



Junior Bulldogs seek better outcome with expanded conference

Randy Cavin
Sports Editor

Last season Gleason finished third in the Reelfoot Conference and head coach Noah Lampkins does not quite know what to expect out of his kids this year.

There is some talent on the junior high team as it looks to improve upon the 3-4 overall mark it had in 2017 and 1-2 record in the conference. The only conference win happened early in the season as the Bulldogs beat South Fulton.

“Middle school is a mystery to me,” Lamkins said. “You never know what you will have each year. They grow so much from year-to-year.”

One mystery Lampkins will have is the starting quarterback. He knows eighth-grader Kylan Borneman will be the starter, but he does not know how he will respond to that important duty.

The Bulldogs had a very good quarterback in Kolton Crochet in 2017. He has since moved on to become the starting quarterback for the high school team.

“It will be hard to replace Kolton Crochet,” Lampkins said. “It will also be hard to replace Carson Tidwell and Isaac Denton. Those three were a big part of our team last year.”

Gleason is prepared for the challenges it will face this season as many of its eighth-graders gained valuable experience last year.

“We played a lot of seventh-graders last year,” the head coach said. “That is going to help us because we had a decent season.”

Lampkins may have to play several of his seventh-graders once again this year as he only has six of his players in the eighth grade. Borneman is one of those five. He will have to handle the double-wing offense as Lampkins has turned back the clock to use it as he did a few years ago when he had more success running the ball.

Joining Borneman in the backfield will be Austin Clark, another eighth-grader, as the running back. He will step into the role Tidwell had for the Bulldogs in 2017. Another skill player, who is also an eighth-grader, is Jack Blassingame. He will line up as a wide receiver for the Bulldogs.

The other three eighth-graders all play on the offensive line, which will surely help the Bulldogs in their run-oriented

scheme. Aaron Lawson will handle the snapping duties as the center, while Layne Fowler will line up as the right guard and Blake Inman will be beside him as the starting right tackle.

Gleason’s left side of the offensive line will have seventh-graders Mack Lawrence at left guard and Clayton Buechler at left tackle.

The receivers will be asked to do a lot more than just catch the ball as a big part of the double-wing offense relies on receivers blocking and running the ball on jet sweeps. Joining Blassingame at receiver are seventh-graders Kyzer Crochet, Baker Atkins, Garrett Pinkston and Drake Lovell.

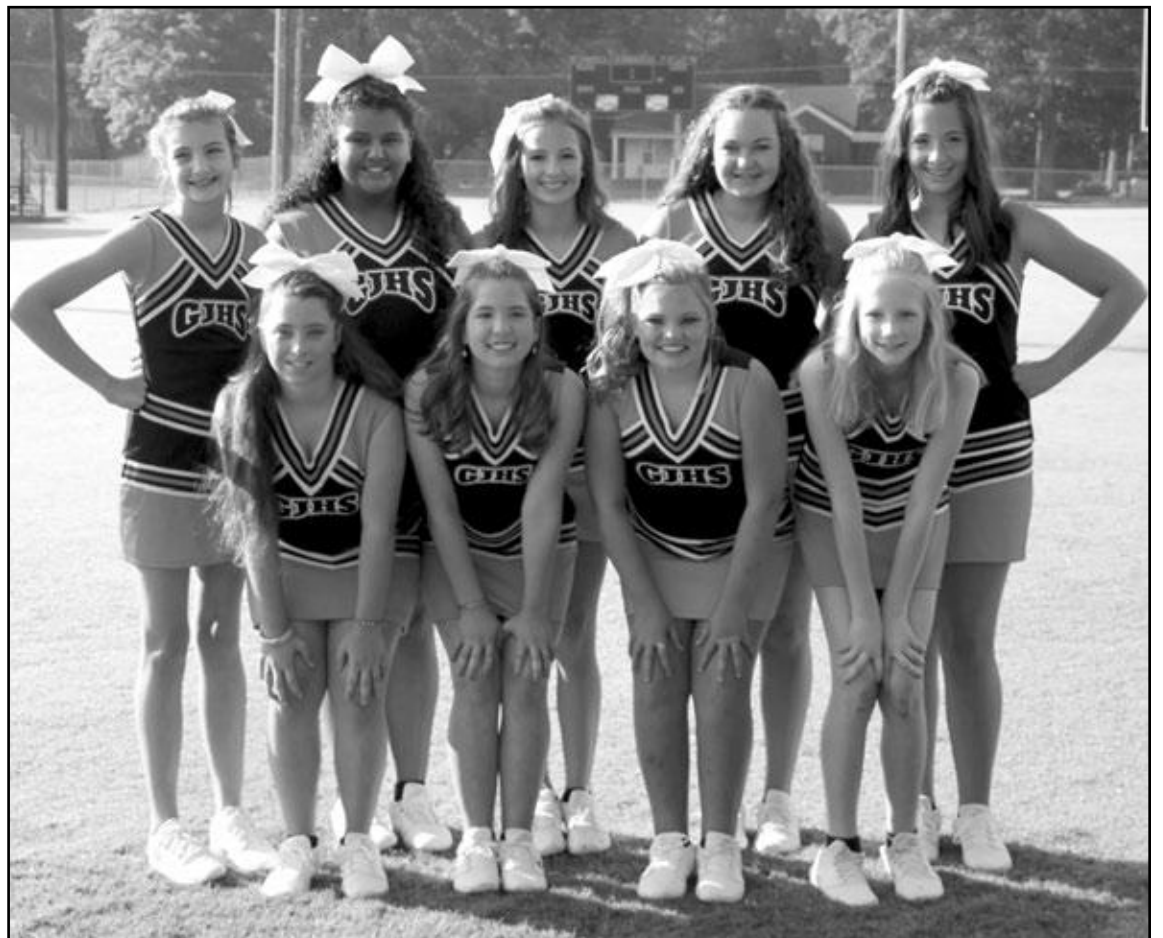
Crochet is very much like his brother as he is athletic with good ball-handling skills and speed.

The Bulldogs will be using a sixth-grader at fullback with Layne Jones handling that position. Austin Butler, Mason Glenn, Harley Todd and Lucas Snider are the other sixth-graders who will be plugged into different positions during the season.

Most of the offensive players will also be on the defensive side of the ball. Lawson and Inman will be the defensive ends, while Lawrence and Buechler will be in the middle of the line as the defensive tackles.

Gleason’s second line of defense will have Borneman, Clark, Fowler and Atkins as the linebackers. Playing off of the opposing receivers and providing run-defense support will be Crochet, Pinkston, Lovell and Blassingame in the secondary.

The conference will be a little tougher this season with the addition of Lake Road, which gives the conference five teams. South Fulton was the newest member when it joined the league four years ago.



GLEASON JH CHEER — Members of the 2018 Gleason Junior High Cheer squad are (back row) Mikenna Stegall, Alexandra Pineda, Paige Smith, Kiley Corbin, and Paris Smith. (front row, from left): Macy Gilmer, Olivia Perry, Brooklyn McDowell, Zowie Tipton.

Gleason Junior High 2016 Football Schedule

Aug. 9 @South Futon*	Sept. 6 St. Mary’s (HC)
Aug. 16 Bruceton	Sept. 11 @Lake Road*
Aug. 23 West Carroll	Sept. 20 Dresden*
Aug. 30 @Greenfield*	Sept. 27 @Fulton County

*Denotes Reelfoot Conference Game

All games begin at 6:30 unless noted

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BULLDOGS!**



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**Good luck Bulldog
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and Cheerleaders!
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of our Bulldogs!**

