

HARRISON DAILY TIMES

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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Thank you

The amount of help to get a magazine of this size to print is amazing. There are a lot of people that need to be thanked for helping it get printed.

We have to take time to thank the coaches who have take time out of their very hectic schedules to spend time with us doing interviews and allowing us to shoot photos. Chris Keylon, Harrison; Mack Chermack, Berryville; Greg Tibbitt, Green Forest; and Chaseton McCarthy, Yellville-Summit are quality people that are great leaders for their respective teams.

We have to thank the advertisers that make this publication possible. Please take a moment out of your time to thank them for allowing this to happen. Our advertising department of Sheri Keaton did a great job in making this publication possible.

The Harrison Daily Times has the best news room around. Scott McDonald; Loretta Kneiff; Jeff Dezort; and Zach Holt do a great job producing a newspaper. Of course, Lee Dunlap is a fixture in Harrison and shoots millions of photos each season.

Zach and Scott have been the eagle eyes to proof this magazine. I appreciate their dedication.

Bob Markham is the graphic artist that has put this piece together. We appreciate his work very much. He is one of the best designers in the business.

This year the synergy of Phillips Media gave us help from an unlikely source — Mountain Home. Neal Denton of the Baxter Bulletin, one of the newest publications in the Phillips group has taken care of Yellville-Summit for us this year.

Hannah Herrera was a huge help in getting this publication put together. She has grown up in the newspaper business and knew exactly what to do to help her father.

Last, but definitely the most important, I have to thank Abram Henry; Atticus Hatcher; Harley Michael; and Rush William for allowing me to take time away from playing to complete this magazine. They are four superstars and the best young men that a grandfather could ask for.

My beautiful wife Becky, who does so much to help the newspaper, and daughters and son-in-laws Lake and Dusty Clark and Hannah and Mark Herrera are the best. You guys are my rocks and I couldn't do life without you guys. Thanks for allowing my job to occupy every Friday night during the school year. I know it puts a hamper on family things, but I appreciate the support.

Good luck to all of our teams this season. I hope everyone is 10-0. I hope we get an entire season of games without an injury. I hope there are no problems with the game clock, weather or officials.

I enjoy talking sports, so feel free to stop and chat at any of the games. I have had complete strangers sit and eat with my wife and I, so I don't mind talking at games. Our sports section belongs to everyone!

Jeff Brasel

jeffb@harrisdaily.com



INDEX

PAGE 4..... Berryville Bobcats

PAGE 5.....Arkansas Razorbacks

PAGE 6Green Forest Tigers

PAGE 13..... Harrison Goblins

PAGE 18.... Yellville-Summit Panthers



Cover and magazine design was done by Bob Markham of Phillips Media. Photo credit of the Harrison team composite goes to Tonya Bardin and Captures Photography. She does a great job with photos and comes highly recommended by the Times.

The cover photo was taken by Jeff Brasel. Brasel is also the photographer of the Berryville and Green Forest photos.

The Yellville-Summit photo was taken by Neal Denton of the Baxter Bulletin.

Berryville Bobcats



BERRYVILLE SCHEDULE

September 6	Mountain View
September 13	Greenland
September 20	@ Yellville-Summit
September 27	Huntsville
October 4	@ Elkins
October 11	@ Prairie Grove
October 18	Gravette
October 25	@ Gentry
November 1	Lincoln
November 8	Green Forest

Berryville Roster.....

NO.	NAME	GRADE	NO.	NAME	GRADE	NO.	NAME	GRADE
2	Dennys Roca	12	19	Cade Decker	11	55	Jerry Lanje	11
5	Val Trujillo	12	20	Poker Eknilang	11	56	Chase Corser	10
6	CT Hicks	10	21	Joe Abreo	10	59	CJ Lanje	10
8	Russell Conard	11	22	John Butler	10	63	Elvis Beltran	11
9	Cooper Summers	12	23	Jason Alvarado	11	64	Alex McClellan	12
10	Andre Esparza	11	25	Gabe Hedgepath	11	68	Easton Elliot	11
12	Decimus Ruiz	12	26	Josh Arechiga	10	70	Antonio Smith	12
13	Alex Castillo	11	28	TJ Wolfe	10	74	TJ "Chips" Dollarhide	10
14	Colton Franklin	11	32	Imran Khan	10	76	Daniel Roque	12
15	Ty Butler	11	42	Devin Alvarez	12	77	Kaiden Flowers	12
16	Rendy Lazo	9	51	Leland Kuhn	12	78	Jarrold Changus	10
17	Malek Hudson	11	52	Colter Goforth	10	79	Osmundo Garcia	10
18	Kale Smith	11	54	Anthony de Leon	11		Bonton Devera	12

Berryville is ready to get on solid footing

Staff Report

sports@harrisonsdaily.com

BERRYVILLE — The Berryville Bobcats are ready to return the pride to the school's football team.

They will take a step toward that goal this season.

The team won three games last season while scoring 11.2 points a game. The Bobcats gave up 33 points a contest last season.

This year the team will open the conference season with a game against Huntsville at home. Berryville's schedule works in their favor as they have six home games this season.

After facing the Eagles, the Bobcats will face a loaded Elkins team on the road. Elkins is expected to be a top team in the 4A-1 this year.

The Bobcats remain on the road in the third week of conference play. The team travels to Prairie Grove to meet the Tigers who are returning to Class 4A after

spending a cycle in Class 5A. The Tigers were members of the 5A-West.

Berryville will start to make a move toward the playoff picture as they face Gravette at home on Oct. 18. This will be a pivotal game in the league race.

After a trip to Gentry the next week, the Bobcats get Lincoln at home.

Berryville ends the regular season with the Carroll County Super Bowl against Green Forest. They Tigers won the contest last year, 16-6. The game will be held in Berryville.

The Bobcats have been enduring practice this summer and like other teams, they have been battling the heat.

"We have up and down," said second-year coach Mack Chermak. "We are doing pretty well. When the heat hits, we struggle some."

Berryville comes into the season with some leadership.

"We have a core group of seniors that have been together for a while," said the coach. "They want to have a good season

this year."

When looking at the team, Chermak points to what is the most veteran part of the team.

"We have and offensive and defensive line that has experience," he said. "They have the experience that we need there."

The Bobcats do have some size on the line. Two players top the scales above 285 while two more are in the 240 range.

Chermak said that his center may be undersized, but he is a smart player that is strong.

Coming into the season, the Bobcats could have a two-headed monster at quarterback. One quarterback is a returning starter from last season and the other is a sophomore.

If the sophomore gets the starting nod, then the veteran quarterback will be the running back. The coach stated that the ball needs to be in his hands.

The Bobcats should have a solid backfield. There can be several players that can handle the football for the team as

the season progresses. The players will all see time on the field.

"We have good emerging players," said Chermak. "We will be using them both ways, so we have to rotate them in on different series to keep them fresh."

The receivers will be a good group of players.

"We are young there," he said. "They are a good group, but young. We need our receivers to block. They run good routes.

"They are coming into the concept of what their routes mean," the coach continued. "They are coming along."

The receiving group will also be the secondary on the defensive side of the football. The team will be young in the possession and it lacks experience in a pass-happy conference.

It will be a mix of old and young at the linebacking positions.

"They are very coachable," said Chermak. "We will be missing a key player due to injury. We hope to get him back before the season is over."

Arkansas Razorbacks

Seat warms for Pittman, with hopes of fixes on defense

By The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE—Sam Pittman acknowledges what he faces heading into the 2024 season, his fifth as Arkansas football coach. Another year like the last and he likely will no longer carry that title in December.

The Razorbacks are coming off a 4-8 season with a 1-7 record in the Southeastern Conference. It was the team's fourth season in the last seven in which they won just one SEC game. A big reason Pittman is getting another shot is that he led Arkansas to 9-4 and 7-6 records the previous two years. Those two seasons, combined with the good vibes created shortly after Chad Morris' two 2-10 seasons, bought some good will.

Those two quality seasons now feel like forever ago, partly because the Razorbacks lost five one-score games last season.

Pittman believes that can change.

"I really like this team, and I think with the culture and the tightness of the team, I think you can win those games a little bit easier than if it's the other way," he said.

Petrino's back

Former head coach Bobby Petrino has returned to Fayetteville. His stint as head coach ended ignominiously in 2011 after a motorcycle wreck and subsequent scandal involving a female staffer. His public-image rehabilitation tour started in 2013 at Western Kentucky and has seen him make stops at Louisville, Missouri State, UNLV, Texas A&M and now back where things went awry, this time as offensive coordinator.

