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More players should help Kountze in district play

By Danny Reneau
publisher@silsbeebec.com

KOUNTZE — There's a new feeling on the sidelines of the Kountze Lions who are regrouping after a 1-7 season in 2017.

Last year, the Lions opened the season with 18 varsity players. But this year, there are 29 including 14 seniors.

This season, the Lions return six offensive starters and seven on defense.

Coach Duane Joubert has several good running backs and excellent size.

"This is the biggest Lions team that has entered the field in years," he said.

Like last season, the Lions' offense will operate from multiple formations in an attempt to throw off opponents.

In the backfield, senior running back Keyshawn Adams (5-8, 175) returns after running for 551 yards and six touchdowns. Junior Drelyn Akbar will line up in the backfield with Adams, who was a second-team all-district back last season.

Senior Brayden Voigtman (5-8, 160) will start at quarterback.

Also, seniors Jaxson Martinka, Tristian Foster and Cade Richards, sophomore Ahmad Richardson and freshman Demond Hamilton could see time in the backfield.

In the passing game, Voigtman has, seniors Garrett Hall and Hunter Carter, and sophomore Matthew Walters as the starting receivers.

The Lions' offensive

front is big with juniors Easton Peters (190) and Austin Everett (250), freshman David Cowart (240), junior Caden Laird (250) and senior Gavin Kirker (240).

Senior Montreal Jones, a three-year starter on the line, decided not to play this season because of injury problems.

The reserves also have "better than average size."

Seniors Dalton Breaux (245), Kaden Anderson (170), Garrett Johnson and Ishmel Myers, along with juniors Caleb Flowers (180) and Jacob Cambell (150) can also contribute when called upon.

Senior Cayson Beal (6-2, 220) is at tight end. Backing up Beal, a second-team

See **LIONS** on 3C

Kountze Lions Roster

- 1 Keyshawn Adams
- 2 Caleb Carter
- 3 Garrett Hall
- 4 Drelyn Akbar
- 5 Anthony Hafford
- 7 Jaxson Martinka
- 8 Shamar Thomas
- 9 Matthew Walters
- 10 Brayden Voightman
- 11 Hunter Carter
- 12 Cade Richard
- 13 Ahmad Richardson
- 16 Konner Balance
- 18 Demond Hamilton
- 20 Tristian Foster
- 22 Nathan Buffalo
- 25 Cayson Beal
- 31 Taylor Jones
- 54 Easton Peters
- 55 Dalton Breaux
- 56 Kaden Anderson
- 58 Caleb Flowers
- 63 Austin Everett
- 66 Garrett Johnson
- 70 Jacob Campbell
- 74 David Cowart
- 75 Caden Laird
- 76 Gavin Kirker
- 77 Ishmel Myers

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Lions

From page 2C

all-district tight end, are juniors Anthony Hafford (180) and Shamar Thomas (195), along with sophomore Taylor Jones (205).

One of the Joubert's goals is "to keep the defense off of the field."

The Lions will use a four-man front this season. Defensively, Joubert will have Peters, Cowart, Laird, Kirker and Myers inside with Hafford and Jones at the ends.

Beal, a second-team all-district linebacker last season, will be joined by Thomas, Anderson and Cambell.

Joubert has junior Caleb Carter, Hall, Walters and Richardson as cornerbacks, while the safeties are Adams, Martinka, Voigtman, Carter, Richard, Hamilton and senior Konnor Balance.

Adams and Voigtman were second-team all-district safeties last season.

On special teams, fresh-



Kountze High School junior varsity team ready for season.

man Nathan Buffalo will handle the kicking chores.

Defensive coordinator Joe Calhoun said the Lions defense is "more physical."

"Our discipline is really good and we have more depth than last year," said Calhoun. "We have more guys who can play especially in the line. When people get tired, we have people who can step in."

Joubert and his staff

hope to pick up a few more players after school starts.

Part of the reason for the Lions' optimism this season is they dropped from Class 3A Division 1 to 3A Division 2.

But the Lions were put into District 12-2A D2 with defending state champions, the Newton Eagles, who went 15-0 last season.

Corrigan-Camden, Hemphill, New Waverly

and Anderson-Shiro make up the six-team district. Four teams will advance to the playoffs.

The Lions non-district slate includes 4A Hamshire-Fannett, 2A Deweyville and Beaumont Kelly, a TAPPS school.

The first game is Friday, Aug. 31 at home against East Chambers.

DISTRICT 12-3A D2 PREVIEW

Talented Eagles loaded for another state title run

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

The state champion, Newton Eagles, along with Corrigan-Camden and Hemphill, join Kountze, New Waverly and Anderson-Shiro to form District 12-3A Division 2 for the next two seasons.

Last season in District 3-2A D2 play, the Eagles allowed just 8 points (four shutouts) in 5 district games while scoring 58 points per game.

In six playoffs games, they scored more than 40 points in five game. Their closest game was a 21-7 win over West Rusk.

It looks again like Newton is the team to beat.

NEWTON: Nine offensive and 8 defensive starters back from last season's 15-0 squad make the Eagles posed for their five state championship (1974, 1998, 2005 and 2017). Aside the 10 starters back, coach W.T. Johnston also has 27 lettermen returning. RB Darwin Barlow (2,246 rushing, 38 TDs) and athlete Tamauzia Brown (1,442 total yards) give the Eagles one of the best 1-2 punch in the state. Add QB Josh Foster, who accounted for 45 TDs, and the Eagles are capable of scoring at anytime. RB Kevin Watson should also see action carrying the ball. OT Caiden Walker and OL Avonte Burnham anchor the offensive front. On the defensive side, LB Jadrian McGraw (112 tackles, 9 sacks and 2 interceptions) is a playmaker. Brown (12 interceptions) and Foster head

the secondary. DE James Sylvester and Burnham head the defensive front. Since 1990, the Eagles have missed the playoff once (1993) and reached the finals 6 times.

CORRIGAN-CAMDEN: Coach Steven Armstrong has 6 offensive and 8 defensive starters back from last season's 5-5 Division 2 bi-district playoff team. QB Dohn Freeman, along with RB Terrell Cook, RB Zack Ivie and RB Ashton Jones, will provide most of the offense. RB Jaylon Hurt could see some time in the backfield. Opening up running lanes on the offensive line falls on the shoulders of Alan Casper, Kade Elliot, Tristian Cuevas, Lane Hurley and LaTrail Bailey, at tight end. Freeman will have WR Brandt Hart in the passing attack. DL David Lazcano and LB Josh Durham lead the defen-

See 12-3A on 7C

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KOUNTZE VOLLEYBALL

New coach aiming for playoff berth for Lionettes

Dannie Oliveaux
 editor@silsbeebec.com

KOUNTZE — It's been nearly 30 years since the Kountze Lionettes won their last state volleyball championships.

But a new coach could be the answer to help bring the Lionettes back into prominence in Class 3A.

Former West Hardin and Buna assistant coach Cayla Williams is the head volleyball and she welcomes back four starters back from last season's team who finished fifth in 23-3A.

There has been a period of transition between coach and team.

"My biggest struggle was to learn how to read them and let them read

me," Williams said. "I'm learning them and they're learning me, and how I roll and my coaching style."

She welcomes back junior hitter Brianna Arline, senior hitter Mya Arline, junior hitter Alison McGallion and senior Jena Fregia, who is out with an ankle injury for two weeks. The Arline sisters are positioned as left-side hitters, while McGallion is the right-side hitter along with junior Yakerria Thrower, who is also a backup setter.

Fregia and senior Cheyenne Toushe are middle hitters.

Junior Gracie Allien is the defensive specialist.

Senior Heaven Hadley and junior Tyler Carr should also see time on the



New head coach Cayla Williams (left) hopes to have Lionettes back in the playoffs.

floor.

Williams said the Lionettes' offense will operate from either a 5-2 or 5-1, depending on the opponent and how her team is playing.

"I like running a 5-2 so you can have someone extra there," she noted.

The Lionettes will use a perimeter defense.

Brianna Arline and Allien are the team captains, but Fregia and Allien as the vocal leaders of the team.

She feels that Buna, Hardin, East Chambers and Orangefield, who dropped down from 4A, should be the top contenders for the District 22-3A title and playoff berths.

When district rolls around, Williams said the Lionettes could surprise some teams.

Since her first day of practice, she has seen the talent and potential in the Lionettes.

"I have seen this since day one — they have the talent to beat anybody

2018 Lionette Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 30	Warren Tournament
Aug. 31	at Bridge City, 4:30 pm
Sept. 1	Warren Tournament
Sept. 4	OPEN
Sept. 6	YMBL Tournament
Sept. 7	at Hardin, 4:30 pm*
Sept. 8	YMBL Tournament
Sept. 11	Warren, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 14	at Orangefield, 4:30 pm*
Sept. 18	at Buna, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 21	Kirbyville, 4:30 pm*
Sept. 25	Anahuac, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 28	East Chambers, 4:30 pm*
Oct. 2	Hardin, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 5	at Warren, 4:30 pm*
Oct. 9	Orangefield, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 12	Buna, 4:30 pm*
Oct. 16	at Kirbyville, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 19	at Anahuac, 4:30 pm*
Oct. 23	at East Chambers, 6:30 pm*
*District game	

around this area," said Williams. "By district, I think we will be at that point where they will be together, know how my

style goes, how their style goes, get use to their position and work together. I think we're going to surprise the district. That's

my goal."

Williams said the early part of the season was "rocky."

Before taking the court against 6A Beaumont United, Fregia hurt her ankle during warmups.

"That was devastating for us. She plays a key role in our rotation," she said. "The first game was rocky. But the second game when we beat them, that's the talent and abilities they have. They were excited and pumped."

Kountze fell to Beaumont United in the third game, but Williams felt it was a "win" for the Lionettes.

"I told them it didn't matter what the score was, we won," she added.

Since 1990, the Lionettes have been to the playoffs 22 times including regionals in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2008. They were a state finalist in 2002.

From 1971 to 1989, the Lionettes won seven state titles.

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KOUNTZE DRILL

Aristocrats ready to perform under new director

By Carsyn Herrera
Special to The Bee

KOUNTZE — Things have been a little different this year for the girls of the Kountze High School Aristocat drill team.

Not only are there new members on the team, but there is a new director. Amanda Harper, the previous years' assistant director, is the head director of the drill team. She is assisted by her sister, Lindsey Laird, who is a first-year Aristocat assistant.

The captain of the 2018-19 team is senior Brooklyn Wacasey, who was a line sergeant last year. Wacasey has shown incredible leadership in the previous years and has been a great asset to the drill team thus far.

She feels as if this year will be the "team's best year yet."

Leading behind Wacasey is senior Kennedy Wheeler as lieutenant, Wheeler was also line sergeant with Wacasey the year before.

Junior Allyson Crain is this year's line sergeant. She was a previous social officer and line member.

Senior Sydney Bazinet and junior Samantha Keith will hold the position of social officers. There are also two team managers, senior Cherlisa McCray and



New director Amanda Harper (left) will have the 13 Aristocats ready for the year.

freshman Collier Henson.

Not including the managers, there are 13 girls who will take the field during the halftime performances starting Aug. 31.

Each year, there are two separate camps that the Aristocats attend, one for the officers and a line camp for the whole team. This year's line camp was held in the KHS gymnasium.

Awarded Danceline Elite were Wacasey, Wheeler, Crain, Chakkora Nicoles, Breanna James, Christie

Cormier, Abbie Coplen, Destini Crochet and Hannah Stanley.

By winning Danceline Elite, these girls get the opportunity to travel with the Danceline USA and perform at the Alamo Bowl. Following line camp was officer camp.

Two of the five officers got awarded the Danceline Elite were Wacasey and Wheeler. Also at officer camp, the Aristocats' officers were awarded two sweepstakes awards for their introduction and dedication.

The Aristocats are pre-

pared for this year's season.

"We have so much in store for everyone to enjoy and we can't wait to show you," said Wacasey. "We have all worked extremely hard and are excited to share our victories with our new directors."

KOUNTZE CHEER



KHS cheerleaders and mascot prepared to bring the spirit.

Kountze HS cheerleaders bring momentum from camp

By Carsyn Herrera
Special to The Bee

KOUNTZE — This past year, the Kountze high School varsity cheerleaders got a taste of real competition along with many successes.

The 2017-18 season was the first year the cheer program was directed by coaches Inez Estepp and Dana Ramsey. This did not stop the varsity cheerleaders from sweeping the floor at cheer camp that summer, winning numerous trophies and even bringing home the leadership award.

It was also the first year

the cheerleaders would compete in the UIL state competition. Last year was a lot of "firsts" for the KHS cheer program but that has prepared them for what is in store this year.

This year's captains are seniors Carsyn Herrera, Emma Baker, and junior Stormi Teel, with the help of senior officer Jena Fregia. Including the mascot, Leo the Lion, there are a total of 17 members of the varsity squad.

