

A Century of Success

By Vic MacDonald
Editor

Some day, years from now, former Clinton High School Football players are going to gather for a reunion. They're going to be like, "Remember that time we went 99 yards in the final 1 minute and 42 seconds and got to within 1 point of Chapman? Remember Tushuwan's pass and Kadon, what a great catch! And remember we snapped the ball and the refs let them call timeout – man, we should have run that same play again and we'd a got that 2 points."

And somebody else will say, "Yeah, that was cool, but do you remember the season before, when Bryson James jumped into the end zone. Those other guys were yelling. 'He leaped! He leaped over our guy! That's against the rules!' And the ref was like 'He was just avoiding a tackle, nothing wrong with that.'"

And then somebody else will say, "Yeah, but we were ON THE FIELD

the night Justin Copeland ran the ball 99 yards for a touchdown against Laurens. See, it's right here in the program, 'longest run from scrimmage.'"

Then, two old timers will say, "Yeah, but have you ever blocked for a 46-yard field goal? We did." Twice, actually, Rich Littleton in 1994 against Southside and Justin Hazel 2000 against Woodruff. "What coach even kicks the ball from 46 yards in HIGH SCHOOL!?"

Then, the 1991 team walks in and says, "Rookies. Here's something you'll never sees again, when we played Lugoff-Elgin, they had minus 11 yards passing."

"11 yards?"

"MINUS 11 yards!!"

And so it will go – the next time Clinton High School has a 100th Anniversary for its football. A baby born on Sept. 15, 2023, will have to make it to 100 years old, and have enough mobility at that time, to do what an

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**Red Devil Football,
Red Devil Nation SALUTES you!**

Buddy
Bridges

President, CHS Athletic
Booster Club & Voice
of the Red Devils,
WPCC Radio in Clinton



Farm Bureau Insurance

*"proudly wearing that
C & Pitchfork"*

100 Year of Excellence

The Clinton Chronicle

Your Hometown News Source since 1900

Coaches' records from the Oct 27, 2022 game program ...

Lonnie McMillian: 1921-22, 2-2 (.500)
 Jodie H. Lollis: 1923-24, 11-2 (.846)
 O.W. Lever: 1925-27, 9-15-4 (.393)
 Ed Shannon: 1928-30, 6-9-1 (.406)
 Arthur McQueen: 1931-34, 16-12-1 (.569)
 R.P. Wilder: 1935-40, 42, 1944-45, 44-24-1 (.639)
 Taylor Martin: 1941, 1-8-1 (.150)
 Wilmot Shealy: 1943, 1946-51, 31-28-2 (.639)
 "Choc" Burnett: 1952, 4-6 (.400)
 Fleming Thorton: 1953-56, 30-25-2 (.544)
 Ralph N. Tedards: 1957-60, 24-18-2 (.568)
 Claude Howe: 1961-68, 50-35-4 (.584)
 W. Keith Richardson: 1969-92, 239-57-2 (.805)
 Andy B. Young: 1993-2009, 155-59 (.724)
 Scott King: 2010-14, 21-34 (.382)
 Andrew Webb: 2015-18, 14-28 (.333)
 Corey Fountain: 2018-present, 18-12 (.600)
 13-1 in 2022, 4-1 2023 so far.

2 14-0 teams 1977 & 1985

Most passing touchdowns in a season: 15 by Davis Wilson (2021). Most yards rushing season: Brian Kingsborough, 2,545 (2006). Game: Brian Kingsborough 292 v Riverside (2006). Most rushing attempts, season: Harold Goggins, 332 (1974). Most Passing Yards, Season: Charlie Craven 1,678 (2016); Game: Mark Young 275 v Newberry (1993). Longest pass play: Neil Lee to Keenan Caldwell 88 v Woodruff (2011). Most points scored, Season: Brian Kingsborough 216 (2006); Game: Brian Kingsborough 30 v Riverside (2006). - Oct. 27, 2022 game program

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immense crowd did Friday night – Celebrate Success.

"It never crossed my mind," Mr. Richard Willingham, of Joanna, said as he is designated the oldest living Red Devil football player. Voice of the Red Devils Buddy Bridges, himself a Joanna boy, tracked him down. There are two living 1944 graduates and they live on the same street in the village east of Clinton. Mr. Willingham said he was # 41 or 46, he wasn't sure, he and a friend patterned themselves as Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis -- he doesn't remember which one he was. "I told Buddy I played in '44 and he said, 'You played in '43, too.' We played football in '43, started in September, and when Christmas came we were through with football and started basketball, then baseball - I played all three. Buddy's got my annual somewhere."

Mr. Willingham was drafted into the Second World War and called back for the Korean War.

"I've been to Korea. I've been to Hawaii on the way. There were 4,000 troops on the ship. The captain wouldn't let us off. He said, 'If I let those 4,000 troops off the ship in Hawaii, I'd never get them rounded back up.'"

Mr. Willingham said about the crowd in the former Clinton High School, now Clinton Middle School gym, adjacent to Wilder Stadium for a pre-game remembrance time, it's "amazing, unbelievable, I didn't expect anything like this. There are some people I do know, a lot of people I don't know.

"This has always been a good neighborhood - Clinton, Laurens, Newberry, Goldville."

Sitting beside Mr. Willingham was his son, Richard Jr., who made it in from Atlanta. "We are very honored " by the 100th Anniversary recognition, Richard Jr. said.

Mr. Willingham was the featured guest, along with Hall of Fame sports official Truman Owens of Clinton, during the 100th Anniversary game halftime when the 8 State Championship trophies were on display on Richardson Field.

Six-time State Champion and Hall of Fame Coach Keith Richardson said at the pre-game gathering, "We really, really appreciate you being here, every cheerleader, every band member, every player, it's so good to see each and every one of you, to see how much the people of this community appreciate the past and the future ... I would like to publicly thank the school administration, the district administration, Clinton High School administration who are totally pushing our students to participate in extra-curricular activities and it's paying off, I'm so thankful that we have the kind of leaders who know that participation in those events, no matter what they are, is meaningful to the success of the youngsters. I hope you all get your picture made, but please sign that banner. That's something that's going to be here forever til the next celebration, then most of us won't be here."

Starting off the 100th anniversary year – now 5 games in, with Clinton sitting with a 4-1 record and an undefeated JV football team - the WPCC broadcast crew Buddy Bridges, Gene Simmons, Harold Nichols and BJ Gardner have had special guests to reflect on a CENTURY of football excellence. The Red Devils played in 1921 and 1922, but 1923 was their first-ever full schedule football season – the team asked the community for \$150 to buy equipment.

Richardson, on the Saturday Morning Rewind Show, said of the Sept. 15 pre-game and halftime recognitions, "It was a great, great great night and far exceeded my expectations, getting to see people we haven't seen in a while, to see people who created a lot of highlights. A lot of people drove a long way, a lot of hours to get here. They all seemed to have a good time, they were all having a good time."

