing those seven points. It just seems like a big difference.”

Former kicker Adrien Vakerics was pretty solid, Glazer said, but the Panthers were spoiled when they had Eddie Chipple, who served as a solid kicker and punter for four seasons.

Not having Thornton or Sam Carter to return punts is another area the Panthers are addressing this year.

“We don’t have the burning speed that we’ve had in the past, but we have consistency — where if you give them a crease, they can make some things happen,” Warner said. “We were really disappointed in our special teams overall last year, so it’s been a focal point this summer and we expect to see a lot of improvement.”

SILLS

Continued from page 13

to, but they are some big bodies,” Warner said. “One of them, Jonathan Britton, has been a pleasant surprise. He is a big kid — about 6-foot-2 and 275 pounds — and we expect him to have a good season this year and keep those linemen off our backs.”

Senior Taison Walls returns to the defense this season after posting 26 tackles last year.

Randal Greenlee (23 tackles) and Greg Roman (18) also bring back some experience to the Panthers’ squad.

There are several juniors and seniors slated to play on the defensive line, but the Panthers still need to develop some depth there.

“I think we have potential, but there are a lot of people buried in the graveyard of potential,” Sils said. “I think the talent is there, but I think we have to work on the fundamentals.”

He said fundamentals are key.

“You have to be physically tough and mentally tough to play defense, especially in Quad-A football,” Sils said. “Talent won’t pay the bills, but we are going to keep working and we are going to get there.”

And even with standout line-backer Raekwon McMillan returning to the lineup, Sils said everyone still has things to learn — even the possible No. 1 prospect for the class of 2014.

“You still want to work on the fundamentals, even with someone like Raekwon,” Sils said. “The angle you take to the ball, fundamentals, it’s really no different than any other kid out here. ...

“You have to know where you have to be. It’s alignment and assignment — you have to get lined up right, and you have to know what you are supposed to do.”

But Sils added that he does expect a lot out of McMillan.

“What I do expect from Raekwon is to be a leader out there,” he said. “I don’t care about the stars or rankings. This defense is about

11 guys who will go out there and do something special, because if Raekwon walked away tomorrow, I would say, ‘Next man up.’”

Sils said the defense has to work as a unit. He said the Panthers have several players who are equally special but conceded that McMillan does add a spark.

“Now does Raekwon have all the talent in the world? He’s got it. Whatever it is, he has it,” Sils said. “But it’s about creating a team atmosphere.”

“We have 11 guys that have to work together as one heartbeat, and then we can win championships. I think Raekwon would tell you he cares less about the stars and more about a championship.”

Sils said he’s watched games tapes from last season as many as five times each.

“And I would tell you the breakdown was fundamentals,” he said. “The breakdown was playing together as a defense. We have to learn to play for each other. We have to do things the right way.”

**GO TIGERS!
GO PANTHERS!
GO HIGHLANDERS!**



FREE McDouble[®]
on Game Night

Expires 10/31/12. Valid only at participating Hinesville, GA McDonald's. Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or combo meal. Cash value 1/20 of 1c. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Coupon may not be transferred, auctioned, sold, copied or duplicated in any way or transmitted via electronic media. Valid when product served. May not be valid for custom orders. ©2012 McDonald's.



i'm lovin' it[®]

2012 TIGERS COACHES



Left to right: Derek Sills, Daryl McCulley, Josh Davis, Corbin Stripling, Ryan Glazer, Kirk Warner, Nathan Mims, James Sharp, Sam Richards.

KEEPING YOU IN THE GAME



**Bone & Joint
INSTITUTE**
OF SOUTH GEORGIA
BJISG.com



J. Lex Kenerly, MD



J. Matthew Valosen, MD

HINESVILLE: 473 South Main Street
BAXLEY: 110 East Tollison Street
JESUP: 110 Professional Court
(866) 806-0800 • (912) 427-0800



2012 TIGERS COACHES



Seated, Joseph Smiley, Frank Troup, Jim Walsh, Quillie Jones, Duane Johnson.

Standing left to right: Jim Brady, Casey Phillips, John Wood, Jeff Miller, Chris Reed, Justin Peterman, Mike Stanford, Ken Griffin.

KEEPING YOU IN THE GAME



J. Lex Kenerly, MD



J. Matthew Valosen, MD



**Bone & Joint
INSTITUTE**
OF SOUTH GEORGIA
BJISG.com

HINESVILLE: 473 South Main Street

BAXLEY: 110 East Tollison Street

JESUP: 110 Professional Court

(866) 806-0800 • (912) 427-0800





The Tigers will debut their newly constructed Olvey Field at the regular season opener Aug. 31, hosting cross-town rivals Liberty County High School at 7:30 p.m. The new stadium has a seating capacity of 6,083; features a state of the art high definition scoreboard and an Internet ready press box.