Sophomore cheerleaders are Sarah Griffin, Grace Ramsey, Abbie Smart, Eddie Powell, Leigh Epps, Matti Overstreet, Alleigh Wade and Allison Moore.

Freshmen cheerleaders are Carli Herrera, Mylea Estepp, Alexxis Roth and Jaci Longin.

Kourtlynn Tupper, a sophomore, is the mascot.

The varsity team went to UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) camp on June 9-13 at The Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine. It was the same camp they attended last year, so without hesitation they knew they would have to bring their A-game to Dallas.

"Last year was a test run for us and we enjoyed it," said Baker. "But this year we expected nothing less

See CHEER on 6C

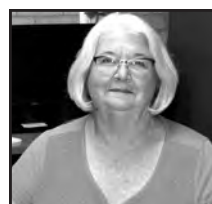
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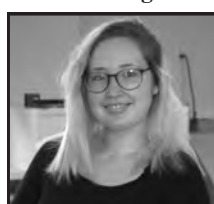
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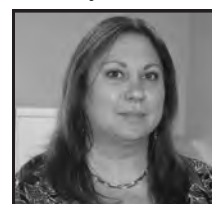
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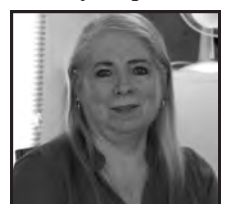
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KOUNTZE BAND

Show has 'Latin' favor

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebee.com

KOUNTZE — Brad Long has been teaching music at Kountze High School for 20 years, but only starts his second year as band director for the King's Regiment.

Long said this year the band will have a new show entitled "Latin Dances" which includes

three movements.

"All of our music has been arraigned by the middle school band director Lou Ellis," said Long. "He took music from 'Symphonic Dance No. 3 Fiesta' by Clifton Williams. It's traditionally a concert piece. It's a Grade 4 which what Class 5A bands have to play for their set down concert contest in the spring.

We're being pretty ambitious about that and doing well with it."

The second movement of the show is "Concierto De Aranjues" a ballad by Joaquin Rodrigo.

"It was originally a guitar piece and Mr. Ellis arraigned it for us to play this year," noted Long.

He said the show's third movement is "Mala-gunea" written by Ernesto Lecuqona.

"The show will be extremely powerful," said Long. "People who know concert literature will immediately recognize. Clifton Williams is a major composer of concert literature."

He said the music will sound like some "Darth Vader" in-your face type of music.

The band will perform at all home and away football games.

"We have about 55 students this year," he said. "We've had between 55 to 60 students over the past decade."

Long said his seven senior members are spread out throughout the band.

This year's drum majors are Sheridan Kees and Jacob Murphy, while Juliana Peters serves as the band captain.

Several football, cheer-



The KHS King's Regiment has more than 50 members to perform this year's Latin theme.

leaders and drill team members help make up the band.

This summer, Long said the Kountze and Kirbyville High School bands came together for a joint band camp.

Last year, the band made straight "1s" at the UIL regional competition for sweepstakes and advanced to the UIL area marching contest.

Also, the band advanced to the Texas Association of Small School Bands (TASSB) OPS (Outstanding Performance Series) state finals and placed seventh among 300 schools, Classes 1-4A.

Long said the color guard has three members.

He also noted the band is planning a trip to Bran-

son this upcoming spring.

"We take a trip every four years," said Long.

Long said he's planning for the band to march in the Lamar University homecoming parade this fall.

Making up this year's band are: FLUTES: Brooke Hale, Sheridan Kees, Leah McCowan, Tyler Miller, Juliana Peters and Taylor Witucki; CLARINET: Josey Belheumer, Maria Briones, Zoey Helegda, Christina Johnson, Holley Martinez and Kennedy Wheeler; BASS CLARINET: Trey Anderson; TENOR SAX: Logan Flowers, Chakora Nichols and Raven Rascoe; F HORN: Chris Langston, Alex Miller, Lily Montoya and Josie Smith; TRUMPET: Nolan

Baxter, Jamey Binkley, Austin Everett, Landon Graham, Earnie Langham, Natasha Little, Cheyenne Platt, Weston Platt and Justin Stanley;

TROMBONE: Randall Binkley, Dawson Bumstead, Caleb Flowers, Mike Lacy Jr.; Caleb James and Aubrey Ueckert; BARITONE: James Graham and Jaxon Martinka; SAXAPHONE: Dylan Dalahite, Ty Ramirez and Bryce Hollyfield; PERCUSSION: Caleb Adams, Seth Anders, Chandler Bowman, Caleb Carter, Elijah Carter, Brad Martinez, Hailey Martinez, Parker Martinka, Todd Mayo, Jacob Murphy, Julian Silverstrini, Robert Triola and Matt Walters; PIANO: Krysta Fuller.

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Cheer

From page 5C

than to not only kill camp, but to bring home the 'Ba-

nana."

The "Banana" is the top award won at a UCA camp and every team dreams of bringing it home. Each night a team gets awarded the Banana, but the final

day determines what team gets to take it home for keeps.

The first night at camp, the KHS cheerleaders won the banana but still had hopes that they would win

it again the final day, even though that is a very rare thing to do.

Throughout the week, the cheerleaders showed great determination pushing through long, hot, 12-hour cheer days, yet they never lost their peppiness or spirit.

The final day is known as the awards and showcase day. Each team performs what they have learned that week at camp and gets awarded first place, second place, etc.

The KHS varsity cheerleaders won overall game day champion, first place in rally routine, the leadership award for the second year in a row, and the top 'Banana.'

With camp having a positive outcome on the cheerleaders, they're more than prepared for the upcoming football season and UIL state competition.

After football season, the KHS cheerleaders plan to begin practicing for the state competition in January 2019.

They hope to achieve their goal of being one of the top 20 3A cheer teams in Texas.



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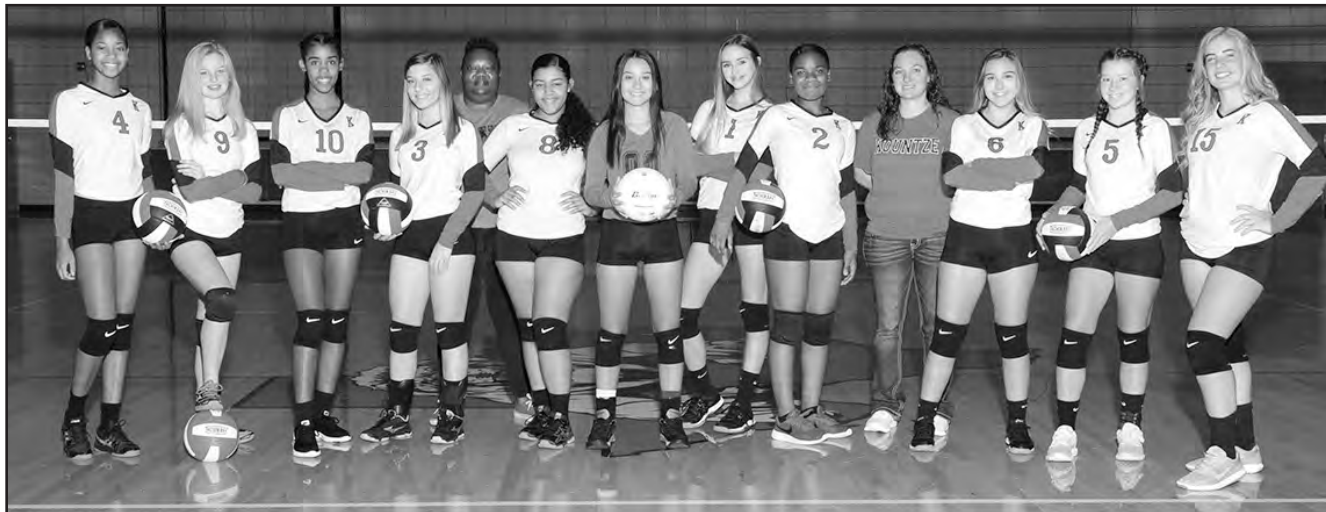
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The KHS junior varsity volleyball team working on successful season under new coaches and system.

12-3A

From page 3C

sive. The Bulldogs have been to the playoffs every year since 1997 with two state titles in 1988 and 2002.

HEMPHILL: After a 6-5 season and a bi-district appearance, coach Gary Vanya has 4 starters back on both sides. It was their first playoff appearance in 10 years. OL Logan Vickers and OL Malik Wilkerson return for another season and they will be joined by Jed Scott, Kolten Ross and Corey Jackson. TE Krodale Oliphant will be called upon for blocking. RB Trey Procter and RB Darion Rogers will join QB Clay Bulter in the backfield. Defensively, Procter (LB) and Roger (DB) lead the charge. Christian Burns, Ty Grafefo and Clyde Collins will play on the defensive front, while DB Shay Calloway and LB Joseph Stewart will see plenty of action.

NEW WAVERLY: Coach Dean Schaub has only 5 starters on each side of the ball from last season's 4-5 squad. The offense flows around QB Dylan Smith, who passed for 722 yards and 8 TDs. Smith has TE Ja'quez Williams (352 yards and 6 TDs) as his top target. K.J. Merchant, Ty Elder, Brett Munoz and Savion

Garmon should spent time carrying the ball with FB Brennen Harrell. Marcus Mills, Jacob Durisseau and Jacob Abraham anchor the Bulldogs' offensive line. On defense, Smith is a standout at cornerback with 6 interceptions in 2017. He'll be joined by Merchant (4 interceptions), Nathaniel Duncan, Munoz and Garmon. Up front, Mills and Durisseau at ends and Abraham plays at tackle. Linebackers are Williams and Harrell. The

Bulldogs have reached the playoffs 9 times since 2000.

ANDERSON-SHIRO: With 10 starters back on both sides, the Owls under Brad Hodges could sneak up on some teams. The Owls finished 0-9 as RB Zacarious Haynes rushed for almost 1,000 yards in 2017. QB Cole Werner will call signals behind offensive linemen Andrew Seaback, Zane Moriarty, Dustin Tagudin, Bailey Alexander and Ja'Coby

Matthews. Kreese Milligan and Shyheim Jones will see time in the backfield, while WR Ca'Darrius Williams and WR Tyler Derrett up set up the passing game. Defensively, Milligan at linebacker, lead the Owls in tackles. Seaback, Alexander, Chad Roebuck, Kelvin Adair and Shyheim Jones will play in the trenches. Rance Imhoff will play at linebacker, while Tre' Hightower, Chalon Pratt, Derrett, Williams and Shadeed Jones play in the secondary.

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SILSBEE FOOTBALL

Tigers prepare to challenge for title in new district

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebee.com

Silsbee coach Randy Smith has eight defensive and four offensive starters among 25 lettermen back from last year's 7-5 squad that reached the Class 4A Division 1 regional quarterfinals.

The Tigers lost to eventual Class 4A state champs Carthage, 64-36.

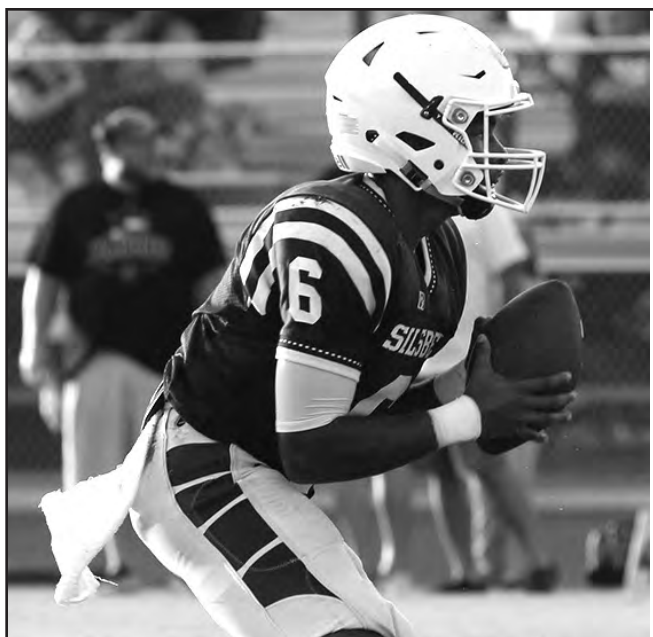
This season, the Tigers are looking for their 11th straight playoff appearance and were dropped to 4A Division 2. They were placed in District 10-4A with the like of powerhouse West Orange-Stark, Hardin-Jefferson, Hamshire-Fannett and Liberty.

With four starters back, along with a transfer and a first-time player, the Tigers' offense

Silsbee is loaded in the offensive backfield, including juniors Chris Martin (6-0, 195) and Dralyn Taylor, who played in four district and three playoff games. Both were named as first-team all-district running backs last season.

"We do have some pretty good running back," said Smith.

