

Team Preview: Gordon Central Warriors

Warriors adopt 'One Team, One Dream' motto, eye playoffs

By Alex Farrer, Sports Editor
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Gordon Central head coach TJ Hamilton got to see what postseason football was all about during his time as a player for the Warriors back in the early 2000s. In fact, he was a part of two Gordon Central playoff teams in 2004 and 2005. His goal now as the leader of the program is to try to make sure his current players get to have that same experience.

Hamilton is going into his first season as the head coach of the Warriors after taking over this past February when previous coach Cory Nix resigned after two seasons at the school. Immediately, Hamilton said he adopted the motto "One Team, One Dream," and that dream is what is serving as motivation for the Warriors as they get ready for the 2019 season... to reach the state playoffs. It would be the program's first postseason appearance since 2012.

"Our goal is to reach the playoffs," said Hamilton. "We haven't been there in a while, but ultimately, if we take care of what we need to take care of, we will have a good shot to do it this year. We're going to give it our best shot and throw everything we've got out there. What it comes down to is playing as one unit. We've adopted 'One Team, One Dream' as our motto. That means we have to play as a cohesive unit and play together. I believe from what I've seen so far at practice, we're getting there. The energy level is high, and being one team fully together is what is going to make or break us."

Hamilton, a 2006 alum of Gordon Central, served as an assistant under Nix each of the last two seasons as the Warriors were just one win away from a playoff berth last year as they lost a tough one in the final week of the regular season to Coosa to keep them out. He said that already being on staff and having relationships with the players has helped a lot as he's made the transition to the head coaching role.

"It's been great," said Hamilton. "If I would've been a coach coming in here from the outside, I think it would've made it a lot harder. But these kids have embraced me and embraced everything we're trying to do. They try to get better every day. We're still trying to find those one or two leaders on this team, but we've got a lot of positive energy. The players are echoing the positives instead of negatives. If someone makes a mistake on the field, their teammates don't let them get down about it. They just tell them to fix it and make up for it on the next play. That kind of positive attitude has been the biggest growth within the team since I took over."

Hamilton's tenure started with an encouraging two weeks of spring practice that culminated in a three-team



Photo by LARRY GREENSON / Staff

Gordon Central's Nelson Gravitt (1) looks for running room on a carry during a recent practice.

jamboree scrimmage against Adairsville and LaFayette, which the Warriors looked very competitive in. That momentum carried over into the summer program, where Hamilton said he saw a lot of guys that wanted to work hard and get better.

"We had 35 kids that made all the summer workouts, and those are our 'Ultimate Warriors,'" said Hamilton. "They sacrificed their summer to come in and work to make themselves and the team better. That core group is strong and our core JV group that came to work out is strong. Now, they are trying to help everyone else get up to speed since we've started practice."

The Warriors used several quarterbacks last season, including Nelson Gravitt, who is returning for his senior year and is expected to contribute at that position again as well as several other spots. Junior Tre Williams played a lot of snaps at quarterback during the spring and showed the potential he had with his big arm and athletic ability, but he will have to sit out the 2019 season after transferring from Sonoraville. Hamilton said a few others are competing in practice and showing their potential as the signal-caller.

"All of them have looked pretty good," said Hamilton. "Clayton Hogue came back out and has looked solid, and Sean Gray has improved a lot. Nelson and Tre are ballers. They are going to perform wherever you put them out there. Nelson has kind of started taking over a little and been impressive, but Tre has been right there too. I think they all can help this offense, and I know Sean is going to be a stud at the JV level this year."

One spot on the offense that returns a lot of experience is up front on the offensive line with multiple starters back. And several of those guys have the ability to move around and play different positions on the line, which gives Hamilton and the Gordon Central coaches more versatility and depth. A few of the



Photo by LARRY GREENSON / Staff

Gordon Central head coach TJ Hamilton looks over a recent practice from the tower on the practice field.

Impact Players



JORDAN BOONE
LB/RB, Jr.