Patty Leon

Tigers will debut a new Olvey Field in season opener

New stadium rivals small college facilities

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

The Bradwell Tigers will enter a new era this season as they debut their newly constructed Olvey Field at the regular-season home opener Aug. 31 against Liberty County High School.

The original Olvey Field dated back to the early 1950s and was constructed by a former local Jaycee organization known as the Lions Club of Hinesville.

According to previous Courier reports and Bradwell Institute's website, the original Olvey Field was constructed under the leadership of Glenn Bryant, who owned Hinesville Telephone, now known as CenturyLink; Ed Edwards, a former BI principal and teacher; and countless other volunteers who donated their time and money to revive the football program after a brief hiatus due to World War II.

The organization built the field, installed the lighting system and bought the team uniforms. In 1956, the club added 500 stadium seats to the existing 200.

The field was named to honor Lee Donne Olvey, a 1950 BI valedictorian, West Point graduate and Rhodes Scholar at Oxford who later retired as a brigadier general from the U.S. Army. Meanwhile, the original field house was named after Edwards.

The stadium was renovated and upgraded

throughout the years, but wear and tear and the desire to have the stadium face north and south, as most stadiums do, led the Liberty County School System to approve the funding for a new field house and stadium.

The field house was constructed first. Soon after the 2011 football season, Pinnacle Construction was awarded the bid and began demolishing and reconstructing Olvey Field.

The finished product, which cost just under \$7 million and rivals many Division II college stadiums, features a seating capacity of 6,083; an interactive high-definition scoreboard; and an Internet-ready press box.

"It looks absolutely great, and I think it is a real boost for the team and the community," LCSS Superintendent Dr. Judy Scherer said. "It certainly should create a sense of pride at Bradwell and Bradwell football with their strong tradition. We are very pleased we have been able to provide that for them."

Jim Walsh, who is entering his 18th year as the team's coach, said the stadium and new facilities are a boost for the team's morale and a great resource for the community.

"It is going to be a facility that I think will be good for the community," he said, adding that the capacity will allow them to host state championships as well as the Liberty County Recreation Department, if needed. "We have something to be really proud of, and we are very proud of it. The kids get to see it every day from the practice field; the field house is just exceptional. I mean it compares to some of your top Division II programs. It is definitely something that is exciting to the kids

compared to what we had in the past."

But preserving the past is equally important to Walsh, who said he doesn't want the new stadium to erase BI's state title and 10 region championships that were marked on the old field house.

"It was small and old, but it had a lot of history to it, and that is the thing that you always want to keep associated with it," Walsh said. "And we are going to make sure that (history) stays a part of the stadium. ... The fact that the Lions Club — they built it. A bunch of men from this community got together and did something for the local high school, and that is still a significant part of the history of the stadium"

Walsh said the team is planning several small events for the upcoming season to honor and recognize the field's history and the people who made it possible.

Defensive coordinator Jeff Miller said the new field might be the shot in the arm that the team needs to turn things around and produce a winning season.

"We have a new beginning. ... We have a new stadium, a new field house, we are going to break out new jerseys this year, new game pants, new region, new teams," he said. "The past is the past; you can only learn from it, you can't live in it. If you live in the past, you are going to repeat the same mistakes. ... This senior class has gone 6-5, 3-7 and 1-9, so there is a lot of negative stuff in the past that we are trying to get rid of and we are wiping the slate clean."

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

New offensive line coach Jim Brady, who has coached high school football for 35 years and has seen his fair share of stadiums, said Olvey Field is gorgeous.

"I've been to a lot of places, and I've never seen a high school stadium any nicer than this — and I've seen some nice ones," he said. "It's a beautiful facility, and I know our kids are going to be proud of it, and we want to put some W's up in this new stadium."

Quarterbacks coach Frank Troup: "When you come out here to practice, knowing that field is in your backyard, if that doesn't make you better each time you come out here, then you don't need to play football."

Running backs coach Quillie Jones said the stadium is beautiful. "I love that stadium. It is state of the art, and it is giving us more pride," he said. "We want to fill up seats and we know we have to put points on the board, and these kids have bought into the program and coach Walsh. It's a matter of pride. That is a beautiful stadium and we are thankful to the community for putting it in for us, and now we have to produce."

OLVEY continues on 7

Tiger offense looks to produce points, wins in 2012

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

The Bradwell Tigers are taking a lot of pride in their new stadium, field house and uniforms this year. The one thing that could top the experience would be to produce a winning season after a 1-9 finish last year.

Head coach Jim Walsh, who is planning to keep the option offense this season, said the summer strength training and conditioning should help to curb the injuries that have plagued the team in the past.

