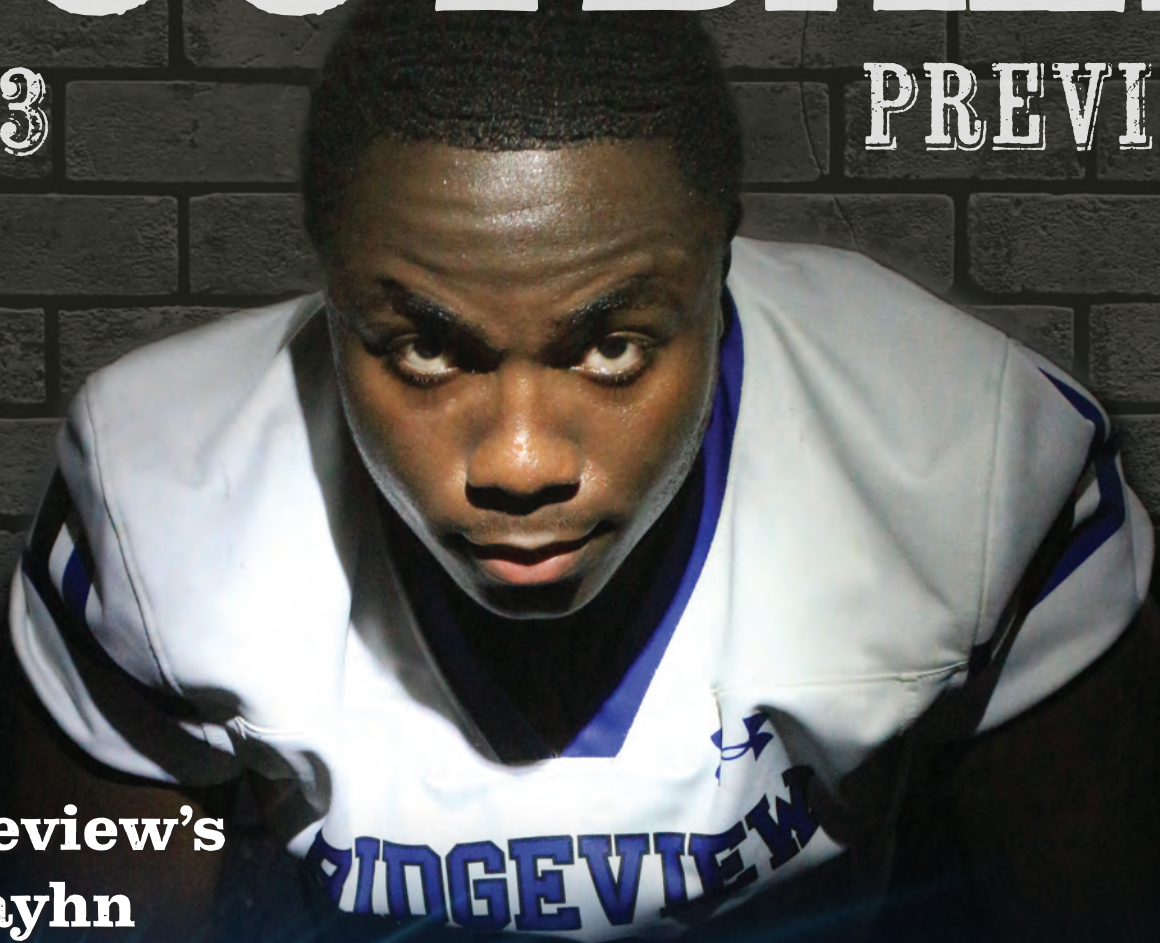


CLAY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

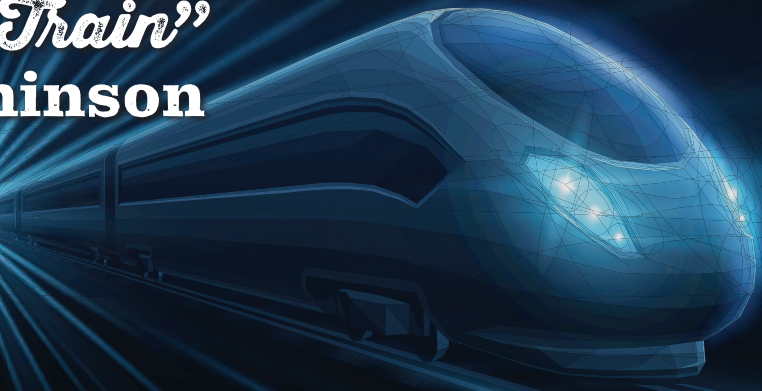
# FOOTBALL

2023

PREVIEW



Ridgeview's  
Rayhn  
*"The Train"*  
Hutchinson



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TODAY  
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**SUPER 11** CLAY COUNTY'S BEST • PG. 5

**GAME ANALYSIS** WHO BEATS WHO? • PG 52-53

**COMPLETE SCHEDULE** • PG 95

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# INSIDE

FLEMING ISLAND – 23



OAKLEAF – 61



CLAY – 9



ORANGE PARK – 70



RIDGEVIEW – 85



MIDDLEBURG – 47



KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – 39

CLAY  
TODAY

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CIBASTIAN BROUGHTON



AUSTIN CRUCE



PAYTON DYKAS



**CLASS OF 2025**

*Cibastian Broughton*

QB FLEMING ISLAND

Cibastian Broughton is one of just two returners to the Super 11 team and his expectations for 2023 will be to return the Golden Eagles to the region playoffs. Broughton rocked his freshman season (1126 Yds, 7TDs), stayed the course in 2022 (1504 Yds, 16TDs, 763 Yds rushing), but came up short against one of toughest districts in Florida. His size, speed, agility and instincts are honed to put the Golden Eagles on an hi-octane offense.

**CLASS OF 2024**

*Austin Cruce*

LB MIDDLEBURG

The second of two returners to the Super 11, Cruce is fully healthy after knee injury in wrestling, skipped wrestling last year and will be a dominant force for the Broncos. One of the leading tacklers in North Florida (104 last year, 105-2021, 71 solos, 10 per game), Cruce's knack of getting to the ball makes him a one-man wrecking crew.

**CLASS OF 2024**

*Payton Dykas*

WR CLAY HIGH

The best hands in Clay County, if not all of Florida, belong to Payton. Dykas was a highlight reel for coach Kyle Kennard with his acrobatic and up-in-the-air grabs (57 catches, 14TDs, 100 Yds per game). Dykas is multi-dimensional, with a few passes, a few run snaps last year and will be a threat anywhere on the field (31 tackles, 2INTs also).





**CLASS OF 2024**  
*Braden Cunningham*

**OL FLEMING ISLAND**

Big (6'-5", 300lbs), agile, and on the starting line for the past three years, Cunningham will be the guy that defensive coaches will have to deal with once the ball is snapped. He has the genetics of a dad who played at The Citadel, has been coached by an NFL guy and has one of the best offensive strategists on his sideline to put him in position to seek and destroy downfield. One of five guys up front that will give Fleming Island open alleys all night, Cunningham is the glue.



**CLASS OF 2024**

*Jaydan Jenkins*

**QB/WR/UTILITY  
 MIDDLEBURG**

Jaydan Jenkins reminds fans of his electrifying brother Jaylen of Clay history with his ability to shred the field at all points. Jenkins, who led the Broncos to the playoffs last year as quarterback, looks to be tasked to get the ball in his hands at many angles; wide receiver, x-Back, H-back, defensive back, punt returner, whatever coach Ryan Wolfe needs. Ironically, Jenkins best game was against Clay last year (134 Yds rush TD, 67 Yds pass bomb for TD). Without all state running back T.J. Lane, Jenkins may become the touchdown machine for Wolfe.

**CLASS OF 2024**  
*Rayhn Hutchinson*

**RB/LB RIDGEVIEW**

Rayhn "Train" Hutchinson (200 pounds) is a prototype downhill running back/more fullback-ish with a scent of speed on the corners, but, more, an instinct to stay vertical after impact. With weapons around him this year, Hutchinson may get some open ground after handoff to display his power.



RAYHN HUTCHINSON

**CLASS OF 2024**  
*Trey Jeffries*

**OL/DL KEYSTONE HEIGHTS**

The "Monster" in the Midway, Trey Jeffries is the focal point of a Keystone Heights attack that will feature very big guys in very small spaces. Ironically, Jeffries is one of the smallest of the "Big" guys, but probably the strongest (state weightlift champion), probably the most experience and likely the most ornery. With new coach Steven Reynolds, the Indians look to turn a 10-0 to 2-8 season back to the 10-0.



TREY JEFFRIES

**CLASS OF 2024**  
*Erick Fryer*

**DB/SS MIDDLEBURG**

One of two great lockdowns for coach Ryan Wolfe in the Bronco secondary, Fryer will be the main guy this year with Jaden Boyd taking snaps as running back. Fryer and Boyd were the best duo in the county with Fryer getting 72 tackles and two interceptions.



ERRICK FRYER



**CLASS OF 2024**  
*Quory Ambrose*

OL OAKLEAF

Big, strong, agile, Quory Ambrose will be the anchor for a what looks to be a sledgehammer of an offensive line for new coach Chris Foy. Ambrose was impressive in spring game action. Combined with some other big dudes, Ambrose and company will be tasked to move big people in a wicked district.



QUORY AMBROSE

**CLASS OF 2024**  
*Jermel Brown*

WR/DB ORANGE PARK

One of the fastest athletes in Florida (11s-100, 22s 200), Jermel Brown will ignite the sideline if he is unleashed upon enemy defenses. Brown is superfast, saw him sticking his nose in defensive piles against a Ocoee. Part of Raider's history of fast dudes: Estevan Cintron, Karl Barr, Nolan Chambers, Kris Riley and Demetrius Baker.



JERMEL BROWN

**CLASS OF 2024**  
*Jarius Moore*

DE/TE RIDGEVIEW

Big, fast and mean, J.J. Moore could be the next guy that no one wants to tackle with size at 220 pounds at 6'2" should he get the ball. Moore is also a top sackmaster with 14 last year and 16 tackles for losses for the Panther defense.



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# CLAY HIGH Blue Devils

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Fri. Sept 8 @Orange Park  
Fri. Sept 15 vs. Gainesville  
Fr. Sept. 22 @ Taco Creek  
Fri. Sept. 29 BYE  
Fri. Oct. 6 vs. Middleburg  
Fri. Oct 13 @ Menendez  
Fri. Oct 20 @Matanzas  
Fri. Oct 27 vs. St. Augustine  
Fri. Nov 3 vs. Oakleaf

## HISTORY

1967

B Harvey Lofton, Won title 33-0 over Graceville.

1983

2A, David Mitchell, Lost to Newberry 42-13. Newberry lost in statesectional.

1997

4A, James Teeter, Lost to Madison County in region quarterfinal 55-20. Madison County lost in region final.

1998

4A, James Teeter, Lost to Raines in region quarterfinal 24-6. Raines lost in region final.

2000

3A, James Teeter, Lost to Suwannee 24-14 in region quarter final Suwannee lost in region final.

2003

3A, Jim Reape, Lost to Dunnellon in region final 26-19. Dunnellon lost in state semifinal.

2004

3A, Jim Reape, Lost to Nease in region quarterfinal 39-23. Nease lost in region final.

2007

3A, Jim Reape, Lost to Baker County in region quarterfinal 44-14. Baker County lost in region final.

2009

3A Matt Toblin, Lost to St. Augustine in region semifinal 34-21. St. Augustine lost in region final.



Clay High junior quarterback Merrick Rapoza will be tasked to get the Blue Devils in the end zone. Rapoza is athletic in and out of pocket and creates plays out of potential disasters.

# Clay looks to return to Blue Devils lore

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - Clay High coach Kyle Kennard has often articulated that the history of Clay High football is one of his endeavors to restore on the turf and that his 2023 team seems to be revved to return to the folklore of guys like Bilal Ally, Michael Howard, Zack Kay, Cliff Avril and Shannon Asbell with Wes Weeks and J.T. Turner not far off the legends list.

"These kids, I think, are finally understanding what it means to be a part of the Blue Devil football history," said Kennard, who finished a disappointing 3-7 last year after a region playoff finish two years ago (7-4) and a region final (10-2) three years ago. "I want to put that brand of football back on this field and I hope these guys can do that."

Clay High football has always been a matter of upfront power running with tremendous ability on the front line and quarterbacks that make little mistakes.

With that, Kennard has one of the smartest quarterbacks in the area; junior Merrick Rapoza (1219 Yds, 14TDs, 7 INTs), and one of the



Clay High coach Kyle Kennard blasted his first two years then had a large grad class, but looks for his young pups of last year to emerge as standouts in 2023.

best pair of hands in all of Florida in senior wide receiver Payton Dykas (57 catches, 14TDs, 100 yards per game). Dykas upped his game from 15 total catches as a junior with just two touchdowns to being one of the prime targets for Rapoza.

"We essentially have two quarterbacks;





*Clay's secondary will feature defensive back Vonte Burke, a multi-position athlete that can cover the opponent's top pass catcher while also being a pass-catching threat on offense.*

Landon Chadwick (sophomore)3 and Merrick, with two unique sets of skills for the position," said Kennard. "They are competing against each other; keeping each other sharp."

In 2023, Dykas ramped up to a 12-catch game against Gainesville in game four, nine catches against Toco Creek in game five and six catches against Oakleaf in the season finale.

In the spring game, Rapoza opened the game against Williston with a 70-yard catch-and-grab score that Dykas wrestled away from a defender at 50 yards then sprinted to paydirt.

"He's a gamer," said Kennard. "He just had a switch go off after his sophomore season and did a lot of things to improve his ability to be the best pass catcher he could be. Now, his senior year, we have to bank on that."

Where Kennard hopes to have his best success, assuming success is getting the ball downfield in Dykas' hands, is to give Rapoza time to read, have a running game that keeps linebackers in the box longer and have enough "secondary" receivers to keep double and triples off Dykas.

Dykas, a recent stellar player at a team camp for Clay, garnered a college offer that stands as the first of many putting feelers on him.

"That kind of camp and the offer make me want to play harder to kind of prove my value," said Dykas, entertaining letters from a handful of NCAA Div. I schools already. "They liked my ability in one-on-one situations because I go after the ball. I love the one-on-ones."



*St. Augustine is the district's top target, and Clay will need one or two extraordinary plays; like a block field goal from D.J. Williams, to thwart the perennial powerhouse.*

Dykas named Dominic "D.J." Swilley, a sophomore (6'1") and possibly Vonte Burke, slated as a junior cornerback, as his opposite side comrade with Swilley's downfield speed something defenses will have to factor in.

"He's a threat to be a deep threat as well as me and defenses will have to respect that," said Dykas. "One of us will get open."

**2010**

3A Matt Toblin, Lost to St. Augustine in regin semifinal 43-28. St. Augustine lost in state semifinal.

**2011**

5A Joshua Hoekstra, Lost to Ponte Vedra in region quarterfinal 24-21. Ponte Vedra lost in state semifinal.

**2013**

5A Joshua Hoekstra, Lost to American Heritage in 5A final 66-8.

**2014**

5A Joshua Hoekstra, Lost to Bishop Kenny in region semifinal 34-26. Bishop Kenny lost in region final.

**2015**

5A Joshua Hoekstra, Lost to Wakulla in state semifinal 34-24. Wakulla lost in state final.

**2016**

5A Joshua Hoekstra, Lost to Ponte Vedra 52-42 in state semifinal. Ponte Vedra lost in state final.

**2017**

5A Joshua Hoekstra, Lost in region final to Baker County 29-14. Baker County lost in state final.

**2018**

5A Jay Stilianou, 4-6

**2019**

5A Jay Stilianou, 1-9

**2020**

5A Kyle Kennard, Lost in region final to Ocala Vanguard 38-7. Vanguard lost to Dunnellon in state semifinal.

**2021**

5A Kyle Kennard, 7-4

**2022**

5A Kyle Kennard, 3-7





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Senior wide receiver Payton Dykas is a game-breaker that likes to snag the ball in stride and break plays downfield.

Kennard liked junior Antonio Thomas (8 catches in 2022, one a 50-yarder) as his second passing threat.

“Antonio is a both sides player like Vonte Burke,” said Kennard. “We are a lot deeper this year at those key positions so we will be two platooned and kids won’t have to play both sides of the ball.”

Kennard has offensive coach Brian Flaherty still calling the signals and that’s a plus.

“He’s been building things into our system each season,” said Kennard.

In the interior of the offense big man Cody Mobley (250 lbs. 6’), who comes in with quarterback genetics from big brother Billy Mobley, now an assistant coach with Kennard, looks to be the battering ram for the Clay front five with junior tackle Eli Iscoa, a 240 pounder, the other half of the power front. Junior Donovan Davis, Jr is a 200-pound sophomore with Blake Warren, a sophomore, to resurrect the name of Brad Warren at times. Brad Warren, though small in size, was the lead power-breaker for recent Clay offensive line play.

“Me and Cody both love the trenches and want to do what other Clay lines have

done,” said Iscoa. “New faces like Joshua Hetz, a junior from Green Cove is a big product; 6’4”, 270 lbs. He’s getting his opportunity on the starting line and making a difference. Our guys on offense don’t need but a sliver to go big downfield.”

Kennard noted that line coach Jarrod Leeds, a Clay Today Offensive player of the year at offensive tackle in his day, will be leaving to enter the U.S. military.

“He was a big part of putting together the offensive lines that we have had because he was a standout himself,” said Kennard. “We wish him the best as he joins another Blue Devil military guy in Mikey Carns, currently a U.S. Marine.”

Size has been a trademark of Clay’s offensive lines, but Kennard notes his troops are smaller than usual.

“We are not massive like we’ve been here, but we get after it,” said Kennard. “Eli, Mobley, Donovan Davis right off the top of my head are all good football players. I won’t say, but Omar may be part of a little something up our sleeves.”



Clay’s offensive line is historically the success hinge for Blue Devil football. Cody Mobley and Eli Iscoa are leaders of a big, strong Clay front.

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*Big Omar Goosby is an outside pass rush threat for Clay and will be someone enemy quarterbacks will be aware of in tight game situations.*

In the running back post, senior Chandler Thomas (5'-8", 165 lbs), is a grinder and runs hard downfield, but has yet to show off breakaway speed. His forte is the five-yard first down set up for a second and three, third and two that Kennard can

exploit a secondary.

The key will be Thomas' health as he played just five games two years ago.

"Everything is healthy and I'm stronger," said Chandler, who also doubled as a linebacker on defense. "My job is to

be the interior guy that gets attention so Merrick can find Payton downfield or set up some jet sweeps with Payton."

Kennard intimated a transfer from Bradford County and, if that happens, and the kid is like a former Bradford guy that played for Clay; Andre Carter, a standout at the University of Idaho and runner-up Florida Mr. Football selection with 2,348 Yds and 24TDs, then Clay could have that 1-2 punch out of the backfield.

"We don't know yet," said Kennard. "Just have to get him, make sure he's healthy and good to go, then let him learn the system."