See **RAZORBACKS**, Page S7



August 29	Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Little Rock)
September 7	@ Oklahoma State
September 14	Alabama-Birmingham
September 21	@ Auburn
September 28	Texas A&M (Arlington)
October 5	Tennessee
October 19	LSU
October 26	@ Mississippi State
November 2	Ole Miss
November 16	Texas
November 23	Louisiana Tech
November 30	@ Missouri

Green Forest Tigers



GREEN FOREST SCHEDULE

August 30.....@ Hollister, Mo.
September 6..... West Fork
September 20..... @ Greenland
September 27.....@ Prairie Grove
October 4.....Gravette
October 11.....@ Gentry
October 18.....Lincoln
October 25.....Elkins
November 1..... @ Huntsville
November 8.....@ Berryville

Green Forest Roster

NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
1	Ywa Hay Moo	10	WR-DB	5'9"	145	18	Brityn Gilliam	12	QB-WR-DB	6'2"	160	53	Christopher Vasquez	10	OL-DL	5'10"	185
2	Boris Tobar	12	WR-DB	5'8"	145	19	Jonathan Rivera	11	RB-LB	5'8"	155	55	Wescley Lopez	12	OL-DL	5'7"	220
3	Justin Ayala	11	WR-DB	5'6"	125	20	Jaden Kaler	11	RB-LB	5'8"	160	57	Cesar Marin	10	OL-DL	5'4"	180
4	Jace Meador	10	QB-RB-LB	6'0"	180	21	Gabe Serna	11	WR-DB	5'8"	145	58	Hsee Taw	10	OL-DL	5'8"	210
5	Ryne Stone	11	QB-DB	5'11"	155	22	Kasen Robinson	11	WR-DB	5'9"	155	59	Kler Lah	10	OL-LB	5'7"	165
6	Jadon Ochoa	11	WR-LB	5'9"	160	23	Brandon Pererz	10	WR-DB	5'8"	135	60	Luis Bathen	11	OL-DL	5'4"	185
7	Diego Martinez	12	WR-DB	5'9"	160	24	Ridge Gordon-Swofford	12	RB-OLB	6'1"	230	62	Kaulen Harmon	12	OL-DL	6'0"	220
8	Eric Salazar	12	RB-OLB	5'8"	148	28	Anthony Serrano	10	WR-DB	5'6"	120	63	Andrix Ryan	10	OL-LB	5'9"	165
9	Naruto Larginbelik	10	FB-LB	5'7"	160	32	Htee Saw Aung	12	RB-DL	5'9"	185	66	Kason Compton	10	OL-DL	5'11"	225
10	Mason Meador	12	QB-WR-DB	5'9"	140	33	Brayan Alexander	11	RB-LB	6'0"	195	74	Isiah Lopez	12	OL-DL	6'3"	312
11	Chance McKee	11	QB-RB-OLB	6'0"	165	35	Grady Gordon	11	RB-DL	5'7"	150	79	Silas Sparkman	10	OL-LB	6'1"	300
12	Radon Lawrence	10	WR-DB	5'5"	120	37	DJ Rang	10	WR-DB	5'7"	125	80	Abisai Reyes	10	K	5'10"	165
13	Jayse Lawrence	10	WR-DB	5'5"	120	40	Alec McGrew	10	WR-DB	5'10"	115	81	Char Moo	10	TB-DB	5'7"	120
14	Hayden Hatmen	10	WR-DB	5'10"	135	44	Erbin Mendoza	12	TE-LB	5'9"	160	87	Jakin Magee	10	WR-DB	5'9"	145
15	Zeke Harlan	10	WR-DB	5'10"	125	50	Aksel Ochoa	11	OL-DL	5'8"	220	88	Braden Epperly	12	TE-DB	6'3"	205
16	Samuel Lopez	10	TB-LB	5'3"	135	51	Andrei Vazquez	10	OL-DL	6'2"	170	95	Colton Fancher	11	TE-DL	5'10"	170
17	Daniel Reyes	11	WR-DB	5'7"	122	52	Klay Paw	10	OL-DL	5'8"	212	99	Christian Perez	11	TE-DE	6'1"	228

Green Forest looking for successful season

Staff Report

sports@harrisonsdaily.com

GREEN FOREST — The Green Forest Tigers are looking forward to the new football season.

Tiger fans will think that they are seeing double when looking at the sidelines. Those fans would be right.

“We have about 50 kids out,” said Green Forest coach Greg Tibbitt who is entering his fifth season at the position. “Doubling our numbers has been very helpful.”

The preseason has seen the Tigers working hard and developing the players into a team.

“We had a really good summer,” said the coach of his team. “We return about eight or nine players on both sides of the ball. Couple that with good leadership from our seniors and juniors, it could be an exciting year.”

The Tigers run a Spread offense and they are looking solid in the passing attack.

With a senior quarterback back to lead the team, the Tigers will be ready to move the football.

However, the Tigers have weapons in the backfield that will dominate play.

The coach stated that the shot callers for the team had a good summer. “They are grasping the offense better. The commitment has opened up new avenues than what we have had in the past.”

“It is no secret that it runs downhill for us,” he said of the running back stable. “We want to run some RPOs with the Spread out there. But it goes through our backfield.”

Green Forest has depth in the backfield that can provide difference looks in the running game.

Tibbitt likened the backfield to “the old thunder and lightning approach.”

Green Forest averaged 21.8 points a game last season. This year the Tigers look get more.

When it comes to the receivers, the Tigers have a veteran group of players that will be snagging the ball.

“We have two players that are three-year starters and one that is a two-year

starter for us,” said Tibbitt. “They are really doing a great job of catching and running routes. They are understanding what we are trying to do. The have really bought into the system.”

The Tiger offensive line has 60 percent of the starters back. The right side and the center are all returning to the team. The two left side players will be helping the squad. “They are really doing a good job,” said the coach. “We have some size on the line.”

Green Forest’s defense will have a different look this season. “Those guys are playing extremely fast,” he said. “We return several players on that side of the football.”

The Tigers return a pair of starters on the front of the defensive line.

“We will use a six-man rotation for the spots up front,” said Tibbitt.

Another area where the team has experience is at the inside linebacker position.

“We have two returners on the inside,” he said of the position. “We will

rotate several players on the outside. We have a lot of speed coming back for us.”

Using several of the receivers in the secondary, the Tigers bring in a group of players that have a lot of experience of defending in the conference.

“We are very solid in the secondary,” said Tibbitt. “We have two three-year starters and a two-year starter backs.

“We will have a lot of depth back,” he continued. “We have a lot of leadership in the first group and we will have the opportunity to rotate a lot of guys.”

Green Forest is coming off a four-win season and will be ready to take another step in its victory totals this year.

The Tigers will open on the road in Hollister, Mo. The team will host West Fork before ending the non-conference schedule with a trip to Greenland.

Opening up the league schedule on the road, the Tigers will play one of the league favorites in Prairie Grove.

Gravette will be the first home league game and then the Tigers hit the road to play Gentry.

Lincoln and Elkins are the next two home opponents and the last games in Tiger Stadium in the regular season.

Green Forest closes the season on the road at Huntsville and Berryville.



RAZORBACKS

Continued from Page S5

“Not only do I think he’s a wonderful offensive coordinator, he also was a very successful head coach,” Pittman said. “So there is a lot of times where I’m able to run things by him and we decide collectively at times what is best for the University of Arkansas football team.”

Fix-it list

Arkansas will be better if its offensive line doesn’t exhibit the same sieve-like tendencies it did last year. Razorbacks quarterbacks were sacked 47 times, the sixth-most allowed in the Bowl Subdivision. Run blocking was little better as Arkansas’ 139 yards per game ranked 89th.

Three new likely starters have come

via the transfer portal, and five of the 10 players on the depth chart across the five spots on the line are new to the team this season. In fact, new faces are a theme across nearly the whole roster.

Two new faces to know

Former Boise State quarterback Taylen Green will replace KJ Jefferson, who transferred to UCF. Green spent most of the last two seasons as the Bron-



cos starter, though he threw for fewer than 2,000 yards with 11 touchdowns and nine interceptions last season. Still, Pittman decided last spring the newcomer will be Arkansas’ starter.

When he isn’t passing, Green will likely be handing the ball most often to Ja’Quinden Jackson, a transfer from Utah. Jackson led the Utes with 797 yards rushing last year while splitting duties with Jaylon Glover.

Low expectations?

Even with Petrino’s return and some personnel changes, the Razorbacks were picked 14th in the expanded 16-team Southeastern Conference. Pittman is embracing the pressure.

“Our expectations are as high as they’ve ever been for this season coming up,” he said.

The schedule

The Razorbacks don’t have to SEC juggernauts Alabama or Georgia on the schedule but still face seven teams ranked in preseason AP Top 25. That includes away games against No. 17 Oklahoma State (Sept. 7), No. 20 Texas A&M (Sept. 28) and No. 11 Missouri (Nov. 30) but the rest are at home: Tennessee, LSU, Ole Miss and Texas. Arkansas opens the season in Little Rock against Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Aug. 29.

