

# FALL SPORTS *preview*



**Baldwin County Tigers**  
**Bayshore Christian Eagles**  
**Bayside Academy Admirals**  
**Central Christian Saints**  
**Coastal Community College Sun Chiefs**  
**Daphne Trojans ~ Elberta Warriors**  
**Fairhope Pirates ~ Foley Lions**  
**Gulf Shores Dolphins ~ Orange Beach Makos**  
**Robertsdale Golden Bears**  
**Snook Christian Eagles ~ Spanish Fort Toros**  
**St. Michael Catholic Cardinals**

# BALDWIN COUNTY TIGERS

## 2020 BALDWIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Mary G. Montgomery	HOME
Aug. 28	Open	
Sept. 4	Blount	HOME
Sept. 11	Saraland	AWAY
Sept. 18	Spanish Fort	AWAY
Sept. 25	Foley	AWAY
Oct. 2	McGill-Toolen (Mobile)	AWAY
Oct. 9	Citronelle	HOME
Oct. 16	Gulf Shores	HOME
Oct. 23	Robertsdale	AWAY
Oct. 30	LeFlore	HOME



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# BALDWIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS



## Rials takes the reins for the Tigers

Veteran head coach to lead BCHS back into consistent playoff contender

By **MICHAEL HANICH**  
For GCM Sports

BAY MINETTE — Every team in Alabama is making serious adjustments and improvements to their football teams for the 2020 season. The Baldwin County High School Tigers are among the teams that looked to turn their negative season last year into a positive step forward. With this new season under new leadership from head coach Scott Rials, the Tigers are hoping to make that first step toward being consistent regional title



SUBMITTED BY TINA COVINGTON

### Coach Scott Rials

contenders once again. Last season, the Tigers ended their season with a 4-6 overall record that included a 3-5 in regional run. They started their first seven games of the season with a 1-6 record that included a five-game losing streak to the top teams in Class 6A, Re-

gion 1. They finished their season with wins over Robertsdale, B.C. Rain Charles Henderson.

Former Tigers' head coach Nathan McDaniel left the Tigers during the offseason earlier this year to take the same job for the Elberta Warriors. Baldwin County High

School wanted to find a high-caliber head coach to match the potential of their fellow regional opponents. The Tigers hired Rials to lead them back into a consistent playoff push.

Coach Rials has established a vast amount of successful experience with multiple programs and their pursuit in the playoffs. He has accounted for an overall record of 171-84 that includes a 20-16 record in the playoffs from four different schools. Rials spent his first six seasons as a head coach with South Academy in Montgomery from 1998 to 2003.

At Elba High School, Rials created a program that in-time turned from below average to a championship winning program. In 2011, the Tigers went to the Class

2A State Championship and beat the Tanner Rattlers with a 34-14 score. After nine seasons at Elba High School, Rials became the head coach of the Satsuma Gators in 2013. After two seasons at Satsuma, Rials became the head coach of the Luverne Tigers in 2015 where he turned them into state championship title contenders. In 2018, the Tigers made it to the 2A State Championship before losing to the Fyffe Red Devils 21-19.

Coach Rials now has been given the role to create some momentum for a complete turnaround with the Tigers. Last season, the Tigers averaged 24.3 points per game while allowing an average of 24.6 points per game. They will need to become more efficient on both sides

of the ball. Baldwin County has several star players returning to the team including junior wide receiver Tiaquelin Mims, senior cornerback Jordan Davis, junior outside linebacker Darius Woodard and junior outside linebacker Hunter Thomas.

It will take time for coach Rials to develop the Tigers into a program that can compete as one of the most reliable playoffs contenders in Class 6A, Region 1 competition. Developing that chemistry with the players and the new coaches on the field is the first step for the Tigers. They should be able to find themselves in the middle of the pack against less developed teams when the season kicks on August 21 at home against the Mary G. Montgomery Vikings.

## Baldwin County Tigers ready for the season

By **TINA COVINGTON**

BAY MINETTE — Coach Scott Rials came to Baldwin County High School in the spring, just as Covid-19 was forcing the closure of schools for the season. Since then he has spent his time building a team and coaching staff in anticipation of this Friday night's season opener.

"First and foremost, we are excited to play. Due to Covid, we did not get started until June but we are progressing and getting better," Rials said.

Like everyone else, the Tigers had to take precautions before every practice to ensure the health and safety of players and coaches. Coach said the players are quick to adapt to the new protocols but now that it's time for the first game, the Tigers are ready.

"It was way different than our usual workouts so we are just ready to get started. The team is excited," Rials said. "The whole off-season, from March on, has been different and we have had to adapt and deal with it. Once we get started and get the games going, it's football.

There is huge excitement."

Along with practices, the lead-up to the games will also be different so the team has to really stay focused on the prize. "With not getting to have a pep rally Friday and a lot of things that usually build up to the game, we are going to have to do some self-motivation instead," Rials said.

Sophomore Ryderius Brown will be the starting quarterback, Rials said, adding that both sides of the ball will have some big players. "Our defensive line has a chance to be really special, we have a lot of speed there and our guys are really running to the ball," he said. "Our offensive line, we are young up front on the O-line and our receiving corps is really good."

The team has really come together in this unusual time and Rials said he expects that to continue. "We have got a good group, everyone is working hard and getting better. We are keeping our noses to the grindstone and doing everything over and over to get to where we need to be."

Coach Rials said his staff has also gelled



SUBMITTED BY TINA COVINGTON

over the summer with some returners and newcomers. He will be assisted by Ryne Rials as Offensive Coordinator/QB Coach; Mark Heaton as Receivers Coach; Brandon Hill, Offensive Line; Destin Harris, RB/Kickers; Mike Dean, Defensive Coordinator/DL; Kyle Hunter and Cody Alldredge, secondary; Joiner Stewart, Defensive Line.

"We have got a good bunch of hard workers, dedicated coaches. It's unbelievable how much time they have spent

here, but it comes with the territory," he said. The returning coaches have been invaluable and helped acclimate the new staff members, introducing them to the players. "This staff is really an awesome group of men. Everyone has gelled together and worked together really well. We will continue to work and learn and grow together as a staff and hopefully that will go down to the team and we can also work and learn together and grow together."

The coach said he is "honored and privileged to be a Baldwin County Tiger. It's been a blessing to be here and everyone has been so welcoming ... It feels like home and that is what you want, to go to a place where everyone makes you feel welcome. We are blessed to have that happen."

Once the risk of Covid-19 fades away, he said he's looking forward to meeting even more community members, Boosters and business owners. In the meantime, he encourages everyone

to support the Tigers in person or in spirit.

Coach Rials hopes all who can attend will attend Friday night's games to help kick-off the season with some good ole Tiger pride. He said he's really looking forward to the season opener against Mary G. Montgomery. "I know we have limited seating but we want to fill up our side as best we can and support our Baldwin County Tigers. These kids have worked extra hard and we are fired up and ready to play."

  
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## 2020 BAYSIDE ACADEMY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Escambia County (Atmore)	AWAY
Aug. 28	Houston Academy (Dothan)	AWAY
Sept. 4	Excel	AWAY
Sept. 11	Hillcrest-Evergreen	HOME
Sept. 18	T.R. Miller (Brewton)	AWAY
Sept. 25	B.C. Rain	HOME
Oct. 2	Flomaton	HOME
Oct. 9	Cottage Hill Christian (Mobile)	AWAY
Oct. 16	Chickasaw	HOME
Oct. 23	Open	
Oct. 30	Elberta	HOME



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# BAYSIDE ACADEMY ADMIRALS



## Bayside Academy plans a deeper playoff run with solid, experienced core

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

**DAPHNE** — Bayside head coach Phil Lazenby expects to return to the Class 3A playoffs again this year, but hopes to do it less dramatically. The Admirals got off to a tough start in 2019, but then ran the table to go 4-2 in Class 3A, Region 1 play and qualify for a playoff spot. They start off at Escambia County, at Houston Academy and at Excel before their first home game with Hillcrest of Evergreen.

“We’re not very big, but we are going to have some experience in some key positions this year,” Lazenby said. “We have some good speed. Young in a few spots but have a lot of guys who played a lot last year. We have a really good kicker this year, Joey Jones is just a sophomore but is ready



**Connor Smith makes a pass in action for Bayside.**

PHOTO BY TONY WHITEHEAD

to take over. Jack Smith did a great job for us last year but he graduated. We still have a good bit of experience, especially on

the offense line.” Lazenby said one of the team’s overall strength is the experience of his coaching staff.

“Whatever we do, we do it all together as a team. I have five former head coaches leading on offense and defense and

great support on and off the field. We’re blessed with this kind of the talent and having them on the sidelines with me.

I always want to know what they think.”

He said the competition in 3A Region 1 is tough every year and 2020 looks like no exception.

“We had to beat some really good teams last year just to make the playoffs because we gotten off to a bad start, but we came back and got a spot in the playoffs. Couldn’t have done it without their hard work and efforts. This year we should get better as we go into the season again. Our region is always tough and going to be tough this year as well.”

Lazenby, was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame earlier this year for major contributors to prep athletics in Alabama.

For more on his induction visit [AHSAA.com/HallofFame](http://AHSAA.com/HallofFame).

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# 2020

# DAPHNE



# TROJANS



## 2020

### DAPHNE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Lee (Montgomery)	HOME
Aug. 27	Davidson (Mobile)	AWAY
Sept. 4	Fairhope	HOME
Sept. 11	Theodore	AWAY
Sept. 18	Foley	HOME
Sept. 25	Open	
Oct. 2	Alma Bryant (Irvington)	AWAY
Oct. 9	Mary G. Montgomery	HOME
Oct. 15	Murphy (Mobile)	AWAY
Oct. 23	Baker	HOME
Oct. 30	Spanish Fort	AWAY



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# LET'S GO TROJANS!

# DAPHNE HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS



## Trojans ready to adjust to new level of competition

By **MICHAEL HANICH**  
For GCM Sports

Outside of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been several major changes in the sport of high school football. The Daphne Trojans find themselves again having to adjust to their new competitive class in the 7A class. This comes at a crucial time for the Trojans as they are looking to account for their first winning season in three years.

Kenny King is entering his fifth season as head coach of the Trojans. In the previous four seasons, the Trojans accounted for an overall of 27-17 including a 23-9 record versus 6A region one opponent. Last season, the Trojans missed out on the state playoffs for the first time since 1997.

The Trojans have accounted for a 10-11 overall record in the past two seasons. Last season, the Trojans won



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HANICH

**Daphne's William Powell (30) and Johnnie Powell (95) sandwich a Gulf Shores runner.**

six games on the field but they were stripped of their 35-7 home victory over the Spanish Fort Toros by playing an ineligible player. The Trojans started the 2019 season with a 1-4 but were able to find themselves in the middle of the 6A region one after a 53-42 victory over the St. Paul Saints.

The offense for the Trojans looks to remain as one of the most efficient and explosive offenses in Baldwin County. Last season, the Trojans averaged 36.3 points per game as well as scored at least 35 points scored in seven games this past season. They will be led once again by their star dual-

threat quarterback in three-star prospect in Trent Battle. Currently committed to play for the TCU Horned Frogs, Battle is one of the most dangerous and efficient quarterbacks in the state of Alabama in the RPO game. He can beat

defenses through the passing game and with his legs.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Trojans have some work to do to bring back some efficiency after losing key defenders like outside linebacker Hamilton Baker. This past season, the Trojans allowed an average of 22.7 points per game. There will be plenty of impact defenders to step up this season. Senior cornerback Midnight Steward will be able to step up as the player some of the most experience with the team and in the coverage schemes.

This season will be tough to judge the Trojans on with their new set of opponents they will have to face. They will face one of their oldest rivals in the Fairhope Pirates around the third week of the season. The Trojans

have beaten the Pirates 23 times in their 31 total games. The Trojans are on a three-game losing streak versus the Pirates, however, as they look to take back the series. Daphne will face the Foley Lions for the first time since 2013 as fellow regional opponents. The Trojans will conclude the season with a cross-town rival in the Spanish Fort Torso.

For the Trojans to get back into the state playoffs, they will need to reload on the defensive side of the ball. The team, especially on the offensive side of the ball, will dependent on Battle as his tremendous talent and leader will be the driving force to a potential playoff run. Battle looks to one of the more prestigious offensive players in program history since running back T.J. Yeldon.

## Trojans move up to Class 7A, looking forward to the competition

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

**DAPHNE** — Daphne High opens their 2020 football season with Class 6A Lee (Montgomery) then prepares for their first region campaign as a new member in Class 7A. Their first Region 1 game in the largest state classification is at Ladd-Peebles Stadium with Davidson on Aug. 27.

Daphne head coach Kenny King is looking forward to the challenge of playing in the large-school pool, even though Daphne is one of the smaller student bodies in the mix.

"I'm excited. We're all excited," he said. "It's going to be fun. Daphne High School has always been at or near the top of 6A for so long. But, we knew this day was coming and really looking forward to competing with the bigger schools. I think we will do pretty well. I know we don't have as big a roster as some 7A programs out there have. So, it will be tough, but we have a fighting spirit

that won't quit and we will always fight to the end. But I do think we will be competitive this year."

