

Tigers

From page C - 3

on top of the mountain. Their population increased and that moved them up. We tried to get them on the schedule and we just could not work out a date with them because they are in a bigger region than us. We could not get it worked out.”

“We wanted to play the game and they wanted to play us. There is a lot of respect there between the programs.”

Big Blue has not been idle this offseason — working hard for a strong return as they look to have “The Jungle” rocking this fall with communities potentially be able to return to venues in full force.

“Our young men have worked hard this off-season and we understand that the upcoming season is valuable,” said Clemons, “We have six seniors and they provide us with some good leadership for our team and we are looking for more out of them. It is an opportunity for another year of Gordonsville Football and it means a lot to people in the community and we understand it. We are just going to try to do our part to keep this strong program going.”

Similar to Monterey, the Gordonsville football program has seen their numbers steadily increase over the last few seasons.

The 2021 Tigers features 59 players which is one of the largest classes fielded by the Class A power.

Clemons shared how the increased numbers benefit Big Blue but also poses new challenges.

“Our numbers have steadily increased. We are up to 59 players,” said Clemons, “I can not remember us ever having that many kids on a roster in the time that I have been here. Our numbers are good. We have had to put some extra lockers in our locker room so they will have a place to dress. That is a good problem to have. We hope we will have to add more down the road and get more kids involved.”

Clemons continued, “With a small senior class, we have six and we are averaging somewhere around 15 or 20 in the next three classes — we foresee another class like that and next year we will be up around 75 players. It definitely poses some problems financially — putting helmets, shoulder pads and jerseys on them. But, it is a good problem to have and we will take it everyday.”

Tiger fans, as always, will be eager to see the Big Blue return this fall. Clemons provided insight on every aspect of 2021 Tigers as they work toward another Region 4-1A title and a deep run into the Class A postseason.

COACHING STAFF AND MANAGERS

“I am extremely blessed to have the coaching staff that I do have. They do a really good job. We work good together. We have a lot of people here who want to be a part of this. I am glad that we have the coaches that we do.”

COACH MAC PETTY - “Coach Petty is our defensive coordinator. He just does a phenomenal job with getting our defensive game plan together. He has been a part of Gordonsville football for a long time.”

COACH DAVY BAKER - “Coach Baker helps us with our offensive and defensive lines. Coach Baker drives a school bus and he gets here when he is done. He does a great job with film preparation and getting us ready for our upcoming opponent.”

COACH ADAM SHAW - “Coach Shaw has been with us, this will be his fourth year, he is our offensive coordinator. He is helping with our offensive line some this year which is going to give them a better understanding about what to do. He also coaches our defensive backs and he does a great job with our secondary.”

COACH JONATHAN PEOPLES - “Coach Peoples does our offensive and defensive lines. He is a great role model for those young men and they all love him to death. He does a really good job coaching those guys.”

COACH JONATHAN BUSH - “Coach Bush has been here a long time. He works with our receivers and our outside linebackers on defense. He does a really good job coaching.”

COACH RUSSELL BENNETT - “Russell is one of our volunteers and he works so he cannot get here everyday but when he can he helps us with our defensive line and our offensive line.”

COACH GARY GLOVER - “Gary Glover is another one of our volunteers. He has been with us for a long time. Gary does a great job with our scout team. He helps us with our defensive line a little bit and he just does a really good job.”

COACH JOHN FOSTER - “We have added John Foster this year to our coaching staff. Coach Foster is going to coach the cornerbacks and help us with our offensive game plan. He does a really good job and he has brought some new ideas to our football program that is going to make us a better football team.”

COACH BLAKE DILLINGHAM - “Blake coaches our receivers and our defensive backs. He is also our strength coach. He handles our weight program. He does a phenomenal job with that and we are glad he is a part of us.”

COACH MICHAEL KING - “Michael is our warm-up coach — he does all of our stretching and gets them all ready to go. He brings a lot of excitement to our football program and we sure are glad he is back.”

COACH DANIEL WELSH - “Daniel is a guy that volunteers and he helps us with our video taping and he takes care of our football operations. He gets the field ready. He does not realize how valuable he is to me because he helps out a lot with what he does.”

BRAD SYKES, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL MEDIA - “Brad Sykes keeps up with our social media and he does a great job of keeping everyone informed on what goes on with Gordonsville Football.”