Star Quarterback Ricky Vance from the 1985 team joined Richardson for the Sept. 16 program. "I did some things that I was proud of but thanks to coach with his guidance and thanks to you guys, Gene (Simmons, former director of the Clinton Family YMCA) here I know very well, who tutored me as a kid. The YMCA was special to me – it was great to see coach again. (Lessons from Coach Richardson) you got to earn things.

"Those kids last night, they got heart. To drive the ball 99 yards – they got heart."

Reflecting on 1985, Richardson said, "You've got to go back to 1984. We didn't have a very good season, Ricky and his teammates made up their minds

The football team needs \$150

HELP THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOT BALL TEAM

The Clinton high school football team is badly in need of funds to purchase equipment for the coming season... For the past four years the team has not asked the people of Clinton for financial help, but the S. O. S. call is now sounded. The boys have the prospects of a winning team and are appealing for assistance to purchase the needed equipment.

The amount of \$150.00 is needed and if all the "fans" will pitch in, it can easily be secured. The Chronicle will undertake to raise the \$150.00 for the team and calls upon the football lovers of the community to respond and respond quickly. All contributions made through The Chronicle will be acknowledged and turned over to the proper authorities. The appeal will not be closed until the \$150.00 is raised. The Chronicle is glad to announce the following initial subscriptions:

Chronicle Publishing Co.	\$5.00
Fuller Grocery Co.	5.00
L. B. Dillard	5.00
A. E. McIntosh	5.00

in 1923

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL · AUG 7

100 Years of Red Devil Football

The CHS Athletic Booster Club and Clinton High School athletics are proud to announce a very special celebration of Clinton football history. The Clinton High School Athletics Booster Club will sponsor a 100 Years of Clinton Red Devils Football celebration!

The 2023 football campaign marks the 100+ year of CHS Red Devils Football. Our records show that Clinton High played three football games that are recorded in 1921 and 1922, but the first FULL season of Clinton football was played in 1923.

Clinton High School Athletics and Laurens County School District 56 have joined with the booster club to honor our football history throughout 2023 football season. CHS will have a season-long celebration with special events, items, memorabilia, and special programs planned for each week of the 2023 football campaign.

Our booster club works side-by-side with our local radio station, WPCC, and we will once again work together to commemorate this special celebration. The CHS broadcast crew will celebrate our 100+ years with special features on each Red Devils' broadcast this year, especially on the popular Saturday Morning Rewind show.

The home Clinton vs Chapman game on September 15, will be the official game night of the 100+ Celebration, and we invite all Red Devil Football players from every generation to be there. What a night it will be to have "The Pride of Clinton" all together for one very special celebration.

Plans include having our Red Devils wear the specially designed 100 Year logo. There will also be items our community can purchase in our Red Devil store inside Wilder Stadium during home football games.

The entire Clinton community is proud of all our Red Devil teams and players, in every sport! As CHS principal Dr. Martha Brothers says each day, it is a good day to be a Red Devil!

GO BIG RED!

The Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM NOW DOWN AT HARD WORK

Gridiron Aspirants Out For Daily Practice Under Leadership of Coach Hollis.

Headed by Prof. J. G. Hollis as coach, the Clinton high school team is now being put through daily practice and within a short while bids to whip into good shape. There are seven varsity men of last year's aggregation to help hold up the standard this season, and in addition there is some fine new material that looks quite promising. The aspirants for the team are going through a practice period every afternoon and the boys have entered the fight with a determination to develop a winning team that will take its place with the strong contenders in the state championship race.

The team has been organized with James Witherspoon as captain, and Billy Blalock, manager. Prof. J. G. Hollis is the coach and director of the boys' athletic activities.

The schedule calls for eight games during the season with some of the fastest teams in this section. Three battles on the local diamond will be seen, the first with the Thornwell Orphanage eleven on Sept. 28th, Laurens on Nov. 2nd, and the long standing Newberry rivals on Thanksgiving day.

The outlook for a winning team is good.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TO MEET MANY FOES

Schedule For Coming Season Includes Games With Several Strong Teams.

The Clinton high school football team is now getting in fine shape under the direction of Coach Hollis and the outlook for a successful season is very bright. The boys are having daily practice hours and have entered into the game with a determination to be in the running this season for the championship honors.

The schedule calls for ten games, with only one on the home grounds. It is as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 27—Fountain Inn at Fountain Inn.

Friday, Oct. 5—Honea Path at Honea Path.

Friday, Oct. 12—Greenwood at Greenwood.

Friday, Oct. 19—Spartanburg at Spartanburg.

Friday, Oct. 26—Abbeville at Abbeville.

Friday, Nov. 2—Laurens at Clinton.

Friday, Nov. 9—Woodruff at Woodruff.

Friday, Nov. 16—Union at Union.

Friday, Nov. 23—Greenville at Greenville.

Thursday, Nov. 29—Newberry at Newberry.

100th Anniversary of Clinton High School Football --- Halftime Script written by District 56 Superintendent Dr. David O'Shields (Clinton High School graduate, 1975)

Tonight, we want to look back on the history of 100 years of Red Devil football. In 1923, the first season of Red Devil football kicked off with Jodie Lollis as coach, followed by Coaches Lever, Shannon, and McQueen from 1923 to 1934.

In 1939, Clinton High won its first state championship, defeating Lake View. R.P. Wilder was the coach of this incredible team. Tonight, we have Richard Willingham, the oldest living Clinton High School football player from the 1943 team. Let's give a round of applause to Mr. Willingham. He is still a spry 98 years old. In addition, on the field, we have Mac Young and Coach Andy B. Young standing in for their fathers, who were members of the 1939 state championship team Andy B. Young Sr. and Odus Young.

In fact, Wilder Stadium received its name as a tribute to the coach who brought Clinton its first state championship.

During the 1940s and '50s, in addition to Coach R.P. Wilder, Clinton High had varying degrees of success under the hands of Coaches Martin, Shealy, Burnette, Thornton, and Tedards. Coach Tedards' daughter, Beverly, is in attendance here tonight.

In 1960, a new coach came in named Claude Howe. Coach Howe led the Red Devils to additional acclaim, playing for the state championship in 1961 and an all-time classic against Woodruff in 1965 in a torrential downpour. Although Clinton didn't win these games, the teams of this time are represented by an all-time great, Kinard Littleton, who is with us tonight. He scored the VERY first touchdown in this VERY stadium. If you played football for Clinton High in the 1960s, please stand, and let's give a round of applause to Mr. Littleton and any other Red Devil greats.

In 1969, Coach Keith Richardson took the helm of the Red Devils and stayed for 24 years. Red Devil football reached a peak of continued success, winning state titles in the 1970s and 1980s, in fact, six state championships. This success was only achieved with the integration and support of the many athletes and coaches from Bell Street High School, the all-black high school that combined with Clinton High School in 1970. In three short years, old Bell Street and Clinton High School students combined to win the second of its eight state championships. In 1972, CHS went 11-0-1 and defeated Hanahan in the state championship held in Greenwood. Team captains were Robert Scott, Jimmy Armstrong, Kevin Long, and the late Charles Norman. Joining us tonight on the field are Robert Scott and Jimmy Armstrong.