As a sophomore running



File Photo | Silsbee Bee

Dralyn Taylor will play multiple positions in the Tigers offense this season.

back, Martin gained more than 600 yards and nine TDs.

"He's a lot more confident and understands what we're doing," Smith said. Last year was his first year to play football. But he's also improved his passing catching abilities."

Sophomore Antonius Arline (5-7, 165), a first-team all-district fullback at Kountze last season, joins the Tigers.

"We've got to find ways to use him and get him the

ball," said Smith. "It's a learning curve for him coming here and learning a new system."

Senior Zion Brown (59, 160) and sophomore Malik Jones could see action running the pigskin.

Smith will have a pair of juniors at quarterback — Corben Johnson (5-9, 160) and Taylor, who rushed for more than 700 yards and 11 TDs as a first-team all-district running back.

"Dralyn is a kid we'd like to get the ball in his

hand," Smith said. "He's improved a lot as a thrower."

Smith said both quarterbacks know they will split time under center.

"They're both going to play," he noted. "Dralyn will also play at running back and slot receiver, then on defense. He's going to be on the field a lot."

Smith said Johnson is throwing the ball well.

"He's really worked hard to get better," he said.

At fullback will be juniors Dylan Colvin and Dillon Tarver.

Smith said he was surprised how much depth the Tigers have at wide receivers.

Junior K'Drain Cartwright (5-11, 140), a newcomer, has performed well at receiver.

"He has a lot to learn but he can catch the football," said Smith.

Seniors Dashon Turk (6-1, 155) and Cameron White (6-0, 170) will play more this season as receivers, along with seniors Jalen Davis (5-8, 130), Brady Scoggins (5-9, 150) and Daejon Hunt (5-5, 145).

On the offensive front, senior Gavin Weaver (5-10, 265) is at center.

"He played a lot and started some games last year because of some injuries," Smith said.

Smith moved senior Kevin Lightfoot (6-0, 255), a three-year starter, from guard to tackle.

"We're counting on him to be a leader on our offensive and defensive line,"

Smith said.

Senior Marquel Hale (5-11, 255), a three-year starter, rotated on the offensive line last season. This season, the state powerlifter will play at tackle.

"Him and Kevin are having to play a lot both ways," said Smith.

Senior Cody Duncan (6-0, 230) and junior Morgan Robberts (6-2, 285) will play at the guard spots.

"They will be solid. They are all real smart kids," Smith noted.

Smith said sophomore Ayden Bell will rotate into several position on the offensive front. Junior Samuel Roundtree could see some time on the line.

At tight end, Smith has three players rotating — seniors Sterling Herrington (6-2, 215), Dolen Keenon (5-11, 195) and Jiren Rawls (6-2, 190).

"Our linebackers rotate in as tight end," said Smith.

Senior Spencer Uribe, who played at tight end and linebacker, is out because of an elbow injury in suffered in the spring. Smith expects he could be back before district play.

Senior David Wright, a soccer player, and sophomore Diego Carreon Gonzales are battling of kicker. "They are both good kickers," said Smith. "Diego has a strong leg. We have two legitimate kickers."

Johnson, a backup punter last season, should handle most of the punting chores with Gonzales available if needed.

Either, Wright and Gon-

zales will perform kickoff duties.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Tigers will defend from the basic 3-4 formation with a lot of players going both ways.

"Playing both ways is an animal. It's not easy sometimes," Smith said.

At linebackers, Smith has Herrington, along with junior Javon Hill, Tarver, Martin, Isaiah Henderson and junior Austin Paine can play as one of the inside linebacker.

Arline and Taylor Smith are the outside linebackers. Rawls and Keenon should see time behind the defensive front.

Hale, a second-team all-district defensive lineman, will play another season at nose guard with Lightfoot, Duncan, Roundtree and Bell rotating as defensive tackles.

The Tigers' secondary has plenty of experience with Turk, a second-team all-district defensive back, back for his third season as free safety. Senior Aaron Sells (5-9, 175), a three-way starter at strong safety, joins Turk, along with White, another three-year starter, at cornerback. Davis, Taylor and Scoggins will also see playing time in the defensive backfield.

Smith added that Turk and Davis will handle the punt returns, while his host of running backs will field the kickoffs.

Smith said West Orange-Stark is the top contender

See **TIGERS** on 12C

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SILSBEE VOLLEYBALL

Lady Tiger netters full of athleticism, determination

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

Silsbee Lady Tiger head coach Bridgett Hicks has five starters — including four all-district performers — back for the 2018 season.

Last season, the Lady Tigers reached the Class 4A regional quarterfinals before falling to Huffman Hargrave, 3-0.

Senior Dakota Matthews was named as “Co-Outstanding Outside Hitter” in District 24-4A in 2017, while seniors Brandis Bass (first team), Emery Maze (second team) and Kennedy Sam were second-team all-district players.

With Matthews, Bass, Maze, Sam and another senior, Kanisha Lockett (all-district honorable mention), returning the Lady Tigers could be poised for another run in the playoffs.

Hicks also has seniors T’Nya Irvin, Kaleigh Blincoe, Tristen Terry and Naja Garrett, along with junior Mik’ Joi Hill and sophomore Pressley Alaniz, seeing time on the court.

“Each year a team’s dynamic changes,” Hicks said. “I have a total of nine seniors this season and they have played together since the seventh grade.”

The Lady Tigers have a host of hitters with Matthews, Bass, Sam and Maze. But Irvin and Alaniz also can hit the ball when in the floor.

“We are a team full of hitters,” said Hicks. “Only three of our 11 stays on the back row and even those

2018 Lady Tigers Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 31	Buna, 4:30 pm
Sept. 6	YMBL Tournament
Sept. 7	Lumberton, 5:00 pm*
Sept. 8	YMBL Tournament
Sept. 11	at Bridge City, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 14	West Orange-Stark, 5:00 pm*
Sept. 18	at Hamshire-Fannett, 6:30 pm
Sept. 21	Huntington, 4:30 pm
Sept. 25	Hardin-Jefferson, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 28	Little Cypress-Mauriceville, 5 pm*
Oct. 2	at Lumberton, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 5	Bridge City, 5:00 pm*
Oct. 9	at West Orange-Stark, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 12	Hamshire-Fannett, 5:00 pm*
Oct. 19	at Hardin-Jefferson, 5:00 pm*
Oct. 23	at LC-Mauriceville, 6:30 pm*

*District game

three are swinging from behind the 10-foot line.”

Sam and Lockett are the setters.

“We’ll have a fast and potent offense,” said Hicks.

Defensively, Hicks said the Lady Tigers must “get the ball up.”

She has Blincoe and Hill who can play as the libero and as a defensive special-

ist.

Hicks said her Lady Tigers are “full of athleticism and determination.”

“There is always a need for improvement in everything we do in life,” she said. “And things that need improvement for us change from week to week.”

This season, Silsbee is in District 22-4A with long-



SHS varsity volleyball team consists of (front row, left to right): Miy’Joi Hill, Kanisha Lockett, Kaleigh Blincoe, Naja Garrett, and Dakota Matthews; back row (l-r): Pressley Alaniz, T’Nya Irvin, Emery Maze, Brandis Bass, Kennedy Sam and Tristyn Terry.

time foes Bridge City, Hamshire-Fannett, Hardin-Jefferson, Little Cypress-Mauriceville and West Orange-Stark. New to 22-4A is Lumberton, who played in 22-5A for four seasons.

“I think we will have a very competitive district,” said Hicks. “At any point in

time, a team can fall apart and lose their shot at the playoffs. Never underestimate anyone.”

Hicks said she feels her Lady Tigers, also with Lumberton, Hardin-Jefferson and Little Cypress-Mauriceville will be successful this season and make the playoffs.

The Lady Tigers’ non-district schedule included 5A Vidor and 6A West Brook.

Before they open 22-4A play on Sept. 7 against Lumberton at home, the Lady Tigers will compete in the YMBL Tournament on Sept. 6 and 8 in Beaumont.




Good Luck Tigers!

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The SHS junior varsity cheerleaders are (left to right) Arley-Beth Cravy, Alyiah Lorenzi, Melody Luu, Keeleigh Abshire and Alexis Lavergne.

SILSBEE CHEER



The 2018-19 SHS Cheer squad are (front row, left to right) Cambrie Root (mascot), Addie Steltz, Emma Hayes, Delaney McBride, Kayla Campbell, Breanna Smart, Shalyn Taylor, Brayli Bean, Abigail Simon, Ashlyn Boudreaux and Isabella Merritt (mascot); back row: Nadia Underwood, Jadyn, Kailynn Brooks, Samanta Jordan, Averie Hales, Ashlynn Montgomery, Lauren Hawthorn, Apen Paine, Macey Estridge, Sydney Calloway, Lydea Whitmore and Kaila White.

Squad full of spirit under Walters

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

A former Silsbee High School Tigerette drill team member has the task as cheer sponsor for the SHS varsity and junior high cheerleaders during the school year.

Brittany Walters fell in love with the school and school spirit at a young age.

"I have been into the school since I can remember," she said. "I am huge on school spirit. We love going to Friday night games and everything else."

Walter has spent time with coaching cheerleaders in Pee Wee League and other sports events.

"This is my first time coaching at the high-school level. I am so excited," she said.

Walters works as a para at Silsbee Elementary School.

"But I am also in the process of getting my teaching degree," she added.

Walter has 22 girls on the SHS Tigers varsity cheer squad, along with two mascots. There are nine freshmen girls on this year's varsity squad and there are five girls that makeup the junior varsity squad.

"Some of them have cheered all their life, so I am looking forward to coaching them this year," Walter said.

Heading this year's cheer squad are Brianna Smart as captain and Kayla Campbell as co-captain.

"Brianna has been on the team for the past four years. She is a very good leader," Walter said. "With me being new, she has helped me a lot over the past couple of weeks. She is just an all-around good leader."

The varsity cheerleaders attended a UCA (Universal Cheer Association) camp at Texas A&M in College Station in June.

"All the girls have excellent abilities to tumble," Walters said. "We look forward to putting that to good use this year."

Walter also plans to bring her cheerleaders out into the community more.

"We want to make the community more drawn to school events," she said. "We plan on doing some community service like

going to the nursing homes or elementary school."

Walters noted that in past years the cheer squad has been smaller.

"The team is larger this year and their overall spirit projecting over the field will be something the crowd will enjoy, but not use to," she said.

Cambrie Root and Isabella Merritt will share time as the squad's mascot.

She said both mascots will be running the "Touch-down Flag" at times.

New this year for the mascots is a "shirt cannon."

"That is new and only the mascots will use it," said Walters.

Walters added the difference between drill and cheer is that the drill team dances are "more flowy."

"They use more of the eight-count where as cheer is clean and crisp," she said.

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SILSBEE DRILL

Tigerettes in 60th year of pride and tradition

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

Director Sarah Simmons returns for her second year heading the Silsbee High School Tigerettes drill team.

Simmons, a former Tigerette, who teaches fourth-grade reading, noted this is the 60th year of existence for the squad.

"This year is the Tigerette's 60th year of Pride and Tradition," she said. "I feel very fortunate to be a part of this important anniversary year."

Last year, they finished with 15 underclassmen members. Of the 15, 11 remained on the team. In February, 11 newcomers — all incoming freshmen — were selected to the squad.

"The majority of our team is very young, but we are excited to celebrate two senior Tigerettes this year," Simmons said.

Simmons has three military officers this year. Captain is senior Rosie Bonnette, first lieutenant is junior Emily Zoch, and second lieutenant is junior Jayden Matlage.

The five junior Social Officers are Emilee Wilson, president; Sadie Cordero, vice president; Delaney Denmon, secretary; Marli Ferguson, historian; and Jasmine Desha as chaplain.

The squad began practicing as a new team last

spring and Simmons took her military officers to a HTE Officer Camp where they learned several routines. In July, the team went to HTE Team Camp where they learned five custom routines plus three additional routines in three days.

The team was awarded two Spirit Sticks and Most Valuable Team (MVT) Award. Three Tigerettes Zoch, Ferguson and Denmon — received special recognition for making Kick Academy.

"These ladies will have the opportunity to travel to Hawaii," said Simmons. "Our positive and encouraging camp experience has given us the stamina to begin a wonderful 60th year."

The Tigerettes came back to full day practice on Aug. 6 and are practicing every afternoon to prepare for the upcoming season.

Simmons said Tigerettes are looking forward to getting back into competition mode for the HTE Contest, where they will perform several routines of various sizes and genres.

"We intend to take those contest pieces and perform them in our upcoming Anniversary Spring Show," she said.

During halftime, the Tigerettes will be performing their traditional "Eye of the Tiger," followed by a new routines that consist of two jazz routines, two pom

routines and a kick routine. "We have 11 different routines we perform along to the band music in the stands," said Simmon. "The Tigerettes will also perform four different pep rally routines in front of their peers to celebrate each home game."

