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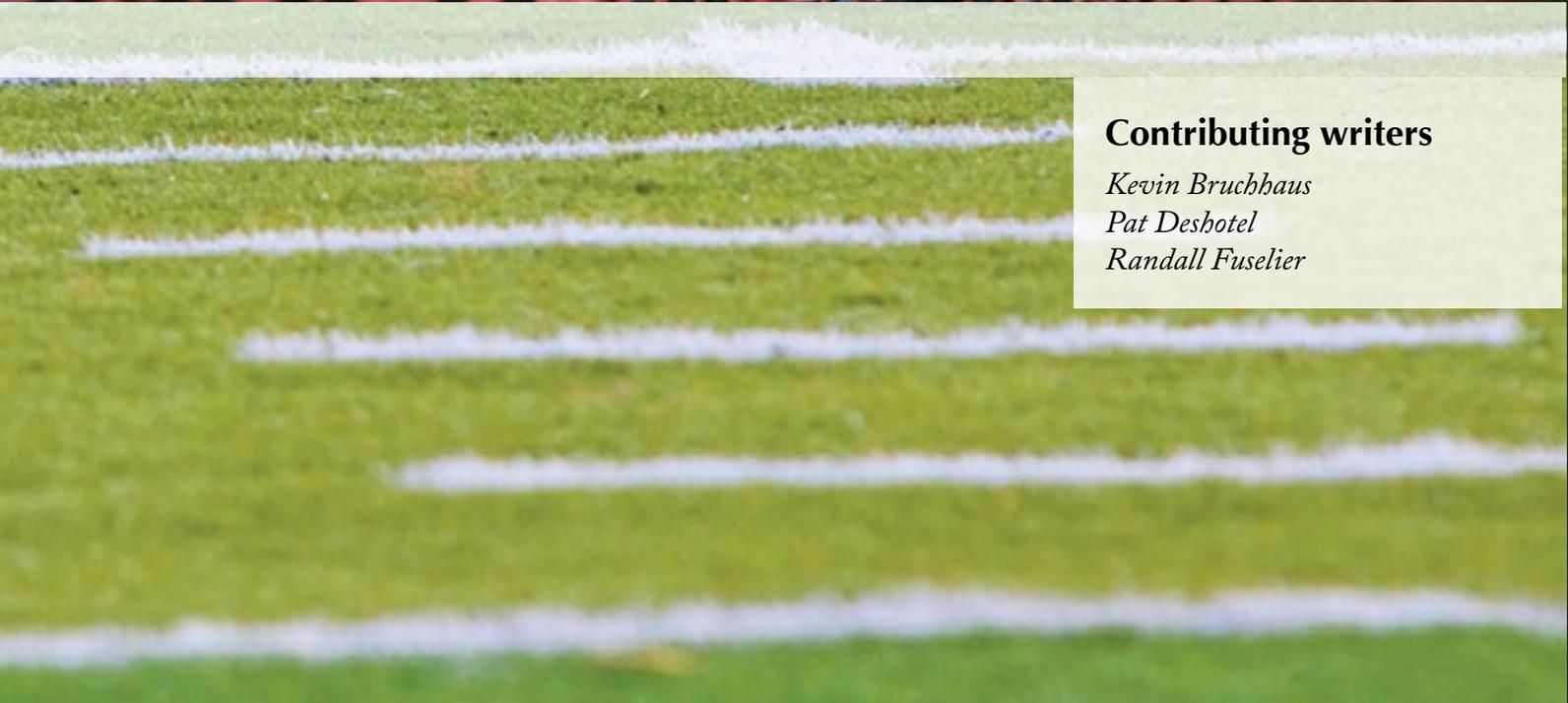
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JENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL

*Bulldogs*



## Jennings to reload in 2021

### *Dogs aiming to make another run*

The Jennings Bulldogs are coming off yet another outstanding season in which they finished the regular season undefeated and ranked No. 1 in Class 3A. The Dogs lost to eventual state champion Madison Prep in the quarterfinals and said goodbye to a host of seniors that were huge contributors for Jennings High over their career at the school. Despite the big loss, Jennings only going to reload due to extremely talented returners and numerous good underclassmen ready to jump in and fill positions. The Bulldogs will continue to execute their vaunted veer attack with a strong running back corps led by 4-star senior Trevor Etienne. Etienne has accounted for over 50 TD's in just two seasons, while rushing for over 2,500 yards. He is a two-time All District and All State selection, while also being named the Class 3A State Championship Game MVP in 2019. Despite

losing Jalen Lewis as the other part of the Bulldogs' two-headed monster at running back, the Dogs will have junior Jamaric McZeal and talented freshman ReJohn Zeno back there with Etienne. Junior Austin Ewing is slated to take over at quarterback for the Dogs after the graduation of Bub Willridge. Ewing is a smart football player who excels in both the running game and throwing the football. He will throw the football to a receiving corps made up of names like Jeremy Blanchard, Jayren Etienne, Tylon Thibodeaux and Wyatt Fontenot, just to name a few. The offensive line returns starter Jadon Smith up front, however junior Zi Citizen will make the move over to the offensive line to play there. Jennings has a host of other offensive linemen who can jump in to fill the remaining slots needed.

The Bulldogs will continue to stay in their traditional 4-2-5 defensive scheme that Coach Rusty Phelps has implemented for years. The Dogs lost most of their secondary from a season ago, however they return numerous big play guys all across the defense. Jennings'

## 2021 JHS Football Schedule

Aug. 27	Jennings Jamboree	H
Sept. 3	Leesville	H
Sept. 10	Eunice	A
Sept. 17	DeRidder	H
Sept. 24	Iota	H
Oct. 1	Sterlington	A
Oct. 8	St. Louis	A
Oct. 15	Iowa	H
Oct. 22	LCCP	A
Oct. 29	South Beauregard	A
Nov. 5	Westlake	H



**2021 Jennings High School Bulldogs  
&  
2021 Jennings Bulldogs Coaching Staff**

strength is arguably up front, where All-District defensive end Jayden Sonnier returns for his senior season. Sonnier is a great pass rusher and run defender due to his speed and physicality, and should anchor a talented front. Makhi Joseph also returns for his senior season after missing most of 2020 following shoulder surgery. Joseph played a lot of football his sophomore season, and like Sonnier, can be big in both the run and the pass. Isley Mouton is another defensive tackle who played a lot of football on the defensive front in 2020 for the Dogs. Mouton possesses great size and can eat up blocks in the interior.

Senior Ethan Jardell and junior Owen Dugas return as the linebackers for the Bulldogs in 2021. Jardell played most of the season in 2020 for the Dogs and is a quick, physical linebacker that can contribute in a multitude of ways. Dugas came on late in then season last year when Jennings lost linebackers to injury and played tremendous down the stretch. Dugas is an instinctive football player that doesn't mind sticking his nose in the mix to make plays.

Senior Aidan Ward is one Bulldog slated to return in the secondary for the Dogs, but Phelps will have numerous players to choose from to fill out his defensive backfield. Also, as shown last year, Phelps isn't scared to pull offensive guys over to give them double duty in that area of the field. Look for Etienne to possibly go some both ways, while others could be called upon to give some snaps.



*JHS coaching staff includes Colby Hargroder, Aaron Trahan, Anthony Yergas, Rusty Phelps, James Estes, Carson Hargroder Ronnie McZeal and Phillip Dugas.*

The Dogs are slated to open the season at home against the Leesville Wampus Cats, then hit the road in week two to travel to longtime rival Eunice High. Jennings then returns to the confines of Jerry Simmons Stadium to play host to the 4A DeRidder Dragons in week three. In week four, the Dogs will welcome in neighbor Iota for a Homecoming tilt before traveling way up North for a 2019 rematch with Sterlington on Oct. 1. The Dogs open District 4-3A play in week six when they travel to Lake Charles to do battle with the St. Louis Saints. In week seven, Jennings will entertain the Iowa Yellow Jackets at Simmons Stadium, before the big showdown with the powerful LCCP Trailblazers in week eight in Lake Charles. The Dogs hit the road again in week nine to take on the South Beauregard Golden Knights, then close the season at home against the Westlake Rams.



Austin Ewing



Cisco Williams



Clay Broussard



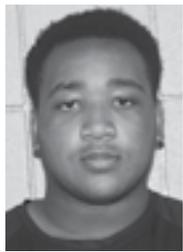
Jamaric McZeal



Jayden Sonnier



Jeremy Blanchard



Clifford McLucas



Cooper Durio



Everett Keiser



Gabe Schmaltz



Isley Mouton



Jadon Smith



Owen Oliver



Peyton Herpin



ReJohn Zeno



Korey Hebert



Laith Kratzer



Lorenzo Haley



Makhi Joseph



Owen Daigle



Seth Crader



Riley Edwards



Ryan Reed



Ty Palfrey



Adrian Bonin



Artravien Hawkins



Brandon Hobson



Brayden Guidry



Brody Estes



Brylen Fontenot



Carson Barr



D'Sel Palfrey



Daylen Edwards

# Bulldog football through the years

After a crazy 2020 JHS football season that was affected by COVID-19 and two major hurricanes, Bulldog fans are ready for the 2021 season to start. To get us ready for the upcoming season, some interesting facts will be shared about the tradition-rich Jennings High football program. All facts and information dates back to 1926, when Jennings became a member of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association.

This year will be the Jennings football program's 96th season as a member of the LHSAA.

**Number of Games Played:** Starting with a 50-0 win over Iota in 1926 and ending with

their 27-20 quarterfinal loss to Madison Prep last year, Jennings has played a total of 1,020 games.

**Overall Record:** Jennings has 627 wins, 370 losses and 23 ties.

**Canceled Games;** Jennings has had 13 games canceled for various reasons, including the four games that were canceled last year due to COVID-19.

**Season Record:** After 95 seasons, Jennings has 66 winning seasons, 23 losing seasons and six break-even seasons.

**State Championships:** 1939 Class AA, 1992 Class AAA.

**State Runner-ups:** 1929 and 1930 in Class A. 1942 and 1946 in Class AA.

1982 and 2019 in Class 3A.

**Playoff Appearances:** From 1929 to 2020, 51 seasons; sixth in the state for most playoff appearances.

**Playoff Record:** 102 playoff games; won 53, lost 49.

**Most Consecutive Playoff Appearances:** 16 from 2005 to 2020.

**Most Consecutive Non-playoff Seasons:** 14, from 1947 to 1960

**Most Consecutive Winning Seasons:** 12 from 1976 to 1987.

**Most Consecutive Losing Seasons:** 8 from 1952 to 1959.

**Most Wins in a Season:** 14, in 1992.

**Fewest Wins in a Season:** One win in 1949 and 1957.

**Longest Win Steak:** 12 games in 1992.

**Longest Losing Streak:** 10 games from 1956 to 1957.

**Number of Opponents Played:** 117.

**Opponents Jennings has played the Most:** Eunice, 67 games; DeRidder, 61 games; and both Crowley and Westlake, 55 games.

**Longest Current Playing Streak:** Eunice ,35 years; St. Louis, 23 years; DeRidder, 14 years.

**Most Points by Jennings:** 92 points against Kinder in 1931, 73 points against Leesville in 1941.

**Most Points by Jennings Opponent:** 76 points by Iowa



Zanarian Douglas



Zaylin Fontenot





William Nichols



Wyatt Fontenot



Zi Citizen



Derian Edwards



Dewayne Moore



Ethan Jardell



Evin Cormier



George Spencer



Isaac Segura



James Oustalet



Jayren Etienne



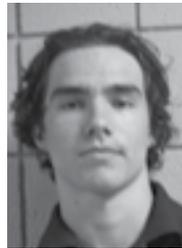
Jessie Ward



John Myers



John Alcantara



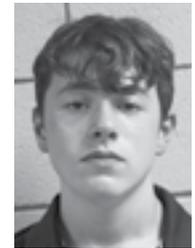
Josh Lejeune



Kaleb Touchet



Liem Leblanc



Nick Hulin

in 2015, 68 points by Baton Rouge High in 1953.

**Most Total Combined Points:** 130 combined points when Iowa defeated Jennings 76-54 in 2015, and 124 combined points when Jennings defeated Lake Arthur 68-54 in 2015.

**Fewest Points by Jennings:** In 1976, Jennings defeated Westlake 2-0.

**Schedule Changes:** Jennings will play the same opponents from the last two years, but will drop Cecelia

in week 4 and Washington/Marion in week 5. Jennings will host Iota in week 4 for Homecoming and then travel to NE La to play Sterlington in week 5.

**... and Finally:** Let's hope that Jennings will be able to play all regular season games without hurricane or Covid 19 issues. Please go support the Jennings High Bulldogs Football team at both home and away games.



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# JENNINGS HIGH BULLDOGS IN HINDSIGHT

**Jennings: 29**  
**DeRidder: 20**

DERIDDER – The Jennings Bulldogs kicked off the shortened 2020 season on the right foot as they rallied from an early deficit to claim a 29-20 victory over the DeRidder Dragons Friday night. Jennings fell behind 13-0 early in the first quarter, but the Bulldogs answered back with 20 unanswered points to claim a lead they would never relinquish. “I’m just so proud of our football team and the way these kids and coaches continued to fight back after falling behind,” said Jennings Head Coach Rusty Phelps following the game. “You had two really good football teams going at it, and it was everything we expected. Really just want to credit these kids for fighting hard and finding a way to win tonight.” DeRidder got on the board first on their opening drive, using a pair of big plays to find themselves inside the red zone. Dragon quarterback K.J. Gooden found the endzone as he scampered in from 20 yards out. Jose Mijares nailed the PAT to make it 7-0 just three minutes into the contest. The Dragons got a break on the ensuing kick-off when Jennings fumbled the football deep in DeRidder territory. A few plays later, Gooden found Ashton Broussard in the corner of the endzone for a 34-yard scoring strike to make it 13-0. Mijares missed the important PAT following the score. Jennings was able to get things going on their first offensive series of the contest, culminating in a five-yard plunge by Bub Willridge to get the Bulldogs on the board. Willridge plowed in on the two-point try to make it 13-8 with 12 seconds remaining



in the first quarter. Jennings was able to keep the momentum going into the second stanza when they struck paydirt midway through the quarter. Trevor Etienne capped off the drive with a seven-yard scoring run and Ian Mullen nailed the PAT to make it 15-13 with 6:23 left in the half. The Dogs notched another score one minute and seven seconds later when Ja’Corien Palfrey added a 30-yard scoop-and-score for a defensive TD. Mullen banged home the PAT to make it 22-13. The Dragons were able to find the scoreboard once again before the half, as running back Isaiah Roberson scored on a 12-yard run with 26 ticks left on the clock to make the halftime score 22-20 in favor of the Dogs. The Jennings defense was able to pitch a shutout in the second half, and added a fourth quarter TD to make the final 29-20. Senior Jalen Lewis



plowed in from two yards out with 8:41 left in the contest. Mullen booted his third PAT of the evening, making the final 29-20. The Dogs will go on the road again Friday night as they head over to Cecilia to battle the 4A Bulldogs

**Jennings: 59**  
**Cecilia: 49**

CECILIA - In a rare Wednesday night football game, the Jennings Bulldogs won a shootout over

the Cecilia Bulldogs by a final of 59-49. Fireworks were all over the field on both sides, but the Jennings offense continued to answer the call possession after possession. Jennings again overcame a 14-0 early deficit to rally and claim another win over a quality 4A opponent. Cecilia struck first in the first quarter when quarterback Alex Soileau hit Germani Davis for a 25-yard TD pass to make it



7-0. Cecilia wasted little time again on its second opportunity, as Soileau connected with Greagan Brasseaux for a 59-yard scoring strike to make it 14-0 in favor of the hosts. But as they did last week, Jennings answered right back when Jalen Lewis raced in from 55 yards to make it 14-7 with 4:43 left in the opening period. Lewis hit paydirt again in the second quarter when he raced it from 31 yards away to knot things up at 14-14. On their next possession, Jennings kicker Ian Mullen blasted a 41-yard field goal to put the Bulldogs out front 17-14. Cecilia regained the lead one possession later when Brasseaux found paydirt again, this time on a 77-yard TD

pass from Soileau to make it 21-17 with .23 seconds left in the half. However, Jennings hit a prayer when Jalen Lewis caught a Bub Willridge pass down to the Cecilia 16 yard

line with .04 seconds left. On the next play, Willridge hit Ja'Corien Palfrey for a 16-yard strike to make it 25-21 going into the half. Jennings came out rolling in the third

when Lewis scored his third TD on a 13-yard scamper with 8:29 left to go in the frame, giving the guests a 32-21 edge. But as they did all night, Cecilia struck right back.

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Brasseaux again found the endzone on a 12-yard run to bring the score to 32-28 late in the third. After being held in check for most of the first half, Trevor Etienne got in on the action by racing 67 yards on a swing pass from Willridge to bring

the advantage to 38-28. Etienne again opened a wild fourth quarter on the Dogs' opening possession as he raced in on a 73-yard scoring jaunt to stretch the lead to 45-28. Cecilia's Davis took the ensuing kick-off back 96 yards for a score to put the hosts

right back into it at 45-35. The host Bulldogs pulled even closer after getting a stop when Davis caught a 17-yard scoring pass with 3:32 left in the contest to make it 45-41. But again it was Lewis who answered the bell, scooting home from

seven yards out 2:36 remaining to make it 52-41. Just a minute later, Etienne put it to bed by racing 34 yards to paydirt to make it 59-41 with 1:57 left. Cecilia added a late score on a Brasseaux TD, but it was too little too late as Jennings claimed the

shootout win by a final of 59-49

**Jennings: 35**  
**Eunice: 14**

The Bulldogs earned yet another statement win over a previously undefeated Eunice Bobcat squad Friday night at home by a final of 35-14. The Dogs once again spotted their opponent a two-touchdown lead to open the game, as Eunice went up 14-0 in the first quarter. However, these experienced Bulldogs remained unfazed and reeled off 35 unanswered points to claim their third straight win over a 4A power. In their first two contests, the Bobcats outscored their opponents 104-0, but it was not to be for the guests tonight. After a dazzling offensive performance last week against Cecilia, it was

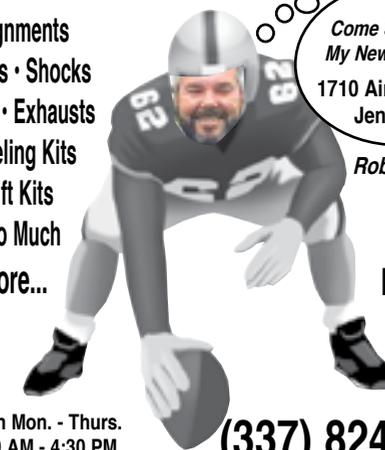
the stingy "Maroon Wall" that proved to be the difference in Friday night's win. The Bulldog defense held Eunice to only two first downs in the second half, and forced four turnovers in the final two stanzas. Seniors Conner Cassidy, JaCorien Palfrey and Ethan Mack all picked off Eunice quarterback Simeon Ardoin, while sophomore Cassidi Smith recovered a fumble on a sack of Ardoin. "I was very pleased with the way our defense stood up tonight, especially with some players out. We had quite a few kids get out there and play vital roles in what we did," said Jennings Head Coach Rusty Phelps in his post-game radio interview. "It's a great win for the kids, our seniors and our coaching staff. I

*Continued on page 13*



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# THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

## Etienne enters final season with Dogs to cap illustrious career

There will be one constant that returns to the Jennings Bulldogs' offense in 2021 and it's the return of 4-star senior running back Trevor Etienne. Lauded as one of the top running backs in the entire country in the class of 21, Etienne has continued to turn heads over his illustrious career as a Bulldog. Despite missing his entire freshman season with a broken leg, he has still managed to pile up over 2,500 yards on the ground and over 50 touchdowns in just two campaigns, including a shortened Covid-19 season a year ago.

