

# Local fans excited to watch collegians

By RUSSELL TURNER  
Herald Editor

Greene County fans love their Friday night football. They also like keeping up with college players with ties to Greene County and they have several options to follow this season.

Topping the list is former Wildcat Noah Mitchell who is back on the gridiron this fall with the Bears of Central Arkansas University. Mitchell was just recently released to return to full action after suffering a knee injury while playing at Pearl River Community College last season, and 6-2, 225-pound junior linebacker didn't take long to make his mark.

"(Junior transfer) Noah Mitchell, at the linebacker position, was flying around the football all day," Central Arkansas Head Coach Nathan Brown said after a recent scrimmage. "He had the only turnover of the day with an interception late in the scrimmage. He seemed to flash throughout the day."

"He's got star potential at the linebacker position. He was a 100-plus tackle guy at Pearl River (Community College), and obviously signed with the University of Texas-San Antonio. So you know he's got the ability. We had him out in the spring with a knee injury, so he's just now getting himself worked into shape. But you can tell he's got a chance to be a really good linebacker for us."



Noah Mitchell  
Central Arkansas



Weston Kropp  
Rice



Jaden Walley  
Mississippi State



Justin Walley  
Minnesota

Mitchell, the son of Kevin and Shelley Mitchell, was a standout at GCHS and at PRCC, where he set the modern-day single-game record with 23 tackles vs. No. 1 Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2019. He started all six games in 2020 and was second in the nation in tackles per game (13.8) and third in total tackles (83). He originally committed to Arkansas State before signing with Texas-San Antonio, but returned to Pearl River in 2021 after a coaching change at UTSA.

Another big-time player with Greene County ties is sophomore offensive lineman Weston Kropp. The son of J.J. and DeWanda Smith Kropp of Biloxi, and the grandson of Jerry K. and Althea Smith of Leakesville, transferred to Rice University from Jones College after last season. At Jones, the 6-4, 304-pounder played in eight games as a freshman, helping Jones average 400.6 yards and 31.5 points per game. Prior to that, Kropp was a standout for the Biloxi Indians, where he was named to the All-Region selection and selected to play

in the Bernard Blackwell All-Star Game.

The Owls compete in Conference USA and will start the season in Los Angeles against the pre-season Top 15-ranked Trojans of USC.

Of course, we can't forget the Walley brothers at Mississippi State University and the University of Minnesota.

Jaden Walley is a 6-0, 190-pound junior at MSU, and a 2-year starter for the Bulldogs. He was a standout freshman quarterback at GCHS before his family moved to D'Iberville, where he was a top player for the Indians.

Walley and the Bulldogs are hoping to have a banner year under Coach Mike Leach. Walley has already been quite successful in Leach's air-raid offense. He owns an MSU freshman-record with four 100-yard receiving games in 2020 when he finished 52 catches, for 718 yards and two TDs. He earned a spot on the SEC coaches' All-Freshman Team that season and was tabbed a Freshman All-American by *The Atlantic*. He caught 55 passes for 628 yards

and six TDs last season.

He will kick off the 2022 campaign with the Bulldogs this Saturday, Sept. 3 when the Memphis Tigers visit Starkville for the season opener for both teams.

Jaden's younger brother, Justin Walley, had a big season last year as well as a true freshman with the Golden Gophers of the University of Minnesota. The 5-11, 185-pound defensive back played in all 13 games for Minnesota in 2021, starting the final six of the season. Walley's efforts earned him a spot on the 247Sports True Freshman All-American team.

At D'Iberville, Justin led his team to 10-1 record and a Region 4-6A title as a senior and was named Mississippi's Class 6A Mr. Football.

Minnesota hopes to compete for a Big 10 Championship this season. The Golden Gophers were set to start that quest Thursday, Sept. 1 when they host the Aggies of New Mexico State University.

The Walley brothers are the sons of Oliver Walley and Kandice McCann.

Have a Great Season!