She noted 10 of 20 routines are completely brand new this season.

"We'll be dancing to numbers such as "Septem-

See DRILL on 15C



Members of the SHS Tigerettes are (front row, left to right) Emily Zoch, first lieutenant; Rosie Bonnette, captain; and Jayden Matlage, second lieutenant; (second row) Keviana Martin; Ashley McKee; Kayden Hinson; Delaney Denmon; and Sadie Cordero; (third row) Ashly Moncada; Lauren Hutto; Julissa Montes; Jasmine Rawls; Eden Rowland; Kenley Burk; and Makayla Hatfield; (back row) Khari Calhoun; Chaenicia Walton; Kabrina Crabtree; Emilee Wilson; Jasmine Desha; Allison Campbell; and Marli Ferguson.

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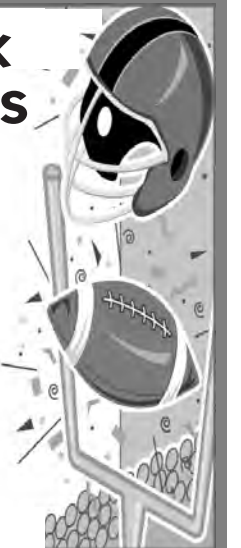
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Tigers

From page 8C

for the district title with Hardin-Jefferson, Liberty and Hamshire-Fannett fighting the Tigers for playoff spots.

"All those schools are going to be good," he added.

The Tigers open the season on the road against 5A Port Neches-

Groves on Friday, Aug. 31. Silsbee has non-district game against 3A Newton, 5A Nederland, 4A Bridge City and 4A Longview Spring Hill.

"We just have to get better as a team," Smith said. We've got to execute and get into better condition. We have to be able to play four quarters with those teams we're playing early. To compete against those teams, we need to be in shape."



SHS JV football team front row (left to right): Alex Uribe, Manuel Padilla, Samuel Spurlock, Zachary Tillman, Noah Duke, Raymond Foster, Caleb Buse and Kayshawn Lockett; back row: Oshley Wise-Salinas, Aidan Chustz, Chris Ruggles, Reuben Hatton, Cobly Watts, Jason Cochrane, Bryon McCartney, Chance Dill and Quincy Kelley. Not pictured: Victor Toledo, Floyd Adams, David Thomas, Blake McMillian and Charles McKinney.



SHS freshmen football team: front row (left to right): Adam Saenz, Caden Castilaw, Derrick Watts, Joshua Bradley, Jacob Thomas, Corben McKinney, Kyle LeJeune and Ethan Hale; back row: Jeffery Broyles, Willie Nelson, Brady Keenon, Traivus Haynes, Marquis Dodd, Antonio Bolton, Gecoby Elam, Hagen Langston and Kadin Stone. Not pictures: Landon Tally, Trevor Williams, Juan Rodriguez, Leo Rodriguez, Jordan Sears and Dawson Long.

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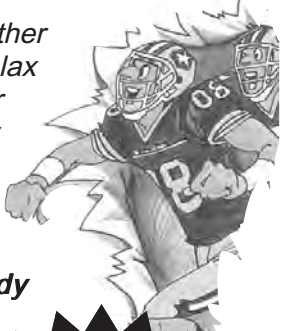
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and all the
Teams in Hardin County

Thank You Photographers!

The Silsbee Bee would like to thank all the people who helped provide photographs for the fall sports teams, band, cheerleaders, drill teams, band and others.

Photographs from Kountze and Lumberton ere provided by Buffy Barnes of Photo Texas Photography; Pam Minyard, EHS media teacher, provided photos for Evadale and Daniel Elizonda, communication director for Silsbee ISD, provided photos for Silsbee.



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TOUCHDOWN

TOUCHDOWN

SILSBEE BAND

Band's halftime show to reflect surviving Harvey

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

Since the UIL Class 4A competition is every other year, Silsbee High School band director Todd Patterson has his Tigers Marching Band working hard in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Patterson, in his sixth year, has 80 students, including the color guard.

"It's an average number for us, but we look to grow in the next couple of years," said Patterson, who has taught 15 years in SISD.

He started with the freshmen marching on July 25 and held a drum line camp the previous week. On July 30, the remainder of the band

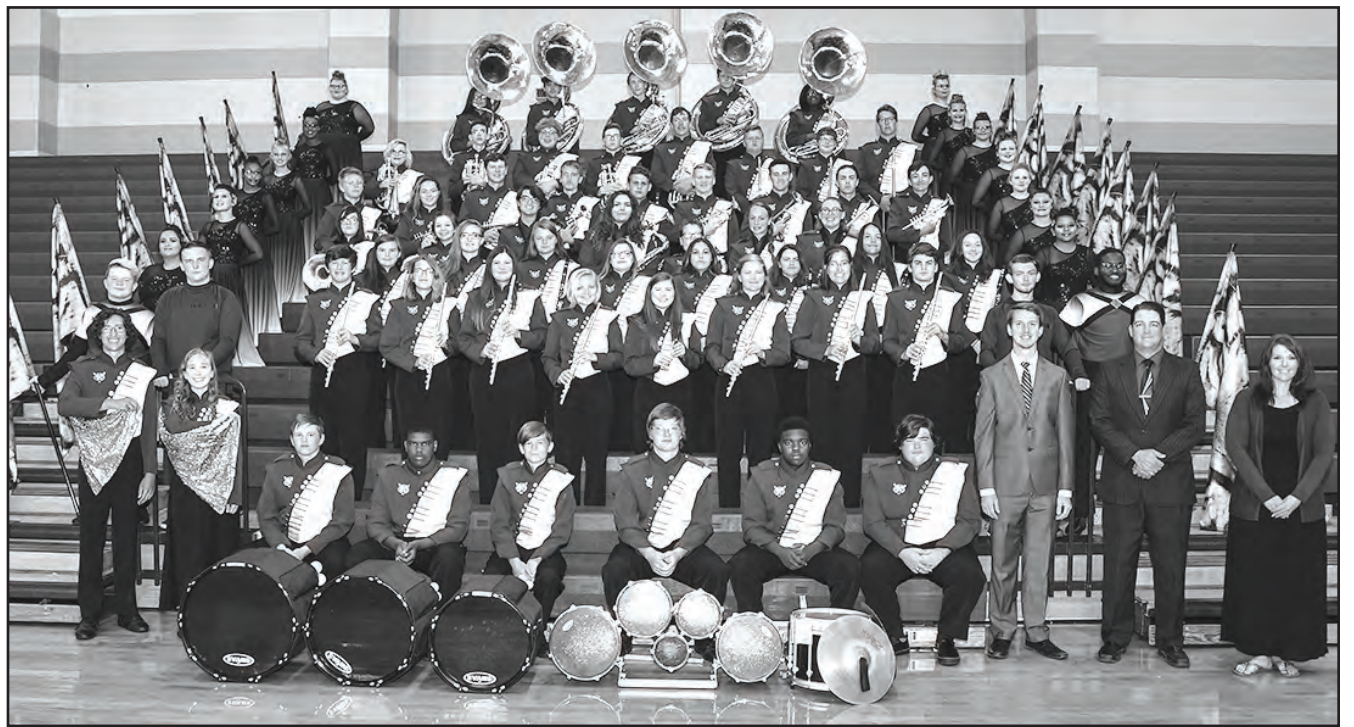
joined the freshmen.

Patterson said this year's marching show theme is "Persevere," a tribute to surviving Hurricane Harvey.

"It starts off with Carmina Burana's Orff and the second movement is a medley of 'We Shall Overcome' and 'It Is Well With My Soul,'" he noted. "The third movement starts with a piece called 'Persevere' and the last one is 'In Caelum Fero' which translates to 'The Wild Heavens.' It's a nice upbeat way to close the show."

Patterson said he feels it is a timely thing with the one-year anniversary of the storm.

"I started looking at various show and I thought



The Silsbee High School Tigers Marching Band will perform a halftime show entitled "Persevere."

about some of the pieces and kind of theme I could build it around," he said. "The theme of just a storm, rising above that and persevering. Our community has been through a lot the past year. I think it just fits the theme of our community because we are a strong community."

This year's drum majors are Dalton Avery and Alexia Read, who participated in the Stephen F.

Austin State University Drum Major Camp this summer in Nacogdoches.

Avery and Read earned the award as Best Conductors. Read also won two March-Off competitions and Best Overall Drum Major.

The band also has student leaders who spent one day in a leadership meeting.

"With the section leaders, drum majors, and other band council, we'll



Drum Majors: Alexia Read and Dalton Avery

do some stuff together then split up into sections," he said. "They kind of help teach the younger students. It helps to split them up and let the kids work. Mr. (Steve) Courville and I make rounds. It helps us get to the kids individually instead of corporately."

Patterson said the band will march in parades in Silsbee, but will also attend a large marching fes-

tival in Dallas this spring.

"It gives the kids to plan for another festival other than the regular stuff we do," he noted.

Last year, the band went to Washington, D.C. and in 2020 the band is planning a return trip to Disney.

Once again, the Jazz Band will host dinner in the spring.

"We'll have some gumbo to eat," Patterson said. "Good food and good jazz to listen to."

The band will also perform a Christmas concert in December and a Spring Concert in May.

This year, the band will compete at the Class 4A regionals on Oct. 20 in Port Neches-Grove HS, then area at Longview HS. From area, 10 bands advance to the state competition at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Under Patterson, the Band earned two consecutive Sweepstakes in class Class 4A in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years.

Patterson, a Port Neches-Grove HS graduate, earned his music degree from Lamar University in 2004.

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Drill

From page 11C

ber" by Earth, Wind & Fire, "Saturday Night Alright" by Elton John, "Born to be Wild" by Steppenwolf, and "Believer" by Imagine Dragons," Simmons added.

She said the Tigerettes stay involved in the community during the year.

"They'll be at the Homecoming and Christmas parades and festivals," Simmons said. "During Homecoming week, we perform at the Community Bonfire, and we also visit the Silsbee Elementary campuses each morning to open doors for young students as they get off the bus and get out of their cars."

She said at the Annual Spring Show, they will invite Alumni members back to dance with the the squad in a special reunion number.

"We also will be hosting another Kiddie Clinic for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, where they'll learn a dance to perform in our show," said Simmons. "In addition to Kiddie Clinic, we'll be inviting SHS Cheer, SHS Color Guard, and Choir Soloist to participate. It's a great way to get several organizations involved and to get the community out to see what so many work so hard for."

Simmons said she feels incredibly hopeful about this upcoming year.

"I know the girls are just as excited and proud as I am to be a part an organization with so much tradition involved," she said. "Despite the number or age of our team, Tigerettes always stand united as a group that prides themselves on hard work and dedication. I feel like this team in particular is so eager to learn and to be a part of all that Tigerettes stands for; that alone is very encouraging."

"I push these girls hard, and I do believe their efforts are slowly paying off. We are strictly an extracurricular activity, which means we do all of our work outside of school hours. They give up so much time that they could spend elsewhere to come together and pursue their passion for dance. The hours spent setting formations on the practice field, cleaning field, stand, and pep rally routines, and preparing for the season will get them very far this year. My hope is that the community will recognize our efforts to keep Tigerettes going strong and will be eager to offer support," said Simmons.



Band Directors: Head Band Director Todd Patterson (left), Color Guard Director Brandie Ryan, and Assistant Band Director Steven Courville.



French Horns: Kamryn Harper and Ashlyn Baggett



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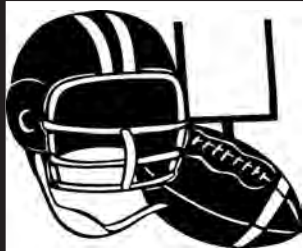
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Drumline: Ladson Worley, Dustin Huff, Jaden Gilbert, Justin Richter, Atticus Thomas and Braylon Robert



Trombones: Nathan Ringo, Brianna Gray, and Camden Copley
(Not Pictured: Jayden Pfander)



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Former area prep standouts on D1 rosters

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

There are several former high school standouts from Hardin County who are currently on the roster for some NCAA Division 1 football programs.

Two former standouts are at Baylor University in Waco. Grayland Arnold of Kountze is a cornerback for the Bears and freshman Kalon Barnes of Silsbee is a wide receiver for coach Matt Rhule's Bears.

Arnold is a junior this season and was named to the 2018 second-team pre-season All-12 team by Phil Steele.

In Fall 2017, Arnold suffered a broken arm in practice. In Spring 2018, it was the first opportunity for him to fully participate in offseason practices and workouts at the college level.

In his freshman season, he started in four of 11 games and battled injuries.

During his sophomore season, he started in nine games and finished with 35 tackles and his first career interception.

In the two-year stretch, Arnold collected 46 tackles, 3.0 tackles for loss, and 12 passes defended. His 3.0

tackles for loss was No. 1 among all defensive backs on the team in 2017, and his seven passes defended was No. 2.