5A-West Schedules

ALMA

August 29..... Van Buren
 September 6..... @ Siloam Springs
 September 13..... @ Hot Springs
 September 27..... @ Harrison
 October 4..... Morrilton
 October 11..... Vilonia
 October 18..... @ Greenbrier
 October 25..... @ Clarksville
 November 1..... Pea Ridge
 November 8..... Farmington

CLARKSVILLE

August 30..... @ Ozark
 September 13..... Pottsville
 September 20..... @ Dover
 September 27..... Vilonia
 October 4..... @ Greenbrier
 October 11..... @ Harrison
 October 18..... Pea Ridge
 October 25..... Alma
 November 1..... @ Farmington
 November 8..... Morrilton

FARMINGTON

August 30..... @ Shiloh Christian
 September 6..... @ Springdale Har-Ber
 September 13..... Prairie Grove
 September 27..... @ Pea Ridge
 October 4..... Harrison
 October 11..... Greenbrier
 October 18..... @ Vilonia
 October 25..... @ Morrilton
 November 1..... Clarksville
 November 8..... @ Alma

GREENBRIER

August 30..... Warren
 September 5..... Russellville
 September 13..... @ Van Buren
 September 27..... Morrilton
 October 4..... Clarksville
 October 11..... @ Farmington
 October 18..... Alma
 October 25..... @ Pea Ridge
 November 1..... Harrison
 November 8..... @ Vilonia

HARRISON

August 30..... @ Branson, Mo.
 September 6..... Mountain Home
 September 13..... @ Searcy
 September 27..... Alma
 October 4..... @ Farmington
 October 11..... Clarksville
 October 18..... @ Morrilton
 October 25..... Vilonia
 November 1..... @ Greenbrier
 November 8..... Pea Ridge

MORRILTON

August 30..... Russellville
 September 6..... Arkansas High
 September 13..... @ White Hall
 September 27..... @ Greenbrier
 October 4..... @ Alma
 October 11..... @ Pea Ridge
 October 18..... Harrison
 October 25..... Farmington
 November 1..... @ Vilonia
 November 8..... @ Clarksville

PEA RIDGE

August 30..... Gravette
 September 6..... @ Gentry
 September 13..... Siloam Springs
 September 27..... Farmington
 October 4..... @ Vilonia
 October 11..... Morrilton
 October 18..... @ Clarksville
 October 25..... Greenbrier
 November 1..... @ Alma
 November 8..... @ Harrison

VILONIA

September 6..... Sylvan Hills
 September 13..... Maumelle
 September 20..... Beebe
 September 27..... @ Clarksville
 October 4..... Pea Ridge
 October 11..... @ Alma
 October 18..... Farmington
 October 25..... @ Harrison
 November 1..... Morrilton
 November 8..... Greenbrier

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4A-1 Schedules

BERRYVILLE

September 6..... Mountain View
 September 13.....Greenland
 September 20.....@ Yellville-Summit
 September 27..... Huntsville
 October 4 @ Elkins
 October 11 @ Prairie Grove
 October 18 Gravette
 October 25 @ Gentry
 November 1Lincoln
 November 8..... Green Forest

ELKINS

August 30..... @ Miami, Okla.
 September 6..... Dardanelle
 September 13..... Warren
 September 27..... @ Gentry
 October 4 Berryville
 October 11 @ Lincoln
 October 18 Prairie Grove
 October 25 @ Green Forest
 November 1Gravette
 November 8..... @ Huntsville

GENTRY

August 30..... @ Stilwell, Okla.
 September 6..... Pea Ridge
 September 13..... Hackett
 September 27..... Elkins
 October 4 @ Lincoln
 October 11 Green Forest
 October 18 @ Huntsville
 October 25 Berryville
 November 1 @ Prairie Grove
 November 8.....@ Gravette

GRAVETTE

August 30..... @ Pea Ridge
 September 6..... @ Jay, Okla.
 September 13..... Durant, Okla.
 September 27..... Lincoln
 October 4 @ Green Forest
 October 11 Huntsville
 October 18@ Berryville
 October 25 Prairie Grove
 November 1 @ Elkins
 November 8..... Gentry

GREEN FOREST

August 30.....@ Hollister, Mo.
 September 6.....West Fork
 September 20..... @ Greenland
 September 27..... @ Prairie Grove
 October 4 Gravette
 October 11 @ Gentry
 October 18Lincoln
 October 25 Elkins
 November 1@ Huntsville
 November 8.....@ Berryville

HUNTSVILLE

August 30..... @ Lamar
 September 13..... Clinton
 September 20..... @ West Fork
 September 27..... @ Berryville
 October 4 Prairie Grove
 October 11 @ Gravette
 October 18 Gentry
 October 25 @ Lincoln
 November 1 Green Forest
 November 8..... Elkins

LINCOLN

August 30..... @ Greenland
 September 6..... Westville, Okla.
 September 13.....@ West Fork
 September 27..... @ Gravette
 October 4 Gentry
 October 11 Elkins
 October 18 @ Green Forest
 October 25 Huntsville
 November 1@ Berryville
 November 8.....Prairie Grove

PRAIRIE GROVE

September 6... Tahlequah Sequoyah, Okla.
 September 13..... @ Farmington
 September 20..... Coweta, Okla.
 September 27..... Green Forest
 October 4 @ Huntsville
 October 11 Berryville
 October 18 @ Elkins
 October 25 @ Gravette
 November 1 Gentry
 November 8..... @ Lincoln

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3A-2 Schedules

ATKINS

August 30..... @ Perryville
 September 6..... Dover
 September 13..... Conway Christian
 September 27.... @ Episcopal Collegiate
 October 4..... @ Mountain View
 October 11..... Salem
 October 18..... @ Melbourne
 October 25..... Quitman
 November 1..... @ Yellville-Summit
 November 7..... Mayflower

EPISCOPAL COLLEGIATE

August 30..... Smackover
 September 6..... @ Bearden
 September 20..... Baptist Prep
 September 27..... Atkins
 October 4..... @ Salem
 October 11..... Quitman
 October 18..... @ Mountain View
 October 25..... Mayflower
 November 1..... @ Melbourne
 November 8..... @ Yellville-Summit

MAYFLOWER

August 30..... @ Jessieville
 September 6..... Biegelow
 September 13..... England
 September 27..... Mountain View
 October 4..... @ Yellville-Summit
 October 11..... Melbourne
 October 18..... @ Quitman
 October 25..... @ Episcopal Collegiate
 November 1..... Salem
 November 7..... @ Atkins

MELBOURNE

August 30..... @ Hoxie
 September 6..... Bald Knob
 September 13..... @ Cave City
 September 27..... Salem
 October 4..... @ Quitman
 October 11..... @ Mayflower
 October 18..... Atkins
 October 25..... Yellville-Summit
 November 1..... Episcopal Collegiate
 November 8..... @ Mountain View

MOUNTAIN VIEW

August 30..... Cave City
 September 6..... @ Berryville
 September 20..... @ Piggott
 September 27..... @ Mayflower
 October 4..... Atkins
 October 11..... @ Yellville-Summit
 October 18..... Episcopal Collegiate
 October 25..... @ Salem
 November 1..... Quitman
 November 8..... Melbourne

QUITMAN

September 6..... Conway Christian
 September 13..... IZARD COUNTY
 September 20..... @ Mineral Springs
 September 27..... Yellville-Summit
 October 4..... Melbourne
 October 11..... @ Episcopal Collegiate
 October 18..... Mayflower
 October 25..... @ Atkins
 November 1..... @ Mountain View
 November 7..... Salem

SALEM

August 30..... Pocahontas
 September 5..... @ Prescott
 September 13..... @ Newport
 September 27..... @ Melbourne
 October 4..... Episcopal Collegiate
 October 11..... @ Atkins
 October 18..... @ Yellville-Summit
 October 25..... Mountain View
 November 1..... @ Mayflower
 November 7..... @ Quitman

YELLVILLE-SUMMIT

August 30..... @ IZARD COUNTY
 September 13..... @ Hector
 September 20..... Berryville
 September 27..... @ Quitman
 October 4..... Mayflower
 October 11..... Mountain View
 October 18..... Salem
 October 25..... @ Melbourne
 November 1..... Atkins
 November 8..... Episcopal Collegiate

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Robinson ready to use size, speed for Hogs

By OTIS KIRK
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas signed an outstanding recruiting class from the transfer portal after a disappointing 4-8 season.

One of the the top additions is South Alabama cornerback Marquise Robinson. At 6-foot-1, 190-pounds, Robinson has the size and speed to make an instant impact with the Hogs. Following Saturday's practice, Robinson explained where his nickname Cuddie came from.

