Changes abound for Owls in 2021 campaign

2021 Owls Football Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	LOCATION	<u>TIME</u>
AUG. 21 AUG. 27 SEPT. 3 SEPT. 10 SEPT. 17 SEPT. 24 OCT. 1 OCT. 15 OCT. 22	GORDONSVILLE DEKALB CO. MAPLEWOOD WESTMORELAND (HC) WALKER VALLEY TROUSDALE CO. STRATFORD JACKSON CO. MACON CO.	GORDONSVILLE SMITHVILLE CARTHAGE	7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00
OCT. 29	EAST NASHVILLE	NASHVILLE	7:00

By Shea Haile

Courier Sports CARTHAGE - The winter of 2020 was an eventful

one for the Smith County High football program. In December, the Owls welcomed 2005 SCHS graduate and former Black-and-Gold football player Matt Dyer back to his alma mater as the new head coach.

In November, Smith County saw a dramatic shift in their upcoming 2021 season with TSSAA (Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association) reclassification resulting in the Owls being placed in the MATT DYER newly formed Region 5-3A which includes East Nashville, Stratford, Maplewood and Jackson County.

Because of the realignment, only three opponents from the 2020 season remain on the schedule for the Owls this fall: Gordonsville, DeKalb County and Macon County.

Dyer addressed the new region after his hiring in December.

"As far as the new region goes, I have coached against Coach (Sean) Loftis and Jackson County for a few years now," said Dyer about Jackson Co., a program that was in Region 4-2A with Trousdale, his former team. "I have a lot of respect for Coach Loftis who enters his inaugural and the job he does with that program. I also have coached Maplewood. His kids play very hard for him and they always are very athletic. Stratford and here," said Dyer. "I graduated East Nashville both made good playoff runs this last year and have great athletes year in and assistant coach here for Gary



SCHS Owls head coach

full of good players and teams, and I am excited to compete

Prior to sporting the Blackand-Gold again, Dyer was an assistant coach at Class 2A power Trousdale County. During his three seasons with the Yellow Jackets,

the program made two 2A

semifinal appearances and

had one trip to the Class 2A

title game. Dyer also helped mentor the Tigers of Macon County for eight years (2009-2017) where he helped the program

develop into a 4A contender. The new Owl head coach season explained the significance returning to his against Coach Broome at hometown program at SCHS

for him and his family. "I am an alumni from in the Class of 2005. My dad (Pat Dyer) was also an year out. This new region is Rankin beginning in 1988 and



SHEA HAILE / COURIER

2021 SMITH COUNTY HIGH SENIORS — Kneeling from left: Luke Dillon, Andrew Wheeley. Standing from left: Colton Windham, Brycen Claywell, Cole Phillips, Alexa Western - mgr. Not pictured Eligio Tolentino.

when Coach Rankin left in 1989 — he was the next head coach from 1990-1995."

Legendary coach Pat Dyer served as head coach of the Owls program and at Macon County (1999-2004). The longtime educator and coach passed away on September 17,

"It did mean something for me to come back here,' Dyer continued. "It was a position I watched just with the anticipation that if it came open - I would apply for it and just hope that I would get it. I am super blessed that I

Dyer had strong ties to the Smith County community before his hiring at SCHS. His mother, Connie Dyer, is currently a teacher at Smith County and has been in education for 40-plus years. Dyer's wife Stephanie is currently the school nutrition

Please see OWLS page C - 4

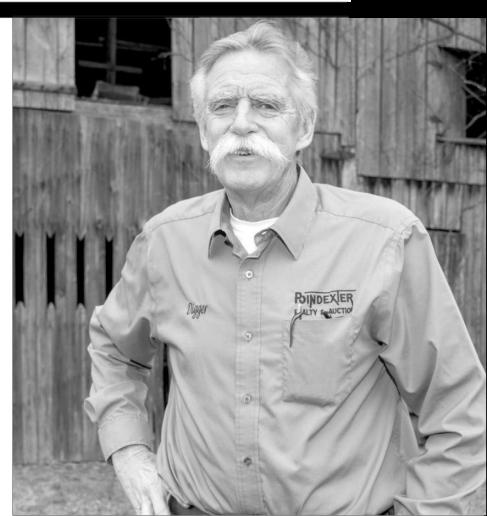


2021 SMITH COUNTY HIGH FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF — Kneeling from left: Lee Rice, Alex Bray, Carson Hackett, Mark Sampson. Standing from left: Keith Powell, Billy Barnhart, Matt Dyer - head coach, Steve Bray, Jason Harville.

REALTY & AUCTION

(615)**735-**2244

505 Main Street North Carthage, Tennessee Auctioneer #2629





REALTRACS.

Good Luck Owls and Tigers!

Smith County's oldest Real Estate and Auction Company, where we take the stress out of selling and handle everything for You.

www.PoindexterRealty.com