King said the pre-season preparations have gone well in spite of the difficulties associated with COVID-19 awareness and mandated protocols.

"I feel like our guys have stayed focused and not getting too caught up in all the distractions. With all that's going on in the world right now, we are still bonding together as a team. And that is very important every year and this year is no different in that respect.

"But, it's definitely a learning experience for us all. In a way the situation has made that unity of purpose and that team bonding even stronger. And it's bringing us together even more than what we're used to. So, right now we are focused on sticking together and looking out for each other. And that's fundamental."

He added that as a Daphne High alumnus and athlete, he sees the

growth in the student body as a positive reflection on his hometown.

"I'm excited for the community of Daphne to be growing like it is," he said. "And that's a good sign that more people are choosing to live here. It's my hometown as well and Daphne High is my alma mater, so I think it's a positive thing and we appreciate everything that the city and city council does."

In the meantime before the first game, he said he and his staff as well as the administration is focused on keeping the players safe and following the guidelines from the state athletic association, the state and county health department.

"We want to do all that we can to make sure everybody at Daphne High School stays safe during this time," he said. "We know in football, you can expect adversity to show up. And there will be a storm of some kind every season. This year really is looking more challenging, but we will do our best to get through."

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## 2020 ELBERTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Gulf Shores	AWAY
Aug. 28	Robertsdale	HOME
Sept. 4	Faith Academy (Mobile)	AWAY
Sept. 11	Satsuma	HOME
Sept. 18	B.C. Rain	HOME
Sept. 25	St. Michael Catholic	HOME
Oct. 2	Open	
Oct. 9	LeFlore (Mobile)	AWAY
Oct. 16	St. Paul's Episcopal (Mobile)	HOME
Oct. 23	UMS Wright (Mobile)	AWAY
Oct. 30	Bayside Academy	AWAY



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# ELBERTA HIGH SCHOOL WARRIORS



## Warriors move up to Class 5A, welcome new head coach Nathan McDaniel

EHS opens at neighboring rival Gulf Shores

By **MICHAEL HANICH**  
For GCM Sports

ELBERTA — The feel for the sport of football is real for most teams in the state of Alabama despite the presence of the pandemic of COVID-19. For the Elberta Warriors, they are entering into their third season as a football program. This will be the first season that the Warriors are playing for a legitimate regional title as they are in the 5A class.

The Warriors have made serious strides to



FILE PHOTO

Coach Nathan McDaniel

account for wins this season as they have

hired former Baldwin County High School Ti-

gers head coach Nathan McDaniel for the same position. Elberta decided to move on from their first-ever head coach Greg Seibert after the end of last season.

The Warriors accounted for a 3-4 record this last year as they still competed in independent play. The Warriors won their first game of the season against Pleasant Home before suffering a three-game losing streak. They ended the season with two wins over at McIntosh and St. Luke's Episcopal before losing their last game of the season against St. Michael Catholic.

The point differential of the three wins and four losses was up and

down for the Warriors last season. They had three losses under 10 points, but they also had a 40-point loss to Millry earlier in the season. Their three wins were by a differential of 20 (Pleasant Home), 36 (McIntosh), and 15 points (St. Luke's Episcopa School). The Warriors averaged 24.9 points per game and allowed an average of 23.3 points per game.

McDaniel took the head coaching job for Elberta after spending the past six seasons with Baldwin County High School. In those six seasons, McDaniel accounted for a 31-29 overall record including a 22-26 record in Class 6A, Region one play — one

of the most competitive regions in the state.

McDaniel will coach against less dominant teams in the 5A class as they will play B.C Rain, Faith Academy, and Satsuma. But they will also have to face LeFlore High, St. Paul's Episcopal and UMS-Wright in regional play.

This season will be the first the Warriors will face off against these teams. Elberta will also play against in-county neighbors: the Gulf Shores Dolphins, the Robertsdale Golden Bears and the St. Michael Cardinals. The Warriors are looking to win their first game against the Cardinals in three games so far.

# FAIRHOPE HIGH SCHOOL PIRATES



## Pirates return with depth, experience for another 7A playoff run

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

FAIRHOPE — The Pirates open 2020 with a home stand against Eastern Shore rival Spanish Fort on Thursday, Aug. 20. They return a number of upper-class varsity veterans.

“Spanish Fort is going to be a very tough team to open with, very challenging,” said Fairhope head coach Tim Carter. “They are returning a lot of players from a team that played for the state championship last year. So, they will have a lot of experience and a very senior-laden roster. They have a winning tradition and great pride in that. So, we have a big challenge ahead, but we’re excited and know that it’s also a game that will make us better. And, improving as we go is very important.”

The Pirates will have several skill-positions filled with significant experience. Senior quarterback Riley Leonard has a proven record of ball handling as a runner and passer. He was

recently highlighted by Sports Illustrated for the high school players watch list for the 2020 Sports Illustrated All-American Football Team.

“I think we are going to be in good shape because of our experience all around on both sides of the ball despite all that’s been going on. But, we are evaluating as we go and should have the right mix of new guys and returning players. We’ve had some good preparation despite what’s going on,” Carter said about the disruption to spring and preseason routines. “We missed getting the spring ball in of course and the chance to get a better look at the younger guys. And that’s tough. But we have also noticed a gap between our new kids and our older kids that you don’t usually see because of missing their spring. So, there was a catch-up factor, but we’re making it work.”

He said missing the 7-on-7 competitions also factored into overall preparation. But also



PHOTO BY TONY WHITEHEAD

allowed more time teaching the game.

“Because all the 7-on-7 competitions were cancelled earlier this summer, we had more time to basically teach football from more of a classroom approach on how to get ready for a game. So yes, it’s been a challenge, but we still made progress. I think in a way, it helped the guys get a better grasp or understanding of why we do what we do.”

In dealing with the possible unknowns still ahead, he said every

team is facing the same challenges.

“Truth is I have no idea exactly how we will play once we start this season, it’s different. But everybody else is in the same boat and we’ll work it out. I think everybody will learn a lot from the first game and how to go forward from there.

“Everyone will have to wear a mask, I know the city is putting up all the signs with rules about distancing and the risks that they are taking. So, there is a risk, but I think it can be done

safely. I think the kids need this. Not just the players but all the students as well as the band and the cheerleaders.

“Friday night football is a special experience for all the kids and we all hate to see them miss it. I expect that we will all learn a lot from the first game and we will see adjustments by the time we play the second game. And we’ll see a lot of improvement between game one and game two.”

With neighboring Daphne moving up to

Class 7A, the Pirates and Trojans meet this year as region foes again. They will also be competing for more than the annual Jubilee Cup which the winner is awarded. This year Region 1 playoff position will also be on the line.

“Our kids love that game and playing against our next-door neighbor. So, I think it will be an emotional game as much as ever for both sides whether the playoffs are in play or not. It will always be a big game for both sides.”

# FAIRHOPE PIRATES

## 2020



### 2020 FAIRHOPE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 20	Spanish Fort	HOME
Aug. 28	Andalusia	AWAY
Sept. 4	Daphne	AWAY
Sept. 11	Foley	AWAY
Sept. 18	Davidson	HOME
Sept. 25	Open	
Oct. 2	Mary G. Montgomery	AWAY
Oct. 9	Theodore	HOME
Oct. 16	Baker (Mobile)	AWAY
Oct. 23	Alma Bryant	HOME
Oct. 29	Murphy	HOME

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# F OLEY

## Lions



### 2020 FOLEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Robertsdale	AWAY
Aug. 28	Murphy	HOME
Sept. 4	Baker (Mobile)	AWAY
Sept. 11	Fairhope	HOME
Sept. 18	Daphne	AWAY
Sept. 25	Baldwin County	HOME
Oct. 2	Open	
Oct. 8	Davidson (Mobile)	AWAY
Oct. 16	Mary G. Montgomery	AWAY
Oct. 23	Theodore	HOME
Oct. 30	Alma Bryant	HOME

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# TRONIX

# FOLEY HIGH SCHOOL LIONS



## Lions look to turn out a successful season under new head coach Deric Scott

By **MICHAEL HANICH**  
For GCM Sports

The Foley Lions have instituted some significant changes during the offseason with the first being the hiring of Vigor Wolves head coach Deric Scott.

It is difficult for a head coach to take over the preparation for the 2020 season in the middle of a pandemic. It is even more difficult for a new head football coach to establish a culture change and prepare for a tough 2020 season while the pandemic of COVID-19 is still existing. Coach Scott is embracing the challenge as the Lions are training certain position drills and workouts on the field for the 2020 season.

"It's been a very daunting task," Scott said. "It's

*'It's been really good to get out there and put our attention on the kids, evaluating with our guys and where we are at.'*

**DERIC SCOTT**, Foley Head Coach

been overwhelming for us during this time, but we're working through it. And, we haven't really gotten the chance to get to the point of learning the schemes. We have some time to get that process worked out, but we also don't have as much as we thought we would. So, we've got to get to work."

This is the first time that the Foley coaches have trained and evaluated their players in

on-the-field workouts and position drills. When asked about the preparation of getting his players back on the field, coach Scott said,

"It's been really good to get out there and put our attention on the kids, evaluating with our guys and where we are at."

In the midst of conditioning drills, the Lions are also working position-specific drills that are getting the players used to their role and



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HANICH

movements. Team periods are also established this early in the summer workouts because of their spring football training being canceled by COVID-19.

The workouts can be grueling on a player especially being the first real set of football workouts since early March. When asked about the health

and safety of the player, coach Scott had an established plan.

"To address the precautions we are taking, we are doing temperature checks on players every morning. We are doing all the things that CDC and the county told us to do from a protection stand-point. From the weather stand point,

we are trying to make sure we are taking care of their bodies, getting plenty of fluids in them before and after practice, trying to provide some type of snack for energy."

The Lions are looking to produce their first winning season since the 2015 season when they went 6-5.

# GO LIONS!



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# 2020 GULF SHORES DOLPHINS



## 2020 GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Elberta	HOME
Aug. 28	Brookwood	AWAY
Sept. 4	Spanish Fort	AWAY
Sept. 11	McGill-Toolen	HOME
Sept. 18	Robertsdale	HOME
Sept. 25	Open	
Oct. 2	Citronelle	HOME
Oct. 8	Saraland	HOME
Oct. 16	Baldwin County	AWAY
Oct. 22	Blount	AWAY
Oct. 30	Satsuma	AWAY

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GO DOLPHINS



# GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL DOLPHINS



## Dolphins hope to recapture winning ways in 2020

By MICHAEL HANICH  
For GCM Sports

**GULF SHORES** — Through the many realignments in the athletic classes, the Gulf Shores Dolphins are one of the few teams that held their own. The Dolphins have endured six straight losing seasons dating back to the 2014 season in the last season with Ben Blackmon (now at Spanish Fort) as head coach. His former assistant, now head coach Matt Blake is looking to bring that winning season back at Gulf Shores.

Blake is entering his fourth season as head coach of the Gulf Shores Dolphins football program and feels the pressure to win. He also feels the excitement and urgency of the players and coaches to win.

In the previous three seasons as head coach, Blake has accumulated



a 5-25 record including a 3-21 record in region play. Blake took over a program that only won one game from 2015 to 2016.

This past season, the Dolphins finished with a 1-9 record (0-8 in 6A play) that included some heartbreaking losses. Offensively, the Dolphins know they must improve with productivity as they averaged 10.7 points per game.

On the defense side of the ball, the Dolphins allow an average of 37.1 points allowed per game. “In terms of full-time

starters, we are returning six on offense and six on defense,” Blake said after one of their practices earlier this month.

Defensively, the Dolphins will be led by senior middle linebacker Bobby Williams and sophomore safety J.R. Gardner. Preseason practice settings for most teams, including the Dolphins, got under way in the first week of August.

They are preparing for a football season while also being careful of the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. Teams are



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HANICH

being more careful and safer on how they prepare in a contact sport.

When asked about the transition to training camps while in the pandemic, Blake said “It’s been pretty simple for us because we’ve been in the same process all summer long as far as masks. We wear masks anytime we are outside, masks anytime we are in the weight room, masks anytime we cannot maintain that social distancing.

There is no real social

distancing when you are teaching form tackling, you’re teaching blocking, things of that nature. We have been doing a little bit more than normal, just trying to be extra careful. Trying to make sure we can get to the season.”

The schedule for the Dolphins includes four teams that suffered losing records this past season. The Dolphins start off the season at home against the Elberta Warriors, who are entering their third season as a

program. They have a chance to start off the season with a 3-2 record with two tough back-to-back games against Spanish Fort and McGill-Toolen (now as a 6A team).

The Dolphins have a chance to get a 4-6 record, potentially a 5-5 record. This would be the best record that the Dolphins would account for since 2013 when they were 8-3. Blake was on the team as an offensive assistant and assistant running backs coach.

# ORANGE BEACH HIGH SCHOOL MAKOS



## Makos continue to grow toward full varsity future with each season

By MICHAEL HANICH  
For GCM Sports

All football teams in the state of Alabama are entering into the 2020 season with uncertainty and many new boundaries. Most new football programs must adapt to a new set of rules and guidelines more than other programs. For the Orange Beach Makos,

they are continuing their initiation as a football program that includes the preparation and guidelines for COVID-19.