The muscular, but still elusive Etienne has made his living by combining both speed and power to make his mark on the Bulldog program. Etienne rushed for close to 2,000 yards and scored 31 TD's in his sophomore campaign to help lead the Bulldogs to their first trip to the Class 3A state title game since 1992. In only a nine game season a year ago that was shortened because of the pandemic, Etienne eclipsed the century mark again and scored a whopping 22 times. Those marks helped to keep the Bulldogs at the top of the Class 3A polls the entire season.

Etienne will help welcome in a host of new offensive mates this season, as the Dogs replace nearly all of their other position players

on that side of the ball. However, a talented cast of young players will help to make that transition easier.

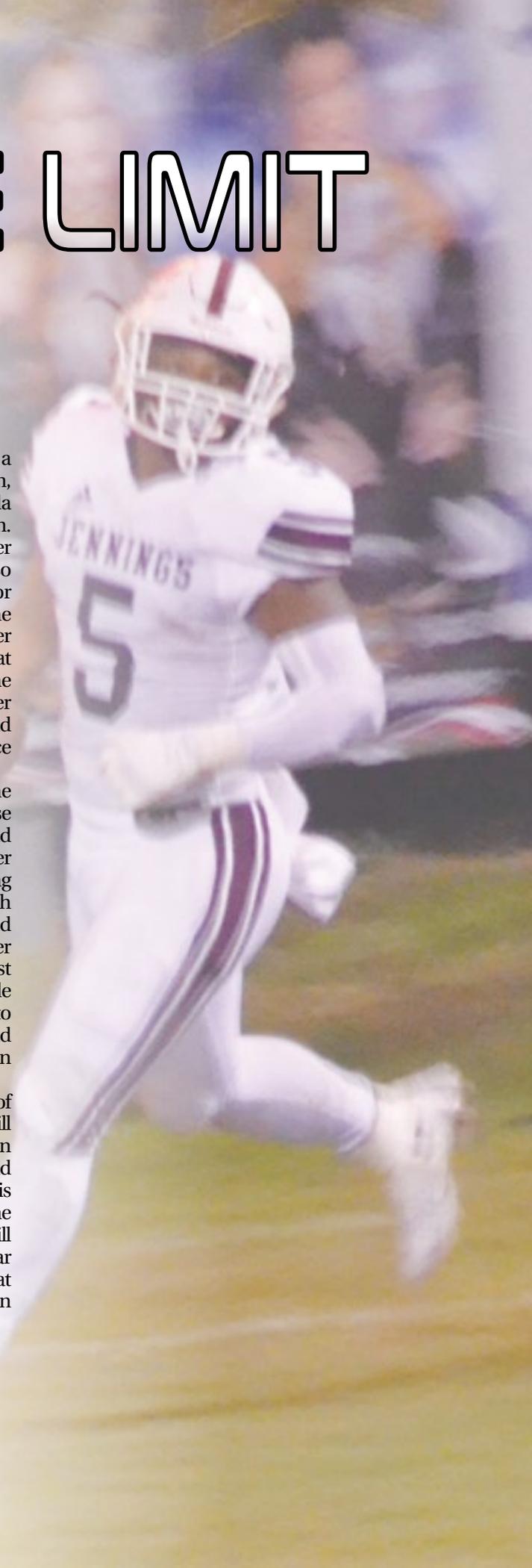
The 210-pound bruiser currently holds offers from a host of SEC schools, along with other powers from across the country. LSU, Clemson, Georgia, Alabama and many others have been on Etienne extremely hard

after his last two seasons.

The senior recently released a Top-5 that includes LSU, Clemson, Alabama, Georgia and Florida heading into the upcoming season. And along with being a high-caliber football standout, Etienne also shines on the baseball diamond for the Bulldogs in the Spring. The left-handed hitting outfielder has shown glimpses of that same athletic prowess on the diamond, and also is a leader for the Bulldogs' hoop squad on the hard wood once football season ends.

The bloodlines in the Etienne family are those that most people would salivate over, as older brother Travis is the rushing record holder at both Jennings High School and Clemson University. After being drafted in the first round by the Jacksonville Jaguars, Etienne is set to embark on what should be a brilliant career in the NFL.

The combination of talent in the family will be forever legendary in the city of Jennings and throughout Jeff Davis Parish. Until then, the younger Etienne still has yet another year in Jennings for that legend to grow even more.



*Continued from page 10*

thought our coaches did a fantastic job of getting kids in certain positions where we were missing some kids. Just a great overall victory, but district play starts next week and we need to be ready to go." Eunice (2-1) struck first on their opening drive when Simeon Ardoin hit Treyton Cooper on a 22-yard scoring strike to make it 7-0 at the 9:03 mark. The Cats stuffed the Bulldogs on their following two possessions, hitting paydirt again at the 4:26 mark of the first. Jeul Hill scooted in from 9 yards out on the speed sweep to make it 14-0 in favor of the guests. However, that would be the last time the Bobcats would find the endzone, as they went scoreless for the next 40 minutes of football. Jennings got on the board at the 10:37 mark of the second stanza when the put together a 12-play drive the culminated in Jalen Lewis plowing in from three yards out. Ian Mullen drilled the first of five PAT's to cut the lead to 14-7. The Dogs (3-0) added a pair of late TD's before the halftime intermission to build a 21-14 lead heading into the locker room. The first came with 1:49 left in the second



when Lewis bulldozed in from a yard out to knot things up at 14-14. Just over a minute later, The Bulldogs set off the firework show when quarterback Bub Willridge dropped a dime to JaCorien Palfrey from 42 yards out to make it 21-14 at the break. After a defensive struggle in the third quarter that saw neither team score, Jennings popped in two late TD's to seal the deal over their rivals from Eunice. Trevor Etienne plunged in from a yard away at the 11:49 mark of the fourth to up the lead to 28-14, then Lewis added his third score of the night at the 1:52 mark when he slipped in from three yards

out to make the final 35-14. Unofficially, Etienne garnered 88 yards on the ground with one score, while Lewis popped out 81 stripes and three TD's. Bub Willridge threw for 63 yards on 6 completions.

**Jennings: 64**  
**St. Louis: 28**

For the fourth week-in-a-row, the No.1-ranked Jennings Bulldogs spotted their opponents a two-touchdown lead in the first quarter. But, like in the previous three contests before, it just gets the Bulldogs rolling. Jennings opened district 4-3A Senior Night by hammering the St.

Louis Saints by a final of 64-28 Friday night at Jerry Simmons Stadium.

"I'm very happy for our seniors that they had the opportunity to be recognized tonight. This group of players has worked so very hard and overcame so many obstacles to be successful," said Jennings Head Coach Rusty Phelps on his post-game radio interview. "I with I could figure out why we've got to let ourselves get down two scores, but I guess it just works for us. We're very happy to be 4-0 and put together another very good win here tonight."

As mentioned before, the Saints (1-

2) would strike first with two touchdowns in the opening quarter to take a 13-0 lead. The first came on a 58-yard scoring strike from quarterback Cooper Miller to senior receiver Chase Wilson. However, Jayden Sonnier would bust free to block the PAT to make it 6-0 with 7:38 left in the first.

Just under two minutes later, Miller and company would strike again. Miller hit Wilson again on a deep route to set the Saints inside the five-yard line. Senior Evan Joubert would plow in from two yards away to make it 13-0 at the 5:52 mark. The Saints had previously recovered an onside kick after

## 2021 Football Edition

their first TD. From there, the Bulldogs would go on to score 36 unanswered points.

Jennings (4-0) got things going with just under two minutes left to go in the opening stanza when Bub Willridge hit Trevor Etienne out of the backfield for a 30-yard TD strike. Ian Mullen nailed the first of his eight PAT attempts to bring the score to 13-7.

The Dogs hit paydirt on their next possession on the very first play, as Etienne shot past everybody for a 66-yard TD run. Mullen's kick made it 14-13 in favor of the hosts with 11:50 left in the half.

The Dogs stretched their lead to 21-13 at the 3:44 mark of the second quarter when senior Jalen Lewis pushed his way in from a yard out. However, the Dogs would get it right back after a mishandled kick-off gave them the ball back. On the very next offensive snap, Willridge hit his second scoring strike when he found Conner Cassidy for a 35-yard play-action score to make it 28-13 with 3:44 left in the half. The Bulldogs forced a turnover inside St. Louis territory with just over 2:44 left in the half, and Ja'Corien Palfrey made it hurt when he scampered in

from 33 yards out. After two Saints' penalties moved the ball inside the one, Lewis plowed in for the 2-point conversion to make it 36-13.

St. Louis finally stopped the bleeding with 43 seconds left in the half when Joubert scored from two yards out to cut it to 36-20 going into the half.

The Saints made things interesting at the three-minute mark of the third period, as they cut it to a one-score ballgame when Miller hit Wilson for a 22-yard scoring strike. St. Louis made the 2-point try to make it 36-28.

However, that would be all the noise the Saints would make, as Jennings scored 28 more unanswered points to make the final 64-28. The first score came at the 2:56 mark of the third stanza, as Lewis answered the Saints' TD drive on the first play from scrimmage. The senior raced 80 yards untouched on the option to make it 43-28.

The next Bulldogs' score came with 11:09 left in the contest, as Etienne scored his third TD of the night on a 13-yard run to push the lead to 50-28. Lewis scored his second TD of the night at the 8:09 mark when he blew up a St. Louis

defender on the edge for a four-yard scoring jaunt to make it 57-28.

Jennings got its final score with 5:55 left in the contest. Following a Kolby Estes interception and return set the Dogs up first-and-goal from the four-yard line, senior receiver Tanner Istre scored on a reverse to bring the final to 64-28. The Jennings junior varsity defense was able to keep the Saints out of the endzone on their final possession of the evening.

After the Bulldogs' defense gave up the early big plays, they dominated the entire contest. The Bulldog front four of Keenan Landry, Jayden Sonnier, Isley Mouton and Cassidi Smith

caused havoc at the line of scrimmage all night, while linebackers Estes and Ethan Jardell made play-after-play in against the run and the pass. Ethan Mack, Palfrey, Jayden Smiley and Kaylum Lavergne all had huge nights in the secondary in both helping out in run support and slowing down the Saints' potent passing attack.

The Dogs will now play the guessing game heading into next week, as Iowa is being forced to quarantine and cancel the contest because of the Covid-19 virus. Jennings will either search for an opponent that's available or use the off-week to prepare for their next

*Continued on page 15*



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# THE 'DEAN'

*Phelps  
entering  
27th season  
on JHS  
sidelines*



For the 27th consecutive year, Jennings football fans can peer on the Bulldog sidelines and see head coach Rusty Phelps roaming. Phelps has already become a JHS legend in his own right in so many ways, but has also become the “Dean of Coaches” in all of Southwest Louisiana (SWLA) football. He is the longest tenured active head coach in the SWLA five-parish area in those 27 years, and last year he recorded his legendary 200th win last season in a week two contest with the Cecilia Bulldogs. Phelps currently sits with 206 wins overall, and is in a category with only a few head coaches in Louisiana that have accomplished the feat.

Phelps came to Jennings in the early 1990’s after Matt Viator had led the Dogs up until the 1994 season. Viator left for Sulphur following that season, and the Dogs have been under the tutelage of Phelps ever since. In his time with the Dogs, Phelps has accumulated a host of district titles, multiple trips into the semi-final round of the Class 3A playoffs and most recently a chance to play in the Louisiana Superdome in the 2019 Class 3A State Championship. The veteran coach has won several District Coach of the Year honors, while also adding Parish Coach of the Year accolades, SWLA Coach of the Year

multiple times and also was named the Class 3A Coach of the Year multiple times.

Phelps has embraced his title of “Dean of Coaches” in this area by continuing to be there for younger coaches just getting into the ranks, and has also seen numerous assistants in his time move on to head coaching success of their own.

“I had a lot of coaches help me out when I was in some of these guys’ shoes. There was always such a great corps of older coaches that were always there when I needed something or had questions,” said Phelps in a previous interview last season when discussing

his new title. “I just want to be able to be there for these young guys like I had so much help when I was coming up. Guys like Dutton Wall, Jimmy Shaver, Kirby Bruchhaus and Mike Johns were just a few of the ones that had such an impact on me. It’s a distinct honor to hold this title, and I always try to represent that one well because it does mean that much.”

In his time with the Bulldogs, Phelps has mentored several players that played Division I football, including National Champions Travis Etienne Jr. (Clemson) and Alonzo Maunel (LSU).



*Continued from page 13*

district contest against two-time defending league champion Lake Charles College Prep.

**Jennings: 56**  
**Leesville: 41**

LEESVILLE - The Jennings Bulldogs trailed the Leesville Wampus Cats 34-14 midway through the third quarter, but in tradition form they rallied for 35 unanswered points to defeat their guests by a final of 56-41. Trevor Etienne had a career night by rushing for 307 yards and 3 TD's in the win. "I'm just very proud of our players and coaching staff for not getting down and



rallying back to beat a good football team," said JHS head coach Rusty Phelps. "It's a credit to our kids for continuing to play

hard and never give up." Leesville struck first in the opening stanza when Caleb Gallashaw snuck in from 5 yards out to go up 6-0. However, Jennings answered right back when Etienne sprinted home from 66 yards away to put the Dogs up 7-6. Leesville answered back with two scores, one on a Gallashaw run to start the second stanza, and again on a 79-yards scoring pass to go up 20-7. Jennings cut the lead to 20-7 on a 17-yard run by Jalen Lewis to make it 20-14, however the Wampus Cats would add a 42-yard scoring strike to make it 27-14 going into the half. Leesville would score first in the second half on a 14-yard scoring

run by Gallashaw, but it was all Bulldogs after that. Etienne would outrun the Leesville for

another 68-yard run to cut it to 34-21. And, on the next possession, JaCorien Palfrey stripped a receiver and raced 40 yards for another TD to trim the lead to 34-28. Jennings finally took the lead at the 3:10 mark when Lewis plowed in from 2 yards out to make it 35-34. With no time left on the clock in the third, Etienne added his third TD of the game when he raced 45 yards for a score to make it 42-34. To start the fourth, Lewis slammed in from 4 yards out to extend the Dogs' lead to 49-34. Leesville answered back with a 2-yard Gallashaw run to cut it to 49-41, but Jennings put the nail in the coffin when Lewis



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added his fourth score of the night on a 4-yard plunge. With the win, Jennings moves to 5-0 and get ready to host district rival LCCP Friday night at Jerry Simmons Stadium.

**Jennings: 42**

**South Beauregard: 14**

The No. 1 Jennings Bulldogs finished off their regular season slate a perfect 6-0 with a 42-14 thumping of South Beauregard Friday night on Homecoming at Jerry Simmons Stadium. The Dogs surged out to a 35-0 lead midway through the third quarter before the guests finally were able to find paydirt.

Jennings' regular season finale with Westlake next week was cancelled due to the Rams facing Covid-19 issues, and according to Head

Coach Rusty Phelps, the Dogs will not look to schedule another opponent before heading into the playoffs.

"I am extremely pleased with the way we played tonight in all phases of the

game coming off the bye week we had," said Phelps following the contest. "Now, we will just look to stay healthy, clean some things up and get ready for the playoffs. With the Covid guidelines for the playoffs laid out

earlier this week, we have to stay safe and I think our seniors have really taken charge of the things we need to do ourselves."

The Bulldogs were able to get on the board first in their big win, marking the

first game this season where the Dogs didn't trail to start a contest. Jennings marched down the field after forcing a 3-and-out to South Beauregard, and capped off the drive with a two-yard plunge from Trevor Etienne. Ian Mullen booted the first of his six PAT's to give Jennings a 7-0 lead.

The Dogs (6-0) found the endzone again on the first play of the second stanza, as senior Jalen Lewis scampered in from 17 yards out to stretch the Bulldogs' lead to 14-0.

Late in the second stanza, Jennings forced the Knights to punt the football with right at a minute left in the half. After the



Dogs got apiece of the punt, the set up shop deep in Golden Knight territory. After an 8-yard run, quarterback Bub Willridge found Ja'Corien Palfrey in the corner of the endzone with just before the buzzer sounded. Mullen drilled another PAT to give the Dogs a 21-0 lead headed into the locker room.

The Dogs came out firing in the third quarter, driving deep into South Beauregard territory. On fourth down, Willridge dropped a 27-yard dime over two defenders right into the hands of senior Conner Cassidy for another score to make it 28-0 with 9:28 left in the period.

The Dogs were able to push their lead to 35-0 later in the third when Etienne found the endzone yet again, this time going untouched from four yards out.

The Knights (4-2) were able to find points with 1:02 left in the third stanza when quarterback Kyler Kibodeaux hit Nick Uhlik on a beautiful 34-yard scoring strike to make it 35-7.

Jennings came right back early in the fourth quarter with another score to make it 42-7. Etienne scored his third TD of the night on a highlight reel 34-yard run, breaking five



tackles and leaving defenders falling over at his sharp cuts.

The Knights were able to punch in a late score after things had been decided when running back Malachi McElhaney plowed in from six yards out to make the final 42-14.

Etienne finished his night with 123 yards on just 12 carries and three scores, while Lewis capped off a stellar night with 125 stripes on 14 totes. Willridge had a fantastic night throwing the football by tossing two scoring passes.

Jennings will again take a week off, and wait for the Class 3A playoff

announcements next week. The Bulldogs are more than likely going to be the No. 1 seed when the brackets are released. The Dogs are also guaranteed a share of the district

4-3A crown.