On defense, senior defensive end Omar Goosman (260 lbs) named Aaron Stacy (225 lbs., 48 tackles, nine tackles for losses, five sacks) and Will Kelly (215 lbs) as his partners on the front line with junior Javaris Roberts (200 lbs, 67 tackles, six sacks, five Tackles for loss 2022) as a linebacker under defensive coach Craig Nosse's direction.

"We going to be dogs on defense," said Goosman. "We're coming together as a team to read each other and work like a pack of dogs."



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Goosman said he thought his attacks on Rapoza in practice had benefitted both players. "I get after him and he escapes every now and then," said Goosman. "I think we all make each other better; me, Merrick and the offensive line by getting after it at practice."

With Thomas a possible linebacker with Roberts, Kennard needs to find one more head-knocker in the second level with a strong secondary patrolling behind them.

"Vonte Burke (4 Pass knockdowns) and D.J. Swilling are two quick guys back there with good instincts to the ball," said Kennard. "Once we get games going, we'll be ready to go."

Kennard liked his team's performance at the recent team camp.

"We were part of eight teams and I would put us as a top three team of the group," said Kennard. "We are opening with Bishop Kenny (8-2, lost in region quarters) and that's what we have to be ready for. They are a juggernaut, then Fleming Island and eventually St. Augustine."

Kennard, in just his fourth year, still has



Senior tailback Chandler Thomas is a formidable ball carrier to get to the ground and is key to quarterback Merrick Rapoza and wideout Payton Dykas to do damage downfield.

a handful of his players at the college level; Tre Griner QB (New Mexico State/River City Prep), WR Demaurion Frazier (River

City Prep), DL Martez Martin (Albright College) and Jordan McGill OL (North Carolina Central).

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# CLAY HIGH

# Blue Devils



WR PAYTON DYKAS



LB/RB CHANDLER THOMAS



WR DEMETRIUS SWILLEY



WR ANTONIO THOMAS



QB LANDON CHADWICK



DB VONTE BURKE



DB KENDALE DOCTOR



DL AARON STACY



RB GENO ADDISON



WR NEO ADDISON



K/P ETHAN BELLEMARE



DB FLOYD REED



QB LANDON MARTIN



WR KALEB REYNOLDS



QB MERRICK RAPOZA



LB DOMINIC SWILLEY



WR LUKE CRONK



P ALEX WEISS



DB MI'KEISE BATTLE



RB OLIVER PIERRE





LB JAVARIS ROBERTS



DB LAVARIS ROBERTS



WR DAYLEN BROWN



DB ANTWAN POPE



RB ADDISON IYEN



LB HAYDEN WAGLE



LB BRAYDEN RINGER



DL ANTHONY LOPEZ



DL JASON GOFLIN



OL ELI ISCOA



OL BLAKE WARREN



OL DARIUS SWILEY



DL JAY'SHAWN MCLOUD



OL TIMOTHY TIENTER



OL TREVOR JOHNSON



OL MAKI ISCOA



DL WILLIAM KELLEY



OL JOSH HETZ



OL DONOVAN DAVIS



OL CODY MOBLEY



DL DAY'SHON DOUGLAS



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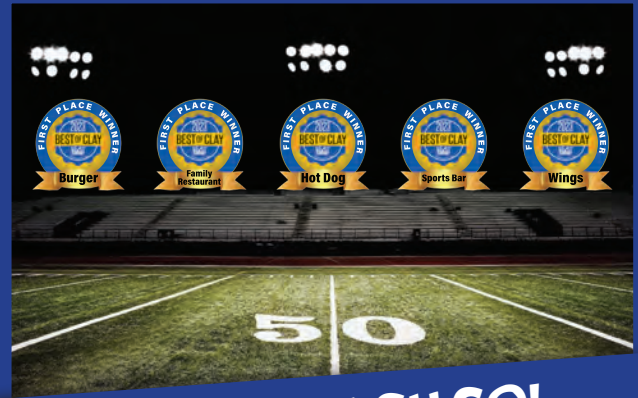
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## District 4-3S

Clay	52
Gainesville	48
Matanzas	48
St Augustine	27

# Yellow Jackets lead the chase

By Randy Lefko

Sports Editor with Mike Lischio, Flagler Radio Sports

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - With St. Augustine the lone team finishing with a regular season record above .500, Clay High and the company will be vexed to figure out a way to take down the mighty Yellow Jackets.

"They are the juggernaut even with new coaches the past few years," said Clay High coach Kyle Kennard. "In our district, they are always the top team with Gainesville a good program over the years and both Menendez and Matanzas able to get playoff spots."

Kennard, with two region runs in his first three years as the head of Clay football; now entering fourth season, wants to build the program back to its early historic days of region runs under coaches Matt Toblin and Joshua Hoekstra, both at Bolles now.

Clay returns a solid quarterback to wide receiver pair in Merrick Rapoza and Payton Dykas and that seemed to be the go-to mode last year with Dykas getting 14 of Rapoza's 14 touchdowns.

Kennard has a good corps of seniors returning under his helm and will bank on that familiarity to bolster his team.

"We have better depth than in the past couple of seasons and will be able to team a two-platoon strategy where our

best wide receiver doesn't have to be our best cover man in the secondary and our linebacker isn't also our running back," said Kennard.

### Lischio's Look

Mike Lischio is a long-time Sports Anchor for Flagler's Morning News on WNZF Radio and has been covering Flagler and St. Johns Counties since 2009.

**Matanzas Pirates:** 2022 Record 5-5 did not make playoffs

**Head Coach:** Matt Forrest 4th season (14-16)

**Key Returners:** QB Dae-kwon Evans RB-LB Cole Hash WR-CB Jordan Mills OL Ahmad Louis-Charles DT Peyton Ellis, and K-P Landon Grover.

**Key Newcomers:** WR-DB Shomarion Gaines TE Daniel DeFalco

Injuries plagued the Pirates last season. By Week 11, 13 of the 22 opening-week starters had been lost to season-ending injuries, including QB Evans and 2-way star Jordan Mills, forcing Matt Forrest to adapt his air-raid attack to a single-wing offense run by RB Cole Hash. Despite that, Matanzas was able to get to 5 wins and was



Breakaways are a staple of wide receiver Payton Dykas game with a crafty pass catcher skilled in snagging the ball in stride and not going to ground.

a Payton Dykas pick-six from getting number 6 against Clay.

The Pirates enter 2023 with high expectations. The offensive line is bigger, more experienced and added senior 6'3" 235lb Daniel DeFalco at tight end who returns to MHS from Flagler Palm Coast and is a gifted receiver as well. Clean bills of health for Evans and Mills will allow Hash to return to his natural position at running back and play more snaps on defense. Shomarion Gaines returns to Flagler County from Texas and had 2 TDs and an INT in the spring game vs. Nease. The Pirates will return to an air-raid offense, look to their speed in the secondary to make plays on defense, the strong leg of Grover to control field position, and Gaines to make big plays

on special teams.

**Menendez Falcons:** 2022 Record 5-5 did not make playoffs

**Head Coach:** Anthony Rivers 1st season

**Key Returners:** RB Christian Coleman WR-DB Jason Watson C Trey Pate DE Kani Harris LB Joseph Soto ATH Cason Blanco LB Gideon Collins LB Liam Molloy

**Key Newcomers:** ATH Luke Harmon QB Cash Downey

It was a tumultuous off-season for Menendez. Head Coach Matt Potak resigned after 2 seasons in January despite a district runner-up season. Oakleaf Defensive Coordinator Ben White was hired to replace him and





*Top Left: Clay's offensive line prowess was on display with a five-man powerhouse in the 2013 state final run behind the likes of Tyler Grimsley, Michael Howard, Brett Edenfield, Devon Vatick, Zach Baker, Maxwell Moore and Caylyn Brown. Top right, speed was an asset for Clay with J.T. Turner, shown and wingman Wes Weeks part of double trouble offensive wizardry while all everything back Bilal Ally was a guy who piled up yardage time and time for the Blue Devils offense.*

resigned 7 weeks later. Ponte Vedra DC Anthony Rivers was hired in the spring, the 7th head coach at Menendez in a 36-month span. Rivers looks to bring stability to a program that had 5 different starting quarterbacks in 2021 and again in 2022. In addition, Athlete Julian Quintero, who was 2nd on the team in rushing, receiving and tackles transferred to St. Augustine over the summer.

Quarterback continues to be the question mark for the Falcons in 2023, Freshman Cash Downey and Sophomore Reeve Power are competing for the starting position. The offense will lean heavily on an experienced offensive line led by Senior Center Trey Pate to create holes for Junior Running Back Christian Coleman, who ran for over 700 yards on just 95 carries before getting injured last season. The defense allowed just 17 points a game last season and returns 6 of their 10 leading tacklers from 2022 including leader Joseph Soto and Liam Molloy an undersized LB who plays above his weight.

**St. Augustine Yellow Jackets:** 2022 Record 7-4 Lost 42-35 to Choctawhatchee in 1st

round of the playoffs

**Head Coach:** Brian Braddock 8th Season (58-24 at SAHS, 81-34 10 yrs overall)

**Key Returners:** QB Locklan Hewlett RB Devonte Lyons WR Trenton Jones WR Myles Simmons LB Drake Lusk CB-WR Carl Jenkins S Ja'ki Singleton DB Jimmie Wheeler

**Key Newcomers:** LB-S Julian Quintero K Logan Wandzilak

The Yellow Jackets entered 2022 having missed the playoffs for the first time since Head Coach Brian Braddock was a senior at SAHS in 1998 and bounced back with a 7-3 regular season. They were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs despite having a 28-6 2nd-half lead against Fort Walton Beach Choctawhatchee. This may be the best St. Augustine team since their last State Championship appearance in 2007, a 17-10 loss to Naples. They last advanced to the regional final in 2017 in 12-1 under QB Austin Reed who led the NCAA in passing in 2022.

To reach those heights on offense, the Jackets will turn to 2000-yard passer QB Lock Hewlett and 1200-yard rusher RB Devonte "Bam" Lyons who



both have FBS offers, and a talented receiving core including Carl Jenkins, Trenton Jones and Myles Simmons. The strength of the young defense will be the secondary which in addition to Jenkins returns Safety Ja'ki Singleton and Corner Jimmie Wheeler from 2022. In addition, Julian Quintero a sideline-to-sideline Safety-Linebacker hybrid has transferred from Menendez and will join 2022 leading tackler Drake Lusk to bolster the linebacking core.

Gainesville, a winless 0-10, has a vast history of strong regular seasons and region playoff runs dating back to 12-3 and 14-1 in 2011 and 2012 (6A runnerup) under coach James Thomson and 9-3 in 2021 under coach Dock Pollard.

"Gainesville is Gainesville and they will always have great athletes on the field," said Kennard. "We can't take them lightly at any time."



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Fri., Aug. 25 vs. Clay  
Fri., Sept. 1 @ Tampa Catholic  
Fri., Sept. 15 @ Oakleaf  
Fri., Sept. 16 at Gainesville  
Fri., Sept. 22 @ Titusville  
Fri., Sept. 29 vs. Bartram Trail  
Fri., Oct. 6 vs. Lake Minneola  
Fri., Oct. 13 @ Mandarin  
Fri., Oct. 20 @ Creekside  
Fri., Oct. 27 vs. Buchholz  
Fri., Nov. 3 @ Orange Park

### HISTORY

Bryant (Princeton); Jalen Kindle LB (Delaware), Craig Broskie LB (Delaware), Cameron McCurry SS (Villanova), Kade Bell QB (Jacksonville), Frantz Caudio RB (Jacksonville), Brandon Behr K (Jacksonville), Kaiden Page LB (Jacksonville), Ryan Birge DE (U of W Florida), Neal Mars OL (Florida International)

#### 2007

5A Neal Chipoletti, Lost in region final to Bartram Trail 28-26. Bartram Trail lost in state semifinal.

#### 2009

5A Jeff Webb, Lost in region final to Lakeland 35-21. Lakeland lost in state semifinal.

#### 2010

5A Webb, Lost in region final to Lakeland 29-19. Lakeland wins vacated for illegal players.

#### 2011

7A Webb, Lost in region semifinal to First Coast 31-24 (OT). First Coast lost in final to Manatee.

#### 2012

7A Frank Hall, Lost in region quarterfinal to Lincoln 27-17. Lincoln lost in final to St. Thomas Aquinas.



*Fleming Island junior quarterback Cibastian Broughton has proven himself a young, brash leader of the Golden Eagle offense. Broughton's season will feature a bevy of weapons around him and input from returning offensive mind Evan Scharf on the coaching staff.*

# Broughton to pilot Parker's Eagles

**By Randy Lefko**  
*Sports Editor*

FLEMING ISLAND - Daunting as the task may be, Fleming Island junior quarterback Cibastian Broughton seems primed to take on the latest wrinkle in the Golden Eagle football attack and that is to assimilate new head coach Chad Parker's approach.

Parker, who has manned the Bartram Trail sideline with recently retired Darrell Sutherland who dominated much of the big school north Florida brackets, bringing a new look to the Fleming Island field.

"To me, that game, that team is just another game on the schedule that we want to win," said Parker, who also coached at nearby Orange Park High School as part of the very successful Danny Green era. "I've seen some good athletes on the field since being at Fleming Island and have played against them for the last 10 years so I think I know much of the mentality of the kids. They have impressed me so far with their approach to the game over the summer."

Parker adds to the coaching staff with former Fleming Island and Oakleaf high coach Derek Chipoletti; defense, and Evan



*First-year coach Chad Parker has won on the sidelines of football (Orange Park, Bartram Trail) as well as mentoring state champion wrestlers at both schools.*

Scharf, offense.

"Those two guys have been in some of the biggest games in Clay County and know how to prepare for that," said Parker.



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With two years under departed coach Damenyum Springs, who had a NCAA Division I running back; Sam Singleton, in his backfield, Parker's task is to mold a new batch of faces to a new approach. Muscle man Musthafa Marshall is also gone as the power back between the tackles as well as Tay'Shaun Smith with both punching in for about 300-yard rushing apiece; Smith with four touchdowns.

Broughton, who single-handedly tried to carry Fleming Island last year with his 1500 yards passing and 16 touchdowns with another 763 yards on the ground; whether by design or by escaping, has matured enough, said Parker, to take command of the weapons around him.

"Being patient," said Parker. "That's what he has been showing."

Singleton, expected to be a workhorse for the 2022 Golden Eagles did not have an explosive game-by-game season with four sub-100 games and just one game where his talent showed;



*Fleming Island got an explosive output from senior Tyler Beverly in the spring game against Middleburg. Beverly is ready to take over the backfield that has been manned by FSU-bound Sam Singleton for the past two seasons.*

a 244-yard, three-score effort against Mandarin in game six with Fleming Island sitting at a precarious 3-2 slate

with two critical district games forthcoming to which Fleming Island did not answer the call; losses to Creekside

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and Buchholz, that spelled a no playoff spot.

For 2023, Broughton has an advantage right out of the bullpen in an offensive line that has been big, strong and furious since last year, and, according to senior mammoth tackle (or wherever he plays) Braden Cunningham, going to be more aggressive and tactical.

"I think in my role as the senior on the five-man squad, I have to take the position of making sure my guys are ready to go," said Cunningham, who has verbally committed to Florida Atlantic University after a plethora of universities entertained him over the summer. "We have been working together in the weight room and conditioning as a unit and expect to do just that when the pads are on."

For Cunningham, weightlifting state champion Kevin Reyes will be one wingman with defensive ironman Joey Couch settling in for some O-work to put three butt-kickers on the forefront. Added to the roster is Ridgeview transfer Brayden Mackey; little brother (not so little at 6'-5", 230lbs) to Clay Today's Defensive Player of the Year Brandon Mackey from years gone by. Haeddon Compton, a senior, joins Cunningham and Missing will be a probable stalwart in Gage Isbell who transferred recently to Middleburg High School.

"I think we have a good feel for what Cibastian is doing in the pocket and can respond when he moves the pocket," said Cunningham, the lone senior returner on the



Senior defensive line stalwart Joey Couch is a high-motor crusher for Golden Eagle defense that coach Derek Chipoletti will make point man for attack.



State weightlifting champion Kevin Reyes puts big muscle on the offensive line anchored by senior Braden Cunningham.

front line. "We know he can break the field whenever he wants and we are going to try to escort him as far as we can."

Cunningham brings a wealth of experiences to his mix with dad Travis a Citadel lineman, plus having NFL and former Fleming Island High great Ian Silberman the past few years on top of conditioning with Jason Smith, of Orange Park's Rise and Grind gym. This multifaceted fitness powerhouse has entertained the likes of many NFL players including the Jacksonville Jaguars for additional explosiveness.

"Devin Tate is coaching the blocking up front and he was a Bartram Trail guy that came over with me," said Parker. "What coach Sharf is doing and what coach Tate knows is the zone blocking scheme I like. A lot of inside zone based blocked that carried over from Bartram Trail."

At running back, Parker has senior Tyler Beverly, a 5'-6" powerhouse with breakout speed (4.5-40Yds), who blew open the Golden Eagles spring game against Middleburg in May with two breakaway scores in a fairly lopsided game for Fleming Island.

"I think this is my time to shine," said Beverly, who was mainly shotgun behind Singleton. "Coach has seen what I can do and I think the offense we got will highlight that."

Part of the new offensive wrinkles will come from offensive coordinator Evan Scharf

## HISTORY

2013

7A Hall, Lost in region quarterfinal to Oak Ridge 48-41 (OT). Oak Ridge lost in region semifinal.

2017

7A Damenyum Springs, Lost in region final 38-13 to Bartram Trail. Bartram Trail lost in final.

2019

7A Springs, Lost in region semifinal 47-28 to Niceville. Niceville lost in region final.

2020

7A Springs, Lost in region finals to Niceville 35-18. Niceville lost in Final Four.

2021

7A Damenyum Springs, Lost in region quarterfinals to Buchholz 35-7 (Buchholz lost to St. Thomas Aquinas in state semi 45-7)

2022

Damenyum Springs, 4S 5-4

2023

New coach Chad Parker from Bartram Trail. Coached wrestling and football at Orange Park High and was at Bartram Trail with icon Darrell Sutherland who retired last season. Parker brings former Fleming Island coaches Derek Chipoletti and Evan Scharf back to the field and also has Chris Otero back. Chipoletti coached with his dad Neal Chipoletti when Fleming Island opened, then coached at Williston, Bradford County, Oakleaf and St. Johns Country Day School before his hiatus. At Oakleaf, Chipoletti went unbeaten 10-0, won two home playoff games and lost in the region final to Niceville. Scharf was an offensive coordinator three years. Parker, in wrestling, coached Orange Park state champion Corey Van Dorn.

### College

LB Jhoel Robinson (Stetson), RB Sam Singleton (Florida State U), OL T.J. Lawrence U of South Florida, OL Ethan Williams (Georgia Southern U), LB Jhace Edwards Albany State (GA), LB Abram Wright (Rutgers), WR Brenden Cook (U of West Florida), WR Darion Domenick (Blinn College), OL Michael Zeray (Blinn), LB Tabari Tucker (Methodist U), RB Musthafa Marshall (Kentucky Christian U), WR/QB Brody Glickman (Jacksonville Athletic Academy), LB Tyler Williams (Jacksonville Athletic Academy), LB Walker Whiddon (Webber International U), K/WR Austin Allred (River City Prep), OL Nate Chase (Southeastern U)



who returns from a football hiatus to once-again guide the scoring end of Golden Eagle football.

