Strength in numbers for Tigers, new head coach

SHEA HAILE / COURIER

STEPHEN JACKSON
GHS Tigers head coach

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2022 GORDONSVILLE HIGH SENIORS — Kneeling from left: David Caban, Austin Shaeffer, Gavin Huddleston, Andrew Williams, Drew Agee, Ethan Elkins, Matthew Albritton. Second row from left: Trey Greenhaw, Juan Harville, Peyton Climer, Ladanian Crawford, Bryson Cripps, Mitcheal Payne, Connor Glover. Third row from left: Jeremiah Musgrove, Kyler Farnsworth, Lucas Roberts, Will Dudney, Bryson Greer, Drew Hughes.

By Shea Haile
Courier Sports

GORDONSVILLE — A changing of the guard during this offseason for the Gordonsville High Tigers football program has added hype and intrigue to an already electric time around "Tiger Town" — as the Class 1A power prepares to return to the gridiron this fall.

GHS Class of 2003 graduate and former coach for the Big Blue, Stephen Jackson, was named the new head coach at Gordonsville High in late January.

The Tigers welcomed Jackson back to his alma mater after Scott Clemons, who had led the program for the previous four seasons and captured three region titles, announced his resignation.

Jackson built an impressive resume prior to being tabbed for his first head coaching job at GHS.

Before returning to Gordonsville, Jackson was an assistant for head coach Kevin Creasy's 6A juggernaut Oakland where he was on three state championship winning staffs (2018, 2020, 2021).

Jackson also helped guide perennial Middle Tennessee prep football powerhouse Trousdale County to 14-0 campaign in 2013 that was capped off by a Class 2A State Title — the most recent championship won by the program.

The former Gordonsville High lineman looks to bring his experience and philosophy to his alma mater — a process that began for Jackson this spring and summer.

"This offseason has been awesome," said Jackson. "We have been in the weight room — hitting it hard. We have gotten bigger, faster and stronger. We have been trying to build some team leaders. I think that is a key in a football team is having team leaders."

Jackson continued, "We have done some things with leadership. I think they have come to work everyday and they are getting better everyday. It is going to be a good year for us."

The new mentor for the Tigers has had a chance to prepare the team for what they can expect preparation-wise through out the year.

"We had scrimmages with DeKalb County and Livingston," said Jackson. We also played Livingston in the jamboree."

Jackson continued, "I like using the weeks leading up to the season like they are game weeks — so they know what we expect from our practices through the week — Monday through Thursday."

"Just trying to teach them our philosophies of when we are going to be physical in practice and when we are not going to be physical and when is a mental day. That is what we have been doing as we work toward game week."

If strength in numbers holds true for the Big Blue — the Tigers will have a superpower as the team boast a strong 72-player squad.

The unit includes 20 senior Tigers featuring All-State selections from a year ago in quarterback Matthew Albritton and linebacker Will Dudney.

Albritton and Dudney have been key pieces for Gordonsville in previous seasons seeing playing time in their freshman, sophomore and junior seasons. Albritton joined the varsity GHS squad during his eighth grade year.

Other key returnees include seniors Peyton Climer, Bryson Cripps, Bryson Greer, Lucas Roberts, Drew Hughes, Mitcheal Payne and Ethan Elkins.

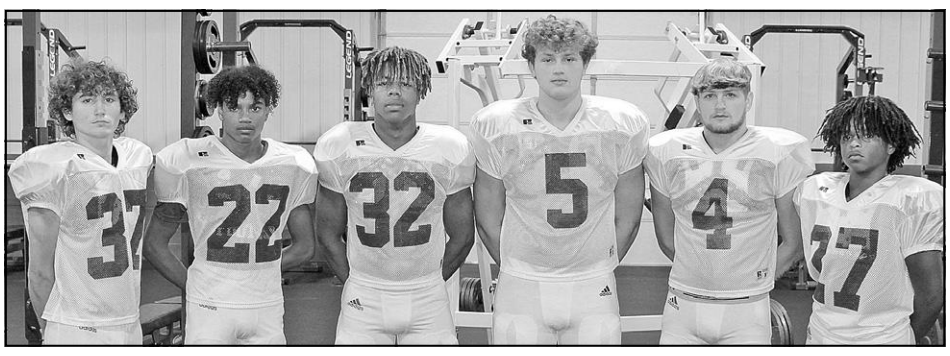
In the 14 member junior class, key returnees include Canaan Musgrove, Kyle Adams, Eli Adams, Brady Gentry, and Sam Albritton.

The group is hoping to build off of their 2021 cam-

*Please see **TIGERS** page C – 5*

2022 Tigers Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
AUG. 20	**SMITH CO.**	CARTHAGE	7:00
AUG. 26	**WATERTOWN**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
SEPT. 2	**OLIVER SPRINGS**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
SEPT. 9	**EAGLEVILLE**	EAGLEVILLE	7:00
SEPT. 16	**LAKEWAY CHR.**	WHITE PINE	6:00
SEPT. 23	**COALFIELD (HC)**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
SEPT. 30	**JO BYRNS**	CEDAR HILL	7:00
OCT. 7	**TROUSDALE CO.**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
OCT. 21	**RED BOILING SPR.**	GORDONSVILLE	7:00
OCT. 28	**CLAY CO.**	CELINA	7:00



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2022 GORDONSVILLE HIGH RUNNING BACKS — Standing from left: Corey Shaeffer, Jemario Williams, Canaan Musgrove, Bryson Greer, Austin Shaeffer, Bryson Grisham.