As for Barnes, he had some explosive plays catching the ball during an Aug. 18 scrimmage. He was one of four receivers Baylor signed.

Baylor opens the season Sept. 1 at home against Abilene Christian.

In San Marcos, a former Silsbee quarterback is battling two other players for the starting job as the Texas State Bobcats' signal caller this fall.

The Bobcats began practice earlier this month.

Willie Jones III, a 6-foot-3, 190-pound sophomore quarterback from Silsbee, practiced with the first unit during spring practice.

But head coach Everett Withers is watching the trio closely. Jones is battling redshirt freshman Jaylen Gipson and freshman Tyler Vitt.

"Whenever one becomes a leader we'll make him the quarterback," Withers said in an interview with the San Marcos Daily. "We're in a good position. We haven't been able to have that kind of battle since I've been here."

In the first fall scrimmage, Withers was pleased with Jones' play.

"I thought Will did some really good things and looked really sharp," he noted.

In limited action in 2017, Jones showed flashes of his abilities as a dual-threat quarterback. He played in 10 games as a true freshman quarterback and completed 18 of 37 passes for 281 yards with one interception.

He also rushed for 168 yards on 43 carries.

The Bobcats open the season at Piscataway, New Jersey against the Rutgers Red Knights of the Big 10 Conference on Sept. 1.

Oregon State first-year head coach Jonathan Smith told reporters that running back Calvin Tyler Jr. will miss "an extended amount of time" with injuries suffered this August.

During the Aug. 16 interview, Smith wouldn't classify the injury as the season-ending variety.

"On Calvin, we're still waiting on a couple of things," he said.

Tyler Jr., a sophomore running back out of Beaumont, who figured to be the primary backup to starter Artavis Pierce heading into

camp, watched the Aug. 16 practice at Reser Stadium from the sideline while on crutches, reported The Oregonian.

A bright spot for the Beavers during spring ball, Tyler Jr. missed the early portion of fall camp nursing a hamstring injury and suffered an apparent knee injury late in an Aug. 13 practice.

At McNeese, former Silsbee standout Jonathon Hageon is on the roster as a defensive lineman as a freshman.

McNeese opens the season Sept. 1 at Northern Colorado.

The Lamar Cardinals entered fall camp with four right ends, including sophomore Mason Sikes, a former Lumberton High School standout.

Sikes enters his third season with LU (utilizing a redshirt season in 2016) and may be the strongest player at the position.

When he hauls in a pass he is not an easy target to bring down standing 6-4, 255 pounds.

In 2017, Sikes played in 11 games and caught three passes for 37 yards.

Lamar opens up at home Sept. 1 against Kentucky Christian.

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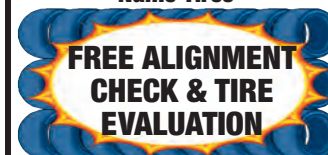


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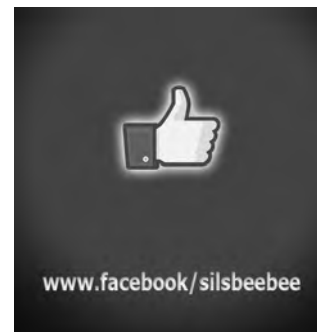
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Tigers, WO-S could battle for district title

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeeb.com

This year's District 10-4A Division 2 is loaded with powerhouse West Orange-Stark, along with the additions of Silsbee, Hardin-Jefferson, Hamshire-Fannett and Liberty.

Since 2014, WO-S has been to the 4A Division 2 state championship game four straight seasons, including state titles in 2015 and 2016.

Silsbee is loaded with lots of starters on both sides of the ball, along with talented skill players in RB Chris Martin, QB Dralyn Taylor and RB Antonius Arline, who was an all-district fullback at Kountze last season.

WO-S has a 22-3 record over Silsbee, who has the largest enrollment of the five district schools.

WEST ORANGE-STARK: The Mustangs, under coach Cornel Thompson has 3 offensive and 4 defensive starters back from a 13-1 state finalist team. This is the youngest team in several years. RB Kayve Cooper

See 10-4A on 26C

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SILSBEE CROSS COUNTRY

Runners aim to reach regionals, again

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

The Silsbee High School boys and girls' cross country team will look for a return trip to the UIL Class 4 regionals.

"Both teams made it to regionals this year and the goal this year is to of course make it back, but go further," said first-year coach Chelsey Holmes Garrett.

Senior captains David Wright and Holden Cravey are back for the Tigers, along with sophomores Rueben Hatton and Dylan Wright, junior Will Fontaine, who started off with an ankle injury, and Deigo Rodriguez.

The Tigers placed 14th among the 22 teams at the Region 3 meet.

Cravey was the Tigers' top finisher at 68th, Wright placed 74th and Hatton was 82nd.

Newcomers to the Tigers are Brady Carter, Josh Chance, Matthew Eyre and Adam Saenz.

For the girls, the Lady Tigers made their first appearance at regionals. Senior captain Gracie Gilchrist returns to lead a group of experienced and newcomers for this year's team.

Last season, Gilchrist was the top finishers at regionals at 85th.

Senior Sydni Whitted is a strong runner and she's joined by a host of returnees which include sophomore Kylie Warner, sophomore Mallory Tatum, sophomore Mindi Barton and junior Sheradyn



Silsbee High School Cross Country: bottom row (left to right) David Wright, Rueben Hatton, Holden Cravey, Dylan Wright, and Will Fontaine; second row (l-r) Kylie Warner, Gracie Gilchrist, Sheradyn Drake, Sydni Whitted, and Mallory Tatum; third row (l-r): Emily Williamson, Mckaylin Erives, Mindi Barton, Emma Hayes, and Mikayla Riedinger; fourth row (l-r): Avery Hayes, Allyssa Arlan, and Pressley Alaniz; fifth row (l-r): Josh Chance, Matthew Eyre, and Brady Carter; top row (l-r): Adam Saenz and Deigo Gonzalez.

Drake.

At regionals, Tatum finished 121st, Warner 136th, Whitted 160th, Barton 166th and Drake 167th.

Sophomore Emily Williamson heads a group of newcomers consisting of Pressley Alaniz, Averie

and Emma Hayes, Mikayla Reidinger, Allyssa Arlan and Mckaylin Erives.

"Little Cypress-Mauriceville was our top competitor last year and will be this year," Garrett said.

The defending District 22-4A champion Little Cy-

press-Mauriceville senior Eli Peveto is also returning. The SHS boys finished second at district last season as Wright and Cravey were among the top 10 finishers. Gilchrist was 11th at district and Tatum was 15th for the Lady Tigers.

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10-4A

From page 25C

(815 rushing and 13 TDs) is key in the offense behind the blocking of OTs Quincy Ledet and Shemar Manaway, and OG Jacorri Brady. Cooper, Brady, Manaway, and DBs Teshaun Teel and JaVonn Ross head the defense. Teel and Ross were all-district last season.

HARDIN-JEFFERSON: The Hawks got a new head coach in former Bridge City head man Dwayne DuBois. DuBois has four staters back on both side of

the pigskin for a 2-6 bi-district team. QB Collin Pomirko has RB Izak Whitman and FB Dillion Bryant in the ground game, while WR Justin Smith is back at receiver. On the offensive front, Kolin McCullough, Bronson McClelland and Michael McIntosh return. The defense is led by McCullough, DLs Ryland McFarlin and Christian Bowie, with Bryant at linebacker and Whitman and Smith in the secondary.

LIBERTY: With six offensive and seven defensive starters back from an 8-3 area finalist, coach Chad Taylor has enough talent to make the playoff

again. His Double-Wing attack features RB Jeremiah Guillory (1,448 total yards and 19 TDs) and athlete J.J. Slack (1,312 total and 10 TDs). Zac Kutak, Lane Lindley and Keaton Parker will open up the lanes with TEs Devin Fregia and Chandler Sanders. On defense, Slack (78 tackles and 3 interception) is back in the secondary, while LB Keagen Turner and DL Wesley Scott (72 tackles and 5 sacks) make havoc up front.

HAMSHIRE-FAN-NETT: Back from last season's 2-7 squad at 7 starters on both sides. New head coach Mark Waggoner, an assistant to Waco

Robinson, for two years, won four TAPPS state championships during a two-decade run at Reicher Catholic in Waco. He will depend on QB Marcus Morris to guide the offensive attack with FB Blaine Waggoner (coach's son) and RB Evan Viator, and WRs Carson Wright and Anakin Hall. The Longhorns has plenty of experience in the gap with Stone Kiker, Jacob Garza, Layne Berry, Gabe Constance and Colton Savoie on either side of the ball. Waggoner and Kyle Saurge are at the linebackers, with Morris and Tahji Edward in the secondary.

DISTRICT 12-2A D2 PREVIEW

Rebels have some old, new foes in district

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

The new District 12-2A Division 2 has some familiar faces, along with two new teams.

Last year's district runners-up, Evadale Rebels, will battle two longtime powerhouses in Lovelady and Grapeland. Iola, last year's district champs, was realigned to District 13-2A D2.

Grapeland edged the Rebels in bi-district last season with a 28-27 win.

Both Grapeland and Lovelady have had plenty of playoff experience since 2000.


Preseason experts pick: 1. Lovelady, 2. Grapeland, 3. Evadale, 4. Colmesneil, 5. West Hardin, 6. Sabine Pass, 7. Burkeville.

LOVELADY: Six offensive and 7 defensive starters return for coach


Jon Lowery's Lions who were an 2A Division 1 area finalist last season. QB Logan Lowery should start for the Lions and he'll have two experienced targets in WR Michael Price (618 yards, 4 TDs) and WR Jay Robinson (658 yards, 6 TDs). Carter Murray head the offensive line. Defensively, Greyson Bachynsky, Colter Hard-

See 12-2A on 27C

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12-2A

From page 26C

castle and DeUndre Simon head up the defensive line, with Deontrae Hawkins and Logan LeBlanc back at linebackers. Tre Hawkins and T'Amian Platt lead the secondary. The Lions have not missed the playoffs since 2009 and has made it 12 times since 2005. They reached the state semi-finals twice (2006 and 2015).

GRAPELAND: The Sandies return 8 offensive and 5 defensive starters from last year's 8-5 regional semifinalist team.

Guiding coach Wayne Mahaffey's offense is Rick Frauenberger, who threw for more than 2,900 yards and 29 TDs. His targets are WR B.J. Howard (1,032 yards and 8 TDs) and WR Josh Ackley (612 and 11 TDs). Chanellor Francis, Jacob Barbosa, Blake Howard and Ty Hamlin head the offensive line. On defensive, Ackley leads the Sandies with 174 tackles and two interceptions at linebacker. Dylan Duhan, James Coleman and Hamlin are in the line-

backing corps, while Francis anchors the defensive line. Howard is joined by Kaden Dupree, Jaylen Humphrey at cornerback, while Kerizon Ashford and Dacorian Bryant are the safeties. The Sandies, who won a state title in 1974, have been to the playoffs 9 times since 2000.

COLMESNEIL: The Bulldogs return 9 starters on both sides of the ball after last season's 4-6 Division 2 bi-district playoff team. Coach Ross McMurry knows the offensive front is key with Wesley Dobbins, Sklyar Tompkins, Carlos Cuellar and Dillon Tompkins in the trenches. Ryan Bray and Devean Wooten should share the load rushing. On defense, Dobbins, Wooten and Evan Stewart are the linebackers, while Kobe Shird, Cuellar and Dillon Tompkins are up front. Zane Hermsen, Bray and Britian Ott are in the secondary. Since 2000, Colmesneil reached regionals in 2009.

WEST HARDIN: The Oilers also have 9 starters back on each side from last year's 1-9 squad. RB Randon Kelley is back and coach Cody Day will look

for him to carry the load rushing with Zevin Loftin. Issac Murphy, Caleb Brown, Rhett Tapley, Colton Williams and Preston Price could help open up holes for Kelley. QB Jake Strahan will have WR Lance Mosley, WR Keaton Castilaw and athlete Matthew Anderson to throw the ball to. Price, Williams, Tarpley and Loftin will spend time in the defensive front, while Murphy head the linebackers. Mosley lead the secondary. The Oilers have made the playoffs 8 times since 1992.

SABINE PASS: The Sharks under coach Jason Thibodeaux have 7 starters back on offense and defense from its 1-4 team in 2017. RB Austin Smith and Grayson Johnson can run the ball with Logan Odam, Kirk Blood, Nelson Pena and Larry Coleman opening holes. Defensively, Smith and Odom are good pass rusher. Johnson and Bryson Wood return at linebackers, while Harold James and Samuel Byerly roam the secondary. The Shark reached the playoffs in 2011 and 2016.