"I like off-tackle and beyond," said Beverly. "My offensive line knows they give me a sliver and I'll be gone."

Parker was not surprised, but pleased with Beverly's Middleburg output.

"At that time, I was kind of just seeing what we had to put on the field," said Parker. "I did not know what we had in him [Beverly], but I think we know now that we are going to be all right there.

In his varsity debut, Beverly got downfield for a 42-yard scoring scamper that came off a 37-yard second-play romp to set up the score. Beverly finished with 134 yards on the rainy, sappy turf.

Joining Beverly will be sophomore Trace Burney (5'-8", 155 lbs) who was more a receiver last year with 25 catches with four scores but will become a swingman from the backfield. The third attackback is converted sophomore linebacker Demhir Jackson (5'-11", 200)



*Running back Trace Burney could be a break-out specialist for downfield action for Golden Eagles' offense last year.*

who brings his own brand of downhill running to the mix.

On the outside, catching passes, Parker will miss the likes of Darion Domenick, who broke a 92-yard scoring

play from a screen pass against Oakleaf last year, and Brenden Cook, headed to the University of West Florida with his 10.95 100 speed, both very vertical guys that Broughton loaded up long dimes to

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last year. One of Cook's highlights was a 75-yard post-pass scoring bomb against Buchholz as well as a blocked field goal against Clay.

"Trace was one of the leading receivers last year and we will throw to him, but we got a bunch of good young guys in senior Devaen Boyking and newcomer Aiden Postemskik a transfer from Middleburg who was a solid multi-position athlete out there," said Parker, noting Postemski as a wide receiver though safety and quarterback for the Broncos with a 95-yard kickoff return for a score against Bishop Kenny last year. "We also have a sophomore kid named Calvin Johnson."

Note: Detroit Lion All-Pro wide receiver Calvin "Megatron" Johnson has NOT joined the Fleming Island roster.

At tight end, and having had an excellent catching day in the Jags 7 v 7 Tournament recently, is 6'-2" junior Nathan Van hof.

On defense, Parker likes Couch as a defensive tackle, Ladarius Jackson (big

brother Jeremiah "The Bus" Jackson now at Furman University), and Demhir Jackson handling the enforcement duties for Chipoletti.

"We Couch and Jackson on the line, Jackson manning some linebacker and Kaylib Singleton returning at cornerback as one of the fastest guys in Florida," said Parker. "Tacori Allen is a ninth grader that looks special; Sebastian Cruz and David Smith at safety."

For Jackson, the Golden Eagles' under Chipoletti will be an attacking formation.

"We like getting in the backfield and disrupting things," said Couch, nicknamed "The Shark" for unrelenting pursuit. "We just like hitting people."

For Jackson, also a wrestler at Fleming Island, the line crew will be the dominant force with new faces at linebacker.

"Dehmir is the leader of the defense at middle linebacker with some new faces on the edges," said Parker. "We have to develop them quickly as our district is very good at misdirections. Coach

Chipoletti is going to have them ready."

With the retirement of soccer guru Frank Pontore from Orange Park and Fleming Island state soccer titles, Fleming Island soccer has been the source for kickers for the football team with the names of Godfrey Garrett, Brendan Behr, and even Cameron McCurry of Villanova football.

"We have a kicker in Parker Sirdevan, a sophomore," said Parker. "He's been to some camps and has been hitting the long ball."

As for that pesky, season opener against rival Clay High, Parker sees the game as just an opener like others but of the same intensity of games he has been a part of at Bartram Trail.

"I have never been a part of a Clay vs. Fleming Island game or even see the game as I've been elsewhere, but I'm sure it will be as exciting as say, Bartram Trail vs. St. Augustine or Bartram Trail and Creekside," said Parker. "Those games are good kickoffs for the season."

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# FLEMING ISLAND Golden Eagles



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LB DEMHIR JACKSON



DL LADARIUS JACKSON



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QB/WR AIDEN POSTEMSKI



WR/SS DAMIANO DESTENO



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CB JARIUS MURRAY



QB ERIC GENTRY



SS DAVID SMITH





DB COREY ALLEN



DB COHEN CIOFFI



WR FABRIC JOSEPH



RB JORDAN AVELLINO



MLB AIDEN JOHANNSEN



WR MALAKI SAVAGE



SS LOGAN BATTIG



RB JOHNNY NELOMS



LB JACOB PARKS



DB JAKORI SWAIN



DE JOSIAH BELL



LB JACKSON SMITH



DL WILLIAM NEWMAN



DE NATHAN VAN HOF



K PATRICK SIRDEVAN



DE NAKHI ROSS



OL JOEY COUCH



OL JORDAN SMITH



OL BRANDYNE MACKEY



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# District 3-4S

By Randy Lefko

Sports Editor and Mike Lischio,  
Flagler Sports Radio

FLEMING ISLAND - Fleming Island and Oakleaf High football will be strengthened in 2023 with both

fielding lineups of big, agile linemen and swift, fleet-footed ball carriers, but the action on the field

we had Ribault and Raines in our district and every game was almost a rivalry game," said Foy, who left Jackson with two district titles in his pocket. "It's still as simple as preparation, conditioning and

will be highlighted by a district that features five teams all capable of Final Four runs.

For Oakleaf first-year coach Chris Foy, he knows he is running up against a lion's den of football in his new district.

"I've heard this district called worse than "District of Doom," said Foy. "The games you play in local rivalries can be won on emotions sometimes, but with the teams we got in our district, there is no room for error. Two mistakes will be costly."

Oakleaf has a slew of new faces in critical slots including at head coach with Chris

Foy taking over for interim coach Marcus Miller and departed coach Frank Garis.

"Where I came from; Andrew Jackson,

willpower. Football is a simple game and the fourth quarter will determine who has prepared."

Foy turned over the Andrew Jackson program and has a knack for getting kids to run through walls for him. Miller put up amazing offensive numbers, but the Knights were unable to close games in the fourth quarter against top teams despite a great quarterback, two great wide receivers and a great running back. Maybe defense is the key in district play?

A new senior quarterback, a new junior running back (Chris Foy, Jr.), and a big, tough offensive line but a lot of new faces on the roster.

With Buchholz the top contender in the district, 10-3 last year with an excruciating region final win, 21-20, over Bartram Trail to finish as a Final Four candidate eventually losing to a state runner-up Venice, 42-35 in an epic battle. Lakeland won the 4S title over Venice, 21-14.

"It definitely is one of the toughest districts in Florida," said Fleming Island first-year coach Chad Parker. "But, I look at it as competition breeds success and we just, as coaches have to prepare the

# District Of Doom



kids to best attack the games we will see."

Bartram Trail, the top region seed last year, returns with a new coaching staff with Darrell Sutherland stepping down after a run of 23 years and 182 wins against 94 losses. Bartram Trail, with former Nature Coast coach Cory Johns replacing Sutherland, has dominated the district teams now in 4S

Johns has six region playoff berths at Nature Coast, a 40-17 slate, including a 40-28 loss to Clay High in 2013 in the region finals with Blue Devil running back Bilal Ally going for 317 yards and three scores.

For Fleming Island, Parker may have the secret sauce to upend the Bears with Parker on the Bartram Trail sidelines the past few years. Fleming Island had epic games against all four district foes but could not snag a win in those clashes.

Buchholz lost to Bartram Trail in regular season play but returned the favor in the region final to advance. Bartram Trail manhandled the district



**Bartram Trail Bears:** 2022 Record: 12-1 lost to Buchholz 21-20 in regional final

**Head Coach:** Cory Johns 1st season (52-48 overall)

**Key Returners:** QB Riley Trujillo RB Laython Biddle IV LB Caden Baldwin LB Grady Hutchinson ATH Arthur Lewis S Sergio Lanzas

**Key Newcomers:** TE-LB Cole Hamilton OL Ethan McCall Bartram Trail ended 2022

with a couple of unexpected outcomes. In the regional final Bartram was eliminated in a 1-point loss to Buchholz after Mississippi State commit QB Creed Whitmore scrambled for 28 on 4th and 25 with 4 minutes left and scored on the drive to upset the Bears 21-20. A week later Darrell Sutherland, who had been the Bears coach since the school opened in 2000, announced his retirement. Cory Johns, who made the playoffs in each of his 5 seasons at Nature Coast takes over.

The Bears enter 2023 with that crushing playoff loss in mind as they look to make a deep playoff run. Cory Johns' offense is run first. With Laython Biddle coming off a

1500-yard season and Arthur Lewis, a scoring threat anytime he touches the ball, in the backfield the Bears' run game will be tough to defend. Biddle is the only returning Bear with at least 10 catches in 2022, but Senior QB Riley Trujillo a UCF commit, will get the most out of a young receiving group. Defensively the Bears struggled to get to the passer with only 17 sacks last season. Their top 3 in that category all graduated last spring. Veteran backers Baldwin and Hutchinson will lead the defense which only allowed 16 points per game last season, along with Strong Safety Sergio Lanzas and transfer Cole Hamilton.

with wins of 55-20 vs. Oakleaf, 21-6 vs. Buchholz, 59-27 vs. Creekside and 17-0 vs. Fleming Island.

Fleming Island loses FSU Sam Singleton at RB (1015 Yds, 12TDs), two great linebackers (Ahman Wright and Jhace Edwards) and deep threat Darion Domenick (25 catches, 3TDs).

Fleming Island comes back with Trace Burney, a sophomore with 25 catches last year and three-year quarterback Cibastian Broughton plus a huge offensive line bolstered by senior Braden Cunningham but losing four starters to graduation.

Buchholz loses all everything quarterback Creed Whitmore (1174 Yds, 12TDs, 461 Yds rushing, 6TDs) and two senior pass targets for

Whitmore (35 and 13 catches apiece). Buchholz did not waste time with long scoring drives.

Creekside had coach Sean McIntyre turning the Knights almost into a dragon slayer last year with a 9-3 finish with strong

games up until Bartram Trail's 59-27 regular season win and a 42-15 exit from the region playoffs as the fourth seed behind third seed Buchholz.

## District 3-4S

Fleming Island

Oakleaf 16

Buchholz 64

Bartram Trail 18

Creekside 28



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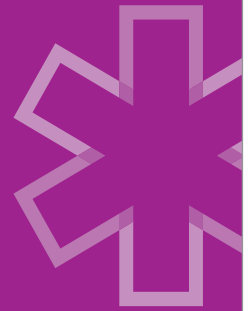
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RUNNING BACK?**

CARTEZ DANIELS  
AND FRIENDS

Keystone Heights  
**Indians**





## KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Indians

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
District 2S-6

Fri. Sept. 1. vs. Eastside  
 Fri. Sept 8 vs. Ft. White  
 Fri. Sept 15 vs. Bell  
 Fr. Sept. 22 vs. Interlachen  
 Fri. Sept. 29 @ Bradford  
 Fri. Oct. 6 vs. Crescent City  
 Fri. Oct 13 @ Palatka  
 Fri. Oct 20 @ Taylor  
 Fri. Oct 27 vs. Joshua  
 Christian  
 Fri. Nov 2 @ P.K. Yonge

### HISTORY

1992

4A Robert Wright, Lost in districts to Newberry 12-6. Newberry lost in state final.

1993

2A Robert Wright, Lost in semi-state first round to P.K. Yonge 15-0. P.K. Yonge lost in state semifinal.

1994

3A Robert Mooring, Lost in semi-state first round to Newberry 27-24. Newberry lost in state semi-final.

1997

3A Walt Darty, Lost in region first round to Trinity Christian 49-7. Trinity Christian lost in region final.

1998

3A Walt Darty, Lost in region first round to Bolles 62-6. Bolles won state title.

2005

2A Chuck Dickinson, Lost in region semifinal to South Sumter 35-0. South Sumter lost in state final.

2006

2A Chuck Dickinson, Lost in region semifinal to South Sumter 52-12. South Sumter lost in region final.

2013

4A Chuck Dickinson, Lost in region semifinal to Bolles 32-10. Bolles lost in state final.

2014

4A Chuck Dickinson, Lost 32-10 in region semifinal to Bolles. Bolles state runnerup.



Keystone Heights got big mileage from running back Cartez Daniels last year in a sub-par 2-8 season but the Indians will feature new wrinkles in offense under new head coach Steve Reynolds that could make Daniels the next great Indians' running back.

# Reynolds hopes for more pop

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – With two running backs barely inching past 100 yards total for last season, Keystone Heights High first-year head coach Steve Reynolds, the past defensive coach for the Indians, is hoping

for an explosive offense behind a big running back, a strong offensive line and a new wrinkle or two from the pocket.

“We got two quarterbacks; Jackson Parmeter and Bailey Ford, two young guys, who are working it out in practice to see who gets the start,” said



Steve Reynolds has strong coach marks at Bradford County, Oakleaf and St. Johns Country Day School.



Darion Grady is a breakaway threat for the Indians' offense that may feature more passing lanes under former Orange Park High quarterback standout Ken Mudge as long-time Keystone Heights offensive coach.





*Keystone Heights looks to return to its winning ways after a 10-1 season two years ago that was followed by a massive graduation exodus. Young players last year toughed out the schedule and will be exciting to watch with the year under their belt and the new head coach.*

Reynolds, a former Oakleaf High head coach and an assistant coach at Bradford County and St. Johns Country Day School. "We want to keep the Indian tradition of strong up front and heavy running but think we can stretch defenses with a bit of air offense."

With just 58 pass attempts last year with three scores via air, Keystone Height's rich tradition has fallen onto the shoulders of those who carry the ball and those who knock guys down upfront.

"Senior Cartez Daniels has been a force this summer and looks to be the next great running back at Keystone Heights following a tradition of power," said Reynolds, who takes over for Chuck Dickinson who ran the show for nearly 30 years. "I saw it with guys like Dalton Hollingsworth, Tyler Jenkins and Logan Williams on that 10-0 team two years ago. That team had four guys near the 1,000-yard mark with Hollingsworth an All-Stater. That's Keystone Heights football."

Daniels, who looks impressively bigger and stronger than last year, has taken the next step to be the workhorse for Reynolds and understands his role.



*Defensive end Jayden Goodman is a long-time varsity player for the Indians' defense with a history of tough tackles.*

"All the changes will be determined by what teams give us," said Reynolds. "We want to have the ability to do both; run and air."

Reynolds, who watched the team struggle through a 2-8 season after the 10-0 team graduated most of its firepower, is confident with Daniels in the backfield and fullback Ben Ulsch to primarily the way for Daniels but to offer another inside threat to soften the defensive box.

"Our backfield is pretty solid," said Reynolds. "We got Dalton's brother Colton out there and he's a cowboy too, like his brother."

Up front, one major change

is to have senior offensive lineman and fullback from last year, Trey Jeffries on the defensive front line. "On the offensive line, we got some big boys in Bryce Daniels (275 lbs.), Brayden Wester (235 lbs.), Tyler Duncan (325 lbs.), Jayden Goodman (205 lbs.) and Clayton Shaw (250 lbs.) putting the big boys of Keystone Heights back on the line," said Reynolds. "Tyler, a junior, and Bryce, just a freshman, got a lot of playing time last year with the varsity and have improved their game with camps all summer. Wester played tight end last year, but is going to be on the interior a bit and is a four-year standout for us."

## HISTORY

2017

4A Chuck Dickinson, Lost in region quarterfinal to Bradford County 27-2. Bradford lost in state semifinal.

2019

4A Chuck Dickinson, Lost in region quarterfinal to Astronaut34-14.

2020

4A Chuck Dickinson, Lost in region quarterfinal to Bradford County, 40-14.



2021

4A Chuck Dickinson, Won region quarterfinal 50-0 over Umatilla, Lost in region semifinal to The Villages Charter 34-6 (Villages lost to Cocoa 54-21 in region final)

2022

2S Chuck Dickinson, 2-8

2023

New coach Steve Reynolds, former coach at Bradford County, Oakleaf and St. Johns Country Day School. Reynolds has been defensive coach at Keystone Heights past three years, part of region final finish and 10-2 season in 2021. Had home playoff win that year, 50-0, over Umatilla, lost 34-6 to The Villages in round two. Replace Chuck Dickinson, coach since 1990. Retains long time linebackers coach and state weightlifting two time champion coach Lantz Lowery and former Orange Park High quarterback Ken Mudge on staff.



Anton Noble



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Alyssa Sanford, Tingleigh Gubics, Ashly McCarthy, Caitlin Frampton, Shyann Clemons, Paige Harrington, Kourtney Marsh, Nattalie Glinski, Dyllion Rohan, Emily Herndon, Noel Byrnes. Not pictured: Caelynn Lewis, Lexy Hamm, Kaylee Park, Mallory Sanders, Jenna Moss and Faith Lott



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# Tornadoes still Indians nemesis

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The disadvantage of having Keystone Heights just a football field away from Bradford County is that the two schools have interlinked football-wise since the beginning of Florida football.

That being said, the district map to a region playoff berth inevitably will travel through Bradford County for the Keystone Indians as the Tornadoes lead a four-team district that includes three teams that had winning

a Godzilla.

A 12-2 season last year and a Final Four loss to Cocoa have fueled a return trip for Rodgers for Bradford County. Against Cocoa, the 31-21 loss came after both teams were locked at 21-21. Rodgers has his quarterback back; Jeremiah McKenzie, 855 YDs, 10TDs. Rodgers has his running back, Willie Pollard, 1106 Yds, 11TDs.

If that ain't enough, Rodgers has two returning receivers back, one being Chalil Cummings; 47 passes, 10TDs with six interceptions on defense, just

Reynolds, who coached at Oakleaf in a high-octane pass and throw scheme on board to move the ball in big chunks.

"Baylor was our starter last year as a freshman and has improved his game," said Mudge. "He's got good reads and a strong arm. A good running and big offensive line helps. We'll see."

If Ford mans up for the first four games, Bradford is number five. Unbeaten Interlachen (10-0, Sunshine State Athletic Conference Atlantic League state champions), under Middleburg guy Eric Gibson, is number four.

Up front is the beef and potatoes of Keystone Heights football with four of five guys mammoth-sized; one is a bit smaller than the six-foot, 250-plus pound range, senior Jayden Goodman at 205. The rest of the line starts with returning sophomore Bryce Daniels, 275, who had good varsity reps last year and a ton of camp accolades this summer; Tyler Duncan, a starter junior at 325, probably the most season interior pounder, senior Bryson Wester at a tackle maybe tight end and Clayton Shaw.

That's one part of the picture to help Ford. The second is running back Cartez Daniels, a senior blessed with size and speed (200 lbs.) and, now, an offensive line that will clear the paths.

"He's the real deal, should have a big year," said Reynolds. "We click in these three areas; add a pass or two vertically, and we have an unpredictable front."

The two guys on defense capable of being game-changers are defensive tackle weightlift champion Tyler Jeffries, who though outsized by massive offensive linemen around him, is a carbon copy of a middle linebacker, John Brown, that linebacker guru Lantz Lowery let loose years ago that was the mosquito no one could swat at 145 pounds.