"When I was born, my auntie and my mom... It was really two reasons," Robinson said. "So, the first reason was it was a toy at McDonald's back then, in 2002. I

don't know nothing about it. And it was like it was called a whatnot. And the second reason was it was this movie and the guy was smooth as butter. So, my mom and dad was like, I was smooth as the kid. So, ever since I was a baby, everybody called me 'Cuddie.' Even my professors. So, when I heard that I was like, 'Yeah it's a wrap.'"

At South Alabama in 2023, Robinson had 36 tackles, 2.5 for loss, three interceptions, three pass breakups and a fumble recovery in 13 games. Robinson and his teammates shocked Oklahoma State 33-7 in Stillwater. In that game, Robinson had three tackles and a second-quarter interception that set up a touchdown. Robinson and the Hogs will return to Stillwater on Saturday, Sept. 14, this season. Robinson was asked what he remembers from that game?

"The first thing I remember when I think about that game is I should have scored," Robinson said. "That's the first thing. But the second thing is overall just going back for another year knowing that OK, they know Cuddie's coming back. So now I've just got to do everything that I didn't do the first time. Learn from what I didn't do the first time I played them to what I think they'll do now. I feel like when we go back this time, it's going to be a domination."

During the recruiting process, Robinson was well aware the Hogs return to Stillwater.

"I said, 'Oh, this is two years in a row,'" Robinson said. "I said, 'Let's do it. I've gotta go back in there, so let's go.'"

Robinson talked about what he has told

his teammates about playing Oklahoma State early in the season in Stillwater.

"I was telling them all meetings earlier," Robinson said. "I was like, 'Hey, they line up and that this is going to come.' So we're looking at film and I'm like, 'I just told you they're going to do that right now.' So all the players they... And one thing I like about the DB group here, everybody is listening here and everybody got their own characteristics. So, they really stand out to me here for sure."

"Man, everybody progresses day by day," Robinson said. "Like, we learn something new every day, and our coaches do a really good job of just explaining the small thing to just make us understand, 'This is how we're going to do things.' So, it's been coming along real well."

Dubinion is lone scholarship running back returning

By OTIS KIRK
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE—Running back Rashod Dubinion is the lone scholarship running back returning from last season.

Dubinion, 5-10, 201, is a junior who is hoping for a big season. In 2023, Dubinion rushed 82 times for 260 yards and one touchdown. He also caught 14 passes for 85 yards and a touchdown. Dubinion was asked what it's like being the only returning running back in the room?

"It's just a respect thing," Dubinion said. "I respect everybody and everybody respects me, so we all get along pretty well. We all treat each other like family because we [are] family. We all got a brotherhood. We all break bread together, eat together, hang out outside of football. That's what matters the most."

Dubinion, like most others, is excited about Bobby Petrino brings to the offense.

"Yeah, Coach Petrino's offense is exciting to see," Dubinion said. "It's a show. We're going to bring a show."

The camaraderie seems be better according to most of the players interviewed

this preseason who were here last year. Dubinion doesn't disagree with that.

"I feel like everybody comes ready to work every day, like both sides of the ball," Dubinion said. "Like if you don't come ready to work it's going to show. It's going to show."

One of the new running backs is Ja'Quinden Jackson who came over from Utah.

"Yeah, I love him," Dubinion said. "That's my brother. His strengths are like power. He's what 6-2, 250. Come on, man. You've got to get out of his way."

Dubinion already had a relationship with Florida State transfer Rodney Hill. Dubinion and Hill are both from Georgia high schools.

"Yes sir, high school," Dubinion said. "Probably 7 on 7 camp. Like Cam Newton Camp."

In addition to Dubinion, Hill and Jackson, the Hogs have Tyrell Reed Jr. and Braylen Russell as scholarship running backs.

"I feel that we all bring something different to the table," Dubinion said. "We're a well-rounded room. Everybody's diverse."

Kolby Smith coaches the running backs and talked about what he likes most from Dubinion.

"I love his initial burst," Smith said. "I love his slash ability. His quickness. His ability to get into those small seams in the offensive line that we create and the jump cut and the burst out of it."

When Dubinion and Jackson are both healthy Smith reflected back on what both bring to the room.

"Leadership and experience, because they've been out there in those games," Smith said. "They know what it feels like, and they do a great job of teaching the younger guys in the room. When we're

in the meeting room or when they're in the back and watching, taking those mental reps with the guys, they're saying hey, this and that. I can hear them, and they're doing a good job. It's a good group. The chemistry in the room is good. It's a nice brotherhood that we have building and growing. A lot of them are roommates now that weren't. When I came here in the spring, nobody was roommates, but now they're becoming roommates. They live with each other, so I can tell the brotherhood is growing."

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Harrison is looking for continued success this year

By JEFF BRASEL
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

At the end of the regular season, the Harrison Goblins are in the football playoffs. That is the tradition of the team. The Goblins have the weapons that are needed to continue that success.

Harrison coach Chris Keylon is expecting the squad to be successful this season and he has seen what this team brings to the field every day in practice.

"I am extremely pleased with our team's attitude and work ethic," the third year head coach said. "We have worked hard on that and our kids have bought in so well. It is absolutely a blast to coach them."

"When you don't have to coach effort you can get so much more coaching done," Keylon said. "There is one difference in coaching this team though. We have to replace some key roles this year and a lot of offensive production. We are still figuring that piece out right now. That takes some time, trial and error, etc. We didn't have that the past two years because we had Braden Long and Mason Ketterman and we knew their strengths and what we were good at. We are still figuring that out on offense right now."

When Keylon was asked about what were some off-field or on-field challenges for the team, he replied. "I am confident we won't have off the field challenges. We have really good kids and they know how to act. On the field, we have to learn early on who we are on offense. That will be a challenge in the first part of the season."

The coach praised his team for the effort in the preseason.

"It's hard to say who has impressed the most because we have seen really

good things out of everybody," he stated. "That isn't coach speak either. We really have. It doesn't matter if it has been a young player that plays scout team or a seasoned veteran. I told the kids at the end of the summer that when I look at each one of them, the first thing that comes to my mind is something positive. That, I believe, is rare."

As the team enters the season, there is an attribute that Keylon likes of his squad.

"I think it is really good," he said of the team chemistry. "Normally, there is a slight division between sophomores and seniors. This is the first year I have seen that improve drastically. That is an area we wanted to fix within the program. I attribute the improvement to our captains and upperclassmen players."

The captains for the season were picked and are the ones that the coach deems as the heart of the team.

"Our captains are Tre Turner, Caydem Long, Owen Strode, Ben Estes, Jon Bartlett and Peyton Reese. These guys were anonymously picked as captains through a structured polling process. As a result, they exemplify what our team is, which is hard working, great attitude kids/leaders."

When looking at the season, the Goblins can hang their hat on what will be a key to success.

"We have to play more clean football which means much less penalties and very few turnovers," the coach commented. "If we can achieve that with our

team's effort I believe that will be the key to our success."

The Goblins will have three tough non-conference games this season followed by the 5A-West battles. There are three new teams in the conference this year.

Joining the league again will be Greenbrier, Morrilton and Vilonia. They were traditional members of the league. Greenbrier moved back from 6A to Class 5A. Morrilton and Vilonia moved from the 5A-Central back to the 5A-West.

When looking at the most difficult games of the season, the coach pointed to Mountain Home and Greenbrier as being tough contests. However, he believed the game the team is most motivated to win will be the first contest.

"The first one, Branson (Mo.)," he said. "We want to start the season off on the right foot. Obviously, Mountain Home due to the rivalry and their victory last year. Alma, our first conference opponent this year."

Keylon took a look at the 5A-West and stated his expectations.

"On top," he said. "Every year I expect us to win the conference. I believe Greenbrier will be tough. But also Morrilton, they have speed in the skill positions that will be tough for us to match up with and both teams are very well coached."

When looking at the schedule Keylon picked the most important game to get a victory.

"Alma. It is our first conference game and will go a long way in getting that first conference win."

Heading into season Keylon pointed to the strongest characteristic of the team.

"Our toughness and physicality is our biggest asset. That is the way we have to win games in Harrison. Our kids are tough and are not afraid of anybody or anything."

When asked what was going to be the potential weakness of the squad, he replied. "Lack of experience in key positions will be something we will have to keep an eye on. In those spots, we have to put the players in a good position to be successful until they gain more experience."

There will not be much change in the offense that Harrison will use this system. The team will execute a "run-oriented offense with an efficient passing game."

Harrison enters every season with a two-headed monster at the quarterback position. This year will not be an exception as either could be on the field.

"We have two quarterbacks competing for the job," he said. "Either one will be ready when the time comes and if we play both, then both will be ready. I have a lot of confidence in our two guys."

"Both have average arm strength but are effective," he continued. "Accuracy comes down to more things than arm strength though. They have the arm to make all of our throws and the intelligence to make the appropriate reads. Where both have to get better quickly is when live competition starts and the bullets start flying. They have to be very smart with the football and not turn it over by making good decisions."

