AUG.31.2017 Manhalman FOOTBALL SPOTLIGHT 2017 Manhalman 11B



Wildcats

means lopsided, but Greene County was the more aggressive, physical team and dominated the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball.

The Battle for the Bell against their rivals from George County was different. The Cats had to

scratch and claw until the final horn and King said he saw his team grow up along the way.

"I saw a lot of boys turn into young men Friday night," King said. "We were down at the half and we had kids going into the locker room with their eyes down and with a lot of uncertainty on their faces."

"But we came back out with a

"I saw a lot of boys turn into young men Friday night."

Mike King - GCHS Head Coach

discussing his team's 14-13 come-from-behind win over arch-rival George County in the Battle for the Bell.

After a few minutes alone in the locker room together after the game, the Wildcats and their coaches returned to the field to celebrate with fans still lingering in the stands. Players gathered around 'The Bell' trophy with Coach King in the middle of the fray, ringing the bell and relishing the moment as much as any of the young men surrounding him. It was fitting that Ainsworth was on hand Friday night to witness the win over the

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Rebels. The longtime Wildcat skipper was genuinely happy for his protege and excited for his former players and hung around enjoying the moment long after most everyone else had made their way home.

Ainsworth is revered by Greene County fans and his name will

forever be linked to Wildcat football, but the win over George County and the atmosphere surrounding it should lesson any pressure on King from coaching in the shadow of his mentor.

Even though there is a lot more football to be played this season and plenty of potential pitfalls ahead a new era is



Let's Go Wildcats!

different level of determination and that grew as the game progressed. That means so much for our team moving forward." underway for Greene County football. And, it is hard to imagine it could have gotten off to a better start.



Photos by Russell Turn

Let's get physical ..

Being physical and fast to the football is the cornerstone for coach Jacob Aycock's defensive unit this season. It is a message coaches have repeated to players from the beginning of fall practice and apparently the Wildcats were listening. GCHS defenders were aggressive from the very first scrimmage of the year against West Harrison at Hattiesburg and have continued that style of play in two defensive shutout wins to start the year. Shown (Above) is senior Noah Mitchell lowering the boom on a Northeast Jones running back. Shown (Inset) is sophomore linebacker LaDon Woullard blowing up a would-be blocker in pursuit of the ball.







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