The secondary, primary target for Bradford's vertical game, will be patrolled by Wyatt Van Zant,

and that could create opportunities back in Ford's hands. Van Zant is a pesky pass defender (team leader with 39 tackles) that can also catch in a crowd. At 5'-9", he plays much bigger. Senior Darrion Grady, three picks last year, benefit from two Van Zant deflections last year.

As for Palatka and Toco Creek, both had resurgent seasons to finish with decent records after a few dismal years for Palatka and a solid first year for Toco Creek.

Palatka turned around their program (6-24 previous three seasons) under first-year coach Patrick Turner who fans remember from solid teams at Pedro Menendez.

Palatka's history has a state title in 1981 and 15 playoff berths up to 2014, but nothing since.

Palatka opened with seven straight wins last year before screeching to four losses; Fernandina Beach, Bradford, St. Augustine and a playoff opener to Baldwins. Turner is sure to want to go bigger in 2023, but loses a quarterback (1325 YDs, 16TDs) and a top receiver (30 passes, 5TDs) but returns a stable of running backs and pass catchers that could give Palatka a strong downhill game.

Toco Creek has been a solid program that has improved each season since opening in 2021 and the talent pool in St. Johns County is plentiful once the kids that want to go to Bartram Trail and Creekside are vetted out.

Two senior running backs are graduated; one with 13TDs, so the offense will be rebuilt. The quarterback was a sophomore last year.

On defense, the top two tacklers are gone, but the defense was manned by a strong underclass; defensive back Micah Ragin and linebacker Patrick Webster, 34 tackles at linebacker.

Overall, all three teams chasing Bradford County will definitely battle hard for second place with either of the three capable of an upset.

## District 6-2S

Keystone Heights		Bradford	14
Eastside	27	Crescent City	49
Fort White	51	Taylor	66
Interlachen	17	Joshua Christian	54
		P.K. Yonge	26

records last year; Bradford 12-2, Palatka 7-4 and Toco Creek 6-4.

Keystone Heights, unfortunately, graduated a 10-0 region playoff team in 2021 that left 2022 a little light in their cleats experience-wise.

"The good thing is that everyone here today played last year down to some eighth graders and even some first-timers," said Keystone Heights first-year head coach Steve Reynolds. "Kids got into varsity games, got the feel and now, we are in a better place."

Bradford County, by the way, is still coached by Baker County's coach of the year a few years ago, Jamie Rodgers who has been at the top of his game wherever he goes which is always winning.

Rodgers came to Bradford with a string of 6-6 seasons behind the program and immediately turned Frankenstein into

for giggles on offense. The other is Dae-jon Shanks, 16TDs, 1644 YDs; 15 Interceptions.

## Region playoffs for district 6-2S; beat Bradford

For Keystone Heights, the formula that has worked for the nearly 30 years of coach Chuck Dickinson; big offensive linemen that can lift trucks; a bruising one or two running backs that maybe do rodeo as a hobby, and a tenacious defense that doesn't much care for the no helmet strikes on tackles rules.

Now, Keystone Heights does have a returning quarterback, running back and a few offensive linemen.

Sophomore quarterback Baylor Ford has been groomed by QB coach Ken Mudge, a gunslinger for Orange Park High in his day who has slowly inched the Indians game plan to throw the ball more and more with



# KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Indians







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2023  
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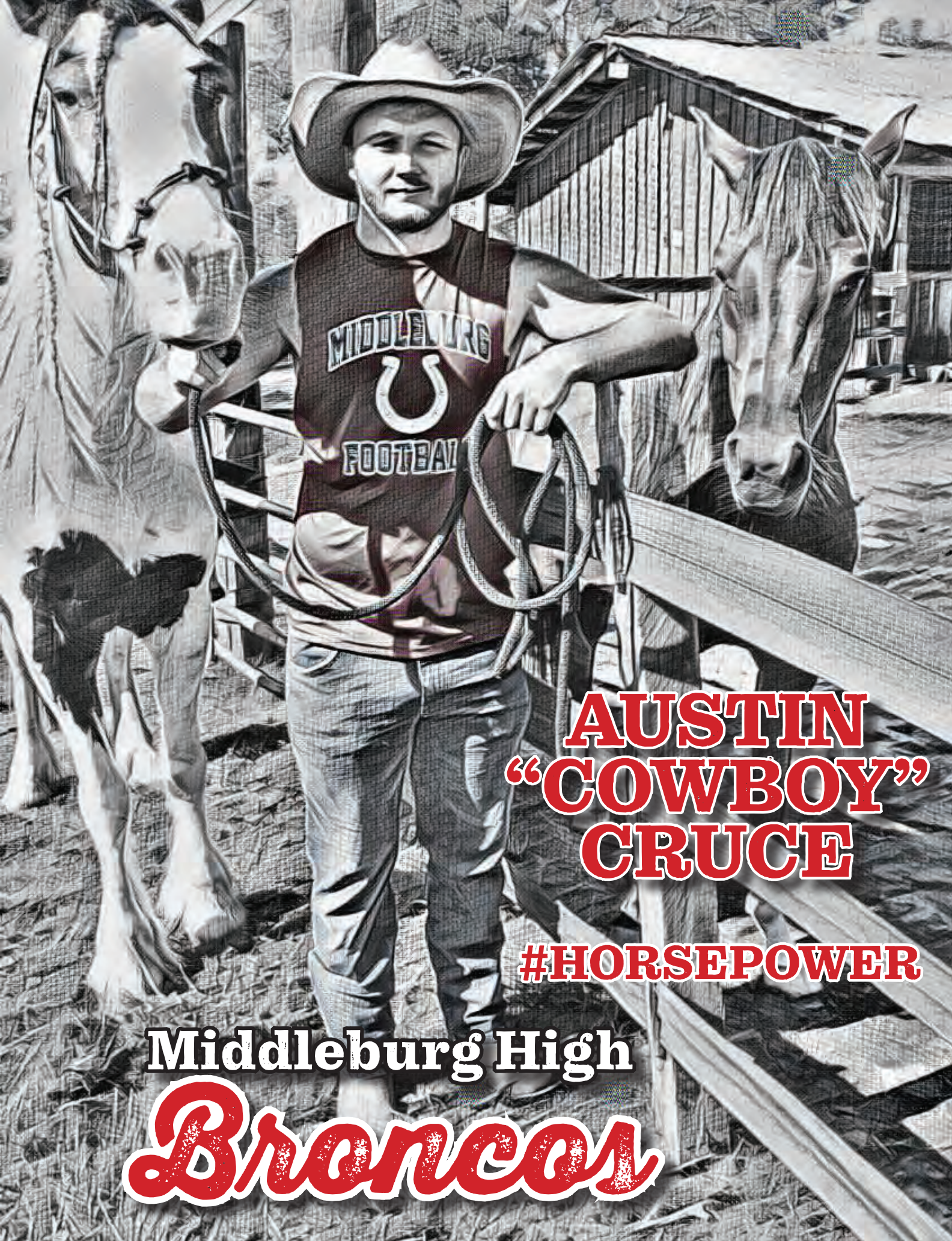
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# MIDDLEBURG Broncos

MIDDLEBURG  
District 3-3S

Fri. Aug 25. vs. Hawthorne  
Fri. Sept 1 vs. Bishop Kenny  
Fri. Sept 8 vs. Bradford  
Fr. Sept. 15 @ Ponte Vedra  
Fri. Sept. 22 vs. Ribault  
Fri. Sept. 29 @ Ridgeview  
Fri. Oct. 6 @Clay  
Fri. Oct 13 vs. Columbia  
Fri. Oct 27 @ Orange Park  
Fri. Nov 3 vs. Fernandina Beach

## HISTORY

### College

Caleb Freytag WR Erie Community College NY, Tanner Peery OL Concord U. (W Va.), Malachi Flowers Thomas More University (KY), Aiden Mayo WR Theil College (PA), Stone Newsome LB Carroll University, Cole LeClair OL, Valdosta State/McNeese State (LA); Brody Senn LB, Shorter University/Cheerleading; Trevor Todd WR (Webber); Joe Justino K (U of West Florida), Steven Henrikson DE (SEA Atlanta JUCO); Laron Bryant WR (Kentucky Christian); (Bailey Barnard DL, Mayville State; Kodi Karrington LB Methodist; Brent Caviness DL, Mayville State; Andre Jean-Pierre DL, Mayville State, Daniel Justino K, U of Florida/Northwestern State (now Kicker for Arena Football Orlando), Rob Justino QB, Liberty; Richard Owens TE, Louisville, Anthony Havens WR, Culver Stockton, Joseph Lieds OI, Concordia University.

### Recent College

Stone Newsome LB Carroll College; Cole LeClair OL McNeese State; Mike Mitchell RB Utah; T.J Lane RB West Florida; Aiden Mayo DB Thiel College

### 1984

3A Lost in 7-3 to Robert E. Lee in region quarterfinal; Lee lost in region final.



Former quarterback Jaydan Jenkins, now an outside threat wideout, will be on the outskirts of the Bronco offense as a target of passing and probably a jet sweep candidate. Bronco coach Ryan Wolfe has three possibilities at quarterback in 2023; Mason Zwilling, Carson Stewart and Jenkins, with Jenkins a possible drop-in for game situations.

## Broncos looking to add to 2022

### Jenkins could be the highlight reel

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG – Middleburg High football took a shot two years ago to jump-start an 0-10 program that had stalled into frustration and coach Ryan Wolfe sees his 2023 boys as the team to make Bronco fans forget those days.

“These guys are not part of the era where losses happened more than wins,” said Wolfe, who proudly lauds his team as the lone Clay County program to earn a region playoff berth last year. “We may not be getting much coverage on what we did, from an 0-10 to 5-5 to a playoff spot. These guys know what they did and they want to build on it.”

One move Wolfe is planning, and one that has been seen in recent practices to putting last year’s quarterback Jaydan Jenkins on the receiving end of passes at multiple locations.

“I like the switch because I can do more stuff with the ball,” said Jenkins, who benefited last year with All-State running back T.J. Lane in the backfield. “We had two great running backs for the season and that gave me some space to do things in and out of the pocket. Coach Wolfe, I think, is wanting to get me the ball on the sidelines where I can use



Middleburg coach Ryan Wolfe is slowly erasing some Bronco history with wins, playoffs and filled stadiums.

my speed to get downfield faster.”

Jenkins kind of quietly directed the Bronco offense last year with 654 yards passing with six scores and nearly 500 yards on foot with four scores, but the Bronco offense was riding Lane’s shoulders with his nearly 2,000 yards rushing, 18TDs despite a late-season plus as starter when Mike Mitchell was no longer in



the lineup after game five.

Wolfe, known for his ability to adjust on the fly from offense in the case of a handful of his games last year in one of the more rugged schedules in north Florida, was able to make those first four losses close in the second half.

"That will change," said senior Errick Fryer, a lockdown defensive back and also slated to share time in the backfield or as a pass catcher with another secondary, junior Jaden Boyd. Boyd was the top interception guy with three picks last year on top of two fumble recoveries.

"Both of those guys are track speed fast (Boyd 11.5 100 meters) and makes our backfield able to hit holes and get into the secondary very fast," said Wolfe. "With our depth better with more guys on the team, those guys don't have to worry about going both

like that have to be right from the opening whistle. No one will get a fast start this year."

In the pocket, Wolfe is relying on one of two possible athletes behind center; Eastside transfer Mason Zwilling, a lefty, and Fleming Island transfer Carson Stewart, both capable of getting the ball to their bevy of weapons on the outskirts.

"Mason gives us a unique look just because he's a lefty and there are not a lot of them," said Wolfe. "He's been delivering strong performances and learning the reads quickly."

Stewart, who left Fleming Island where he was situated behind third-year starter Cibastian Broughton, is a straight pocket delivery, plus has some wheels.

"At this point, we have a good problem to have in two quality quarterbacks that, I think,



Middleburg High has a unique situation with two possible quarterbacks battling for the position; Fleming Island transfer Carson Stewart, right, and Eastside High transfer Mason Zwilling, both offering unique skill sets in Wolfe's offensive schemes.

ways. Jaden is looking to be our top running back with Errick catching passes."

For Fryer, last year's slow starts in the first four games; losses to Hawthorne (eventual state champion), Bishop Kenny (region playoffs), Bradford County (Final Four) and Ponte Vedra were due to the team's lack of experience with fast-starting teams.

"We learned a lot about ourselves with those games because, first, we started kind of slow for each of the games, then responded in the second half to make them games," said Fryer, a top tackler with 72 tackles and two interceptions last year. "This season, I think we are aware that games against teams

can execute the plays," said Wolfe. "We have a bunch of guys that can stretch the field and give them plenty of targets."

Wolfe liked having to adjust from a wide-open guy at quarterback to two solid athletes with plenty of firepower around them.

"Each year, as a high school coach, is a matter of adapting to the talent you get," said Wolfe. "Now, we have two big throwers in the backfield and a whole bunch of guys that can grab and go quickly."

Boyd, Fryer and Kendric O'Neal, a 220-pound fullback-sized guy (also Linebacker) will be our main backfield at this point.

## HISTORY

1987

4A Lost to Satellite High 24-14 in region quarterfinal. Satellite lost in region final.

1989

5A Lost to Pensacola Washington 31-26 in region quarterfinal. Washington lost in state semifinal.

1990

5A Lost to Choctawhatchee 38-0 in region quarterfinal. Choctawhatchee won state title.

2003

3A Beat Palatka 54-28 in region quarterfinal, lost 45-22 to Dunnellon in region semifinal. Dunnellon, who beat Clay in region final, lost in state semifinal to Bolles.

2016

6A Lost to Crestview 35-0 in region quarterfinal. Crestview lost to St. Augustine in region semifinal.

2017

6A Karl Smeltzer 2-8

2018

6A Karl Smeltzer 3-7

2019

6A Karl Smeltzer 3-7

2020

6A Ryan Wolfe 0-10

2021

6A Ryan Wolfe 5-5



2022

3S Ryan Wolfe 5-6, Only Playoff team in county, lost to Pensacola Escambia 42-18



Horseman Perry Hopper, left, of Great Grace Farm, stands with Austin Cruce and his horse; after a special photo shoot for the Clay Today. Hopper is long time coach of numerous sports in Clay County; football, track, weightlifting as well as an accomplished trail horse racer.



"Kendrick is a big, solid guy that can block up front and we'll use him for short yardage," said Wolfe. "Catching balls is a whole bunch of talented guys in Jayden Jenkins, Jarren Rosier, Aiden Worthy and Joe Forte catching passes."

Up front, Zwilling and Stewart will get blocking from Charles Little (255 lbs), Luke Green (265 Lbs), Micah George (280 lbs.), Gage Isbell (290 Lbs) and Noah Montoro (260 lbs).

One guy missing is tackle Jaylen Booker (300 lbs.) who returned to Trinity Christian Academy.

"We got Gage Isbell here from Fleming Island, a state weightlifting champion and great blocker that will add to our very big offensive line," said Wolfe. "Our weight room has been refurbished through the summer and these guys



*Mammoth offensive tackle Micah George leads a large front offensive line for the Broncos hoping to release a bevy of weapons from the backfield.*

have been living in there."

George is the self-appointed ringleader for the foursome up front and likes the feel of his guys.

"We want to take advantage our the guys behind us," said George. "We know they are going to hit the line of scrimmage quickly and that gives us the

ability get downfield for more blocks."

On the defense lurks a guy nicknamed "Cowboy", Austin Cruce at middle linebacker, and he is the focal point of a defense that has a ferocious chase attitude.

"We return almost the entire defense from last year, maybe two guys graduated," said Wolfe, with veteran coaches Alan Burnsed and Benjamin Traywick calling the shots. "We have a couple of new wrinkles, but we stress to them just do your job."

For Cruce, his job and his wingman, Luke Wheeler (49 tackles) on the line, are going to be the disruption for an enemy offense.

"As long as he does his job, grab guys and get them out of the way, I'll make the tackle," said Cruce, a top



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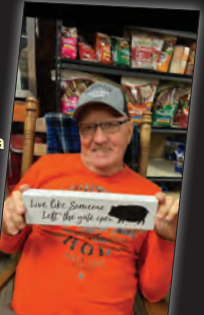
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tackler, 100 tackles last year. "Our defensive ends; Tucker Cody (51 tackles, 9TFLs) and BJ Carter (46 tackles, 5TFLs), are probably the best combination in the county if not north Florida."

Cody and Carter combined for 13 quarterback hurries last year keeping quarterbacks on their toes looking for downfield receivers.

One addition to the lineup that adds point production is kicker Kalib Robison, a former Ridgeview kicker who returns to Middleburg with his dad as a coach, putting the 40-50 yard line as a scoring opportunity.

"A kicker like him gives us options once we get past midfield to more points on the board," said Wolfe. "We hit a couple of PATs last year and we get back into games."

Defensive back Jaden Boyd, here tracking ball carrier, will be the primary running back for the Bronco offense with speed on the edges.