Much like every year, some players graduate and others come back with a little bit more experience.

The Tigers — who are starting the year ranked No. 10,261 in the nation and No. 361 in the state — say the new facilities are boosting their morale. While a few players in key skilled positions are set to return, Walsh still is looking to fill some gaps as he and the coaching staff break down the Tigers' 2012 offense.

Quarterback

After spending the past two seasons as the starting quarterback for the junior varsity squad, LeBaron Anthony will take the lead on varsity as the Tigers' starting quarterback. Anthony brings with him varsity experience as the backup quarterback to former starter Myrese Cobb.

As the season progressed last year, Anthony became more visible in varsity games

as Walsh started to groom his incoming starter and Cobb prepared to graduate.

"Obviously, the quarterback is key to what we do, being an option team," Walsh said. "Anthony has gotten a lot bigger, and with two years under his belt now, he has a better concept of the offense.

"The times he came in for us in his freshman and sophomore years, he did a great job for us. We have a lot of confidence in him, and now it's his time, and I think he is ready for it to happen."

Anthony is a double threat as an efficient passer who also can tuck the ball away and use his speed to run by defenders.

"He is more confident this year than he was last year," quarterbacks coach Frank Troup said of Anthony.

Walsh said he has a good crop of kids who are battling for a backup spot.

"Hubert Anderson has looked good," he said. "We also have a couple of young kids we are very high on — very athletic kids. It will be interesting when we get further into our fall practice and see how the whole thing breaks down."

Troup said he is excited to see the level of competition at the quarterback position this year.

"These kids are hungry and want to get Bradwell back to its glory of football the way it was when I was playing and before I was playing," he said. "They are out here working

hard, and they know that will pay off on a Friday night."

Offensive line

The Tigers lacked size and experience on the offensive line the past two seasons.

Their best player on the O-line last season was Chester Brown, who didn't start playing football until his freshman year at BL.

Brown went on to receive offers from several Division I schools and verbally committed to the University of Georgia before the university's immigration policy forced him to rescind his commitment. Brown eventually signed with the University of Central Florida and is slated to start as a defensive lineman.

The Tigers also lost linemen Aaron Jacobs, Trevon Harris and Emilio Santiago. But because Walsh was forced to start younger players the past two seasons, the line this season will have plenty of experience and more size.

"We've been really small the last few seasons compared to our normal standards," the head coach said. "And that seems to be the area where we have been devastated with injuries, so in the spring we started to get some guys in the weight room, and we will have some size now."

Walsh also added a new offensive line coach to his staff. Coach Jim Brady, who brings 35 years of coaching experience to the table, spent 25 years coaching in Alabama and 10 years in Tennessee.

Brady said he wanted to make sure the line-

men learn how to make the right steps and cuts at the proper angle and concentrate on all the little things that the position requires.

"It comes down to the fundamentals," he said. "If you have the fundamentals right, then it really doesn't matter. ... We have some good kids and they are working hard, but you never let the fundamentals drop down. So we work on that every day."

Walsh also is shifting a few players around to help solidify the offensive front.

Marvin Walthour will move from the defensive line to the offensive line.

Sterling Burns, who returns to the line as a junior, saw a lot of action up front last year.

Chris Wells is an incoming senior shifting to the offensive line after seeing action on the offensive and defensive lines last season.

Brady said Burns is poised to be the starting center.

"Burns and Wells are two solid guys on the line for us," Walsh said, adding that he also has some newcomers who have been quite impressive during the spring and summer workouts.

"Joe Bulnez is a rising tenth-grader who has some size and really worked his tail off in the summer.

"Gyre Williams is a kid that we got who has a huge body and is mobile. Kyrese Smalls will definitely add size on the line for us.

PRODUCE continues on 7



Patty Leon

Darren Tatum, Hubert Anderson and starting Tiger quarterback LaBaron Anthony practice hand-off drills during practice. Anthony has taken reps since his freshman season and has a good understanding of the Tigers' offensive scheme.

STAY ACTIVE WITH LCRD Annual Programs

Program	Age	Sign Up	Runs
After School Program	K-5th Grade	July	Aug-May
Aerobics	12 & up	August	all year
Football	7-12	August	Sept-Nov
Football Cheerleading	7-12	August	Sept-Nov
Soccer	4-17	August	Sept-Nov
Fall Baseball	7-12	August	Sept-Nov
Tae Kwon Do	7 & up	August	Sept-May
Weightlifting Team	8 & up	August	all year
Adult Flag Football	16 & up	November	Dec-Jan
Basketball	7-17	November	Dec-Feb
Basketball Cheerleading	7-12	November	Dec-Feb
Adult Basketball	18 & up	December	Jan-Feb
Volleyball	10-adult	February	March- April
Track & Field	7-14	February	March-April
Spring Soccer	4-15	February	March-April
Adult Soccer	16 & up	February	March-April
Spring Camp	6-14	February	TBA
Baseball & Softball	4-15	March	April-June
Adult Softball	16 & up	March	April-July
Summer Programs	4-17	May-July	June-August

*day camp, sports programs, aquatics, instructional programs, and more!