BURKEVILLE: The Mustangs, who have a 74-student enrollment in high school, will be hard pressed to make the playoffs. Coach Kenneth Thomas has 7 starters back on both side of the pigskin from a 0-9 squad. WR Daniel Lowe was an all-district player last season and QB Colton Day will head the offense. LB Devon Lackey played well at linebacker. In the trenches on both sides are John Martin, Kaleb Uribe, Trinity Ashmore and Donovan Engel. Lowe and Daute Hartsfield head the secondary. Since 1990, the Mustangs had the playoffs 17 times, mostly as a 1A school. They won the 1A title in 1986 and 2001.

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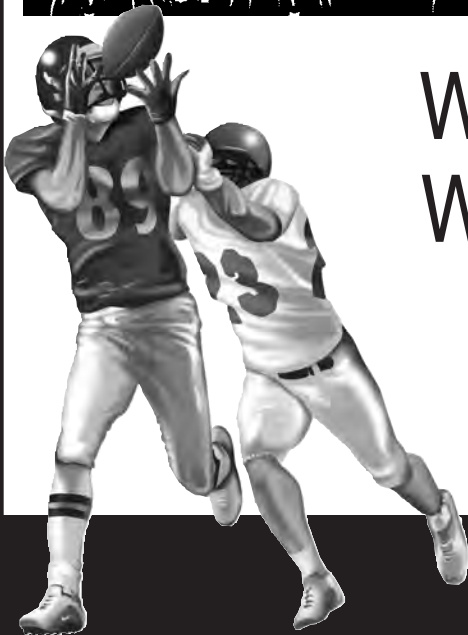
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EVADALE FOOTBALL



Rebels returns host of starters in new district

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

EVADALE — For the past 12 seasons, the Evadale Rebels have been in the plays and coach Mark Williams is aiming for No. 13.

This year, the district has a few changes but Williams has seven starters on each side of the ball.

The Rebels, along with former District 12-2A Division 2 teams Colmesneil, Burkeville and Sabine Pass welcome Lovelady, Grapeland and West Hardin to the new 12-2A D2.

Evadale was the runner-up to Iola last season in district and lost to Grapeland in bi-district, 28-27.

Among the seven re-

turnees on offense, Williams has five all-district players.

Williams has junior Clay Sylvester starting at quarterback and he'll be joined in the backfield with junior Will Farr (426 yards, 6 TDs) and senior Parker Moyer (6-3, 245), who moves from tight end to fullback.

"He (Klay) is doing a great job and he'll get better each week," Williams said. "He's mixture of a runner and passer."

Senior Lane Vinson (10 balls, 6 TDs), also an all-district player, is back at wide receiver. In the receiving corps, is 6-3 Jonathan Gravis.

On the offensive line, Williams said he has several good players back from last season to help open up the running and

passing game.

"We lost just one guard from last year's line," he said.

Sophomore Jacob Moore (6-1) is at center, while junior Dylan Reeves (all-district) and senior Jaime Schriefer are the two guard. Reeves played center last season.

Juniors Tyler Montalvo (6-4, 250; second-team all-district) and McKenon Wilson are the tackles.

Williams said he's not using a tight end set, but senior Wyatt Taylor and Moyer can play at either at fullback and tight end when needed.

"We going to use multiple formations, kind of like what we did last season," said Williams. "We've got our work cutout for us. If we can throw it enough and keep people out of the box we'll be fine."

On defense, the Rebel will defend from the 4-3 but with facing a lot of teams running the Slot-T will use a "goal line look."

Moyer (29 tackles) returns at defensive end and

Schriefer (34 tackles) is on the opposite side at end.

Williams said there will be a rotation of players at the two defensive tackle spots with Reeves, Taylor and Wilson.

Heading the linebackers corps is junior inside linebacker Kyler Vernon (68 tackles; all-district and all-state) with Farr as an outside linebacker. Senior Cutter Jackson is the other outside linebacker.

Moyer and Farr were both all-district defenders.

This season, the Rebels' secondary has plenty of experience. Senior cornerbacks Trent Sons (all-district) and Blaine Tibbs (second-team all-district) will be joined by Vinson at safety.

Junior Bryce Tousse or sophomore Anthony Barnes could both see time in the secondary.

"We are just going to be a lot thinner because we don't have the depth," said Williams. "We are going to be like every other 2A team."

He said Lovelady and Grapeland will have

plenty of depth.

"We have one at the beginning of district play and the other at the end," Williams added. "Hopefully, that can give us some wiggle room to sneak in there."

Williams said the special team positions will be finalized before the first game.

With Lovelady and Grapeland as the experts picks at 1-2 in the district, Williams feels West Hardin and Colmesneil will be "much improved."

"They have been young, but know they are going to have a lot of juniors and seniors," he said. "We are going to have our hands full every game."

The Rebels open the season on the road at Northland Christian in Houston on Friday, Aug. 31. The non-district schedule includes Warren, Galveston O'Connell and Deweyville.

"We worry about injuries with Warren and Deweyville banging you," Williams said.

They open district play Sept. 28 at Grapeland.

EHS Rebel Roster

- 2 Bryce Tousse
- 3 Will Farr
- 5 Cutler Jackson
- 6 Blaine Tibbs
- 7 Tom Boles
- 9 Lane Vinson
- 10 Klay Sylvester
- 18 Chance Simon
- 20 Tyler Ferguson
- 22 Trent Sons
- 24 Anthony Barnes
- 30 Wyatt Taylor
- 40 Luke Williams
- 42 Kyler Vernon
- 44 Ty Taylor
- 51 Tyler Montalvo
- 54 Jaime Schriefer
- 55 Dylan Reeves
- 60 David Middleton
- 66 Kaden Patterson
- 68 Jacob Moore
- 70 Shelby Trahan
- 71 McKenon Wilson
- 77 Colton Crain
- 78 Dakota Jones
- 79 Kaden Ingram
- 80 Stephen Louviere
- 81 Kaden Vinson
- 84 Parker Moyer
- 86 Trace Hollyfield
- 87 Doug Ruth



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EVADALE FOOTBALL

Lady Rebels will mix seniors with young players

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebee.com

EVADALE — Coach Debra Hollyfield welcomes back a handful of lettermen for this year's edition of the Lady Rebels.

She will build the team around senior setter Lauren Bruce, along with senior middle hitter/blocker Camryn Howard and senior outside hitter Karigan Christian.

"They all played part-time on the floor last season," said Hollyfield.

The three seniors are joined by another senior, a junior, four sophomores and a freshman.

"We're mostly a sophomore team and a lot of them got good junior varsity action last year," Hollyfield said. "We are very young, but they have some skills."

Freshman Hope Miller has been a welcome surprise for the Lady Rebels. With Bruce setting up the offense, Howard will play opposite of Miller at the net.

"Hope has done some work over the summer and she's playing like a sophomore," Hollyfield said. "I try to get her a lot of rotations up front. She is my strongest hitter, power-wise. Camryn has the skills and the brain, and she's smart about placing her hits and letting up when she has to. They are a good off-balance for each other."

The Lady Rebels' offense will come from a 5-1 formation and they will use a perimeter defense.

Junior Bre Marshall was a setter last season, but will play as a libero this season.

"This is her first time in that position," Hollyfield added. "She's not fast, but she reads well and she has good passing arms."

Sophomore Sierra Wilson can play multiple positions.

"Sometime she has to play all around," said Hollyfield. "She hitting outside and she was a middle last year. The tempo has changed for her, but she's adjusted well."

She said sophomore Madison Cole can also play several positions, but is more of a defensive player.

Senior Tyler Hoover and sophomore Kinzie Nolan should see time on the floor.

So far this season, serving has been a strength for the Lady Rebels.

"We are a tremendous solid serving team," Hollyfield said. "It's probably the best serving team I've had in years."

Sophomore Chelsea Pattarozzi leads at the serving line.

"She is a weapon by herself," Hollyfield said. "In order for us to win a lot of our game, we have to serve 95 percent, every game."

Hollyfield noted if the Lady Rebels can keep their hitting percentages around 30 percent, they should win matches.

"If one of those drop, we're going to have some tough games," she added.

The Lady Rebels have played a tough non-district schedule in preparation for their district slate.

In the recent realignment, District 24-2A gained two new schools — Burkeville and Spurger, a playoff team in Class 1A



Members of the Lady Rebels varsity volleyball team are (front row, left to right) Chelsea Pattarozzi, Coach Debbie Hollyfield, Breanna Marshall, Coach Tasha McAdams and Hope Miller; (standing) Tyler Hoover, Karigan Christian, Sierra Wilson, Madison Cole, Kinzi Nolan, Camryn Howard and Lauren Bruce.

2018 Lady Rebels Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 31	at Newton, 5:30 pm
Sept. 4	at Buna, 5:30 pm
Sept. 7	at Burkeville, 5:30 pm*
Sept. 10	Sabine Pass, 5:30 pm*
Sept. 14	at West Hardin, 5:30 pm*
Sept. 18	High Island, 5:30 pm*
Sept. 21	at Spurger, 5:30 pm*
Sept. 24	Hull-Daisetta, 5:30 pm*
Sept. 28	at Deweyville, 5:30 pm*
Oct. 2	Burkeville, 5:30 pm*
Oct. 5	at Sabine Pass, 5:30 pm*
Oct. 9	West Hardin, 5:30 pm*
Oct. 12	at High Island, 5:30 pm*
Oct. 16	Spurger, 5:30 pm*
Oct. 19	at Hull-Daisetta, 5:30 pm*
Oct. 23	Deweyville, 5:30 pm*

*District game

last season.

"Every match in district is going to be good for us and push us," said Holly-

field. "Because we are smaller, we are going to have to play hard."

She feels the top teams

in the district are Deweyville, West Hardin and Evadale.

"We had some bumps in the road and I think they are learning from them," said Hollyfield. "There are a lot of games to play and

we need to stay healthy. We have a load of freshmen and two sophomores off JV, but they're not ready for the next level yet. This is the lowest numbers I've had in years."

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LUMBERTON FOOTBALL

Expectations high for Raiders this season

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

LUMBERTON — Expectations are high in Raider County this season. After several seasons playing in District 22-5A, the UIL realignment dropped Lumberton to 4A and put them in a district with schools closer to their size.

Coach Chris Babin has 27 seniors on this year's team.

"In the locker room, the expectations for success are higher," Babin said. "This senior class was a very strong freshmen class four years ago — my first year here."

He noted last season's team was underclassmen heavy.

"They have been through a lot of Friday night games," said Babin. "They came out on top a little less than they came out on the bottom, but we have really climbed the ladder in Lumberton the past few years and are in a competitive state."

This season, Lumberton was placed in District 10-4A Division 1 with Bridge City, Huffman Hargrave, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Livingston and Splendora.

He recalled the 2007 Raiders had 30 seniors and the 2008 team had 25 — both district champions while playing in 4A.

Offensively, Babin said the Raiders will use a combination of the quarterback in the shotgun formation, but also under center using one or two tight ends.

"We'll be a little more



File Photo | Silsbee Bee

Quarterback Jace Bridges (5) and running back Justin Conway are key in the Raiders' offense.

multiple," he said. "Nothing these kids have been doing for four years will change but will adapt to our personnel. We will run more dropbacks than before this year because of the quarterback."

Senior Jace Bridges (6-2, 190) returns for another season to lead the Raider offense.

"He gained some strength over the summer and the ball is really coming out of his hand," Babin said. "He's zipping it and he's mobile also."

Bridges threw for 774

yards and 10 TDs in 2017.

In the backfield, senior Justin Conway (5-8, 205) will start at running back.

"He saw action last season and got a quarter of the carries last season," Babin said. "He's a bruiser."

Also, seeing action in the backfield will be Braden Carter, whom Babin describes as a "change-of-pace" back.

"He's about a 165-pound scat back," he added.

Babin's third "change-of-pace" back is senior Mason Williams, a 6-1, 255-pounder.

"Offensively, we are a one-back offense and he can be that back," the coach noted.

Babin said the Raiders will run under center with the Wing-T formation.

"The biggest transition will be the quarterback under center. Jace hasn't been under center since middle school," Babin said.

Senior Kaleb Karr (6-0, 175) leads the receiving corps. He had 413 yards and seven TDs as a junior.

"He's hard to cover because he's so explosive," said Babin. "He has great hands."

Playing opposite Karr is senior Ty Cruze, who was moved from slot to an out-

See RAIDERS on 32C

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LUMBERTON VOLLEYBALL

Lady Raiders ready to fight for 22-4A title

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

LUMBERTON – A new classification and a new district awaited the Lumberton Lady Raiders this fall.

After several years battling Class 5A schools from Beaumont, Port Arthur and Baytown, Lumberton finds themselves fighting for a district title against schools closer to their size.

The Lady Raiders join Silsbee, Hardin-Jefferson, Bridge City, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Hamshire-Fannett and West Orange-Stark to form District 22-4A.

Coach Tara Gay, in her second season as head coach, has four seniors to build this year's squad around.