LUIS CASTILLO
OL, Sr.



NELSON GRAVITT
QB/RB/DB, Sr.



DAVID LINDSAY
DB/OLB, Jr.



JOHN VICTOR RAINWATER
LB/RB, Sr.



JOSH WILSON
WR/OLB, Jr.

names that Hamilton mentioned there is Luis Castillo, Paul Guerrero, Carols Escobar, Cade Hendrix and Ethan Hendrix.

"That group is everything for us," said Hamilton. "We won't be able to do what we do unless they are ready to rock and roll, and I know they will be. They make our offense go."

Another stacked spot on the offense comes at the skill positions, including running back, H-back and receiver. Gravitt could see some time as a running back, but when he's at the quarterback spot, those expected to carry a lot of the load is Jordan Boone and John Victor Rainwater. Edwin Herrera will be used in an H-back role and get some carries as well, and Josh Wilson will be one of the Warriors' top targets on the outside. Hamilton said Wilson has worked extremely hard to improve, always shows his strong work ethic and is a high-character kid. Hamilton also mentioned Peyton Parker as a threat at receiver with his smooth routes and ability to get deep behind the defense. David Lindsay, Randall Carnes and Brison McGinnis will also contribute at receiver.

The Warriors will use a lot of those same guys on the defensive side of the ball, where there is a lot of experience at linebacker and in the defensive backfield while several new faces will need to step up on the defensive line.

"Coach (Michael) Grubbs is our DC and a great coach," said Hamilton. "He is a former marine and he really loves these kids. He has tried to make the scheme as simple as possible to make sure these young men are flying around and playing free. The kids really gravitate toward that side of the ball and love it. David (Lindsay) and Nelson (Gravitt) will play in the safety spots, and Peyton (Parker), Bryson (McGinnis) and Mason Maddox are our key guys at the corner. The defensive line has some less experienced, new faces, including Josh Beavers, Hugh Don Wilson, Wyatt York and Dylan Hatfield. John Victor (Rainwater) is our leader at middle linebacker, Jordan (Boone) is a very talented linebacker as well and Carlos (Escobar) is someone else we're counting on there."

Hamilton and the Warriors will get one preseason tune-up, which will come on Friday, Aug. 16 when they travel across the county to take on Sonoraville at 7:30 p.m. in a scrimmage.

They then open regular-season play the following Friday by hosting Haralson County at Ratner Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

Following non-region contests against Christian Heritage (8/30) and Gilmer (9/6), they will begin Region 7-AA play on Sept. 20 with a trip to Lindale to take on Pepperell at 7:30 p.m.

Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 16	at Sonoraville (scrimmage)
Aug. 23	Haralson County
Aug. 30	at Christian Heritage
Sept. 6	Gilmer
Sept. 20	at Pepperell*
Sept. 27	Chattooga*
Oct. 4	at Dade County*
Oct. 18	Armuchee*
Oct. 25	at Model*
Nov. 1	Rockmart*
Nov. 8	at Coosa*

*-Region 7-AA Game

All Games at 7:30 p.m.