Last season, the Makos played their first-ever season as a program with middle school and ninth grade teams. These are players that have been training for years with athletic

programs with the city of Orange Beach. The coaches for the team of a vast amount of experiences with other programs including their head coach in Chase Smith. Coach Smith was a former South Alabama Jaguars assistant from 2011 to 2017 for multiple different positions. He was formerly the head coach of the Robertsdale Golden Bears football program in 2018.

Smith was hired to help start the program and build it into a team that could compete against other older programs. The Makos are entering their second season in existence as a football program and their first playing as a junior varsity program. Orange Beach will play this season and next year’s 2021 season as a junior varsity program. They will start varsity play in the 2022 season.

They will be competing in a 2A class region one matchups that include at Leroy, at Clarke



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HANICH

County, at Washington County, against J.U. Blacksher, and against St. Lukes. Their non-regional matchups include J.F. Shields, Fruitdale, Red Level, and Verbena. The Makos will play seven home games and three games in a junior varsity setting.

The Makos’ offense will be led by freshman running back Tucker

West, freshman wide receiver Grant Bilbo, and eighth-grade quarterback Caden McGatha. Orange Beach runs a spread-RPO offense due to the numerous athletes that make an impact in extending drives and put points on the board. On the defensive side of the ball, the Makos have a ton of talent that made a significant impact this

past season. The Makos’ defense will return ninth grade defensive end Cole McGatha and ninth grade defensive tackle Gunner McNeely.

As the program grows, the demand of the team and the expectations will also expand especially when the Makos play varsity football in the next two seasons.





# MAKOS



## 2020 ORANGE BEACH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	J.F. Shields	HOME
Aug. 27	Fruitdale	HOME
Sept. 4	Leroy	AWAY
Sept. 11	Clark County (Grove Hill)	AWAY
Sept. 18	Green County	HOME
Sept. 25	Red Level	HOME
Oct. 2	Open	
Oct. 9	Washington County (Chatom)	AWAY
Oct. 15	J.U. Blacksher	HOME
Oct. 23	St. Luke's Episcopal	HOME
Oct. 30	Verbena	HOME



# ORANGE BEACH HIGH SCHOOL



# ROBERTSDALE GOLDEN BEARS



## 2020

### ROBERTSDALE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Foley	HOME
Aug. 28	Elberta	AWAY
Sept. 4	Citronelle	AWAY
Sept. 11	Spanish Fort	HOME
Sept. 18	Gulf Shores	AWAY
Sept. 25	Satsuma	HOME
Oct. 2	Blount	HOME
Oct. 9	McGill-Toolen	AWAY
Oct. 16	Saraland	AWAY
Oct. 23	Baldwin County	AWAY
Oct. 30	Open	

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# GO BEARS

# ROBERTSDALE HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN BEARS



## Bears kickoff 2020 under head coach Kyle Stanford

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

**GOLDEN BEARS** — The Golden Bears kick off at home against longtime rival Foley Aug. 21 in a non-region season opener. Head football coach Kyle Stanford hopes to keep the early momentum the Golden Bears had before normal spring and summer training was disrupted.

“I thought we had an outstanding off season and were having right up until we had to shut-down like everybody did,” he said. “We got a lot done in the weight room. But we’re not going to focus on what else is happening, or what other programs do. But just on us and what we can do to get better.”

“I think we have still accomplished a lot of what we needed to any-

way. And we are going in the right direction and our culture is developing. Of course, we have a long way to go in some way, but now we’re looking forward to the future and the plans we’re making. Like I told the kids we can’t control the virus and exactly how this is going to play out. But, we will deal with it as we have to as we go along.”

He said he and his staff will work within the parameters that are set by the district or county and the state..

Although the team lost several seniors to graduation on both sides of the ball, in terms of experienced players returning, the Bears have about eight on offense and seven on defense with significant playing time under their belts. But we’re going to look at younger players and give them oppor-

tunities to show their strengths.”

Stanford said he will continue to use a balanced multiple-formation based offensive system that will aim at establishing the running game first and try to be as versatile as possible. Among expected standouts this year, he said the team is expecting good things from junior running back Tavin Curry who will be back as well as Graham Driver at quarterback and Seth Allen at receiver.

“We are looking forward to playing Foley to kick off the season with,” he said. “And that’s a big rivalry game everybody gets excited about. It’s a lot of fun for the fans and the community, as well.”

The Golden Bears then play Elberta before starting their region run at Citronelle. Stan-

ford said he expects his defense to be ready, but also to improve as they go into the schedule.

“On defense we want to be flexible and be able to adjust to what is necessary according to what the opponent is doing,” he said. “I’m a big believer in a basic approach to start with and then make adjustments as needed. But we’ll be a 3-4 with Dominic Settles at linebacker. We will be young and playing a good number of juniors this year and I expect we will evaluate more younger players when we get into (the season) and see how that goes.”

The Bears kicking game will depend on Jason Butts returning as their kicker. They lost their punter to graduation. But, have two young players who can be effective at the position,” Stanford said.



PHOTO BY KENNY SMITH

RHS Jaylin Williams dodges

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# SPANISH FORT FOOTBALL



## 2020

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Aug. 20	Fairhope	AWAY
Aug. 28	St. Paul's Episcopal	HOME
Sept. 4	Gulf Shores	HOME
Sept. 11	Robertsdale	AWAY
Sept. 18	Baldwin County	HOME
Sept. 25	Open	
Oct. 2	Saraland	AWAY
Oct. 9	Blount	HOME
Oct. 16	Citronelle	AWAY
Oct. 23	McGill-Toolen	AWAY
Oct. 30	Daphne	HOME

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# SPANISH FORT HIGH SCHOOL TOROS



## Toros open 2020 with mix of younger talent and state championship level experience

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

SPANISH FORT — The Toros open up 2020 at Eastern Shore rival Fairhope before taking on perennial powerhouse St. Paul’s Episcopal in on The Hill in Spanish Fort.

Toros head coach Ben Blackmon expects to learn a lot from the season opener with the Pirates.

“It will be a real test, but we’re looking forward to it. We had a really good fall camp and I like what I’m seeing. The kids are really excited about getting back to playing. After so much uncertainty we’re all excited about going into next week and play some football.”

“I do like our progress even though it was a much different summer than we have ever seen as far as preparation. This particular team has not had a chance



**Coach Ben Blackmon**

to compete as a team against other teams like we usually do in the summer. So, some are a little untested but I think we have a really good group that works together as a team. And we have a good number of kids back with a lot of experience. But we’re really looking forward

to seeing what we can do and looking forward to that first kick off.”

Blackmon feels confident his team, including coaches and staff have done everything possible to safeguard the SFHS athletes this fall.

“I think we have all the proper protocols and procedures in place



FILE PHOTOS

according to the public health guidelines to keep everybody safe,” he said. “So, we are ready to play and still keep everybody safe.”

Spanish Fort certified athletic trainer Rob Milam says job one from the beginning of the

outbreak was to keep the student athletes safe.

“I think we’re doing everything in our power to prevent the spread of infection,” Milam said.

“And we’ll keep working, sterilizing equipment, taking all

precautions. And we’ll keep doing whatever it takes until there is a vaccine. And then we can get back to normal again. But until then we going to do whatever it takes to keep our athletes safe.”

## Toros on track for another deep playoff run after taking 2019 state-runner up trophy

By **MICHAEL HANICH**  
For GCM Sports

The Spanish Fort Toros are no strangers to success when it comes to the football field. Last year, the Toros found themselves in unfamiliar territory as they appeared in their fifth state championship in program history but lost. The Toros had won four state championship titles and were going for their fifth until they lost a last-minute heartbreaker play to the Oxford Yellow Jackets 14-13.

This season, Spanish Fort returns as one of the top teams in the 6A class. They are ninth in the 6A class by the Alabama Sports Writers Association with 38 total votes. While they are coming back as a top ten team in the state 6A, they will have to deal with the loss of several key players. They will have to replace their all-state players in offensive lineman Brady Wilson and quarterback Kris Abrams-Draine and second-team all-state defensive lineman Carlos



FILE PHOTO

Johnson.

Ben Blackmon is entering his sixth season as the head coach of the Toros. He has taken the team to the playoffs in each of the last five seasons with the team. The last time the Toros won the state championship was in the 2015 season, which was Blackmon’s first year with the pro-

gram.

The Toros have the talent and potential returning on both sides of the ball this season. Last season, the Toros’ offense averaged 29.6 points per game as well as 28.3 points per game in the regular season. They were led by Abrams-Draine, who led the way in the RPO-style

offense. They will have several key offensive skilled players leading the offense as multi-dimensional dynamic playmakers. Junior running back Johnny Morris and sophomore wide receiver Zachariah Hixon will be leading the way for the Toros this season.

The Toros have seri-

ous elite talent returning on a defense that allowed only an average of 19.6 points per game. In the 6A state playoffs, the Toros only allowed an average of 20.2 points per game. The loss of defensive tackle Carlos Johnson and middle linebacker Brayden Moore will be highly significant. They will

return their top play-makers in the pass rush in defensive end/outside linebacker Christian Burkhalter and the secondary in cornerback Micah Gaffney. Both players are going into their senior season committed to playing in a power-five college football program with Burkhalter committed to the Oregon Ducks and Gaffney for the Virginia Cavaliers.

The Toros are among the top three in the 6A region one play after the McGill-Toolen Yellow Jackets and the Blount Leopards. Both the Toros and the Yellow Jackets have engaged in a key season-opening rivalry since the 2016 season. With McGill moving down from 7A to 6A, the rivalry looks to flourish even more.

Look for the Toros to get back in the position for a 6A region one title and a potential state championship run. If the Toros make it to the playoffs this season, it would be 13 consecutive times in their 15 years as a high school football program.



# 2020

## ST. MICHAEL CARDINALS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	Open	
Aug. 28	McIntosh	HOME
Sept. 4	Open	
Sept. 11	Williamson	HOME
Sept. 17	Escambia County	HOME
Sept. 25	Elberta	AWAY
Oct. 2	W.S. Neal	HOME
Oct. 9	Mobile Christian	HOME
Oct. 16	Lighthouse Private Christian	AWAY
Oct. 23	Vigor (Prichard)	AWAY
Oct. 30	Millry	HOME



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# ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CARDINALS

## Cardinals begin region play in new classification

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

FAIRHOPE — St. Michael Catholic opens at home with McIntosh, then jumps into the new 4A fire of region play after growing out of 3A last year.

“We know it will be a difficult adjustment to move to 4A,” said St. Michael athletic director and interim head coach Paul Knapstein. “Our players and coaches are working diligently to play against traditional powers like Vigor, Williamson, Mobile Christian, W.S. Neal, Escambia County and Jackson. With 54 players on the roster, we

*‘We know it will be a difficult adjustment to move to 4A. Our players and coaches are working diligently to play against traditional powers like Vigor, Williamson, Mobile Christian, W.S. Neal, Escambia County and Jackson.’*

**PAUL KNAPSTEIN**, St. Michael athletic director and interim head coach

are doing all we can to prepare them for what lies ahead. We are also playing some JV games to get our younger players ready for Friday nights.”

The Cardinals’ roster will be made up with 10 seniors, 19 juniors,

12 sophomores and 13 freshmen. Eight starters are returning on offense and six returning on defense. They will need to replace their kicker from last year. Knapstein expects to run a multiple spread offense and a 3-4 base defense.

Players expected to play big roles in the Cardinals 2020 effort include: senior quarterback Michael Bradford, junior receiver William Ford, senior offensive lineman Trevor Helper, senior linebacker Tim Mullek and senior line-

backer Sam Volovecky, offensive leader Trevor Helper, senior offensive lineman Connor Heller and junior defensive leader Luke Edmiston.

Knapstein said a big key to competing is to keep progressing as a program.

“This is the third year for varsity football at St. Michael. Our student athletes are working very hard to get better every practice. This will be the first season we won’t have many freshmen having to play on Friday nights.”

Knapstein steps in this year after founding head coach Scott Phelps stepped down. Phelps helped create the pro-

gram as its first head coach and remembers spartan-like conditions in the first season without a fieldhouse or any on campus practice facilities. The first SMHS team worked out at Bounds YMCA and Al Trione Park in Daphne.

“We knew it would be a work in progress from the start,” Phelps said. “But the excitement of being in at the beginning will always be something these guys will always have.”