#### **Class 3A Bi-District Playoffs**

**Jennings: 49**  
**Erath: 20**

The No. 1 Jennings Bulldogs overcame

rainy conditions and a sloppy Jerry Simmons Stadium turf to cruise past the No. 32 Erath Bobcats 49-20 in the bi-district round of the Class 3A State Playoffs on Saturday. The Dogs

will advance to play the Lutchter Bulldogs on the road Friday night, as they pummelled No. 16 Grant Friday night. Jennings built a 29-0 lead midway through the second



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quarter, and cruised the rest of the way to claim a 29-point win to improve to 7-0. Jennings was able to build a 7-0 first quarter lead when Jalen Lewis scored the first of his three scored TD's on a four-yard blast. Ian Mullen booted the extra point. Lewis capped off his brilliant night with 174 yards on only 12 carries. Jennings pushed their lead to 15-0 with 11:49 left in the second quarter when Lewis scampered in from 45 yards out. Following an offside penalty by Erath on the PAT, Trevor Etienne fell in for the two-point try. Just two minutes later, Etienne found the endzone untouched from 49 yards out to increase the Bulldog lead. Mullen again booted the PAT to make it 22-0. On the Dogs next possession, quarterback Bub Willridge found Ja'Corien Palfrey for a 19-yard score to make it 29-0 with 5:01 left in the first half. Erath finally got on the board when running back Trent Bisto rambled 57 yards for the Bobcats first score. The PAT was no good, and the Dogs led 29-6. It took Jennings right over a minute to get the score back, as Lewis notched his third score of the game when Lewis popped a 46 yard TD run with

2:21 left in the first half. Mullen booted the PAT to make it 36-6 going into the half. The Dogs came out of the locker room on fire, and Palfrey scored his second score of the night when he rambled 64 yards for a rushing TD. Mullen's kick was good, and the Dogs upped their margin to 43-6 with 11:35 left in the third. Jennings would score their final TD of the contest with 3:16 left in the third frame when Jayden Smiley plowed in from a yard out to make it 49-6. Mullen had his kick blocked. On the ensuing kick-off, Bristo returned it 80 yards for the second Bobcat score of the contest to make it 49-12 just before the start of the fourth quarter. The Bobcats would grab the final TD of the contest



when Bristo plowed in from five yards away. The two-point try was good, making the final 49-20.

Lewis led the



rushing attack for the Bulldogs, running for 174 yards on 12 carries and three TD's. Etienne picked up 110 yards on a miniscule six carries and a TD, while Palfrey had one carry for 64 yards and a score. Willridge completed 1-of-2 passes for 19 stripes and a score, while Palfrey hauled in the TD pass. Bisto led the Erath offense with 164 yards on 16 carries and three TD's. Quarterback Lynkon Romero completed 10-of-23 passes for 135 yards and an interception. The Dogs will now prep for a talented No. 17 Lutcher Bulldog team. The game is slated for 7 pm on the campus of

**Jennings: 50**

**Lutcher: 49**

LUTCHER - About 10 minutes before the kickoff of Friday night's 3A Regional Round Playoff game, Lutcher High School put on a dynamic fireworks

display when their Bulldogs made their way out on to the field. Jennings however, saved fireworks of their own for a grand finale with 46 seconds left in the contest. Trailing 49-42 with just 1:42 left

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in the contest, Jennings began lighting the fuse to that show when quarterback Bub Willridge hit Ja'Corien Palfrey for 35 yards on the first play to put the Bulldogs in business. An 18-yard screen pass to Jalen Lewis on the next play put the Dogs inside the 20 yard line with plenty of time. A run stopped for no gain caused Jennings to take its final time out, however the exclamation points were put on this game on the net two snaps. Willridge threw a 5-yard hitch route complete to Palfrey, who in turn pitched to a sweeping Trevor Etienne out of the backfield for a wide open 17-yard score. The play, known as a "hook-and-lateral," can be remembered best by Bulldog fans from back in 1992. Quarterback Mike Trahan threw to Reggie

Allen, who then tossed to Lawrence Nixon to defeat Springhill in the waning seconds of a state quarterfinal playoff game. Jennings would go on to win the 3A state championship that year. The play, although a big part of the final, wasn't the deciding factor.

Jennings Coach Rusty Phelps elected to go for two, and the win, to try and seal the deal. Jennings flooded the home side of the field with a trip receiver look, and Willridge began the play rolling to that side, however backside tight end Clay Broussard had slipped

away by himself in the far end zone. Willridge threw back to the wide open Broussard, who snatched victory from defeat in a matter of seconds. "This football team just kept continuing to fight and fight all night long. They just would not quit," said Phelps

on his post-game radio interview. "I'm so proud of the kids and coaches for never throwing it in. We continued to answer all night long, and that's a very good football team we just played against." Jennings will now host No. 9 Madsion Prep this Friday night at Jerry Simmons Stadium in the quarterfinal round at 7 pm. Jennings (8-0)

opened the scoring on their first drive of the game when Etienne caught a 72-yard TD pass from Willridge. Ian Mullen drilled the PAT. Later in the first period, Lutchter came back and tied things up at 7-7 when running back Ra'Saun Storks rambled 39 yards for his first of four scores on the night. Noah Detillier booted the first



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of his seven PAT's of the evening. Jennings would come back with 7:42 left in the second period when Mullen popped a 22-yard field goal to give the Dogs the lead back at 10-7. However, the recurring theme of the night was each team answering back. Lutchter would get the TD back just 1:43 seconds later when quarterback Dwaine Winnfield scampered in from 31 yards out to make it 14-10.

Jennings would again come back with one more score before the half, as Etienne score the second of his five TDs with just 49 ticks left on the clock. The junior back plowed in from seven yards away to make it 17-14 going into halftime. Etienne

would finish his night with 19 carries for 132 yards and three TDs, while also catching three passes for 94 yards and a score. Just for good measure, he would later add a long kick-off return for points, as well. "He's a Power-5 recruit for a reason," said Lutchter coach Dwayne Jenkins. "He made so many plays in a variety of ways. He was definitely as advertised." Lutchter (5-4) came out swinging in the second half, as Storks would break a 68-yard TD run on the very first play from scrimmage to give the hosts a quick 21-17 lead. Jennings would get points back a little later when they drove deep into Lutchter territory and used a Mullen 23-yard field

goal to cut the lead to 21-20. The two teams kept trading punches though, and with 3:25 left in the third, Storks popped off another 65-yard scoring run to hand the hosts a 28-20 now. But as they continued to do all night, Jennings came up with an answer. Willridge hit Palfrey with a quick pass that he tuned into a 46-yard score with 2:08 still to go in the third. That cut the Lutchter lead to 28-27. What ensued was one of the wildest fourth quarters seen in a while. Lutchter would throw the first jab with 10:26 left in

the final stanza when Storks bowled in from 11 yards out to stretch Lutchter's lead to 35-27. Jennings landed their counterpunch just seconds later when

Etienne sprinted past everybody on the field for his 85-yard kick-off return. Jennings went for two, and Willridge hit Etienne in the endzone to tie things up at 35-35. Lutchter took their next possession and methodically marched down the field, chewing up over four minutes on the clock. The drive was capped off on a one-yard plunge by Winnfield to make the score 42-35 with just over 6:30 left in the contest. It took Jennings right at a minute to answer back as Etienne made his presence felt again. This time the four-star junior sprinted in from 45 yards out to knot the score back up at 42-42 with 5:32 to play. Lutchter was able to take the ensuing

kick-off and again march methodically down the field, milking off just under four minutes on the game clock. The drive ended with Winnfield walking into the endzone with 1:42 remaining in the contest to give Lutchter their 49-42 lead. Bad thing for Lutchter was, they left Jennings plenty of time to go

down and score the game-winner. After Jennings' late TD heroics, the Bulldog defense kept Lutchter from making any last second miracles by knocking down a pass and picking off the final one. That sent the Jennings faithful into a bedlam, and moved the Dogs on to the quarterfinals yet again.



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Etienne flashed all of his brilliance Friday night by accounting for 355 all purpose yards and five TDs. 132 came on the ground with three scores, while he caught the three passes for 94 stripes and a score. He also racked up 129 yards on kick-off returns and one TD. Lewis carried the football for 128 yards on 11 totes, fighting through an early injury and battling all game long. Willridge was a very efficient 9-of- 14 for 202 yards through the air and two TDs, while also rushing the pigskin three times for 11 yards. Storks led Lutchter with 263 yards and four TDs on the ground, while Winnfield grinded out 223 and three scores.

#### Class 3A Quarterfinals

#### Madison Prep: 27 Jennings: 20

The Jennings Bulldogs' magical season came to an end Friday night on the Jerry Simmons Stadium turf, as No. 9 Madison Prep defeated the Dogs 27-20 to advance to the semi-final round of the Class 3A Playoffs. The Chargers (8-2) will now travel to face the No. 4 Church Point Bears with a berth to the state championship game on the line.

In what was a slugfest of two great football teams for four quarters, the Chargers were able to slice up most of the fourth quarter after taking a 19-14 lead with 9:10 left.

Jennings (8-1) got off to a quick



start to the ball game, taking their opening possession down the field to collect a 7-0 lead. Trevor Etienne plowed into the endzone with 7:41 left in the first quarter to make it 7-0 following Ian Mullen's PAT.

Madison Prep responded late in the

first stanza, when running back Myles Poullard lit the lamp from 15 yards out. The PAT was good, and the contest was tied 7-7.

Madison Prep scored the only points in the second quarter, taking a 13-7 lead into the locker rooms at the break. Poullard

again found paydirt from three yards out with only 10 seconds remaining in the half. The PAT was no good.

The two teams went back-and-forth in the third stanza, until Jennings found the endzone late in the frame. Etienne squeezed his way

through defenders for a 39-yard scoring burst. Mullen hit the PAT to give Jennings a 14-13 advantage.

The lead wouldn't last long, as Madison Prep drove the length of the field, and capped off the drive on fourth-and-goal with a 9-yard scoring strike

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from Zeon Chriss to Tyrell Raby. The Pat was again no good, but Madison led 19-14 with 9:10 left in the contest.

Jennings was forced to punt on their ensuing drive, and the Chargers methodically milked valuable time off the clock. However,

Jennings found life with just over two minutes remaining when Etienne picked off a Chriss pass in the endzone. However,

Madison Prep returned the favor by picking off a Jennings aerial and returned it 40 yards for a pick six. The two-point try was good,

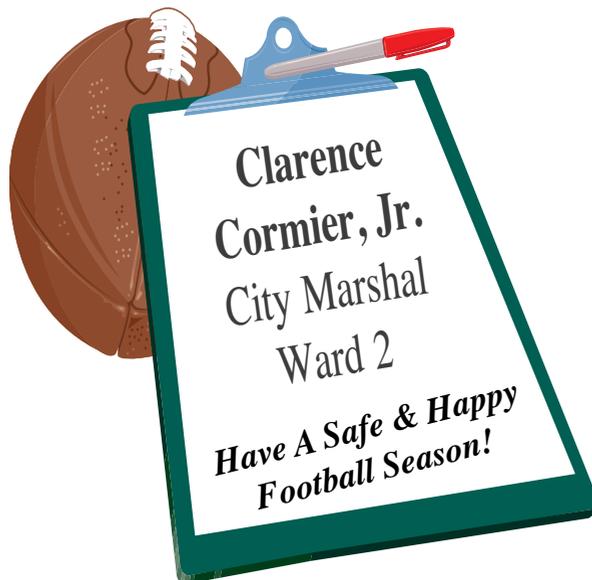
leaving the score at 27-14.

Jennings answered back quickly, and on fourth down, senior Ja'Corien Palfrey raced

40 yards on an end around to cut the lead to 27-20 with 52 seconds remaining.

Jennings' chances were dashed as Madison Prep fell on the inside kick try, and ran out the remaining 40 seconds by taking a knee.

The Bulldogs' ended their magical season by completing an undefeated regular season, and stayed at No. 1 in Class 3A for most of the crazy, Covid-filled season. This senior class will ultimately be remembered as one of the most successful after making its unprecedented run the state championship game last season, and for its resiliency shown throughout the tumultuous 2020 campaign.



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# JDP schools release 2021 football schedules

Local schools have released their preseason schedules and regular season dates for the 2021 season.

After a late start to the 2020 campaign, and a host of uncertainties from week-to-week, all schools are aiming for a return to normalcy with the upcoming season barreling down upon them.

The Jennings Bulldogs were the No. 1 team in 3A from the start of the season until a devastating loss to eventual champion Madison Prep in the quarterfinals a year ago. The Dogs enter their 27th season with Head Coach Rusty Phelps at the helm, and have a challenging slate in 2021. Jennings travelled to 5A Barbe High School on August 19 for their annual scrimmage, and hosted the Jennings Jamboree on the 27. Iowa and South Beauregard competed in the event, while Jennings squared off with Louisiana football power John Curtis

Catholic to top off the event. The Dogs open with a home game against 4A Leesville on Sept. 3 before traveling to square off with longtime rival Eunice on Sept. 10. Jennings then hosts back-to-back home games when DeRidder and Iota visit Jerry Simmons Stadium. The Dogs will then close out non-district play by taking the long trip north to face 3A power Sterlington on Oct. 1. Jennings kicks off 4-3A action at St. Louis on Oct. 8 then return home on Oct. 15 with a league tilt with the Iowa Yellow Jackets. The Bulldogs hit the road for two straight league matchups when they head to Lake Charles for an Oct. 22 showdown with LCCP and to Longville for an Oct. 29 date with the South Beauregard Golden Knights. Jennings will close the regular season on Nov. 5 with a home game with rival Westlake.

Over in Welsh, the Greyhounds are looking for a breakout season under head

coach Cody Gueringer. The Hounds made the playoffs in 2020, and narrowly missed upsetting higher seed North Caddo in the opening round. Welsh opened preseason play with an Aug. 19 scrimmage at DeQuincy, then took on the Elton Indians on Aug. 26 in the Gueydan Jamboree. The Hounds will open the season on Sept. 3 by renewing an old rivalry with the Kinder Yellow Jackets at John C. Buck Stadium in Kinder. Welsh will then host Vinton on Sept. 10, followed by a Thursday game at Hamilton Christian on Oct. 16. The Hounds will travel north to Pickering on Sept. 24 then return home to battle the Westlake Rams on Oct. 1. Welsh opens 6-2A play with a home battle against the Notre Dame Pioneers, but then take a week away from the league when they face the LaGrange Gators on Oct. 15 at home. The Greyhounds will then face off with Jeff

Arthur in a league contest on Oct. 22 at Jack Doland Stadium before returning home for another 6-2A contest with Port Barre on Oct. 29. The Hounds close the regular season on the road at powerful Lafayette Christian Academy on Nov. 5.

Year two of the Tarius Davis era in Lake Arthur (LA) will see the Tigers add a host of youthful, but talented faces to their roster. The Tigers got their preseason schedule underway on Aug. 19 when they travelled to scrimmage Pine Prairie, but hosted the Acadia Jamboree on Aug. 26. The Tigers did battle with the Kaplan Pirates in that jamboree, while Rayne and Abbeville followed. LA opens the regular season with three straight home games, the first being a Sept. 3 test with Basile. The Tigers will then welcome in the Grand Lake Hornets on Sept. 10 and the Elton Indians on Sept. 16. LA will hit the road for three straight

following that stretch, starting with a road contest at DeQuincy on Sept. 24. The Tigers will stay on the road Oct. 1 when they travel to Franklin to take on Hanson Memorial, and open league play a week later on the road at Lafayette Christian Academy. LA returns home for a pair of league contests beginning with Port Barre on Oct. 15, and then rival Welsh on Oct. 22. The Tigers close the regular season with a district road contest at Notre Dame on Oct. 29 and a non-district tilt with Kaplan on Nov. 5 on the road.

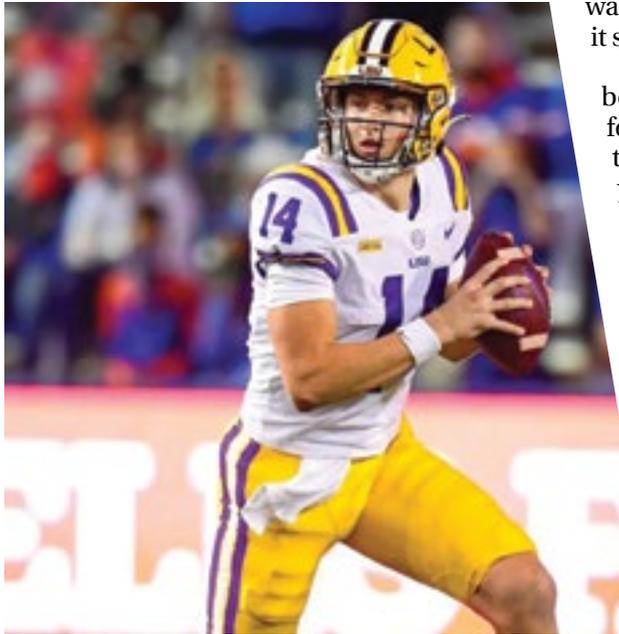
After a year away from the gridiron, the Elton Indians will hit the ground running with a full schedule and a new head coach. Longtime area coach Marcus Lejeune accepted the head coaching position at Elton over the summer, and will look to guide the Indians back to prominence.

The Indians opened their preseason with a road scrimmage at

Pickering on Aug. 20, before facing the Welsh Greyhounds in the Gueydan Jamboree.

The Indians open the regular season on the road at Vinton on Sept. 3, but will host Pine Prairie on Sept. 10 at Cleve Beard Stadium. Elton will then travel to LA to face the Tigers on Sept. 16 to close out non-district play. The Indians open 4-1A action on Sept. 24 when they entertain the East Beauregard Trojans, then hit the road for a Sept. 30 Thursday night game at Merryville. Elton then returns home for a big pair of league games with Basile on Oct. 8 and Oberlin on Oct. 15. The Indians then hit the road again on Oct. 22 to square off with Hamilton Christian, but return home for an Oct. 29 showdown with the Grand Lake Hornets. Elton will close the season with a Nov. 5 date against the Gueydan Bears on the road.



*Kayshon Boutte**Max Johnson**Austin Deculus*

# LSU offense loading up for another season

There was no way to possibly match the historic steamroller of a 2019 attack, but what 2020 LSU had to do with its offense was beyond a rebuild – and it showed.

The O went from becoming the standard for offensive greatness to a not-that-bad 434 yards and 32 points per game. It was a wildly inconsistent offense that defined the idea of growing pains, and now there's a whole lot of talent returning for new offensive coordinator Jake Peetz.

As the very least, Peetz – a young coach with mostly NFL assistant experience – will try to get the 2019 offensive style back after working last year with Joe Brady at Carolina.

The quarterback situation became a whole lot clearer this offseason. It was supposed to be Myles Brennan's gig going into last year – and he was brilliant in just three games of work. He threw for over 1,100 yards with 11 touchdowns and three picks, but he was lost for the year with an abdominal injury. It was going to potentially be his job again, but he suffered a serious arm injury in camp.

TJ Finley had some big moments and looked the part of a potentially special passer, but he transferred to Auburn. That all but locked up at least the No. 2 job in the offseason for Max Johnson, and now he appears to be the main man.

The 6-5, 219-pound sophomore who wasn't quite



accurate enough, but he threw for almost 1,100 yards with eight scores and a pick. He finished off last year with three touchdown passes in the win over Florida, and threw for 435 yards and three scores in the win over Ole Miss.

The receivers are there to make the passing game go – but this is still a slight area of reloading. Leading pass catcher Terrace Marshall is gone, but sophomore Kayshon Boutte led the team with 735 yards and five scores, 6-4 Jaray Jenkins averaged

over 17 yards per catch, and ... it's LSU. There's plenty of high-end talent working into the mix – even if the experience isn't quite there.

Tight end Arik Gilbert took off for Georgia – that's a massive hit – but 6-7 Kole Taylor is a massive target, and there's a deep group of decent options behind him. There's no Gilbert, though.

The ground attack was a problem. It sputtered too much averaging just 122 yards per game, but at least the veteran backs are in place to do more if the line can get the job done – that's the hope.

