

# GREENE COUNTY

# Baseball SPOTLIGHT 2020

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## Expectations are high for GCHS in 2020

*Baseball Wildcats hope to ride momentum for potential title run*

By **RUSSELL TURNER**  
*Herald Staff*

When Nick Chatham took over the GCHS Baseball program in 2017, his goal was to take the program back to the state of prominence it once enjoyed.

While Chatham's teams have not made it back to the pinnacle of Mississippi High School baseball, but the Wildcats are no longer being overlooked in the discussions of teams to watch each season.

"The first year not much was expected of us after a 3-21 season," said Chatham, who just started his fourth season as the Wildcats' skipper. "So, we snuck up on a lot of teams and made the playoffs that season for the first time in four years."

In year two, GCHS was still able to 'sneak up' on a few teams and made the playoffs in consecutive years for the first time

since the Scott Bray era. The Cats also won the program's first playoff game since the Scott Bray era that season.

In 2019, Chatham and company finished at an even 16-16, but won the games that counted most and advanced to the third round of the playoffs. The Wildcats went toe-to-toe with some of the best baseball programs in the state during the run, beating East Central in the first round and a 27-1 Florence team in the second round. They went to extra innings in game one against West Lauderdale, but eventually lost the series to the Knights.

Pushing one of the best programs in the state over the last 30 years to the limit was a nice step, but that isn't good enough in Chatham's way of thinking. But, what it did do, was confirm the mindset surrounding GCHS baseball and lift expectations for the Wildcats.

"We no longer are sneaking up on people," Chatham said. "That is why our motto is 'Expect It.'"



Photo by Randy Whitley / for the Greene County Herald

Greene County senior first baseman Dylan Miller is shown coming off the bag after recording the final out of an inning in the Wildcats' opening day win over Richton on February 15. The Wildcats beat Richton and Laurel in scrimmage action that day and have rolled off wins over Petal, Natchez and Columbia to get their regular season off to a 3-0 start.

**See EXPECTATIONS**

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