Laken



We Love You!

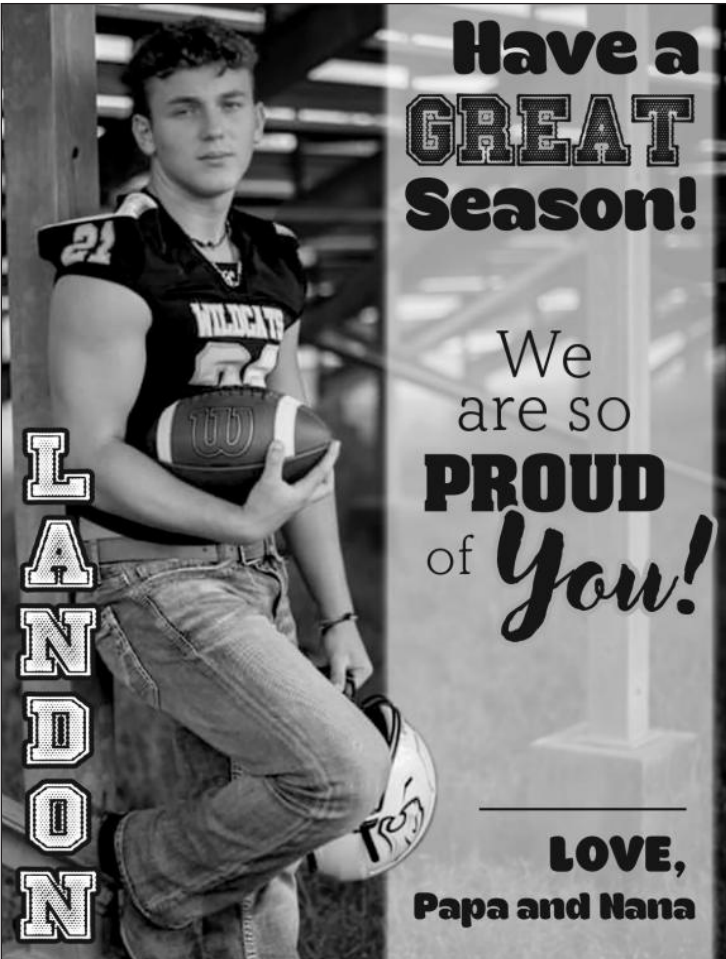
LOVE,  
Daddy, Mama, Madison, Charity, Noah  
MawMaw and PawPaw

Have a GREAT Season!

We are so PROUD of You!

LOVE,  
Papa and Nana

LONDON



## Check Out Our ALL-STAR LINEUP



Stop In and See the Dandy Dan's Team  
Before or After the Big Game  
GO WILDCATS... BEARS, BUCKS & RAMS too!

2-PIECE CHICKEN  
TENDER BOX  
with fries  
\$5<sup>69</sup>

FISH PLATE  
2 pieces of fish, fries and a roll  
\$8<sup>49</sup>



HAMBURGER  
Combo  
Cheeseburger, with fries  
and drink  
\$7<sup>49</sup>



ALL VARIETIES  
5-CAN ROLLS  
\$20<sup>57</sup>

Delicious  
ICE CREAM  
SANDWICHES  
\$1<sup>39</sup>



HAND - DIPPED  
ICE CREAM  
by the scoop  
SINGLE - \$1.69  
DOUBLE - \$2.69



Hot - Delicious  
PIZZA  
BY THE SLICE JUST \$3<sup>19</sup>



LARGE  
ANY STYLE  
ONLY \$11<sup>99</sup>  
ADD A 2ND PIZZA  
FOR JUST \$10<sup>99</sup>



28-oz  
POWERADE  
Sports Drinks  
2 / \$3<sup>50</sup>



Dandy Dan's

'On the Loop' in Leakesville at the Intersection of Hwys 57 & 63 (601)394.2994

Open Daily  
Sun-Thur / 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Fri-Sat / 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.