



Photo by Rebekah Stowers

Sassy Cats ...

The GCHS Sassy Cats Dance Team is ready for the 2017 season. Along with performing during Friday night games, the Sassy Cats have their own competition schedule which starts in December. This year's Sassy Cats are (Back Row, L-R) are Willow Brown, Anna Kate Wood, Gabby Taylor, Mikayla Bundick, (Middle Row, L-R) Gracie Churchwell, Shakera Warren, Juli Clark and Jasee McLeod. Captains for 2017 are (Front Row, L-R) Andraeh Shepherd and Sydney Ezell. The Sassy Cats are coached by Haley Prentiss Zehner.

Special teams play important to GCHS



Photo by Russell Turner

There were concerns surrounding the kicking game for GCHS entering the season. But, despite a lack of experience at key positions, the Wildcats seem to be settling in and finding consistency. Junior place kicker Daniel Zehner missed on his first two opportunities for points, but made both extra point attempts against the Rebels. Zehner is shown (Above) making a PAT against George County with the help of holder Garrett West. Senior Anthony Blakely (Shown, Inset on a kick return against West Lauderdale) and Tagg Creech are two players Coach King hopes will give his team a boost on the kickoff returns.



Consistency on PATs and punt returns key for Cats

By RUSSELL TURNER
Herald Staff

While it is often an afterthought for fans and even some coaches, special teams play can make a huge difference in the outcome of a football game.

While every coach would love to have a kicker capable of consistently making 50-yard field goals, that typically isn't an issue they face. However, every coach has seen a missed extra point, a mishandled squib kick or even a punt that took a bad bounce play a huge role in a tight game.

Coach Mike King is no exception. One of the things he noticed when watching film from last year's Greene County team was the number of times a punt was allowed to take a 'bad roll' against the Wildcats. So, finding a player to cleanly field those kicks was a priority when fall camp got underway. He found that player in senior

Tagg Creech.

Crech is by far one of the most experienced special team players returning this season for GCHS. As a junior, Crech was the Wildcats' place kicker and converted 27-of-32 extra point attempts. He looks set to be involved in the kicking game again as a punter and place kicker, but will also find himself lined up back deep when the other team is punting the ball away.

He had multiple opportunities in the season opener as the lone deep back and handled three punts perfectly. He followed that up with an even better showing against George County with a couple of difficult fair catches and big punt return to help set up the Wildcats' first touchdown.

"Tagg has shown he can do a solid job back there for us," King said. "He has really good hands and the confidence to come up and catch the ball."

"That can make a huge difference for us just in terms of field position so it's an important role for him to play. He had some really big plays for us against George County."

At placekicker, Creech will have some competition. Junior Daniel Zehner is a first-year football player who came over from soccer in the offseason. Zehner has shown a lot of promise, but is still learning the

game. He and Creech each had chances on kickoffs and extra points in the opener. While the kicks were adequate, both PATs were missed.

"That is something we have to address and do a better job with," King said. "You just can't leave those points off the board."

Zehner wasn't able to convert on a short field goal early against George County. However, his coaches didn't lose confidence in him and he calmly nailed both extra point attempts, including a high pressure PAT to give the Cats the victory.

Of course, making the kick is just part of the process. On punts and PATs, the longsnapper is as important as anyone. Thankfully, GCHS feels it has two solid options at the position in Dylan McDonald and senior Garrett Hicks.

Creech and Zehner will continue to battle for punting duties, but Creech appears to have earned the assignment at this point in the season.

On kickoff returns, Anthony Blakely, Que Washam, KyeMonte Walker and Kevin Dortch are tabbed as the deep backs. All four are capable of breaking big plays, but King says Blakely in particular has been looking for chances to score and has the ability to break big returns for the Cats.



WaltMasseyCDJR.com



\$39.95

**Oil Change,
Tire Rotation,
Multi-point
Inspection**

Excludes Diesel Engines, ACDelco Full Synthetic Oil. Must Present Coupon at time of write up. Taxes Extra. Valid through 8/31/17.

\$79.95

Front End Alignment

Must Present Coupon at time of write up.
Taxes Extra. Valid through 8/31/17.

CHECK OUT OUR **SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

Brakes • A/C Repair • Tires • Coolant Flush
Engine Tune-Up • Oil Change • Front-End Alignment • Mufflers
State Inspection • Transmission Flush • Wash, Wax & Interior Clean *and much more!*

We have Chrysler Certified Technicians on site to help with Warranty and Recall Repairs.



148 Ventura Drive, Lucedale, MS 601-947-3001

With approved credit for qualified buyers. Prices plus tax, title, tag and doc. Inventory changes daily. Listed vehicles represent in-stock inventory at time of ad design. We reserve the right to correct and/or clarify any mistakes due to photography or typography. Offers subject to change.

WaltMasseyCDJR.com

f facebook.com/WaltMasseyCDJR