

Dragons finish season 11-2

Coach Phelps named Class 2A, District 3 Coach of the Year

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The magical football season for Green County High School came to an end Friday night with a 48-6 loss to Mayfield in the Class 2A region finals at Mayfield.

Green County finishes the season at 11-2, a complete turnaround from last year's 1-7 season.

The Dragons' other loss was to Metcalfe County during the regular season, and they avenged that loss in the district championship game to advance to the region finals.

"We fought hard," Head Coach Colt Phelps said. "We played well at times, but Mayfield was very fast and strong. They have 60 players on the roster, and it was obvious they had been in the weight room and working on this for more than just a few months."

Mayfield is 12-1 and moves on to the state semi-finals where they face Beechwood High School.

Mayfield's defense had an answer for everything that the Dragons tried to do in the game.

"We would make an adjustment," Phelps said, "and they would adjust to the change we made. We did some good things but just couldn't do that all night long."

Mayfield built an early 28-0 lead before Blake Houchens scored for the Dragons just before halftime to make the score 28-6. The extra-point conversion was no good.

While the Dragons continued to move the ball, they could not sustain a drive long enough to result in a score.

Houchens led the team with 91 yards rushing and 37 yards receiving. He caught two passes, including a 36-yard pass from Bryant Mitchell.

Zack Ferguson carried the ball 13 times for 64 yards and Julian Seymour picked up 14 yards on 12 carries.

Defensively, Houchens also led the team with seven tackles. Jake Bishop added six tackles and Kelson McKinney added five. Noah Gray had four tackles including 2 ½ tackles for losses.

Even though the season did not end the way the team wanted it to end, there is much to celebrate this season.

The Dragons won the district championship by defeating Metcalfe County in the playoffs, after the Hornets had beaten Green County during the regular season.

The Dragons advanced to the region championship for the first time since 2009.

But off the field, Green County made a lot of improvements as well. "I've had people tell

me that this is the first time they can recall that every student stayed academically eligible," Phelps said. "I was told that this was the first time in at least 13 years that the team had done that."

The Dragons finished the post-season as the number six team in Class 2A, according to their RPI, a mathematical formula for determining the seeding in the playoffs.

The Dragons will take a few days off except for making sure equipment is returned and in good working order.

"We'll have our banquet in January," Phelps said. "We want to do things the right way and celebrate the season that we've had. Then in January, all our kids that are not playing another sport already will start lifting weights as we pre-



Head Football Coach Colt Phelps talks to his team following their loss to Mayfield Friday night. The Dragons improved from 1-7 last year to 11-2 this year and finished as runner-up in the region. Phelps was also named Coach of the Year in Class 2A, District 3.

pare for next year."

Phelps said he also wants to make sure all the seniors are ready for the future.

"As we build a program at Green County," Phelps said, "I want to make sure that every senior graduates. I'm proud to be here and I'm looking forward to the future."

The Dragons' success did not go unnoticed as first-year Head Coach Phelps was named Coach of the Year for Class 2A, District 3.

"That is a really cool honor," Phelps said. "It all goes back to the expectations for what you want to accomplish. As a team, we met every one of those expectations in my first year."



Blake Houchens gained 91 yards rushing for Green County against Mayfield Friday night. He also scored the Dragons' only touchdown.



Reserve quarterback Houston Hodges hands off to Gage Bale, a freshman running back.



Harley Montgomery has been responsible for kickoffs for Green County this year. He has been asked to keep deep as well as the short on-side kicks that have helped Green County keep the defense guessing about what they will do.



Photos by Dale Curry

Logan Slinker picked up three yards on this play against Mayfield. The Dragons gained a total of 177 yards rushing in the game.



No distance too far—a large group of fans filled the visitors' stands and lined the fence at the War Memorial Stadium in Mayfield. Green County lost in the Region finals to Mayfield, 48-6.