

# Coaches excited about young talent and opportunity to compete with JV program



Photos by Randy Whitley - Herald Contributor

GCHS is blessed with a lot of good young players this season and they will get an opportunity to get some playing experience and represent their school in six junior varsity games. Shown (Above) are a host of JV defenders closing in on a Vanleave running back during a scrimmage on Aug. 16. Shown (Inset) is sophomore Chad Thomas (50) who will see time in varsity action and start on defense for the JV.



## Wildcats to dress out 65 for six junior varsity games

By RUSSELL TURNER  
Herald Staff

With a large roster of budding young players, the GCHS coaching staff has a lot to be excited about for the future.

With six junior varsity games on the roster coaches are looking past 'playing time' and 'game experience' as the primary goal for the program. While those things are very important, Coach Mike King and his staff are more focused than ever on creating competition among their younger players and also instilling a drive to win.

"We are looking to suit up about 65 guys for JV games and that is great for our program," King said. "We have the numbers to have a lot of competition at each position and we are very excited about our younger players and seeing them compete on Mondays."

"As we get into the JV

schedule, we are really wanting to be competitive and are going to go out there and try to get wins. We don't want our guys thinking, 'oh, it's okay, it was just a JV game', we want it to be important to them to win."

Sophomore Conner West will likely get some varsity snaps at quarterback this season, but freshman Johnathan Nicholson is traveling with the varsity team on Friday nights as well, serving as a signal caller from the sideline and developing in the offense in the process. Both will get a lot of opportunities to operate the Wildcat offense during the program's junior varsity schedule.

Dallarus Cooper will get the majority of carries at tailback in JV action. Zane Turner, coaches say, is a smart, hard-working player who will sharpen his game at H-back.

King says the receiving corps is one of the largest groups among the underclassmen at this point. Coaches like the crop of young receivers coming along this year. Sophomores Dakota Kittrell, JaShon McGee and Scotty Nettles, along with freshman Zyon Williams should get plenty of reps at the wide receiver positions.

Nettles and Kittrell are hard workers that draw

praise for their effort and coachability. McGee made big strides in the summer. Coaches say he has "good hands" and continues to improve each time on the field. Williams is another up-and-coming freshman that runs good routes and has shown big-play ability. Overall, the group is one coaches expect a lot out of in the coming seasons.

On the offensive line, junior Logan Bufkin and sophomores Frederick Johnson, Trevor Parker, Aiden Smith, Matt McCoy, Matt Crawford and Bryce Walley look to be the ones getting the most reps in the JV games.

Defensive Coordinator Jacob Aycock said coaches have been getting a lot of good scrimmage work from the JV squad, dedicating one after school practice per week on working with the younger Wildcats.

"We are well ahead of where we were with junior varsity a year ago and that's really exciting," Aycock said. "We have a lot of good players coming along."

Along the defensive line,

junior Anthony London, sophomores J.T. Dunnam, Anthony Walley and Tyler Dickerson, and freshman Shon Guthrie are expected to get the bulk of the playing time. At defensive end, expect to see sophomore Nik Wilson and Andrew Lott getting the early starts.

At linebacker, Aycock sees sophomores Ethan Roberts and Keaton Hollinghead as two that are going to be really good players for GCHS in

the future. Freshman Devin Duiett is another promising youngster that will get a starting nod at defensive end for the JV team.

Nicholson will be a starter in the defensive secondary when not under center for the JV Cats. He will be joined by freshmen Samuel Graham and Cameron McBeth.

King said there are a couple of dates on the JV schedule that will likely feature freshmen only action. The exact format for that is not set in stone, but the coaching staff

is eager to see the youngest of the Wildcats get their chance to compete against other schools.

JV action was set to get underway Monday night against Perry Central, but coaches are rescheduling that game due to weather. Other matchups this season will include a second game with Perry Central, two games against Citronelle (Ala.), and single games against Vanleave and East Central. The schedule can be found on page 8B of today's edition.



Photo by Randy Whitley / Herald Contributor

Small in stature, but huge when it comes to heart, GCHS sophomore Dallarus Cooper has earned time in varsity action in each of his first two seasons. He will get the chance to be the featured tailback in the GCHS offense during the six JV games scheduled for this year. He is shown (Above) getting ready to stiff-arm a Vanleave defender.



Photo by Randy Whitley / Herald Contributor

Greene County sophomore quarterback Conner West will see a lot of varsity playing time on special teams and potentially as the No. 2 quarterback for the Wildcats. He will also be expected to lead the GCHS junior varsity offense. He is shown here making a big gain in the scrimmage against Vanleave earlier this month.

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