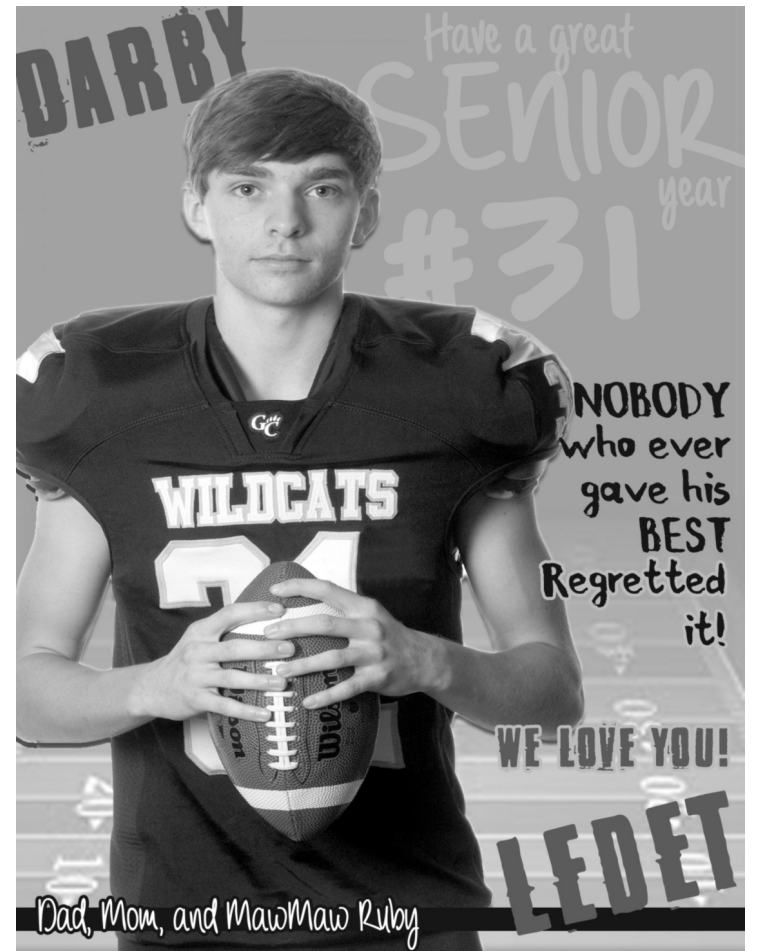




©John Sims Studio

Photo Courtesy of John Sims Studio

The 2018 Greene County High School Junior Varsity Team



Dad, Mom, and MawMaw Ruby

Future of Wildcat program developing through junior varsity games, dedicated practice sessions

JV team to play 7-game schedule this season, with four at home

By RUSSELL TURNER
Herald Staff

Replacing seniors after graduation and developing depth during season are two of the biggest challenges for most high school programs. Of course, with success comes more interest from players and that is certainly the case at GCHS where 33 freshmen are on the roster to start the year.

Those numbers are a blessing, but make it difficult at times for coaches to manage time and other logistics, while at the same time making sure the younger players are given the attention and opportunity they need to improve. With that in mind, the GCHS coaching staff is taking a little different approach this season with its junior varsity program. While most of the JV players will not be dressing out for Friday night varsity games, Coach King and his staff have amped up efforts for developing their young

talent. For this season, that means an expanded JV playing schedule of seven games and dedicated practice times during the week.

"It is important for these guys to be a part of the program, but our focus moving forward is to provide as many opportunities for our younger players to get quality playing time and adequate practice time," King said. "We have 33 freshmen and a few sophomores making up our JV team and we are excited about what this new format can mean to their development."

Every coach on the staff is involved with the JV, both on the practice field and during the 7-game schedule. Along with getting reps alongside the varsity players during group work and scrimmages at practice, the JV players have also had the full attention on Wednesdays.

"We get those guys a lot of scrimmage time on Wednesdays, preparing them for their games this season and to make the step to varsity in the future," King said. "Our varsity guys participate in those sessions as an extension of the coaching staff and work with the younger players on technique and understanding the assignments for their positions. That helps the JV guys a lot, but also helps reinforce those things for the varsity guys."