In 1973 and 1974, Clinton went undefeated during the regular season and lost only to Fort Johnson and James Island, respectively. In 1975, the magic returned with a come-from-behind victory over Myrtle Beach for Clinton's third state championship. Captains for this team who are with us tonight are Jimmy Miller, Roy Walker, and Roscoe Watson (standing in for the late Roscoe Watson is his brother, Curtis Watson).

A single year lapsed, and then in 1977 and again in 1978, Clinton High School won their fourth and fifth state championships in thrilling fashion both times against James Island, who had dethroned the Red Devils effort in 1973. The 1977 team went undefeated, finished 14-0, and was the AP South Carolina All-Classifications Team of the Year. Representatives of the 1977 team who are with us tonight are Al Roebuck and Gilbert Robinson. Also to be recognized are the late Alan Hunnicutt and Stanley Taylor.

In 1978, after an early loss to Woodruff, the Red Devils reeled off 13 straight wins and another state championship. Captains of this team who are with us tonight include Ronald Swindler and JD Fuller, who still holds the University of South Carolina's record as an All-Time Leading Tackler. Any football player who played on any team during the glorious decade of the 1970s, please stand.

Although Clinton did not play for the state championship again until 1983, the teams did incredibly well during that time. A state championship loss to Myrtle Beach ended an otherwise excellent season in 1983.

The sixth state championship occurred only two years later. The 1985 team joined the 1977 team as undefeated state champions with a 14-0 campaign over Middleton High School. Joining us tonight from this team are quarterback Ricky Vance and offensive lineman Joe Farmer.

The seventh state championship occurred in 1987. This outstanding team defeated Marion High School. The captains of this team who are with us tonight are Eric Peake and Al Richard. Al Richard went on to a great career with the Clemson Tigers, who won two ACC championships.

If anyone who played during the Richardson era from 1969-1992 is present tonight, please stand. We would like to recognize the accomplishments of Coach Keith Richardson. This field, Richardson Field, is named in his honor.

After the 1992 season, Coach Richardson retired. Coach Andy B Young took the helm and led the 1993 team to the state championship in his first year. Although the team did not win the state, Coach Young showcased the continuation of the winning tradition under Coach Richardson early on. Coach Young's team again played for the state championship in 2005 and 2009. In Coach Young's last season in 2009, the team won the state against a highly touted Myrtle Beach squad, capping off the eighth state championship. The captains of this team who are with us tonight are Deon Speaks and Tahvazia Booker. At this time, we would like to recognize Coach Andy B. Young and Coach Bill Rhodes for their lifetime of coaching together.

Anyone who played from 1993-2009, this being the Andy B. Young era, please stand.

Clinton High School continued to play competitive football under the direction of Coaches King, Webb, and currently Coach Fountain, earning numerous spots in the playoffs. If you played for any of these coaches from 2010 to 2022, please stand and be recognized.

We would be remiss if we didn't recognize the many other moving parts of a successful football season. First, we want to thank the many cheerleaders and PomPom girls who provided enthusiasm and spirit over the years. If there are any former Clinton High or Bell Street High cheerleaders in attendance, please stand and be recognized at this time.

Further, we want to thank our CHS Devil Regiment Band for their hard work and dedication to making Wilder Stadium come alive on Friday nights. The musicians battle the heat and work long hours learning their sophisticated shows. If anyone in the stands was ever a part of the CHS Devil Regiment, please stand.

Although head coaches get the recognition, assistant coaches are the team's lifeblood. We are eternally grateful for the steady hand of the nearly countless number of assistant coaches. Of particular note are Ed Little and Harold Williams, who came over with the Bell Street teams in 1970 and provided a strong foundation of unity and purpose that transcended the football field. Harold Williams' daughter, Kim Williams-Carter, is with us tonight. If any other assistant coaches served Clinton High School or Bell Street High School here tonight, please stand.

An often overlooked part of the football season is the referees. Games can't be played without the officials. We are privileged to have Mr. Truman Owens here representing the officials tonight. Mr. Owens is a South Carolina High School Officials' Hall of Fame member. He has officiated more games in Wilder Stadium than any official in the state.

Finally, and most importantly, none of this would be possible without our own "twelfth man," our fans. The fans are the intangible force providing that extra ounce of effort and that steadying force in good times or bad.

Governor Henry McMaster has officially proclaimed September 15, 2023, the 100th Anniversary of the Clinton High School Red Devils Football Team.

A celebration of the 100th anniversary would only be complete by acknowledging our current football coach, Coach Corey Fountain (right).

Coach Fountain and his staff keep the spirit and love of Clinton football alive. He truly exemplifies the "Pride of Clinton." Tonight, everyone here is a big part of our tradition.



We are Red Devil nation!

The Sports Chatterbox

By Tench Owens
Dec. 7, 1939, Page Nine

By now I suppose that most of you, who saw Clinton's gallant Red Devils pull the championship game out of the fire in the closing minutes of the contest last Thursday, have recovered from the excitement, your blood pressure has dropped back to normal again, and memories of the thrilling struggle already are fading as basketball and other winter sports prepare to take over.

But those who, like your columnist, have followed closely the wonderful successes of the local team, who know most of the boys on the squad personally, who can proudly call Clinton their high school alma mater, will never forget the way Clinton's valiant eleven fought for victory that day (7-6 over Lakeview). Perhaps the players, themselves, did not realize how they continued to play their hardest when many would have become resigned to defeat, how they fought off the powerful Lakeview threats, and came

back to capitalize on a pass that clicked when time was short. In the heat of the fray, such things are instinctive with true football players. Whatever the reason, it thrilled every true Clinton supporter, especially because the score exactly reversed that of last year in the B class state championship game between the same teams.

The Red Devils have played better football, I believe, than they did against Lakeview. Burnett's punting was below par, one of two fumbles marred offensive drives, Shaw's passes fell incomplete time after time, and pass defense was nil. Lakeview also committed some costly errors, such as several inopportune fumbles, allowing a punt to be blocked (for which praise be to right tackle Doug Byrd), and poor choice of plays occasionally. In spite of the mistakes, it was a grand game with plenty of fast, hard football.

What a courageous goal-line stand that was which the Clintonians put up! And just to show they weren't scared,

they ran a play right through the center of the line after taking the ball, instead of immediately kicking out. Outweighed by about ten pounds to the man, Clinton held once more in a pinch and stopped Elvington dead when he tried a plunge for the extra point. Cranford's remarkable catch of the all-important pass in the fourth quarter was another highlight of the game. It's good to know that he wasn't hurt seriously on the play. Hard-driving Talmadge Sanders certainly earned the honor of scoring the points in that final game. His terrific plunges over left guard were the most consistent gainers that the Red Devils had against the lower staters. Captain Bangs Trammell and Doug Byrd did a swell job as tackles, while "Choe: Burnett, although a marked man, played his usual versatile dependable game.

