

# Tigers

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of Chris Ray, Austin Phann and Dalton Stallings. Defensive backs Thaxton, Levi Halliburton and Adam Brinkley will give the coaching staff potential options at the defensive back position.

The roster's younger players also provide potential starters and depth with an experienced junior class — and a sophomore and junior class with tons of upside. The 2018 freshman Tigers are coming off a successful junior high season themselves which ended with a conference championship game appearance.

"Our football team this year is around the low to mid 40s with the number of players," said Clemons. "We have a big senior class — there are 15 of them. I think the size of this class and the history of this class dictates a chance for us to be pretty good. When you start looking down that list of seniors, you see kids who have played a lot of football and you have a lot of kids who have some mobility."

### COACHING STAFF

Clemons will be aided by a Tiger coaching staff of nine mentors: Mac Petty, Davy Baker, Adam Shaw, Jonathan Peoples, Daniel Welsh, Jonathan Bush, Russell Bennett, Gary Glover and Blake Dillingham.

There are three new faces to this year's coaching staff as Petty, Shaw and Dillingham join the Big Blue.

During the offseason, two coaches departed the program as Justin Haley and Keith Goolsby have moved on to other programs.

Petty is a Gordonsville graduate who, like Clemons, served as a longtime assistant coach for the Tigers. Petty returns after a seven season hiatus from high school football.

Shaw comes to Gordonsville from the Macon County High coaching staff.

Dillingham, a former GHS starting quarterback, begins his first year as a coach at GHS.

"When you look at the people that are on our coaching staff, what always stands out to me is the guys who played football here," said Clemons. "I am a firm believer that this place means something to them and that is why they are out here doing it. It is the same way with me. Football helped me develop into the man that I am today and it was an important part of my life. I know that is why they are out here — to help these young men develop."

Clemons shared comments on each member of his coaching staff.

**Mac Petty** — "Coach Petty has coached football around here for a long time. He has not been coaching at the high school level for the last six or seven years, but he is going to be our defensive coordinator. He is a good man to have in charge of young men. He is a good coach and he treats people fairly and I am glad that I was able to get him to come back out here with me."

**Jonathan Bush** — "He is another one of those guys who has been here a long time. Coach Bush played football here. He was a good quarterback and understands the importance of this place, what it means to our community and the people who played here previously. He will coach our quarterbacks and help with the secondary some on that side of the ball. He is a guy that has been around for a long time and has seen a lot of football."

**Jonathan Peoples** — "He will coach our offensive line and coach our linebackers on defense. Coach Peoples is another one of those guys who played here and understands the importance of this football program. He understands what it means to the community and he is going to do a good job for us."

**Adam Shaw** — "We hired him from Macon County. He is the only one that did not play here, but he married a Gordonsville girl so I feel like he understands it too. Coach Shaw is going to be a great addition to our staff. He is full of knowledge. He is a technician and the kids he

coaches are going to do a great job. He will be coaching our secondary and wide receivers"

**Davy Baker** — "Davy played football here. He is going to help with our defensive line and offensive line. He also drives the bus for us on Friday nights. He helps with the cheerleaders — he does it all. He is a guy who is pretty valuable."

**Russell Bennett** — "Russell is a volunteer coach. He played here in the 80s. He understands the toughness involved in playing this game, how important it is and how it can change young men's lives. He will help with our defensive ends and our offensive line."

**Gary Glover** — "He was an All-State player when he played here. He is a high motor guy who coaches the game like he played. He will coach our defensive line and help with the tight ends."

**Daniel Welsh** — "He is a guy who just graduated a few years ago. He takes care of the

graduate who has a lot of passion for the program. He was a quarterback here at Gordonsville. I am happy to have Blake helping us out."

**Blake Dillingham** — "Blake is a Gordonsville

graduate who has a lot of passion for the program. He was a quarterback here at Gordonsville. I am happy to have Blake helping us out."

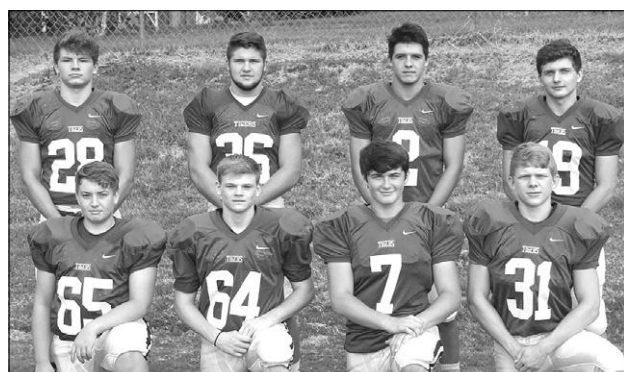
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Good Luck Tigers & Owls!



SHEA HAILE / COURIER

**2018 GORDONSVILLE HIGH LINEBACKERS** — Kneeling from left: Levi Croslin, Justin Woods, Grant Underwood, Jalen Brown. Back row from left: Braxton Givens, Matthew Thompson, Braxton Swicegood, Nathan Herd.



SHEA HAILE / COURIER

**2018 GORDONSVILLE HIGH SENIORS** — Kneeling from left: Taylor Thaxton, Scott Pitman, Nathan Herd, Levi Halliburton, Chris Welsh. Second row from left: Matthew Thompson, Bill Washer, Braxton Givens, Braxton Swicegood, Samuel Burton, Adam Brinkley. Third row from left: Jay Wills, J.B. Hughes, Billy Bennett, Kodey Madell.

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# CITIZENS BANK

**2018 SMITH COUNTY HIGH COACHING STAFF** — From left: Steven Clemons, Randall Smith, Mike Dickerson - head coach, Zac Carter, Jason Harville.

**2018 GORDONSVILLE HIGH COACHING STAFF** — Front row from left: Daniel Welsh, Gary Glover, Jonathan Peoples, Jonathan Bush. Second row from left: Blake Dillingham, Scott Clemons - head coach, Russell Bennett. Third row from left: Adam Shaw, Mac Petty. Not pictured: Davy Baker.

**2018 SMITH COUNTY FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS** — Back row (from left): Kaelyn Ward, Katie Ash, Casidy Wilkerson, Sierra Kregel, Rebecca Tillman, Ashby Long, Grace Howland, Cassie Oldham, Dominique Hebert, Olivia Crockett. Bottom row (from left): Liberty West, Kendall Williams, Alison Henry, Carrington Jenkins, Trinity Smith, Maddie Tippy, Millie Lancaster, Morgan Miracle.

**2018 GORDONSVILLE HIGH CHEERLEADERS** — Bottom row left to right: Nyce Robinson, Nikki Sanders, Brylee Hunt, Alivia Schwan, Haylee Reece, Hannah Ortega, Violet Gillilan, Kelli Gregory. Top row left to right: Macey Woodard, Kailee Barrett, Skyler Brock, Beth Woodard, Molly Bingham, Madison Wolf, Megan Greenhaw.

We Salute The Carthage Owls And Gordonsville Tigers!

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