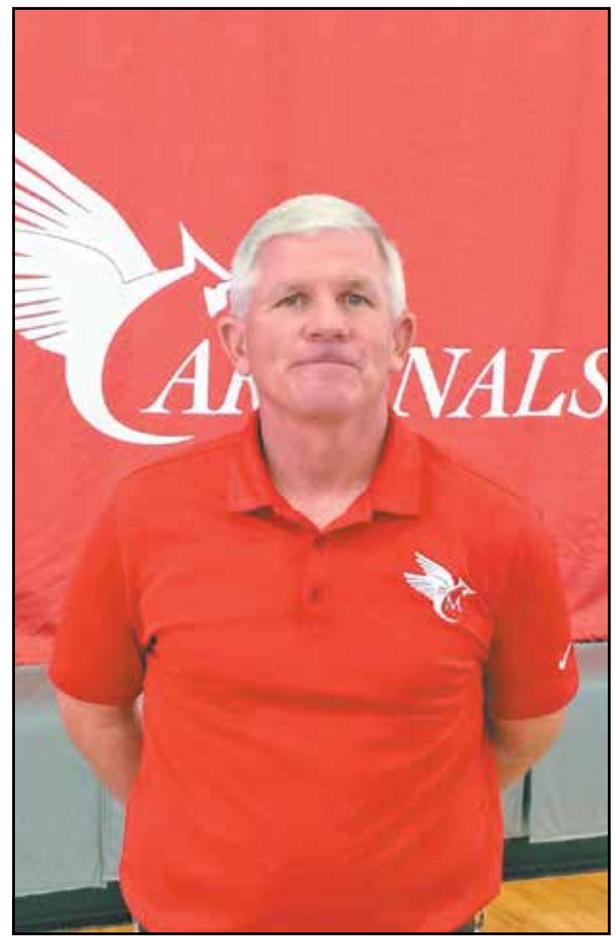
Knapstein will remain the acting head coach until Cardinals’ head coach in waiting Phillip Rivers retires from the NFL. Rivers was named to the position in May.



Paul Knapstein



Philip Rivers



Scott Phelps

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Rivers to take reins at St Michael Catholic after NFL career

**Knapstein to be head coach, Phelps assistant in interim**

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

FAIRHOPE — Philip Rivers said he will trade his dream job of being an NFL quarterback for another of his dream jobs: Head coach for a high school football team like his father

(Steve Rivers) who he played for at Athens High.

“I had two childhood dreams,” Rivers said at St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope in May. “One was to play in the NFL. The other was to be a high school football coach like my dad. How blessed to be able to live both of those out.”

Rivers will be the head football coach after he retires from the NFL. Until then,

SMCHS Athletic Director Paul Knapstein will be the head coach while former head coach and program founder Scott Phelps will stay on as assistant coach.

Until then he’s still living the first dream, but looking forward to future Friday nights on the Cardinals’ sideline as head coach.

“Following in my father’s footsteps, I think there is just something special about Friday night football and I’m

so thankful to get that opportunity here at St. Michael’s. I’m grateful for this opportunity.”

At Athens High, Rivers was an All-State selection in 1999, earned a scholarship to play at North Carolina State and was later drafted in the first round (fourth overall pick) in 2004. He played 16 seasons for the San Diego Chargers, but recently signed a one-year deal to play for the Indianapolis Colts. He added that if all goes

well with the Colts, he might stay an additional season or more.

“You get to 38 and play as long as I have,” Rivers said. “I’ve expressed publicly, and the Colts have said too, they hope it’s more than one year. But we take it one year at a time. I love playing. When that time does end, you will get the same passion and work ethic at this school and community that I’ve poured into my career.”

St. Michael’s principal Faustin Weber thanked Phelps for starting, not only the football program from scratch, but all the athletic programs at the school as well. The Cardinals will move up to Class 4A next season.

Steve Rivers coached four seasons at Athens High going 39-10 winning a region title each year. He also coached at Decatur and his overall record in Alabama is 153-78.



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Sept. 4	Jackson Academy	HOME
Sept. 11	Pickens Academy	HOME
Sept. 18	Cornerstone Christian	HOME
Sept. 25	Open	HOME
Oct. 2	Wilcox Academy (Camden)	AWAY
Oct. 9	Meadowview Christian	HOME
Oct. 16	Sparta Academy	HOME
Oct. 23	South Choctaw Academy	HOME
Oct. 30	Open	



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# SNOOK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY EAGLES



## Snook Eagles ready to face challenges of 2020 season

By JOHN UNDERWOOD

john@gulfcoastmedia.com

FOLEY — Keith Smith has never been one to back down from a challenge.

Three years ago, he took on the challenge of starting a varsity football program at Snook Christian Academy.

But, after going 5-5 that first year, then making the playoffs in their first year competing in the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA), Smith had to make the hard decision to suspend varsity play in 2019.

“It was one of the toughest decisions I’ve ever had to make,” he said, “and those were the toughest calls I’ve ever had to make, having to contact all of our opposing coaches to let them know we weren’t going to be able to compete.”

In the end, Snook played a four-game junior high schedule, playing Ernest Ward and Escambia Academy of Atmore each twice, garnering a 12-8 victory over Ernest Ward in the third contest on a last-minute goal-line stand.

“I think we gained a lot of momentum and our players gained a lot of confidence heading to finish the season last year,” Smith said. “Part of the issue with being able to play a varsity schedule was the fact that we were playing mostly eighth and ninth graders last year. Those players now have a year of experience under their belts and I think they’re ready to compete at the varsity level.”

In January, the decision was made to field a varsity team for 2020 and, Smith said, Coach Bob Gabel, the school’s athletic director, began putting the players through spring drills in January and February.

But then, the team faced what might be their biggest challenge to date with the threat of COVID-19 forced the school to shut down in March, suspending all activities.

“That is definitely going to be a huge challenge for us,” Smith said, “but we’re going to get through it, just like all the others. Coach Gabel and (Snook Head of School Thad) Butts have been in constant contact with the AISA and they



FILE PHOTO

have done a great job directing how we’re going to proceed in the future.”

In June, Gable began working with the players through summer workout drills and the team held its first practice July 27, following up with workouts in helmets and shoulder pads the first week of August, then in full gear on Aug. 11, the day before school was scheduled to start.

In all 18 players are now suited up and ready to take on the challenge of the Eagles first contest at home against Jackson Academy on Sept. 4 at Summerdale School’s Stadium.

“I want to take the opportunity to say how much we appreciate Summerdale School and the town of Summerdale for working with us and letting us use their facilities,” Smith said. “We have had a great relationship with them over the last three years and none of this would have been possible without them.”

After their first two games, both on the road at St. Patrick’s Catholic High of Mississippi and Rocky Bayou in Florida, were canceled because of Coronavirus, the Eagles will play a seven-game schedule with all AISA opponents, Smith said. The remaining schedule includes home games against Cornerstone Christian, Sept. 18; and Meadowview, Oct. 9; and road games at Pickens Academy, Sept. 11; Wilcox Academy, Oct. 11; Sparta Academy, Oct.

16; and South Choctaw Academy, Oct. 23.

“I think it’s good that we’re only playing seven games this first year,” he said. “It will help our players get their feet under them. Our players have worked very hard and have put a lot of effort into the program. They are all great young men with great character. They are very determined to improve every day both on and off the field and to be the best version of themselves as they can possibly be.”

The Eagles will still be fielding a young squad with just one senior, offensive lineman Riley McGregor.

“He was a varsity starter in 2018 and will be one of the anchors on the line at tackle. He’s a very unselfish kid, starting out at tight end in 2018, but volunteered to move to the offensive line to resolve some depth issues there. He will be a starter for us both on the offensive and defensive line.”

McGregor will be joined on the offensive line by sophomores Hayden Joiner, who will start at center and may also see duty at tight end and fullback; Sam French, Tommy McKee and Bo Urban who all started on the junior high offensive line last year.

“Big things are expected from all of them,” Smith said.

With just 18 players, the Eagles will rely on several of their athletes to fill multiple positions.

“I think resilient is a good word for it,” Smith said. “I believe we are the smallest AISA team in the state in terms of numbers, but all of these kids have big hearts. Many of them will never come off the field and they don’t want to. They all want to play and contribute to the team in any way they can.”

Sophomore Philip Butts will anchor the offense at the quarterback position, splitting time with sophomore Robert Dunn. Freshman Billy Merchant will also see time at the quarterback position.

“Philip is a very versatile player and will also see playing time at fullback and receiver,” Smith said. Defensively Butts will primarily serve as middle linebacker. Dunn will fill the strong safety position and Merchant will fill in on the defensive line with McGregor, French, McKee and Urban also anchoring the defensive front for the Eagles. Tommy McKee will likely hold down the noseguard position on defense for the Eagles.

Merchant will also see time at tight end, along with junior Brady Long, who will also see time on defense at the cornerback position. Dunn will also fill a receiver slot at split end, along with junior Tae Lyle, a transfer from Georgia.

“Tae is someone who we see as having a lot of potential for us,” Smith said. “He’s looked really good in early workouts

and we’re expecting big things from him.”

McGregor and Lyle will also be starters at the defensive end position, and Bo Urban will play both defensive end and defensive line, Smith said.

Also looking to fill slot receiver positions are freshman Sage Spiers and newcomer Tyler Koen, both of whom will also see playing time at cornerback positions on defense.

Sophomore Kendrick Koen will split time in the offensive backfield at fullback and on defense at outside linebacker. “He was a varsity defensive starter in 2018 as an eighth grader and we expect big things from him in 2020,” Smith said. “Others will see some duty at that position from time to time to give Kendrick a break.”

Freshman Corbin Hall will also fill a running back position, starting at H-back, while filling the weakside outside linebacker position on defense.

“Corbin did a great job last year on the junior high team at that position,” Smith said.

The Eagles will also be looking to a group of four seventh graders to fill in on the varsity team, Josh Gabel, Chase Joiner, Cameron Kyles and Dallas Wyatt.

“We’ll have to be careful how we play them,” he said. “They’re all going to be very good players for us, but they are young and still have a lot of growing to do.”

Keith Smith will also coach backs and receivers with Gabel serving as defensive backs coach in addition to his athletic director duties. Ben Coxwell will serve as defensive coordinator. Other coaches include Jonathan Beason, defensive line; Eric Whittle, offensive line; and Lester Smith, quarterbacks.

Smith said he and his team are ready to face the challenges of the future with lofty goals for the future.

“I have no doubt we are still facing a tough schedule ahead of us and it took some major upsets to achieve what we were able to accomplish in 2018,” he said. “But I think this team is ready to face those challenges and our goal right now is still to make the playoffs.”

“My goal for the future is still to build this team into a state contender. I know at this point, it’s going to be a huge challenge, but I’ve always loved a challenge.”

Really, Smith said, his ultimate goal is to prepare his players to face whatever challenges life throws at them.

“I’ve made a commitment to myself this season and have challenged my coaches and players to always put God first and to lead by God’s example both on and off the field,” Smith said, “because if they can make that commitment to be leaders in life, they are going to be winners, no matter what happens on the field.”



# SNOOK

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

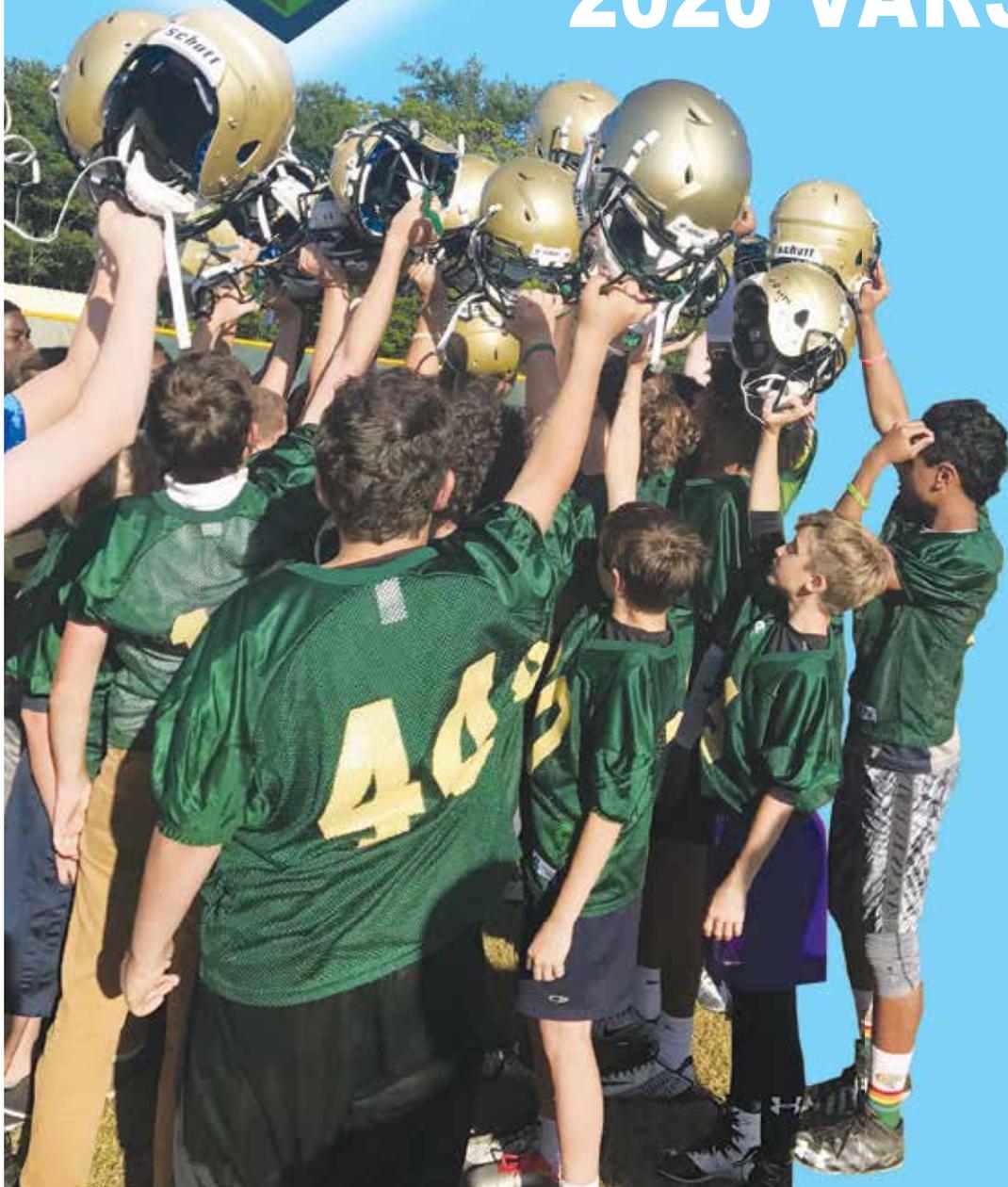
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# Football season kicks off Aug. 20 amid COVID concerns

By JOHN UNDERWOOD  
john@gulfcoastmedia.com

FOLEY — The start of the fall high school sports season is just around the corner and with the Coronavirus outbreak at the height of many people's concerns, fans are left wondering what this season will look like on the sidelines and in stands throughout Baldwin County.