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**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS**  
25-6

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 Fri. Sept 1 .....vs. Eastside  
 Fri. Sept 8.....vs. Fort White  
 Fri. Sept 15.....vs. Bell  
 Fr. Sept 22.....vs. Interlachen  
 Fri. Sept 29 .....@ Bradford  
 Fri. Oct 6 .....vs. Crescent City  
 Fri. Oct 13 .....@Palatka  
 Fri. Oct 20 .....@ Taylor-Pierson  
 Fri. Oct 27 .....vs. Joshua Christian  
 Thurs. Nov 2 ...@P.K. Yonge



**OAKLEAF**  
45-3

Fri. Aug 25 ..... vs. Orange Park  
 Fri. Sept 1 .....vs. Baker County  
 Fri. Sept 8.....BYE  
 Fri. Sept 15 .....vs. Fleming Island  
 Fr. Sept 22 .....vs. Bolles  
 Fri. Sept 29 .....@Creekside  
 Fri. Oct 6 .....vs. Bradford  
 Fri. Oct 13 .....vs. Buchholz  
 Fri. Oct 20 .....@Madison County  
 Fri. Oct 27 .....@Bartram  
 Fri. Nov 3.....@Clay



**ORANGE PARK**  
District 3S-3

Fri. Aug 25 ..... @Oakleaf  
 Fri. Sept 1..... @Episcop  
 Fri. Sept 8 ..... vs. Clay  
 Fri. Sept 15 ..... @Melbou  
 Fr. Sept 22 ..... @ Nease  
 Fri. Sept 29 ..... @Columbi  
 Fri. Oct 6 ..... BYE  
 Fri. Oct 13 ..... vs. Ridgev  
 Fri. Oct 20 ..... vs. Ponte  
 Fri. Oct 27 ..... vs. Middl  
 Fri. Nov 3 ..... vs. Flemir

**2023 Football**



**CLAY**  
District 3S-4

Fri. Aug 25 .....@Fleming Isl.  
 Fri. Sept 1 .....vs. Ridgeview  
 Fri. Sept 8 .....@Orange Park  
 Fri. Sept 15 .....vs. Gainesville  
 Fr. Sept 22 .....@ Taco Creek  
 Fri. Sept 29 .....BYE  
 Fri. Oct 6 .....vs. Middleburg  
 Fri. Oct 13 .....@Menendez  
 Fri. Oct 20 .....@Matanzas  
 Fri. Oct 27 .....vs. St. Augustine  
 Fri. Nov 3 .....vs. Oakleaf



**MIDDLEBURG**  
District 3-1-3S

Fri. Aug 25 .....@ Hawthorne  
 Fri. Sept 1 .....vs. Bishop Kenny  
 Fri. Sept 8.....vs. Bradford Co.  
 Fri. Sept 15 ....@ Ponte Vedra  
 Fr. Sept 22.....vs. Ribault  
 Fri. Sept 29 .... @ Ridgeview  
 Fri. Oct 6 .....@ Clay  
 Fri. Oct 13 .....vs. Colombia  
 Fri. Oct 20 .....BYE  
 Fri. Oct 27 .....@ Orange Park  
 Fri. Nov 3 .....vs. Fernandina



**RIDGEVIEW**  
District 3-1-3S

Fri. Aug 25 .....vs. Menen  
 Fri. Sept 1 .....@ Clay  
 Fri. Sept 8 .....vs. Gatew  
 Fri. Sept 15 .....BYE  
 Fr. Sept 22 @Beachside  
 Fri. Sept 29 .....vs. Middle  
 Fri. Oct 6 .....vs. Eastsid  
 (Gaines  
 Fri. Oct 13 .....@Orange  
 Fri. Oct 20 .....@ Ft. White  
 Fri. Oct 27 .....vs. Colum  
 Fri. Nov 3.....@Crescen



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**FLEMING ISLAND**

4S-3

- Fri. Aug 25 ..... vs. Clay (7:30)
- Fri. Sept 1 ..... vs. Tampa Catholic (7:30)
- Fri. Sept 8 ..... BYE Week
- Fri. Sept 15 ..... @Oakleaf
- Fr. Sept 22 ..... @ Titusville
- Fri. Sept 29 ..... vs. Bartram Trail (7:30)
- Fri. Oct 6 ..... vs. Lake Minneola
- Fri. Oct 13 ..... @Mandarin
- Fri. Oct 20 ..... @Creekside
- Fri. Oct 27 ..... vs. Buchholz (7:30)
- Fri. Nov 3 ..... @Orange Park

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QB MASON ZWILLING



WR AIDEN WORTHY



WR BRAYDAN STREET



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DB/WR ERRICK FRYER



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# 2023 Varsity





# Broncos ready for Tiger chase



**By Randy Lefko**  
*Sports Editor*

ORANGE PARK - The teams of District 3-3S; Columbia, Ridgeview, Orange Park and Middleburg all have a bit of a chip on their shoulders as 2023 approaches with Middleburg High the most intriguing story within the district.

“Of course, we have 25 seniors coming back and that usually means high expectations,” said Middleburg coach Ryan Wolfe, entering his fourth season. “With that, we expect to be in most of our games despite the fact that our schedule is the same as last year and features our first four games against top-ranked teams; twice 1Rural finalist; once 2A champion Hawthorne; 12-0 last year; region qualifier Bishop Kenny; 2S Final Four finisher Bradford County and Ponte Vedra.

From senior cornerback Errick Fryer, the expectation is to not start slow.

“Last year, we let games get away from us early because we were raw,” said Fryer. “This year,

we get that these teams we play first our legit contenders and there is no room for early leads.”

Columbia had the furthest region reach last year with an overtime win over Choctawhatchee in the region final and an eventual Final Four loss to 3S champion Lake Wales; 37-7. Lake Wales beat Daytona Beach Mainland 32-30 in a thriller championship game.

With all the factors pointing toward Columbia repeating as the strongest of region 1-3S under coach Brian Allen. Allen returned after leaving the program to former Columbia quarterback Demetric Jackson in 2021 but returned last year with renewed energy. Allen's departure, due to COVID concerns, was the end of a 10-year span at Columbia that included a region playoff berth each season after Allen pursued a short NFL career after starring at FSU. Ironically, Jackson returned to Fort White, his former team (three district titles, four region finals) prior to the Columbia gig, to coach his son, Jayden.

Jackson's departure from Co-

lumbia came a first 2015 Final Four finish and two district titles in his two seasons there.

Ironically, one of the top returners for Columbia is senior wide receiver Camden Frier, who led the Tiger's passing game with 27 catches among five receivers in double figures but with only Frier returning. Frier is the son of Matt Frier who starred at cross-town rival Suwannee High School in their 1990s heyday of four straight Class 3A titles under Hall of Fame coach Mike Pittman. Dad Frier is an FHSAA Hall of Famer with a state record of 220 career receptions and 41 TDs. Allen does not return his quarterback, Tyler Jefferson and his 1200-plus yards and 10 scores. Jefferson was one of two rushers that hit for just about 700 yards, but both graduated, so the Tigers will have new faces in key skill positions.

Middleburg, on the other, hand, returns a bucketload of speed, talent and fire on the field with the likes of Fryer, Jaden Boyd (RB) Jaydan Jenkins (Utility) Austin Cruce (MLB), Tucker Cody (DE) on top of two new quarterbacks.

Wolfe may get a shot at the district title if Columbia is in a growing mode.

For Ridgeview and Orange Park, return to winning is the goal with both looking for the secret sauce amidst a flurry of athletes that can do the job.

Coach Bryan Arnette has his three years of the crew behind him, some size in key positions and a strong run game led by a

Train (200 lbs), but no more Baptistes in the lineup.

As for size, Arnette has JJ Moore, a bruising tight end (220 lbs) with strong hands; Jacob Jones, 6'-4", 240 lbs at DE; strongman Braylon Hawkins (250 lbs) as a fullback (LOL to those in the gap) and a sophomore quarterback as big as a linebacker. “Over the years, size has been our Achilles heel,” said Arnette. “Now, we have some big bodies up front and a strong run game. We could make a difference in the district.”

For the Raiders, never underestimate the power of an ex-NFL guy and Miami Hurricane to figure out how to win games.

Though his peripheral talent is fast and furious; 10.7 100 wide receiver Jermel Brown is one, Marcus Wimberly noted that he won his Tennessee state title as a sophomore quarterback.

“I think the team and I are on the same page now,” said Wimberly, who showed some muscle in a tight spring game with Ocoee out of the Orlando area also coached by an NFLer, Shedrick Gurley, a former Florida Gator and Super Bowl champion with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as well. “We've got some talent spread around and a great attitude.”

One interesting game for Wimberly is against Melbourne and another former Miami Hurricane, David Kintigh, who is riding seasons of 11-3 and 9-3 since taking over the Bulldogs two years ago.

## District 3-3S

Middleburg		Ridgeview	6
Hawthorne	43	Clay	16
Bishop Kenny	32	Columbia	57
Bradford County	21	Orange Park	9
Ribault	32	Fernandina Beach	65





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# OAKLEAF Knights

ORANGE PARK

District 3-4S

Fri. Aug 25. vs. Orange Park  
Fri. Sept 1 vs. Baker County  
Fri. Sept 8 BYE  
Fr. Sept. 15 vs. Fleming Island  
Fri. Sept. 22 vs. Bolles  
Fri. Sept. 29 @ Creekside  
Fri. Oct 6 vs. Bradford  
Fri. Oct 13 vs. Buchholz  
Fri. Oct 20 @ Madison County  
Fri. Oct 27 @ Bartram Trail  
Fri. Nov 3 @ Clay

## HISTORY

### Key Returners

QB Brandon Wallace Jr.;  
LB Dajon Brown; SS James  
Kitchen; DE JJ Marsh-Men-  
sie, DB Bryson Kitt, OL  
Chase Johnson,

### Key Losses

QB Drew Ammon, WR  
Taylor Bradshaw, WR  
Carlos Witherup, RB Devin  
Outlaw, OL Jordan Mitchell,  
OL Kyland Armstrong, DT  
Prince Savea, TE Isaiah  
Shevhook, WR Jaylin Mar-  
tin, WR Jamaal Gibbons

### New Faces

Head Coach Chris Foy, RB  
Chris Foy II, OL Quory Am-  
brose, DB Denereo Jacobs

### College

Jalen Rivers OL (Miami),  
Chantz Williams DE (Miami);  
Donovan Thomas SS  
(Lehigh); RB Keshawn King,  
Virginia Tech; LB Dexter  
Moore, Limestone; DB  
Zech Nesby, College of the  
Sequoias; LB Kenny Thomas  
(Chose Basketball); K Bran-  
den Ammon (Chose Soccer,  
USF); WR Sean Washington,  
North Carolina Wesleyan;  
DB Omarh Toliver, North Car-  
olina Wesleyan; LB Jordan  
Randall, Kentucky Christian;  
LB Korei Sheppard, Mount  
St Joseph; DL Josh Murrell,  
Edward Waters; DL Ger' Juan  
Brown, Edward Waters;



Oakleaf football features a massive-sized offensive line led by senior Quory Ambrose with a big-bodied running back in Chris Foy II, son of Oakleaf's new head coach Chris Foy.

# Foy feeling good vibes at Oakleaf

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

OAKLEAF – Coming from a much smaller school, in a downtown Jacksonville-strong district after being at one of the more powerful beachside programs of Jacksonville Beach, Oakleaf High's latest coach, Chris Foy, has run the gamut on both ends of making a team, despite the size, respond to his coaching style.

"We got Midnight Madness starting on Sunday," said Foy, as he entertained coaches and media at the Baker Sports Media Day at Jaguars Stadium in late July. "It's all about generating excitement and team bonding. We had junior high kids and our junior varsity together at camps working out. That's a special situation."

Foy thinks the conversations he has been having with Oakleaf Junior High coach Merlin Smith have been invaluable to him understanding Oakleaf football.

"It's a different animal here," said Foy. "Coach Smith, talked to him every day, has his kids thinking well beyond junior high



Oakleaf coach Chris Foy has a knack for winning the strong three seasons at Andrew Jackson High (two district titles) in recent history.





Senior quarterback Brandon Wallace, Jr., watched the shenanigans of departed quarterback Drew Ammon last year in a stat-filled season and will be the man for coach Chris Foy to direct a high-octane offensive unit.

football. I want our kids to be thinking well beyond Oakleaf High School football.”

Foy’s task is to take what should have been an 8-2, even 10-0 season of last year that displayed the offensive firepower that comes with Oakleaf football that eventually finished at 5-5.

“That team scored a ton of points, put up a ton of statistics,” said Foy. “That fourth quarter is the key. That’s my focus.”

The key to Foy’s success will more than likely be senior quarterback Brandon Wallace, II, who though with little spats of varsity playing time last year, sat behind a quarterback, Drew Ammon, who Foy admired as a football thinker.

“He was always thinking out there,” said Foy. “He had a knack of taking a broken play and making it a 45-yard scoring run.”

Wallace likes his role now as the probable starter but was cognizant that his attentiveness from the sideline was an invaluable experience.

“Being able to watch a dude like that, I was able to see his game and take pieces of it to put into my game,” said Wallace. “His attitude was 90 percent of his success because he was always talking in the huddle figuring things out.”

Ammon’s statistical mountain being impressive, Foy thinks Wallace’s physical

attributes; size, speed, and a strong arm connected to what he embraced watching Ammon, will make him a lethal attack point for his offense.

“We were at camp and he split the pocket and he took the ball to the house; to the house, three times,” said Foy. “He’s a well-kept secret in and out of the pocket because everyone was watching Ammon. Brandon can burn.”

Around Wallace, Foy has his son, junior running back Chris Foy, II, in the backfield as his primary ball carrier and also an effective out-of-the-backfield pass catcher. Wallace liked the next Shevchook, Elijah, aka “Pork Chop,” as a key part of the Knight’s backfield.

“We are also going to have some receivers in the backfield to add some speed,” said Wallace. “One guy to watch will be sophomore Denereo Jacobs, who could become a big-time playmaker for us on both sides of the ball.”

Foy liked Foy, II, out of the backfield with some swing passes and also downfield as his size and speed plus strong hands-on passes is an added asset.

“I was not good with the ball in my hands, but Chris, II, got his soft hands from mom she was a volleyball player,” said Foy. “He has worked to be in the situation

## HISTORY

K Damian Rogers (Chose Soccer, Campbell) Shaq Quarterman LB (Miami), Nick Roberts SS (U of South Florida), Kwami Clark (Florida A & M), Braden Ammon (Soccer U of South Florida), JeVionte Nash OL (Wake Forest), Mitch Cuthbertson OL (Olivet Nazarene); Austin Chipoletti QB (U Alabama-Birmingham), Rontrez Morgan WR (Indiana State), Dominique Mitchell DE (Jacksonville), Amari Way DE (Webber Int), Anthony Laskowski (Webber Int), Ryan Broskie C (Lenoir-Rhyne), Darrion Owens LB (Miami, Houston)

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DB Larry Smith, Indiana  
LB Marcus Anthony, Coastal Carolina  
WR Terrance Anthony, Coastal Carolina

### 2010

Freelance Joel Brighton 3-7

### 2011

6A Joel Brighton 0-10

### 2012

6A Derek Chipoletti 6-4

### 2013

7A Derek Chipoletti 5-6

### 2014

7A Derek Chipoletti 12-1, unbeaten regular season, two home playoff wins, lost to Niceville in region final at home

### 2015

7A Derek Chipoletti 8-2

### 2016

7A Steve Reynolds 7-3

### 2018

7A Steve Reynolds 2-8

### 2019

7A Frank Garis 5-6, lost region opener in overtime to Lincoln 38-31

### 2020

8A Frank Garis 7-4, lost to Bartram Trail in region opener 51-7

### 2021

8A Frank Garis 4-6

### 2022

4S Marcus Miller 5-5

### 2023

New coach Chris Foy, from Andrew Jackson High (two district titles in three years). Coached at Fletcher during Oakleaf region playoff run; beat twice by Chipoletti; regular season and playoff. Son Chris Foy II in as running back for Oakleaf.





Sophomore defensive back Denereo Jacobs has been impressive in summer drills and camps and looks to be an off-the-radar leader for the Knights' defense.

as one of the top backs in his area. He has had some great one-handed catches on forced passes that have produced downfield plays."

Foy noted that Foy, II, an impressive 215 pounds on a powerful build, but with pass-catching hands to take the ball to the greener grass

on the sideline.

"He's been the "sniffer" to this point in his previous teams and now it is his turn," said Foy. "He understood his blocking up in front of the ball carrier was as important as him carrying the ball."

Note: Sniffer is a football term for either a tight end or fullback-type player that lines up off the line of scrimmage near the interior line and becomes the lead blocker through a designated space.

Also in the background, are Jordan Pryce, a freshman who purported to be the fastest guy on the team, will add fast athleticism with the ball in his hand.

Oakleaf graduated immense outside talent in Taylor Bradshaw (9TDs), Carlos Wintherup (6TDs) and tight end Isaiah Shevchook and will look to replace their numbers

plus Jaylin Martin's 20 catches and Jamaal Gibbons 15 catches as Ammon was master of spreading his passes to numerous targets.

"Kheinde has all the tools to be a great pass catcher and he just has to learn football to use all of his gifts," said Foy. "As far as kicking field goals for us, he kicks the ball a little too hard." Fourth quarter being Foy's focus, the summer conditioning program which has been highlighted by local media, features high-energy, fast-moving little rest repeats and includes everyone from 165-pound defensive back Bryson Kitt to mammoth offensive lineman Quory Ambrose (285 lbs).

"He does push us," said Ambrose, near 280-300 pounds and knocking out 18-inch box jumps for Foy. "We got me, Chase Johnson

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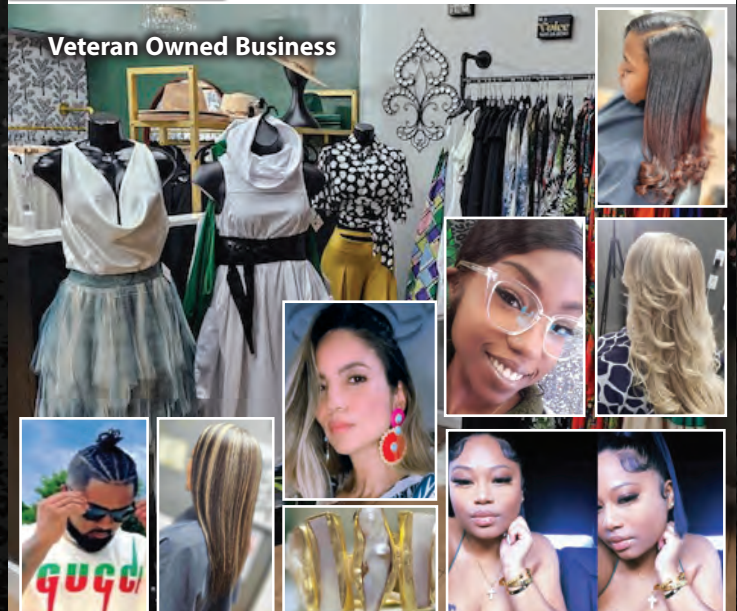
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(310 lbs), Aiden Radzelovage, Akeem Neal (285 lbs) and Mykel Mayo (300 lbs) on the front line and we are going to be moving people.”

Ambrose sees Foy’s conditioning tactics as beneficial to finish the crucial fourth quarters in critical district games.

“In order to do what we do for coach Bubba Horne; counter, power, anything to get the ball downfield,” said Ambrose. “We got a good relationship, a good feel for where Brandon is and we know to peel away and protect him.” On the defense, where Oakleaf loses a ton of players to graduation; Shevchook (70 tackles), Hicks (75 tackles), Cole (51 tackles), Savea (4 sacks), Bradshaw (4 interceptions) and Washington (43 tackles) Foy is looking to defensive end J.J. Marsh-Mensie and linebacker Da’Jon Brown who was a leading tackler last year with 81 stops

and 12 tackles for loss. Neal White comes in as a second middle linebacker because Brown may get some looks in the backfield. Sophomore Jermaine Robinson has also looked good in team play.

“We are big guys and we are going to read and react and Da’Jon is a dude out there flying around,” said Foy. “We are deep with like 11 kids we rotated in at camp with not much dropoff. It may take us two or three games to finish our lineups.”

Marsh-Mensie sees the defensive box; D-Line and linebackers, with Amare Thomas (285 lbs) and Jaiden Adams as well as possibly Foy, II, as a linebacker in certain situations. “We want our best athletes on the field to make plays,” said Marsh-Mensie. “If our opponent is strong pass, we put the pass rush guys in. If the team is run strong, we put some bigger guys that



Oakleaf has another workhorse running back in junior Chris Foy II who brings power to his game with strong pass-catching hands.

can plug holes.”

In the secondary, Kitt is his main guy in coverage with James Kitchen at the safety slot. Pryce could man a spot in the secondary with Jacobs also adding to coverage.

“Bryson can take over a third of the field and control a game,” said Foy, noting 41 tackles and two interceptions last year. Kitchen must avoid

injuries to be effective and that’s on Foy’s mind.

“James has been starting since he was a freshman, but he gets hit with injuries that slow him down,” said Foy. “He knows the game and can clue in his teammates on the field. The young guys will be tested by the passing of the teams in our district.”

