Tigers hope to get back in routine for '21 season

2021 Tigers Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
AUG. 21	**SMITH CO.**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
AUG. 27	**WATERTOWN**	WATERTOWN	7:00
SEPT. 3	**OLIVER SPRINGS**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
SEPT. 10	**EAGLEVILLE (HC)**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
SEPT. 24	**COALFIELD**	COALFIELD	6:00
OCT. 1	**JO BYRNS**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
OCT. 8	**TROUSDALE CO.**	HARTSVILLE	7:00
OCT. 22	**RED BOILING SPR.**	RED BOILING	7:00
OCT. 29	**CLAY CO.**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00

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2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH SENIORS — Standing from left: Matthew Brown, James Pitman, Levi Croslin, Landon Baker, Treyson Davis, Jordan Gentry.

By Shea Haile
Courier Sports

GORDONSVILLE — Normalcy is something society has struggled to return to for nearly a year and a half with the new reality of the COVID pandemic.

The same has been true for the Gordonsville High Tigers football program. Big Blue saw their 2020 schedule affected after COVID-19 related issues led to the cancellation of their road battle with East Tennessee Class A powerhouse Coalfield. Stress was added every week as the Big Blue coaching staff navigated through the campaign.

"Last year, I have told a lot of people, is probably the worst year I have ever been a part of as far as coaching," said GHS head coach Scott Clemons who enters his fourth year leading the program. "It was not anything to do with the X's and O's of football. It was the routines that you get into. We are creatures of habit — we like to do things in the same manner."

Clemons continued, "Not knowing if a kid was going to be able to play on Friday nights — because some kids were getting quarantined on Tuesdays and Wednesdays—it was a difficult year to get through as far as that aspect. We managed to get through it and our young men did a great job handling it the best they could."

Clemons and the Big Blue coaching staff were also impacted by quarantines — with Clemons being unable to be on the sidelines for the Tigers' Region 4-1A Title clinching victory over Monterey and their Class A Playoff opening victory over Whitwell.

"We had some coaches who were quarantined including myself," said Clemons. "It was a difficult year and it was one of the toughest years I have been a part of in my 26 years of coaching. I am hoping that we get back to a little more sense of normalcy this year."

Despite the obstacles, the Tigers still managed to have a successful season ending the year with a 9-3 record and an appearance against perennial powerhouse South Pittsburg in the Class A Quarterfinals.

The Tigers also notched an impressive victory over eventual Class A champion Fayetteville on the road and captured their fourth Region 4-1A title in four seasons after their week 10 defeat of rival Monterey.

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SCOTT CLEMONS
GHS Tigers head coach

The Wildcats enrollment has resulted in the program being moved to Class 2A at least until the end of the 2023 season after TSSAA reclassification last November.

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2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH COACHES — Kneeling from left: Daniel Welsh, Mac Petty, Michael King, Russell Bennett, Adam Shaw. Standing from left: John Foster, Jonathan Bush, Scott Clemons - head coach, Blake Dillingham, Davy Baker, Jonathan Peoples.

The Tigers and Wildcats have met on the gridiron in every regular season dating back to 1992. Clemons discussed the departure of Monterey from Region 4-1A and both programs' attempts to keep the traditional rivalry on the schedule.

"Coach Hughes has done a great job since he has been at Monterey," said Clemons. "It kind of turned into a little rivalry there. They have been really good for the last few years and they are going to be really good for the next several years with the talent they have coming.

Clemons continued, "That area has grown and they moved to Class 2A. There is a lot of people moving into that area that can go into Cookeville and work while living in Monterey. It is a pretty place up there. He (Coach Hughes) always jokes about being

*Please see **TIGERS** page C – 5*

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2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH RECEIVERS — Seated from left: John Babcock, Ryan Deago, Dalton Hancock, Jett Underwood, Ja'Kodi Gibbs, Kaden Farrell. Kneeling from left: Andrew Williams, Draper Wiley, Lucas Raines, Remington Baines, Spencer Pipes, Kyle Adams. Standing from left: Peyton Climer, Landon Baker, Will Dudney, Brady Gentry, Eli Adams, Treyson Davis.

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Good luck, Tigers & Owls!
Danny Bass
dannybass@BassFH.com
Kurt Bass
kurtbass@BassFH.com

CITIZENS BANK

2021 SMITH COUNTY HIGH 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.

2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH COACHING STAFF — Kneeling from left: Daniel Welsh, Mac Petty, Michael King, Russell Bennett, Adam Shaw. Standing from left: John Foster, Jonathan Bush, Scott Clemons - head coach, Blake Dillingham, Davy Baker, Jonathan Peoples.

2021 SMITH COUNTY FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS — Front row from left: Allyson Farley, Madysin Griffin, Autumn Fry, Sierra Kreegel, Casity Wilkerson, JoElla Morris, Payton Ray. Back row from left: Mia Cook, Faith Good, Ella Gentry, Kaili Schwan, Carolina Caballero, Cambell Bush.

2021 GORDONSVILLE HIGH CHEERLEADERS — Front row from left: Janeika Williams, Skye Manor, Emily Kennedy, Carleigh Cowan, Aubrey Felice. Middle row from left: Sydney Raby, Lillee Reece, Karli Hancock, Caitlin Handley. Back row from left: Gracie Young, Cassi Vaden, Kelli Gregory, Brylee Hunt, Kaelyn Ward. Not pictured: Violet Gillilan.

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