ALYSSA HAWKINS, TRAINER - “This is the second year Alyssa has been with us. She does a really good job. She relates well to kids. She takes care of injuries we have. She gets them prepared and gets them back as quick as we possibly can. So, we are glad that she is with us.”

MANAGERS - “Lilly Turner and Katie Grandstaff are both seniors they have been with us for a while. Breanna Stinson, Neveah West and Jeteria Silvano are all valuable with what they do. Aiden Pope does our video taping on Friday night's and during practice. He does a really good job also.”

SCHEDULE

Big Blue added another non-region game after the departure of Monterey with only four region opponents on the Tigers schedule. Clemons discussed the changes to the 2021 slate for the Tigers.

In a late schedule change, the Pickett County Bobcats have decided to dissolve their varsity program for two seasons. As a result, Gordonsville will have two OPEN weeks (September 17 and October 15). Their October 15 open date was originally scheduled while their September 17 was originally slated to feature a trip to Byrdstown for a battle with the Bobcats.

Pickett County's departure also means that all four remaining Region 4-1A teams: Gordonsville, Clay County, Jo Byrns and Red Boiling Springs will automatically qualify for the Class A Playoffs. This will be Gordonsville's fifth consecutive trip to the Class A Playoffs.

“We picked up Eagleville and Oliver Springs this year which are two new teams to our schedule that we have not played,” said Clemons. “We played Eagleville several years ago in the playoffs but to my knowledge we have never played Oliver Springs.”

“Both of those teams are good Single A football programs. Oliver Springs made it to the second round of the playoffs last year and they have a lot of kids coming back. It is going to be a tough game for us.”

“We try to schedule good people. I tell our young men, we work really hard and we do not want to waste it playing someone who is not a good opponent. If we are going to put the work and effort into it that we do — we want every week to be something special. We try to make our schedule tough and try to get us ready for the playoffs.”

AUGUST 21

SMITH COUNTY AT GHS

“I talked with Coach (Matt) Dyer and we felt that it was an opportunity for people to come and see what this game is all about — people from outside areas — that may not get to come and watch that game. There is a lot of excitement on the other side of the river with Coach Dyer taking over and they have some good kids. I expect them to have a really good football team. This game should be played as the opening game — that is just where it should be. It is great for both communities to get to come out and watch their team and support them. We hope that everyone comes out and we have a big crowd. We get the opportunity to start this season off with a quality opponent. Also, it gives our kids something to work toward in the offseason if they know they are opening against each other. Those kids hangout together and play Little League baseball together and they know each other. It is fun from that aspect and I expect it to be a great game.”

2020 RESULT: GORDONSVILLE 28, SMITH CO. 0

AUGUST 27

GHS AT WATERTOWN

“Coach Webster, an old Gordonsville boy, they are going to have a good football team again — they always do. Watertown has turned into one of the Top Five teams in Class 2A. It is a great opportunity for our young men to go play against a great football team and see where we are at early in the season. We have come up short with them the last few years but I felt like we have stepped our game up when we played them. We have had to play really good to be in that game with them. That is an old rivalry that a lot of people do not know about. Gordonsville - Watertown goes back a long time and it is one that we like to play.”

2020 RESULT: WATERTOWN 14, GORDONSVILLE 7

SEPTEMBER 3

OLIVER SPRINGS AT GHS

“We were looking for a game to fill into that week three slot. That week three slot is a hard one to get because some people are playing region games at that time. When we called at first, they actually had to move a game to get us into that spot — they were excited about getting the opportunity to play us. They are a quality 1A opponent. They have been in the playoffs the last several years and they usually finish first or second in their region. Again, it is another opportunity for us to play a good football team and see where we stack up.”

2020 RESULT: DID NOT PLAY

SEPTEMBER 10

EAGLEVILLE AT GHS (HOMECOMING)

“Eagleville's Coach (Floyd) Walker has done a really good job. When I talked to him about scheduling that game he was really excited to get a chance to play us and again they are a quality 1A opponent that we want to see. Again, they could be someone we face in the playoffs. We try to load our schedule up so we can be ready for playoff action when it gets here. That will be another good game.”