The defending champions had a one-man team in big Jim Elvington, their ace back. His booming kicks set Clinton back several times, he completed pass after pass in the flat, he ran with the ball three out of four times, and backed up the line

with his fierce tackling. His brother, Randy Elvington, played a good game at corner and defensive halfback, intercepting two or three passes. Another outstanding back for the losers was Norman.

Really good football will never find us lacking in appreciation and certainly there was plenty in that championship game. But we repeat that what we will remember is not the brilliant plays, but rather the fine competitive spirit that enabled those fighting Red Devils to lay on with all their might to win against odds.

Coach Bob Wilder has done a great job of coaching in molding his squad into a championship team. He is one of the best high school football coaches we know. Our congratulations ... Alvin "Bangs" Trammell, captain and tackle of the Clinton team, has been selected for the South Carolina squad of all-state high schoolers to play in the Shriners benefit game in Charlotte soon.

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playoff game against Wren, when Scott hurt his right knee. "I told them I would play in 3 weeks in the upper state champion against Seneca - I didn't care what they said."

King was a member of a baseball team that won region and district, and he went to Furman. "I was fortunate to grow up with great people," King said. "We were pretty good at everything, you appreciate it more now than as a player."

Scott King was a member of Coach Richardson's last team and Andy B. Young's first team. He played for and coached with Coach Young. His dad was a captain on Coach Richardson's first team (1969).

Scott King remembers grading out on Young's first team and being asked why he wasn't graded out the season before. "I told the other players, 'You guys are being graded out by Coach Young, I was graded out by Coach Richardson - it's a little more difficult.'"

There came a time when Scott King became Clinton's head coach and when that time was ended, fate stepped in. Bridges recalled, "When your coaching ended, it gave you a time to spend with your father, you would sit together at games."

"It was like when I was a kid, 12 years old, (then the season that Scott was out of coaching) Week 10, he had a heart attack and passed away. It was the first game I didn't go to (except for time coaching in Hartsville).

"I wasn't going to go without him."

Now, Scott King works at Clinton Elementary School. Coach Young has called him "the brightest football mind of any coach I've coached with." Scott King developed the strategy - no blitz, no chase from behind - that propelled Clinton to the 2009 State Championship against a Myrtle Beach team led by Everett Golson, who went on to Notre Dame.

King says now, "We had a lot of great players, and we watched people try to get to him but they never did. We decided we are not going to chase him and we did a great job. After the game coming down in the elevator, people were saying, 'You had that quarterback running all night.' We just smiled and nodded - We didn't rush him once all night."

That State Championship lives in Clinton lore as "36 Power for the first down and the state championship" or as some remember it, "36 Power for the rest of your lives." People in the stands who had scanners could hear the talk between coaches, and that was the booth call down to Coach Young as Clinton

bled out the game clock on the way to its most recent State Championship. "Thankfully, I never said any bad words on the field," Scott King said. Now, his sons are playing tennis for Clinton - "They wanted to play so we put in with (Hall of Fame Coach Chuck) Waldron and they are playing - I told them I would come to watch - and now they're playing for Clovis (Hall of Fame Tennis Coach Clovis Simmons).

Coach Andy B. Young: Martha Dendy, the feeder system to Clinton High, was on one side of the railroad tracks and it played epic football and basketball games against the team on the other side - Bell Street, "the College View crowd," as Young says. "We were the rougher crowd - we had great football and basketball games - first and last games of the season. Coach Richardson told me with those games (alone) we raised enough money for the sports program."

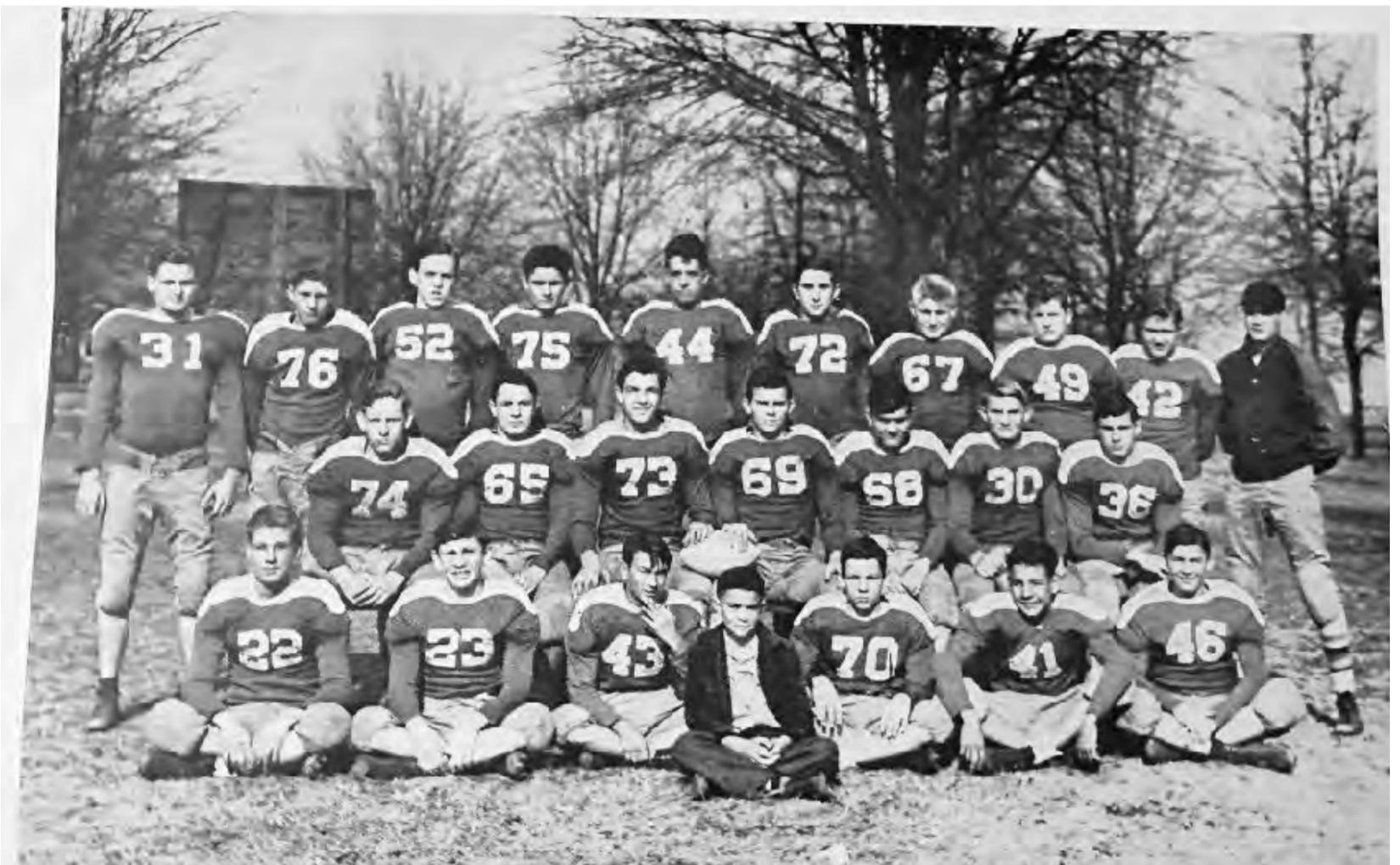
The 1970s into the '80s meant the emergence of The Pride of Clinton - it goes back to bringing the black community and the white community together. Young said, "Bell Street and Clinton together, Coach Richardson was able to put those together and build a dynasty, really." Coach Young has a long and storied history with Coach Bill Rhodes - "He taught me in the 7th grade, he coached at Clinton High School when I graduated from Erskine. We got to be business partners." As a coaching team their Red Devils played for 3 state championships - and in '93 they played for a state championship with Coach Young's son Mark as quarterback - "that was a good Cheraw team - it was the first time I felt like they just whupped us."