Team Preview: Gordon Central Warriors

Team Photo



Photo by BARBARA HALL

Team Roster

No.	Name	No.	Name	No.	Name
1	Nelson Gravitt	26	Carlos Martin	63	Cade Hendrix
3	Avery Tatum	29	Shane Davis	64	Austin McDaniel
4	John Victor Rainwater	30	James Hughes	65	Richard White
5	Bryson Fowler	32	Kaleb Shugart	66	Joshua Meatyard
6	Michael Jordan	33	Donovan Massingill	68	Paul Guerrero
7	Tre Williams	34	Skyler Hill	69	Dylan Keller
8	Edwin Herrera	35	Joshua Beavers	70	Ethan Hendrix
9	Randyn Burns	38	Edgar Ramirez	71	Zac Pardue
10	Brison McGinnis	39	Alijah Pinckney	72	Patrick Solorio
11	Sean Gray	40	Tyler Edwards	73	Justin McSwain
12	Josh Fowler	42	Luis Garcia	74	Ralph Baldwin
13	Peyton Parker	44	Omar Byrd	75	Skyler Moree
14	Clayton Hogue	49	David Lindsay	77	Jason Goss
15	Hugh Don Wilson	50	Austin George	78	Donaven Downey
16	Ethan Watson	51	Ayden McMurray	79	Kendal Springyard
17	Austin Johns	52	Carlos Escobar	80	Kayden Murray
18	Issac Dye	54	Jesus Hernandez	81	Randall Carnes
19	Ethan Massingill	56	Luis Castillo	82	Joseph Hunter
20	Wyatt York	57	Xander Meissner	83	Chanler Hunter
21	Jordan Boone	58	Scott Snow	84	Damian Bastin
22	Ashton Sisson	59	Sam King	86	Hunter Page
23	Joshua Wilson	60	Brock Shellhouse	87	Dylan Hatfield
24	Isaac Campuzano	61	Caleb Samples	88	Ayson Frady
25	Johan Pena	62	Michael Crawford	89	Bryson Casey

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Middle School Football Preview

Calhoun, Red Bud, Ashworth preparing for 2019 season

While the older boys are getting ready for the high school season, the younger players at the middle school level are also looking to round into form as their coaches prepare them for the upcoming season and probably more importantly for what's ahead at the next level. Calhoun Middle head coach Eric Rigney, Red Bud Middle head coach William Bryant and Ashworth Middle head coach Blake Hilley are all right in the thick of pre-season practice right now as they get their teams ready to go for 2019. Here's some thoughts from each coach on their team as well as schedules:

CALHOUN

COACH QUESTIONS:
GG: What did the summer program involve for your team, what was the participation like and how much progress did the kids make?
RIGNEY: Our summer program started back in May after we had Spring Practice the week before school was out. We had 18 workouts total over the summer, and we averaged about 60 kids per workout, which says a lot about those kids and their parents who got them there. We were able to workout, condition and even get on the field a little to get ahead before we started practice.
GG: What are the biggest keys for this team to focus on in order to have success this season?
RIGNEY: We've got one of the bigger offensive lines we've ever had so that will be good for us. We also have a pretty good core of players and some flashes of speed. We have four returning starters, which is rare in middle school. So we have a good group that have all bonded together. There is a great camaraderie about this team.
GG: Who are some of the impact players for your team in 2019?
RIGNEY: Brian Arnold at quarterback returns, and he has gotten bigger, faster and stronger. Caden Williams is a returning linebacker and running back that will contribute a lot. Jax Bishop is another player that has come in and done good things. Isaac Green and Cole Chadwick are also guys that we will count on. We have a bit of walking wounded right now with injuries, but most of those will be able to get back and help us this year.
GG: What are your overall expectations for what this team can accomplish for the 2019 season?
RIGNEY: I think this group can go undefeated and win it all. That's tough, especially with teams like Cartersville and Red Bud in our league, but if we play like we are capable, we have the chance to win it all.

SCHEDULE:

Date	Opponent
Aug. 21	at Woodland
Sept. 5	at South Central
Sept. 12	Cass
Sept. 19	at Cartersville
Sept. 26	Red Bud
Oct. 3	Adairsville

RED BUD

COACH QUESTIONS:
GG: What did the summer program involve for your team, what was the participation like and how much progress did the kids make?
BRYANT: We had workouts twice a week for the whole summer. We had the best participation we have ever had at Red Bud. We averaged between 50 to 55 per workout. We would condition, lift weights and get on the field for an hour or so at each workout. We were able to maintain where we were strength wise at the end of school last year and hopefully made a few gains. I'm pleased with where we are headed into the season.
GG: What are the biggest keys for this team to focus on in order to have success this season?
BRYANT: The biggest thing we have to focus on is each individual player doing his job. We won't have the most athletic team, but if we play our responsibilities we can make up for that with execution. The kids seem to be buying into that, and we are getting better every day.
GG: Who are some of the impact players for your team in 2019?
BRYANT: Our most explosive player is RB/FS Wyatt Key. He has good speed and vision. Jaxon Pate will play quarterback for us. He is a good athlete and has a good grasp of the offense. Dirk Junkins will play nose and center for us. He is as tough as they come. He is one of our leaders on the offensive and defensive line.
GG: What are your overall expectations for what this team can accomplish for the 2019 season?
BRYANT: I think this team can be as good as they want to be. If they continue to buy in to what we are trying to do, we have everything we need to be very competitive. I feel like last year our guys peaked at the right time, and we played our best games at the end of the season. Hopefully that will be the case again this year. If that happens I think this season will be a success.