A future bright spot for the Goblins will be in the running game. The coach was excited about the physical depth that the team has.

See **HARRISON**, Page S16



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HARRISON GOBLINS

GOBLIN VARSITY FOOTBALL 2024

Harrison Roster



HARRISON SCHEDULE

August 30 @ Branson, Mo.
September 6 Mountain Home
September 13 @ Searcy
September 27 Alma
October 4 @ Farmington
October 11 Clarksville
October 18 @ Morrilton
October 25 Vilonia
November 1 @ Greenbrier
November 8 Pea Ridge

NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
1	Jon Bartlett	12	5'11"	150	39	Caydem Long	12	6'0"	191
2	Peyton Reese	11	5'9"	170	40	Tayton Robb	10	5'9"	172
3	Rhylan Davis	11	5'10"	175	42	Jaxon Nolen	11	5'10"	183
4	Eli McNutt	11	6'3"	220	43	Ty Bundy	11	5'8"	195
5	Grady Benton	12	5'11"	165	45	Thomas Risdon	10	5'7"	155
6	Jackson Criner	12	6'2"	170	51	Brody Weeks	11	6'2"	266
7	Gavin Jones	10	5'11"	161	52	Ben Estes	12	5'10"	215
9	Sky Lee	10	6'1"	195	53	Will Bryant	10	5'7"	188
10	Angel Melendez	10	5'8"	150	55	Orrin Thouvenel	11	6'3"	230
11	Caleb Melendez	10	5'8"	150	56	Casey Janes	10	5'5"	185
12	Noah Morris	11	5'9"	160	57	Dayton Waters	11	6'5"	265
13	Jenner Thomas	10	6'1"	195	64	Tate Roberson	11	5'10"	215
14	Lucas Brumley	11	5'7"	155	65	Landon Layfield	11	6'2"	282
15	Carter Baker	11	5'6"	135	67	Tristan Tatro	10	5'8"	235
16	Owen Strode	12	5'11"	171	68	Tre Turner	12	6'2"	240
18	Hagen Woodworth	11	5'11"	175	71	Jonathan Gilliam	11	5'11"	271
20	Mason Isbell	11	5'10"	170	72	Hunter Holder	10	6'1"	222
23	Lee Catt	12	5'7"	143	74	Stephen Nelson	12	6'0"	270
24	Jaxon Ramsey	12	6'0"	175	77	Ky Harvey	10	6'2"	280
26	Talon Cutler	11	5'6"	165	78	Layton Aulds	12	6'1"	250
30	Bryce Jones	10	5'8"	170	79	Jacob Waters	11	6'1"	290
33	Braden Bryant	10	6'2"	155	81	Josiah Moore	12	5'7"	152
34	Killian Gregg	10	5'8"	160	82	Jacob Massey	10	6'1"	175
35	Aspen Stephens	10	5'9"	175	86	Paul Styles	10	6'3"	160
36	Trey Horton	10	5'9"	150	87	Tead Deakins	11	6'4"	222
					88	Beckett Mulanax	10	6'2"	188



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HARRISON

Continued from Page S13

“Actually it is,” was the coach’s response when asked about the running back stable of depth. “It is not deep with experience, but we have several guys that can run the ball that we feel comfortable with.”

When asked if the team could pick up three or four yards a carry, Keylon said. “Yes. I expect them to pick up three or four yards at a time and take it to the house too.”

In the preseason scrimmage against Ozark, the Goblins quarterbacks hit several receivers. That will be expected in every game.

“We have some electric guys at receiver,” stated the coach. “I am excited about this group. We have some serious speed and toughness at this position. We have several guys that will compete and help us this year.”

An offseason weight program will help the squad this season as the team battles in the trenches.

“We have good size on our line,” stated Keylon. “These guys are strong too due to our weight program.”

Keylon feels that the squad can protect the quarterback while opening holes for the backs.

“We practice this all the time. Obviously, not everyone is the same. Some have better skills than others and vice versa. But the overall complement of skill sets among the line will allow us to be effective.”

During the preseason Keylon issued a command to the assistant coaches about the defensive line.

“I told our staff and players, I want nine guys ready to play on the defensive line,” he said. “We have a lot of competition there. We also have some dominant players there too.”

Usually the Goblins don’t use players on both lines, but this year there is an exception for the team’s three-man front.

“Ben Estes will be the one guy that will play both,” he said. “We normally don’t like to do that. But Ben is special. He has the endurance, toughness and strength to do both and he is very, very effective on both sides.”

To be a Goblin linebacker means that an athlete can make opponents feel pain. This year is no exception.

“We are strong, aggressive,” Keylon said. “To play linebacker anywhere, you have to be a good hitter. To play for the Goblins, it is a must. Every linebacker we

have had in my time at Harrison whether I was defensive coordinator or head coach, were big hitters. They are not scared and set the tone with this skill.”

The linebacking crew also possesses another strength.

“They they are very fast,” Keylon commented. “We blitz one of them every play and their timing is really good. They read well too and react. All of them are high effort guys. I expect them to set the tone every game we play and instill fear in the opponent on every single play in our games.”

Summer play brought out proud coaching moments for Keylon with the secondary.

“I am very pleased with our secondary this summer,” Keylon said. “I was not pleased at all with our secondary last year. The difference is a couple of things. One is our secondary coach Coach Cameron Jones has done an unbelievable job in improving this group. Secondly, the kids have responded well to Coach Jones and doing what they are coached to do as opposed to doing their own thing. We should be much better this year on the back end.”

In a pass-happy league, the Goblins will be ready to defend their turf.

“We have good speed in the secondary,” said the coach. “However, we have to do

the little things correctly to be successful, which is good feet, fundamental backpedaling and coming out of your break, eye discipline in reading your keys every time. If we will do what we did all summer, this combined with our speed should make us good in the secondary.”

The special teams got the attention of the coaches this summer.

“We never really know until we start playing games,” commented the coach. “But we have put an extra focus and emphasis on that this summer. We have worked on special teams more this summer than anytime before. I expect great things out of them this year.”

Harrison has two kickers that are both effective within the 35-yard line. Two men are competing for the punting position while the return men will be quick.

Serving with Keylon this season are several coaches. Kyle Wood is the defensive coordinator; Doug Cross, defensive line, special teams coordinator; Cameron Jones, defensive backs; Ben Johnson, outside linebackers; Matt Rodden, linebackers; Greg Cross, offensive line; Bruce Humphrey, quarterbacks, running backs; Jerry Ewing, pass game coordinator, wide receivers; and Skylar Fowler, tight ends.

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2024 Local Team Schedule

DATE	BERRYVILLE	GREEN FOREST	HARRISON	YELLVILLE-SUMMIT
Aug. 30	Bye	@ Hollister, Mo.	@ Branson, Mo.	@ IZARD COUNTY
Sept. 6	Mountain View	West Fork	Mountain Home	Bye
Sept. 13	Greenland	Bye	@ Searcy	@ Hector
Sept. 20	@ Yellville-Summit	@ Greenland	Bye	Berryville
Sept. 27	Huntsville	@ Praire Grove	Alma	@ Quitman
Oct. 4	@ Elkins	Gravette	@ Farmington	Mayflower
Oct. 11	@ Prairie Grove	@ Gentry	Clarksville	Mountain View
Oct. 18	Gravette	Lincoln	@ Morrilton	Salem
Oct. 25	@ Gentry	Elkins	Vilonia	@ Melbourne
Nov. 1	Lincoln	@ Huntsville	@ Greenbrier	Atkins
Nov. 8	Green Forest	@ Berryville	Pea Ridge	Episcopal Collegiate

Central Missouri's QB among 2024 small-college stars

By The Associated Press

Zach Zebrowski more than made up for lost time in his first season at Central Missouri.

After spending three years mostly on the bench at Southern Illinois in the Football Championship Subdivision, Zebrowski turned in one of the greatest seasons by a college quarterback in any division.

He passed for at least five touchdowns in nine of the Mules' 13 games and finished with a Division II record 61, making him only the sixth player at any level to throw for at least 60.

The fifth-year senior goes into 2024 as the reigning Harlon Hill Trophy winner as Division II's player of the year and motivated to make a deeper playoff run after a late blocked extra point ended the Mules' season in the second round.

The 6-foot-2, 208-pound Zebrowski was undersized for most of his career at East Ridge High in Woodbury, Minnesota. He grew 6 inches after his junior year and was one of the top quarterbacks in the Twin Cities area as a senior, but he didn't attract much Division I recruiting attention.

He walked on at Southern Illinois, appeared in only seven games over three years and, with the Salukis' starter returning, his prospects for playing time last season were dim. At Central Missouri, he was co-No. 1 quarterback entering the opener at Missouri Western and spent the first quarter on the bench. He took over on the fourth possession, passed for 390 yards and five touchdowns and ended the quarterback competition then and there.