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BassFH.com

Good luck, Tigers & Owls!

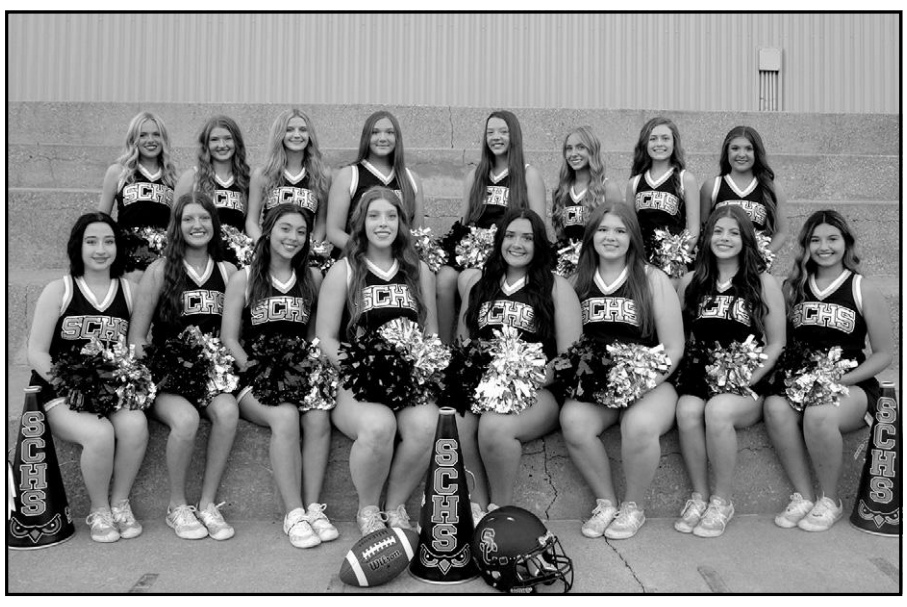
Danny Bass
dannybass@BassFH.com

Kurt Bass
kurtbass@BassFH.com

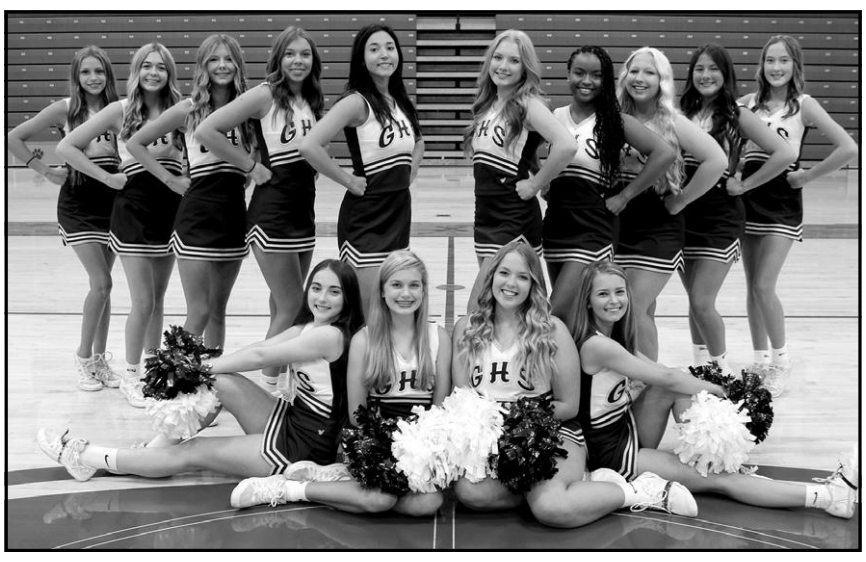
CITIZENS BANK

2022 SMITH COUNTY HIGH COACHING STAFF — Kneeling from left: Lee Rice, Brian Hackett, Matt Dyer - head coach, Brandon Rigsby. Standing from left: Alex Bray, Billy Barnhart, Steve Bray, Keith Powell, Jason Harville. Not pictured: David Reid, Mark Sampson.

2022 GORDONSVILLE HIGH COACHING STAFF — Kneeling from left: Stephen Jackson - head coach, Adam Shaw, Mac Petty, Russell Bennett, Michael King, Daniel Welsh. Standing from left: John Foster, Jonathan Peoples, Brad Sykes, Blake Dillingham, Scott Clemons, Gary Glover, Jonathan Bush. Not pictured: Davy Baker.



2022 SMITH COUNTY FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS — Front Row (left to right)- Kaili Schwan, Faith Good, Joella Morris, Payton Ray, Madysin Griffin, Haven Tippy, Ella Gentry, Carolina Caballero. Back Row (left to right) - Cambell Bush, Allie Rollin, Delaney Gregory, Jadelyn Washer, Airyn Enoch, Bailey Grisham, Alivia Rosenfelt, Mia Cook.



2022 GORDONSVILLE HIGH CHEERLEADERS — Front row from left: Cheyenne Mofield, Kacie Chiapperini, Izzy Richardson, Aubrey Thomas. Second row from left: Christina Ray, Alivia Reneer, Emily Kennedy, Karli Hancock, Gracie Young, Skye Manor, Jeneika Williams, Caitlin Handley, Heavenly Garnett, Ally Beth Slatton.

We Salute The Carthage Owls And Gordonsville Tigers!

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