SCHEDULE:

Date	Opponent
Aug. 15	Bagley (scrimmage)
Aug. 22	Cass
Aug. 29	Adairsville
Sept. 5	at Cartersville
Sept. 10	at Dalton
Sept. 19	Woodland
Sept. 25	at Calhoun
Oct. 3	at South Central

ASHWORTH

COACH QUESTIONS:
GG: What did the summer program involve for your team, what was the participation like and how much progress did the kids make?
HILLEY: Overall, we averaged about 30-35 in the summer. I would like to see that number increase, but I still thought that was a good number. Our summer program had two phases. In June, our focus was to correctly teach the three main lifts (bench, squat and clean), and once they mastered those, we began the focus on strength. We also hit speed training very hard because coming into the job, our speed as a team was lacking. In July, we began our offensive and defensive install and continued building on the progress in the weight room and with speed training that we built in June. From our spring practice until the end of the summer, we have made a huge step forward as a team. The kids have come together and are hungry to be the best that they can be, and I am proud of them. Now we have to take that momentum into our fall practices and then into games.
GG: What are the biggest keys for this team to focus on in order to have success this season?
HILLEY: Our team needs to focus on getting better every day. Does that mean winning every game necessarily? No. What that means is that they need to focus on how each of them are going to develop and be better to then turn around and help the team. If each individual sells themselves out for the team, is able to listen, take coaching, and do the little things right, then they will be successful. From a coaching standpoint, if we as a staff see our players get better from game one all the way to the last game, then that is success to me. Our goal as a middle school is to teach the fundamentals of football and develop them to get better at those fundamentals that way Coach Hamilton and his staff at GC and take them and run with them. We also need to develop some physicality as a team. After looking at last year's film, they seemed very timid and scared to be physical. We preach and challenge each player to be physical everyday so that we eventually become the team known as one who isn't afraid to hit. And lastly, if we continue to encourage and grow together as a team, then our success level automatically improves. The kids have done a great job so far in that aspect.
GG: Who are some of the impact players for your team in 2019?
HILLEY: Everyone on the team plays a vital role in our success so I hate to single kids out, but we are relying on several players to lead on and off the field and to be the heart of this team. It starts with several of our eighth graders. Braxton Carnes (RB/LB) and Cole Price (FB/LB) have been two guys who have played for Ashworth since they were sixth graders. They know I expect a lot out of them as players and leaders, and they truly are the heart and soul of the team. They are fearless and lead by example. The others really look up to them. Owen Lowrance (WR/DB) has really improved since coming out to play last year and could help us on both sides of the ball. Center Jim Traylor (OL/DL) has improved a lot from last year in anchoring the offensive line. Jose Cardoza (OL/DL) has the chance to be a really good defensive end and offensive tackle and is a great leader. Seventh grader Skyler Williams (QB/DB) has a natural ability at the quarterback position and understands the position and what comes with it. He can hurt you with his arm or legs so that brings a good offensive threat, and he has been a vocal leader for us. Seventh grader Jayden Freeman (RB/OLB) can flat fly. If he gets a lane he hits it hard. Jayden Sibley (RB/DB) and Jayden Jones (RB/OLB) are also two seventh graders we expect a lot out of. Overall at the skill positions we have a good amount of talent and depth, but we need our offensive and defensive lines to step up and find depth there. We will only go as far as they will let us go, and they know that.