"I don't know if I would have believed it if you told me it would happen," Zebrowski said. "I've always had confidence in myself and thought I would be able to do it if I got the chance. Getting the chance and being able to run with it was pretty damn cool."

In addition to his prodigious TD numbers, Zebrowski finished with a Division II-record 5,690 yards of total offense, threw only five interceptions and ranked second in the country in passing efficiency.

Zebrowski said he explored transferring to a higher-division school for his final season. His dad, Jim Zebrowski, is quarterbacks coach at Kansas, but he never seriously considered that an option because the Jayhawks have an established starter in Jalon Daniels.

See **UCM**, Page S27

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Yellville-Summit Panthers



YELLVILLE-SUMMIT SCHEDULE

August 30..... @ Izard County
September 13..... @ Hector
September 20..... Berryville
September 27..... @ Quitman
October 4..... Mayflower
October 11..... Mountain View
October 18..... Salem
October 25..... @ Melbourne
November 1..... Atkins
November 8..... Episcopal Collegiate

Yellville-Summit

NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION	NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION
2	Kobyn Hubbard	11	WR/DB	23	Luke Smith	10	WR/DB
3	Tellem Hall	10	RB/DB	24	Noah Layton	12	WR/DB
4	Norman Martin	11	WR/DB	25	Easton Voight	10	WR/LB
5	Kyloh Koksma	12	WR/DB	26	Landon Seawright	11	WR/DB
6	Denver Layton	12	WR/LB	27	Cameron Killian	12	WR/LB
7	Koda Stewart	12	RB/DB	31	Rylan Lunde	11	RB/LB
8	Justin Miller	10	QB/DB	33	Zen Novak	11	RB/LB
9	Josh Gates	11	WR/DB	43	Eli Gerth	11	RB/LB
10	Caleb Hartle	12	WR/DB	51	JP Longoria	12	OL/DB
12	Noah Cantrall	11	QB/DB	52	Cameron Tilton	10	OL/LB
13	Jonah Sutterfield	10	WR/LB	53	Cashton Tilton	12	OL/DL
14	Nick Vetor	12	WR/DB	54	Kyle Cockrum	10	OL/DL
15	Brenden Arki	11	RB/LB	55	Levi Brown	12	OL/DL
20	Isai Matias	10	WR/DB	60	Ethan McCalla	11	OL/DL
21	Caleb Stewart	12	WR/DB	62	Marcus Shepherd	12	OL/DL
22	Izik Spitzer	11	WR/DB	65	Hunter Ward	11	OL/DL
				71	Jonathon Rine	11	OL/DL

Yellville-Summit will have new look this season

By Neal Denton
Phillips Media Group

YELLVILLE—Even with most of Yellville-Summit's football players returning from last season, the Panthers should look a whole lot different this fall.

The Panthers are having fun with the Spread offense installed by first-year head coach Chaseton McCarthy.

"I'm not sure there could be more drastic of a change for them," McCarthy said. "I tell our guys all the time that it's not about what you're doing, but how you do it. It's different, but we try to tailor things to fit the strengths of our players. It's coming along really well, but we still have a ways to go in certain aspects."

Yellville-Summit's season opener held Friday at IZARD County featured two teams undergoing significant changes: the Panthers with a new offense and defense under a new head coach, and the Cougars playing their first 11-man football game in school history.

"I think we have some really good senior leaders," McCarthy said. "We have some kids who have really bought in to things we're teaching. I love the direction they're headed."

McCarthy feels the Panthers had a strong spring and summer in the weight room.

"Your team discipline and mentality all start in the weight room," he said. "Being in here four to five days a week lifting was our main priority. We made a lot of improvements and had some good number increases."

"We didn't try to go to many camps this summer," he added, "because we were going through so many changes and learning those. We hosted one and went to the one at Mountain Home. Like most camps, we had some high points and low points. We lifted before we went to the one at Mountain Home, and there was really good competition. We looked good early, but as we got tired, it started to show."

McCarthy is pleased with his 35-man roster, but wishes he had more linemen to go with an abundance of skill players.

"We have some really good skill kids," he said.

"Depth is going to hurt us up front. We

just don't have very many linemen right now. We have to make sure we stay healthy up there and keep those guys fresh."

Both Newport and Perryville have left Yellville-Summit's 3A-2 Conference, but they have been replaced by powerhouse Mayflower, Episcopal Collegiate, and Mountain View, which is moving back to 11-man football after a stint in the eight-man game.

Salem, Quitman, Melbourne and Atkins all remain in the league. The Panthers started 4-0 last season before going winless in conference play.

"We don't overlook anybody, and we don't put anybody on a pedestal," McCarthy said. "Salem has obviously been good the past few years. I think they're the team to beat in the conference. We just try to treat each team like we're playing the New York Giants or someone. We want to focus on each single week. We try not to think long-term."

After the Panthers' opener at IZARD County, they have an open week to prepare for their final two non-league games at Hector and at home against Berryville.

"IZARD County had a lot of success in eight-man, and they're going through quite a transition as well," McCarthy said. "Hector is always solid, and Berryville, being a 4A school, will present some challenges."

"I didn't make the schedule, but you always want to have your nonconference prepare you for conference," he added. "We do get to play a larger school each week, so that's a nice way to build up to our conference opponents."



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Old 5A-West is back together again

Staff Report

sports@harrisondaily.com

Every two years the Arkansas Activities Association has new conference alignments. This year the 5A-West has a very familiar look to it.

Three teams have been moved out of the league. Shiloh Christian was moved to 6A with the weighted system for private schools. Dardanelle and Prairie Grove have fallen back to Class 4A after spending two years in Class 5A.

Joining Harrison in Class 5A is Alma; Clarksville; Farmington; Greenbrier; Morrilton; Pea Ridge; and Vilonia.

The entire Class 5A has only one private school this year. Harding Academy has been promoted up the ranks due to their success on each level. They were in Class 3A two years ago and then finished last season in Class 4A. Their success has earned them a promotion to Class 5A.

The 5A-West looks crowded again this season.

Alma

Alma is trying to get back to the Alma of old. The Airedales were in the playoffs last year and look to make it again this season.

The Spread offense that they use had the team averaging more than 35 points a contest. However, the final two games of last year saw the team finish the season scoring 21 against Shiloh Christian. They did not score against Little Rock Parkview.

The team will be wrestling for the playoffs with a large senior class. There are more than 20 seniors on the roster this year.

Alma will be entering the non-conference season with a new quarterback. The Airedales have no returners with varsity experience.

Another possible weakness of the team will be the lack of depth. Despite returning 14 starters, the team is thin after the first round of players.

Clarksville

Clarksville has a new coach this season. Mitchell Powers inherits a team that finished last season winless. Clarksville has not won a game since the 2021 season.

The Panthers struggled on offense last season as Harrison held them to a season low of three points.

This season the Panthers will be running a Flex Gun offense in hope of getting points on the scoreboard.

Clarksville's offensive line is solid and returns several starters. They will be expected to block for a quarterback that is a power runner for the Panthers.

The Panthers have some speed in the key skilled-positions, but they lack experience.

On the defensive side of the football, the Panthers will run a 4-2.

The two are one of the strengths of the teams. The linebackers expect to create trouble for opponents.

Farmington

Former Huntsville and Harrison football coach Tommy Tice has dropped the retired part from his name. He is the new head coach for the Cardinals.

Tice is near the 300-win mark in total career wins and Farmington may be the stop that will get him over the mark.

The Cardinals hosted Camden Fairview last season in the playoffs and lost the first round game to end the season with a 7-4 mark.

Farmington has a stable of running backs that will be counted on for offense. The Cardinals scored 29 or more points in all but one game last season when Rogers held them to only three.

Two of the 5A-West teams that left the league this season have turned up on the Farmington non-conference schedule. Shiloh Christian is the first opponent and Prairie Grove is the last non-conference matchup.

The Cardinals will be using a version of the Spread offense. They will be playing a 4-3 defense.

Cardinal linebackers will be a key for the defense.

See **5A-WEST**, Page S21

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5A-WEST

Continued from Page S20

Greenbrier

Greenbrier comes back to the 5A-West after spending time in Class 6A.

The experience that the Panthers gained included a second round trip to the playoffs.

Using a Spread offense, the Panthers had two games with more than 50 points and a pair of games with single digit outputs.

The team has a large number of seniors on the season. They feel that the drop to Class 5A will be a benefit to their success on the gridiron after battling the best in Class 6A.

Greenbrier comes into the season with an inexperienced quarterback. The Panthers' expected starter moved in June leaving the team struggling. That may be an issue with the Spread.

