

# ANDERSON BEARCATS F



## GAME SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 11	<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY</b> ANDERSON COUNTY   7:30PM
SEPTEMBER 18	<b>HARRISON COUNTY</b> HARRISON COUNTY   7:30PM
SEPTEMBER 25	<b>LINCOLN COUNTY</b> LINCOLN COUNTY   7:30PM
OCTOBER 2	<b>COLLINS HIGH SCHOOL</b> TBA   7:30PM
OCTOBER 9	<b>BOURBON COUNTY</b> ANDERSON COUNTY   7:30PM
OCTOBER 16	<b>BOYLE COUNTY</b> BOYLE COUNTY   7:30PM
OCTOBER 23	<b>LEXINGTON CATHOLIC</b> ANDERSON COUNTY   7:45PM
OCTOBER 30	<b>BARDSTOWN</b> ANDERSON COUNTY   7:30PM
NOVEMBER 6	<b>MERCER COUNTY</b> ALVIS JOHNSON STADIUM   7:30PM

There are many unknowns ahead of the Anderson County Bearcats, who will kick off the 2020 high school football season against Franklin County on Sept. 11. New Head Coach Mark Palmer will continue his 32-year football coaching career in Lawrenceburg after leaving his longtime home of Virginia and his former team, the Rebels of Patrick Henry High School in Glade Spring, Virginia.

Palmer had a storied career as a head coach, leading the Rebels to a 62-43 record throughout his nine-year tenure, and losing only one game in 2019.

Palmer doesn't worry about how the Bearcats played football in the past, but he recognizes that they are a historically strong team and that he wants to return a winning mentality to an Anderson County team that lost seven of their 11 games last season.

One thing is certain, a losing season and graduating 15 seniors, including leading scorer Zach Labhart, does not faze Palmer, and he is focused on helping the kids grow as individuals, both on and off the field.

"I'm a real positive guy, I try and use football to help build young men and create

men of character and my primary goal is helping these young guys, you know just grow and be successful, so that when they're men, they'll be successful. I use football to do that," said Palmer.

The coach plans to make an immediate impact on the squad and the program as a whole, but he admits it will take time to fully implement his championship-style culture.

"It takes time to install your culture and that's one thing that's really big to me, is to have a real positive championship-style culture, and that just comes from hard work, leadership, and being great teammates," said Palmer.

He said he is off to a great start and is very pleased with his transition to Lawrenceburg, as well as the school and player's acceptance of his family, and his coaching. The players are buying in quickly, and Palmer is happy with the quality of character and hard work shown by his new players.

"Well, they have a good work ethic, they understand the importance of giving their best. They're just a great group of young men. I mean, I've been just impressed with the way they handle themselves as young men, and the way they fuel their teammates in the locker room," said Palmer,

who is already optimistic about the direction of the program's culture. "I just feel good about the direction the program's going and the culture we're developing."

Despite the pleasant start, Palmer's project with the Bearcats is an uphill battle and it certainly doesn't help that the former starting quarterback Jagger Gillis transferred two counties south to join the Rebels and Justin Haddix's program. Gillis is responsible for 14 of the Bearcat's 30 touchdowns from a season ago, as well as 1,340 total yards, 27 tackles and an interception on defense.

The starting quarterback position was up for grabs until the beginning of game week one. Senior athlete Jacob Castle was declared the field general earlier this week. Castle's athleticism and his knowledge of Palmer's passing scheme won him the job and the coach said he is confident in his ability to complete passes within that scheme.

All Palmer can ask of his team is hard work. He said he is happy with what he is seeing so far.

"I ask them to be just a little bit better today than they were yesterday. You know if we're not getting better, we're getting worse, and so far you

