



Photo by Brad Crowe / Herald Staff

GCHS senior Keaton Hollinghead is shown running through first base on a close play against Pascagoula in the Cats’ opening-day jamboree at George County. Hollinghead is one of several returning starters in the Greene County lineup this season that coaches hope will produce more runs due to an extra year of experience gained in 2021.

GC Lineup

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to the plate early and often to assert themselves as reliable playmakers during their first year with the team.

“I knew the potential of both of those guys coming in to the season, especially Phillip,” Chatham recalled. “Collin was the biggest surprise (in 2021), simply because the last level of baseball he had played for us (before COVID) was in middle school. He didn’t let COVID stop him from working hard, and it paid off.”

“Phil (Herring) has a .143 average so far, but he is swinging it well. He is hitting the ball hard, but often times right at an outfield. Some of those

will start to find the gap eventually.”

Senior Brayden Brewer, who led the team in doubles (7) and runs scored (18) as a junior, appears set as the Cats’ cleanup hitter. Thus far, Brewer has posted a .238 average with four runs scored and two RBIs. He has had a few more strikeouts than expected, but Chatham has confidence when Brewer is at the plate in big situations.

The second half of the GCHS lineup features seniors Conner West, Ethan Roberts, Keaton Hollinghead and Parker Errington. Junior Jonathan Nicholson rounds

out the order.

Of that group, Chatham said West has been one of the biggest boosts to the lineup, despite limited experience at the plate.

“Conner was a pitcher-only for us as a freshman, didn’t get to have a season to speak of due to COVID as a sophomore and missed last year due to an injury,” Chatham said. “But, he may be our best hitter in the lineup right now.”

“He is a great athlete and it is good to have him in the lineup swinging it the way he is.”

West is currently second on the squad in both batting average (.368) and on-base

percentage (.478) and has plated four runs and driven in four more.

Roberts is off to a solid start as well, with a .368 batting average and a team-high .474 slugging percentage. With six singles and a triple, Roberts has four RBIs and four runs scored to his credit thus far.

Errington’s bat was starting to heat up with two doubles, a team-high six runs scored and four RBIs to his credit. However, he went down with a leg injury against George County and will likely miss several games. Chatham said immediately after the game that Errington’s absence would be felt, but he didn’t dwell on the negative aspect of that scenario.

“You hate it for Parker, because he was really starting to have a lot of confidence at the plate,” Chatham said. “We will miss him in the lineup while he is out and will be glad to get him back, but at the same time, this will give some other guys a chance to step in and get some quality playing time and that could help us down the road.”

Among the names expected to have chances to contribute are senior Cam Dunnam, junior Calup Williams and sophomore Izaya Jordan. Williams has seen action in three games and has two runs scored to his credit. Jordan is aggressive at the dish and has four RBIs and a run scored in

eight appearances at the plate. Dunnam will likely take over in left field for Errington and

has the potential to make some noise for his team offensively as well.

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Staff Photos

GCHS junior Collin Pipkins is shown (Above) sliding safely into third base against George County last week while Coach Nick Chatham looks on. Shown (Top, left) is sophomore Brycen Johnson looking for a sign from Chatham during an at-bat. And, shown (Bottom, left) is senior Conner West getting set for his next time in the batter’s box.



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