"We have four seniors who are returning varsity players, along with some sophomores and juniors," said Gay. "Once the seniors leave, we'll still have a good group of players."

Taylor Kile, a 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter, was an all-district player in 22-5A last season. The hard-hitting Kile is joined by 5-10 senior Isabelle Domigue, a middle hitter, and senior defensive specialists Hannah Hatcher and Kaitlyn Hatten.

Gay said her seniors are stronger as a group.

"The four of them with their talent, their morals and beliefs are incredible," she noted. "If they're on the bench or in the game, they are consistently getting their team up and working one-on-one with me to get the team going."

Gay said the chemistry of this year's team is "unreal."

"The kids work together well and are very encouraging to each other," Gay said. "They are friends outside of school and it shows on the court. The chemistry outside the court helps when they're playing."

Six-foot-one sophomore Brynn Baker, another outside hitter, injured her

ankle in a loss to Port Neches-Grove on Aug. 10. Gay said Baker will be out for several weeks.

Junior Kendyl Wilke, a 6-footer, is also a middle hitter.

"We try to be strong outside the net," said Gay.

Gay's Lady Raiders will operate from a 6-2 offense which uses two setters. Both of her setters – Jordan Ward and Brooke Jenkins – are sophomores.

"They are trying to learn to set at the varsity level," she said. "They both play the back row only and I will have a taller girls go in



Members of the Lady Raiders at (front row, left to right) Grace Thompson, Caitlin Hood, Brooke Jenkins, Katherine Knight and Jordan Ward; back row: Jade Moore, Kaitlyn Hatten, Kendyl Wilke, Brynn Baker, Coach Tara Gay, Taylor Kile, Isabella Domingue, Hannah Hatcher and Gracie Gully.

said Ward and Jenkins are the top two servers.

"They're both strong servers," she said.

Gay feels the Lady Raiders will have tough competition from Hardin-Jefferson for the district championship.

preseason to be easy for my kids. Because one you take that first step out of district, that is what you're going to see – those big teams."

"I need them to see them now. I need them to see those offenses and quick

sets, so they can pound of us and we can learn from that," Gay added. "They all are coming here and they're all home games."

Assisting Gay is Jennifer Spears and Rachael Scoggin.

"I love this group we

have this year. We had a lot of girls come out who love the sport," she added.

Lumberton closes out their non-district slate on Sept. 4 at home against Crosby. They open 22-4A play at Silsbee on Sept. 7.

2018 Lady Raiders Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 31	Goose Creek Memorial, 6:30 pm
Sept. 4	Crosby, 6:30 pm
Sept. 7	at Silsbee, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 11	Hardin-Jefferson, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 14	at LC-Mauriceville, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 18	Tarkington, 6:30 pm
Sept. 21	Bridge City, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 25	at West Orange-Stark, 6:30 pm*
Sept. 28	Hamshire-Fannett, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 2	Silsbee, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 5	at Hardin-Jefferson, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 9	LC-Mauriceville, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 12	OPEN
Oct. 16	at Bridge City, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 19	West Orange-Stark, 6:30 pm*
Oct. 23	at Hamshire-Fannett, 6:30 pm*

*District game

for them when we need another hitter."

The Lady Raiders will utilize a perimeter defense.

"We put our defensive players around the blocks," Gay added.

She has an abundance of defensive specialists.

"With a lot of defensive specialists, we are defensively strong," Gay said.

Juniors Katherine Knight, Gracie Gully and Jade Moore join Hatcher and Hatten as defensive specialists. Knight and Moore are newcomers this year.

Sophomore Caitlin Hood and junior Grace Thompson should also see time on the floor.

At the serving line, Gay

"I know almost every one of their kids. I've worked with them personally. They are a really good and are a very strong group," said Gay. "They have amazing chemistry and they work together well outside the team."

Gay noted that no teams can be "under estimated."

"The underdogs can always come back," she said.

Gay didn't schedule any easy opponents in the Lady Raiders' non-district schedule.

"My focus this year is that we're going to play those 5A schools," she said. "We are playing those big 5A schools such as Goose Creek, Humble and Splendora. I don't want this

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"A good coach will make his players see what they can be rather than what they are."

–Ara Parseghian

LUMBERTON DRILL

Raiderettes increase in numbers for school year

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebec.com

LUMBERTON — Stefanie Gregg will be in her second year as director of the Lumberton High School Raiderettes' drill team.

Gregg, a former member of the Lamar University Spirit Team, worked as an assistant director at Huffman Hargrave HS before coming to LHS.

"I have been dancing since I was 2 years old," Gregg said. "I grew up as a dancer at Keely Jardell's School of Dance in Nederland and then was a member of the Nederland Westernaires."

Gregg has 11 returning members and 20 new members on this year's team.

"Last year we only had 16 girls so I'm very excited about our growing numbers," she said.

This year's officers are junior Charlotte Cham-

bers, captain; senior Mariah Goode, right lieutenant; senior Elizabeth Hoffman, left lieutenant; sophomore Peyton Farrow and junior Kayla Polozola as sergeants.

Social Officers are senior Whitney Mack, president; senior Kierra Garcia, vice president; junior Curstann Nunez, historian; and junior Taylun Cullen as spirit leader.

Gregg said the The dance and social officers attended summer camp in Galveston from June 3-7 where they competed against other officer teams from around Texas.

"They also received leadership training and classes that will help them in their positions this year," she noted.

The entire team came back to a line camp held at Lumberton High School on July 16-19 led by Crowd Pleasers Dance.

"We then held a two-day new member workshop

where the top three dance officers taught the new members the ways of Raiderette Tradition," Gregg added. "After that is has been practice every day, so these girls have been dancing pretty much non-stop since July 16."

She said her teams will compete in the Spring semester at one competition in Kilgore and another competition in West Houston at Bridgeland High School.

Gregg stated the team will have a field pom, field kick, field jazz, and of course - the traditional "Raiderette Derrick Routine."

"Other than traditional Derrick music, all our music is new," she said. "We will perform to 'Cake by the Ocean, Feel it Still, and Crazy in Love.'"

Gregg noted the team started off the year by volunteering three days to help teachers in the district



The LHS Raiderettes grew from 16 members last year to 31 this season.

get their classrooms ready.

They will also host a Raiderette Clinic for young girls in the fall.

"We have been invited to perform on Sept. 8 with the world famous Kilgore College Rangerettes at a Kilgore College football game," she said. "In the spring we have two com-

petitions and our annual Spring Revue is May 4 in the LISD Performing Arts Center.

"I am so excited to work with these young ladies this year," said Gregg. "My team doubling in size was a huge project and surprise for me, but I look at it as a challenge to con-

tinue to grow such a wonderful program that is rich in tradition.

"We have a great group of ladies leading this team as officers and I can't wait to see what they can accomplish this year," she added.

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Raiders

From page 30C

side receiver.

Senior Tyler LeBlanc (5-8, 135), junior David Barthol (5-9, 165) and senior Brandon Pope (5-11, 175), a transfer from Kirbyville, will see time as receivers.

"We have more kids we want to get the ball to," he added.

On the offensive line, senior Trevor Treme (5-10, 210) is at center, with senior Armondo Rubio (5-11, 300) at right tackle, junior Hayes Chizer (6-0, 265) at right guard.

Other players who should see action on the offensive front are senior

Brett Black (6-2, 252), senior Landon Fuller (6-1, 270) and Matt Cox, who could play left tackle.

Gabe Sonnier, a 6-7, 255-pound tight end, returns to give Bridges a big target downfield.

"He's a prospective blue-chipper kid because of his height," Babin said. "He's not fast, but he can get down the field and get open."

Like last season, Karr will handle the kicking and punting chores. Adam Seller is available for kicking.

Defensively, the Raiders return eight starters from last season.

"We kind of like a 4-3 or 4-2-5 hybrid," Babin noted.

Babin said Lumberton will basically use a four-man front this season.

On the defensive front, Williams and senior Andrew House (6-2, 220) are at the starting ends, with Sonnier seeing time as an end.

Junior Waylon Drake (6-1, 220) and some of the offensive linemen will rotate on the line, while junior Champ Roach (5-9, 261) and Chizer split time at

nose guard.

"We have built some of our big bodies into athletic bodies so we feel like some of the offensive linemen can roll and give us a few plays in a series," said Babin. "We will have a lot of kids in backup roles."

Senior Zameon Hooks (6-0, 215) will start at one linebacker, junior Walter Young (6-1, 190). Pope could see action on defense.

Senior Braden Carter (5-8, 170), who started nine games at safety as a sophomore, will play as an outside linebacker.

"With someone like Braden, we have a kid who is as physical as a linebacker, but athletic and knowledgeable as a safety. There's a lot of fun stuff we can do with him," said Babin.

The Raiders' secondary has plenty of experience with LeBlanc, a three-year starter, and senior Weston Tinsley (5-8, 140), a two-year starter, at the corners; and junior Brittian Alfaro (6-2, 190), a one-year starter, at strong safety. Sophomore Clay Jenkins (5-10, 170) is at free safety.

"We got some numbers

so we can move some kids around if we need to," Babin said.

On special teams, Babin said Tinsley and LeBlanc returned kicks and punts last season, but Carter and Bartow are available for duty if needed.

The Raiders have Jasper, Kirbyville, Houston Furr, Concordia Lutheran and Silsbee on their non-district slate.

"I try to set up a non-district schedule to be challenging, but not just break our morale either," said Babin. "We'll be challenged against Jasper and Silsbee will be a better team in Week 5. Kirbyville and Furr have speed, and in playing a private school, you never know what they have."

In the new district, Babin said Livingston is the only team the Raiders have played in the past four years.

"Everything else is just speculation," he said. "Splendora is a wild card because they have been in a district as tough as we were."

The Raiders host Jasper in the season opener on Aug. 31.



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"Nothing that comes easy is worth a dime."

—Woody Hayes

LUMBERTON CHEER LHS cheerleaders have positive outlook

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebee.com

LUMBERTON — Destini Rios enters her third year as head coach of the Lumberton High School cheerleaders.

This year, Rios has a talented group of girls who will perform at pep rallies and football games.

The 23-girl cheer squad is dominated by a host of sophomores and freshmen and they will be broken up into a varsity and junior varsity group. Assisting Rios is Kayla Dubose and Syndi Howland.

Leading the varsity cheerleaders are four seniors — Kelby Beane, Kyn-dall Crooper, Kylie

Hilliard and Kaley Koch.

The lone junior on the squad is Baylee Bennett who is joined by sophomores Kelsie Campbell, Hailey Bridges, Taylor Myers, Jessica Morgan, Brooklynn Phillips and Addison Rouse.

Junior varsity cheerleaders are sophomores Kaylie Blanton, Brooklyn Brou-sard, Averie Bonner, Hai-ley Sciple and Kennedy Green. Seven freshmen on the JV team are Ashleigh Roder, Cambrie Thomas, Kaitlan Swarthout, Amber Withers, Addison Hernan-dez, Peyton Martin and Gracee Buesing.

Emily Guillory is the mascot.

Rios said the girls tried

out last March and they were selected from a try-out process with three out-side judges.

"This year's squad is a very positive one which makes practices easier and more fun," she said.

In June, the squad at-tended UCA Cheer Camp at Texas A&M University in College Station.

"We aren't planning any different types of routines but continuing on with our normal game day routines and pep rallies," said Rios.

The cheerleaders are still going to throw out t-shirts, footballs, and other trin-kets to the crowds to re-ward those who show enthusiasm and spirit.

In order to promote



LHS cheerleaders have been working hard for the upcoming school year.

school spirit, the cheer squad has "locker boys" or members of the football team that they give good-ies to before games on Fri-days.