232-pound Tyrion Davis-Price is a big back who led the team with 445 yards per carry, and John Emery averaged over five yards per carry. However, the 1,217 rushing yards were the fewest by a mile in a long, long time – more on that in the Keys To The Season.

The loss of projected OT Dare Rosenthal to the transfer portal is a hit – he's got top 50 NFL Draft pick potential – but 6-6, 311-pound Cam Wire is a decent veteran who should be fine in the role.

The other four starters are expected to be back, and there's way, way, way too much next-level talent to be so mediocre again. Expect a night-and-day improvement overall.



# Tiger defense eyeing return to dominance

The drop-off in offensive production might have taken over the spotlight, but it's the defensive side the fell off the map. Defensive coordinator Dave Aranda left to take over the head coaching gig at Baylor, there were a slew of huge personnel losses, and now there's a redo after finishing 124th in the nation in total D, allowing 492 points and 35 points per game.

DC Bo Pelini is gone, and in comes Daronte Jones, a mostly-NFL assistant who spent last year coaching the Minnesota Viking defensive backs. The improvement starts with the secondary that got hammered for a nation-worst 323 yards per game and was 115th in the country in pass efficiency defense. Fortunately ...

- CB Derek Stingley Jr. might be the best player in college football. He's not going to have the big stats with teams doing everything possible to avoid him, but there's no better lockdown corner – he's a top five overall pick next year.

The secondary came up with 13 picks with four taken back for scores – Eli Ricks was the biggest beneficiary of teams staying away from Stingley. The 6-2, 216-pound sophomore on the other side came up with four interceptions

- Stingley didn't pick off any passes – taking two back for scores.

The corners are there, but the safeties have to be stronger with Todd Harris coming back from a knee injury and Jay Ward likely moving over from corner to help out at free safety with leading tackler JaCoby Stevens gone.

- The defensive front got into the backfield and hit the quarterback, but it struggled way too much against the run. Expect a huge improvement here with a potentially loaded group on the line. There's plenty of high end talent on the front four, and there's experience and depth now, too.

All-star end Ali Gaye led the team in tackles for loss, 339-pound Glen Logan is a veteran anchor of a tackle to work around, and top pass rusher Andre Anthony has NFL upside in his edge rushing role.

Jabril Cox is gone from the linebacking corps, but landing Mike Jones from Clemson through the transfer portal should make up for that. 245-pound Damone Clark was second on the team in tackles and 231-pound Micah Baskerville was fourth.

In a rotation, they should both flourish now in the tweaked 4-2-5 scheme – at least that's the hope. Throw in high-end JUCO transfer Navonteque Strong – a huge hitter with speed – and like several other parts on the team, the linebacking corps will be better.



*Andre Anthony*



*Derek Stingley Jr.*



*Ali Gaye*

# SAINTS BEGIN LIFE AFTER BREES

For the last 15 years, the New Orleans Saints were able to enjoy the thing that eludes most NFL franchises: stability. But time catches up with everybody, and the Saints are no different. A team that hung its hat on having the same head coach, general manager and quarterback in place since 2006 has undergone its most substantial turnover in a long time this offseason.

New Orleans will have to prove it can win without future Hall of Fame quarterback Drew Brees, who announced his retirement in March after wrapping up his 20th NFL season, the final 15 of which were spent with the Saints. His departure was one of many.

The front office lost one of its top executives in former pro personnel director Terry Fontenot, now the rival Atlanta Falcons' general manager. Brees' longtime quarterbacks coach, Joe Lombardi, is now the Chargers' offensive coordinator. Former tight ends coach and assistant head coach Dan Campbell is now the head coach in Detroit, and he took secondary coach Aaron Glenn with him to serve as his defensive coordinator.

The Saints were already in a bind with relation to the salary cap, and then a pandemic hit, slashing NFL revenues. New Orleans had to clear nearly \$100 million in salary cap charges from its books this offseason. That meant a lot of good players had to be shown the door. Change was everywhere, and it was all dramatic. But there are still reasons for optimism — so

long as things go right.

## OFFENSE

The day after Brees retired, the team announced it was re-signing quarterback Jameis Winston to an incentive-laden one-year deal. Winston barely played in 2020. His most extensive playing time came in relief of Brees in the second half of a win against the San Francisco 49ers. His lone touchdown pass in a Saints uniform came on a trick play — a double pass in the Saints' playoff loss to Winston's old team, the Buccaneers. But the Saints are interested in what Winston will look like as the starter. At the same time, head coach Sean Payton has reiterated many times over that Winston will need to compete with Taysom Hill for the right to succeed Brees.

Who starts at quarterback, of course, is the biggest question the Saints face this season. It might be the most important question the Saints have had to answer since they signed Brees back in 2006. The answer could shape the future of the franchise.

Whoever lines up behind center should have a strong supporting cast. The Saints managed to remain fairly well stocked on offense despite the turnover this offseason.

Alvin Kamara is coming off the best year of what has been a marvelous career to this point. The 28-year-old, who has been a Pro Bowler each of his first four seasons, is inching closer to his first 1,000-yard rushing season while still maintaining his



versatility as a pass-catcher. There may not be a better dual-threat offensive player in football, though division rival Christian McCaffrey may beg to differ.

Kamara's underrated running mate, Latavius Murray, is back for his third season in a Saints uniform. There was some thought he could be a cap casualty this offseason, but Payton values Murray not only as a change-of-pace runner, but also as a viable starting option in case Kamara is injured.

New Orleans was banking on a return to form from Michael Thomas, who suffered an ankle sprain in Week 1 that derailed his season, but he is expected to miss the start of the season after undergoing surgery in June to repair torn ligaments in his ankle. The projected four-month recovery timetable could have Thomas sidelined until after the team's Week 6 bye. When he returns, the hope is that Thomas will look a lot more like he did in his first four seasons — when he averaged 118 catches, 1,378 yards and eight TDs — than he did in seven largely

ineffective games last year.

In Thomas' absence, the Saints are confident in youngsters Tre'Quan Smith, Marquez Callaway, Deonte Harris and Adam Trautman. All are 25 or younger, but none has truly had a breakout season yet.

Perhaps the greatest gift the Saints could hand their new starting quarterback was keeping their offensive line intact. New Orleans has top-tier players at both tackle positions (Terron Armstead and Ryan Ramczyk) and center (Erik McCoy), a three-time Pro Bowler at left guard (Andrus Peat) and a 2020 first-rounder at right guard (Cesar Ruiz).

## DEFENSE

The Saints have steadily improved under Dennis Allen, but he will have his work cut out for him as he enters his seventh season as defensive coordinator. Gone are the top pass rusher (Trey Hendrickson), two key rotational pieces at defensive tackle (Malcom Brown and Sheldon Rankins), a playmaking linebacker (Kwon Alexander) and one of the NFL's better cover corners (Janoris Jenkins). The only position group that did not lose an impact player was safety, where the team will bring back starters Malcolm Jenkins and Marcus Williams to go along with Mr. Do-Everything C.J. Gardner-Johnson. All three of those players are coming off strong 2020 campaigns.

New Orleans still has stars on the defensive side of the

ball, but it also has mostly unknown quantities next to them.

Even in a down year, defensive end Cameron Jordan recorded 7.5 sacks (snapping a streak of three straight years with 12 or more). The search for consistent production opposite Jordan continues. The Saints will likely pair him with one of three high-upside young rush ends in Marcus Davenport, Carl Granderson and 2021 first-rounder Payton Turner. They also added Tanoh Kpassagnon in free agency.

Veteran Demario Davis put up his fourth consecutive 100-plus-tackle season, continuing to demonstrate that he's one of the NFL's premier off-ball linebackers. Lining up next to him will likely be some combination of 2021 second-rounder Pete Werner and 2020 third-rounder Zack Baun, who started three games last season as a rookie.

The biggest question mark for the Saints defensively going into 2021 is at one of the cornerback spots. Marshon Lattimore is a stud, but who is going to play opposite him on the boundary? P.J. Williams has been solid, but he's exploitable on the outside. His value lies more in his versatility. Patrick Robinson's decision to retire after the start of training camp adds to the urgency to find a new veteran option unless the Saints believe that third-round pick Paulson Adebo out of Stanford is ready to start right away.



WELSH HIGH SCHOOL

*Greyhounds*



# Hounds aiming for breakthrough 2021 season

## *Returning talent key for Welsh in coming season*

WELSH — The Welsh Greyhounds are looking for a turnaround season this year after posting a 1-7 worksheet in 2020. Still with that record, the Hounds made it to the first round of the state playoffs based on the strength of their schedule. The Hounds almost pulled off a major upset in the first round, as they fell to number six ranked North Caddo by a 6-3 score after reaching the 10 yard line of their opponent in the closing minutes of play.

Fresh off of that memory, the Hounds are excited about the upcoming season, and return several key players from last year's team.

"We have some excellent linemen returning who should help us be able to run the ball much better this year," commented Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer. "Our schedule is much less demanding than it was last season, so we believe we have a chance to win every single game. We also have some depth at key positions, so that we might have only one of two players going both ways. Probably the biggest difference is that most of our players now understand the game in the game. They know how to react without having to think about it."

Twelve seniors and 14 juniors will be counted on to provide leadership for a school whose tradition is built upon going deep into the playoffs. "Our players had a great summer in the weight room and were willing to put in the time to be a great football team. Now they have to transfer what they did this summer to the football field on Friday nights.

## 2021 WHS Football Schedule

Aug. 26	Gueydan Jamboree	A
Sept. 3	Kinder	A
Sept. 10	Vinton	H
Sept. 16	Hamilton Christian	A
Sept. 24	Pickering	A
Oct. 1	Westlake	H
Oct. 7	Notre Dame	H
Oct. 15	LaGrange	H
Oct. 22	Lake Arthur	A
Oct. 29	Port Barre	H
Oct. 5	LCA	A



Addison Savoy



Alec Johnson



Austin Johnson



Ayden Miller



Brady Hall



Brecken Haydel



Cale Navarre



Caleb Miller



Caleb Roy



Cameron Bouley



Carson Hall



Casey Cormier



Chandler Watkins



Clayton Labouve



Cohen Cormier



Cohen Fontenot



Collin Lejeune



Colton Bergeaux

They are showing the underclassmen what it takes to be a great football team in the tradition of Welsh High School, commented Gueringer.

Nine starters are returning to the Greyhound offense, headed by a very stout class of linemen. Leading the way is senior tackle Rhett Davis, who is 6'2, and weighs 260. "Rhett has always been good, but now he has developed a kind of mean streak, and I like that in an offensive lineman. He will definitely have some pancake blocks this season. Our other tackle, junior Tanner Lopez is 5'10 and weighs 210 and has improved tremendously over last season. We are counting on them to help spark our running attack this year," Gueringer said. "Senior Cohen Fontenot should

be our feature back this year. He had a great off-season and is running hard in practice. He is 5'11 and weighs 175, but plays much bigger than that."

Fontenot will be backed up by senior Mason Jordan and junior Kennon LeGros.

The rest of the offense starts with returning senior center Brady Hall, who is 6'0 and weighs 215. The two guards also saw action last year. Junior Colton Bergeaux is 6'0 and weighs 185, while senior Alex Johnson is 5'8 and weighs 180.

The Hounds will feature a new quarterback in junior Gabe Gillett, who is 5'10 and weighs 165. Gillett brings to the spread offense of Welsh the ability to run the pigskin. The H-back in the Welsh offense will be junior Grant Daigle, who was last year's

quarterback. Daigle is 5'11 and weighs 185 and is an excellent blocker. Look for sophomore Luke Luntsford to see playing time when Daigle is out.

A group of players will see action as wide receivers, led by senior Cale Navarre and junior Caleb Miller. Look for sophomore J.J. Artis and freshman Jonavon Begnaud, along with sophomore Jeremiah Bouley to see plenty of game action.

The Greyhounds will once more operate out of the 4-2-5 base defense this season and welcome back six players who started last season on that side of the football.

Davis will be a fixture on the defensive line and will rarely come out of the game. He is joined by junior Cole Labove, who is 5'10 and weighs 195. "Both Brady Hall and Cohen

Fontenot might see action on the D-line, but we are working hard to find others to play so that we don't have to go both ways, with the exception of Rhett Davis," noted Gueringer.

That group of linemen will come from Chandler Watkins, Ethan Beard and Tanner Lopez. "These players are getting a ton of reps in practice and have really advanced in their skills. That should really help us stay fresh and also allow us to coach them on the sidelines when the offense has the ball. They are all working hard to get better," commented Gueringer.

Probably the biggest surprise of the summer practices has been the play of sophomore defensive end Latroy Pattum, who has been extremely hard to block. "Latroy has great

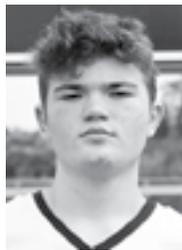
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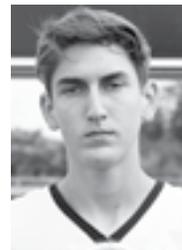
Eli Jolie



Ethan Beard



Gabe Gillett



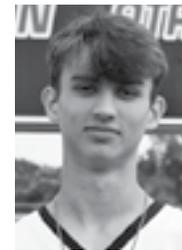
Gentry Pousson



Grant Daigle



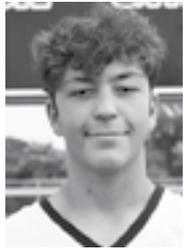
Hayden Van Ness



Hunter Nixon



JJ. Artis



Jack Roberie



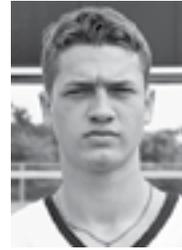
James Meche Jr.



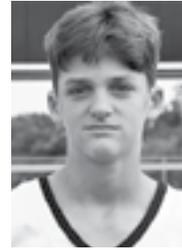
Javen Broussard



Jayce Beard



Jeb Krielow



Jeremiah Bouley



Jonavon Begnaud



Kendal Touchet



Kennon LeGros

football instincts and is really very intelligent. He has already exceeded what you would expect from a sophomore. He is going to be a really good football player. He and Cohen Fontenot make an outstanding pair of defensive ends and should really help shore up our effort on that side of the ball," Gueringer stated.

Three players are vying for playing time at linebacker and all three should see plenty of playing time. Senior Koen LeBlanc, who is 6'0 and weighs 180, will be joined by junior Trevor Miller and sophomore Hayden vanNess.

Senior Cale Navarre will help to anchor the secondary, along with new faces Ross Davis, Cameron Bouley, Jonavon Begnaud and Gavin Pousson.

The special teams of the Hounds are also in good hands, as all three

components return for another season. Senior deep snapper Tyler Conner returns to snapping for extra points, field goals and punts. Junior Grant Daigle is once again the holder and junior Gentry Pousson returns to do the kicking and the punting.

The Greyhounds are looking for 2021 to be

a breakout season for them. The schedule brings back old rivalries, as they will face off with Kinder, Vinton and Pickering, who are all former district rivals, but will be non-district contests this year. District 6-2A had no changes, as the LHSAA elected to not make district changes due to the pandemic. That

*Go Hounds! Go Caleb Miller!*

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means the Hounds will still have both Notre Dame and Lafayette Christian as district contests. Welsh will face a state champion, a state runner-up, and a state semi-finalist on their schedule this year. The two other district teams are Port Barre and Lake Arthur. Westlake and LaGrange will also be non-district games on the Welsh schedule this season.

Once again, excitement runs high in Greyhound territory as both the Hounds and the community prepare for another gridiron season.



2021 Welsh High School Greyhounds



Koen LeBlanc



LaTroy Pattum



Marcus Hampton



Mason Jordan



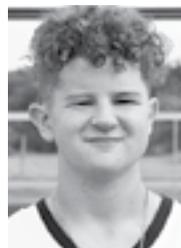
Rhett Davis



Ross Davis



Tanner Lopez



Tyler Conner



Tyson Hager



Will Arceneaux



Ziggy Ardoin



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# The Heart of a Greyhound

*Conner overcomes cancer fight to live football dreams*

WELSH — The Welsh Greyhounds are looking for a lot more scoring from their offense this coming football season.

After a touchdown or before a field goal attempt comes a crucial part of the game that goes largely unnoticed. It is the deep snapper who starts the play and his snap must be unerringly accurate to gain either one or three more points for the offense.

In Greyhound land, senior Tyler Conner will

*Continued on page 34*



*Tyler Conner*



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# GAME SCHEDULE

# 2021

## JENNINGS BULLDOGS

<b>Aug. 27</b>	Jennings Jamboree	H
<b>Sept. 3</b>	Leesville	H
<b>Sept. 10</b>	Eunice	A
<b>Sept. 17</b>	DeRidder	H
<b>Sept. 24</b>	Iota (HC)	H
<b>Oct. 1</b>	Sterlington	A
<b>Oct. 8</b>	St. Louis	A
<b>Oct. 15</b>	Iowa	H
<b>Oct. 22</b>	LCCP	A
<b>Oct. 29</b>	South Beauregard	A
<b>Nov. 5</b>	Westlake	H

## LAKE ARTHUR TIGERS

<b>Sept. 3</b>	Basile	H
<b>Sept. 10</b>	Grand Lake	H
<b>Sept. 16</b>	Elton	H
<b>Sept. 24</b>	DeQuincy	A
<b>Oct. 1</b>	Hanson Memorial	A
<b>Oct. 8</b>	Lafayette Christian	A
<b>Oct. 15</b>	Port Barre (HC)	H
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Welsh	H
<b>Oct. 29</b>	Notre Dame	A
<b>Nov. 5</b>	Kaplan	A

## ELTON INDIANS

<b>Sept. 2</b>	Vinton (Thurs)	A
<b>Sept. 9</b>	Pine Prairie (Thurs)	H
<b>Sept. 16</b>	Lake Arthur	A
<b>Sept. 24</b>	East Beau (HC)	H
<b>Sept. 30</b>	Merryville (Thurs)	A
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Basile (Thurs)	H
<b>Oct. 15</b>	Oberlin	H
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Hamilton Christian	A
<b>Oct. 29</b>	Grand Lake	H
<b>Nov. 5</b>	Gueydan	A

## WELSH GREYHOUNDS

<b>Aug. 26</b>	Gueydan Jamboree	A
<b>Sept. 3</b>	Kinder	A
<b>Sept. 10</b>	Vinton	H
<b>Sept. 16</b>	Hamilton Christian	A
<b>Sept. 24</b>	Pickering	A
<b>Oct. 1</b>	Westlake	H
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Notre Dame	H
<b>Oct. 15</b>	LaGrange	H
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Lake Arthur	A
<b>Oct. 29</b>	Port Barre (HC)	H
<b>Oct. 5</b>	LCA	A

*Continued from page 31*

be starting his third season as the deep snapper for the red and black. But Tyler has an awesome story that goes along with his ability to be an integral part of the success of the Greyhounds.

When Tyler was two years old, he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma. Tyler had a tumor growing behind his right eye. "We were living in Roanoke at the time," recalls Tyler's mom, Dawn. "We noticed he had a swollen eye and we took him to several doctors without much success. Then we moved to Houston so Tyler's dad could finish chiropractor school. That allowed us to take Tyler to Texas Children's Hospital, when the proper test revealed his Stage 4 tumor. Needless to say, we were really scared out of our minds. Who recovers from stage four-cancer? His prognosis was really grim. But even at age two, Tyler had no quit in him. Through rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, while hooked up to IV's, Tyler would be running around the hospital. No one could keep up with him. Even when he had to have a bone marrow transplant, they couldn't keep him down. Today Tyler doesn't like any attention, but I can tell you he has been a fighter all of his life."