By 2005 Dontavious Glenn was the quarterback and Brian Kingsborough was at running back (most yards rushing in a season, 2,545, 2006; game, 292 vs Riverside, 2006). They were beaten by Blythewood in the upper state in '05 - the '06 team is acknowledged to be the best Clinton team that never won a state championship.

Young remembers that in his first head coaching season, Clinton defeated Seneca in the upper state in a heck of a rainstorm - "the ball was floating away there was so much water on the field" was a remembrance from the Saturday Morning Rewind crew. By 2009, "we barely got into the playoffs on a field goal," Young said.

That team spent 5 weeks on the road in playoff games and won them all and won the state. It used to be only the region winner went to playoffs, but

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Above:
The 1943 CHS Team - Photo Courtesy of Richard Willingham

'77, '78, ...

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by 2009 the playoffs expanded to include the top 4, as a #4 seed Clinton went to #1 seed Fairfield Central, and never stopped winning.

"It was a nightmare at times," Coach Young said, "with a great ending — nobody gave us a chance against Myrtle Beach just like against Fairfield Central. "Coach King said we're going to spy him (QB Golson) on the line of scrimmage and that turned out to be a great philosophy. Kenny Cook got a key interception."

On the sideline that night after the game was Tim Mann, fighting cancer; he was watching from the press box and insisted on going onto the field, postgame. Tim and wife Deb were coming down on the elevator having a discussion — Tim and Buddy Bridges walked onto the Williams-Brice Stadium field and Tim hugged Andy — "it was a special moment for me and Tim he meant a lot to me — when I first started coaching here, he was a JV football player."

Tim Mann's heroic battle with cancer sparked the formation of the Laurens County Cancer Association, and its signature fund-raiser, Run Like a Mann, is scheduled for next month.

But, as with many Clinton legacies, it doesn't stop there. Andy B. Young's grandson, Bryce Young, recorded the final put-out of the 2023 state baseball championship for Clinton High School against Hanahan. "We got some breaks and that what it takes to win state championships," Andy B. said.

As Bridges reflects on Coach Andy B. Young, "You are the 2nd winningest coach at Clinton High with a record over 72% (wins)." He played at CHS, was an assistant coach, head coach '93 — '09, and Athletics Director, as



An induction for the Laurens County Athletic Hall of Fame

Remembering Red Devil Football greats

By Tommy Kitchens
Columnist

They too a couple of weeks ago a friend whom I have known since high school days, Mr. Billy Nelson, "Big Bill," as I have always called him, sent me a clipping from The Chronicle of years ago, and I would like to share this article.

This clipping was written in The Chronicle in July, 1968 and it highlights the career of two gifted athletes from CHS. I had the pleasure and honor of knowing both of these talented players back in high school and also got to see and talk to Phil Rogers a short time before his untimely death

due to a brain tumor. Clinton High has produced other great players who went on to play pro ball, but I was able to be around Phil and "Big Bill" a little, and I am thankful for their friendships.

As I stated, Phil's career in football was cut short due to a brain tumor and Billy's career was shortened due to a knee injury, and "Big Bill" suffered another terrible loss just recently due to the death of his wife, Patsy, of whom I also had the pleasure of knowing.

Folks, I have been around Clinton for most of my life and with my work at the Post Office and part time jobs, I have met a lot of very

nice people and this has included knowing Phil's mama and daddy and his brother, Alex, and Billy's daddy and mama, so with that said, I hope that "Big Bill" will be OK with my sharing this clipping with you.

Two CHS Grads Report to Pros

Two Clinton High School graduates report this week for professional football training camp.

Phil Rogers reports Saturday to the St. Louis Cardinals and Billy Nelson reports Friday to the Washington Redskins.

Nelson, a 1962 graduate of Clinton High School, was drafted by the Cardinals upon

his graduation at the University of South Carolina, He was put on the Cardinals taxi squad and played last season with Hartford, Conn., in the semi-pro Continental League.

He recently signed a contract with the Washington Redskins. At 6-4 and 260 pounds, he will be tried at defensive end or defensive tackle at the training camp in Carlisle, Pa.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Harwood Nelson of 604 N. Adair St., he played on the CHS team which also featured Kinard Littleton, now a professional baseball player with Evansville in the Sally League.

Nelson and Little-

ton were seniors when Rogers was a junior at CHS

Rogers went on to set pass receiving records at Clemson University and was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals. He is a flanker.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. P.W. Rogers of Laurens Road, Phil will be in training camp at Lake Forest College in Chicago.

Nelson's father and Roger's father both work at Whitten Village.
(July 11, 1968)

Still remembering,
T. Kitchens
August 23, 2023
Chronicle

well. "I had some pretty good assistant coaches, I can tell you that," Young said.

One of the people standing with the 8 State Championship trophies on Richardson Field on September 15, 2023, was Bill Rhodes, a business and coaching partner of Andy B. Young and a fixture at Clinton High School.

He remembers: "My first year 1959 I was a student teacher at Florida Street School. I graduated from Newberry College and did 6

weeks, that was my first contact with Clinton. I was going to be a financial advisor at a company in Greenwood, I lasted one day. I came back through Clinton and applied for a teaching job, I quit my job in the mill making \$1.07 an hour and \$3,054 a year was my first contract in Clinton at Florida Street."

Rhodes played basketball and baseball, and he tied football into a military career — in '55 he joined the National Guard and in '62 started coaching football. It was

Andy, Harold Williams, and Keith, who were the nucleus of Rhodes' coaching career. His 1960 red and white Chevy with wings, driven by a student he trusted, was sent to Joanna to pick up kids for practice — and took them back home. Rhodes started at Florida Street middle school — "it was quite an interesting time, with integration in 1970 — by '72 I was asked to come to the high school, I took the 9th grade team, Mike O'Shields had

the 10th grade team," and he went to the varsity in '77-78, "and you know the run we had in the '70s." Laurens was the rivalry — Clinton won 19 in a row, and the team got shirts "19 out of 20 ain't bad" and wore in the rivalry.