On-line registration and additional information is available at www.lcrd.net

LCRD Liberty County Recreation Department
876-5359 • 448-5263 • lcrd@coastalnow.net

Former DC Jeff Miller back to rebuild Tigers' defense

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

After spending one season coaching Bradwell's offensive line, assistant coach Jeff Miller is back in familiar territory as the Tigers' defensive coordinator. Among Miller's first tasks is rebuilding a defense that lost several players — including Jahlil Witt, the Courier's Tiger Player of the Year last season.

In fact, Miller has to rebuild the entire defensive secondary.

But the Tigers do have Jordan Portley, a returning veteran with lots of experience, and Miller said he thinks there are a few other kids who will step up as well.

"Right now we are just trying to get them all straightened out," the defensive coordinator said. "We do have Greg Howard coming back at linebacker, and we have Khalil Harris coming back as a defensive lineman, and everybody else we have to find.

"We are getting close, and we are starting to find the pieces. If we can get all the pieces going, we will be OK defensively."

Former running back Quonte Haggray will start as a defensive end and fill in as needed

at the fullback position. Miller said Haggray is a big-bodied guy who can get things done on both sides of the ball.

But Miller added that the Bradwell squad is trying to develop depth to avoid having too many kids play both ways. The Tigers have had to rely on two-way players in the past, Miller said, and once injuries set in, it left too many gaps — forcing them to start inexperienced players.

"We know some kids are going to have to be on both sides of the ball, but we are trying to keep it where you have your starting 11 on offense, your starting 11 on defense, and then some kids may have to switch over in certain situations," he said.

The Tigers stayed busy in the off-season by conditioning and lifting weights to improve their overall health and stamina. Miller said the players also did an hour of speed and agility training four days per week.

"We've seen our times go down in the 40-yard dash; our quickness improved as well as our strength," the defensive coordinator said. "We have a lot of unknown right now. We have some kids that might have played in spots last year, some that played on offense a little bit but

are now shifting to defense and vice versa.

"We don't have a lot of experience on defense, but we have a lot of want to. ... They want to be good, and they want to make themselves the best they can be," he continued. "It is going to take some of these guys some reps in games to get their feet underneath them."

Miller said he plans to keep the defense simple and run a 50 defensive scheme.

"Everything we do will stem from the 50, but we will be multiple in the secondary and up front," he added.

Miller said he is looking forward to playing new teams in Region 3-A-A-A-A-A, which no longer includes Camden County.

"With Camden County, we never seemed to be able to get over the hump," he said. "Even when we had a chance, we couldn't get over the hump."

Miller said the Tigers never have played against Ware County, Effingham or Richmond Hill. Bradwell has scrimmaged or played against Wayne County and Liberty in the past, and the Tigers have a history of playing against the remaining teams on the schedule as well.

Linebackers coach Mike Stanford confirmed that Howard will be the starting middle line-

backer and will play a dominant role for the defense this year. He said incoming senior Chance Mooney and sophomore Shaun Machino also will see a lot of reps.

"We have some young kids that are learning as we go, so it's really exciting to have some guys that already know our system and what to expect," Stanford said. "The linebackers seem to be very excited to be making the move to the new scheme and new philosophies, and they are adapting to them very well.

"We are getting a lot of effort, a lot of positive attitudes and these kids don't accept doing things the wrong way," he continued. "They want to do it until they get it right. Last year as the season progressed, some of the personnel didn't have that same type of attitude; they got discouraged a little bit."

As for the defensive line, coach Justin Peterman said Harris is his lone returning starter.

"We are really relying on him," Peterman said, adding that the rest of the line is still open.

He said the competition for spots was going well in the spring, but during the last few weeks of summer, it dropped off a bit as players

DEFENSE continues on 6



It's Football Season. High Five!

For everything life throws your way.
Open 7 days a week • Walk-Ins always welcome
Most insurance accepted.

TRICARE? Yes... Even on weekends! Call us for details.



SOUTH GEORGIA
IMMEDIATE
CARE CENTER

780 East Oglethorpe Hwy
at General Stewart Way
(912) 332-7262

www.YourImmediateCareCenters.com

Bradwell Institute faces tough challenges in new Region 3-AAAAA

New lineup includes Effingham County, Glynn, Richmond Hill, Ware Co.