Another aspect that can come back to haunt the Panthers is experience and depth. The team returns half of its starters from last year, but the backups didn't see much action.

A bright spot for Greenbrier is the expected to be the play of both the offensive and defensive lines. The coaching staff believes that the young Panther quarterback will be well protected this season.

Morrilton

Morrilton comes back to the 5A-West after spending the last four seasons in the 5A-Central.

The Devil Dogs were in this conference for 30 years before the four-year move.

Entering this season, the team is looking to make a playoff run. The squad didn't make it last season as they finished with a 3-4 league mark.

Morrilton has the key offensive pieces back this season to make some noise. The Devil Dogs have experienced skill players that helped the team to five wins.

Juniors will dominate the playing time for the Devil Dogs. They will have a junior quarterback and a junior running back to account for yardage.

As the early starts, the Devil Dogs will have to improve offensive line play for the team to be successful. The team has size, but don't have the experience that is required.

On the defensive side of the football, the squad has moved a few players to different positions to fill in some gaps. The team will play a 3-4 defense to take advantage of the speed that they have at the linebacker positions.

Pea Ridge

Pea Ridge is hoping to grow up in Class 5A this season.

The Blackhawks had an eight-win season in 2019. They have only won 10 games in the last four seasons. The 2019 season was the last in Class 4A.

Beating Prairie Grove and Clarksville last year, the Blackhawks picked up three non-conference wins to account for their five victories.

Heading into the season, Pea Ridge is looking at the offensive and defensive line to anchor the team

On defense the Blackhawks will put four players up front with two linebackers.

Offensively, the team will run a Power Spread as it hopes to open lanes for a backfield that doesn't have a lot of experience.

Pea Ridge will be able to throw the ball. The team has a good group of receivers that possess a lot of speed to give defenses trouble.

The Blackhawks' secondary is also full of speed. The team will be counting on these players in a pass-happy league.

Vilonia

Vilonia joins Morrilton in defecting from the 5A-Central to the 5A-West. The Eagles have had some success in the league which included a nine-win season in 2021.

The past two years Vilonia has put five and three wins on the record book.

Returning five starters on both sides of the football, the Eagles will look for their skilled position players to lead them.

Vilonia's senior quarterback will be a load for defenses to tackle this season. He will be a key aspect to the Eagle attack.

The squad will use multiple offenses, but they will shift their emphasis to attack the opponent's weakness on defense.

Vilonia will use a 3-4 defense. The Eagles will feature this defense because of lack of experience on the line and the strong play that they expect from their linebackers.

Even though the team does not have a lot of players with game experience, there are several seniors on the squad that have been in the program.



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4A-1 is looking to continue success of league

Staff Report

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The 4A-1 has been a very successful league over the years. The recent successes of Shiloh Christian and Pea Ridge have been moved to larger classifications.

Last year the league put its hopes in Elkins, and the Elk delivered a trip to the semifinals of the state tournament.

The league has a small change with Prairie Grove coming back into the league replacing Ozark. The other remaining seven teams are the same. Berryville, Elkins, Gentry, Gravette, Green Forest, Huntsville, Lincoln and Prairie Grove.

Elkins

The Elks of Elkins are back with a solid team full of promise.

However, there are a few hurdles that Elkins will have to clear to repeat the success of last year.

First, the team has an inexperienced quarterback. The Elks averaged more

than 50 points a game last season. They scored more than 60 points on four occasions including once in the playoffs. They also had a game with more than 70 points. In the playoffs, the Elks scored 63, 56 and 53 before only managing 27 in a semifinal loss.

Elkins is a hard team for opponents to prepare for. The squad can play multiple offenses and can adjust in the middle of a game to the competition.

With an inexperienced quarterback, a team would hope to have a veteran offensive line. However, that is a work in progress for the Elks.

The Elks have an experienced backfield that can run in gaps or over people.

Several seniors serve as receivers and will help the squad.

What shortcomings may happen on offense this season will not be a concern for the Elks. The team returns all of the starters on that side of the football but two.

The veteran group is full of seniors and they only gave up 10.9 points a game last year.

Gentry

Gentry made the Class 4A playoffs last season, but had the misfortune of matching up with Harding Academy in the opening round.

The squad has a new coach this season and look to continue their positive strides to become an elite conference team.

The team has about 1,600 yards of rushing returning. However, the team's leading rusher from last year has been switched to wide receiver.

Gentry will use multiple offenses this season.

The squad will depend heavily on its offensive line this year. The group is a physical squad that did a good job last season opening lanes.

Front line players average nearly 275 pounds which includes two players topping 300 pounds.

With most small schools, the offensive line is the defensive line. The line combined for more than 400 tackles last year.

The line is a solid squad, but the linebackers may be the jewel of the Gentry defense.

The first two levels of defense will be solid. The last phase will be questionable.

Gentry has one returning starter in the secondary. He is a senior. The remaining players that may be used there may all be sophomores.

Gravette

Gravette comes into the season after picking up a playoff victory last year in the Class 4A brackets.

They are ready to continue to make noise on the state level.

The team has a group of players that will be ready to advance the program.

There are 14 starters returning this year which include eight on offense. Gravette averaged 35 points a contest last season.

Gravette has a junior quarterback coming back this season. He suffered a broken arm last season in the middle of the year.

The Lions will have a solid backfield that has experience.

With a senior running back that checks in at 230 pounds, the Lions can grind it out on the field.

There are other capable backs on the Lions' sideline.

See **4A-1**, Page S23



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4A-1

Continued from Page S22

Gravette has a fast team and that speed can be seen in the receiving corps. The group runs quality routes.

The Lion defense will be ready for the season. The squad has some size. The team looks to its linebackers to take care of business.

The team has several versatile players in the secondary.

Huntsville

Huntsville is looking to end their losing streak.

It has been a long time since Oct. 28, 2022, the last time Huntsville won a football game.

The Eagles had a two-game winning streak before dropping all 10 games last season.

Huntsville will have 11 returning starters this season. Seven of the returning starters are on the defensive side of the ball.

Despite numerous returners, the defense has juggled some players to new positions.

The defense is a little undersized, but has a good work ethic to make up for shortcomings.

The team may struggle to find a shot caller. Coming into the preseason there were four players fighting to be the quarterback.

Some of the athletes that will not be the quarterback can see time in the backfield.

The Eagles run a Spread offense. The receivers for the squad are a little undersized, but can make an impact in the game.

The Eagles don't have a lot of depth on the offensive line. The team lacks size, but has quickness to help overcome the issue.

Lincoln

Lincoln is one of four league teams that racked up a W in the Class 4A playoffs last season.

After a seven-win season, the Wolves hope to top that this year.

Lincoln will have to overcome an interesting talent combination. The team has only three juniors on the squad. With 12 seniors on the squad, the sophomores become important.

Last year's leading rusher has been moved to quarterback for his senior year.

Last year the team had almost 3,000 yards through the air. The Wolves expect the same this year as they continue to run their Spread offense. The veteran players on the squad will be ready to grab thrown passes.

When it comes to the backfield, the competition is wide open. Three players, which include two sophomores, are battling for the lead role.

The offensive line will be an interesting group to watch. There are three starters returning while the other two projected starters never played the sport before this year.

The lack of depth will be seen on the defensive side of the football.

There are several two-way starters, so conditioning is very important.

The team will use multiple fronts to offset the opponent's offensive tendencies.

The squad has several athletes, but lacks depth.

Prairie Grove

Prairie Grove is happy for the start of the new football season.

After spending two seasons in Class 5A, the Tigers are back in Class 4A where they have had good success.

Even though the team is back in Class 4A, not everything is rosy. The squad has a characteristic that coaches don't like — lack of speed.

The team will have to find ways to overcome the shortcoming when the lights are on.

While the team lacks speed, it does have a characteristic that sticks out. The team has a veteran squad returning on defense.

Nine players are back this season to help anchor the squad. While playing up a classification last year that team gave up 35 points a contest. Something the team hopes they will cut in half this year.

Prairie Grove uses a Wing-T. The 4A-1 teams have not seen the offense in a couple of seasons. That should work to the advantage of the Tigers.

The coach's grandson is the starting quarterback this year. He started most of the year last season. He has several returning players in the backfield.

Several senior wide receivers have good speed for the Tigers.

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3A-2 has a new look this season

Staff Report

sports@harrisdaily.com

When it comes to the 3A-2 this year, the league has three new members to mix things up. The Arkansas Activities Association operates on two-year cycles and this is the first year of the new cycle.

The 3A-2 have picked up two schools that have been playing 8-Man football in recent years before beginning to make the push back to 11-man ball.

Mountain View, who was very successful in 8-Man last season, is coming back to the 11-Man game. Episcopal Collegiate of Little Rock transitioned to the 11-Man last season. Those two teams will join Mayflower as the new guys on the block.