Last season, Clinton High hosted a reunion of the 1972 team. Bridges remembered at the first meeting to plan the reunion Richardson as the first speaker said, "Thank you Bill Rhodes."

"Kids will run

through a wall for you, but not if you don't run through the wall first," Rhodes said. "They've got to know you love them. All I've done is just try to live by only one rule - you do what's right for that individual — I've always tried to do what was right, I've never asked a kid to do anything I wouldn't do."

When players come back from the '80s and '90s they want to come back to see you (Coach Rhodes.)"

100 Years, 19



'85, '87, ...

A plan for Wilder Stadium

100 Years -- from Page 18

Rhodes), Bridges said.

Rhodes calls his friend Andy B. Young “the most tenacious coach I’ve seen, he’s not going to play if he can’t win.” Rhodes’ daughter Lawry said the coach’s motto is: the only way we’re going to lose a game is when time runs out — it’s good thing time runs out because we’re going to kick your butt.

Rhodes also acknowledged his adopted son, Sean McCarthy from Long Island, New York, and now a state championship coach in his own right (Clinton Baseball, Spring 2023). Bridges said about that championship night last spring on the Clinton Baseball diamond, “You were the first person he went to when they won the state championship.”

“I clamp on him pretty good,” Rhodes said of McCarthy, now part of a new Clinton High School coaching generation. “His heart is good as gold.”

Rhodes’ baseball team was ‘74 region champion — “in ‘72 when I

went to the high school they made us coach 3 sports, I’ve coached baseball for 20 years, I made my living coaching football, but baseball is my love.”

In ‘72 The Pride of Clinton term started. Coach Rhodes remembers, “All the kids that came through gave you everything they had. My legacy is all the kids that walk up to me at the Waffle House and say, ‘I love you’ — that’s the Pride of Clinton.”

An idea that Bridges originated on that Saturday Morning Rewind show was to have a canvas at the booster club store where everybody attending the century of football celebration could sign it - if they can’t come back, when they do come back, it’s at Clinton High School, awaiting their signature.

Lawry Rhodes said she was sure Clinton High School could make that happen (and they did), and Bridges had one more idea about the 100th Anniversary declaration:

“Coach Rhodes will be the John Hancock.”

Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas — the South Carolina and North Carolina teams that will play on Dec. 16 at Spartanburg High School — Defensive backs - **Zay Johnson (Clinton, Cincinnati commitment)**, Troy Stevenson (Phillip Simmons), Zantwan Nelson (South Pointe), Jauron Bennett (Sumter), Tyler Jones (Dutch Fork), Debo Hall (York), Demario Bookhart (Spartanburg), Quay’Sheed Scott (Marion)

BELOW, THE 12TH MAN ... YOU, THE FANS



Banner in the main gym



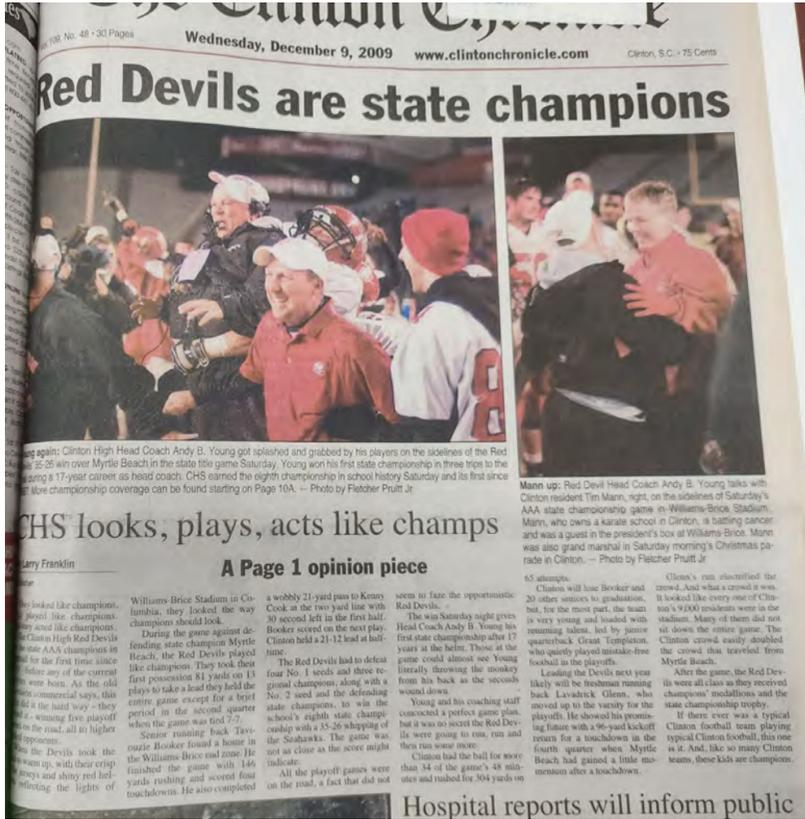
Laurens County Touchdown Club



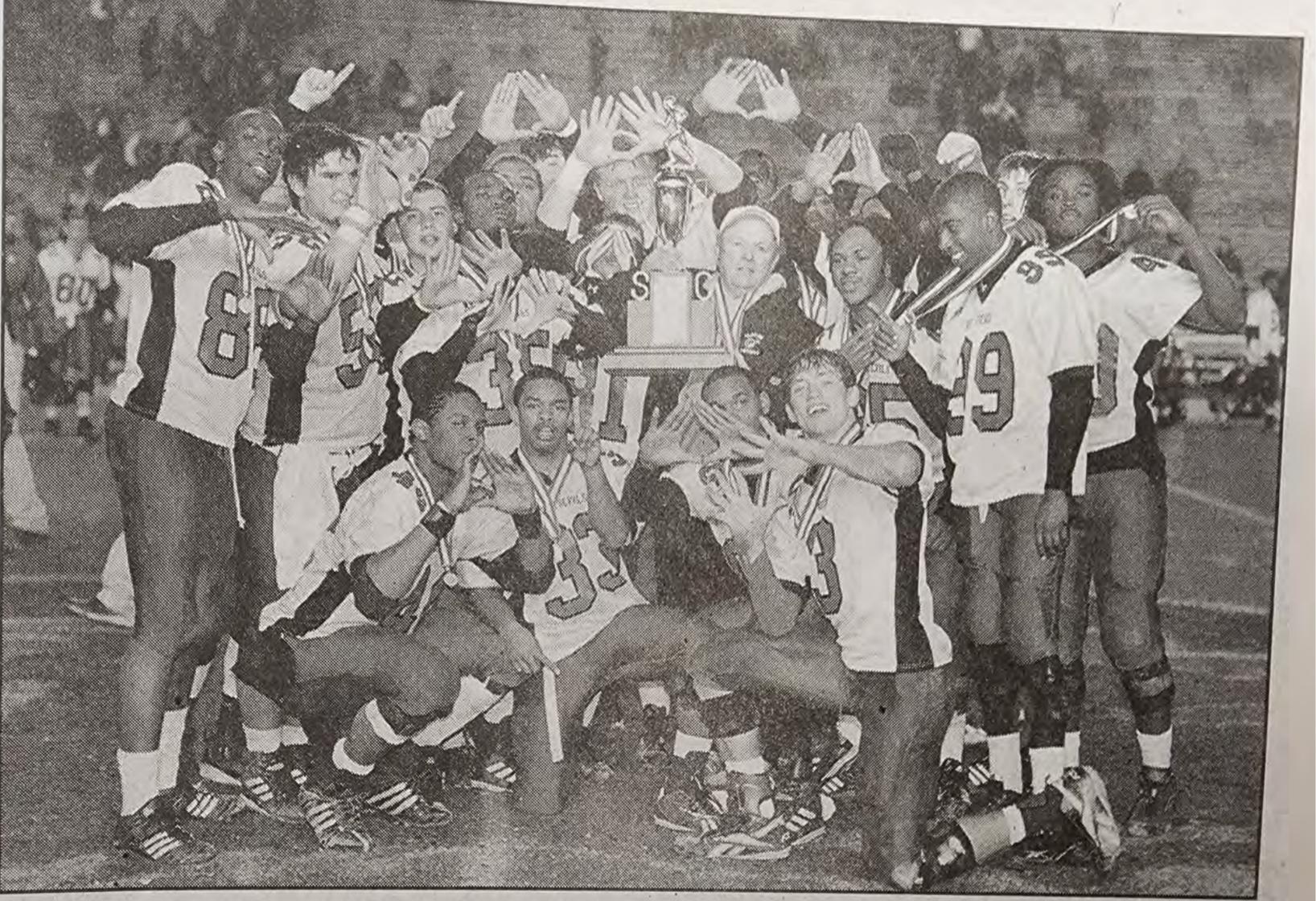
Plenty of other sports are represented at the Sept. 15 celebration at “the old” Clinton High School.