Tyler's dad, Joel, sees his son as a miracle baby. "Less than 5% of children who have a neuroblastoma survive. God has truly been good to us. I graduated from chiropractor school in December 16, 2006 and Tyler was declared to be in remission on December 8, 2006. That was a great day for us, but it was a really long road," commented Joel.

Some of Tyler's treatments besides chemo and radiation included stem cell transplant from his own bone marrow. Tyler's last therapy session for the cancer was in 2007. He had to continue having check-ups for 10 years. The cancer affected some of his hearing

and eyesight, including having cataract surgery at age 15. Today Tyler remains in remission and no longer has to visit cancer doctors.

Joel is pretty definite when he talks about Tyler's future. "Tyler eats, drinks and breaths football," said Joel. "He wants to be a football coach someday, and with his never-quit attitude, I'm certainly not betting against him."

Now comes the recollections of his battle from Tyler himself. "I really don't remember any of it until I was age five. All I can remember is wanting to do what everyone else my age did and wanting to be better than most. I guess I have always

been competitive."

Tyler took part in swimming competitively and was very serious about being the best he could be. He always loved football and was part of the junior high team in Jennings. He moved to Welsh at the beginning of his freshman year and had to sit out a year before being eligible. He went out for football his sophomore year and quickly found his niche as a deep snapper. He made the varsity and first team and the rest is history. Every punt, extra point attempt, or field goal begins with

Tyler snapping the ball.

Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer praises Tyler for his positive attitude concerning everything football-related. "No one likes the grind of weight lifting during the hot summer months, but Tyler is there encouraging his teammates during the hard periods. He is the first to walk into the weight room and cheer on all the work taking place. To jump into the role of deep snapper with such a positive attitude is new to us. Most of the time when you mention

special teams, most of the players want out. Tyler took on the job as a sophomore and has never looked back. Even today at practice, you can find Tyler on the sideline fine-tuning his snaps for both extra points and field goals, as well as deeper snaps for punting. He is never satisfied and is always looking to get better. He truly practices his trade. On punts, he is always the first downfield and is always looking to stop opponents as quickly as possible."

When asked why Conner was always so ready to work hard to

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### 2021 Welsh Greyhounds Coaching Staff

*WHS coaching staff includes Caleb Gary, Hayden Freeland, Justin Morvant, Cody Gueringer, Caleb Hayes, Denver Brown, Ronnie Courville and Pat Deshotel.*

succeed and to push others to succeed, Gueringer quickly had the answer. "Tyler quickly understood at an early age that throughout life, no one will do it for you. You have to make your own way. Tyler is the epitome of taking the bull by the horns and doing it yourself. He will be the first one to tell you not to feel sorry for him or expect less of him. He is the most positive kid on our team. His peers really look up to him and appreciate all the encouragement he gives them. He is a huge integral part of our team. I wish I had

60 Tylers to work with every year."

Tyler's final words in agreeing to do this story were typical Tyler. "I don't want this story to be mushy or anything like that. Let's just make it as positive as possible." But don't think for a second he has forgotten why he is still around today. "The grace of God is why I'm here today. That's the only reason and I remember every day that I owe it all to him."

While this writer appreciates and loves all the action that takes place on the football field, you can

rest assured that I will also be watching the winning attitude and positive influence of number 20 both on

the sidelines and on the field.



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# WELSH HIGH GREYHOUNDS IN HINDSIGHT

**Rayne: 19**  
**Welsh: 6**

WELSH - The Rayne Wolves used a strong second half defensive effort to ease to a 19-6 win over the Welsh Greyhounds in the opening of the 2020 gridiron season. The Wolves allowed only one first down after halftime and just 24 yards of total offense to Welsh. "We just couldn't get off the field in the second half," commented Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer. "Rayne was able to pick up big yards on first down and that allowed them to stay ahead of the sticks the whole second half. We just didn't get the ball much in the final half." The Wolves started the scoring following a Welsh punt down to the Rayne 46-yard line. Ten plays later, tailback Ron Charles smashed into the end zone from seven yards out. With 4:14 left in the initial frame of action, Deuce Comeaux booted the extra point for a 7-0 lead. The Greyhounds came storming back after taking possession at their own 35. Senior halfback Jaheim Simon showed he was back from an ACL tear which shelved him for all of last season. From the Welsh 48, Simon took an inside handoff and broke several tackles at the line of scrimmage and then raced 52

yards to complete the scoring play. With 3:02 still remaining in the first period, the kick attempt failed, allowed the visitors to hold to a 7-6 advantage. Neither team could move the pigskin effectively in the second quarter of action. The Wolves reached the Welsh 40, but senior safety Will Green picked off a pass to kill the drive. Rayne won the toss to open the contest, but deferred to the second half and they quickly made that decision count. The Wolves motored 59 yards in eight plays to change their side of the scoreboard. Tailback Darian Chevalier raced the final six yards to complete the march. With 7:44 left in the third stanza, the kick attempt was wide left and the visitors now had a 13-6 lead. Sophomore Gabe Gillett brought the fans to their feet with a 43-

yard kickoff return down to the Rayne 47 yard line. The Greyhounds picked up a first down on fourth down when sophomore quarterback Grant Daigle hit sophomore wide receiver Caleb Miller for 14 yards and a first down at the 29-yard line of Rayne. But the defense of the Wolves stiffened and the Hounds gave the ball up on downs. A two yard punt once again gave the hosts excellent field position at the Rayne 31. Three running plays and an incomplete pass killed the last scoring attempt for the Greyhounds. The visitors used 12 plays to get deep into Welsh territory before a 33-yard field goal attempt with 5:42 left in the contest bounced off the goal post and was no good. The Hounds went three-and-out and the Wolves took over at their own 31 following a



Welsh punt. It took eight plays for the visitors to seal the win with an 11-yard scamper by Charles with just 40 seconds left in

the contest. Charles paced the Rayne rushing attack with a game-high 149 yards on 27 carries and two scores. Welsh was led by Simon with 91 yards on 12 carries, but only seven yards

after intermission. Daigle was next in line with 24 yards on seven attempts. Daigle completed his first two passes as a Greyhound, as he had the 14-yard hookup with Miller and then completed another pass to Simon that went for just one yard. Defensively, the Greyhounds were led by senior linebacker Kade Miller with a game-high 10 solo tackles and four assists. Junior Koen LeBlanc was next in line with eight solo stops, while safety Will Green, sophomore tackle Kaden Cormier and junior defensive end Cohen Fontenot each contributed seven individual tackles. Senior linebacker Cam Lavergne pitched in with six stops and three assists. Welsh

will be in action again next Friday when they will host the St. Louis Saints, but be the visiting team. Because of the damage from Hurricane Laura, the two teams have elected to play the contest in Welsh for the second consecutive year, but because of Covid-19 and social distancing requirements, the Hounds will be on the opposite side of the field for the non-district clash.

**Vandebilt Catholic: 35**  
**Welsh: 3**

WELSH - For the first time this season, the Welsh Greyhounds enjoyed a lead, as a fumble recovery by junior Cohen Fontenot led to a 28-yard field goal by sophomore Gentry Pousson to give the Hounds a 3-0 advantage less than three minutes into the contest. The rest of the news wasn't so good for the hosts, as the Class 4-A Vandebilt Catholic Terriers used their size and physical play to post a 35-3 win in the non-district clash. The score would remain that way through the first quarter even though Welsh played almost all of the period in Terrier territory. A lost fumble at the Vandebilt 14 killed a Greyhound march that looked to put points on the board. The visitors showed their



speed when Bryden Roundtree went 51 yards to hand the lead to the Terriers with 9:43 remaining in the first half. Dakotah Purvis then booted the first of five extra points and the visitors had a lead they would never relinquish. A gamble on fourth down that fell just short of a first down allowed the visitors to gain possession at the Welsh 36 midway through the second stanza. That short march ended with an 18-yard touchdown pass from Dominic Archila to Jean-Luc Lapeyre with 4:16 still to play in the first half. A lost fumble set up the next Terrier score on Welsh's next series, with the visitors gaining control at the Welsh 44. Three plays later, Roundtree got loose again and scampered 47 yards to paydirt. Purvis moved the score to 21-3 with his kick with 2:52 left until intermission. The Terriers came up big on the ensuing kickoff when the pooch kick by the visitors went untouched by the hosts until it was recovered by the Terriers at the Welsh 35-yard line. It took four plays for the visitors to find the end zone and the payoff came on a oneyard plunge by quarterback Dominic Archila. That made the score 28-3 at the break. The final score of the night came midway through the third period when another failed fourth down gamble handed the ball to the Terriers at the Welsh 44.



Four plays later, Hunter Porche took a swing pass and raced 11 yards into the end zone for the touchdown. "We are not mentally and physically tough," commented a disappointed Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer. "We go over everything in practice at least five times and we are still inconsistent in everything we do. We just don't stay focused for an entire series. It's tough to see the other team doing exactly what we told the kids they would do and practiced stopping that and then in the game we act like we have never seen what the other team is doing. It really wears on you to know that your team is really much better than how they are playing. But we put that one behind us and get ready for the

next game and just keep teaching," Gueringer concluded. Roundtree paced the running attack for the visitors, as he accumulated 169 yards on 13 carries and two scores. Welsh was paced by senior halfback Jaheim Simon with 54 yards on 15

carries. Defensively, the Greyhounds were led by senior defensive back Ethan Theriot, who finished with seven solo tackles and two assists. Next in line was senior linebacker Cameron Lavergne with five solo tackles, four assists and a fumble recovery.

Senior defensive end Jordan Pelsia also added five individual tackles and three assists. Welsh will jump into district play next week when they travel to face Notre Dame in a District 6-2A contest. Welsh will enter league action with an 0-2 mark for the season.

**Notre Dame: 41**  
**Welsh: 7**

**CROWLEY** - The Welsh Greyhounds found the going rough in their District 6-2A opener, as they dropped a 41-7 decision to the unbeaten Notre Dame Pioneers. Welsh falls to 0-3 with the loss and 0-1 in league play. The Greyhounds picked up a first down with their first possession of the night, but could get only six more for the rest of the evening. The visitors finished with 79 total yards of offense, with all of it being rushing yardage. The first score for the Pioneers came on a quick two-play

drive following a Welsh punt to the Greyhound 48. After a two yard gain on a run play, Luke Yuhasz took a swing pass and broke several tackles on his way to the end zone to complete a 46 yard scoring play with 7:27 still to play in the initial frame of action. Lucas Simon booted the extra point to hand the hosts a lead they would never relinquish. A Welsh fumble set up the Pioneers next score, starting from the Greyhound 39. Four plays later, Yuhasz made a good catch in the corner of the end zone to complete a 12 yard scoring play. With 34 seconds left in the first period, Simon moved the score to 14-0 with his kick. Once again a tough Notre Dame defense forced a Welsh punt and the Pioneers were in business at the Welsh 48. Six plays later, tight end Joseph Brown hauled in a six yard pass to up the Notre Dame lead to 20-0

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after Simon was wide with the kick attempt. The hosts would add one more score before intermission when a short punt set up the Notre Dame offense at the Welsh 34. Once again the Pioneers used six plays to hit paydirt. The payoff came on a 10 yard scamper by quarterback Parker Seilhan with 2:14 remaining in the first half. Simon made the score 27-0 at the break with his kick. The strong Notre Dame defense held the Hounds to minus yardage in the first half. Welsh was on the plus side until a 20 yard loss on the final play of the half moved them to negative yardage. After the crowing of their homecoming queen, the Pioneers took the second half kickoff and promptly motored 65 yards in eight plays to find the end zone. Yuhasz collected his third touchdown catch

of the night when he hauled in a 13 yard strike with 8:36 left

in the third quarter. Simon booted the extra point and the hosts enjoyed a 34-0 advantage. The Pioneers then put together their longest sustained march of the night, as they moved another 65 yards in nine plays to notch their final score of the night. The payoff came on a one yard plunge by Thomas Meche with 1:29 still to play in the third period. This time Matt Bernard booted the extra point to hand the hosts a 41-0 lead. The Greyhounds finally found some running room, as the Pioneers substituted liberally. Welsh punt together a 35 yard drive that got most of their yardage for the night. It took the visitors nine plays to cross the goal line for the only time on this night. Sophomore Kennon LeGros did the scoring

honors, as he bulled his way into the end zone from eight yards out with 1:54 remaining in the contest. Sophomore Gentry booted the extra point to make the final score for the night 41-7. LeGros did the heavy carrying for the Greyhounds, as he rushed the pigskin 15 times for 54 yards. With two carries, sophomore Gabe Gillett had 12 yards for the night. The Greyhounds attempted only two passes, and both fell incomplete. Senior Will Green paced the Welsh defense, as he amassed nine solo tackles and three assists for the evening. Junior Cohen Fontenot added five individual tackles and three assists, while senior Ethan Theriot also contributed five stops and three assists. Seniors Jordan Pelsia, Cameron Lavergne and Kade Miller each added five solo tackles in the losing effort. "When you

are 0-3 to start a season, you find out who can deal with adversity and keep playing both hard and smart. Life is not always a bowl of cherries and it is true that you learn in defeat as well as in victory. I'll take this 0-3 team over any other 0-3 team in the state," commented Welsh Head Coach Cody Gueringer.

#### **Catholic PC: 14 Welsh" 13**

WELSH - Kicker Cameron Decoteau broke the hearts of Greyhound fans here Friday night, as he booted a game-winning extra point with just 1:13 left in the contest to lift Catholic of Point Coupee to a 14-13 victory over the winless Greyhounds.

"We are a very young football team," commented Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer. "We had three fourth down gambles and

made two of them. I am not conservative when it comes to trying to get a win. I will gamble on fourth down because I trust my offense."

Gueringer was referring to a fourth the Greyhounds faced at the Hornet 35 yard line with 3:34 left in the contest. A long pass attempt fell just off the fingers of sophomore wide receiver Caleb Miller, and the hosts took over and marched to the end zone for the winning points. "Our defense played very strong tonight against a very physical team that played for a state championship last year. But our offense has to realize how important each first down is in a game like this. For most of our kids, this is the first time they have ever been in a situation of playing in the third and fourth quarter when the game is on the line. They are getting their first

taste of crunch time."

The hosts got on the scoreboard first when they took the opening kickoff and promptly motored 71 yards in 12 plays to strike paydirt. The payoff came on a two yard plunge by junior fullback Cohen Fontenot with 4:20 left in the first quarter. Sophomore Gentry Pousson booted the extra point for the 7-0 lead.

The stout Welsh defense forced a Hornet punt midway through the second stanza and the Hounds were in business at their own 33. Two plays later, Fontenot followed the blocking of his offensive line and rambled 66 yards to change the scoreboard again. With a 13-0 advantage, the all-important extra point kick was blocked, and that proved to be the difference in the contest. "I told the kids that focus for an entire game

is what gets things done. Just one little seemingly innocent concentration to details allowed a block on the extra point and that proved to be the difference," said Gueringer.

The Welsh defense held the talented Hornet offense to just 83 yards rushing and 18 passing in the first half. But the Hornets made several halftime adjustments that the Greyhounds were too slow to react to, and that allowed the visitors to finish with 210 yards on the ground.

The Greyhound defense fought hard to slow the rush of the Hornets and were able to enter the final frame of play still clinging to their 13-0 lead. But the hard running of fullback Spencer Lacoste and halfback Matthew Langlois slowly moved the pigskin downfield. The first Catholic score came on a four yard smash by Lacoste with 11:38 remaining in the contest. Decoteau booted the point-after and the deficit was cut to 13-7.

Senior defensive back Will Green picked off a Hornet pass and returned the ball to the 36 yard line of the visitors with 5:52 left in the game. A couple of first downs would have iced the win for the hosts, but inexperience reared its ugly head, coupled with some great plays by the Hornet defense. That left the Greyhounds with a fourth and eight at the Hornet 35. Sophomore

Grant Daigle's throw to sophomore Caleb Miller was just off of his fingertips, and that incompleteness set up the winning drive for the visitors.

Langlois and quarterback Aiden Vosburg played a large roll in moving the visitors downfield. Langlois had runs of 16 and 25 yards in the march, while Vosburg picked up several key first downs with his runs up the middle. Vosburg completed the winning drive with a one yard dive and Decoteau booted the winning point.

The Hornets began the drive with 3:34 remaining and hit paydirt with just 1:13 left in the contest. The third pass attempt on the night for the Hounds was picked off by Vosburg to seal the Hornet win.

Fontenot led the offensive charge for the Greyhounds, as he rushed for 106 yards on 15 carries and the two touchdowns. Junior Cale Navarre was next in line with 26 yards on seven attempts.

Langlois paced the Hornet attack with 83 yards on 12 carries, while Vosburg added 71 stripes on 15 assignments. Lacoste contributed 53 tough yards on 13 carries.

The Greyhound defense was led by senior linebacker Kade Miller with seven solo stops and four assists, and he added a fumble recovery to his night's



work. Junior Koen LeBlanc was next in line with five individual tackles and two assists.

Fontenot was strong on the defensive side of the pigskin as well, as he contributed four solo stops. Also having four tackles were sophomore Cole Labouve, senior Ethan Theriot and senior Will Green, who also had the interception for the Hounds.

"We played hard for three and three quarters of the game," concluded Gueringer. "Our mission is to play a complete game and focus on our jobs for 48 minutes. That's something that only game experience can give you."

Welsh will get their next opportunity for that complete game and win number one when they host the Lake Arthur Tigers next week in their annual parish

battle.

#### **Welsh: 35 Lake Arthur: 7**

WELSH - A strong second half surge propelled the Welsh Greyhounds to their first win of the season, as they celebrated Homecoming with a 35-7 win over parish and district rival Lake Arthur. Welsh moves to 1-4 for the season, while the Tigers drop to 1-3 with the loss.

The Tigers finished the first half with 93 yards rushing in a game that saw no completed passes by either team for the entire contest. Welsh had 92 yards at intermission and one less first down than the Tigers. But, a costly fumble changed the complexion of the contest just before the break.

Safety Ethan Theriot punched the ball away

from dive back Carter Bihm, and Jaheim Simon recovered the pigskin in the end zone to hand the Greyhounds a 14-7 advantage just before the crowing of Homecoming Queen Gracie Myers.

Welsh jumped out to a hard-fought 7-0 lead midway through the second stanza with a 92-yard march that covered 11 plays. Prior to that march, Tucker Primeaux, Aiden Duhon and Bly Daniels had stopped many Welsh running plays either behind the line of scrimmage or for very little gain. The big play in the scoring drive was a 30-yard gallop by sophomore quarterback Grant Daigle from midfield to the Tiger 20. Daigle capped the mammoth march with a one yard plunge and sophomore Gentry Pousson made the score 7-0 with his kick.

