

► Experience

Continued from Page 3-B

"all-around great volleyball player" and was the only player on the 2017 team that had ever played organized volleyball. However, a hip injury is keeping her off the court at this time. As for Singleton, what she lacks in experience, she makes up with in raw athletic ability.

"Hannah will hopefully return to play in the next couple of weeks," Wyatt said. "She is a competitor and such a team player. Once she returns, she should see a lot of playing time. She's very smart and can do multiple things on the court for us"

"Diamond Singleton is a first-year player who is a natural. She is athletic and very smart on the net. With her jumping ability, I hope to see her be a problem for other teams we will face."

Caver and Shaw are well-rounded players that Wyatt expects a lot from during their junior season. Wyatt says both have high volleyball I.Q. and will be utilized in a lot of different ways in the Lady Wildcats' scheme.

"Tiana Caver - she is a smart player and will be one that will be utilized all over the court this year," Wyatt said. "With her front-row hitting ability and her strength as a back row defender and server, she will see a lot of playing time."

"Gerrin will be one of the setters for us this year. She is a vocal leader and has shown tremendous improvement from last year to this year. She will be a huge asset with her ability to communicate well on the court, serving, and her knowledge as a setter."

Two other juniors, Edee Havard and Madison Pipkins, have stood out in preseason camp and are expected to be key role players for GCHS. Wyatt calls Havard a "tenacious" competitor who plays with a "fire in her eyes". Pipkins has height and athleticism that will be needed along the front line and a player who is constantly looking to improve.

"Edee is one of our players that hates to lose and it shows," Wyatt said. "I love that about her. She is also a vocal leader for us and such an encourager as well. As a junior she will be playing back row for us, but has the potential to play many other positions as well."

"Maddie can play multiple positions for us and is always striving to be better. Just the other day she called me after practice to ask what it was she can do to get better. Something I love about my players is when they desire to be the best they can be, and she does. I am excited to see how she continues to develop this season and next."



Photos by Russell Turner - Herald Editor



Getting plenty of repetitions of volleyball specific movements is key to making sure players have good reaction times and can make plays without having to think about their mechanics. The Lady Wildcats have numerous drills they run each practice to make sure they get the reps needed to stay sharp on the court. Seniors Olivia Eubanks and Kayla Mazzocchi are shown (Above, forefront) working through one of those drills. Mazzocchi is shown (Inset) working with Wyatt on correct blocking form.

Wyatt says Balee Wilson has a ton of potential as a sophomore and will be a key player this season and for years to come.

"She is a very intelligent player that brings a knowledge and court awareness with her prior tennis experience. She will also be a strong server for us this year and in the next couple of years."

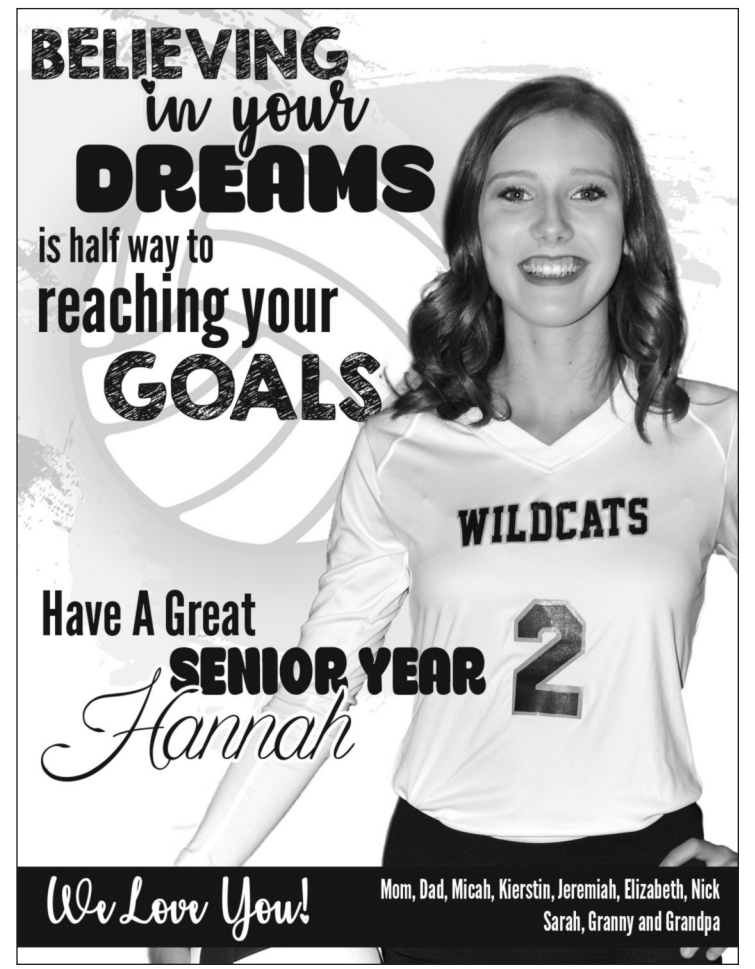
A host of other girls will be counted on to fill roles in varsity action, while they gain playing time and experience in junior varsity action or as members of the freshman team.

