



SHEA HAILE / COURIER

2021 SMITH COUNTY HIGH RECEIVERS — Kneeling from left: Terence Davis, Daniel Mayers, Eli Manning, Jermaine Cason. Second row from left: Alex Mayers, Treyden Niznik, Matthew Louis, Wyatt Claywell, Owen Gregory. Third row from left: Kylan Johnson, Tristin Washer, Andrew Wheeley, Jake White, Hayden Bush, Josh Allen.

Owls

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"We have the new stuff so now we just have to put it to use. We have to get those guys, bigger, faster and stronger by using it. Hopefully, our guys can take a little pride in it and our community can take pride in it as well. That is what we are looking for."

The new head coach explained what the Owls' approach to every Friday night and the style of play to expect from the Black-and-Gold.

Dyer has a long term vision for the Owls' football program as he hopes that the lessons the players learn last after football.

The SCHS grad believes that community involvement is key to returning the Black-and-Gold back to the Class 3A elite.

"We want to create that hard nosed attitude where we are going to run the ball and we are going to stop people from running the ball."

"In the process, we are going to create young men. We want to create future employees, good future husbands and good fathers. We want them to know how to contribute in the community."

"We want to promote as much community involvement as we can. We want to get parents involved. When you can get the community behind you like it was 15-20 years ago when I was here — it was unbelievable the support that we had. We just want to rebuild that and get it back to where it was."

"That is the goal we are looking for, if we can improve everything from facilities to performance to involvement — we have done something good."

THE 2021 SCHS OWLS

The 2021 Smith County squad features a 50-plus player roster which is highlighted by six seniors. Dyer discussed the senior class that will represent the Owls in his first season and players that the Owl faithful may become familiar with this fall.

SENIORS

#8 ANDREW WHEELLEY (5'10", 150 lb., QB/DB) "He is a rising senior. Andrew is a hard worker. He works everyday that he shows up. He is also a baseball guy. We did not have him in the spring. I do not think he missed a single day. He is just a hard worker."

#18 LUKE DILLON (5'10", 160 lb., RB/DB) "I do not think he has missed a say since we started. The only day he missed was when he had to go get his physical but other than that Luke is a very hard worker and a great kid. He works his tail off in the weight room. Pound-for-pound he is probably the strongest kid on the team."

#23 COLTON WINDHAM (6'0", 185 lb., RB/LB) "He had to have shoulder surgery in the spring. He is still not completely cleared — He will be cleared August 10. He is going to miss all three of our scrimmages but he will be able to participate in our Jamboree."

#57 ELIGIO TOLENTINO (5'9", 225 lb., OL/DL) "He plays a little linebacker and offensive line for us at the guard position. He might also even kick for us. That is a battle we have going right now — seeing if we can find someone who can kick on special teams."

#70 BRYCEN CLAYWELL (6'0", 240 lb., OL/DL) "He is another senior who is a baseball player. As soon as their season was over, he started showing up and he came in. He assumed a bit of a leadership role on that offensive line. I believe he got some defensive line work as well. He plays a little center for us and some tackle as well. He has had to miss a few days lately. He had some sickness and infection he had to battle. He was actually in the hospital for nearly a week. So, we are trying to work him back into the fold right now. He is a good kid and a hard worker."



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2021 SMITH COUNTY HIGH RUNNING BACKS — Kneeling from left: Ryne Martin, Jaeden Evans, Josh Allen. Standing from left: Bryce Currie, Kylan Johnson, Colton Windham, Luke Dillon, Ethan Madewell.

He actually has a younger brother on the team.

#76 COLE PHILLIPS (6'3", 293 lb., OL/DL) "Cole is a big and strong kid along our offensive and defensive line. He is probably going to help us a little bit. The one thing about Cole is he just has to be a little bit more consistent. That is the biggest thing we are working on with him. We need more consistency out of Cole Phillips and that is in everything — that is in his effort, his attitude and his attendance. If he could ever get his head screwed on straight, he would be a pretty good player for us."

The Owls junior class features a multitude of players who were featured on the team last fall. The group includes 14 players who will factor into the 2021 Owls season. Dyer shared his thoughts on the upcoming junior class.

JUNIORS

"This junior class that were sophomores last year — they, just like this upcoming sophomore class, got a lot of reps and experience last year. Typically, any program does not want to throw a bunch of freshmen and sophomores to the wolves. But, they gained very valuable experience and that is going to help them this year when it comes to competing in this new region. They need that experience and those battle hardened tests for them."