The Alabama High School Athletic Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health have issued safety guidelines for both the sidelines and in the stands.

In a memorandum dated Thursday, Aug. 6 AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese urged superintendents, principals and athletic directors to review the "AHSAA Best Practices Return to Play" found at ahsaa.com and the "Current Order of the State Health Officer" found at alabamapublichealth.gov.

"The Best Practices for Return to Play is an easy to read document based on information presented by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)," according to the memo, "and it provides basic guidance for schools to commence the 2020-21 athletic seasons."

The nine-page document approved by the Alabama Board of Education on July 22 and updated July 29 provides guidance for preseason practices, regular season and post season play and includes guidelines for physical distancing, wearing masks, sanitation of facilities, ticketing and transportation guidelines.

"Many schools have reached out to the AHSAA for guidance regarding what to do if and when a student-athlete or coach tests positive for COVID-19," according to the memo. "Assistance related to quarantining and isolation can be found in the ADPH Back to School Toolkit, and in accordance with the ALSDE Roadmap to Reopening Schools and the Toolkit, contact tracing is an ADPH function and not the responsibility of local schools."

Anyone with questions is advised to contact any AHSAA staff member.

"We pray you all remain safe and well and are hopeful you are practicing ADPH safety guidelines," according to the memo. "Your influential leadership and

support during these trying times are extremely appreciated, as we are counting on each of you to be a role model for our student-athletes regarding ADPH guidelines."

A press release issued Friday, Aug. 7 from the Alabama Department of Public Health offers the following guidelines under the state's current Safer at Home public health order, which runs through Aug. 31:

- Players, coaches, officials, and spectators may not congregate within six feet of a person from another household except to the extent necessary, and only to the extent necessary, for players, coaches, and officials to directly participate in the athletic activity. That six-foot distancing rule for spectators likely will significantly reduce attendance at most football stadiums and at many other sports venues.
- Spectators must wear a mask or other facial covering that covers the nostrils and mouth at all times while within six feet of person from another household. Limited exceptions are allowed, such as for children who have not yet entered second grade and for people with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a facial covering.

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris said in the release that the AHSAA memo said that Best Practices guidance the association issued last month "was created to mitigate - not eliminate - the risk of COVID-19."

The memo issued Thursday says schools are "strongly encouraged to establish and follow policies for limiting event attendance in order to comply" with the current public health order, and to require fans to wear facial coverings while entering and exiting the gates, while in the stands, and elsewhere. Harris stressed that the current public health order applies to schools and school-related events.

"In addition, all persons with symptoms and all persons with known exposure to a COVID-19 positive case must quarantine for at least 14 days," according to the release. "Persons who are awaiting test results for COVID-19 should also remain at home until they receive results and guidance from their

physician, healthcare provider, or the health department."

Having a negative test does not eliminate the requirement for home quarantine when people come in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case or remain symptomatic without another diagnosis, according to the release.

Retesting to obtain negative results, after having COVID-19 infection, is not recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or by the Alabama Department of Public Health. Thus, repeat testing is not recommended for return to work or school after a person recovers from COVID-19.

The Spanish Fort Toros and the Fairhope Pirates are set to kick off the 2020 high school football season on Thursday, Aug. 20 at Fairhope Municipal Stadium.

Five Baldwin County public schools will host contests on Friday, Aug. 21 including two county rivalry games, Elberta at Gulf Shores and Foley at Robertsdale, while Baldwin County High School will host Mary G. Montgomery of Semmes, Daphne will host Lee High School of Montgomery and Orange Beach will host J.F. Shields of Beatrice.

Spanish Fort will take on St. Paul's, Elberta will square off against Robertsdale and Foley will host 7A Region 1 rival Murphy for their first home contests on Aug. 28.

Among private schools, Bayside will start its season Aug. 21 at Escambia County High School in Atmore and will be on the road two more weeks before hosting Hillcrest of Evergreen on Sept. 11.

St. Michael's (at home vs McIntosh) and Snook Christian Academy (on the road at Rocky Bayou Christian in Niceville, Florida) are set to begin their seasons Aug. 28. Snook had its first game against St. Patrick Catholic High of Biloxi canceled after the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools (MSAIS) opted to postpone the start of their seasons by two weeks. The Eagles will hold their first home contest against Jackson Academy Sept. 4.

Bayside and St. Michael's both follow Alabama High School Athletic Association protocols while Snook is governed by the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA).

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# Baldwin schools among state-wide athletic teams competitive realignment

Daphne, Elberta, Orange Beach, St. Michael's in new classifications

AHSAA.com

DAAPHNE — Some are moving up and others moving down, according to enrollment numbers. In Baldwin County all the moves are up as the population continues to grow. Daphne High football will move up to Class 7A joining Fairhope and Foley. St. Michael Catholic will now be a 4A-level competitor and the only 4A program in Baldwin.

"There's no perfect classification," said former Daphne and McGill-Toolen Catholic head coach and now AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese during the Central Board meeting.

The AHSAA reclassifies every two years by enrollment. That is based on average daily

enrollment numbers for the first 20 school days after Labor Day. Public schools provide those figures to Alabama State Board of Education. Private AHSAA schools supply the same enrollment information for their schools or school systems to the association.

Private schools are also classified based on a multiplier of 1.35 as well as a competitive balance factor that can place successful teams in a higher classification.

"I want to thank the AHSAA staff and central board for the hard work they put in to develop the reclassification plan that was approved," AHSAA Savarese said in a press release adding, "This is something that must be done every two years. It was a challenging task, but everyone worked together to find the best solution as we move forward."

## Class 7A

### Moved up

**Daphne**  
Albertville  
Dothan

### Class 6A

**Moved down**  
Mountain Brook  
Lee-Montgomery  
McGill-Toolen

### Moved up

Springville  
Woodlawn  
Valley  
Arab  
Briarwood Christian  
Chilton County  
Southside-Gadsden  
Mortimer Jordan  
Jasper  
Scottsboro  
Citronelle

### Class 5A

**Moved down**  
Mae Jemison  
Selma  
St. Paul's  
Lee-Huntsville  
Carver-Birmingham  
B.C. Rain

### Moved up

Talladega  
Cordova  
Sipsey Valley  
Fairview  
Elmore County  
Satsuma  
Holtville  
Leeds  
UMS-Wright  
Headland  
Lincoln  
Pike Road  
**Elberta**

### Class 4A

**Moved down**  
Wilcox Central  
Madison County  
Etowah  
Hamilton  
Dora  
Vigor  
Munford  
Bibb County  
Jackson

### Moved up

St. James  
Gordo  
Bullock County  
Hanceville  
Geneva

New Hope  
Straughn  
Westminster Christian  
Fultondale  
Holt  
**St. Michael**

### Class 3A

**Moved down**  
Danville  
Childersburg  
Montgomery Catholic  
Trinity  
Hokes Bluff  
Hale County  
Greensboro  
Monroe County  
Hillcrest-Evergreen  
Moved up  
Reeltown  
Goshen  
Fyffe  
Chickasaw  
New Brockton  
Collinsville  
Cottage Hill  
Ohathee  
Asbury  
Tarrant

### Class 2A

**Moved down**

Clarke County  
Locust Fork  
Greene County  
Randolph County  
Midfield  
Lexington  
Pisgah  
Lamar County  
B.B. Comer

### Moved up

St. Luke's  
Falkville  
Westminster-Oak Mountain  
Isabella  
Whitesburg Chr.  
Lanett  
Francis Marion  
Spring Garden  
**Orange Beach (new school)**  
Elba  
Mars Hill

### Class 1A

**Moved down**  
Choctaw County  
Southern Choctaw  
Woodland  
Samson  
Barbour County  
R.C. Hatch  
Central-Hayneville  
Cedar Bluff

## ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

# Fairhope's Tim Carter named offensive coordinator/QB coach for Alabama's 2020 All-Star team

AHSAA.com

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama All-Star football coaching staff for next December's 34th annual Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic football game has been completed, announced Jamie Lee, Director of the Alabama High School Athletic Directors and Coaches Association (AHSADCA). The game will be played at Cramton Bowl in Montgomery on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Steve Mask of Mobile's St. Paul's Episcopal High School was named earlier as head coach of the Alabama All-Star squad, comprised upcoming seniors who will be chosen in the fall. Named to the staff are: Tim Carter, Fairhope High School, who will serve as offensive coordinator; Keith Etheredge, Oxford High School, the defensive coordinator; Jimmy Perry, Saint James High School, the special teams coordinator; Paul Benefield, Fyffe High School; Lev Holly, Blount High School; Darrell LeBeaux, Pleasant Grove



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Tim Carter

High School; Brett Mask, Colbert County High School; and St. Paul's assistant coach Shane Sullivan, who will serve as the scout coach.

"I am excited to announce the coaching staff for the 2020 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game," said Lee. "This an outstanding group of coaches, and a great group of men. The players selected will be fortunate to have

the opportunity to be instructed by such a talented group of terrific role models."

Mask will have his son Brett coaching in the game with him. "We are delighted to announce the first ever father-son coaching tandem in our game's 34-year history," added Lee. "I want to thank them ahead of time for all the work I know they will do to prepare for this game."

Mask compiled a 187-94 career head-coaching record in 24 seasons. He began his high school coaching career as an assistant football coach and head boys' basketball coach at Colbert County High School. He also served five years as head coach at Colbert County from 2002-2006 compiling a 52-15 slate. He has led St. Paul's to three state champions and 87 wins in just eight

seasons (2012-2019). Brett Mask, considered one of the top offensive line coaches in the AHSAA, is beginning his fourth year as head coach at Colbert County. He has a 20-14 slate in his first three seasons.

Carter, 127-77 in 19 seasons, has led Fairhope to three straight Class 7A playoff appearances in five seasons. He guided Auburn to the Class 6A state championship game in 2009. In addition to his OC duties, he will coach quarterbacks in the all-star clash. Holly, who is 44-33 in seven seasons as a head coach, is 39-18 in five years at Blount. He will coach defensive backs, and LeBeaux, the son of Auburn and New Orleans Saints legend, the late Frank Warren, will coach wide receivers. He guided Pleasant Grove to a 13-2 season and the 5A state finals last season and is 22-5 in his two years as head coach.

Benefield will coach the All-Star defensive line and is the dean with a 297-53 coaching record in 29 seasons – 25 at Fyffe. He has led the Red Devils to four state

titles, including three Class 2A championships in the last three years. Etheredge, who coached Oxford (14-1) to the Class 6A state title last season in his first year at the helm, is one of only a handful of coaches in the AHSAA to claim five state crowns. He guided Leeds to four state championships and is 139-50 in 15 seasons as a head coach. He will coach linebackers in addition to his defensive coordinator duties.

Perry has had head-coaching stints at Lee-Montgomery and St. Paul's. He is 62-29 at Saint James and 127-61 overall in 17 years as a head coach. He spent 10 years on the football staff at Auburn University. He will coach running backs and handle special teams.

Alabama, which holds a 22-11 lead in the series, lost to Mississippi 17-16 in overtime last year at Hattiesburg (MS). Alabama, also holds a 4-1 edge in overtime games and is 22-8 in games played in Alabama. The last Alabama victory came in 2016 at Cramton Bowl 25-14.

# Central Board approves AHSAA Return to Play ‘Best Practices’

## Affirms plans to start 2020 fall sports as scheduled

### AHSAA.com

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama High School Athletic Association Central Board of Control approved the AHSAA’s Return to Play ‘Best Practices’ recommended guidelines and reaffirmed plans to start fall sports on time. The action was taken Wednesday at its annual summer meeting in Montgomery.

Fall sports teams have the option to begin fall workouts on July 27 with the first week used by football for acclimation purposes only with helmets and shorts only. The other fall sports – volleyball, cross country and swimming and diving – can use the first week for acclimation and tryouts. Schools not choosing that option may start fall practice on August 3.

The first contest can be August 20.

AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese praised the Central Board for its leadership and commitment providing member schools the tools to return to play as safely as possible.

“The purpose of the Return to Play document is to offer AHSAA member schools best practices in order to commence the 2020-21 school year athletic seasons as scheduled and as safely as possible,” said Savarese.