GG: What are your overall expectations for what this team can accomplish for the 2019 season?
HILLEY: My expectation is for us to grow and get better each practice and each game. That doesn't mean going 7-0. That would be nice, but I am more concerned with the players. If we as a team improve each week, our players get really good at the fundamentals and listen to their coaches, execute on offense, defense and special teams, and leaders step up and lead, then that will be a successful year to me. If we do all the little things right, then the scoreboard a lot of times takes care of itself.

SCHEDULE:

Date	Opponent
Aug. 20	Chattooga
Aug. 27	at Armuchee
Sept. 3	Coosa
Sept. 10	at Pepperell
Sept. 17	at Cedartown
Sept. 24	Rockmart
Oct. 1	at Model

Note: All home games played at Ratner Stadium except Sept. 24 vs. Rockmart, which will be played at Ashworth Middle.

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Cheer Preview: Calhoun Yellow Jackets



Photo by ANDY BAXTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Calhoun High School Football Cheer Squad consists of: Captain Rebekah Ridley, Captain Hope Young, Jilian Wood, Anna Grace Williams, Caitlyn Glaze, Meghan Young, Ashley Kelly, Brylee Davis, Laurel Putnam, Lily West, Tatum White, Rylie Parr, Madelyn Gallman, Alex Hurley, Presley Gross, Azlyn Jackson, Mattie Lester, Bree Bennett, Kaitlyn Guevarra, Raghn Abernathy, Reagan Poe, Mattie Gunter, Abigale McDaniel and Stinger Madison Offutt.

By Brandi Owczarz-Farrer, Editor
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cheer squad participate in before the start of the season?

Lester: "Conditioning was held all summer. We hosted our annual Community Education Kiddie Cheer camp and attended a team camp in Gatlinburg, Tenn., which was for our entire high school cheer program. We have worked hard in preparation for the season."

GG: *What types of activities will the squad do for the football team before games to keep the players motivated?*

Lester: "We began decorating the field house on Thursdays on Aug. 8. Every football player will have a personalized spirit note made by one of the football cheerleaders. These spir-

it notes are placed on the individual lockers. We also create a spirit sign to display in the field house. Our famous run through signs began at the scrimmage. We begin work on these in the summer. They are a lot of work, but we love to create them for our boys, school and community."

GG: *How excited is the squad for this year?*

Lester: "The squad is very excited. Once school begins, we know it's almost time for Friday Night Lights. The girls finally get to show off all the practice and hard work they have put in during the summer."

GG: *What are your expectations for the squad this year?*

Lester: "My expectations are to see

more girls become leaders on my team. I want them to become stronger in their skills and show what an honor it is to represent their school and cheer on the Yellow Jackets."

GG: *What do you have planned on Friday nights to keep the crowd involved?*

Lester: "We will cheer our hearts out for the Jackets along with the fans, band, student section and community. We appreciate every band song played by our amazing band, and our student section helps us with our cheers. We can't wait to throw our little footballs when the Jackets score touchdowns. We are excited to support Coach Stephenson and the Yellow Jackets. #stillhere2019"

Band Preview: Calhoun Yellow Jackets



Photo by TIM GODBEE

The Pride of Georgia's Northland, the Calhoun High School Marching Yellow Jackets.

By Brandi Owczarz-Farrer, Editor
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Calhoun High School's Marching Yellow Jackets are again under the direction of Larry Brown, who's in his fourth year at the helm. Brown has taught band for 23 years, mostly at the middle school level. In addition to the marching band, Brown also heads the concert and jazz bands at CHS. Brown graduated from Chattanooga Central High School, and The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. In 2008, he earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Kennesaw State University. While at UTC, Brown played the trumpet in many different groups. He was a section leader and frequent soloist with the Marching Moccasins, and remains an active performer in the Northwest Georgia area to this day. He has played with The Usual Suspects, The Georgians, The Clock Tower Big Band, The Northwest Georgia Winds, The Roman Festival Brass and The Chamber Players of the South from Rome, and the Etowah Jazz Society in Cartersville.