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

State powerhouse Camden County no longer is in Region 3-AAAAA due to the most recent reclassification and Bradwell Institute will start the season ranked No. 361 in the state. Here is a brief glimpse of the teams the Tigers will face in the 2012 campaign.

Aug. 31: regular-season opener vs. Liberty County

Before the matchups between Bradwell Institute and Liberty County High School were halted in 2005, the Tigers had a 4-0 record against their crosstown rivals since 2001.

In 2001 and 2002, the Tigers shut out the Panthers, beating them 56-0 and 57-0, respectively. In 2003 and 2004, the Tigers won both games by more than 20 points.

But in 2010 when the Liberty County School System allowed the two schools to resume play in annual scrimmages, the Panthers took back-to-back victories.

Both schools will lay it on the line again as they open up the regular season at the newly constructed Olvey Field. This time around, the final score will count toward a win or loss and local bragging rights.

Sept. 7 at Savannah High (Memorial Stadium)

Bradwell was 9-0 against Savannah High from 2001-09, according to ga.prepcountry.com.

In 2010, the Blue Jackets stunned the Tigers with a 14-10 victory and last year surprised the BI squad with a 42-29 win. It was one of two Blue Jackets wins last season; they finished 2-8 overall and 2-6 in Region 3-AAAAA.

By contrast, the Tigers scored four consecutive shutouts against the Blue Jackets from 2006-09, outscoring Savannah High, 162-0. From 2001-05, the Tigers outscored the Blue Jackets, 207-26. The Blue Jackets struggled in 2008 and '09, going winless both seasons.

This year, the Blue Jackets move to Region 1-AAA.

Sept. 14 at Charlton County

Bradwell will venture to Folkston to take on the Charlton County Indians, who were ranked No. 171 in the state last year.

In 2010, the Indians tomahawked the Tigers, 42-10. Last year, the Tigers fared a bit better but still lost, 22-14.

Last season, the Region 2-A powerhouse finished 10-2 overall and 7-1 in the region.

Sept. 28: Region opener vs. Effingham County

The Tigers will open Region 3-AAAAA play at home against Effingham County. According to ga.prepcountry.com, it is the first time these two teams have played since 2003.

Bradwell beat the Rebels, 24-14, in 2002 and 22-2 in '03.

In 2010, the Rebels finished 6-4 overall and 4-1 in Region 2B-AAAA. They struggled last season and went winless in region play, finishing 2-8 overall.

Oct. 6 at Jenkins (Memorial Stadium)

Region play will continue on the road as the Tigers travel to play the Jenkins Warriors. The Tigers are 7-4 against the Warriors since 2001.

But in the past two seasons, Jenkins has improved in Region 3-AAAAA. In 2010, Jenkins beat Bradwell, 35-14. Last year, the Warriors had another dominant performance against BI — a 31-5 victory in the Tigers' homecoming game.

But this season, the Warriors will be without their starting quarterback, A.J. Gilford, who graduated. The Warriors also lost their top running back, Terron Bradham, as well as 12 other seniors who graduated.

Oct. 12 at Windsor Forest

The Tigers' third region game likely will feature Bradwell's second-toughest opponent in region action, now that Camden County has moved up to Class AAAAAA.

The Windsor Forest Knights finished 6-4-1 overall and 6-2 in the region last year, which was good for second place.

The Knights return their top wide receiver,

Tremayne Trawick; top running back, Esai Morrison; and top defensive back, Craig Sheffield; but did lose their starting quarterback, Aaron Hughes, to graduation.

The Tigers are 7-4 against the Knights.

Oct. 19 vs. Glynn Academy

Formerly a non-region opponent, Glynn Academy now is on Bradwell's radar as a region foe. Almost evenly split, the Red Terrors have a one-game advantage on the Tigers with a 6-5 record against Bradwell since 2001.

Last year, the Red Terrors finished second in Region 2A-AAAA with an 8-3 overall record and 3-2 region mark.

Glynn Academy is set to return eight offensive players, including its top running back, Jonathan Alford. The Red Terrors will return seven defensive players, including their top defensive end, C.J. Welch, and linebacker Cannon Thomas.

According to maxpreps.com, one of the Red Terrors' strengths this year is the return of all their offensive skill players. Their weakness is a lack of kicking consistency.

The Red Terrors come into the 2012 season ranked No. 46 in the state.

Oct. 26 at Richmond Hill

Richmond Hill is a new opponent for Bradwell now that they are in Region 3-AAAAA together.

In 2011, third-year coach Lyman Guy guided the Wildcats to their first winning season since 1996. They finished 6-4 overall and 1-4 in Region 2A-AAAA.