and, finally ...

The Last Time the Red Devils won a State Championship



THE 2009 TEAM



The champs are here: Head Coach Andy B. Young, center, and his band of Red Devils hoist the AAA state championship trophy Saturday after Clinton's 35-26 win over the Myrtle Beach Seahawks. The Devils played five straight road games in the playoffs — and nine of their last 11 on the road — to reach Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia. — Photo by Fletcher Pruitt Jr

Larry Franklin - A Page 1 opinion piece

Dec. 9, 2009

They looked like champions. They played like champions. And they acted like champions.

The Clinton High Red Devils are the state AAA champions in football for the first time since 1987 - before any of the current players were born. As the old television commercial says, this team did it the hard way - they earned it - winning five playoff games on the road, all to higher ranked opponents.

When the Devils took the field to warm up, with their crisp white jerseys and shiny red helmets reflecting the lights of Wil-

liams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, they looked the way a champion should look.

During the game against defending state champion Myrtle Beach, the Red Devils played like champions. They took their first possession 81 yards on 13 plays to take a lead they held the entire game except for a brief period in the second quarter when the game was tied 7-7. Senior running back Taviozie Booker found a home in the Williams-Brice end zone. He finished the game with 146 yards rushing and scored four touchdowns. He also completed a wobbly 21-yard pass to Kenny Cook at the two yard line with 30 seconds left in the first half. Booker scored on the next play. Clinton held a 21-12 lead at half-time. The Red Devils had to defeat four No. 1 seeds and three regional champions, along with a No. 2 seed and the defending state champion, to win the school's eighth state championship with a 35-26 whipping of the Seahawks. The game was not as close as the score might indicate.

All the playoff games were on the road, a fact that did not seem to faze the opportunistic Red Devils.

The win Saturday night gives Head Coach Andy B. Young his first state championship after 17 years at the helm. Those at the game could almost see Young literally throwing the mokey from his back as the seconds wound down.

Young and his coaching staff concocted a perfect game plan, but it was no secret the Red Devils were going to run, run and run some more.

Clinton had the ball for more than 34 of the game's 48 minutes and rushed for 304 yards on 65 attempts.

Clinton will lose Booker and 20 other seniors to graduation, but, for the

most part, the team is very young and loaded with returning talent, led by junior quarterback Grant Templeton, who quietly played mistake-free football in the playoffs.

Leading the Devils next year likely will be freshman running back Lavadrick Glenn, who moved up to the varsity for the playoffs. He showed his promising future with a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter when Myrtle Beach had gained a little momentum after a touchdown.

Glenn's run electrified the crowd. And what a crowd it was. It looked

like every one of Clinton's 9,000 residents were in the stadium. Many of them did not sit down the entire game. The Clinton crowd easily doubled the crowd that traveled from Myrtle Beach.

After the game, the Red Devils were all class as they received champions' medallions and the state championship trophy.

If there ever was a typical Clinton football team playing typical Clinton football, this one was it. And, like so many Clinton teams, these kids are champions.

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Quickie Statistics (Final)
Chapman High School vs Clinton High School (Sep 15, 2023 at Clinton SC)

	CHAPMAN	CHS
Score	22	21
FIRST DOWNS	14	26
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	31-274	49-274
PASSING YDS (NET)	150	194
Passes Att-Comp-Int	17-8-1	25-15-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	48-424	74-468
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-53	4-75
Interception Returns-Yards	1-0	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-32.3	3-26.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	11-99	16-142
Possession Time	19:14	28:46
Third-Down Conversions	2 of 8	6 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 3	1 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-3	2-4

Chapman High School

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Coleman Gray	17	187	10	177	2	58	10.4
Mathai Scott	6	90	0	90	0	46	15.0
Keanu Na	8	11	4	7	0	7	0.9

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Coleman Gray	8-17-1	150	1	65	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
S. Cunningham	6	136	1	65
Mathai Scott	2	14	0	7

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Coleman Gray	3	97	32.3	43	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Hudson Moss	1	4	0	4
S. Cunningham	1	49	0	49

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Hudson Moss	1	4	0	4
S. Cunningham	1	49	0	49

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
TEAM	1-0	1.0	0.0	0.0

Clinton High School

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
T. Richardson	11	102	2	100	0	21	9.1
DJ Clark	16	90	7	83	0	21	5.2
K. Copeland	7	37	0	37	0	10	5.3
Javen Cook	5	29	0	29	0	10	5.8

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
T. Richardson	14-24-1	159	2	36	0
Kadon Crawford	1-1-0	35	1	35	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Kadon Crawford	9	99	2	31
Zay Johnson	3	46	0	36
Keleja Byrd	1	35	1	35
K. Copeland	1	9	0	9

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
L. Kuykendall	3	78	26.0	36	1	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Javen Cook	2	54	0	29
Tray Cook	2	21	0	14

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Javen Cook	2	54	0	29
Tray Cook	2	21	0	14

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
TEAM	1-0	1.0	0.0	0.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	10:33	CHAPMAN - S. Cunningham 65 yd pass from Coleman Gray (Mathai Scott rush), 4-80 1:27	8 - 0
	08:16	CHS - Kadon Crawford 18 yd pass from T. Richardson (Tray Cook rush), 5-68 2:07	8 - 8
	01:40	CHAPMAN - Coleman Gray 58 yd run (Jackson Visoury kick), 3-84 1:16	15 - 8
3rd	01:24	CHS - Keleja Byrd 35 yd pass from Kadon Crawford (Keegan Fortman kick), 7-70 2:58	15 - 15
4th	09:23	CHAPMAN - Coleman Gray 2 yd run (Jackson Visoury kick), 9-66 3:57	22 - 15
	00:00	CHS - Kadon Crawford 5 yd pass from T. Richardson (T. Richardson rush failed), 12-99 1:43	22 - 21

AND NOW ...