"They work hard during the week and when it comes time for playing time during the JV games,

the guys that have worked the hardest and practiced the best will get the most opportunities on the field. Just like with varsity, they all have a shot to earn playing time, but on game day we will put the players on the field that we believe gives the JV team the best opportunity to win their games."

This year's JV schedule includes four home games and three matchups on the road. The JV Wildcats get things going this Monday, Aug. 27 at Perry Central, they follow that up two weeks later (Sept. 10) with their home opener against those same PCHS Bulldogs.

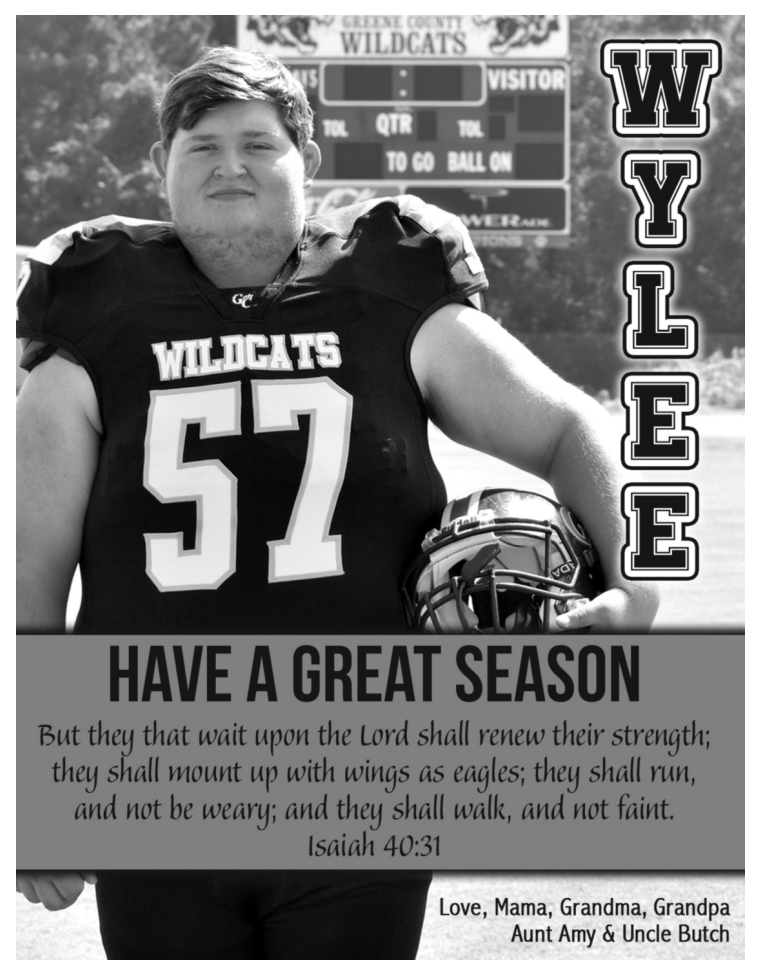
Also on the schedule are home dates versus Richton (Sept. 17), Citronelle, Ala. (Sept. 24) and East Central (Oct. 1). They finish the season with trips to Citronelle on Oct. 15 and Satsuma, Ala. on Oct. 22.

Ideally, King hopes to expand the program even further next season with a true freshmen team, as well as junior varsity. The idea being to continue finding ways to get more quality time on the field for every player in the program.