The Tigers came roaring back, as they motored 58 yards in 14 plays to tie the score. Senior quarterback Tyler Breaux was the workhorse, as he continually picked up key first downs with his runs. The payoff came on a 10-yard sprint by Breaux with just 1:20 remaining in the first half. Duhon tied the contest with his kick.

A good kickoff return by the Greyhounds led to the only pass attempt by the hosts, and it was a halfback pass thrown by sophomore Gabe Gillett. Gillett had to

duck a strong Tiger rush and his pass attempt was intercepted by the Tigers at the Lake Arthur 22.

But on the next play, with the Tigers trying to just kill the clock, Theriot came up with the big play and Simon fell on the ball for a gift and a 14-7 advantage at the break.

"I told the kids we needed to take the second half kickoff and score and then play really good defense," commented Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer. His chargers responded, as they traveled 59 yards nine plays to change the scoreboard once again. The second half featured the hard-running of junior halfback Cale Navarre. Navarre had just 13 yards at intermission, but finished the contest with a game-high 97 yards on 15 carries.

"Lake Arthur came out and played a 50 defense with a five man front to start the game, and we hadn't seen that from them on film," Gueringer said. "We made some blocking adjustments at the half and that helped open up our inside running game."

Navarre used strong blocking from the offensive line to move the ball down to the Tiger one-yard line, and Daigle notched his second one-yard score on the next play. Pousson made the score 21-7 with his kick.

The teams traded punts before a Welsh

interception set up the next Greyhound score. Breaux attempted to throw the ball downfield, but junior Koen LeBlanc hit Breaux during the throw and senior Ethan Theriot made the interception and returned it 20 yards down to the Lake Arthur 20-yard line. Theriot has forced a turnover by opponents in every game except Notre Dame. Navarre capped the short march with a 15-yard scamper. Senior Austin VanNess added a two-point run to move the lead to 29-7 with 8:45 left in the battle.

The turnover bug would strike the Tigers once again on their next possession. The loose pigskin was picked up by Gillett, who raced untouched 20 yards to paydirt. The extra point failed, and the Hounds had their final winning margin of 35-7.

"Thelayoutdidhurtus, but I give all the respect to Welsh," commented Lake Arthur head coach Tauris Davis. "They really flew to the football on defense and made some good adjustments at halftime to counter what we were doing. We gave it our best and now we will live to fight another day."

Navarre paced the Greyhound offense with 97 yards on 15 carries and one score. Junior halfback Cohen Fontenot was next in line with 55 yards on 13 carries, while Daigle finished with 42 yards on five attempts and two scores.

Senior Tyler Breaux led the Tiger charge, as he completed his night's work with 58 yards on 14 attempts and the lone Tiger score. Junior Carter Bihm was next in line with 29 stripes on 11 assignments.

Tucker Primeaux led the way for the Tiger defense, as he finished with six solo tackles and two assists. Senior Blye Daniels added five individual tackles and Ridge Savoie contributed four stops.

Sophomore Cole LaBouve paced the Welsh defense with five solo tackles, while Theriot added four stops, a pass interception and a forced fumble for his night's work. Senior defensive end Cameron Lavergne and junior safety Koen LeBlanc each contributed four stops.

Welsh will travel to face Port Barre next week in District 6-2A action, while the Tigers will face off against Notre Dame.

#### **St. Louis: 46 Welsh: 19**

WELSH - Senior halfback Evan Joubert scored on the first play from scrimmage on his way to a career night that led the St. Louis Saints to a 46-19 win over the Welsh Greyhounds. Joubert raced 71 yards on the first play to start his big game, and finished with 229 yards on 27 carries and six touchdowns.

After the quick score, the Saints, who were

playing at Greyhound Stadium but were the home team, forced a Welsh punt and were in business at their own 38. Six plays later, Joubert notched his second score on a two yard run to move the lead to 13-0 following a botched extra point attempt. The story was repeated, as the Hounds were forced to punt and the Saints started from their own 37. This time it required 10 plays for the hosts to score, but they had to settle for a 37 yard field goal from Jack Watson, as the Welsh defense stiffened deep in its own territory.

A lost Welsh fumble started the second period, and the Saints wasted little time in finding the end zone with a short 12 yard drive. Joubert capped the effort with another two yard plunge with 10:02 left in the first half. A 19 yard punt set up the next St. Louis score, as the Saints used four plays to strike paydirt. The payoff came on a 21 yard sprint by Joubert to move the score to 29-0 midway through the second stanza.

The Saints would find the end zone one more time before intermission, as they marched 68 yards in eight plays to get deep into Welsh territory. The Greyhound secondary made three excellent plays on St. Louis pass attempts, which forced the Saints to settle for a 35 yard field goal from Watson to make the score 32-0 at the break.



A dropped ball on a punt attempt by the Saints set up the first Welsh score of the night, as the Hounds gained possession at the St. Louis 14. On the next play, junior Cale Navarre went over left tackle and sprinted into the end zone for the touchdown. With 7:07 left in the third quarter, sophomore Gentry Pousson booted the extra point.

On the ensuing kickoff Saints return man Hank Milligan ran into a pile of Greyhounds and before the whistle could blow, Welsh sophomore Cole Labouve came out of the pile and raced 25 yards for a touchdown with 6:56 still to play in the third period. Welsh opted to try a two-point conversion, but the play failed to cross the goal line, leaving the score 32-13.

The Saints came right back with a nine play drive that culminated in a four yard smash by Joubert to increase

the lead to 39-13 with 10:45 remaining in the contest. Greyhound senior Ethan Theriot returned the ensuing kickoff 31 yards to the Welsh 41 to set up the next score for the visitors. It took just three plays to strike paydirt, with a 28 yard pass from sophomore quarterback Grant Daigle to Theriot being the big play. The payoff came on the next play when Daigle put his head down and hammered into the end zone from six yards out with 8:56 left in the contest. A pass attempt for the two-point conversion failed, and the score moved to 39-19.

A failed fourth down gamble by the Greyhounds set up the final Saints score of the night. St. Louis started the short drive from the Welsh 26, and ended it five plays later on a two yard plunge by Joubert. Watson booted the final point of the night to

make the final score 46-19.

The Welsh defense found it hard to make any progress, as the defensive front line of the Saints dominated the line of scrimmage all night. Daigle was the leading rusher for Welsh with 24 yards on 10 carries and one score. Junior Cohen Fontenot added 17 yards, while junior Cale Navarre finished with 23 yards and one score.

Senior linebacker Kade Miller had an outstanding night, as he finished with a game-high 12 solo tackles and five assists. Senior cornerback Will Green also was strong from his position, as he made nine individual tackles and added three assists. Senior defensive end Cameron Lavergne pitched in with six solo stops and three assists.

"It was good to see our offense not relax after we scored the first touchdown," stated

Saints' head coach Chad Lavergne. "Last week we also scored first against South Beauregard, but we let down and the game got away from us. Tonight we stayed focused and our offensive line really blocked well for us. We were able to finish the game strong."

Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer noted continued improvement along his front offensive and defensive line. "Actually our front people did a pretty good job against a good team. I don't understand why it is that some coaches are more interested in positioning themselves to make the playoffs rather than do what's best for the kids. We played a 3-A school because 2-A teams did not want to play us and take a chance on losing. To me, that's putting the wrong things in front of why it is we do this job. That frustrates me," Gueringer stated.

Welsh will finish the regular season next week when they host the number one team in the state in class 2-A in Lafayette Christian in a District 6-2A battle.

#### **LCA :63 Welsh:7**

WELSH - The regular season for the Welsh Greyhounds came to an end Thursday night when they dropped a 63-7 decision to Lafayette Christian Academy in a District 6-2A contest. Now the Greyhounds await the possibility of entering

the class 2-A non-select school state playoffs. Welsh was at number 26 before the contest, and should finish anywhere between 28 to 30. The top 32 teams make the playoffs.

The Knights entered the contest as the state's number one ranked team in Class 2A and did nothing to deter the idea that they are the best team in their class and quite possibly the best regardless of classification.

The visitors scored with every possession of the first half to take a 42-0 lead at intermission. It was the passing attack that worked all night for the Knights, whose only loss of the season was in week one to Acadiana High School.

A 58-yard punt return by LSU signee Sage Ryan set up the first score of the night, with the visitors starting at the Welsh 21. Three plays later, Daejon Sinegal connected with wide receiver Payton Janise on a two-yard scoring pass to open the scoring. Kicker Louie Davies booted every extra point attempt except the final one, which was made by Ian Robicheaux.

Following a Welsh punt, the Knights started at the Welsh 41 and used just two plays to strike paydirt. The payoff came on a 39-yard pass from Sinegal to Ryan with 6:19 still to play in the first period.

A lost Welsh fumble set up the next score for the visitors, as they had to cover just 25 yards to



get into the end zone. The duo of Sinegal and Ryan connected again, this time from 12 yards out to up the lead to 21-0 with 3:25 left in the opening quarter.

Another Greyhound punt allowed the visitors to begin their next march at the Welsh 41 and just two plays later, Sinegal hit Caemon Scott for a 32-yard touchdown. With 18 seconds left in the first stanza, Davies made the score 28-0 with his kick.

The first score of the second quarter once again came following a Welsh punt out to the Greyhound 36. Four plays later, Sinegal connected with Darian Riggs from 10 yards out to up the score to 35-0 with 9:40 left in the first half.

A two-yard punt set up the Knights at the Welsh 16 and four plays later, Ryan sped into the end zone from

seven yards out with 5:38 remaining until halftime. That made the score at the break 42-0.

A Welsh fumble set up the first score of the second half, with the Knights gaining possession at the Welsh 32. Five plays later, Cowinn Helaire crossed the double-stripped line from five yards to move the lead to 49-0 with 7:41 remaining in the third stanza.

A fourth down gamble by the hosts fell about a foot short on the next Welsh possession, and that allowed the visitors to take over at the Greyhound 23. Three plays later, Sinegal hooked up with Treanders Marzell on a 13-yard scoring play to increase the lead to 56-0 with 2:04 left in the third period.

The Greyhounds, now 1-6 for the season, changed their side of the scoreboard on an

80-yard march that used up 12 plays and almost eight minutes of the clock. The payoff came on a four-yard smash by senior Cameron Lavergne with 5:52 remaining in the contest. Sophomore Gentry Pousson booted the extra point for the Hounds. Junior halfback Mason Jordan assisted Lavergne in the drive, as he contributed 28 hard-earned yards.

The visitors got the final score of the night when Marzell scampered 38 yards to strike paydirt.

Sinegal passed for 160 yards on 12 completions, while the Knights rushed for another 128 yards.

The Hounds failed on all three pass attempts for the evening and rushed for 126 yards in the contest. Lavergne led the way with 58 yards on 11 carries, while Jordan and junior fullback Cohen Fontenot each added 28 stripes.

Three players paced the defensive effort for the Greyhounds, as junior Koen LeBlanc, and seniors Cameron Lavergne and Kade Miller all posted five individual tackles.

Welsh will now await word from the LHSAA on Sunday about if they have indeed qualified for the playoffs and who they will play. The sure fact is that the Greyhounds will travel if they do make the playoffs, as the top 15 teams are granted home games.

Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer remained optimistic after the loss. "We got to play some kids who are just now beginning to figure out the game of football. Coach Brown(Denver) spent a lot of time with freshman Luke Luntsford this week and it really showed in his play tonight. Sophomore Ross Davis and junior Mason Jordan both got in there and really scrapped for yardage running the football. I was really happy with the young guys who got in there and played hard regardless of the competition or the score. That's next year's players who are already starting to make their mark," Gueringer concluded.

#### **Class 2A Bi-District Round North Caddo:6 Welsh:3**

VIVIAN – The Welsh Greyhounds came oh so close to pulling off an upset here Friday night, as they ran out of time in a 6-3 loss to the number five ranked North Caddo Titans in the bi-district round of the class 2-A non-select playoffs. Welsh came in as the number 28 seed with only one win for the season. To say the Greyhound defense came to play would be a gross understatement. The Hounds flew around like a disturbed hornet's nest, and the hosts were the object for the Hounds. North Caddo finished with

only five first downs and just one in the second half, with that coming on the second to last play of the game. The red and black defense limited the Titans to just 86 yards of total offense, with 71 coming on the ground. Meanwhile the Welsh offense also struggled mightily against a front defensive line that averaged over 280 pounds. Despite the huge disadvantage in size, the Hounds finished with 192 total yards, with 163 coming on the ground. The bulk of the yardage found the visitors running behind the strong play of sophomore tackle Kaden Cormier, who fought through a torn labrum in his shoulder to complete the game.

The leading rusher for the Hounds was junior fullback Cohen Fontenot.

Fontenot continually smashed into larger opponents and drove them backwards for a total of 105 yards on 16 carries. Unfortunately, Fontenot sustained a broken arm early in the third period and was out for the remainder of the contest.

One can only imagine what the outcome might have been had these two offensive players been at full strength for the entire contest.

The Greyhounds had a closing chance to win the contest, as they reached the Titan nine yard line with a first down. That opportunity was set up by an unbelievable

play that you draw up in the dirt in flag football. Faced with a fourth and 20 from the Tital 29, sophomore quarterback Grant Daigle hit junior halfback Cale Navarre with a 10-yard pass in the middle of the field.

Before he could be tackled, Navarre lateraled to senior wide receiver Ethan Theriot coming across the field. Theriot ran for five yards and then lateraled to senior wide receiver Will Green who ran into the first down marker at the nine yard line to complete an amazing play called "Boise", named after the play that Boise State runs occasionally. "We have been practicing that play since August and have never run it," commented Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer. "That's the one play they always get right in practice and they did it to perfection tonight."

But the size of the Titans and the loss of Fontenot hampered the Welsh running attack. After a loss on first down, a pass to Theriot on the Welsh sidelines sailed out of bounds.

On third down, Daigle lofted a perfect pass deep in the corner of the end zone, but Green was one step out of bounds when he came down with the pigskin. That forced a field goal attempt, and sophomore

Gentry Pousson split the uprights from 32 yards out to make the score 7-3 with 5:53 left in the contest. Welsh would



once again force a punt by the visitors, who were still without a first down for the final half, and the Greyhounds got the ball at their own 45 with 4:10 to play. After picking up one first down, the drive stalled and on fourth down, a long pass was intercepted at the North Caddo seven with 2:29 remaining in the contest.

The Hounds were out of time outs and needed to force a punt, but on second down, quarterback Charzay Morris ran 16 yards for the longest gain of the night for the hosts and a first down that iced the game. North Caddo got their only score of the game in the second quarter after a high snap from center forced Daigle to run the ball on

a punt attempt. Daigle did not get a first down and the hosts had the ball at the Welsh 28 with 5:25 left in the first half.

An eight-yard penalty moved the ball down to the Welsh eight three plays later and with 2:21 left, Morrish sneaked into the end zone from one yard out. The extra point run was squashed by the strong defense of the Hounds.

The Titans never crossed midfield for the rest of the game. The hosts completed only one pass all night and that was for 15 yards in the first half. Welsh had two completions, with a normal nine yard catch by Green and the wild Boise play that involved four players in order to be successful. After Fontenot's 105 yards,

sophomore halfback Kennon LeGros added 31 yards on eight carries, and junior Cale Navarre finished with 19 yards on eight attempts.

The defense of the Hounds was spectacular, and the statistics proved it truly was a total team effort. Theriot, junior Koen LeBlanc and senior Austin VanNess each contributed five solo tackles, with Theriot also adding a pass interception.

Sophomore Cole Labouve, senior Cameron Lavergne and senior Jordan Pelsia all added four individual tackles each.

"Our seniors have been here for the good times and the bad ones," commented Gueringer. "Senior Gavin Richard

epitomizes what we want our Greyhounds to be. I had to move him several times this year from one position to another and all he ever did was smile and say, 'put me where you need me Coach.'"

He has given 100% for four years and never complained at all. I am going to miss him and all the other seniors who showed leadership all year.

Our officials left a lot to be desired for a playoff game, but I told the kids that life will not always be fair. You have to pick yourself up and continue to move ahead. I really love our seniors," Gueringer concluded.





LAKE ARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL

*Tigers*

## Year two of Davis era set in Lake Arthur

### *Tigers making changes in offense in 2021*

LAKE ARTHUR – After a crazy year due to Covid-19 that saw the Lake Arthur Tigers lose a number of games, Tarius Davis will enter his second year at the helm aiming to continue growing the program. The Tigers went 1-5 after playing a brutal schedule in 2020, but have a good nucleus of returning players on both sides of the football in 2021. Despite the down season a year ago, Davis explained he thinks good things are coming in the future.

“Obviously we wish we would have had better circumstances last season with the way it played out, and we wish we would have had better results as well,” said Davis. “But,

it’s a building process here and we are going to continue to get better each and every time we go out there. I had an old coach tell me a long time ago that you can’t judge things on immediate wins and losses. It’s growing success over time, and we will continue to take steps to get there. It’s really nice to be home and I have had a lot of support from every one here.”

The Tigers have always been known for the power running game and ability to move the ball and milk the clock. However, the Tigers and Davis have implemented the Spread attack in 2021, but still hope to keep the same mindset on offense.

“It’s coming around every time we get reps on offense, and we continue to develop things day-to-day. The kids are getting more comfortable with the new look,” added Davis. “We still want to control the football and string drives together with the running game, and not give the football away. We didn’t have much time in the Spring to get really comfortable with

## 2021 LAHS Football Schedule

Sept. 3	Basile	H
Sept. 10	Grand Lake	H
Sept. 16	Elton	H
Sept. 24	DeQuincy	A
Oct. 1	Hanson Memorial	A
Oct. 8	Laf. Christian	A
Oct. 15	Port Barre	H
Oct. 22	Welsh	H
Oct. 29	Notre Dame	A
Nov. 5	Kaplan	A



### 2021 Lake Arthur High School Tigers

it, but it continues to get better the more we work on it.”

The Tigers will start Ridge Savoie at quarterback this season, and he'll bring an athletic skill set to the position with a strong arm. Warner Levi and Jude Martin will both get carries in the backfield, with Levi set to be the number one back. The speedster comes from great bloodlines, as his

father was a standout running back at Welsh High School in his time.

Lake Arthur has an extremely skilled set of receivers for Savoie to throw to in Ashton Davis, Ray Levi, Aidan Duhon and Kenyon Boese. All are speedsters and can catch the football in space. Davis can be a home run threat, as he showed a season ago. Levi and Duhon have great height

and jumping ability, while Boese is another tremendous athlete. The offensive line will feature freshman Carson Myers at center, Cason Conner at right guard, Baylor Monceaux at left guard, Tate Abshire at right tackle and Bryce Trahan at left tackle.

Duhon will handle all of the kicking duties for the Tigers, both at place kicker and punter.

Davis will stick to his

traditional 4-2-5 scheme on the defensive side of the football, and will have a number of players that go both ways. Duhon and Monceaux will start at defensive end, while Trahan and Miles Guidry will play inside at defensive tackle.

Savoie will also pull double duty and slide in at the Mike linebacker slot, while Kayden Palfrey will man the Will spot. Both linebackers were

starters for the Tigers a year ago, and bring a wealth of knowledge to the position.

In the secondary, Levi and Ethan O'Neillion will slide into the strong safety positions, while Martin will man the free safety slot. Trindon Robinson and Davis will lock down the edges at the cornerback slots.