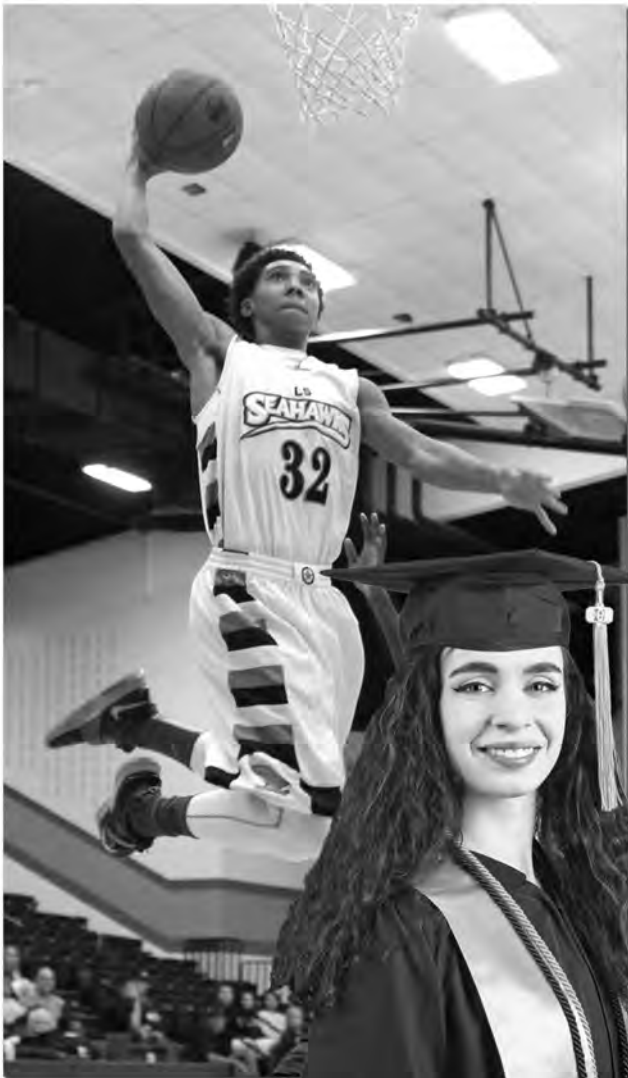
Every year the cheer-leaders put on a perform-ance to the same track as a remembrance for 9/11 and the lives lost that day. The performance caused some

controversy several years back, but they have yet to let it affect their decision to perform, and this year is no exception.

They have performed the routine for approxi-mately over a decade now

See LHS on 34C

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LUMBERTON BAND

Record numbers in Mighty Raider Band

By Dannie Oliveaux
editor@silsbeebee.com

LUMBERTON — Lumberton High School band director Tim Pallone is excited about the upcoming year with his Mighty Raiders Band.

"This year we have 197 students that includes the winds and color guard," said Pallone, who is in his sixth year at LHS. "It's the largest band we've ever had. We are very proud of it."

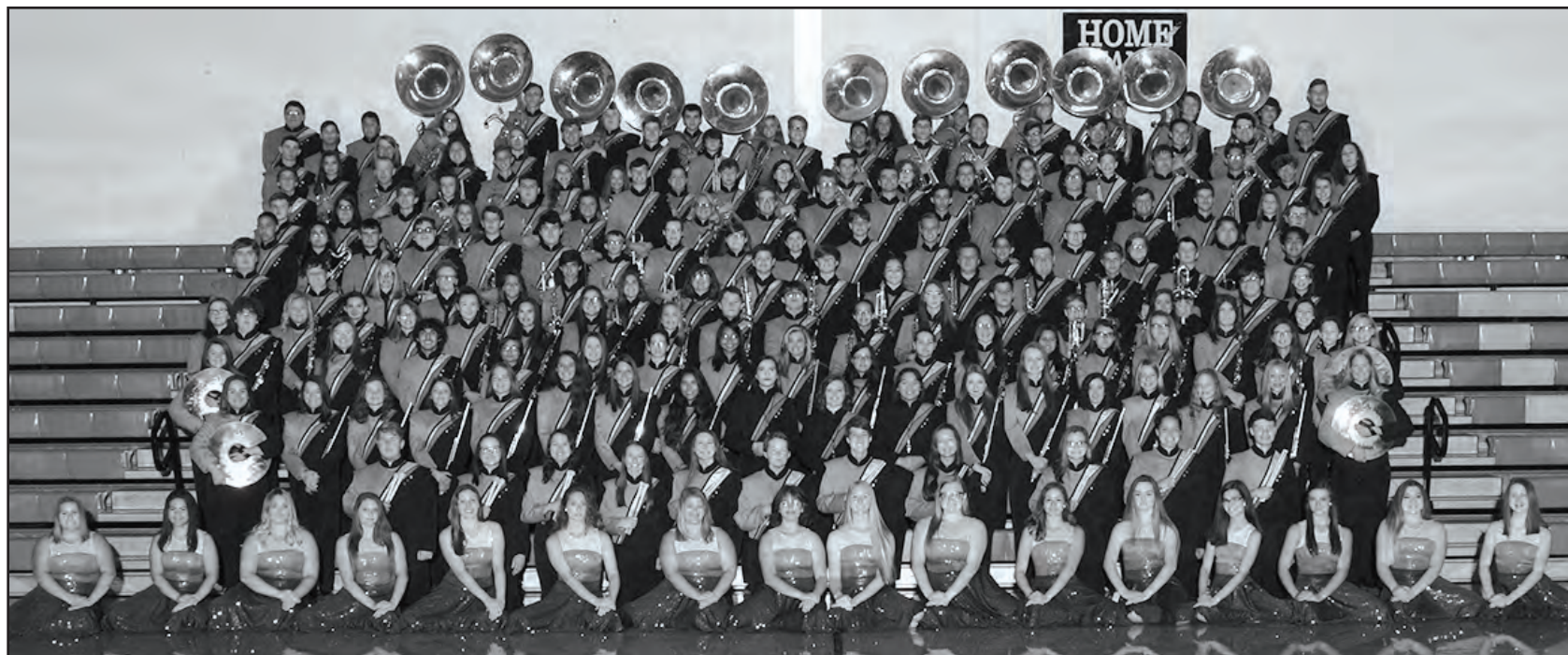
This year, Pallone said things are going well for his program, but not just at LHS.

"Things have been going well for some time at the sixth grade and middle school programs and we are reaping the benefit of doing a lot of recruiting and retaining, and making sure the kids have a positive experience along the way," he noted.

This year, the band's theme is "A Dream Within A Dream" which was based off the Edgar Allen Poe poem by the same title.

"The music in it, basically the theme and some of the color guard uniforms, the lines and the props we have and the music is all geared towards the ideal of dreaming," Pallone explained. "The very beginning of the show is like a bad dream and it goes into a nice dream at the end."

Pallone said each year at



The 2018-19 LHS Mighty Raiders Marching Band is the largest in school history.

the conclusion of marching season, he and his staff start throwing around ideas.

"The band directors and color guard directors will get into one room for a 'brain-storming session' and it usually starts with the getting a piece of music or a couple of pieces of music," he said. "It goes from there with adding more to it. Then we start doing visuals and theme editions. It is definitely a work of art."

He said the show is in five parts.

"We're looking to do the first and second part at the first football game, and then as the season goes on, do three, four and five," Pallone noted. "It's pretty

standard for bands in our area."

He said his students work hard to perform the halftime show, but also for UIL contest in October.

He's using three drum majors this season. Senior Anna Kate Brown is the head drum major. Junior Layla Miller-Morgan and sophomore Hannah Mason are the other two drum majors.

Pallone said the students' leadership is "outstanding."

"The group of drum majors we have this year may be the best leadership group we've had in my six years here," he added.

Aside from drum majors, the band also includes a full student

leadership team. It consists of captains of the different musical instrument sections, then section leaders inside the group.

"The student leaders are an extension of the director," said Pallone. "Instead of the directors teaching all 197 kids, we teach the student leaders how to teach."

Other directors are Amber Zuech, Addison Weaver, Kelly Barker and Hannah Gray.

The band's color guard will consist of 15 members.

He said LHS will go to Galena Park for a marching festival in preparation for the UIL contest.

The region contest is Oct. 20 at Port Neches-

Grove HS, then if they advance they will head to Longview HS for area contest.

From area, 10 bands advance to the state competition at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Last year in 5A, the band advanced to state and placed 30th out of 255 bands.

They were first division at regionals and third out of 36 bands at area.

"It was the second time a LHS band went to state since 1981," said Pallone.

As usual, the band will also perform in the LHS Homecoming Parade and Lumberton Christmas Parade this year. But this year they will also be part of the Lamar University

homecoming parade in September.

Pallone noted the band will also perform at a Lamar football game this season.

There are no long band trips planned for this school year.

He said the band supporters are "tremendous."

"Not just on a weekly basis, but a daily basis. They are second to none," said Pallone. "They genuinely work so hard, not just for their own kids but every single one of the kids."

Pallone said the band is also planning some fundraising events this spring.

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LHS

From page 33C

and will continue to do so.

Aside their normal cheer duties, the squad will perform at the state UIL com-

petition as a Class 4A school, UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) regional competition, and UCA National competition set in February at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Rios brings a ton of experience to the cheer

squad. She was a cheerleader at Lumberton Middle School for two years, and was also on the cheerleader at Lumberton High School for four years.

She spent three years in coed cheer at Lamar University where she was a head cheerleader.

After college, Rios was an assistant cheer coach at Lamar for a year and she has worked as a summer instructor for UCA.



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- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Reagan Koch | 20 Tyler LeBlanc | 48 Sage Jones |
| 3 Clay Jenkins | 21 Grant Richardson | 49 Andrew House |
| 4 Kyler Scarborough | 22 Walter Young | 58 Trevor Treme |
| 5 Jace Bridges | 23 Mason Williams | 62 Brett Black |
| 6 Brittian Alfaro | 24 Brandon Pope | 63 Landon Fuller |
| 7 Justin Conway | 25 Weston Tinsley | 64 Hayes Chizer |
| 8 Adam Sellers | 26 Cade Danna | 65 Waylon Drake |
| 9 Braden Carter | 27 Zach Kennon | 66 Austin Glover |
| 10 Kaleb Carr | 28 Skyler Hussey | 68 Tyler Hendrix |
| 11 Ty Cruze | 30 Karl Thomas | 72 Carter Gonzales |
| 12 Drake Boykin | 33 Jason Coffey | 75 Sean Burton |
| 14 Seth Coker | 35 Dylan Yancy | 76 Armondo Rubio |
| 15 Anthony Beasley | 40 Ryan Rhodes | 77 Champ Roach |
| 16 Cullen Shannon | 42 Zameon Hooks | 80 Gabe Sonnier |
| 18 David Barthol | 45 Dawson Taliaferro | 81 NolanYarbro |



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Silsbee Tigers

District 10-4A Division 2

Aug. 31 - at PNG
Sept. 7 - at Newton
Sept. 14 - Nederland (Youth Night)
Sept. 21 - at Bridge City
Sept. 28 - Lumberton**
(Homecoming)
Oct. 5 - at Longview Spring Hill
Oct. 12 - at WOS*
Oct. 19-Hardin-Jefferson*
(Pink Out)
Oct. 26 - at Liberty*
Nov. 2-Hamshire-Fannett*
(Senior Night)
Nov. 9 - OPEN

Lumberton Raiders

District 11-4A Division 1

Aug. 31 - Jasper
Sept. 7 - Kirbyville
Sept. 15 - at Houston Furr
Sept. 21 - at Tomball
Concordia Lutheran
Sept. 28 - at Silsbee
Oct. 5 - OPEN
Oct. 12 - Huffman Hargrave *
(Pink Out)
Oct. 19 - Livingston**
(Homecoming)
Oct. 26 - at Bridge City*
Nov. 2 - Splendora* (Senior Night)
Nov. 9 - at LCM*

Hardin Jefferson Hawks

District 10-4A Division 2

Aug. 31 - Coldspring-Oakhurst
Sept. 7 - East Chambers
Sept. 14 - at Woodville
Sept. 21 - at Huffman Hargrave
Sept. 28 - LCM
Oct. 5 - Tarkington
Oct. 12 - Hamshire-Fannett**
(Homecoming)
Oct. 19 - at Silsbee*
Oct. 26 - WOS*
Nov. 2 - OPEN
Nov. 9 - at Liberty*

Kountze Lions

District 12-3A Division 2

Aug. 31 - East Chambers*
Sept. 7 - at Hamshire-Fannett*
Sept. 14 - at Deweyville*
Sept. 21 - Bmt. Kelly Catholic
Sept. 28 - Hull-Daisetta**
(Homecoming)
Oct. 5 - OPEN
Oct. 12 - Newton*
Oct. 19 - at Corrigan-Camden*
Oct. 26 - Hemphill*
Nov. 2 - at Anderson-Shiro*
Nov. 9 - at New Waverly*

Evadale Rebels

District 12-2A Division 2

Aug. 31 - at Houston Northland
Christian
Sept. 7 - Warren
Sept. 14 - Galveston O'Connell
Sept. 21 - at Deweyville
Sept. 28 - at Grapeland*
Oct. 5 - West Hardin*
Oct. 12 - at Sabine Pass*
Oct. 19 - OPEN
Oct. 26 - Burkeville** (Homecoming)
Nov. 2 - at Colmesneil*
Nov. 9 - Lovelady* (Senior Night)

West Hardin Oilers

District 12-2A Division 2

Aug. 31 - Acadiana Christian
Sept. 7 - at Hull-Daisetta
Sept. 14 - at Warren
Sept. 21 - Fred Good Samaritan
Sept. 28 - Sabine Pass
Oct. 5 - at Evadale*
Oct. 12 - Burkeville*
Oct. 19 - at Colmesneil*
Oct. 26 - Lovelady*
Nov. 2 - at Grapeland*
Nov. 9 - OPEN

* District Games

** Homecoming

Good Luck High School Football Teams

Schedules Sponsored By



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