The Central Board also approved amending the AHSAA Constitution concerning the District Board Makeup, Central Board Makeup and Bi-Districts and the Central Board rotations to guarantee no person shall be discriminated against based on gender, race or religion. The Merger Act guaranteed specific representation for AHSAA and AIAA members. The new language provides representatives of the AHSAA and AIAA to each have equal opportunity at all positions of management.

“I want to thank this Central Board for having the courage to do the right thing,” said Savarese. “Moving forward, this is a great day for our association.”

The Board also waived member school dues for the 30th consecutive year — a savings of approximately \$84,000 for the schools for the coming school year and a total savings of approximately \$2.4 million since 1991-92 for the AHSAA’s 416 high schools and 336 middle/junior high

schools.

The Legislative Council also held its summer meeting Wednesday and approved the publications and Constitution amendments.

In other Board action Wednesday:

- Reviewed the Cash and Current AHSAA assets
- Approved the 2019-20 AHSAA and AHAADCA Financial Statements
- Approved the AHSAA and AHSADCA 2020-21 Budgets
- Approved AHSAA insurance coverages
- Tabled the Revenue Share Amount for the 2019-20 school year
- Approved all 2020-21 Publications and heard a report on the digital access publication plan from Assistant Director Kim Vickers
- Approved a request to postpone the Instant Replay Experiment to the 2021 season as a result of COVID-19
- Discussed COVID-19 Championship contingency plans
- Rescheduled the October Central Board meeting from Oct. 14 to Oct. 15
- Approved paid vacation for unused dates for AHSAA staff members

### 2020-21 Cross Country Modifications

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment. - Rule Modifications o 8-1-3a: Widening the course to at least 6 feet at its narrowest point when possible

Best Practices General: Finish: Consider using finish corrals and FAT timing for larger meets as easier to distance at finish.

With no FAT timing system consider alternative means of finish place and time to address congestion at finish line. Consider using image-based equipment at finish to assist with picking place to avoid congestion. • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and exercise equipment.

• Pre and Post Game Ceremony: Establish

cross country specific social distancing meet protocols including the elimination of handshakes before and after the match. • Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained at all times. No hugging, shaking hands, or fist bumps for support/encouragement. • Cross country meets should consider using staggered, wave or interval starts. Coaches: • Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. • Consider conducting workouts in “pods” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection. • Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed. Students: • Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies • Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout immediately upon returning home. • Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices. • Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well. • Cloth face coverings are permitted. • Bring your own water bottle. Officials: • Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently • Don’t share equipment. • Follow social distancing guidelines: o Pre and Post Meet conferences, o Clerking at the start line, o Tabulations and posting of results. • Consider using electronic whistle. • Do not shake hands and follow pre and post-game ceremony guidelines established by state associations. • Officials personnel may wear cloth face coverings at all times. Parents: (A family’s role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others): • Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home), • Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them. Note: This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each school, city, and state to help prevent the spread of virus. Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams. Lastly, the situation

with Covid-19 is rapidly changing. These considerations may quickly become outdated. Please keep up with the latest from the CDC and other health officials in your state.

### 2020 Volleyball Rule Modifications

2020-21 Volleyball Rules Modifications In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment 1. Volleyball Rules Modifications o Prematch Conference (1-2-4a; 1-6-2; 1-6-3; 2-1-10; 5-4-1h, k; 5-6-1; 7-1-1; 7-1-1 PENALTIES 1; 9-1a; 12-2-3) • Limit attendees to one coach from each team, first referee and second referee. • Move the location of the prematch conference to center court with one coach and one referee positioned on each side of the net. All four individuals maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet. • Suspend the use of the coin toss to determine serve/receive. The visiting team will serve first in set 1 and alternate first serve for the remaining non-deciding sets. • Suspend roster submission at the prematch conference. Rosters are submitted directly to the officials’ table before the 10-minute mark. o Team Benches (5-4-4b, 9-1-2, 9-1-2 NOTE, 9-3-3b) • Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches between sets. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present. • Limit bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet. o Deciding Set Procedures [1-2-4b, 5-4-4c, 5-5-3b(26), 9-2-3c] • Move the location of the deciding set coin toss to center court with team captains and the second referee maintaining the appropriate social distance of 3 to 6 feet. A coin toss, called by the home team, will decide serve/receive. • Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches before a deciding set. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvan-

tage, teams may switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present. o Substitution Procedures (2-1-7, 10-2-1, 10-2-3, 10-2-4) • Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line. o Officials Table (3-4) • Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer, libero tracker and timer with a recommend distance of 3 to 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location. 2. Volleyball Rules Interpretations o Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES • Cloth face coverings are permissible. (4-1-4) • Gloves are permissible. (4-1-1) o Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM • Long sleeves are permissible. (4-2-1) • Long pants are permissible. [4-2-1i (1)] • Undergarments are permissible, but must be unadorned and of a single, solid color similar in color to the predominant color of the uniform top or bottom. [4-2-1h (3), 4-2-1i (2)] o Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT • Electronic whistles are permissible. (5-3-2a, b) • Cloth face coverings are permissible. • Gloves are permissible.

### 2020 FOOTBALL RULE MODIFICATIONS

In support of the NFHS Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Football Editorial Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020 football season. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment. 1. Team Box (Rule 1-2-3g) • The team (players only) box will be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines, (coaches will continue to be restricted from 25 to 25-yard lines), in order for more social-distancing space for teams. 2. Face Masks [Rule 1-5-1a, 1-5-3c (4)] • Cloth face coverings are permissible. • Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face

mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall NOT be allowed during the contest. 3. Gloves (Rule 1-5-2b) • Gloves are permissible but still must comply with Rule 1-5-2b by meeting either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification. 4. Charged Time-Outs and Authorized Conferences (Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8) • Charged time-outs will be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length. • It will be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in the conference and for technology (headsets) to be used. 5. Intermission between periods and after scoring (Rule 3-5-7l) • The intermission between periods (first/second and third/fourth) as well as the time period following a try, successful field goal or safety and prior to the succeeding free kick will also be extended to a maximum of two minutes. 6. Coin Toss Captain (3-2-2) • Only one captain from each team may be present at the coin toss with the Referee and Umpire. The same procedure will be utilized for overtime. The following are NFHS best practices 1. Individuals should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while in the team box. 2. Individuals should not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment. 3. The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer. Ball handlers should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times during the contest. 4. Officials may use an electronic whistle and wear cloth face coverings. 5. All individuals, including each player and official when brought out on the field during time outs, should have their own beverage container. 6. Suspend handshakes during the coin toss, pregame and postgame. 7. Players, coaches, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible. 8. Gloves and cloth face coverings are permissible for all coaches, team staff and game administration officials. 9. Non-essential personnel should be restricted from the field during the contest. 10. If available, dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.

AHSAA Member School dues were also waived.

# Toros open 2020 with mix of experience, newcomers to court

## Depth expected to be key strength for Spanish Fort in competitive 6A Area 1 and beyond

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
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**SPANISH FORT** — The Lady Toros lost a team’s worth players to graduation in the spring. All of whom contributed considerable time and leadership on the floor toward Spanish Fort’s success in perennially tough Class 6A, Area 1 play last year.

The senior laden team of 2019 was also backed

up by a strong group of underclassmen including two Class of ’21 incoming seniors Tatum Beech and Kamble Frenette.

Head coach Gretchen Boykin said that many of her underclassmen have gained significant experience and are ready to step up to the challenges ahead. That includes the difficulties facing all high school athletes and coaches this summer

and the fall season ahead due to COVID-19 concerns and safeguards.

“It has been a very different summer this year getting the Toros ready for volleyball 2020,” she said. “We have enjoyed being able to get back on the court and I know the players are going to be hungry to compete on Aug. 20.”

For 2020, Boykin said she has many talented players returning and

some great new additions.

“Senior Kamble Frenette will be the most experienced hitter on the court while her fellow senior Beech Tatum will be running the offense,” she said. “From last year’s team Ridley Varden, Emma Claire Lee, Bailey Hope and Janie Ellis bring a ton of talent to the Toros offense. Libero Bri Wigley brings her experience from last year to the court to lead the Toros defense. New comers Braeden Holston, Reece Varden, and Jayla

Howard round out the hitting threats for the Toros.

“Defensively the Toros have a lot of depth with new comers Faith Facher, Kate Snow and Sophia Fisher. Hannah Weishaar and Alden Rowley round out the setters for the Toros. Having a good deal of depth is a strength for the Toros this season in all positions,” she added. Her main stat leaders returning include Beech, Frenette, Ridley Varden and Bri Wigley.

The team’s experi-

enced seniors are backed up by nine juniors, three sophomores and one freshman this year. The Toros captains will be Frenette, Beech and Wigley.

Concerning virus-prevention protocols for all home matches: Spectators should social distance and wear mask if less than six feet apart from non-family members. Protocols for away matches and tournaments may vary. Visit [AHSAA.com](http://AHSAA.com) for updates on official spectator requirements.

## Lady Pirates ready to get back to court

**FAIRHOPE** — The Lady Pirates are eager to get back to the volleyball floor and net this season. Fairhope returns with nine experienced players on the varsity squad.

“We are looking forward to getting the opportunity to play this fall,” said head coach Lacey Powell. “The girls have been working hard all summer and are ready to hit the court (with) nine returners this year on varsity. Majority of them saw a good bit of playing time last year which will help going into this season.”

The 2020 team will feature eight juniors with two seniors, two sophomores and one freshman.

Most of her players also multi-sport athletes



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which Powell says adds to their overall competitive edge.

“These girls are always involved in an athletic arena of some sort year-round. This helps them learn the true value of being a good teammate and having sportsmanship.”

The Lady Pirates open the season with three road matches at Orange Beach Aug. 24, St. Lukes Aug. 27 and at Bayside Sept. 1. They open at home with tournament

play on Sept. 4 and 5 to host their annual Back to School Bash at Pirate Gym.

How to deal with COVID-19 this season is also in play. Home-game protocols? Spectators required to wear masks?

“As far as COVID goes, we are following protocol set forth by BCBE and the AHSAA,” she said. “All spectators are always required to wear masks and are encouraged to socially distance.”

## KEY VOLLEYBALL SEASON DATES

**OCT. 8:** Last Date for Area Play

**OCT. 8:** Last date to host area planning meeting

**OCT. 12-17:** Area Tournament Dates

**OCT. 17:** Area Tournament Default Date

**OCT. 21-23:** Regional Tournament Dates

**OCT. 28-29:** State Tournament Dates

**OCT. 29:** End of Season

**JAN. 6, 2021:** North/South All-Star Nominations Due Date

### 2020 Playoffs

**OCT. 16:** Area Tournament Brackets due in the AHSAA Office by 10 a.m.

**OCT. 21:** Regional Tournaments (Classes 1A, 3A, 4A, 5A)

**OCT. 22:** Regional Tournaments (Classes 2A, 6A, 7A)

**OCT. 21-23:** Super Regional Tournaments

**OCT. 28-29:** State Championship

### Junior Varsity/Middle School

(Additional time due to COVID-19)

**AUG. 20:** First Contest Date

**OCT. 10:** End of Season

## 2020 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULES

AS OF AUG. 21 (Visit [AHSAA.com](http://AHSAA.com) for updates/changes)

### Baldwin County High School

Aug. 31	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Orange Beach High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 3	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 4-5	TBA	Labor Day Classic	AWAY
Sept. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 14	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 17	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 18-19	TBA	Mary G Montgomery High School	AWAY
Sept. 21	4:30/5:30 p.m.	St. Michael’s Catholic School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 5	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Elberta High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Satsuma High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 13	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Foley High School (JV/V)	HOME

### Bayshore Christian School

Aug. 28-29	TBA	Labor Day Tournament (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 1	5:30 p.m.	Elberta and St. Michael (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 4	TBA	McIntosh High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 11-12	TBA	Battle by the Bay (V)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Fairhope High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 17	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Fruitdale High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 19	TBA	Elberta JV Tournament (JV)	AWAY
Sept. 22	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Mobile Christian School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 24	TBA	St. Paul’s and Bayside (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 26	TBA	Gulf Shores High School	TBA
Sept. 29	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Fruitdale High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	McIntosh High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 3	TBA	Battle of Old Shell Road (V)	TBA
Oct. 6	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale and Gulf Shores (JV/V)	AWAY

### Bayside Academy

Sept. 1	5:30 p.m.	Fairhope High School	HOME
Sept. 3	5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School	HOME
Sept. 10	10:30 p.m.	UMS Wright Prep	HOME
Sept. 11-12	TBA	Battle by the Bay (V)	HOME
Sept. 22	11:30 a.m.	St. Paul’s Episcopal	HOME
Sept. 24	10:30 p.m.	St. Paul’s Episcopal and Bayshore	TBA
Sept. 30	10:30 p.m.	St. Paul’s Episcopal	AWAY
Oct. 7	5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School	HOME
Oct. 12	10:30 p.m.	Baker High School School	HOME
Oct. 14	10:30 p.m.	Fairhope High School	AWAY