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# Knights join Eagles in District of Doom

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND – Fleming Island and Oakleaf High football will be strengthened in 2023 with both fielding lineups of big, agile linemen and swift, fleet-footed ball carriers, but the action on the field will be highlighted by a district that features five teams all capable of Final Four runs.

“It definitely is one of the toughest districts in Florida,” said Parker. “But, I look at it as competition breeds success and we just, as coaches have to prepare the kids to best attack the games we will see.”

For Oakleaf first-year coach Chris Foy, he knows he is running up against a lion’s den of football in his new district.

“I’ve heard this district called worse than “District of Doom,” said Foy. “The games you play in local rivalries can be won on emotions sometimes, but the teams we got in our district, there is no room for error. Two mistakes will be costly.”

With Buchholz the top contender in the district, 10-3 last year with an excruciating region final win, 21-20, over Bartram Trail to finish as a Final Four candidate eventually losing to a state runner-up Venice, 42-35 in an epic battle. Lakeland won the 4S title over Venice, 21-14.

Bartram Trail, the top region seed last year, returns with a new coaching staff with Darrell Sutherland stepping down

after a run of 23 years and 182 wins against 94 losses. Bartram Trail, with former Nature Coast coach Cory Johns replacing Sutherland, has dominated the district teams now in 4S with one-loss records over 11-16 games against Creekside (15-1, last lost 2014), Fleming Island (10-1, last loss 2013) and Oakleaf (8-1, last loss 2018 in 69-53 thriller) with Buchholz the lone challenger with a 7-6 game record (3-2 in last five

years, lost 21-20 2022, 28-13 2018) against the Bears. One other area team that has had success is Nease High at 13-4 with Sutherland.

Johns has six region playoff berths at Nature Coast, a 40-17 slate, including a 40-28 loss to Clay High in 2013 in the region finals with Blue Devil running back Bilal Ally going for 317 yards and three scores.

For Fleming Island, new coach Chad Parker may have the secret sauce to upend the Bears with Parker on the Bartram Trail sidelines the past few years. Fleming Island had epic games against all four district foes but could not snag a win in those clashes.

Buchholz lost to Bartram Trail in regular season play but returned the favor in the region final to advance. Bartram Trail manhandled the district with

wins of 55-20 vs. Oakleaf, 21-6 vs. Buchholz, 59-27 vs. Creekside and 17-0 vs. Fleming Island. Bartram Trail returns a senior quarterback, Riley Trujillo (1910 Yds, 15TDs/710 Yds rushing) as well as a senior running back Laython Biddle (1515 Yds, 29TDs).

Fleming Island loses FSU Sam Singleton at RB (1015 Yds, 12TDs), two great linebackers (Ahman Wright and Jhace Edwards) and deep threat Darion Domenick (25 catches, 3TDs).

Fleming Island comes back with Trace Burney, a sophomore with 25 catches last year and three-year quarterback Cibastian Broughton plus a huge offensive line bolstered by senior Braden Cunningham

quarter will determine who has prepared.”

Foy turned over the Andrew Jackson program and has a knack for getting kids to run through walls for him. Miller put up amazing offensive numbers, but the Knights were unable to close games in the fourth quarter against top teams despite a great quarterback, two great wide receivers and a great running back. Maybe defense is the key in district play?

A new senior quarterback, a new junior running back (Chris Foy, II.), and a big, tough offensive line but a lot of new faces on the roster.

Creekside had coach Sean McIntyre turned the Knights

## District 3-4S

Oakleaf		Bradford County	29
Baker County	31	Buchholz	59
Fleming Island	19	Madison County	113
Bolles	20	Bartram Trail	25
Creekside	26	Clay	22

but losing four starters to graduation.

Buchholz loses all everything quarterback Creed Whittemore (1174 Yds, 12TDs, 461 Yds rushing, 6TDs) and two senior pass targets for Whittemore (35 and 13 catches apiece). Buchholz did not waste time with long scoring drives. Oakleaf has a slew of new faces in critical slots including at head coach with Chris Foy taking over for interim coach Marcus Miller and departed coach Frank Garis.

“Where I came from; Andrew Jackson, we had Ribault and Raines in our district and every game was almost a rivalry game,” said Foy, who left Jackson with two district titles in his pocket. “It’s still as simple as preparation, conditioning and willpower. Football is a simple game and the fourth

almost into a dragon slayer last year with a 9-3 finish with strong games up until Bartram Trail’s 59-27 regular season win and a 42-15 exit from the region playoffs as the fourth seed behind third seed Buchholz. The region seeds, with 4S ranks, strength of schedules) were Bartram Trail (4th, 33.6), Niceville (20th, 20.9) (10th, 23.3), Buchholz (5th, 35.3), Creekside (9th, 29.3), Navarre, Pace (7-4, 20.8), Crestview (15th, 26.0) and Flagler Palm Coast (17th, 24.1).

Locally, Fleming Island was 12th in 4S with a 24.2 SOS; Oakleaf was 26th at 21.7.

Lakeland, the 4S champion over Venice, was 14-0 with a 33.5 SOS in legendary coach Bill Castle’s final season. Venice was third-ranked at 9-4 with a 40.2 behind Osceola (Kissimmee) at 10-4, at 39.7.



# OAKLEAF Knights



RB CHRIS FOY II



LB NEIL WHYTE



DB BRYSON KITT



SS JAMES KICHENS



LB DAJON BROWN



DE DENEREO JACOBS



QB BRANDON WALLACE



DE JJ MARSH MENSIE



DE BRYAN COPLEAND



WR AJ JUSTILION



WR JORDIN PRYCE



WR JACKIE SHEPPARD



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- David Hayter

*Grumpy's owner and general manager Dell Hoard, Jr., second from left, gets a picture with his Middleburg morning crew and two very big guys from the Oakleaf High School football team; Quory Ambrose, left, and Chase Johnson, plus head coach Chris Foy and offensive line coach Bubba Horne. Special thanks to Hoard and the Middleburg Grumpy's for accommodating the Oakleaf players for the Clay Today football magazine.*





# Varsity Cheer



Row one: Dahlia Edstrom, Allison Evans, Zamoria Brownlee, Angel Haile, Christina Conner, Navasha Ashford, Courtney Tippins, Kayla Harding and Ainsley Buckle. Row two: Kennady Renew, Amari Grant, Aaliyah Raji, Aurielle Byfield, Yasmine Pritchard, Arianna Graham, Ella Rodriguez, S'Niyah Cochrane, Te'Aerra Bullard and head coach Taylor Griffis. Row three: Ava Memick, Avianna Emmett, Chloe Waters, Savannah Wilson, Graecyn Wemple, Angel Johnson, Cynia Conner, Kyliee Mraz, Haven Smith and Kynnedi Little.

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# Orange Park Raiders



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**Raiders**  
 ORANGE PARK  
 District 3-3S

Fri. Sept 1 @ Episcopal  
 Fri. Sept 8 vs. Clay  
 Fr. Sept. 15 @ Melbourne  
 Fri. Sept. 22 @ Nease  
 Fri. Sept. @ Columbia  
 Fri. Oct. 7 BYE  
 Fri. Oct 13 vs. Ridgeview  
 Fri. Oct 20 vs. Ponte Vedra  
 Fri. Oct 27 vs. Middleburg  
 Fri. Nov 3 vs. Fleming Island

**HISTORY**

**1999**

6A Bill Shields, Lost in region quarterfinal to Lake Mary 33-14. Lake Mary lost in region semifinals.

**2008**

5A Danny Green, Beat Pine Ridge 27-7 in quarters, beat Daytona Beach Mainland 21-20 in semifinals, Lost in region final to Pine Forest 33-7. Pine Forest lost in state semifinals.

**2009**

6A Danny Green, Lost in region quarterfinal to Deland 46-0. Deland lost in state final.

**2010**

6A Danny Green, Beat Mainland 29-28 in quarters, beat Deland 14-6 in semifinals, lost in region final to Seminole 21-16. Seminole lost in state semifinal.

**2020**

5A Tom Macpherson, Lost in region quarterfinal 41-24 to Menendez.

**2021**

6A Tom Macpherson 3-7

**2022**

3S Marcus Wimberly 2-8



Orange Park will be opening with a sophomore quarterback in Gabe Taylor, No. 8, who will direct a huddle with a lot of new faces.

**Wimberly set to unleash Raider speed**

By Randy Lefko  
 Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK - Orange Park football has been a staple of fast and furious football in Clay County for its history with the likes of Demetrius Baker, Estevon Cintron and Karl Barr and third-year coach Marcus Wimberly likes the look of his 2023 Raiders.

"I think the team and I are on the same page now," said Wimberly, who showed some muscle in a tight spring game with Ocoee out of the Orlando area also coached by an NFLer, Shedrick Gurley, a former Florida Gator and Super Bowl champion with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as well. "We've got some talent spread around and a great attitude."

With a brand new stadium with working bathrooms and huge concession stands, Wimberly hopes the new look will transform to the team on the field.

"Everyone likes new things and the new stadium will make the fans come and also make the players want to play big on their home field," said Wimberly. "We all like our home field and the new look works both ways. We've done the work."

Hopefully, with a rugged schedule that opens with two away games; Oakleaf (5-5, with new coach Chris Foy) and Episcopal (8-3 in 2M, lost in



Second-year coach Marcus Wimberly would like to improve on his 2-8 first seasons.

regions to Bolles), Wimberly will be able to shake up his lineup for a home showdown against Clay High in week three as the new stadium showcase. "That's two tough teams to start with and get



the ball rolling,” said Wimberly. “We will see, hopefully, that our summer has been productive and that the kids are ready to push into the serious side of the schedule.”

Wimberly’s schedule is set up with his district games; Columbia, Ridgeview and Middleburg all in the second half of the season.

One interesting game for Wimberly is against Melbourne in game four, a road trip, and another former Miami Hurricane as head coach, David Kintigh, who is riding seasons of 11-3 and 9-3 since taking over the Bulldogs two years ago.

“He’s a teammate at Miami and will be ready to go again,” said Wimberly. “We better be ready for that one.”

One thing on the Raiders’ side is that Wimberly has a pocketful of elite experiences; University of Miami national champion, NFL veteran, Tennessee high school state champion, that will hopefully lead to a Raider surge in 2023.

“We’ve had the athletes to play football at Orange Park and I think this year, we will see results,” said Wimberly, 2-8 last year. “Our quarterbacks in the past two years have been inexperienced and that has made our offense struggle a bit. I remind people though that I won a Tennessee high school state title with a sophomore quarterback.”

Two weapons on the field for Wimberly will be track speed-



*Sophomore quarterback Gabe Taylor is going to be the point man that features an offense that has one of the fastest wide receivers in Clay County.*

sters Jermel Brown, an 11-second 100-meter guy, who looks to be the vertical threat downfield (14 catches, 4TDs, one a 70-yarder) and track hurdler Timothy Barfield, who is in his first year in a football uniform. Brown got spot duty last year behind Nolan Chambers (team leads 22 catches) and Brian Green (16 catches), both prime targets last year of quarterback Elijah Craggette along with all-state tight end Maliek Carter from 2021. Wimberly also liked Quinn Moore and Clay High transfer Jaden Paulk to be impact players in enemy secondaries.

“Jermel has grown into

being a strong player on the outside and he learned from watching two great players last year; Nolan and Brian,” said Wimberly. “If we get him anywhere on the field, he’ll get to the house.”

Finding Brown and Paulk downfield will fall to the young shoulders of sophomore quarterback Gabe Taylor, who had a strong game in the Raiders spring game with Ocoee and looks to be Wimberly’s guy behind center.

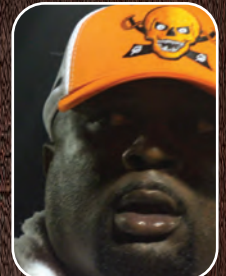
“Our quarterback, sophomore Gabe Taylor, has been learning real quick, getting his reads and becoming a leader despite his age,” said Wimberly.



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Line coach Coby Hayslett has a lot of big bodies on his offensive line that should make a difference in getting the Raider offense downfield.



Linebacker Justin Davis is key to the Raider defense that features a handful of strong, athletic attackers behind the line of scrimmage.

"Quinton Moore, a junior, and Jaden Paulk, a senior, will also be catching passes and they are good solid possession receivers

that can catch and go. Paulk can step in at quarterback if we need to get a spark on offense."

One aspect of the offense that Wimberly

sees the most work to be done is the offensive line where he loses All-State tackler Roderick Kearney, also an All-American selection and now at the University of Flori-

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Linebackers Tristan Johnson left, and Tyler Jackson are top tacklers for Raider defense here wrestling down Ocoee running back in the spring game.

da, plus Kearney's wingman last year, guard  
Braylon Hawkins, now at Ridgeview High  
with his dad, Courtney, who is the Panther

offensive coordinator.

"We really only return one guy, Nile  
Thomas, a six-foot guard, from last year,"

said Wimberly. "Everyone is going to be  
new and we are working on who the starters  
will be."

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Possible names on the offensive line will be big bodies like Jeremiah Hamilton (250 lbs.).

One guy missing this year is running back JoJo Restall who was the top ball carrier and one of the toughest takedowns in north Florida. Wimberly also lost fullback Kenneth Henderson as part of his two-man offensive attack.

"His running was a part of the game that made teams respect us between the tackles," said Wimberly. "We had two guys that punished people at the point of attack and we will need some guys to take that role."

Wimberly saw some sparks behind running back Damar Jackson over the summer and in the spring game and will look to other players to fill in.

"Dylan Ruiz, a sophomore, and Josh Johnson are two guys we will need to step up," said Wimberly. "We are open back there for the guy who wants to the spot. We lost two good ones; Jo Jo and Kenneth, and will need to replace them."

Wimberly is expecting that his top guys on offense will also get time on the defense which is expected to be fresh faces as well.

"Jermel and Jaden will be in the secondary," said Wimberly. "Tyler Jackson at



Orange Park graduate All-American offensive tackle Roderick Kearney, here shaking hands before Clay High game, with Kearney now in Gainesville with the University of Florida.

linebacker had 100 tackles. He's going to our leader back there."

Wimberly also sees the defensive line as a work in progress with new faces.

At safety, Wimberly sees Orlando Jackson, a senior, will patrol centerfield in the secondary.

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# Wimberly has speed; who will deliver?

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK - The teams of district 3-3S; Columbia, Ridgeview, Orange Park and Middleburg all have a bit of a chip on their shoulders as 2023 approaches with Middleburg High the most intriguing story within the district.

For Ridgeview and Orange Park, return to winning is the goal with both looking for the secret sauce amidst a flurry of athletes that can do the job.



*Trackster Jermel Brown is capable of quick strikes downfield to the house with his speed.*

For the Raiders, never underestimate the power of an ex-NFL guy and Miami Hurricane to figure out how to win games.

Though his peripheral talent is fast and furious; 10.7 100 wide receiver Jermel Brown as one, Marcus Wimberly noted that he won his Tennessee state title with a sophomore quarterback.

"I think the team and I are on the same page now," said Wimberly, who showed some muscle in a tight spring game with Ocoee out of Orlando area also coached by

an NFLer, Shedrick Gurley, a former Florida Gator and Super Bowl champion with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as well. "We've got some talent spread around and a great attitude."

Wimberly reminds doubters that he won a Tennessee high school state title with a sophomore quarterback and with his weapons in place, sophomore Gabe Taylor is the guy destined to be the starter.

"He's getting his reads right and if we give him some time and he makes good choices, we'll be okay," said Wimberly. "One thing is our offensive line returns just one guy. That's where we are working hard to rebuild."

One interesting game for Wimberly is against Melbourne and another former Miami Hurricane, David Kintigh, who is riding seasons of 11-3 and 9-3 since taking over the Bulldogs two years ago.

Ridgeview coach Bryan Arnette has his three years of crew behind him, some size in key positions and a strong run game led by a Train (200 lbs), but no more Baptistes in the lineup.

As for size, Arnette has JJ Moore, a bruising tight end (220 lbs) with strong hands; Jacob Jones, 6'-4", 240 lbs at DE; strongman Braylon Hawkins (250 lbs) as a fullback (LOL to those in the gap) and a sophomore quarterback as big as a linebacker.

"Over the years, size has been our achilles heel," said Arnette. "Now, we have some big bodies up front and a strong run game. We



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could make a difference in the district.”

Middleburg coach Ryan Wolfe is banking on experience to thwart a season opening schedule as brutal as a Austin Cruce cross face tackle.

“Of course, we have 25 seniors coming back and that usually means high expectations,” said Middleburg coach Ryan Wolfe, entering his fourth season. “With that, we expect to be in most of our games despite the fact that our schedule is the same as last year and features our first four games against top-ranked teams; twice 1Rural finalist; once 2A champion Hawthorne; 12-0 last year; region qualifier Bishop Kenny; 2S Final Four finisher Bradford County and Ponte Vedra.

Columbia had the furthest region reach last year with an overtime win over Choctawhatchee in the region final and an eventual Final Four loss to 3S champion Lake Wales; 37-7. Lake Wales beat Daytona Beach Mainland 32-30 in a thriller championship game.

With all the factors pointing toward Columbia to repeat as the strongest of region 1-3S under coach Brian Allen. Allen returned after leaving the program to former Columbia quarterback Demetric Jackson in 2021, but returned last year with renewed energy. Allen’s departure, due to COVID concerns, was the end of a 10 year span at Columbia that included a region playoff berth each season after Allen pursued a short NFL career after starring at FSU. Ironically, Jackson returned to Fort White, his former team (three district titles, four region finals) prior to the Columbia gig, to coach his son, Jayden.

Jackson’s departure from Columbia came with a first since 2015 Final Four finish and two district titles in his two seasons there.

Ironically, one of the top returners for Columbia is senior wide

receiver Camden Frier, who led the Tigers passing game with 27 catches among five receivers in double figures but with only Frier returning. Frier is son to Matt Frier who starred at cross town rival Suwannee High School in their 1990s heyday of four straight Class 3A

## District 3-3S

Orange Park  
Episcopal 21  
Clay 18  
Melbourne 175  
Nease 24

Columbia 72  
Ridgeview 4  
Ponte Vedra 27  
Middleburg 9  
Fleming island 9

titles under Hall of Fame coach Mike Pittman. Dad Frier is an FHSAA Hall of Famer with a state record 220 career receptions and 41 TDs.

Allen does not return his quarterback, Tyler Jefferson and his 1200-plus yards and 10 scores. Jefferson was one of two rushers that hit for just about 700 yards, but both graduate, so the Tigers will have new faces in key skill positions.

Middleburg, on the other, hand, returns a bucketload of speed, talent and fire on the field with the likes of Fryer, Jaden Boyd (RB) Jaydan Jenkins (Utility) Austin Cruce (MLB), Tucker Cody (DE) on top of two new quarterbacks.

Wolfe may get a shot at the district title if Columbia is in a growing mode.