The Tigers open the regular season at home against Basile,

Grand Lake and Elton before traveling to DeQuincy and Hanson Memorial. Lake Arthur will then enter district play against Lafayette Christian on the road and then return home to face Port Barre and then Welsh. The Tigers close the season on the road with Notre Dame and then a non-district tilt with the Kaplan Pirates.



Ahmad Boudreaux



Aidan Duhon



Ajai Ceballos



Ashton Davis



Baylor Monceaux



Bryce Trahan



Bryson Miller



Carson Myers



Cason Conner



Christian Chaisson



Cole White



Daniel Martin



Darius Levi



Derek Levi



Ethan O'Neillion



Gavin Adams



Haden Lasage



Jude Martin



Kaden Bruner



Kayden Palfrey



Kenyon Boese



Lanell Shankle



Layton Fontenot



Logan Brown



Logan Simar



Marcus Conner



Mason Lastrape



Mason Miller



Mathias Jones



Myles Guidry



Ray Levi



Ridge Savoie



Robbie Strauss



Shawn Fruge



Tate Abshire



Trindon Robinson

# LAKE ARTHUR HIGH TIGERS IN HINDSIGHT

**Iota: 35**

**Lake Arthur: 21**

LAKE ARTHUR – The Lake Arthur Tigers (LA) gave the 3A Iota Bulldogs all they could handle last Friday in each team’s opener. The Tigers trailed just 28-21 heading into halftime, after each squad went blow-for-blow in a highlight-filled first half. However, Iota was able to put the nail in the coffin midway through the final stanza to pull away with a 35-21 victory over a feisty LA club. The first quarter saw loads of offense for both teams, as both the Tigers and Dogs were knotted at 14-14 after one stanza. Iota got on the board first when quarterback Dawson Wallace hit Owen Harmon for a 52-

yard scoring strike to make it 7-0. However, the Tigers wasted little time in finding paydirt themselves. Tiger quarterback Tyler Breaux found Blye Daniels on a 28-yard scoring strike to knot things back up at 7-7 midway through the first stanza. Four minutes later, Wallace found Harmon again for another score, this time from 17 yards away to give the Bulldogs a 14-7 lead. But yet again, it wouldn’t last for long. Breaux again went to the air for the Tigers’ next score, finding Jude Martin from 52 yards out to bring the score to 14-14 at the end of the first period. Iota wasted little time in retaking the lead, using a 62-yard

scoring run to go up 21-14. However, a resilient group of Tigers quickly answered the bell 24 seconds later when Ashton Davis rambled in from 72 yards out to knot things back up

at 21-21. The Bulldogs were able to push across one more score before the half when Daylon Lunson plowed into the endzone from seven yards out to make it 28-21 going into the

half. Both defenses stood tall throughout the third quarter by not allowing a point, however Iota scored what would be the final TD of the evening early in the fourth stanza. A

22-yard scoring jaunt would prove to be the only points in the fourth, and handed the Bulldogs the 35-21 win. Breaux finished his night by completing 12-of-26 passes for

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169 yards and 2 TD's. Daniels had a big night receiving, as he caught 8 balls for 98 stripes and a score. Martin had his lone reception go for 52 yards and a score, while Aidan Duhon latched on to 2 catches for 14 stripes and Carter Bihm added one for five yards. In the rushing department, Bihm led the Tigers by gaining 99 yards on 19 carries, while Daniels totaled 45 stripes on 11 totes. Davis had just three carries, but one went for 72 yards and a TD. The Tigers will be back in action this Friday night when they travel to face the Vinton Lions, the former stomping grounds of new Tiger Head Coach Tarius Davis.

**Lake Arthur: 41**  
**Vinton: 28**

LAKE ARTHUR – The Tarius Davis era

really kicked off at Lake Arthur last Wednesday night, as his club raced out to a big lead at the half against the Vinton Lions. The Lions were all too familiar to Davis, as he spent the last nine years as the headman at the school. The Lions were able to put up some points in the second half, 22 to be exact, but it was too late as the Tigers grabbed their first win 41-28 in an emotional victory for Lake Arthur.

“The kids knew the underlying implications behind this ball game and they came out fired up to play,” said Davis. “In the end, I tried to tell them it was just the next ball game but they wanted to win this one.”

“I thought we executed very well in the first half and played very well. I liked what I saw on both sides of the football,” added



Tristan Fuller



Warner Levy



Waylon Dugas



Zander Hebert



Xavier Drake



Zylan Daniels

Davis. “Coming into the second half, I thought we may have gotten a little comfortable with a big lead and Vinton made some plays. We can’t get comfortable. I thought we missed some tackles in the fourth quarter and they put up 22 points on us. Credit them (Vinton) because they have some good athletes out in space, but we’ve got to continue to play four full quarters of football. Overall though, I was

very pleased with the effort we played with in both contests, and it was nice to come out with the win last week over Vinton.

The Tigers saw their regularly scheduled Friday night contest with Pickering moved to this Saturday at 1pm at Jack Doland Stadium due to the aftermath of Hurricane Delta. Both teams come into the contest with records of 1-1, and possess potent offenses with them.

After going through some low years at the school, Head Coach George Thomas has Pickering on the move in only his second year at the school.

**Pickering: 42**  
**Lake Arthur: 35**

LAKE ARTHUR – The Lake Arthur Tigers and Pickering Red Devils went back-and-forth at each other all Saturday afternoon at Jack Doland Stadium in a non-district

clash. However, it was Pickering who was able to throw the last punch late in the fourth quarter to earn a 42-35 shootout victory over the Tigers. The win moved Pickering to 2-1 overall, while the Tigers dropped to 1-2 heading into the start of district play this week. After the Tigers took a 35-34 lead with just less than three minutes left to go in the fourth quarter, Pickering’s Deshawn Jackson returned the



ensuing kick-off 92 yards to ultimately give the Red Devils their second win of the season. The potent Lake Arthur ground game rolled up 387 yards on the ground against their

2A counterparts, led by senior Carter Bihm's game-high 194 stripes. However, it ended up being the athleticism of Pickering quarterback Marlon Freeny that stole the show. The

sophomore threw for 121 yards and 4 TD's, while also rushing for 110 stripes and another rushing TD. Lake Arthur (1-2) struck first on their opening drive of the game when

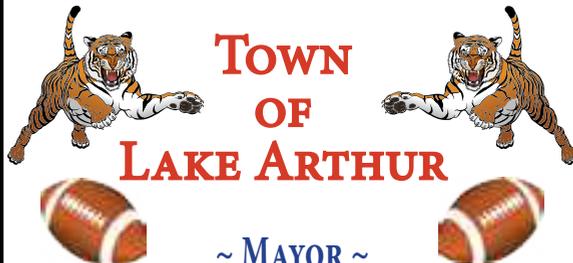
quarterback Tyler Breaux scooted in from 42 yards away. Aidan Duhon nailed the PAT to give the Tigers a 7-0 lead. One drive later, the hosts extended their advantage to 14-0

when Bihm did the honors on the ground, this time from 48 yards away. After a lackluster start on offense, the Red Devils kicked it in gear late in the first stanza to get on the board. Freeny threw his first scoring strike of the day on a 19-yarder to Michael Woods. Pickering missed the PAT, leaving the score 14-6 heading into the second quarter of play. The Red Devils (2-1) scored the only points of the second period to chop the lead to 14-12 going into the halftime break. Freeny connected on a 34-yard pass-and-catch with receiver Evan Fernandez to cut the Tiger lead. However, Pickering would again fail on the PAT. Freeny wasted little time

putting Pickering in the lead to open the third quarter, as he raced 50 yards untouched on the first play of the second half. This time Pickering converted their two-point try, and held a 20-14 advantage. The lead would be short-lived though, as Lake Arthur senior running back Blye Daniels plowed his way into the endzone from nine yards out. Duhon's kick was true, and the Tigers led 21-20. But, as they did all game long, Pickering had another answer on the offensive end. Freeny hit his third TD pass of the game on an 11-yard strike to Hernandez to give the Red Devils a 26-21 lead going into the final quarter of play at Doland Stadium. In



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a wild fourth quarter, it was the hosts that got the scoring started as Breaux found the endzone again, this time from four yards away. Duhon's kick failed this time, but Lake Arthur led 27-26 early in the stanza. Freeny and the Red Devils came back with another score through the air however, this time a 12-yarder to running back Late kick-off return lifts Red Devils over Lake Arthur 42-35 Deon Street. Street added the two-point run to make it 34-27 midway through the fourth. Once again, the Tigers drove 63 yards down the field to retake the lead on a 27-yard run by Bihm. Breaux converted the two-point try, and the hosts led 35-34 with just under three minutes left. That's when lightning struck for the last time, as Jackson raced 92 yards for his gameclinching TD. Freeny added the two-point try, giving Pickering a 42-35 advantage. The Tigers would have one last crack at it, however the Pickering defense would force

a fumble and seal the deal by taking a knee to end the game. Bihm finished his masterful performance with 194 yards and 2 TD's on only 13 carries, while Daniels added 92 stripes on 11 totes and a score for the Tigers. Breaux carried the pigskin for 81 yards and 2 TD's, while also completing 6-of-9 through the air for 21



yards. Daniels had three grabs for 13 stripes, while Ray Levi also had three for nine yards. Freeny capped off his huge performance for Pickering by completing 11-of-22 for 121 yards and 4 TD's, while also rushing for 110 and a score on 12 carries. Street chipped in with 55 yards on 14 assignments and also caught one pass for a 12-yard TD. Fernandez latched on to seven aerials for 89 yards and 2 TD's, while Woods had one catch for 19 and a score. The Tigers will now enter district play this week when they host Class 2A's No.1- ranked Lafayette Christian Academy. The Red Devils open up league play this week when they travel to square off with the

Vinton Lions.

**Welsh: 35**  
**Lake Arthur: 7**

WELSH - A strong second half surge propelled the Welsh Greyhounds to their first win of the season,

as they celebrated Homecoming with a 35-7 win over parish and district rival Lake Arthur. Welsh moves to 1-4 for the season, while the Tigers drop to 1-3 with the loss.

The Tigers finished

the first half with 93 yards rushing in a game that saw no completed passes by either team for the entire contest. Welsh had 92 yards at intermission and one less first down than the Tigers. But, a costly fumble changed the complexion of the contest just before the break.

Safety Ethan Theriot punched the ball away from dive back Carter Bihm, and Jaheim Simon recovered the pigskin in the end zone to hand the Greyhounds a 14-7 advantage just before the crowing of Homecoming Queen Gracie Myers.

Welsh jumped out to a hard-fought 7-0 lead midway through the second stanza with a 92-yard march that covered 11 plays. Prior to that march, Tucker Primeaux, Aiden Duhon and Bly Daniels had stopped many Welsh running

plays either behind the line of scrimmage or for very little gain. The big play in the scoring drive was a 30-yard gallop by sophomore quarterback Grant Daigle from midfield to the Tiger 20. Daigle capped the mammoth march with a one yard plunge and sophomore Gentry Pousson made the score 7-0 with his kick.

The Tigers came roaring back, as they motored 58 yards in 14 plays to tie the score. Senior quarterback Tyler Breaux was the workhorse, as he continually picked up key first downs with his runs. The payoff came on a 10-yard sprint by Breaux with just 1:20 remaining in the first half. Duhon tied the contest with his kick.

A good kickoff return by the Greyhounds led to the only pass attempt by the hosts, and it was a halfback pass thrown



by sophomore Gabe Gillett. Gillett had to duck a strong Tiger rush and his pass attempt was intercepted by the Tigers at the Lake Arthur 22.

But on the next play, with the Tigers trying to just kill the clock, Theriot came up with the big play and Simon fell on the ball for a gift and a 14-7 advantage at the break.

"I told the kids we needed to take the second half kickoff and score and then play really good

defense," commented Welsh head coach Cody Gueringer. His chargers responded, as they traveled 59 yards nine plays to change the scoreboard once again. The second half featured the hard-running of junior halfback Cale Navarre. Navarre had just 13 yards at intermission, but finished the contest with a game-high 97 yards on 15 carries.

"Lake Arthur came out and played a 50 defense with a five man front to start the game,



and we hadn't seen that from them on film," Gueringer said. "We made some blocking adjustments at the half and that helped open up our inside running game."

Navarre used strong blocking from the offensive line to move the ball down to the

Tiger one-yard line, and Daigle notched his second one-yard score on the next play. Pousson made the score 21-7 with his kick.

The teams traded punts before a Welsh interception set up the next Greyhound

*Continued on page 51*



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# A FAMILY AFFAIR

## *Davis relishes in opportunity to coach son at LA*

LAKE ARTHUR — One season ago, former Lake Arthur and McNeese standout Tarius Davis came home to take over the Tiger football program. After serving at both Iowa and at Vinton as the head coach, it was a no brainer to bring back the former All-Southland Conference

performer to Tiger Country. After a crazy first season in which his team battled COVID-19, Davis gloated about his time back in his hometown, and has big aspirations at the school.

“It’s honestly great to be back home in Lake Arthur and I’m excited to continue

pushing this football program forward. It’s great to coach these kids here in this town,” said Davis. “They work hard and want to get better each and every day. These kids want to keep pushing the program along to bigger things.”

Another big perk for Davis in Lake Arthur

is the chance to coach his son Ashton, who is a standout All-Parish performer for the Tigers. Davis also has his younger son Jaxson on the sidelines with him as a ball boy, and will hopefully get to coach him in the near future.

“We have a very unique situation in



*Lake Arthur Head Coach Tarius Davis (top right) cites the opportunity to coach his son, Ashton (at left), as a perk of the job.*

that I get to coach my boys here, it’s definitely a plus to get to do that in my hometown. Whether it would have been here or in Vinton, it’s a special thing to be able to do this,” mentioned Davis. “I want him to be able to be the best football player, student and kid that he can be, and he’s proving that he is. He is a great student and just an overall great kid.”

The rigors of having to separate being coach and dad can be hard for some people to pull off, however Davis said there’s a pretty good balance for the two Tigers.

“I’m a dad at home. You always here don’t bring your work home

with you, but in the end it is my career and my job. He (Ashton) approaches it the same way as well,” added Davis. “We just try to have a regular home life, and when I’m home he looks at me as dad. When we’re at football, I’m just his coach and he does a good job of separating the two of those.”

Look for Ashton to have another big season for the Tigers, as his team transitions into the Spread offense. The speedy receiver can make plays in both the passing and run games, as well as play big on the defensive side at cornerback.





*Continued from page 49*

score. Breaux attempted to throw the ball downfield, but junior Koen LeBlanc hit Breaux during the throw and senior Ethan Theriot made the interception and returned it 20 yards down to the Lake Arthur 20-yard line. Theriot has forced a turnover by opponents in every game except Notre Dame. Navarre capped the short march with a 15-yard scamper. Senior Austin VanNess added a two-point run to move the lead to 29-7 with 8:45 left in the battle.

The turnover bug would strike the Tigers once again on their next possession. The loose pignskin was

picked up by Gillett, who raced untouched 20 yards to paydirt. The extra point failed, and the Hounds had their final winning margin of 35-7.

“The layoff did hurt us, but I give all the respect to Welsh,” commented Lake Arthur head coach Tauris Davis. “They really flew to the football on defense and made some good adjustments at halftime to counter what we were doing. We gave it our best and now we will live to fight another day.”

Navarre paced the Greyhound offense with 97 yards on 15 carries and one score. Junior halfback Cohen Fontenot was next in line with 55 yards on 13 carries,

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while Daigle finished with 42 yards on five attempts and two scores.

Senior Tyler Breaux led the Tiger charge, as he completed his night's work with 58 yards on 14 attempts and the lone Tiger score. Junior Carter Bihm was next in line with 29 stripes on 11 assignments.

Tucker Primeaux led the way for the Tiger defense, as he finished with six solo tackles and two assists. Senior Blye Daniels added five individual tackles and Ridge Savoie contributed four stops.

Sophomore Cole LaBouve paced the Welsh defense with five solo tackles, while Theriot added four stops, a pass interception and a forced fumble for his night's work. Senior defensive end Cameron Lavergne and junior safety Koen LeBlanc each contributed four stops.



Welsh will travel to face Port Barre next week in District 6-2A action, while the Tigers will face off against Notre Dame.

**Kaplan: 41**  
**Lake Arthur: 7**

**LAKE ARTHUR** – The Lake Arthur Tigers ended their regular

season Friday night with a 41-7 defeat at the hands of the Kaplan Pirates on senior night. The Tigers end their regular season at 1-5 following the defeat, and fought through Covid-19 isolation earlier in their season. Despite the two-week layoff, the Tigers had a

tough district slate by having to face Notre Dame, Welsh. The Tigers also dropped games to playoff teams in Pickering, Iota and then Class 3A Kaplan.

Kaplan was able to build a 6-0 lead in the first quarter when quarterback Mason Frick scored on a

one-yard plunge. The 2-point conversion failed, and that was all the scoring in the first stanza.

The Pirates took control in the second quarter by scoring 22 points to move their lead to 28-0 heading into the locker rooms at halftime.

Kaplan used a five-yard scoring run, a 39-yard pass play and a 71-yard run to create all of their points in the second quarter.

The Tigers were able to get on the board in the third frame to cut the lead to 28-7. Ashton Davis hauled in a 63-yard scoring aerial from Tyler Breaux. Aidan Duhon booted the PAT to trim the margin.

Kaplan got right

back on the board by finding the endzone twice in the third stanza. The first coming on a four-yard scoring plunge, and the next coming on a two-yard plow from Ethan Weygand to close out the scoring at 41-0.

Senior Tyler Breaux led the Tiger offense with 41 yards on 13 carries, while also completing 5-of-10 passes for 80 yards and a score. Blye Daniels had seven carries for 35 yards, while Davis had one tote for seven stripes. Davis also had three catches for 79 stripes, including the TD reception. Daniels had one catch for a yard in the contest.





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# McNeese ready to return to normalcy in 2021

No team in the country dealt with more hardship last year than McNeese (3-4, 2-4).

The Cowboys were displaced after the campus suffered tremendous damage from Hurricane Laura, and even now a year later the area has not totally recovered from the storms. Add to that a possible Delta variant COVID outbreak in the state, and McNeese could once again be facing more hardship yet again.

Dual-threat quarterback Cody Orgeron had a tremendous spring, passing for 1,560 yards and 10 touchdowns while adding 257 yards and three touchdowns on the ground; however, Orgeron will need the rest of the offense to provide more production this year. JUCO transfer Mason Kinsey (Navarro College) was a force along the defensive line – he finished second on the team in tackles for loss (7.5) and sacks (3.5).

**Impact Players**

**QB Cody Orgeron:** Will enter the season with 91 consecutive

pass attempts without throwing an interception; two-time SLC Offensive Player of the Week (vs. Tarleton, vs. Nicholls).

**DL Mason Kinsey:** Had 38 total tackles on the season to go along with seven QB hurries, two pass break-ups and a forced fumble; started all seven games in the

spring

**DE Isaiah Chambers:** Two-time SLC Player of the Week recipient; ranked second in the FCS and No. 1 overall in the Southland Conference with 7.5 sacks and 14 tackles for loss in seven games played.