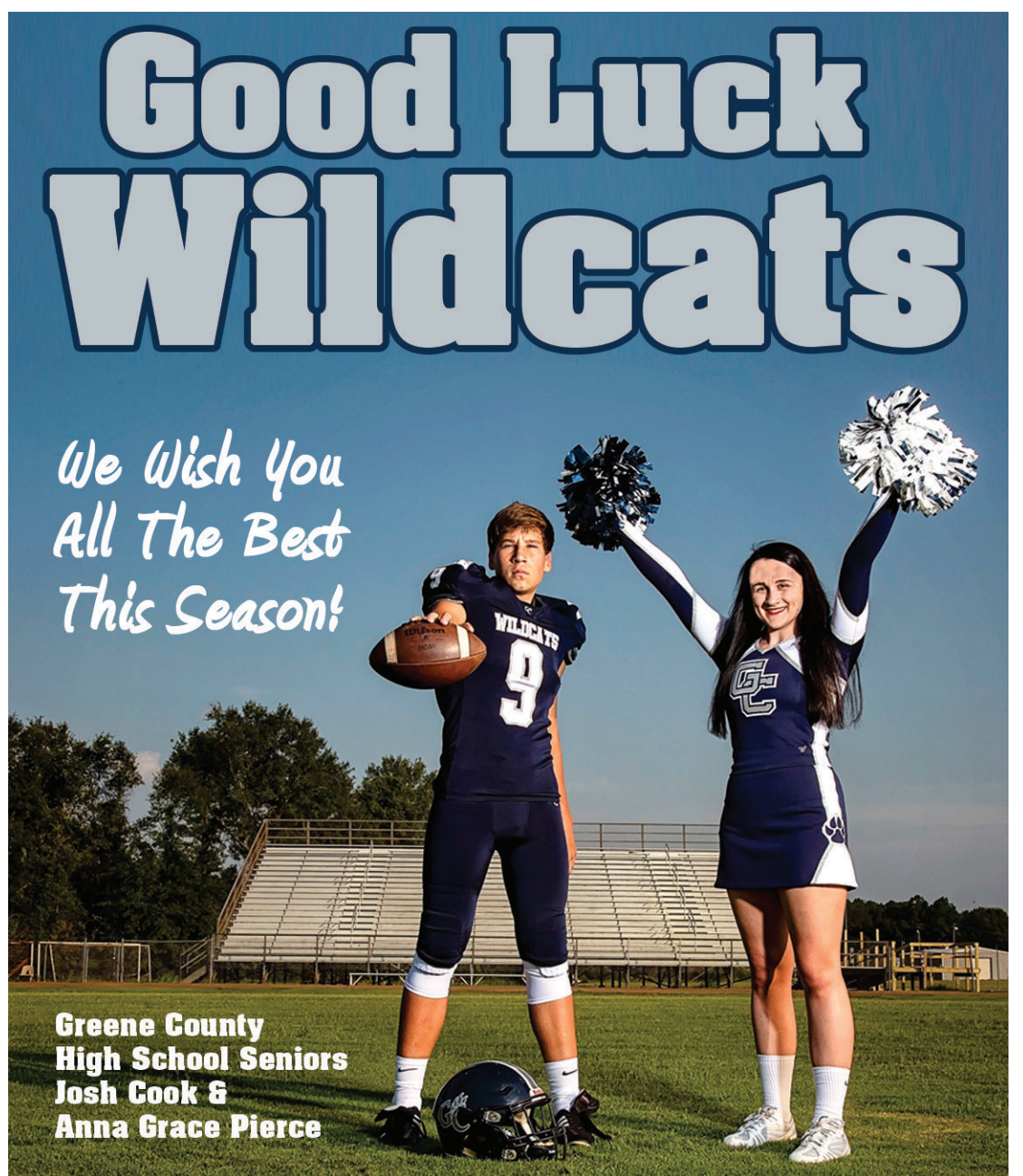
Coach Rotch Dungan, who works with the offensive linemen, said he is excited about the opportunity to work with a big group of linemen that arrived on campus this year. Dungan said he has a large group of freshmen linemen that has a real shot of producing high caliber players.

While the line seems to be the biggest beneficiary of the influx of talent to GCHS this year, the increased time and attention on the field should be good for everyone.

"These guys are the future for Greene County football and we want to make sure we have a developmental program that maximizes their opportunities to grow and get better as student athletes," King added.



HAVE A GREAT SEASON
But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31
Love, Mama, Grandma, Grandpa Aunt Amy & Uncle Butch



Greene County High School Seniors
Josh Cook & Anna Grace Pierce

Worship the way you play...

All IN!

HAVE A GREAT SEASON
WILDCATS

FBC
LEAKESVILLE

Sunday Worship 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Wednesday 6 p.m.

ADAM WYATT, Pastor

Growing disciples that live on mission.

SOUTHLAND TITLE

Cheryl K. Pierce
Attorney at Law

2210 Mill Street Extension - Suite I
Lucedale, MS 39452
601.947.9990