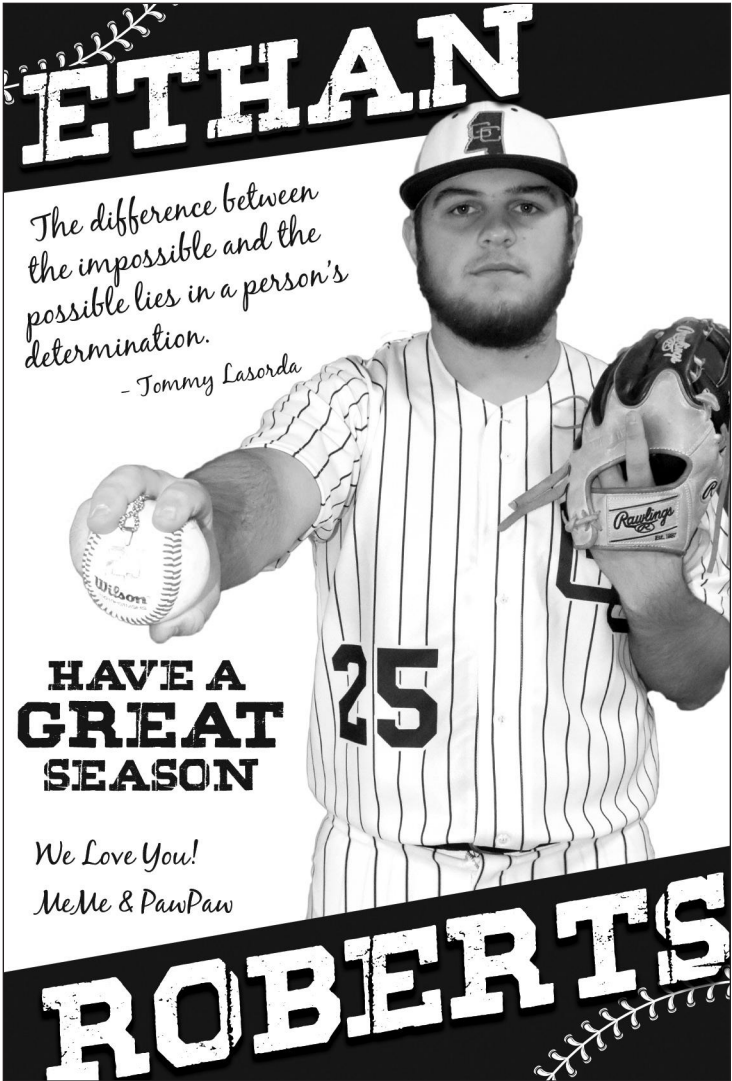


Photo by Russell Turner / Herald Editor

GCHS junior second baseman Collin Pipkins is shown (Above) finishing off a run-down of a George County baserunner this past Saturday while senior right fielder Keaton Hollinghead (24) and junior first baseman Phillip Herring look on. Senior left-handed pitcher Garrett ‘Bunkie’ Henderson set up the play with a nice pick off move to first base. The three Wildcats are part of an experienced defensive alignment for GCHS this season that sports a returning lettermen at nearly every position.



Defense

Continued from Page 2-B

defense appears to be a strength for Chatham’s club, the corners appear in good shape as well. Junior first-baseman Phillip Herring and senior third-baseman Ethan Roberts are second-year starters and solid defensive players.

Herring is also part of the bullpen and will see innings in relief this year, along with senior Ian Glynn.

In the outfield, seniors Parker Errington (left field) and Keaton Hollinghead (right field) return as experienced members of last spring’s outfield rotation. They have been joined in centerfield by junior Jonathan Nicholson.

Errington is expected to miss a few games with a groin injury and will likely be replaced by senior Cameron Dunnam.

“We actually have more depth this year than in years past,” Chatham said. “We have several guys who could factor in at any time in the outfield. Through the first 2 weeks of the season we have been trying to find the right mix out there. Guys who could factor in include Cam Dunnam, Brycen Johnson, and Conner West, who also plays in the infield as we need him.”

In order to achieve any of this year’s team goals and aspirations, Chatham believes it will be imperative for his defensive unit to consistently perform at its highest level. Errors were a big issue for GCHS down the stretch run in 2021, and while there have been some extraordinary defensive plays made early this season, there have also been 18 errors committed through seven games. And, those errors were big difference makers in their three losses.

“A lot of these guys were with us last season, and our defense carried us the whole year,” Chatham recalled. “But ultimately it was what really failed us in the end. It only takes two or three plays to totally alter the outcome of a season, so that is definitely an area where we have to work hard to make improvement.”

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