The Wildcats return senior quarterback Dominique Allen, who has already committed to Air Force Academy, and preseason All-State kicker Canon Rooker.

Nov. 2 vs. Ware County

The Tigers will welcome another new region opponent, Ware County, to Olvey Field in what is likely to be their toughest game on the schedule.

Ware County, poised to replace Camden County as the region powerhouse, finished as the Region 2A-AAAA champ last year after

2012 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 vs. Liberty County High School

Sept. 7 at Savannah High, Memorial Stadium

Sept. 14 at Charlton County

Sept. 28 vs. Effingham County*

Oct. 6 at Jenkins, Memorial Stadium, 5:30 p.m. (Saturday)*

Oct. 13 at Windsor Forest, Memorial Stadium*

Oct. 19 vs. Glynn Academy*

Oct. 26 at Richmond Hill High School*

Nov. 2 vs. Ware County*

Nov. 9 vs. Groves*

Notes:

All games are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays unless otherwise noted

Bold games are home games at Olvey Field

* Denotes region opponent

going 5-0 and 10-3 overall.

The Waycross Gators are coming in ranked No. 22 in the state and made it to the third round of the state playoffs last year. It was their sixth consecutive appearance in the state playoffs.

Nov. 9 vs. Groves

The Tigers close out the regular season at home against Region 3-AAAAA opponent Groves High School.

The Tigers are 8-3 against the Rebels since 2001 with Groves taking back-to-back wins in 2010 and '11. The Rebels finished 6-4 overall and 4-4 in the region last season, clinching fourth place.

This year, the Rebels will have to run the ball without Juwan Johnson, who is headed to Valdosta State. Johnson rushed for 1,049 yards and 15 touchdowns in his senior year as a Rebel.

Last year, the Tigers were able to hold him to 87 yards in a defensive slugfest that ended when Johnson scored on a 4-yard run for a 6-0 win at Olvey Field.

DEFENSE

Continued from page 5

finished what was left of their vacation with family.

“Now we are just starting to get them back

and acclimated to all our plays, and they have to go through this five-day period before we can even get them in shoulder pads,” Peterman said. “What we are trying to do now is run them through the schemes and the plays, so hopefully when they get their pads on we will see who can hit and who can’t.”

Defensive backs coach Casey Phillips said the coaching staff changed a few things on defense and that he was going to start from ground zero.

He also said he has high hopes for his veteran returner, Jordan Portley.

“Jordan Portley is about to show out,” Phil-

lips said. “He is going to open up some eyes this year if he plays the way he is capable of and that he’s been showing so far. He might have a chance to get a scholarship.”

The defensive backs coach said they have been working on techniques and developing mental focus and toughness.

PRODUCE

Continued from page 4

“Charles Young is a kid coming out for the first time who had a good spring. Robert White is a hard-nosed kid, so I have some size.

“Four of these kids weigh 300-plus and they are agile. We definitely feel good about the O-line.”

Brady said he spoke to his potential linemen to make sure they understood that they have a job to do even if they may not get all the glory.

“We addressed that the other day at practice — the fact that they are not going to be in the paper much — but it has to be intrinsic things and it has to be that they know they did their jobs and that is why they won,” Brady said. “They know what they face and they know that offensive linemen are pretty unsung heroes, but they know they are important.”

Receivers/backfield

Andre Howell, Marsalis Jackson, Lord Smith and Maurice Davis all graduated, leaving the receiver and backfield corps without some of the



Tiger players go head to head during tackle drills.

Patty Leon

explosive speed and running skills that the Tigers typically are known for.

But once again, Bradwell fielded a few younger players last year who are expected to step up this season as veterans.

Senior DeAndre Day will return as the starting running back.

Walsh said incoming senior Quonte Haggray, who saw a lot of time at running back last season, primarily will play defense this year but could be used offensively in certain situations.

Running backs coach Quillie Jones said Day is returning from an injury he sustained late in the season last year but added that they expect

big things from him this year.

Tight ends coach Chris Reed said the field is wide open, and everyone will get a chance to earn a spot on the final roster.

“The athletes are working hard out here trying to learn the system every day,” he said. “As far as potential starters, we are still looking to develop our depth chart and positions.

“Everything is open,” Reed continued. “Football is a contact sport and everybody is out here fighting for a position, and just because you started last year doesn’t mean you will automatically start this year. The position is not going to be given to them; they have to earn it.”

OLVEY

Continued from page 3

“This is a new year, and they really want to do good this year, and that is half the battle.”

Defensive backs coach Casey Phillips also believes the stadium has reignited the team.

“I think it’s a big factor — first to get the kids to want to come out and play in the new stadium,” he said. “I think that was encouraging for them. They see the new facilities; they know we have new uniforms. ... It’s almost like a whole new program.