Brown has assistance from Sara Webb - Calhoun Middle School Band Director, Tracy Farriba - Majorette Coach, Madison Bunch - Assistant Majorette Coach, Robert Melville - Percussion Instructor, Meredith Elakman - Color Guard Instructor, Johnathan Elakman - Marching and Maneuvering Instructor.

GG: *What training/camps did the band participate in before the start of the season?*

Brown: "We had a one week band camp the last week of July. We were very happy for a break in the hot weather."

GG: *What is your halftime show theme, or what music will you be performing for halftime this year?*

Brown: "This year's show will feature 'School's Out for Summer,' 'Take On Me,' 'These Boots Are Made For Walking,' and 'This Is Me.'"

GG: *How excited is the band for this marching season?*

Brown: "I think the band is very hyped. The students seem to enjoy the songs, and they've had a lot of fun learning their drill for the field show."

GG: *What are your expectations for the band this year?*

Brown: "I expect us to make Calhoun proud as we entertain our crowd at football games."

GG: *What do you have planned for competition/festival this year?*

Brown: "We will be attending the festival at Rockmart High School on Saturday, Oct. 19. Wish us luck!"

The 2019-2020 Marching Yellow Jacket Band includes:

Drum Majors: Casey Chapman, Marlee Jackson and Lily Stephens.

Flute: Yesenia Garcia, Sierra Maddox, Genesis Quintos, Zelia Rangel, Anjely Reyna, Adriana Canchola, Hannah Dong, Olivia Freeman, Soraya Graves, Jolie Jackson, Melanie Matul, Khushi B. Patel, Khushi N. Patel, Khushi R. Patel, Nathaniel Stockman, Giovanni Beltran, Emily Capps, Daisy

Cortes, Cassidy Groomes, Ada Arwood, Dana Avila, Amy Contreras, Sami Ramirez, Jenny Rubio, Sidny Santiago, Jayde Wilson, Gisela Alezazo, Karcyn Brown, Kyndal Brown, Lesly Chavez, Stella Chumney, Ashley Domingo, Lillie Fox, Jissel Martinez and Braisley Reyes.

Clarinet: Ryan Bagley, Ricky Castillo, Drew Eickman, Anahi Ramirez, Megan Randolph, Francella Vasquez-Umana, Gracy Bagley, Cecilia Banda, Yolanie Cotto, Baylee Long, Emilee Watson, Jose Anguiano, Abigail Banks, Guadalupe Becerra, Kasey Becerra, Kathryn Brook, Kiera Hale, Tanya Orrellana, Albiona Prenku, Braylin Bishop, Juan Lopez, Ariana Reyes-Garcia, Lexi Rios, Nadia Simon, Julissa Bahera, Kayden Biggs, Diego Cornejo, Chloe Freeman, Ashley Lopez, Vivian Reyes, Tammy Vasquez and Abigail White.

Alto Sax: Daniel Barrios, Miles Bright, Owen Gilreath, Shelby Green, Luke Peden, Brittany Pelico, Alex Repp, Melissa Villanueva, Kaden Mashburn, Joshua Roberston, Sarai Rosales, Julia Arrivillaga, Anthony Bouchard, Jocelyn Heath, Edwin Miranda, Austin Sullivan, Angel Ambrosio, Yetziel Figuera, Olivia Greeson, Henry Gutierrez, Yeimy Morales, Melanie Ramos, Johana Alarcon, Giovanni Arcos, Lillie Hall, William Hurd, Bryce Ramirez, Katherine Santana and Gavin Shaw.

Tenor Sax: Caleb McFarland and Caroline Pass.

Bari Sax: Boone Price.