### Central Christian School

Aug. 28	4/5 p.m.	Lighthouse Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 1	5:30/6:30 p.m.	South Baldwin Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 3	5:30/6:30 p.m.	Snook Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 4	4:30/5:30 p.m.	East Hill Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 8	5 p.m.	Lighthouse Christian (V)	AWAY
Sept. 10	5:30/6:30 p.m.	Pensacola Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 14	4:30/5:30 p.m.	East Hill Christian (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4/5 p.m.	Aletheia Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 22	4/6 p.m.	LEAD Academy and St. Patrick’s (JV)	HOME
Sept. 24	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Christian Collegiate (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 25	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Atmore Christian (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 29	5/6 p.m.	Pensacola Christian (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 1	5:30/6:30 p.m.	South Baldwin Christian (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 2	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Aletheia Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 6	5:30 p.m.	Lighthouse Christian (V)	HOME
Oct. 8	4/5 p.m.	Lighthouse Christian (JV/V)	AWAY

## Daphne High School

Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 17	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Foley High School	HOME
Sept. 22	5:30 p.m.	McGill-Toolen High School	HOME
Sept. 24	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 29	5:30 p.m.	Orange Beach High School	AWAY
Oct. 6	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Fairhope High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 13	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School (JV/V)	AWAY

## Elberta High School

Sept. 1	5:30 p.m.	Bayshore and St. Michael (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 19	TBA	Elberta JV Tournament (JV)	HOME
Sept. 22	5:30 p.m.	Orange Beach High School	HOME
Oct. 5	5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School	HOME
Oct. 6	4:30/5:30 p.m.	St. Michael's Catholic High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 14	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Foley High School	AWAY

## Fairhope High School

Sept. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Bayside Academy (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 4-5	TBA	Back to School Bash (V)	HOME
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 11-12	TBA	Battle by the Bay (V)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Bayshore Christian School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 19	TBA	Elberta JV Tournament (JV)	AWAY
Sept. 22	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Foley High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 24	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Murphy High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 28	4:30/5:30 p.m.	McGill Toolen High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 2-3	TBA	Baker JV Tournament (JV)	AWAY
Oct. 3	TBA	Battle of Old Shell Road (V)	TBA
Oct. 6	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Daphne High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 9-10	TBA	Shrimp Festival Tournament (V)	AWAY
Oct. 14	4:30 p.m.	Bayside Academy (V)	HOME

## Foley High School

Sept. 3	4:30/5 p.m.	St. Paul's/Herendo High School (JV/V)	AWAY/HOME
Sept. 4-5	TBA	Labor Day Classic (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 9	4:30/5:30 p.m.	McGill Toolen High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Orange Beach and Cottage Hill (V)	AWAY
Sept. 17	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Daphne High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 19	TBA	Elberta JV Tournament (JV)	AWAY
Sept. 22	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Fairhope High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 28	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Escambia and Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 29	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Murphy High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 3	TBA	Battle at Old Shell Road (V)	TBA
Oct. 6	4:30/6:30 p.m.	Buckhorn and Orange Beach (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 13	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School	HOME
Oct. 14	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Elberta High School	HOME

## Gulf Shores High School

Sept. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 3	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 5	TBA	Labor Day Classic (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 9	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Fairhope High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 14	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Daphne High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 24	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 25-26	TBA	Spain Park Tournament (V)	AWAY
Oct. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Fairhope High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 2-3	TBA	Battle of Old Shell Road (V)	TBA
Oct. 6	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Bayshore and Robertsdale (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Buckhorn High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 9-10	TBA	Shrimp Festival Tournament (V)	HOME
Oct. 13	4:30/5:30 p.m.	St. Michael's Catholic High School	AWAY

## Orange Beach High School

Sept. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 12	TBA	Battle by the Bay (V)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4:30/6:30 p.m.	Cottage Hill and Foley (V)	HOME
Sept. 17	5 p.m.	Washington County High School	AWAY
Sept. 22	5:30 p.m.	Elberta High School	AWAY
Sept. 24	5:30 p.m.	Blacksher High School	AWAY
Sept. 29	5:30 p.m.	Daphne High School	HOME

Oct. 1	5:30/6:30 p.m.	St. Luke's and St. Michael's (V)	AWAY
Oct. 3	TBA	St. Paul's Tourney	TBA
Oct. 5	6:30 p.m.	Washington County High School	HOME
Oct. 6	5:30/6:30 p.m.	Buckhorn and Foley High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 8	4:30/6:30 p.m.	Blacksher and Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 13	5:30/6:30 p.m.	Citronelle and Cottage Hill High School	AWAY

## Robertsdale High School

Aug. 31	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 1	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 3	4:30/5:30 p.m.	St. Michael's Catholic High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 4-5	TBA	Labor Day Classic (JV/V)	TBA
Sept. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Foley High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Elberta High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Mary G. Montgomery High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 17	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 18-19	TBA	MGM Tournament (JV)	TBA
Sept. 22	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 24	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Daphne High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 28	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Foley and Escambia High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 2-3	TBA	Baker JV Tournament (JV)	TBA
Oct. 5	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Spanish Fort High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 6	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Bayshore and Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Orange Beach and Blacksher High School (JV/V)	HOME

## Snook Christian Academy

Sept. 3	5:30/6:30 p.m.	Central Christian School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Wilcox Academy (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	South Baldwin (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 17	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Jackson Academy (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 18	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Cornerstone Academy (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 21	4:30/5:30 p.m.	South Baldwin (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 22	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Lighthouse Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 29	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Wilcox Academy (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 1	4/5 p.m.	Escambia Academy (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 5	4:30 p.m.	Lighthouse Christian (V)	AWAY
Oct. 8	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Jackson Academy (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 9	4:30 p.m.	Meadowview (V)	HOME

## Spanish Fort High School

Aug. 29	TBA	Guntersville Supreme Courts (V)	AWAY
Sept. 3	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Bayside Academy (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 4-5	TBA	Back to School Bash (V)	AWAY
Sept. 4-5	TBA	McGill-Toolen JV Invite (JV)	AWAY
Sept. 9	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 11-12	TBA	Battle by the Bay (V)	AWAY
Sept. 14	4:30/5:30 p.m.	St. Luke's High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 17	4:30/5:30 p.m.	McGill Toolen High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 22	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 24	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 25-26	TBA	Heff Strong UMS Invite (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 30	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baker High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 3	TBA	Baker JV (JV)	AWAY
Oct. 3	TBA	Battle of Old Shell Road (V)	AWAY
Oct. 5	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 7	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Bayside Academy (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 8	TBA	Pelham/Buckhorn High School (JV/V)	HOME
Oct. 9-10	TBA	Shrimp Festival Invitational (V)	AWAY
Oct. 13	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Daphne High School (JV/V)	HOME

## St. Michael Catholic School

Sept. 1	5:30 p.m.	Bayshore and Elberta (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 3	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Robertsdale High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 4-5	TBA	Back to School Bash (V)	AWAY
Sept. 4-5	TBA	McGill JV/V Tournament (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 8	4:30 p.m.	Vigor High School (V)	AWAY
Sept. 10	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Mobile Christian (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 12	TBA	Battle in the Swamp (JV)	AWAY
Sept. 15	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Escambia High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 21	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Baldwin County High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 21	5/6 p.m.	W.S. Neal High School (JV/V)	HOME
Sept. 24	4:30/5:30 p.m.	UMS Wright High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Sept. 26	TBA	Battle in the Swamp (V)	AWAY
Sept. 29	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Williamson High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 1	4:30/6:30 p.m.	St. Luke's and Orange Beach (V)	HOME
Oct. 3	TBA	Battle of Old Shell Road (V)	AWAY
Oct. 6	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Elberta High School (JV/V)	AWAY
Oct. 9-10	TBA	Shrimp Festival Invitational (V)	AWAY
Oct. 13	4:30/5:30 p.m.	Gulf Shores High School (JV/V)	HOME

# Sun Chiefs to follow ACCA COVID-19 Protocols

No spectators allowed for on-campus sports matches for Fall 2020; decisions to delay or reschedule certain athletic events ongoing

CoastAlabama.edu

Coastal South Community College in Bay Minette is following the COVID-19 guidelines as issued by the Alabama Community College Conference and the National Junior College Athletic Association – See NJCAA Appendix D for more details.

Other than those who traveled with the teams, there will be no spectators allowed to view on-campus matches for Fall 2020. Facial coverings/masks are required on all campuses. Masks



may be removed only when social distancing can be established.

The College acknowledges ongoing conversations pertaining to delaying or rescheduling certain teams/games (i.e. volleyball). Coastal Alabama CC will follow whatever guidelines are issued by the ACCC.

## ACC/NJCAA COVID-19 guidelines as of Aug. 16

**NJCAA COURT VOLLEYBALL** Fall Practice Season • Permitted 60 consecutive calendar days for practice and scrimmages within Aug. 15 - Nov. 15. • Allowed five (5) scrimmage dates in total for the year, with a maximum of two (2) scrimmage dates allowed in the spring. Each scrimmage limited

to no more than two outside opponents. Spring Championship Season • Practice will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 11, 2021. • Competition will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 29, 2021. • Maximum of 21 competition dates. • All regular season, region, and district competition completed by April 3, 2021. • NJCAA Volleyball Championships held April 15-17, 2021.

**NJCAA MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** Fall Practice Season • Permitted 60 consecutive calendar days for practice and scrimmages within Sept. 15 - Dec. 15. • Allowed five (5) scrimmage dates in total for the year, with a maximum of two (2) scrimmage dates allowed in the spring. Each scrimmage limited to no more than two outside opponents. Spring Championship Season • Practice will be permitted to begin starting

Jan. 11, 2021. • Competition will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 22, 2021. • Maximum of 22 games. • All regular season, region, and district championship competition completed by April 3, 2021.

## NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF

Fall Practice Season • Permitted 60 consecutive calendar days for practice and scrimmages within Sept. 5, 2020 - Nov. 15, 2020. • Maximum of 30 dates against outside competition combined between fall and spring. Spring Championship Season • Practice will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 10, 2021. • Competition will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 22, 2021. • NJCAA Women's Golf Championship held May 10-13, 2021. • NJCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship held May 11-14, 2021. • NJCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship held May 18-21,

2021. • NJCAA Division III Men's Golf Championship held June 7-11, 2021.

## NJCAA SOFTBALL

Fall Practice Season • Permitted 60 consecutive calendar days for practice and scrimmages within Sept. 5 - Nov. 15. • Maximum of seven (7) scrimmage dates against outside competition. Spring Championship Season • Practice will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 10, 2021. • Competition will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 22, 2021. • Maximum of 30 dates against outside competition. • All regular season, region, and district competition completed by May 19, 2021. • NJCAA Division I Softball Championship held May 25-29, 2021. • NJCAA Division II Softball Championship held May 25-29, 2021. • NJCAA Division III Softball Championship held May 27-29, 2021.

## NJCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S, DIVISION I MEN'S & DIVISION III MEN'S TENNIS

Fall Practice Season • Permitted 60 consecutive calendar days for practice and scrimmages within Sept. 5 - Nov. 15. • Maximum of 35 dates against outside competition combined between fall and spring. Spring Championship Season • Practice will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 10, 2021. • Competition will be permitted to begin starting Jan. 22, 2021. • NJCAA Division I Women's Tennis Championship held May 1-5, 2021. • NJCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championship held May 17-21, 2021. • NJCAA Division III Men's Tennis Championship held May 14-16, 2021.

*SPECIAL NOTE: All championship dates are subject to change based on championship facility availability.*

# Sun Chief softball players commit to four-year universities

Coastalsunchiefs.com

**BAY MINETTE** — Six Sun Chiefs will continue to play softball as juniors and seniors after excelling on the diamond as well as in the classroom at Coastal Alabama Community College South in Bay Minette. After having the remainder of their sophomore seasons called due to COVID-19 pandemic safeguards, their performances as freshman and early second-spring players earned them opportunities to stay in the game at the NCAA level. Moving on up are: Alayna Adams, Mecolett Bradley, Kennedy Carruth, Kelsey Hodges, Dionne Templet and Danielle Williams. Sun Chiefs head coach Mallory Radwitch said all six as well as her other sophomores moving on will be missed.

"I am beyond proud of what this group accomplished both on and off the field. This was a truly special group and I know all of them will do big things in life", she said. "All of our sophomores will be missed tremendously."

Her other sophomore players and managers will also be moving on to their junior academic year. They include: Skylar Crouch, Kamryn Keller, Kamryn Hearn, Elizabeth Franklin and Clara Leasck as well as sophomore managers Macy Jackson, Alex Blubaugh and Victoria Howard. All of her sophomores will be pursuing degrees next year at

*All of our sophomores will be missed tremendously. I am beyond proud of what this group accomplished both on and off the field. This was a truly special group and I know all of them will do big things in life.'*

**MALLORY RADWITCH**, Sun Chiefs head coach

various institutions, Radwitch said.