“They don’t want to come in and see all this nice stuff and be a bad team,” Phillips continued. “They want to be just as good as everything looks. I definitely think the kids are motivated to play and it’s motivated me to coach, so I’m looking forward to it.”

The Tigers will debut their stadium at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 31 when they host Liberty County High School, and Bradwell linebackers

coach Mike Stanford said he expects a full house.

Stanford, who attended Bradwell and Liberty County High School, said he could recall a time when the two schools played each other regularly. The frequent matchups were halted at some point, but now that they’re back on, he is looking forward to it.

“It gives both schools one game on the schedule that they know the community will be interested in,” Stanford said. “Hopefully it can stay positive and stay as friendly as a rivalry can be, knowing that we here at Bradwell want to beat them just as badly as I know Liberty wants to get the first win. ...

“Somebody has to get the first official win on this field. I know from Liberty’s perspective that they would like to have it in the history books that regardless of what has happened in the past, they got the first win in the new stadium, and we are going to do everything we can here at Bradwell to prevent that from happening.”

Have A Great Season!

Tigers, Panthers, and Highlanders!



The Heritage Bank

Member FDIC



Jeff Brunelli, MD
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

We'll Get You Back in the Game.

Whether you have an injury on or off the field, the skilled and experienced staff at Liberty Regional Medical Center are here to help you quickly get back in the game. Our expert Orthopedic Surgeon and Physical Therapists will evaluate your condition and put together a personalized treatment plan that's right for you.

Did we also mention...we're right here at home!



Liberty Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
Jeff Brunelli, MD
455 S. Main Street, Suite 106
912.369.0284

Liberty Regional Rehabilitation Center
514 S. Main Street, Suite A
912.369.9400

First Presbyterian launches new era with football team

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

It's the little school that can.

First Presbyterian Christian Academy has emerged as the small private school that can and has established a successful group of athletes and sports programs.

The boys' basketball team has won three state titles, several region titles and was last year's region champion and state runner-up. The girls' soccer team won the region championship and was the state runner-up last season, while the baseball team made it to the state playoffs as well.

The determination of the athletes and administration pushed FPCA to the No. 3 spot of Under Armour's Finding Undeniable Challenge, nearly netting it a \$140,000 prize. The support from the community and other schools helped FPCA topple several of its competitors — schools with more than three times the enrollment of FPCA.

Now the little school will dive into its first season of football, and athletic director and football coach Andy Yanzetich said he is both excited and nervous.

"I'm a little nervous — just trying to get everybody here at one time," he said. "We've had everybody come through, but not at one time. But the excitement of just playing football ... it hasn't been done here. They can always say they started something that hadn't been done and they were the first ones."

Many of FPCA's athletes play multiple sports. Like most private schools, it's the nature of the beast.

Yanzetich said players slowly started to trickle in during the spring and summer. Many of the potential football players were still finishing summer basketball. Other players have come over from baseball and soccer. The final roster might be small, but Yanzetich said they all are competitive athletes.

"We are definitely going to have a lot of players going both ways," the coach said. "We started off with just a small amount of players showing up. It has gotten bigger ... more players started getting on board, and we have a good group of athletes. I'm thinking we will probably have a roster of 25 and maybe even a little under that."

He added that the athletes at FPCA are used to playing year-round sports, have experience playing in big games and love to win.



Calling the play in the huddle, Domonique Kirkley is one of two quarterbacks the Highlanders will use this season. Kirkley and fellow basketball teammate Herbert Roberts each bring a specific skill to the Highlanders' run/pass game.

"They have won games playing in other sports, so that part we aren't worried about," the coach said.

In addition to his responsibilities as the athletic director and head coach, Yanzetich also will handle the offense this year.

"We are going to run the spread offense, so it takes time and gelling together and being on the same page," he said. "The timing between quarterbacks and receivers has to be right; the linemen have to work together to pick up the blitz packages."

The head coach said the offense is starting to catch on to the playbook.

"And that was the main thing," Yanzetich said. "We have a big, elusive offensive playbook, and we are trying to simplify it. Once we did that and everybody understood it, we could add to it. I think everyone has a pretty good grasp on what we are trying to do offensively."

He said the hardest group to develop, at first, will be the linemen.

"It will be pretty obvious who fits the lineman type," the coach said. "Right off the bat we are not going to have a lot of linemen."

Yanzetich has keyed in on two players who will guide his offense this season. Domonique Kirkley and Herbert Roberts both are slated

to take snaps as quarterbacks.

"I think they both bring something different to the table," the coach said. "They also bring something to the halfback position that we need. We plan to switch them off."

Yanzetich said Kirkley runs the ball well and likely will be used in the short passing game.

