

GCHS light on experience at the plate, but confident lineup can produce

By RUSSELL TURNER  
Herald Staff

With inexperience on the pitching staff and several new faces at defensive positions, finding ways to muster run support could be critical for Greene County’s chances on the diamond this spring.

The Wildcats’ have several returning lettermen leading the offensive attack, but will need some new names to emerge as run producers if they are going to get back to the playoffs. Gannon Henderson, Ethan Roberts, Brayden Brewer and Jace Lott are top returning hitters from last season, but sophomores Collin Pipkins and Phillip Hearing have earned key spots in the line-up as well.

Henderson did not play in the Cats’ first three games, but saw action against George County and had his first start of the season against Citronelle. He was the leadoff hitter against Citronelle and is projected in that role again this season.

“Gannon is a good leadoff hitter because of his speed, but he also has a lot of pop in his bat,” Chatham said. “We need him to get things going for us and feel confident he can do that.”

“Pipkins looks set as our

number two hitter. That is a tough ask of him as a sophomore and first-year starter, but he has really come on strong and we feel good about him in that role.”

Pipkins had a .250 average through five games with two runs scored.

Junior Ethan Roberts is currently hitting third for GCHS and is starting to heat up at the plate. Roberts is hitting at a .250 pace for the year, but was 3-for-7 with two doubles, a homer and three RBIs against George County and Citronelle last weekend.

Roberts’ classmate Brayden Brewer is slotted as the team’s clean-up hitter. He was leading the team with 10 RBIs when the season was cut short last year, but has picked up right where he left off this season. Through five games, Brewer was leading the team with a .444 average, eight hits and six runs scored.

Sophomore Phillip Herring will bat behind Brewer. The big-hitting first baseman saw limited action as a freshman, but will be counted on to drive in runs this year. So far, he’s looking up to the task with a team-high four RBIs. Through Saturday he had a .400 average (second on the team). His six hits included a double and a homer against George County.

Junior catcher Jace Lott follows Herring in the order. Lott had his biggest game of the year on Friday against



Photo by Russell Turner / Herald Editor

Greene County junior Brayden Brewer is shown putting a ball in play with runners in scoring position on opening day. Brewer lined out to centerfield on the play, but had two hits on the day. Heading into Monday’s game with Resurrection, Brewer led his team with a .444 batting average, eight hits and six RBIs thus far.

the Rebels with two hits and two RBIs.

“Those guys at the top of the order are seeing the baseball pretty well right now,” Chatham said. “We are still trying to figure things out in the back end of the order, but I think that is going to improve as our guys get more experience.”

Seniors Dawson Thornton, Jackson Dueitt and Cole Hillman, along with junior Parker Errington are currently penciled in as the 7-9 hitters in the order. Hillman and Errington each have two hits to lead the group.

Hillman has an RBI and two runs scored, while Errington has two RBIs.

Dueitt had the only hit in Tuesday’s 1-0 win over Resurrection. He scored on a hard hit ball by Henderson that was too hot for the Eagles’ shortstop to handle.

Others who figure to see time at the plate or on the bases include senior Woullard Eubanks, junior Keaton Hollinghead, sophomores Parker Errington and and Calup Williams, as well as freshmen Kemper Williams and Brycen Johnson.



Photo by Russell Turner / Herald Editor

Coach Nick Chatman is shown taking a peak in at home plate after putting the brakes on junior baserunner Keaton Hollinghead during the Cats’ opener at Oak Grove. Hollinghead, who scored a few moments later, was in the game as an emergency first baseman after just one day of practice at the corner position he had never fielded before. Chatham praised Hollinghead for the way he played in the game and for his approach to the challenge.

JACKSON

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