## McNeese State University 2021 Schedule

Sept. 24	West Florida	Lake Charles
Sept. 11	LSU	Baton Rouge
Sept. 18	Southern	Baton Rouge
Sept. 25	Incarnate Word	San Antonio, Tx
Oct. 2	Southeastern	Lake Charles
Oct. 16	Northwestern St.	Nachitoches
Oct. 23	Incarnate Word	Lake Charles
Oct. 30	Southeastern	Hammond
Nov. 6	Nicholls	Lake Charles
Nov. 13	Houston Baptist	Houston, Tx
Nov. 20	Northwestern St.	Lake Charles



ELTON HIGH SCHOOL

*Indians*



# Talented Indians return to football action

## *Elton roster healthy heading into 2021 season*

ELTON - The excitement has returned to "E" town! After a one-year absence, the Elton Indians are going to return to the gridiron. A roster of 39 players are projected to be able to fill the sidelines for the Indians when the regular season begins.

The Indians will do so with a brand new head coach, as former Welsh head coach Marcus LeJeune has taken over the reins. "The community is really excited to have football back," LeJeune commented. "I have received a great amount of support for us putting the Indians back on the field on Friday nights.

We are going to work hard, but we are also going to have fun and just enjoy being back in football. The winning will come in time."

Since there are no returning starters from last season, LeJeune looked at those who are returning from two years ago. "We have six seniors this year who were on the roster two years ago. Some of those seniors didn't play then but they are providing excellent leadership for us now. The attitude among the kids is excellent and they are excited and ready to go," he said.

In all, LeJeune has eight players who saw action two years ago. "It's really like starting all over again. The spring workouts, the weight room and the summer workouts were brand new to most of these guys. For them, it's the most football they have been associated with in their entire lives," stated LeJeune. "But their attitude is great and they come to practice looking to get better every day. That's

## 2021 EHS Football Schedule

Sept. 2	Vinton (Thurs)	A
Sept. 9	Pine Prairie (Thurs)	H
Sept. 16	Lake Arthur (Thurs)	A
Sept. 24	East Beau	H
Sept. 30	Merryville (Thurs)	A
Oct. 7	Basile (Thurs)	H
Oct. 15	Oberlin	H
Oct. 22	Hamilton Chr.	A
Oct. 29	Grand Lake	H
Nov. 5	Gueydan	A



Anthony Gaspard



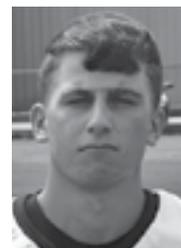
Braxtyn Williams



Brice Colligan



Cameron Laughlin



Cayl Doise



Danerian Actlis



Demarcus Jack



Demetric Ackless



Derek Ross



Dhantay Robinson



Dwight Robinson



Eli Wilson



Elijah Poullard



Hayden Courville



Hezekiah LaComb

all you can ask for. They are willing to give their best to get better. All of the coaches are having fun in what is a new experience for all of us. It's not every year that you begin a program from scratch. Good players, good coaches, good administration, and good community support. How could you not have fun working in that environment?"

LeJeune will have his offense operating out of the Pro-I set this season. "Of course we really want to be able to run the pigskin, but we also want a complimentary passing game that can keep us balanced on offense and keep our opponents from stacking the line of scrimmage with their defenses."

A veteran from two years ago will be the signal-caller for the Indians, as senior

Maddox Pierrotti will handle the quarterback position. "He is very intelligent and has an accurate arm," LeJeune said. "He knows how to run our offense and we expect great leadership from him."

Joining Pierrotti in the backfield will be senior Xavier Ceasar at fullback and junior Sherman Bellow at tailback. Ceasar weighs in at over 200 pounds and will definitely be a load to bring down. Bellow has the necessary quickness and speed to follow Ceasar through the hole and then cut to the open field.

The offensive line begins with senior center Dwight Robinson. The two guards are slated to be juniors Cayle Doise and Justin Hebert. Doise has good football blood in his veins, as he follows in the footsteps of his brother. The

tackle slots will be filled by juniors Elijah Poullard and Ryan Trahan. Senior Demarcus Jack has a stranglehold on the tight end position, and at 220 pounds, he is an excellent blocker who can also easily run pass routes and come up with big catches. "Jack is good enough to play several positions for us, so he may get moved around some this year to give us a better opportunity to be successful on offense," LeJeune commented.

There is a battle ongoing at the wide receiver positions, as three players are vying for two spots. "You can count on seeing all three of them playing on Friday nights," commented LeJeune. Senior Dhantay Robinson is in a fight with juniors Jadon Ross and Khayden Pitre.

"A good group of our players saw varsity

action in basketball, so they understand the one-on-one competition with an opponent right in front of you. They are ready to face that competition and see how they come out. There is no fear in any of them," quoted LeJeune.

The Indians will operate out of the 4-2-5 base defense this season under the guidance of new coach Tyler Chachere. Chachere is only new to Elton, as he brings years of experience to the Indians from his stay at Kinder as the defensive coordinator. He will assume that position for LeJeune at Elton.

To put the best players on the field until the less-experienced players can gain enough game-time, the Indians will have

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as many eight players going both ways. “We are steadily working on game-shape. None of our players have ever played both ways, so it will be an experience for them to learn how to train themselves mentally and physically to stay on the field for most of the contest.” LeJeune noted.

The two defensive ends positions will be handled by Jack and Ceasar, and with their size, they should give opponents a tough time trying to run off-tackle. Three players are fighting to start on the interior line. Poullard, Hebert and Dwight Robinson are vying for the two inside positions and should

be able to alternate to stay as fresh as possible.

The linebackers will feature Doise and sophomore Anthony Gaspard. Doise has a love for contact and is a natural for the position with his skills and his knowledge of the game.

Strong safeties will be Dhantay Robinson and Khayden Pitre,

along with freshman Tristan LeBlanc being able to give a break to the two-way players.

Pierrotti will move from his quarterback position on offense to handle one of the defensive back slots on defense. He will be joined by Jadon Ross as the other two-way starter. The final two DB’s will be seniors Maddox Guidry and Torren Sweet.

LeJeune will have an experienced staff assisting him, led by Chachere. Lucas Trahan returns after being on the staff of the last football fielded by the Indians. They are joined by Nicholas Benoit, Kyle Collins and Mike Trahan.

“We are looking forward to seeing how much we have progressed,” commented LeJeune.

“We are under no illusions, but I promise you these kids will give the very best they have each Friday night. We are going to have fun learning how to become a winning program. I can’t ask any more than that from our staff or our players. It will be an interesting year for Elton football,” LeJeune concluded.



Hudson Murray



Jadon Ross



Jamarques Gross



Justin Hebert



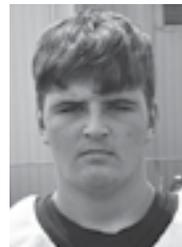
Khayden Pitre



Maddox Guidry



Maddox Pierotti



Maverick Manuel



Ryan Trahan



Sherman Bellow



Torren Sweet



Treylen Ceasar



Tristan Leblanc



Xavier Ceasar



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**2021 Elton High School Indians  
&  
2021 Elton Indians Coaching Staff**

*EHS coaching staff includes Tyler Chacherie, Kyle Collins, Marcus LeJeune, Lucas Trahan, Mike Trahan and Nick Benoit.*



# Elton, Lejeune excited to be back on gridiron in 2021

After not having football in the 2020 season due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a busy hurricane season, the Elton Indians will make their way back to the gridiron this year. Elton hired longtime coach Marcus Lejeune in the Spring to revitalize

the Indian program, and he's already got the football numbers to a comfortable 40 players. Lejeune is one of the most respected coaches in Southwest Louisiana, and brings a vast knowledge of running a program along with an offensive mindset.

Lejeune explained that he is excited to take over in Elton, and said he's happy to see the kids get the chance to play again.

"To have this and see the excitement in the kids and their willingness to learn is what it's all about. It's

special to be a part of," said Lejeune. "We're just trying to make it fun for these kids and that's what they are doing, that's what it's all about. We want them to enjoy the game and have them participate. We want to win, of course and be successful, but the main thing is to get them out there and get them knowledgeable about the game."

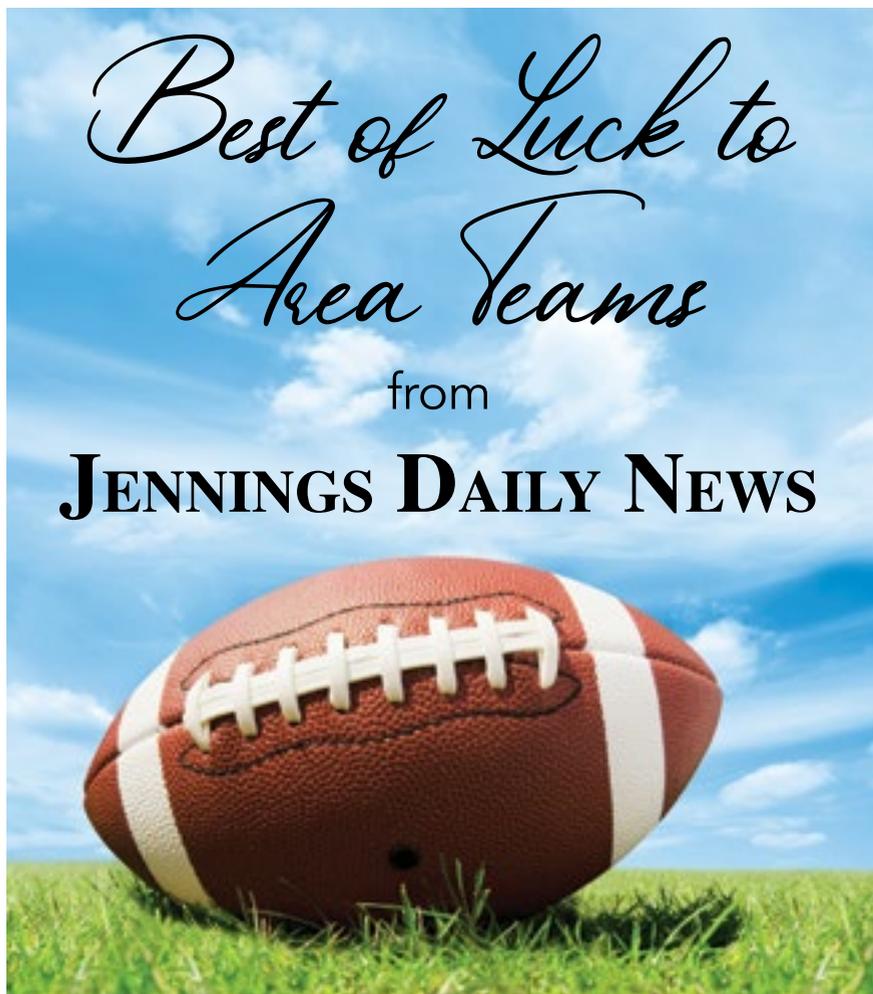
The Indians only return 8 players from the 2019 team that went 0-10, but have

several new faces that are capable of helping Lejeune right away. Maddox Pierrotti is a senior who will take over the quarterback duties in Lejeune's I-formation offense. A hulking fullback in Xavier Ceasar will help to propel tailback Sherman Bellow into green pastures, while big tight end Damarcus Jack will aid in both blocking and pass catching.

The Indians still compete in the

competitive district 4-1A with powers Oberlin, Grand Lake and Basile on the schedule. The Indians also have non-district clashes with Vinton, Pine Prairie and Lake Arthur on their slate to open the season.

With Elton having such a rich football tradition, people in the town and area are sure to be excited about ball games at Cleve Beard Stadium once again.



**Good Luck**

**From Elton High School  
Faculty & Staff**

**EHS** —————  

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# Cajuns seek to build on strong 2020 season



## UL-Lafayette 2021 Schedule

Sept. 4	Texas	Austin
Sept. 11	Nicholls	Lafayette
Sept. 16	Ohio	Lafayette
Sept. 25	Georgia South	Statesboro, Ga
Oct. 2	South Alabama	Mobile, Ala
Oct. 12	Appalachian St.	Lafayette
Oct. 21	Arkansas St.	Jonesboro, Ark.
Oct. 30	Texas St.	Lafayette
Nov. 4	Georgia St.	Lafayette
Nov. 13	Troy	Troy, Ala
Nov. 20	Liberty	Lynchburg, Va
Nov. 27	ULM	Lafayette



Billy Napier has lifted Louisiana to a 28-11 mark and three consecutive Sun Belt titles since 2018. And there's no debate about the next goal for the Ragin' Cajuns: Win the conference title and contend to be the top Group of 5 team in the nation for '21. Both of those goals are in reach. Louisiana is a veteran squad with 20 starters returning, including quarterback Levi Lewis and several key players from a defense that led the Sun Belt in fewest points allowed. The Ragin' Cajuns will be tested right away with a road trip to Texas and a later date at

Liberty. Those two games will make an undefeated season challenging, but Napier's squad should hit double-digit victories and is a slight favorite over Coastal Carolina for the top spot in the Sun Belt.

### Previewing Louisiana's Offense for 2021

Quarterback Levi Lewis made good on his midseason pledge to return for a fifth year, ensuring that the Cajuns will contend again for the title of the Sun Belt's best offense. Lewis, 24-4 as a starter, already ranks among the most accomplished passers in school history with 54

career touchdown passes to just 14 interceptions. And with four new QBs on campus in the spring — including Maryland transfer Lance LeGenre, a former four-star recruit from New Orleans — the pecking order for the role of understudy/successor will be worth keeping an eye on, too.

There is one glaring hole in the lineup following the departure of prolific RBs Elijah Mitchell and Trey Ragas for the NFL. But the heir apparent, sophomore Chris Smith, has made his limited touches count over the last two years, racking up 1,639 all-

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There is one glaring hole in the lineup following the departure of prolific RBs Elijah Mitchell and Trey Ragas for the NFL. But the heir apparent, sophomore Chris Smith, has made his limited touches count over the last two years, racking up 1,639 all-purpose yards as a rusher, receiver and return man. Every member of the WR/TE rotation is back, as well as five O-line starters who boast a combined 107 starts and 7,200 snaps among them. Quality reps won't be easy to come by anywhere, and incoming transfers from Texas A&M (RB Jacob Kibodi), TCU (WR John Stephens Jr.),

ULM (OL T.J. Fiailoa) and Nebraska (OL Matthew Anderson) will only make the competition that much steeper.

#### Previewing Louisiana's Defense for 2021

The depth chart on defense is extremely fluid in the interest of keeping as many bodies involved as possible, and like the offense, it will look nearly identical to last year. Twenty-two defenders logged at least 100 snaps for a unit that held opponents to a conference-best 4.92 yards per play; all but one of them (OLB Joe Dillon) is slated to return.

The front seven is anchored by massive nose tackle Tayland Humphrey and All-Sun Belt pick Zi'Yon Hill on the line and former SEC transfers Chauncey Manac (Georgia) and Ferrod

Gardner (Missouri) at linebacker — all "super seniors" back for 2021. The back end isn't quite as long in the tooth but boasts eight players who started at least three games. They formed one of the stingiest secondaries in the country: Louisiana ranked second nationally in pass efficiency D and held seven of 11 opponents below 200 passing yards.

#### Previewing Louisiana's Specialists for 2021

Nate Snyder struggled early last year, missing 5-of-10 field-goal attempts along with a pair of PATs, and he was benched at midseason for Kenneth Almendares, who was

perfect on both fronts. Snyder has the bigger leg but will have to be more consistent in camp to reclaim the job. Senior Rhys Byrns is back as punter after averaging 42.4 yards per attempt in his first

three seasons. In the return game, Chris Smith flashed All-America potential with a pair of house calls on kickoffs. Eric Garror also scored on a punt return.



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## Iota aiming to improve on 2020 finish

IOTA – The Iota Bulldogs struggled to a 3-4 finish last season and head football coach Josh Andrus is looking forward to starting a new campaign.

The 2020 season was delayed until October and was limited to eight regular season games by the LHSAA due to the pandemic.

The decision took away Iota's expected games against Iowa and Welsh.

The Bulldogs lost two of their first three games before going 2-1 in District 5-3A.

Not having a spring practice, summer workouts and the usual pre-season scrimmage and jamboree really hurt his team, according to Andrus.

“Not having spring practice or summer workouts affected us a lot,” Andrus said. “In the spring we figure out where guys will be playing so they can work out on that all summer,” he said.

“One of our strengths is how our guys work out all summer in the weight room to be pre-

pared and conditioned for the start of the season.

“The combination of those two things hurt us,” he said. “We then had to deal with injuries all season.”

Andrus is heading into his seventh year as the Bulldogs' head coach and is excited about the 2021 season led by 16 seniors.

“We have 13 of them who have been starting three years for us,” Andrus said.

Iota has 10 returning starters on offense including linemen Nick Hebert, Hanz LaCasse, Ashton Breaux and Diego Desoto.

“With that much experience and that many starters returning, the offensive line is the strength of our offense,” Andrus said.

“We have great skill players but the line will dictate how good we will be.

Andrus credited senior Hebert for his leadership on the offensive line.

“He is a third-year starter at center and he anchors down our offensive line.”

## 2021 IHS Football Schedule

Sept. 2	Iowa	H
Sept. 10	St. Louis Catholic	A
Sept. 16	Crowley (Thurs)	H
Sept. 23	Jennings (Thurs)	A
Oct. 1	N. Vermilion	A
Oct. 8	Church Point	a
Oct. 15	Ville Platte	H
Oct. 22	Pine Prairie	H
Oct. 29	Northwest (Opel.)	A
Nov. 5	Mamou	H

Quarterback Dawson Wallace is joined in the backfield by running backs Tyler Charlot and Daylun Lunson.

“Dawson is a three-year starter at quarterback,” Andrus said. “Our offense runs through him and we are expecting him to have a big year.”

Wide receivers are Connor Daigle and Seth Guilory along with tight end Owen Harmon.

New starters at wide receiver are Brayden Lavergne and Dylan Callahan.

Iota has nine players returning on defense.

“I think they play well together as a group,” Andrus said. “We have key guys coming back on the line, linebackers and secondary.”

Returning starters on the defensive line include Carson Crochet, Ty Regan, Wyatt Gobert and Jackson Aton.

Iota’s starting linebackers are Parker Hayes, Dayton Boone and Seth Shuff. Nicholas Simmons will also see action at linebacker.

“Seth is our middle linebacker and as a senior he can really hit people,” Andrus said.

Secondary returners include Luke Duhon and Payton Daigle and are expected to be joined by Geoffrey Fontenot and Ethan Myers.

“Luke at free safety led our team last year with six interceptions and he can find the ball wherever it is on the field.”

Andrus also praised the efforts of Daigle, who at cornerback had eight pass

break-ups last season as a sophomore.

Andrus said the district battle will be between Church Point, Northwest and the Bulldogs, but he expected Pine Prairie, Ville Platte and Mamou to be improved teams this season.

“I am excited about our chances to win the district this year” he said. “We had the opportunity last year but we had mistakes at key points against a very good Church Point team – a team that made it to the state semifinals.

“I hope our guys understand that even if we have a better record or better team we still have to show up and not just go through the motions. We can’t have a let down game against any team,” Andrus said.



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