There are four other teams joining Yellville-Summit this season from last year's conference make-up. Back are Atkins, Melbourne, Quitman and Salem.

Atkins

Over the past two seasons the Atkins Red Devils won only two games. Last season the team broke a 20-game losing streak.

The team won two of the last three games. The momentum of those games hopes to carry over to this year.

Atkins returns 16 starters from last year. That experience is ready to begin the season.

The Red Devils run a Spread offense. The team has an experienced quarterback to lead the team.

With several running backs back with experience, the Red Devils can pick up important yards on the ground. The backfield is also filled with quick backs.

A characteristic to describe the Red Devil receivers is that they are good route runners.

One glaring weakness to begin the season is on the offensive line. The team has good size, but they lack experience.

The defensive line has the same problem as the offensive line. A lack of experience can be a problem for the Red Devils.

The linebackers for Atkins will be the strength of the team. The group is led by juniors.

Atkins has a deep secondary. The squad will be able to defend passing attacks by its opponents.

Episcopal Collegiate

Episcopal Collegiate comes into Class 3A with an experienced team that didn't see much success last year.

The team gave up more than 300 points last year while only scoring 112 over 10 games.

With experienced players, the team has a lack of depth to go with the veteran players. The roster is small which created the team's dip into 8-Man football.

Episcopal could play a two-quarterback system this year. The team has two players that both have logged starting time.

The Wildcats use a Spread offense. The receivers will be from every class. The veteran players have had success at the position.

The offensive line has some size and some undersized players. The team has some experience in the positions and should be able to protect the quarterback and open holes for the running backs.

There is not much experience in the backfield. The leading returning rusher only had 388 yards last season.

Episcopal will play a 4-2 defense. They have some quality players up front.

The secondary will be anchored by sophomores.

Mayflower

Mayflower has dropped down from Class 4A this season. The team won eight games last year and lost in the second round of the playoffs in the larger classification.

The team does return 10 starters with five coming back on both sides of the football.

However, the quarterback for the team will not have any starting experience. He will get the benefit of having a large group of returning starters on the offensive line.

The team has two offensive line players that weigh in at 280 or more. The team has good size at the other positions as well.

There will be four athletes that will be competing for time in the backfield. The group should be able to hit the holes that will be created by the large offensive line.

Running the Spread offense, the receivers will be key components to the Eagle offense.

See **3A-2**, Page S26

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3A-2

Continued from Page S25

The receivers are slight of status, but the group knows how to play the position.

There are three defensive linemen that are back this year. Those players will be counted to serve as the leaders of the team.

The Eagle linebackers have experience. They will be important to the team this year.

Mayflower's secondary is experienced this season. The players all have the ability to play any position in the secondary.

Melbourne

The Melbourne Bearkatz are looking to improve on last year's disappointing end to the season.

Melbourne ended the year in the first round of the Class 3A playoffs.

The team has what it takes to do that. The squad has 16 returning starters and they expect those players to lead the team.

As a junior, Melbourne's quarterback started last year as a sophomore. He had more than 1,000 yards passing.

The backfield will have several players back that have experience. Between all of the players, there is more than 1,000

yards rushing.

The experience continues for the Bearkatz. The team runs a Spread offense and the leading receivers are seniors.

They have some elite speed that will cause trouble for secondaries.

The Bearkatz offensive line is not large. However, the players have the skill set and speed to handle the size of the defensive opponents.

Defensively the Bearkatz will be ready to play.

The team has speed on the front end of the defense. They can create trouble for offensive lines.

The team will field a sophomore in the linebacking squad. There is experience though. The team has three linebackers that have seen starting minutes.

Melbourne will try to tackle the secondary with some players that are not too tall. The squad will be playing three players that check in under 5-foot-6.

Mountain View

Mountain View will be looking to gain experience in the 11-Man game.

The Yellow Jackets have had success playing 8-Man, but they are moving back.

Everything will be new as not one play-

er on the team has played a single snap on a varsity field. However, the program hopes the winning attitude carries over.

The team will be running a Power I offense that hopes to run over opponents. The team's leading running backs are a little undersized. However, the backfield has speed.

The receivers have some speed. They should be able to get free.

Mountain View's offensive line has good size, but the line is not very tall.

The Yellow Jackets strength on the defensive side of the ball will be the linebackers. They will become a bigger asset as the year progresses.

Mountain View will play a 5-2 defense. The line will be undersized, but fast. They hope to get into the backfield to disrupt their opponents.

There are several players that will rotate into the secondary. Some of the players will rotate into the linebacker position. This group has some solid tacklers in the group.

Quitman

In a conference that has a lot of experienced players returning, Quitman is not one of those teams.

Quitman has nine players returning as starters. Five of those are on offense.

The team averaged 30 points a game last year. They run a Spread offense.

The offensive line of the Bulldogs is a mix of size and quickness. They will start three players that weigh 275 or more. The other two players are under 200 pounds.

Quitman's starting quarterback had nearly 2,000-yard passing last year. He reads the defenses well.

The Bulldogs have an interesting combination. The squad will have two players that will rotate between the backfield and as receivers. The athletes will give opponents different looks during the game.

Quitman continues to be a landing spot for transfers. The squad received a transfer from Vilonia that will help the team.

A Greenbrier transfer will lead the Quitman defensive line. The line will be young without a lot of experience to draw from.

There are several players that have the opportunity to play as linebackers. The team has numerous players scheduled to play in the position.

The secondary has some speed and some experience. The team is expecting four or five players handling the duties.

See **3A-2**, Page S27



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3A-2

Continued from Page S26

With only five seniors on the team, the Bulldogs will be looking for leadership. As the season progresses, the team hopes to find those leaders.

Salem

Salem has run the league for some time and the squad looks to do it again this year. The Greyhounds have a lot of experience on the defensive side of the football. The coach believes that group is solid.

There are eight returning defensive starters from a group that went into the second round of the playoffs last year.

The defense will use a 33 Stack defense and most of those six were starters last year on the team that allowed 16.0 points a game.

Salem returns two starters that had more than 90 tackles each last year in the 12 games that the team played.

In the secondary, the Greyhounds can cover a lot of ground. The team is very deep in the position and looks to cut down on the 16 points a game that they gave up last year.

On the offensive side of the football there are questions for the Greyhounds.

The team has four returning starters, but the backfield and the offensive line are full of questions.

Losing an All-State running back will make it difficult for the team to determine a "go-to" player in their Split Back offense. There are a pair of juniors that are stepping up.

Salem's junior class is a solid group of players that will be counted on to help the team through the season. The entire backfield including the quarterback could be 11th-graders.

The team's seniors on the offensive side of the ball will be the receivers. They return three in that position that had good junior campaigns.

The offensive line does have returners back, but most playing that position have not logged veteran minutes.

UCM

Continued from Page S17

Zebrowski said he decided to return to take care of unfinished business.

"I was always pretty set on coming back," he said. "If we had won a national championship, it would have been a different conversation. Losing the way we did left a sour taste in all our mouths."

Other players to watch at smaller schools this season:

QB Luke Lehnen, North Central (Illinois)

Lehnen threw for 48 touchdowns and ran for 13, completed 73% of his passes and was intercepted just twice. He finished with 3,407 yards passing and 850 rushing. He led North Central to national titles in 2021 and '22 and to the championship game last year. He enters his fourth year as the starter favored to become

the first player in 10 seasons to be a back-to-back winner of the Gagliardi Trophy as the Division III player of the year.

S Tanner Volk, Central Washington

Volk won the Cliff Harris Award as the best small-college defensive player and was a Harlon Hill finalist. His 13 interceptions were most in any NCAA division and his 124 tackles led Division II. He picked off two passes in four games and had at least one in nine of 13 games. He enters his senior season with 18 interceptions in 34 games.

DL Anthony Cikauskas, Monmouth (Illinois)

Cikauskas was the most dominant defensive lineman in Division III as a sophomore with 26 tackles for loss and a nation-leading 17 sacks. He had at least one sack in every game but the opener; he had a career-high 3.5 against Illinois College. The 6-3, 240-pounder also forced five

fumbles, broke up two passes and blocked a kick.

RB Rontavious Farmer, St. Thomas (Florida)

Farmer's 3,326 yards rushing the last two seasons are most in the NAIA. Last year he carried 280 times for 1,773 yards (6.3 per attempt) and 26 touchdowns. He went over 200 yards in three games, including 236 in a playoff loss at Keiser (Florida). The 5-9, 185-pound Farmer had 254 carries for 1,553 yards (6.1) and 14 TDs in 2022.

WR Austin Jablonski, Concordia (Nebraska)

Jablonski transferred to Concordia after spending two seasons at Nebraska. He moved from quarterback to receiver early in the 2022 season, and last year his 91 catches and 113.4 yards receiving per game led the NAIA. He had 11 catches for 162 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for a score against Hastings.

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