Trumpet: Erika Morales, Jeremy Moso, Isaiiah Ramos, Andrik Delgado, Geovani Hernandez, Jorge Jaramillo, Ty Ly, John Reid, Tate Warren, River Abernathy, Dario Moso, Hagan Thomas, Matthew Bouchard, Austin Garner, Kevin Miranda, Jocelyn Avila, Annalise Conway, Andrea Cordero, Ana Diaz, Cecilia Gallegos, Noah Jones, Andres Martinez, Jesus Tirado, Jacob Burnett, Owen Butler, Haslett Flores, Cindy Garcia, Jacob Hunter, Jose Juarez, Junior Ramirez, Pramit Patel, Jody Evans, Gracy Nudd, Linda Perez, Pablo Quezelda, Hector Rodriguez, Christopher Arnold, Natalie Cisneros, Marty Gonzalez, Stephen Guzman, Yamile Martinez, Zuhayr Qureshi and Riley Sutton.

Mellophone: Angie Donis, Cynthia Hernandez, Teresa Vicente, Julia Garcia, Nicky Rood, Autumn Jones, Samantha Martinez, Maritza Pena, Heath Stafford, Nath Eickman, Jaky Garcia and Jennie Sanchez.

Trombone: Alex Orozco, Angel Chavez, Dustin Ho, Kaytlynn Resendez, Shannon Yeager Rood, Anthony Jacobo, Enders Cinto, Ethan Vicente, Cynthia Aguilar, Jorge Cruz, Noly Foubert, Yahir Guzman, Abram Sumner and Ivy Tate.

Baritone: Isabel Morfin, Adrianna Resendez, Alan Avila, Kade Canders, Ariana Chavez, Ruby Christian, Alexis Baggett, Richard He, Isreal Lopez and Ben Lovain.

Tuba: Logan Godwin, Noah Rood, Stephen Tate, Daven Williams, Kevin Contreras, Collin Densmore, Blake Fox and Alex Sebastian.

Drums: Connor Padgett, Will Eickman, Anthony Lopez, David Morales, Nicholas Repp, Morgan Fowler, David Perez, Maritza Barreto, Ceasar Perez, Sean Creese, Miriam Aldridge, Drew Hodgkins, Danny Tate, Ridley Anderson, Carrie Anderson, Kevin Franco, Blake Cochran, Copelan Brown, Allison Coffee, Melisa Gurusquieta, Servando Pastor, Isaiiah Rogers and Xander Smith.

Color Guard: Rachel Frankenberger, Anne Fogle Jones, Mary Kathryn Kendrick, Aurora Lopez, Molly Mashburn, Nicole Oriol, Riya Patel, Anna

Rich, Kiersten Bates, Kennedy Denman, Daisy Garcia, Chantel Johnson, Kaylee Kuehne, Floe Maddox, Mary Grace Osborne, Belinda Barrios, Ben Cass, Ashley Fuentes, Erika Guzman, Aaliyah Rivera, Jasmine Rodriguez, Melanie Sosa, Catherine Govignon and Alyza Parrott.

Majorettes: Amelia Hunt, Sara Beth Vaughn, Lydia Jaime, Emily Scoggins, Gracie Smith, Lexi Bramblett, Anna Brannon, Chris Canchola, Madeline Erwin, Maggie Kemp, Tess Parker, Marlee Pullen and Ella Reeves.

Adam Dortch

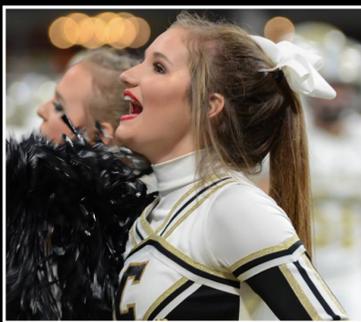
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Cheer Preview: Sonoraville Phoenix



Photo by CADY STUDIOS

Sonoraville Cheer. Front row: Skylar Weber, Mariah Key, Kourtney Semon, Hailey Robinson, Brooklin Abernathy. Middle row: Jayra Stansell, Brittany Spear, Kendel Whitehead, Emily McBurnett, Allie Walraven, Kaiya Morgan, KK Lyles, Hadley Harper. Back row: Keslei Craddock, Meegan Roberts, Kaylee Cochran, Kelsee Phillips, Laci Justice, Raven Pasley, Natalie Knight, Kailee Bearden, Jenna Palazzolo. Not pictured: Brooke Childs.

