



**NEXT GREAT
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

Varsity Cheer



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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Bryan's ACE



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*





LG JAYDEN GOODMAN



RG/C THEODORE WESTBROOKS



DT ELIJAH BRANCH



TE HUNTLY DENNIS



OL TYLER KERNER



LB TALON LYBARGER



C/G JOSEPH PAUL



DE PETE BOSTICK



RT LUKE BACTON



OL BRADEN WESTER



RG CLAYTON SHAW



DT JACKSON HERMAN



OT JACKSON FAUL



OL TYLER DUNCAN



OL BRYCE DANIELS



LT GABE STANLEY



OL JOSHUA DOWLING



WR HAYDEN SARGABLE



TE BRYCE WESTER



WR/CB EVERETT UNDERWOOD

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