#1 JOHNNY LYDA (5'10", 155 lb., QB/DB) "Right now, he is our starting quarterback. He is also in our secondary as a starter now. Johnny is an athletic kid. He is a good runner. When he is on, he is on — throwing the ball. Sometimes he will make a mistake here or there and throw it where he does not need to throw it. But, Johnny just has to be more of leader for us in the huddle. He has to be able to lead the troops into battle. That will come with just more reps and more experience. Johnny is going to be pretty good for us this year — he gives us an athletic dynamic. That is going to help us out."

#2 TRISTIN WASHER (5'9", 145 lb., WR/DB) "He is a receiver for us. He plays a little bit as a slot receiver and a little bit as our X receiver. He also plays in the secondary. Tristin is not a very big kid, but he is a physical kid. He will come in and he will hit you. We need more consistency out of him on the back end."

#3 HAYDEN BUSH (5'8", 145 lb., WR/DB) "We call him 'Bird'. Hayden is another one like Luke Dillon and Andrew Wheeley — he is a hard worker. That guy just works every single day whether it is on the football field or the weight room. He even has his own landscaping business. I really like that about Hayden. He is battling for time on offense and defense. He always says 'Yes, sir' and 'No, sir'. He competes very well and I really like Hayden."

"In our White House scrimmage, we had him to break down the huddle for us because he had what we coaches call a 'pride tackle'. A kid busted a long run for White House and he could have very easily could have gave up on the play — but he ran him down and made a tackle inside the 10-yard line. We ended up getting a stop because of that. I really enjoy coaching Hayden."

#9 JOSH ALLEN (5'8", 140 lb., WR/DB) "He has

missed little time. We had to suspend Josh back in the spring for a school related incident. So, he missed a lot of time in the spring and in the summer. But, he did what was required of him and now he is back with us. Now, we are just trying to get him up to speed. Josh is another one where he has some athletic ability and some talent — he just has to put it together. He has to put his head on straight and decide when is he going to be more consistent and when is he going to perform. If he could decide that he is going to put all of that together — he could be a pretty good asset for us."

#22 JAKE WHITE (5'11", 140 lb., WR/DB) "He has played a little receiver for us. I believe Jake actually brings the most receiving experience back from last year — as far as catches and yards. He has got a good set of hands on him — I do not know that he has dropped one yet in a scrimmage. I like the way Jake comes in and he works. I think last year during basketball season he broke a bone in his leg and had to miss the rest of basketball. In the spring when he came out with us, he broke a bone in his opposite leg and had to miss nearly all of summer. He just got back with us in late July. He has had a little adversity but he has answered to it quite well. Jake is going to do some good things for us this year."

#26 JOEL PERRAULT (5'6", 115 lb., K) "He is in a

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Good Luck!



To the Carthage Owls
and the Gordonsville Tigers
in the
2021 Football Season

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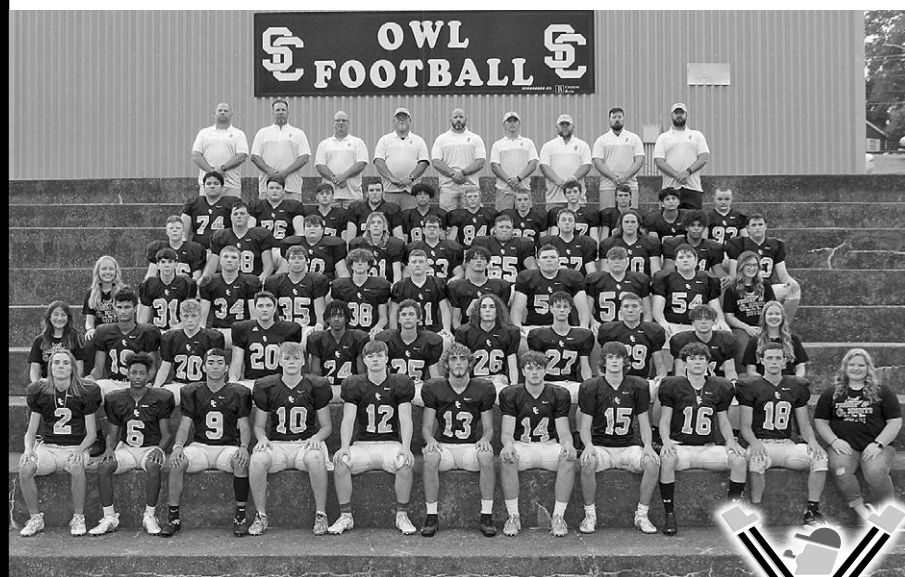
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