By Brandi Owczarz-Farrer, Editor
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Sonoraville High School football and competition cheer Coach Ginger Reeves is in her third year leading the Phoenix Cheer Squad. Her first year at Sonoraville, her squad competed at state and placed sixth; this past year, the squad placed fourth at the Game Day competition. Reeves previously coached for 12 years at Calhoun High School; she also has 11 years of experience at the middle school level.

Reeves is back by Assistant Coach Taylor Kile Ballew. Ballew is also in

her third year coaching with the Sonoraville cheerleaders. She cheered for Gordon Central High School under Coach Susan Burton and has been an All-Star cheerleader as well.

GG: *What training or camps did the cheer squad participate in before the start of the season?*

Reeves: "Our main camp this year was NCA (National Cheerleading Association) cheer camp. We learned new material for both football and basketball season while bonding as a program. We were named the Cheer Camp Champions, received the Herky Award and Spirit Award. Half of

our program was nominated for All American Cheerleader tryout and Raven Pasley was named to that team as All American. Three of our seniors, Brooklin Abernathy, Mariah Key and Hailey Robinson, were invited to attend a Cheer-Leadership camp in Honolulu, Hawaii this summer as well. Its focus was on being a leader. Cheerleaders from across the United States attended and blended together, learned from each other and enjoyed the sport they love.

GG: *What types of activities will the squad do for the football team before games to keep the players motiv-*

ated?
Reeves: "The girls have been busy all summer preparing for the season. They have conditioned, painted signs, made spirit notes, planned activities and learned new material. We have painted a different run through sign for our home games and look forward to the feedback from players and fans. We will still use our Velcro sign at away games for easier transport. We hope this helps build excitement at the

See **SHS CHEER**
On page 27A

Band Preview: Sonoraville Phoenix



Photo by CADY STUDIOS

The 2019-2020 Sonoraville High School Marching Phoenix.

By Brandi Owczarz-Farrer, Editor
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Justin Burke is entering his third year as the Director of Bands at Sonoraville High School and his 16th year as a music educator. His previous positions include Director of Bands at Screven County High School in Sylvania, Ga.; Director of Bands at Claxton High School, and Assistant Director of Bands at South Effingham High School in Guyton, Ga. Burke's concert ensembles have received numerous superior ratings at GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation and his marching bands have ranked con-

sistently at the top of their classifications in state competitions. His bands have performed at the Universal Studios STAR Performance Parade and the Disney Magic Music Days Parade in Orlando, Fla.; the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.; and on Ellis Island in New York City. In addition to teaching band, Burke taught Music Technology for six years, and has served as an adjudicator and a clinician.

Burke has a Master of Music in Music Ed Degree from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Music in Music Ed from Valdosta State University. Burke is a member of the Georgia

Music Educators Association, The National Association for Music Education and The National Band Association.

Burke and his wife Kristen have been married for 14 years and have three children- twin sons Lewis and Jackson, and a daughter, Clara.

Helping Burke with the Marching Phoenix are Blayne Bass, Assistant Director; Heather and Hannah Roberts, Majorette Instructors; and Jessica Childers and Bree Moore, Color Guard Instructors.

GG: *What training/camps did the band participate in before the start of the season?*

Burke: "The Marching Phoenix

Band Camp took place July 15-26 at SHS. Students worked from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day on marching fundamentals, instrumental technique and ensemble skills, and learned three out of four movements of the halftime show. We had instrumental and auxiliary techs working with our students from Reinhardt University, Jacksonville State University, Valdosta State University and The Atlanta CV Drum and Bugle Corp."

GG: *What is your halftime show*

See **SHS BAND**
On page 27A

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