

## Gibson County Football News Briefs

### Peabody looks for explosive offense, 'lights-out' defense

This football season, Peabody's goal will be to light up the scoreboard offensively and play lights out defensively. If the Golden Tide can accomplish this game plan, Trenton should field one of the top teams in the state.

Last season, head coach Shane Jacobs and his staff developed young talent en route to a highly successful 10-3 record, which included a berth in the quarterfinal round of the TSSAA Class 2A state playoffs.

Jacobs believes defensive performance will be the key to an even better season this year.

"I think the key will be just keeping that intensity, defensively. We are going to be good offensively, because we have good players. This year's offense will be similar to what we have done the last several years, but with a few new wrinkles here and there. Overall, I want to see us pick up one more notch, defensively. I think we had the best defense in the entire state last year, and I believe we can be even better defensively this year. I just want to see us play with that lights-out aggression and I want to see us do that every Friday night," challenged Jacobs.

Peabody competes in Region 7-AA with Union City, Adamsville, McKenzie, Trinity Christian, Halls and Gibson Co.

### Young Hornets hungry to prove themselves

After losing 20 seniors to the Class of 2018, the South Gibson County Hornets will look a lot different when they take the field this year.

With only nine seniors to build around, Head Coach Scott Stidham will be leaning hard on his linemen to protect the ball and push their opponents around on the gridiron. Returning to lead SGC this season are senior linemen Marcus Jackson, Dalton Bowers, Josh Clark, Jackson

Matthis, Chase Daniel and Spencer Lacewell. Devin Hardwick and Nick Rygula will pound the ball upfield at RB while Josh Kwasigroh looks for passes at wideout.

Our nine returning seniors have a great attitude and that makes them fun to work with. We're looking forward to seeing what this group can do when the whistle blows," said Coach Stidham. "We have some seniors that didn't play a lot last season that we're excited to see move up."

For several years, SGC has utilized a triple-option offense that has relied heavily on the strength of its running game. The Hornets were blessed in that department last season with a bevy of backs were strong enough to carry the ball and a couple of tacklers as well, but the Hornets are going to

have to retool last season's strategy in order to put points on the board this fall.

Taking snaps at quarterback for SGC this season will be Nolan Stidham and Landon Lambert, who have been part of the Hornets' program since they were old enough to lace up their own cleats.

Lambert (6'0", 160), a sophomore, is a true Legacy player for SGC, following in the footsteps of older brother and 2015 senior standout Jordan Lambert. Stidham (6'0", 180), a junior, as the name implies, has been gleaned information from his father for quite some time.

"Nolan and Landon are both great athletes that can do some good things on the field for us," said Coach Stidham. "Whichever one isn't playing

quarterback will definitely be out there somewhere. They're both pretty comfortable pitching the ball, and to be a good triple-option team, that's the third option. They're both capable of running the ball, and hopefully that's something that we can utilize."

While the Hornets may be missing some of their big-time playmakers from last season, fans will recognize several of the names from their time with the middle school and freshmen squads. These kids may not have much in the way of stats to carry over from last season, but they are anything but green. Anytime South Gibson has the ball, the Hornets have a chance to change a sophomore into a superstar.

### New look Bulldogs have same goals

The 2018 Bulldogs will present new looks on both sides of the football this season.

Offensively the Bulldogs are playing faster than ever with a spread offensive attack. Unlike the Dogs of old, this offense will run as many plays in the game as possible and throw the ball about as much as they run it.

On defense, the purple pack will employ a 3-4 scheme to take advantage of their speed and make up for a lack of size.

New head coach Teddy Pettigrew said both of the changes were made to fit his team's personnel this season. He thinks the changes will help his team improve on their 6-6 mark last year, and get them closer to their goal of winning a state championship.

"The strength of this team is the number of athletes we have," said Pettigrew. "We have a bunch of skill players that can do some damage with the ball in their hands in space. Offensively, I feel like we can go fast or we can slow it down based on how the flow of the game is going. Bottom line is we're going to take whatever the defense gives us. Defensively the kids have adapted to the 3-4 and they love