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 Third row: David Lava, Charlotte Wilson, Virginia Schaefer, Alani Corredor, Shamiyah Youmans and Brandon Lopez. Not pictured: Andrew Schaefer



SENIOR ABIGAIL KINSELLA



SENIOR CHARLOTTE WILSON



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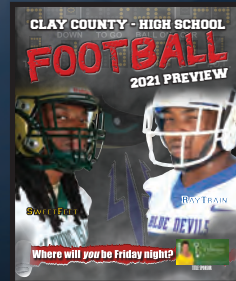
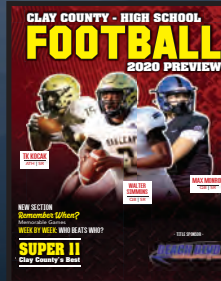
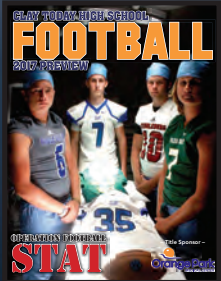
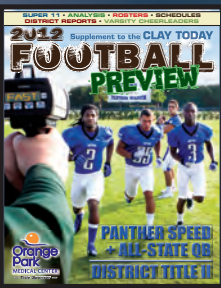
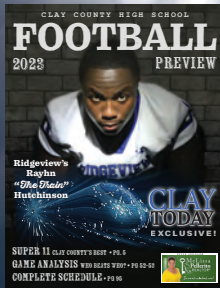
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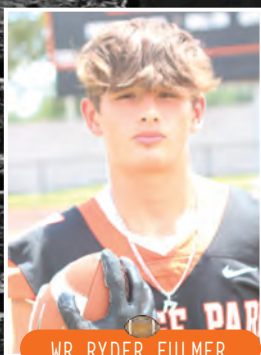
DB JOSEPH HILL



K ANTHONY MATHIS



DB ISAAC FULLER



WR RYDER FULMER



WR DAVEON TOBLER



SS EMANI JUSTAVINO



LB/FB TYLER JACKSON



RB DAMAR JACKSON





DB ELIJAH JONES



DB ALBERTO TOLEDO



RB JORDYN GRACE



CB/FS KAIDEN LITTLE



DE TRISTON JOHNSON



DL JEREMIAH JENNINGS



LB JOSEPH FORTIN



LB DAWSON SMITH



LB JABIN BUCKMAN



FB PEYTON FLORES



OL ALTERSON ALTHENOR



DL JAYDEN BLANTON



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# RIDGEVIEW Panthers

MIDDLEBURG

3-3S

Fri. Aug 25. vs. Menendez  
Fri. Sept 1 @ Clay  
Fri. Sept 8 vs. Gateway  
Fr. Sept. 15 BYE  
Fri. Sept. 22 @ Beachside  
Fri. Sept. 29 vs. Middleburg  
Fri. Oct 13 @ Orange Park  
Fri. Oct 20 @ Fort White  
Fri. Oct 27 vs. Columbia  
Fri. Nov 3 @ Crescent City

## HISTORY

2000

4A Tom Macpherson. Lost in region quarterfinal to Pine Forest 52-7. Pine Forest wins title game.

2001

4A Tom Macpherson. Lost in region quarterfinal to Pine Forest 21-2. Pine Forest loses in region semifinals.

2004

3A Tom Macpherson. Lost in region quarterfinal to St. Augustine 32-21. St. Augustine lost in state semifinal.

2005

4A Tom Macpherson. Lost in region quarterfinal to Eastside 14-7. Eastside lost in region final.

2008

4A Tom Macpherson. Lost in region final to Seabreeze 44-7. Seabreeze lost in state semifinal.

2010

Tom Macpherson. Lost in region quarterfinal to Lincoln 34-0. Lincoln won state title.

2011

6A Tom Macpherson. Lost in region quarterfinal to Bartram Trail 62-10. Bartram Trail lost in state semifinal.



Led by senior running back Rayhn Hutchinson, No. 21, the Ridgeview High Panthers could be a surprise team for 2023 with 10 seniors and a handful of big bodies up front to clear the path.

# Panthers look to 'size up' season

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK – With just two wins in two seasons, Ridgeview High football coach Bryan Arnette thinks maybe some prayers have been answered as he has a sizeable improvement in his team this year with bigger, stronger bodies looking to man the Panther field.

“We have always been a little small on the line of scrimmage and that takes away from our approach to the game as we have had to figure ways to get past bigger guys,” said Arnette, who will bring a Ridgeview best of 10 seniors to the field in 2023. “This season we have some big guys on both sides of the ball; Jacob Jones on offense/defense line (250 lbs.) and JJ Moore at tight end (220 lbs) will bolster our attack.”

Arnette thinks the three-year players that are still on the team bring a wealth of experience and maybe a little attitude to change the complexion of Panther football.

“They have stayed the course with me and keep coming to practice and conditioning and that’s a big thing to develop the culture of winning,” said Arnette. “We just don’t get the numbers like the other schools around us and



Ridgeview coach Bryan Arnette has had to manipulate his scheme a bit to offset a lack of size for his first two years, but Arnette likes the size of his 2023 squad.



# HISTORY

**2012**

6A Tom Macpherson, Lost in region quarterfinal to St. Augustine 35-26. St. Augustine lost in region semifinal.

**2020**

5A Matt Knauss, Lost in region quarterfinal to Ocala Vanguard 35-0. Vanguard lost in region final.

**2021**

6A Bryan Arnette 1-9

**2022**

3S Bryan Arnette 1-9

**College**

Tyler Huff - Furman

Kiaran Turner - Valdosta

State

Glenn Miller - Maryland

Josh Dorsanvil - Savannah

State

Derrick Mosley - UNC

Wesleyan

Chris Baptiste - UWF

Franklin Brown - River City

Prep

Nappoleon Cion - River

City Prep



Linebacker turned defensive end Hunter Creech is one of the smartest defensive players for the Panthers and will be a stand-up and three-point player at the point of attack.



Running back Rayhn Hutchinson is rugged downfield and a tough tackle on impact.

the team has to play a little different, a little tougher maybe on both sides of the ball, but we are getting to where we have rosters for both sides of the ball.

With an untested rookie quarterback, sophomore basketballer Travon Malone, also a bit big at 5'-9" and nearly 200 pounds with a cannon arm, Arnette shifts his thoughts to bring a game plan that a new quarterback can execute with the weapons around him.

"Everyone knows that Rayhn Hutchinson (210 lbs.) is going to get a lot of touches as our top running back, but we have to use his threat to open the game," said Arnette, noting

Hutchinson also made 45 stops from his line-





backer slot. "Travon had a good spring game, made a few Green mistakes, but stuff that was fixable. He's a good all-around athlete and has instincts to the game."

One guy who could have a breakout season in a new position is fullback Braylon Hawkins, a mammoth 250-blocking machine from just off the line of scrimmage. Hawkins, who followed his dad, Ridgeview offensive coach Courtney Hawkins who moved to Ridgeview after coaching changes at Orange Park, was an offensive guard next to All-Stater Roderick Kearney on the Raiders offensive line.

"He can do it all; run the ball, catch passes and block the next level in front of Rayhn," said Arnette. "He likes the opportunity to maybe score a touchdown or two as well."

Hawkins said the fullback position gives him a better sight of his target and offers a little more momentum to that target.

"From just off the line of scrimmage, I can find my target and lead the running back; probably Rayhn through the hole



Rookie quarterback Travon Malone showed good pocket presence and a strong arm in Panthers' spring game and could be an impact player real quick for Ridgeview.

from a more strategic position," said Hawkins, at 255 lbs. about a 5.0-second 40-yard dash. "On the offensive line, there are a lot of legs and arms along the way because everyone is battling in like a two-foot space. My position gives me more space to find my target and get to him."

Hutchinson is primed to add to his prowess as a downhill power runner with Hawkins offering a second handoff with equal or more power.

"I've developed a little more speed and my power has always been part of my game," said Hutchinson. "With Braylon back in the backfield, defenses have to think about which of the two big backs is going to get the ball."

Hutchinson likes Arnette's inside zone run scheme as it exploits his strong inside running.

"We have two very strong backs now," said Hutchinson, who scored five touchdowns on about 400 yards of rushing with a breakout 34-yarder against Orange Park. "It's going to be fun."

J.J. Moore, a strength tight end much in the same mold as Hutchinson

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and Hawkins offers a quick dump pass from Malone that does have to stretch the passing capability until Malone gets into his zone.

“My job is to take the quick dump pass over the middle then get my yards from there,” said Moore, also a sack master as a defensive end with 14 sacks and 16 tackles for losses last year. “I may not look it, but I can get downfield quickly where I will challenge the 175-180 pound cornerbacks.”

Jones, on both lines, sees his job to lead the five-man front and the Panthers defensive front which will include possibly Moore and possibly linebacker-turned-lineman Hunter Creech, one of the top tacklers for Arnette with 64 stops and six for losses. Moore punched in with 53 tackles but an incredible 16 stops behind the line of scrimmage and 14 sacks.

“I’m the guy they want to crash the corner,” said Moore. “I will find the quarterback or the guy with the ball and disrupt the offense.”



Giant tackle Jacob Jones is the biggest of the front-line pushers for Arnette’s offense.



One of Ridgeview’s most dependable defenders is senior James Laycock who has put the time in with coach Bryan Arnette and can execute the game plan on both sides of the ball.

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Senior James Laycock also adds an element of quickness to the defense with 41 tackles last year and four for losses.

Arnette's top passing threat, as was evident with a few long balls against Santa Fe in the Panthers' spring game, is sophomore Deshun Green who led the offense with 18 catches with two scores. The top catcher was graduated Chris Baptiste with 22 passes as Arnette mixed his plays from power inside to downfield strikes with an 80-yarder to Joeqwon Glenn and an 81-yarder to senior Steven Morelus that opened up some offense.

"Travon and Deshun showed some good connect against Santa Fe and we think that will be a good partnership," said Arnette. "Bigger line, more protection,



Running back Kimal Marshall is the second backfield runner that is a tough, rugged runner that moves well after impact.

we get Travon with some good reads, a little patience to let receivers run their routes

and we could hit some big ones." Arnette like Hutchinson gets some passes out of the

backfield as well to open his game. "We just want him to get the ball in different situations to use his God-given abilities," said Arnette. "He is the consummate team player and will go wherever we put him and play hard."

Arnette liked Alex Fennell, a junior, in the secondary with senior Trumoni Corbitt anchoring the second level. Arnette liked junior Lucious Harris as either an inside linebacker or a strong safety.

"We are hoping our defensive line will be active enough to not give quarterbacks a lot of time," said Moore. "We shortened their time in the pocket and our guys can keep guys in front of them on passing downs."

Arnette did lose kicker Kalib Robison to Middleburg and will need to find a kicker to equal Robison's talents at midfield.



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# Hoping size challenges district

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK – The teams of District 3-3S; Columbia, Ridgeview, Orange Park and Middleburg all have a bit of a chip on their shoulders as 2023 approaches with Middleburg High the most intriguing story within the district.

For Ridgeview and Orange Park, return to winning is the goal with both looking for the secret sauce amidst a flurry of athletes that can do the job.

Coach Bryan Arnette has his three years of the crew behind him, some size in key positions and a strong run game led by a Train (200 lbs), but no more Baptistes in the lineup.

As for size, Arnette has JJ Moore, a bruising tight end (220 lbs) with strong hands; Jacob Jones, 6'-4", 240 lbs at DE; strongman Braylon Hawkins (250 lbs) as a fullback (LOL to those in the gap) and a sophomore quarterback as big as a linebacker.

"Over the years, size has been our Achilles heel," said Arnette. "Now, we have some big bodies up front and a strong run game. We could make a difference in the district."

Middleburg coach Ryan Wolfe is banking on experience to thwart a season-opening schedule as brutal as an Austin Cruce cross-face tackle.

"Of course, we have 25 seniors coming back and that usually means high expectations," said Middleburg coach Ryan Wolfe, entering his fourth season. "With that, we expect to be in most of our games despite the fact that our schedule is the same as last year and features our first four games against top-ranked teams; twice 1Rural finalist; once 2A champion Hawthorne; 12-0 last year; region qualifier Bishop Kenny; 2S Final Four finisher Bradford County and Ponte Vedra.

From senior cornerback Errick Fryer, the expectation is to not start slow.

"Last year, we let games get away from us early because we were raw," said Fryer. "This year, we get that these teams we play first are our legit contenders and there is no room for early leads."

Columbia had the furthest region reach last year with an overtime win over Choctawhatchee in the region final and an eventual Final Four loss to 3S champion Lake Wales; 37-7. Lake Wales beat Daytona Beach Mainland 32-30 in a thriller championship game. With all the factors pointing toward Columbia repeating as the strongest of region 1-3S under coach Brian Allen. Allen returned after leaving the program to former Columbia quarterback Demetric Jackson in 2021 but returned last year with renewed energy. Allen's departure, due to COVID concerns, was the end of a 10-year span at Columbia that included a region playoff berth

each season after Allen pursued a short NFL career after starring at FSU. Ironically, Jackson returned to Fort White, his former team (three district titles, four region finals) prior to the Columbia gig, to coach his son, Jayden. Jackson's departure from Columbia came with a first since 2015 Final Four finish and two district titles in his two seasons there.

Ironically, one of the top returners for Columbia is senior wide receiver Camden Frier, who led the Tiger's passing game with 27 catches among five receivers in double figures but with only Frier returning. Frier is the son to Matt Frier who starred at cross-town rival Suwannee High School in their 1990s heyday of four straight Class 3A titles under Hall of Fame coach Mike Pittman. Dad Frier is an FHSAA Hall of Famer with a state record 220 career receptions and 41 TDs.

Allen does not return his quarterback, Tyler Jefferson and his 1200-plus yards and 10 scores. Jefferson was one of two rushers that hit for just about 700 yards, but both graduated, so the Tigers will have new faces in key skill positions.

Middleburg, on the other, hand, returns a bucketload of speed, talent and fire on the field with the likes of Fryer, Jaden Boyd (RB) Jaydan Jenkins (Utility) Austin Cruce (MLB), Tucker Cody (DE) on top of two new quarterbacks.

Wolfe may get a shot at the district title if Columbia is in a growing mode.

For the Raiders, never underestimate the power of an ex-NFL guy and Miami Hurricane to figure out how to win games. Though his peripheral talent is fast and furious; 10.7 100 wide receiver Jermel Brown is one, Marcus Wimberly noted that he won his Tennessee state title as a sophomore quarterback. "I think the team and I are on the same page now," said Wimberly, who showed some muscle in a tight spring game with Ocoee out of the Orlando area also coached by an NFLer, Shedrick Gurley, a former Florida Gator and Super Bowl champion with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as well. "We've got some talent spread around and a great attitude."

One interesting game for Wimberly is against Melbourne and another former Miami Hurricane, David Kintigh, who is riding seasons of 11-3 and 9-3 since taking over the Bulldogs two years ago.

## District 3-3S

Ridgeview		Eastside	54
Menendez	51	Orange Park	5
Clay	16	Fort White	68
Gateway	167	Columbia	68
Beachside	28	Crescent City	63
Middleburg	5		



# Ridgeview Panthers



FB/DT BRAYLON HAWKINS



RB RAYHN HUTCHINSON



RB/LB KIMAL MARSHALL



LB HUNTER CREECH



DE/TE J.J. MOORE



DL JAMES LAYCOCK



WR DESHUN GREEN



SS CAMRYN HALL



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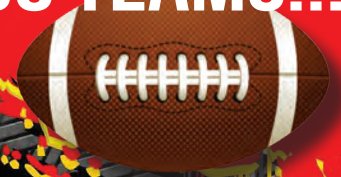
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2 Points for win  
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 Example: 10 wins in Class 5A, perfect schedule 200 points.  
 (Fleming Island vs. Clay, 2016 record 10-4 (20pts) 7A, Clay (-2, 5A), Total: 18  
 Note: New Classifications for 2022; results based on last year's Classes.  
 Up to 10 games in 2020. 200 max

## Ridgeview (District 3-3S, 1-9) Points

Aug. 18 at Keystone Hits (preseason)	
Fri., Aug. 25 vs. Menendez (D4-3S, 5-5)	10
Fri., Sept. 1 at Clay (4-3S, 3-7)	6
Fri., Sept. 8 vs. Gateway (8-3S, 2-7)	4
Fri., Sept. 15 BYE	
Fri., Sept. 22 at Beachside (Freelance, 6-4)	9
Fri., Sept. 29 vs. Middleburg (3-3S, 5-6)	10
Fri., Oct. 6 vs. Eastside (7-2S, 8-3)	13
Fri., Oct. 13 at Orange Park (3-3S, 2-8)	4
Fri., Oct. 20 at Fort White (3-1R, 6-5)	10
Fri., Oct. 27 vs. Columbia (3-3S, 9-4)	18
Fri., Nov. 3 at Crescent City (8-2S, 4-7)	7

91/200  
 Strength of Schedule: 45.5 %

## Middleburg (3-3S, 6-5) Points

Fri., Aug 18 at Episcopal (preseason)	
Fri., Aug. 25 at Hawthorne (4-1R, 12-0)	22
Fri., Sept. 1 vs. Bishop Kenny (2-2M, 8-3)	15
Fri., Sept. 8 vs. Bradford County (6-2S, 12-2)	23
Fri., Sept. 15 @ Ponte Vedra	
Fri., Sept. 22 vs. Ribault (1-2M, 3-7)	5
Fri., Sept. 29 at Ridgeview (3-3S, 1-9)	2
Fri., Oct. 6 at Clay (4-3S, 3-7)	6
Fri., Oct. 13 vs. Columbia (3-3S, 9-4)	18
Fri., Oct. 20 BYE	
Fri., Oct. 27 at Orange Park (3-3S, 2-8)	4
Fri., Nov. 3 vs. Fernandina Beach (5-2S, 4-6)	7

102/200  
 51.0% Strength of Schedule

## Orange Park (3-3S, 2-8) Points

Fri., Aug. 25 at Oakleaf (3-4S, 5-5)	11
Fri., Sept. 1 at Episcopal (2-2M, 8-3)	17
Fri., Sept. 8 vs. Clay (4-3S, 3-7)	6
Fri., Sept 15 at Melbourne (11-4S, 9-3)	19
Fri., Sept. 22 at Nease (4-4S, 2-8)	5
Fri., Sept. 29 at Columbia (3-3S, 9-4)	18
Fri., Oct. 7 BYE	
Fri., Oct. 13 vs. Ridgeview (3-3S, 1-9)	2
Fri., Oct. 20 vs. Ponte Vedra (4-4S, 5-5)	11
Fri., Oct. 27 vs. Middleburg (3-3S, 5-6)	10
Fri., Nov. 3 vs. Fleming Island (3-4S, 5-4)	11

110/200  
 55% Strength of Schedule



## 2023 CLAY COUNTY HIGH FOOTBALL PREVIEW

# Game Previews

### Week One Aug. 25

- Clay at Fleming Island
- Orange Park at Oakleaf
- Menendez at Ridgeview
- Middleburg at Hawthorne
- Out of County: Baker County at Bradford

## GAME OF THE WEEK

**Clay at Fleming Island:** It is the big one and for a good reason. Both teams looking to rebound from no-playoff 2022. Quarterbacks are both solid; Rapoza and Broughton. Running backs to Fleming Island: Tyler Beverly vs. Chandler Thomas. Wideouts to Clay: Payton Dykas is simply the best in the area but Trace Burney is a burner, maybe Kaylib Singleton speed out there too. Defense, the Shark vs. Omar. That will be worth a ticket. At Fleming Island, new coach Chad Parker wants to get on the W board in the rivalry. From Clay, Kennard has been in the game and knows the emotions. Edge Clay.