## SUN CHIEFS SET TO PLAY NEXT YEAR:

**Danielle Williams** a shortstop from Chalmette, La., will be continuing her education and playing career at one of the top Division II programs in the country, Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. She will be studying to become an athletic trainer. In the 2019 season, she received the NFCA All American Scholar-Athlete honors and in the 2020 season, she received NJCAA Academic All-American Honors. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

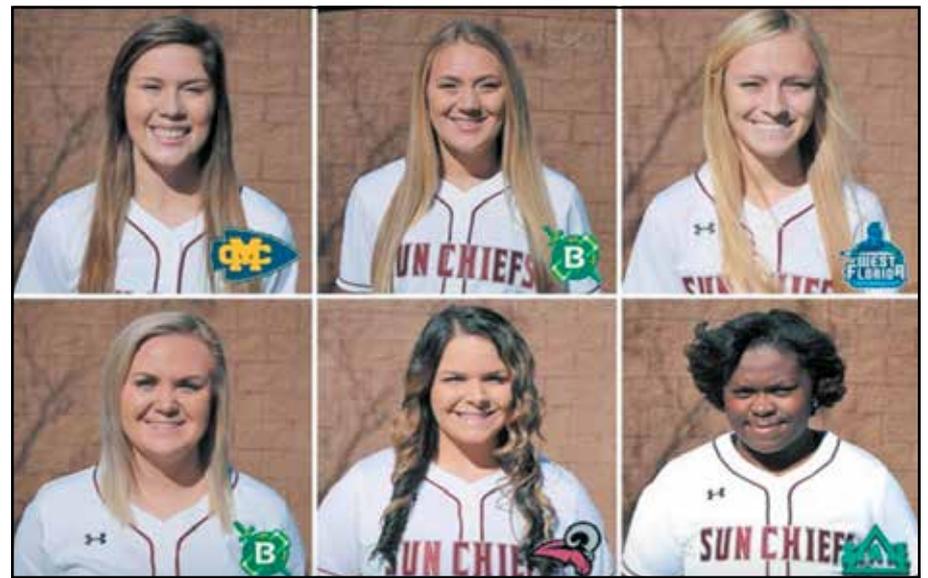
"Williams is an extremely hard worker and even better teammate and I know she will continue to grow and thrive at MC," Radwitch said.

Williams commented on her time at Coastal: "My past two years at Coastal have been the most challenging and inspiring years yet," she said. "I learned

how to grow, overcome adversity, and create bonds with many people. My two years spent at Coastal made me a stronger player, student, and most importantly, a stronger person. Some of my favorite events were Family day and Halloween game for softball, the Luau and tours for Career Day. My most favorite memories were just hanging out with my teammates and other athletes in the lobby. We were truly one family!"

**Kelsey Hodges** an outfielder from Milton, FL will be continuing her education and playing career at another top Division II program in the country, the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Fla. "Hodges has a tremendous work ethic both in softball and in her academics, I know she will do big things in life she is very determined," Radwitch said.

Hodges will be majoring in Exercise Science and plans to attend PT school after to fulfill her



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dream of being a Physical Therapist. In the 2019 season, she received ACCC player of the week honors for the week of April 8th, she was a member of the ACCC All-South Team and a member of the ACCC All-Region Team. For her excellence in the classroom, she received NFCA All America Scholar-Athlete Honors. In the 2020 season, she received NJCAA Academic All American honors. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and she was on the President's List almost every semester while at Coastal. In the 2019 season, she finished with a .376 batting average, with 8 home runs, 48 RBIs, and a .962 fielding percentage. When the season was halted in 2020 she was hitting .368 with 3 HR and 16 RBIs.

"Choosing to play and attend Coastal Alabama CC – Bay Minette was easily one of the best decisions I've ever made," Hodges said. "To

be perfect is difficult but Coastal sure was close. Coach Radwitch gave me a chance when no one else would — and for that, I will be forever grateful. God couldn't have put me in a better softball program and school to grow both on and off the field. "One of my favorite things while on the softball team would have to be dancing to music in the outfield on home game days and the cheering rallies we had in the dugouts. Making diving catches in the outfield and seeing everyone go crazy had to be one of the best feelings ever. I always looked forward to game days at home!" Hodges added.

**Dionne Templet** a first baseman from Gonzales, La., will be attending a top NAIA program at the University of Mobile. She will be pursuing a Kinesiology degree to become either an athletic trainer or PTA. Templet is a member of Phi Theta

Kappa. During the 2020 season, she was batting .304 with 2 HR and 4 RBIs.

"She was really starting to get back into the swing of things after suffering an injury in the 2019 season and was seeing the ball well when our season came to a screeching halt. Templet was the ultimate chant leader and always brought energy to the team," Radwitch said.

Templet commented on her time at Coastal: "My time at coastal was cut short due to COVID19, but I wouldn't have it any other way," she said. "Coastal gave me my sisters for life and brought me to a coach that became just like a second mom to me. From the nights playing cards in the lobby to being on the field with my team.

"Every moment I cherish and I would give anything to be back at Coastal one last time with

# Bayside volleyball returns with depth, experience

Lady Admirals open up 2020 with cross-town rival Daphne

By **TONY WHITEHEAD**  
tony@gulfcoastmedia.com

**DAPHNE** — Last year Bayside volleyball moved up to Class 4A with younger players balanced with experience from two seniors Jackie Martin and Catherine West. Despite the move into the larger-school class, the Lady Admirals won their 18th consecutive and 28th overall state title last season.



PHOTO BY TONY WHITEHEAD

## Coach Ann Schilling

Although they will miss the high level of play from Martin and West, the Lady Admirals return in 2020 with five experienced seniors and a strong underclass roster.

Coach Ann Schilling hopes to keep the tradition of collecting state championship banners and trophies intact.

“No doubt we will miss Jackie and Catherine, but all five of my seniors saw a lot of action last year,” she said. “We’re all excited about getting back to what we love to do. The group we have coming back are all very versatile. I can move them around and make adjustments as needed. Most all of my juniors and seniors have playing experience.”

The Lady Admirals open up 2020 with cross-town rival Daphne High.

Adding to the rivalry excitement is that Daphne coach Monique Adams and Schilling both prepped at McGill-Toolen Catholic under legendary coach Becky Dickinson. Dickinson, who founded the Dirty Dozen died in January.

“Looking forward to that match and the kids are excited as well. Most of them know each other,” Schilling said.

Dealing with the pre-season under COVID-19 precautions has been a challenge, but so far is going well.

“It’s going to be a little tricky, but we plan to stay healthy by limiting

contact to just friends and family. Not taking any chances. They understand that we’ve got to be careful going forward. But I think it will be good for them to get back to something like normal again.”

At matches each of the officials will be wearing a mask as well as players when they are on the bench.

Schilling also said key positive attributes of her past teams were not only being prepared physically, but being mentally tough. And she expects that this year — maybe more than ever — it may count even more going

forward.

“We will have to be mentally tough and prepared, as usual,” she said. “But this year we have to also deal with the challenge of this situation like every other team. So, like I have said before — especially in close games, the mental factor can be the difference no matter who you go up against. I hope every season to be very aggressive at the (serving) line again and I look for our ball control to improve as the season goes on. But no matter what, the plan is always to get better as we go through the season.”

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Admirals return in 2020 after earning the AHSAA boys’ state runner-up trophy

### GCM SPORTS

**DAPHNE** — The Bayside Academy cross country varsity team now competes in the 4A classification of the AHSAA.

Since 1997, Bayside’s boys cross country has been one of the stron-

gest teams in its classification, qualifying a team for State 18 times with an average finish of fifth place. They have finished as state runner-up for the past two years. In 2019, in addition to the state runner-up title, they finished second at the Baldwin County

Championships and second at Sectionals.

The Bayside’s girls cross country has been one of the strongest teams in its classification since 1991, qualifying a team for State 28 times and finishing in the top four a total of 22 times.

Coach Joe Swagart leads the cross-country program. He has been a head cross country coach for 14 seasons, six of which have been spent at Bayside Academy. In Coach Swagart’s six seasons at Bayside, eight individual athletes, five boys teams, and five

## 2020-21 dates

**MEETS:** Sept. 5: Challenge of Champions; Sept. 11: Azalea City Classic; Sept. 19: Battle of the Bay; Sept. 26-27 Daphne Invitational; Oct. 3: T.R. Miller Challenge; Oct. 10: Boardwalk Challenge

**OCT. 17:** Baldwin County Championship

**NOV. 5 - NOV. 7:** Section Meets

**NOV. 14:** State Meet (Moulton)

girls teams have qualified for state. Seven of his athletes have earned All-State honors 16 times, including an individual 3A State Champion and an individual

3A State Runner-Up. In the inaugural AHSAA All-Star XC during the summer of 2017, Coach Swagart represented the girls’ south team as head coach.

# Bayshore Christian begins first official season in AHSAA

**FAIRHOPE** — The Bayshore Christian Eagles open 2020 with winning and making the playoffs on their agenda. BSC Athletic Director Jeff Hauge said the entire campus is energized about playing their Class 1A, Area 1 rivals as well as local rivals like Bayside, Daphne and Fairhope. This will be their first official season in the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

“We are excited at Bayshore Christian School for the upcoming athletic season,” Hauge said.

“We made the jump from the Panhandle Christian to the AHSAA two years ago. We had to go through a probationary period for the last two years and this will be our first year to compete for Area and State Championships at the 1A level.”

## Bayshore Christian Volleyball 2020

The Eagles open their 2020 varsity season at Eastern Shore neighbor Daphne High on Aug. 25. The Middle School team will host Faith Academy the same day at Bayshore Christian.

Dave Omtvedt will be leading the Bayshore Volleyball team for the seventh year.

“He does a tremendous job leading our girls,” Hauge said. “Cassidy Granger, Olivia Rainer and Avery Bramblett will be our three seniors that will lead the 2020 Lady Eagle volleyball team. They will be playing an extremely difficult schedule by competing against local powerhouse programs.”

## Bayshore Christian Cross Country 2020

Ann-Marie Cook will

be starting her second year as the head coach of the Bayshore Cross Country team. The boys’ top runners will be Zeke Dernlan, Boaz Dernlan, Jeb Scarbrough and Landon Miller who will lead the boy’s team. Bella Cornett is returning to lead the girls team.

“The Cross Country team experienced some great success last year and will be looking to lead this program into the playoffs,” Hauge said.

## Bayshore Christian Swimming 2020

First year coach, Cath-

erine Reynolds, will lead the Swim team.

“We are excited about having her lead the program and know that she will do an outstanding job,” Hauge said. Juniors Jacquelyn Franz and Anna Hartsel Hope will anchor the girls swim team. The boy’s team will be young this year and freshman Reid Zakutney will be the lone returner from last year’s squad.

In closing, Hauge said the 2020 BCS teams will be battle tested and fully prepared when they jump into area play

against Fruitdale and McIntosh.

“And Lord Willing, we will make a deep run into the playoffs in all three of our fall sports,” he added. “I would like to thank our Head of School, Dr. Tim Dernlan, for his support and leadership and the rest of the Bayshore Administration, Bayshore Booster Club and our wonderful parents for all of the help that they have done to help get us to where we are today.”

The team is affectionately known as the Sea Eagles.

## SUN

CONTINUED FROM 30

my team. Coastal gave me one more thing, my former roommate Mec, God knows I wouldn’t have been able to make it out without her. She’s the truest friend I’ve ever met in all my years.

“So, thank you Coastal for all the blessings you sent my way. And thank God for putting Coastal in my path and coach Malory for giving me the opportunity and helping me in continuing my journey. I am very excited to

start my new journey as a RAM, but being a Sun Chief will always hold a special place in my heart!”

**Mecolett Bradley** a first baseman from Marro, La., will be attending a great Division II school Delta State University. Bradley batted .303 with 7 home runs and 45 RBI’s in her freshmen season for the Chiefs and was batting .311 with 10 RBI’s when the 2020 season ended abruptly. She received ACCC All-South Honors for her performance in the 2019 season. She also received NFCA

All America Scholar-Athlete honors last year and NJCAA Academic All-American honors in her 2020 season. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa as well.

“Bradley was a great leader on our team, she worked hard and always helped those around her to get better,” Radwitch said. “She was an awesome team player and I know she will do big things at the next level.”

**Kennedy Carruth** a pitcher/third baseman from St. Francisville, La., will be attending a great Division III school

Belhaven University. Carruth batted .312 with 6 home runs and 50 RBI’s in her freshmen campaign and also had a 2.41 ERA in 154 innings pitched with a 16-10 record. In her 2020 season, she was batting .419 with 6 home runs and 27 RBI’s and had a 2.05 ERA in 71.21 IP with a 9-3 record. In 2019 she received player of the week honors for the week of April 22 and she was a member of the ACCC All-South team.

“Carruth grew so much over these past two seasons. She is a competitor and hates to lose.

I know she will do big things for Belhaven over the next few years, Radwitch said.”

Carruth also received NFCA All America Scholar-Athlete Honors. In the 2020 season, she received player of the week honors for the week of Feb. 4. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa as well.

**Alayna Adams** a catcher from Walker, La., will be attending Division III Belhaven University as well. Adams caught the majority of innings over the past two seasons. She was batting .324 with 1 home run and 10 RBI’s

when the season ended this year.

“Adams always worked hard and was not afraid to speak up, she was a great leader for our team the past two seasons. She will be a great asset for the Blazers”, Radwitch said.

Radwitch added that all of her other sophomore players and managers will be pursuing degrees next year at various institutions.

Visit [Coastalsunchiefs.com/sports](http://Coastalsunchiefs.com/sports) for more updates.



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