With 17 underclassmen on the

roster, GCHS has a great foundation in place for future years. And, with the addition of a true freshman team, each of those players should gain a lot of experience on the court this year.

"We decided to make a freshman team this year due to having so many upcoming 9th graders interested," Wyatt said. "We definitely want to build the program and there is a lot of potential and a lot of athleticism in the 9th grade squad. With having some of the 9th graders play varsity this year, it will just bring more experience to their team."

"The JV squad consists of a lot of first year players and veteran players who played year before last. This will definitely be a growing year for them, but hopefully with the leadership from veterans like Brooke Byrd, Emilee Pearce, Makayla Whisenhunt and Ashton Shepherd, they will be able to adjust and improve every set. Many of the first year players have caught on quickly and are gaining confidence every practice. Once they get some "game" experience under their belt they will definitely be competitive."



Advertisement for Cary E. Williams, Certified Public Accountant. Includes text: 'Hard Worker', 'Sportsmanship', 'Positive', 'Team Player', 'Classy', 'Be the PLAYER that others LOOK UP TO!', 'Have A Great Season WILDCATS!', 'CARY E. WILLIAMS', 'Certified Public Accountant (601) 394-5017', '416 St Francis Street - Leakesville, MS 39451'.

Advertisement for GCHS Lady Wildcats. Features a young woman in a white jersey with number 16 holding a volleyball. Text includes: 'WILDCATS!', 'GO, FIGHT, WIN!', 'GOOD LUCK OLIVIA EUBANKS AND ALL OF OUR GCHS LADY WILDCATS', and a quote from Philippians 3:14.

Advertisement for Rocky Creek Catfish & Collectibles. Text includes: 'Bump... Set... SPIKE IT! That's the way we like it!', 'Have A Great Season WILDCATS!', 'Rocky Creek Catfish & Collectibles', 'Highway 63 North - Lucedale', '(601) 947-6888', and business hours: 'THURSDAY - SATURDAY 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.'.

Advertisement for Larry Byrd for Greene County Sheriff. Text includes: 'Have A Great Season WILDCATS!', 'ELECT LARRY BYRD', 'Greene County SHERIFF', and 'Political Advertisement Paid for Larry Byrd - Candidate'.

Advertisement for Leakesville United Methodist Church. Text includes: 'Leakesville United Methodist Church', 'Enter to Worship Depart to Serve', '1806 Paulding Road Leakesville (228)861.3123', 'victorrchatham@gmail.com', 'Rev. Dr. Victor Chatam Pastor', 'Proud Supporters of the GCHS Wildcats Proud Believers in a Risen Savior! Join Us As We Celebrate Both.', and 'Sunday School - 9 am / Sunday Worship - 10 am'.