

Greenfield JH hopes 2018 is the year of the Yellowjackets

Randy Cavin
Sports Editor

Greenfield head coach Hal Blackman is just three wins from reaching a milestone, but he hopes this year's Yellowjackets can give him a few more than that.

Blackman won his 97th game as the head coach in the final game of the season last year. That leaves him needing just three to get 100 in his career.

The long-time head coach never knows what kind of team he will have when it steps onto the football, but he has had some good ones the last four or five years.

This year looks promising for Blackman and the Yellowjackets with 12 eighth-graders on the team.

"That is one strength we have," Blackman said. "About eight of these kids have been with me for two years. A lot of them were not starters, but they have had some game experi-

ence. My offensive line is pretty solid as I have three who played last year."

Eighth-grader Cole Allen will be the right guard on the offensive line, while Merric Anderson is the right tackle, and Zach Rappe will be the center for Greenfield.

That is where most of the experience ends offensively for the Yellowjackets.

"My skill starters are all new, but they have been on the team," Blackman said. "We have a new quarterback that earned the spot with Craig Ross. He is a gutsy kid who has spent a lot of time in camps and has come a long way."

Eighth-grader Matt Scates will get the most calls at tight end and is the backup quarterback. Greenfield runs out of a flanker set most of the time and John Featherston will get that starting position.

One player Blackman expects to have a good season is his new starting

fullback.

"At fullback, a really tough kid is going to be Chance Simmons," he said. "I feel like he is going to have a big year for us. His brother, Chase Simmons, will be our left tackle."

One player people will notice right away when he steps onto the field is eighth-grader Michael Christley. It will hard not to mistake who he is as he stands at close to six feet and tips the scale at around 200 pounds.

"New to us this year is probably one of the biggest players you will see in the county is Michael Christley," Blackman said. "He is going to be the tailback for us and I compare him sizewise to the Oliver kid over at Dresden. He is a big ol' boy and I am glad to have him. He has never played football, but he is getting better and stronger every day."

New to the offensive line will be the left tackle Hunter Drinkard, while

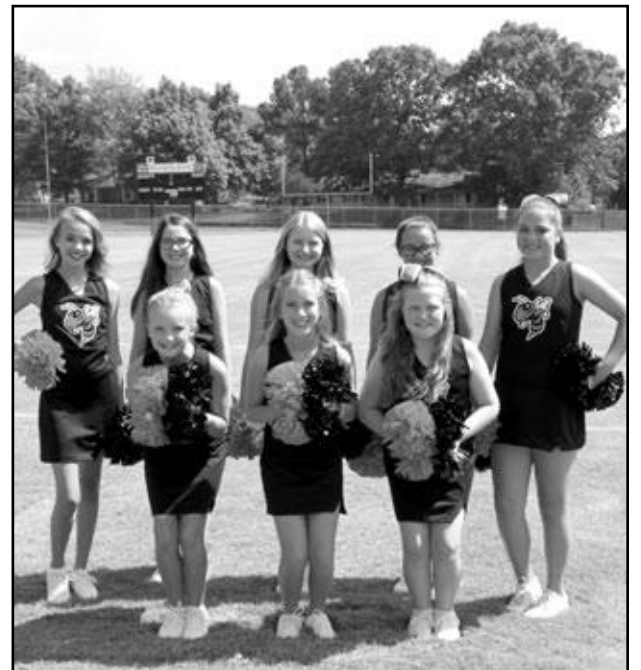
Tyler Webb, who played at Obion County last and his father played for Blackman, will be the other tight end.

A lot of things can go right for the Yellowjackets this season, but also a lot can go wrong if they get hit with injuries. That is the only real concern Blackman has.

"The thing about our team this year is if we get a lot of injuries, we don't have a lot of replacements," Blackman said. "We are going to count on rotating probably around 12 or 13 kids that are ready to play. If we start getting a lot of injuries, we could be in trouble."

All of those kids Blackman plans to rotate on offense will also have to play defense. So keeping them healthy is a top priority for the head coach.

Greenfield will have already played its first game and conference opponent by the time this is published as it opened the season at Lake Road on



GREENFIELD JR CHEER — (Front row, from left) Pixie Puckett, Annaliya Shepherd, Amelia McAlister, (back row) Ave Crawford, Brianna Walker, Addy Usery, Rachel Rodriguez, and Bryanna Ricketts.

Aug. 9. The Generals are the newest member of the conference as they started back to playing football

this year. The Yellowjackets will have their home-opener on Aug. 16 against Hillcrest.

Greenfield Junior High 2018 Football Schedule

Aug. 9 @Lake Road*	Sept. 13 @Dresden*
Aug. 16 Hillcrest	Sept. 20 Stewart County
Aug. 23 @Gibson County	Sept. 28 @West Carroll
Aug. 30 Gleason*	Denotes * Reelfoot Conference game
Sept. 6 South Fulton*	All games begin at 6:30 unless noted

Good luck to the Gleason Bulldogs and the Greenfield Yellowjackets

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Good Luck To All Greenfield Jr. High & High School Football Players & Cheerleaders From The City of Greenfield