"He is real smart and understands the game well," the coach said.

He added that Roberts has a bigger arm and can be utilized to stretch the field, "so it depends on what the opposing defense throws at us," Yanzetich said.

Kirkley, who has experience playing AAU football, has traveled to two national tournaments. He has taken reps at quarterback with other teams and said he is extremely confident at the position.

Kirkley said his basketball training helps him stay agile, and he knows he can tuck and run with the ball if needed.

He said the first year will be tough but added that he is ready to make his mark.

"We are very serious, and we will try and make some noise this year," Kirkley said.

Roberts, another basketball player trying his hand at football, said his athleticism definitely will help the team this season. Roberts

played football in middle school, passed the ball well during practice sessions and had steady hands when receiving.

"I plan to give 100 percent wherever they play me," Roberts said.

Yanzetich said Chris Guilfo, who also plays basketball, brings a lot of speed to the squad and likely will suit up as a wide receiver and defensive back.

FPCA has received one transfer student, Trevon Harris, who played football at Bradwell Institute. Yanzetich said they bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, size and strength to the Highlanders' squad.

Harris said he has played football since he was 4 years old.

"And I'm just trying to do whatever I can to help the team," he said.

Yanzetich said his biggest concern at the moment is the special-teams unit.

"Our guys are already playing both ways, and then we have to throw some of them in for special teams as well," he said.

FPCA soccer coach Tom Sukaratana has volunteered to work with the kickers, and a few players are interested in the job.

Patty Leon



Patty Leon

FPCA's new Athletic Director and head football coach Andy Yanzetich (rear far right) watches as his players learn to read the gaps and find open receivers during practice.

Familiar name to lead Highlanders football

BY PATTY LEON

pleon@coastalcourier.com

First Presbyterian Christian Academy is expanding its sports program this year with the launch of its inaugural football season.

New athletic director and football coach Andy Yanzetich will lead the team.

From Lilburn, Yanzetich brings 16 years of college and high school coaching experience to FPCA. He is the younger brother of former Liberty County High School baseball coach Kenny Yanzetich.

His most recent coaching post was as the head of player and team development for Savannah's Chain Baseball and head coach of the Chain showcase team.

He also has been the assistant baseball coach at South Georgia Junior College, an assistant coach at Milton High School and an assistant coach for the football, baseball and softball programs at Liberty County High School and Long County High School.

He earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Armstrong Atlantic State University and Concordia University and soon will receive his master's degree in athletics and coaching administration. He currently teaches at Lewis Frasier Middle School.

During the spring and summer, Yanzetich met with school administration, potential

coaches and parents to discuss the program and organize efforts to get uniforms, equipment and a booster club.

Once he had the coaches in place, the staff worked on gathering potential players and learning the offensive and defensive schemes.

Daniel Dotson will coach the wide receivers and defensive backs. Coastal Crew Rebels basketball coach Reginald Castile will run the defense.

Yanzetich said he has been looking forward to getting ready for the Highlanders' first season on the gridiron.

"I feel it can add to the school pride, bring in more students and help us fund the programs better," he said. "The (football) atmosphere when I was in school ... it was a great thing.

"It's not going to be a huge football program, but it will bring in a lot more to the community," Yanzetich continued. "I've watched the basketball team ... and the basketball program is huge at FPCA, and football can be the same thing. ... It's going to be a success."

For the inaugural season, FPCA will play its home games at Long Bell Stadium at the Liberty Independent Troop Park behind the National Guard Armory on Oglethorpe Highway.

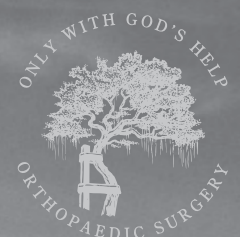
TGIF

(THANK GOODNESS IT'S FALL)

When you're sidelined by injury, the **Bone & Joint Institute of South Georgia** is ready to get you back in the game. **BJISG** is a state-of-the-art facility with on-site X-Ray, Open MRI, and an ambulatory surgery center with digital surgical suites designed exclusively for orthopaedic surgeries.

From a sprain to a severe injury requiring surgery, **BJISG** is the first choice for the treatment.

SPORTS MEDICINE
ARTHROSCOPY
HIP & KNEE REPLACEMENTS
ROTATOR CUFF TEARS
CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME
ACL TEARS
KNEE CARTILAGE TEARS
TENNIS ELBOW
FRACTURE TREATMENT
HAND SURGERY
FOOT & ANKLE SURGERY
...and much more!



Bone & Joint INSTITUTE

OF SOUTH GEORGIA

BJISG.com

HINESVILLE 473 South Main Street

BAXLEY 110 E. Tollison Street

JESUP 110 Professional Court

(866) 806-0800