By decade from the Oct 27

2022 game program:

- 1920s, 28-25-6 (.525)
- 1930s, 36-27-5 (.566)
- 1940s, 41-36-2 (.532)
- 1950s, 54-49-5 (.523)
- 1960s, 63-43-5 (.590)
- 1970s, 114-12-1 (.902)
- 1980s, 100-26 (.794)
- 1990s, 82-38 (.683)
- 2000s, 94-35 (.721)
- 2010s, 40-69 (.367)
- 2020s, 14-5 (.737)
- 2022 - 13-1
- 2023 - 4-1 so far

TOTAL:
 666-385-24
 (.643 winning percentage)



Some things never change in 1923 ...

LAURENS FALLS BEFORE FAST CLINTON ELEVEN

Spectacular Come-Back In Last Quarter Brings Victory to High School—Undefeated So Far This Season.

The undefeated team of the Clinton High School staged the most spectacular come-back last Friday afternoon ever seen on the local gridiron when they came from behind in the last quarter and won 19 to 14.

Laurens started the game with a rush and carried the ball to the five yard line when an inopportune fumble gave Clinton the ball.

However Laurens came back and scored two touch downs ere the close of the first half. The first half was all Laurens.

But Coach Hollis sent his regimented charges back into the fray and ere the referee's last whistle Timmons and Company had negotiated three touchdowns by the aerial route and Clinton emerged victoriously in one of the most brilliant high school games of the season.

For Laurens, Tidwell and Young played best, while Clinton uncovered a galaxy of stars in the persons of Timmons, Blakely and Witherspoon, while Blalock played a good defensive game at end.

Score by periods:

Laurens	7	0	7	0	—14
Clinton	0	0	6	13	—19

Referee, McMillan (P. C.); umpire, Bomar (P. C.); headlinesman, Warner (P. C.).

100,000 NEGROES HAVE LEFT SOUTH

Gone To The North During 1923—
Labor Agents Are Big Factors

.. And 2023, The Rivalry
 Clinton 62 wins versus
 Laurens 22 wins, 2 ties





The 100th Anniversary of Clinton High School Football Game, Sept. 22, versus Chapman, photographed by ...



Devils of Doom - The Clinton Red Devils on defense against Chapman, Sept. 15, 2023.



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We are excited to celebrate 50 years at our facility! Come Join us for the ribbon cutting of the newly Renovated pool and Tennis/Pickle ball courts!

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 4:00-500 PM

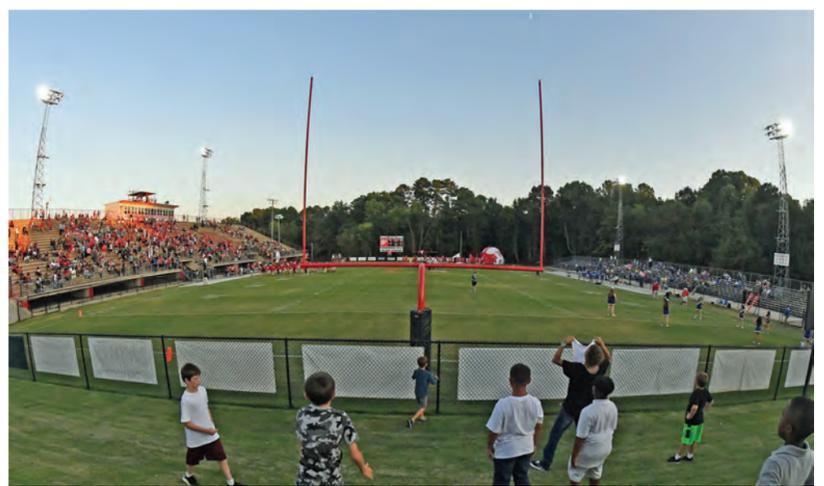
and, remember, it all starts at the Y



The Traditions Stay Strong in 2010s and 2020s



TRUMAN OWENS



Vic MacDonald has covered the Clinton High Red Devils from February, 2012 to present day. These are some of his images which include the Laurens County Touchdown Club - including when the Red Devils met Miss South Carolina and Miss America Runner-up Ali Rogers from Laurens - and inductions into the Laurens County Athletic Hall of Fame. Notables include JD Fuller, who is included on the University of South Carolina Ring of Honor, and Kenny Cook from his college playing days at Gardner-Webb (this is a GW photo that Vic found for Kenny's game at Presbyterian College). Included are plans to renovate Wilder Stadium, from 2013 (bottom, page 18), to District 56's 2019 renovations of a new plaza, concessions stand, and restrooms - the hill shown in this photo has been done away with and now is special Devils Den end zone seating (unveiled Sept. 1, 2023) adding to the stadium's 5,000 capacity.

THE BOOSTER CLUB'S GOT SPIRIT HOW ABOUT YOU?

The CHS Athletic Booster Club strives to touch the lives of Clinton High School and Clinton Middle School student-athletes, the schools and the Clinton community. With your financial support, we will be able to purchase additional equipment/uniform items requested by the coaches in order to support our athletes and athletic programs at CMS and CHS.

When you support the CHS Athletics Booster Club, you will receive a window decal showing your level of support. Those who join at the "Commitment to Excellence" level will receive one All Season Pass. In addition, only Booster Club members will have the opportunity to purchase the \$85 All Season Pass which enables one person to attend all regular season games in District 56 except for varsity football.

Follow the Red Devil Tradition - \$25
Show your Red Devil Spirit - \$50
Display your Red Devil Pride - \$100
Make a Commitment to Excellence - \$250

Name
Address
E-mail
Level of Support
Number of all season passes (\$85 each)
Name of your student-athlete
Grade level

The Booster Club will award a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating male and female student-athlete whose



parents join the Booster Club prior to January 31, 2024. Applications will be available in the spring from the guidance office. Please send application for membership and check to:
Clinton High School Athletic Booster Club.
P.O. Box 1131
Clinton, SC 29325



That brings us to ... 2023, our next game

Red Devil Football



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FRIDAY SEPT 22
CHS @ S. Aiken
7:00 pm - Air Time

Tune in & cheer on your red devils!



Saturday Mornings: Saturday Morning Rewind 9 am
Encore presentation of last night's game 10 am
100th Anniversary of Red Devil Football