**Orange Park at Oakleaf:** New coach at Oakleaf Chris Foy has pushed the program to a new level of team discipline, great line-backer duo, could be a game-changer. Raiders have the speed to burn, young QB..Edge Oakleaf.

**Menendez at Ridgeview:** Arnette has size this year. Get a quick win, and gain momentum. Get the ball to JJ and let him run like a truck.



## Oakleaf (3-4S, 5-5) Points

Fri., Aug. 25 vs. Orange Park (3-3S, 2-8)	3
Fri., Sept. 1 vs. Baker County (5-2S, 9-4)	16
Fri., Sept. 8 BYE	
Fri., Sept. 15 vs. Fleming Island (3-4S, 5-4)	10
Fri., Sept. 22 vs. Bolles (2-2M, 9-5)	16
Fri., Sept. 29 at Creekside (3-4S, 9-3)	18
Fri., Oct. 6 vs. Bradford (6-2S, 12-2)	22
Fri., Oct. 13 vs. Buchholz (3-4S, 10-3)	20
Fri., Oct. 20 at Madison County (3-1R, 4-7)	7
Fri., Oct. 27 at Bartram Trail (3-4S, 12-1)	24
Fri., Nov. 3 at Clay (4-3S, 3-7)	5

141/200  
 70.5% Strength of Schedule

## Fleming Island (3-4S, 5-4) Points

Fri., Aug. 18 vs. Westside (Pre)	
Fri. Aug. 25 vs. Clay (4-3S, 3-7)	5
Fri., Sept. 1 vs. Tampa Catholic	7
Fri., Sept. 8 BYE	
Fri., Sept. 15 at Oakleaf (3-4S, 5-5)	11
Fri., Sept. 22 at Titusville (12-2S, 7-4)	12
Fri., Sept. 29 vs. Bartram Trail (3-4S, 12-1)	24
Fri., Oct. 6 vs. Lake Minneola (5-4S, 10-2)	20
Fri., Oct. 13 at Mandarin (1-4M, 5-5)	10
Fri., Oct. 20 at Creekside (3-4S, 9-3)	18
Fri., Oct. 27 vs. Buchholz (3-4S, 10-3)	20
Fri., Nov. 3 at Orange Park (3-3S, 2-8)	3

130/200  
 65% Strength of Schedule

## Clay (4-3S, 3-7) Points

Fri., Aug. 18 at Bishop Kenny (pre)	
Fri., Aug. 25 at Fleming Island (3-4S, 5-4)	11
Fri., Sept. 1 vs. Ridgeview (3-3S, 1-9)	2
Fri., Sept. 8 at Orange Park (3-3S, 2-8)	4
Fri., Sept. 15 vs. Gainesville (4-3S, 0-10)	0
Fri., Sept. 22 at Toco Creek (6-2S, 6-4)	11
Fri., Sept. 29 BYE	
Fri., Oct. 6 vs. Middleburg (3-3S, 5-6)	10
Fri., Oct. 13 at Menendez (4-3S, 5-5)	10
Fri., Oct. 20 at Matanzas (4-3S, 5-5)	10
Fri., Oct. 27 vs. St. Augustine (4-3S, 7-4)	14
Fri., Nov. 3 vs. Oakleaf (3-4S, 5-5)	11

83/200  
 41.5% Strength of Schedule

## Keystone Heights (6-2S, 2-8) Points

Fri., Aug. 18 vs. Ridgeview (pre)	
Fri., Aug. 25 BYE	
Fri., Sept. 1 vs. Eastside (7-2S, 8-3)	16
Fri., Sept. 8 vs. Fort White (3-1R, 6-5)	11
Fri., Sept. 15 vs. Bell (3-1R, 5-5)	9
Fri., Sept. 22 vs. Interlachen (SSAC, 10-0)	18
Fri., Sept. 29 at Bradford (6-2S, 12-2)	24
Fri., Oct. 6 vs. Crescent City (8-2S, 4-7)	8
Fri. Oct. 13 at Palatka (6-2S, 7-4)	14
Fri. Oct. 20 at Taylor-Pierson (8-2S, 1-9)	2
Fri. Oct. 27 vs. Joshua Christian (First year)	0
Thur., Nov. 2 at PK Yonge (3-1S, 4-8)	8

94/200  
 47% Strength of Schedule





**Middleburg at Hawthorne:** State champs again for game one for Wolfe. Learned to start fast from slow starts last year. Jenkins on the outskirts in green space. Look for Boyd or Fryer to go 70 on the first handoff to set Hawthorne back then let Cruce, Cody, and Carter dominate the line this year. Edge Middleburg in a doozy.

**Out of County:** Baker County at Bradford: Both teams are to be loaded and looking forward to Clay County visits. First game to see firepower then our guys can adjust. Bradford returns a ton and visits Middleburg and Oakleaf in season. Edge Bradford.

## Week Two Sept. 1

Baker County at Oakleaf  
 Bishop Kenny at Middleburg  
 Eastside at Keystone Heights  
 Orange Park at Episcopal  
 Ridgeview at Clay  
 Tampa Catholic at Fleming Island  
 Out of County: Creekside at Nease

### GAME OF THE WEEK

**Tampa Catholic at Fleming Island:**

Big change in schedule from Tallahassee Rickards at the last minute to 2S Tampa Catholic, a region finisher last year and a team that features three NCAA Div. I commit; Quarterback to Furman, WR to Clemson, DB to Alabama. This one will be fun from Coach Chad Parker.

**Baker County at Oakleaf:** Baker County was thumped by Bradford not a good sign for Oakleaf walking on Orange Park. Foy is smart enough to cool the boy's jets and be ready for a war on the turn. Edge Oakleaf.

**Bishop Kenny at Middleburg:** Middleburg gets a thriller over Hawthorne at Hawthorne to stamp Wolfe era with the biggest win thus far. Let's not sleep on it too long. Kenny is always well-coached. Edge Middleburg.

**Eastside at Keystone:** Keystone Heights gets a hot start under new leadership; Steve Reynolds. May not see many new wrinkles if not needed, Keystone Heights is about unloading heft up front. Edge Keystone Heights.

**Orange Park at Episcopal:** Orange Park can rebound and skunk Episcopal if Wimberly adjusts to a host of new faces on the field. Depth is critical here to jump-start the season. Who worked? Who didn't? Gt to be a teammate first, not bitter.

**Ridgeview at Clay:** This was big rivalry years ago: Hoekstra vs. Macpherson. Kennard vs. Arnette is not quite the ring but still should be interesting if Arnette's big guys want to graduate with a feather in their cap.

**Out of County:** Creekside at Nease: Two teams that could pivot one of our team seasons; Oakleaf and Fleming Island, both teams return good talent. Creekside may emerge as the District of Doom Wild Card. Nease knows the District of Doom from 7A days and still plays big.

## Week Two Sept. 8

BYE Fleming Island, Oakleaf  
 Clay at Orange Park  
 Fort White at Keystone Heights  
 Kissimmee Gateway at Ridgeview  
 Bradford at Middleburg  
 Out of County: Coffee (GA) at Bolles

**BYE:** Fleming Island, Oakleaf (Both get two weeks to ready up for next week's showdown)

### GAME OF THE WEEK

**Bradford at Middleburg:**

Wolfe can knock out three in a row? Jamie Rodgers is a big fish to knock out. Coin toss if the 'Burg lights up home game fans.

**Clay at Orange Park:** Kennard may have an edge in quarter-back Rapoza, but speed on the outside may be costly to Blue Devils with Jermel Brown hitting the jets. Don't know if the quarterback can get the ball in stride, but if he does, that's the ticket.

**Fort White at Keystone Heights:** Reynolds is to build momentum here with a good home game.

**Kissimmee Gateway at Ridgeview:** Ridgeview gets a new opponent; fresh from Orlando. If from Orlando, the talent pool is deep all around. Could be a sleeper team. Gateway went from Freelance to 6A to 3S. If they are getting Orlando kids from around the block, may be a dangerous team.

**Out of County:** Coffee (GA) at Bolles: Coffee High has had two coaches with strong resumes; Mike Coe (Madison County, bucket-load of titles), Robby Pruitt (state titles at University Christian/Lake





Butler), and long seasons with deep playoff runs. By the way, so has Bolles with Rodgers, Toblin and throw in Hoekstra in the mix. This is a Battle of the Border Classic. Bolles comes to Oakleaf two weeks after this. Be very afraid.

## Week Four Sept. 15

BYE Ridgeview  
 Bell at Keystone Heights  
 Fleming Island at Oakleaf  
 Gainesville at Clay  
 Middleburg at Ponte Vedra  
 Orange Park at Melbourne  
 Out of County: Trinity Christian at Bolles

**Fleming Island at Oakleaf:** Another Clay County classic, Oakleaf and Drew Ammon turned the tables last year at Fleming Island. Think Parker wants to get one up on Oakleaf's Chris Foy as the best

new guy on the block.

**Bell at Keystone Heights**

**Gainesville at Clay:** Kennard should be rolling by now.

**Middleburg at Ponte Vedra:** Not a breather for Middleburg, Ponte Vedra is always exciting, but the mosquitoes over there are a state bird for the area. Ponte Vedra, if Middleburg knocks off Hawthorne and Bradford (Geez!!), is as dangerous as team to knock Broncos down a notch. Be very wary.

**Orange Park at Melbourne:** Wimberly goes to former NCAA champion teammate. Is the Raider team ready for the big time? This is the test.

**Out of County:** Trinity Christian at Bolles: Bolles again against a muscle team.

## Week Five Sept. 22

Bolles at Oakleaf  
 Clay at Toco Creek  
 Fleming Island at Titusville  
 Interlachen at Keystone Heights  
 Orange Park at Nease  
 Ribault at Middleburg  
 Ridgeview at Beachside  
 Out of County: Bartram Trail at St. Augustine

### GAME OF THE WEEK

**Bolles at Oakleaf:** Bolles comes in battered and bruised or flying high with two gigantic wins. Toblin and Hoekstra know Clay

County loves their underdogs.

**Clay at Toco Creek**

**Fleming Island at Titusville:** Got to like a coach (Titusville) that takes a 1-10 program to 7-4 playoffs. Long trip for Fleming Island, hope the bus has bathrooms. Parker, Chipoletti and Scharf plus Otero have the years to handle the bus drama.

**Interlachen at Keystone Heights:** Interesting test for Indians, unbeaten Interlachen in SSAC with Middleburg guy leading the coaching staff.

**Orange Park at Nease:** Remember that Creekside vs. Nease mention a few weeks ago. Nease on a roll here could be a season changer.







**Ribault at Middleburg:** Still not a breather for Broncos, but handleable. Maybe Casey has new lights installed by now so we can see the game.

**Ridgeview at Beachside:** Beachside is an interesting team with a new building, new field, and new coaches, all put together for a good first couple of seasons.

**Out of County:** Bartram Trail at St. Augustine: The St. Johns County Super Bowl, but new coach at Bartram Trail, though quality in Cory Johns from Nature Coast, a long-time playoff team. Is he Darrell Sutherland? Does he know Brian Braddock?



## Week Six Sept. 29

BYE Clay  
 Bartram Trail at Fleming Island  
 Keystone Heights at Bradford  
 Middleburg at Ridgeview  
 Oakleaf at Creekside  
 Out of County: Palatka at Toco Creek

**BYE:** Clay (Clay gets extra time to read up on Middleburg next week, could be Kennard's upset of the week)

**GAME OF THE WEEK** **Bartram Trail at Fleming Island:** Used to be Achilles Heel for Fleming Island, No more Sutherland, same personnel on the field. Parker gets a little get back at the former team.

**Keystone Heights at Bradford:** If this ain't Reynolds Super Bowl, He used to coach here, he has coached against them often and now it is here.

**Middleburg at Ridgeview:** Wolfe may blow the pipes out here or just go off tackle all night depending on how many yards Rayhn Train gets. If the Panthers keep the score close, Kennard may get extra sauce on his ribs.

**Oakleaf at Creekside:** Creekside is the wild card by now. Foy has Oakleaf teetering on a playoff run. Will Brandon Wallace, Jr., emerged as the clutch dude in the mix? Look for Kheindi May-Parker as a gamer at this point. Foy II gets attention, and Wallace goes yard to Denero Jacobs.

**Out of County:** Palatka at Toco Creek: Another clash for Kennard. Palatka looks to return to powerhouse status. Toco Creek wants to get out of "that new school" status and be legit.



## Week Seven Oct. 6

BYE Orange Park  
 Bradford at Oakleaf  
 Crescent City at Keystone Heights  
 Eastside at Ridgeview  
 Lake Minneola at Fleming Island  
 Middleburg at Clay

**BYE:** Orange Park (Orange Park can make a run of upsets to ruin some seasons; Middleburg and Fleming Island are on the list)

### GAME OF THE WEEK

**Middleburg at Clay:** Kennard and Wolfe have been opposite each other before and who knows where the love is, but both hate

losing. Period. Blue Devil field is hard to beat, Wolfe knows that from experience.

**Bradford at Oakleaf:** If Foy has Oakleaf percolating, this will be a best-of-season contest for Knightmares in the Dungeon. Explosive play on both sides; the coaching icon visits town. Playoff points are huge for this one.

**Crescent City at Keystone Heights**

**Eastside at Ridgeview**



**Lake Minneola at Fleming Island:** Parker gets a shot at another big shot in the Fleming Island house. Lake Minneola was added on a few years ago and all the games since have been epic including a Hurricane game in South Florida.

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to win games like this that count though wins over Hawthorne and Bradford are pretty big, this is the big kahuna for the district. Horsepower.

**Fleming Island at Mandarin:** Parker gets a chance to exercise some new options here to make a late-season playoff run with two major players forthcoming; Creekside and Buchholz. Losing this and momentum is a question. Beat Mandarin, get fired up to win the district.

**Keystone Heights at Palatka:** Keystone Heights has a playoff spot in mind after last year's graduation exodus and the freight train up led by big boys Daniels and Duncan is probably ready to ratchet their game up. Daniels should be a dominant runner by now.

**Ridgeview at Orange Park:** Almost playing for second place if not upset to this point, either team controls the destiny with a key district win here while Middleburg beats up Columbia.

**Out of County:** Creekside at Bartram Trail, new Bartram Trail regime, same firepower? or a new look? Could Foy or Parker spied on this one?

## Week Eight Oct. 13

Clay at Menendez  
 Columbia at Middleburg  
 Fleming Island at Mandarin  
 Buchholz at Oakleaf  
 Keystone Heights at Palatka  
 Ridgeview at Orange Park  
 Out of County: Creekside at Bartram Trail

### GAME OF THE WEEK

**Buchholz at Oakleaf:** Speaking of district titles, Oakleaf has a shot at the big kahuna this week

and can do Fleming Island a favor with an upset here. Buchholz coach Whittemore is gone and new leadership for the Bobcats may spark a spark to keep that train rolling.

**Clay at Menendez:** Playoff spots are probable here for Kennard.

**Columbia at Middleburg:** Wolfe's Super Bowl of sorts. Need



## Week Nine Oct. 20

BYE Middleburg  
 Clay at Matanzas  
 Fleming Island at Creekside  
 Keystone Heights at Taylor-Pierson  
 Oakleaf at Madison County  
 Ponte Vedra at Orange Park  
 Ridgeview at Fort White  
 Out of County: Bartram Trail at Buchholz (Thursday)

**BYE:** Middleburg (could be a playoff contender at this point)

### GAME OF THE WEEK

**Clay at Matanzas:** Kennard and Dykas want to go big and make playoffs or at least scare St. Augustine.

**Fleming Island at Creekside:** Could be for all the marbles.

**Keystone Heights at Pierson Taylor:** Reynolds and boys hammering away. Van Zant is ready to lead the Indians into playoffs.

**Oakleaf at Madison County:** Years ago, this was an epic game, but coach Mike Coe is gone. Still, Cowboys have tradition in their barn and could be dangerous snakes in the grass. Oakleaf needs to stay sharp.

**Ponte Vedra at Orange Park:** Both teams have been rebuilding.

**Ridgeview at Fort White**



**Out of County:** Bartram Trail at Buchholz (Thursday) Geez, if you are a football fan and want to see the next generation. Both have new coaches replacing icons.

## Week Ten Oct. 27

Columbia at Ridgeview  
Buchholz at Fleming Island  
Joshua Christian at Keystone Heights  
Middleburg at Orange Park  
Oakleaf at Bartram Trail



St. Augustine at Clay  
Out of County: Matanzas at Menendez

**Oakleaf at Bartram Trail:** Bartram Trail has been nemesis of Oakleaf for years, but Sutherland is gone. Foy gets shot at new Bears with new Knights. Bartram Trail is the tough stadium.

**Columbia at Ridgeview:** Arnette and JJ could create some noise with an upset.

**Buchholz at Fleming Island:** Want street Cred? Parker wins this catapults to the top of food chain.

**Joshua Christian at Keystone Heights:** Ho-Hummer for Indians. Might be a big homecoming game for improved Indians.

**Middleburg at Orange Park:** Battle of Blanding.

**St. Augustine at Clay:** Kennard wants street cred. Here it is. Find a way to ball to Dykas three times.

**Out of County:** Matanzas at Menendez: Kennard will need to keep an eye though he should have two wins from this one.

## Week Eleven Nov. 3

Keystone Heights at PK Yonge (Thursday)  
Fernandina Beach at Middleburg  
Fleming Island at Orange Park  
Oakleaf at Clay  
Ridgeview at Crescent City  
Out of County: Suwannee at Bradford

**Keystone Heights at PK Yonge (Thursday):** Indians thorn in foot annually. Reynolds could end a solid first season with a big win into playoffs.

**Fernandina Beach at Middleburg:** Beach boys tough finish for 'Burgs but will get it done.

**Fleming Island at Orange Park:** Fleming Island might be in hostile territory in the new OPHS stadium and Raiders might be looking for a season ender.

**Oakleaf at Clay:** This one could be for 100 points with the offenses kicking in.



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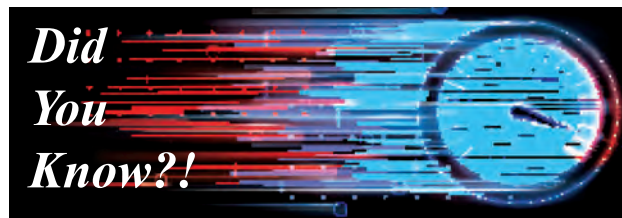
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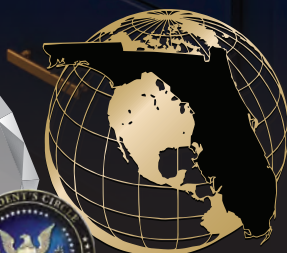
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