2020 RESULT: DID NOT PLAY

SEPTEMBER 17

OPEN

SEPTEMBER 24

GHS AT COALFIELD

“That night will be a tough night, because me and Coach (Keith) Henry had become really good friends and he passed away last year due to COVID. We have never actually played at Coalfield. They have a beautiful facility there and nice stadium. We have never actually been up there we have played them in the playoffs but it has always been at home. We are looking forward to that trip. We drove into that area and it is about an hour and 35 minutes drive to get



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2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH JUNIORS — Kneeling from left: Ladanian Crawford, Austin Shaeffer, Bryson Cripps, Trey Greenhaw, Lucas Roberts, Andrew Williams, Matthew Albritton, Ethan Elkins. Standing from left: Peyton Climer, Tyler Farnsworth, Jeremiah Musgrove, Bryson Greer, Will Dudney, Hunter Harvey, Mitcheal Chapman, Connor Glover, Drew Hughes.

there. It is beautiful so our fans will get the chance to go somewhere they haven't been. I think it will be a good trip.”

2020 RESULT: COVID CANCELLATION

OCTOBER 1

JO BYRNS AT GHS

“Jo Byrns has been in our region for a while now. It is always a tough place to play at Jo Byrns. They have a lot of history there. It seems like they play above their heads when we play them. They always give us a heck of a football game. They played a lot of young guys last year so I think this year they will be a really good football team — and could factor into this region championship.”

2020 RESULT: GORDONSVILLE 30, JO BYRNS 6

OCTOBER 8

GHS AT TROUSDALE CO.

“We had them, Watertown and Carthage all early in the year and we wanted to spread that out a little bit. When I talked to Coach Satterfield, he thought that was a great idea. So, we moved it down in our schedule. It is an old rivalry. We played Hartsville for a long time — they have a great program with great athletes. Coach (Clint) Satterfield's son, Coach Blake Satterfield, does a really good job. It is one of those games it's a tough matchup and you have to play tough. It's a good football game.”

2020 RESULT: TROUSDALE CO. 30, GORDONSVILLE 20

OCTOBER 15

OPEN

OCTOBER 22

GHS AT RED BOILING SPR.

“Red Boiling had a new coach last year and I thought they were a much improved football team. They are a small school and their numbers are usually not very big. It seemed last year that they made a lot of improvements from the year before. I expect them to be a really good football team this time. That will be a tough one and they are a region opponent— we will have to try to win that one for sure.”

2020 RESULT: GORDONSVILLE 56, RBS 7

OCTOBER 29

CLAY CO. AT GHS

“I just think that when we drew up our region schedule it felt that we were going to play Clay County in Week 10. I was excited for that. You like going into the playoffs with a game that you have to compete in — and us and Clay — it has been a heck of a football game the last three or four years. They have a lot of kids returning. The experts are saying that it is between us and them for the championship. I think Week 10 is a good time to decide that and I hope that we get an opportunity to play for the title in that game.”

2020 RESULT: GORDONSVILLE 20, CLAY CO. 0

PLAYOFFS: GHS 21, CLAY CO. 14

THE 2021 TIGERS

This year's version of Big Blue features six seniors, a large and experienced 19 member junior class, 15 sophomores and 19 freshmen who could be upcoming stars for the program.

Clemons discussed how the experience of the underclassmen in the last two seasons will be key for the Tigers in 2021.

“We have a lot of guys with a lot of experience. We really need some of these younger guys who have not played a ton to step up in key roles and be more consistent in what they are doing. We are out here in

Please see **TIGERS** page C - 9



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2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH QUARTERBACKS — Standing from left: Peyton Climer, Matthew Albritton, Kyle Adams.



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2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH DEFENSIVE BACKS — Seated from left: Tyler Jackson, Jacob Key, Bryson Grisham, Ryan Deago, Dalton Hancock. Kneeling from left: Andrew Williams, Draper Wiley, Remington Baines, Kyle Adams. Standing from left: Matthew Albritton, Peyton Climer, Landon Baker, Brady Gentry, Treyson Davis.



SHEA HAILE / COURIER

2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH RUNNING BACKS — Kneeling from left: Bryson Grisham, Jacob Key, Tyler Jackson. Standing from left: Kyle Adams, Mitcheal Chapman, Bryson Greer, Canaan Musgrove, Austin Shaeffer.



SHEA HAILE / COURIER

2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH KICKERS, PUNTERS, HOLDERS — Kneeling from left: Mitcheal Chapman, James Bunn, Connor Glover. Standing from left: Levi Croslin, Landon Baker, Bryson Greer, Matthew Albritton, Peyton Climer, Drew Hughes.



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2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH MANAGERS — From left: Aiden Pope, Jeteria Silvano, Breanna Stinson, Katie Grandstaff, Lilly Turner, Neveah West.

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