

Corbin prepares for second year at Choctaw

By Ryan Horton

Staff Writer

Last year **Jake Corbin** took the helm of the Choctaw program and led the Yellowjackets to a winning record despite a challenging District 6A-II-1 schedule.

Choctaw High School finished 6-4 overall and had a 3-4 district record.

That put the Jackets just shy of the postseason as they landed in fifth place of the stacked district despite securing a better record than several Class 6A squads that advanced to the playoffs.

Despite missing the postseason, 2017 proved to be a successful year for the Jackets.

Throughout the season CHS outscored the opposition 260-233.

Under a squad of new coaches, last year was the second time since 1982 that Choctaw claimed six wins on the season. The Jackets also opened the season 3-0 for the first time since 1982.

Now a year in, most of the coaching staff remains the same and they're confident of taking Choctaw into a winning future.

"Last year we all got here late as far as hires that were made. So this year we feel like we're starting where we ended last season. We're just so far ahead of where we were last year as far as kids learning just because they've been in the system for a year," said Corbin. "The coaches are awesome. We have a lot of unselfish guys that are intelligent, work hard and like being around each other."

The Choctaw-Nicoma Park school district continues to grow, and recent athletic achievements are making the schools even more desirable for high academic achievers and outstanding athletes alike.

Regarding academic standards, CHS remains atop Class 6A-II as the undisputed brightest and best. Choctaw has claimed the Oklahoma State Secondary Activities Association Class 6A-II Academic State



Jake Corbin returns for his second year as head coach at Choctaw High School.

Staff photo by Ryan Horton

Championship every year since the formation of the class four years ago.

"We're done losing talented kids. Choctaw is the place to be, and we're seeing a bright future," said Corbin.

In size CHS sits comfortably in the middle of Class 6A-II, the second tier of Oklahoma's largest 32 Class 6A schools. Choctaw ranks No. 23 with an ADM (average daily membership) of 1649.94 students.

Enrollment number changes at other schools around the state will cause some district changes on this year's football schedule.

Del City replaces Enid on the Jackets' schedule as the Plainsmen move up into the Class 6A-I, while the usual district foes include Midwest City, Putnam City, Stillwater, Putnam City West, Lawton and Deer Creek. The Jackets have non-district games scheduled against Shawnee, Lawton Ike and Putnam City North.

This year Choctaw will open the season against Class 6A-II newcomer,

Night, Sept. 7.

Choctaw defeated Lawton Ike the last two times these squads met, 2014 and 2015.

Choctaw then returns to the road to face Putnam City North, Sept. 14.

The Jackets will look to beat PCN a second straight year as Choctaw claimed a historic win last season when CHS got its fourth victory in a tough series against the Panthers dating back to 1978.

Sept. 21 the Jackets will travel to another Class 6A-II newcomer in Del City. The Eagles are another team moving up from Class 5A, and another team with a 5-5 historic record vs. Choctaw. In a series dating back to 1953, Choctaw has claimed victory over the Eagles in the last three meetings, 2003-05.

Homecoming 2018 is set for Sept. 28 vs. Putnam City. After dropping PCO easily in 2014 and 2015 the Jackets have now ended up losing heartbreakers to the Patriots two years straight.

Oct. 5 CHS will host Stillwater for Military Night. After defeating the Pioneers in 2014, CHS has been on a three-year skid against the Stillwater program.

Choctaw then travels to Putnam City West for a Thursday night matchup, Oct. 11.

Choctaw will host Lawton for CHEER/POM Night Thursday, Oct. 18.

On Oct. 26 Choctaw will host eastern Oklahoma County rival, Midwest City.

With a 2016 win, Choctaw bumped the all-time record against the Bombers to 2-14. The Jackets are looking to improve that record and prove they've built a program capable of consistently competing with the state's best.

In the regular season finale the Jackets will travel to Deer Creek Nov. 2. CHS looks to stay perfect against the Antlers after beating them two straight years since they moved up to Class 6A-II.

CHS SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 at Shawnee

Sept. 7 Lawton Ike

Sept. 14 at Putnam North

Sept. 21 at Del City

Sept. 28 Putnam City*

Oct. 5 Stillwater

Oct. 11 at Putnam West

Oct. 18 Lawton

Oct. 26 Midwest City**

Nov. 2 at Deer Creek

* Homecoming, **Senior Night

Shawnee on Aug. 24.

Historically, Choctaw is 5-5 against Shawnee. The series began with a Class 3A showdown in 1976, and Choctaw defeated the Wolves during all of their last four meetings, 1996-99.

The following week Choctaw will host Lawton Eisenhower at Hall of Fame