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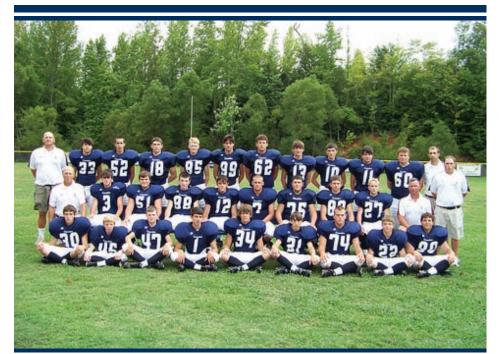
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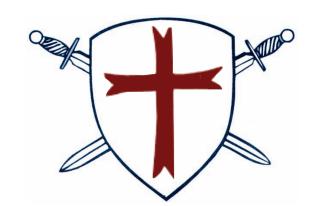
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Wildcats prepare to become Devils

By Trevor Baratko

Staff Writer

The Bell Street Middle School Wildcats preparation for the big show that is Clinton vears." High School football.

This year the two squads, the Red team and White team, each have around 40 players on the roster.

Two Clinton veterans are coaching the teams, with John Lapomarda coaching the White team.

Corley is entering his 10th year coaching at Bell Street and Lapomarda is in his

Both coaches talked about the importance of introducing the basics of football to many of their players.

"For many of these kids, this is the first time they've ever put on shoulder pads or and West View. a football helmet," said Lapomarda. "The two teams encourages competition and ensures that every kid who wants to play football is given that opportunity."

Each team is mixed with 7th and 8th grade students.

"Sometimes it can be difficult for some 7th graders to compete against the bigger kids, but in the end, I think the system works out for the best," said Lapomarda.

Corley played for Bell Street as a mid-

aren't extremely important for these teams.

"I think when I played for Bell Street, we won maybe two or three games a year," he said. "But then we got to high school are ready for another year of football in and lost maybe a few games all four

> For the first time, rising 8th grade students were allowed to lift this summer with Clinton High players.

"You can definitely tell the kids that worked hard this summer and lifted with the high school," said Lapomarda. "They Red team and Tosh Corley coaching the are a step or two ahead of the others out

The White team plays in the Laurens County league against the likes of Belton, Laurens, Gray Court, Sanders, Hickory Tavern and Honea Path.

The Red team competes against Greenwood County squads like Mid-Carolina, Fairfield, Woodmont, McCormick, Brewer

In addition to Corley, the Bell Street coaching staff is filled with former local standouts such as Walter Gary, A.D. Gary

Lapomarda said the primary purpose of football at this level is for the players to establish relationships with one another and

"We've been doing this for 20 years the same way," he said. "We feel like we do things right here in Clinton."



Getting his first taste of action: A Bell Street player works on footwork drills during practice. The two squads are led by coaches John Lapomarda and Tosh Corley. — Photo by Trevor Baratko



Welcome to football in Clinton: Bell Street Wildcat players go through warm ups during practice. Bell Street fields two teams mixed with 7th and 8th graders to ensure every kid the opportunity to play Photo by Trevor Baratko

Playoff perennial Red Devils ready for 08

By Bristow Marchant

Staff Writer

The start of a new school year at Clinton High School can mean only one thing: it's almost time for another season of Red Devil football

Last year, the Red Devils put together a surprisingly strong package. With only two returning starters from 2006, Clinton put together a 9-1 regular season record, winning the AAA Peach Blossom Conference and earning the top seed in the Upper State play-

Their run to the state championship may have been interrupted by a second round upset loss to conference rivals Union County, but senior quarterback Taylor Cook and running back trio Arsi Roberson, Matt Ligon, and team captain Kelton Hall lived up to a school tradition by winning tough.

"Last year I didn't think we were going to win more than three games, so I was surprised," said Head Coach Andy B. Young. "That was a combination of other teams not being as good as they usually are. Some teams you think are not going to win turn out to be good, and sometimes your best teams are the ones that don't win anything."

As Young reflected on last season at the end of the 2008 Red Devils' summer practice camp, he must have seen the similarities between that team and this one.



Don't give an inch: Clinton High's starting defense for 2008, back row from left; Shakeil Bates, Deon Speaks, Taviouzie Booker, Nick James, Kenny Cook, and Tyrell Smith. Front row; Ryan Underwood, Montel Keit, Chris Rhodes, Emery Rice, and Tevin Williams. — Photo by Bristow Marchant

Once again, graduation has hit the team hard, leaving openings for younger players

from last season's varsity, JV and even ninth grade squads to step up and replace the likes of Cook, Hall and Roberson.

In terms of returning starters, this year's Red Devils managed a little better than two. new corps of running backs. On the offensive side of the ball, Clinton guards Zach Epting and Jordan Gaines, and Chandler Ramage at tight end, ensuring the perience." new Clinton quarterback will have an experienced line giving him protection.

On defense, the Devils return Nick James and Nevin Williams on the defensive line.

"We've got a young secondary, mostly sophomores and juniors," Young said. "I don't think our center or free safety played at all last year. Without that veteran leadership, I don't know how long they'll last. They're an inexperienced bunch, so we'll see if they're strong. Our linebackers have more With the loss of both Cook and backup quarplaying time."

One of the players Young will count on for leadership on both sides of the ball will

be senior Matt Ligon. Ligon will be one of the veteran leaders on defense and will also be expected to resume his role as one of Clinton's top scorers from last season in a

"At running back, both Trobias Brown will have a senior center in Blake Beacham, and Matt Ligon saw time last year," Young said. "Taviouzie Booker has also got that ex-

Strength in the backfield will be important in an offense as run-oriented as Clinton's, but with an eye toward giving his at linebacker, Chris Rhodes at strong safety, quarterback more options, Young also spent time in camp looking at who should be put

> "One player who did step up was Kenneth Sanders," Young said. "I've been pleasantly surprised. He's catching everything in practice. We'll see how he holds up."

But who will be throwing the passes? terback Ty Petty, the Red Devils will need a

CHS, Page 4

Ahead of the pack: Clinton High's varsity players are getting in shape for the defense of their 2007 Peach Blossom championship. — Photo by Bristow Marchant

CHS begins 2008 campaign Fri.

From Page 3

new, and hopefully reliable, pair of hands under center when the first snap of the season is made at Newberry Aug. 29.

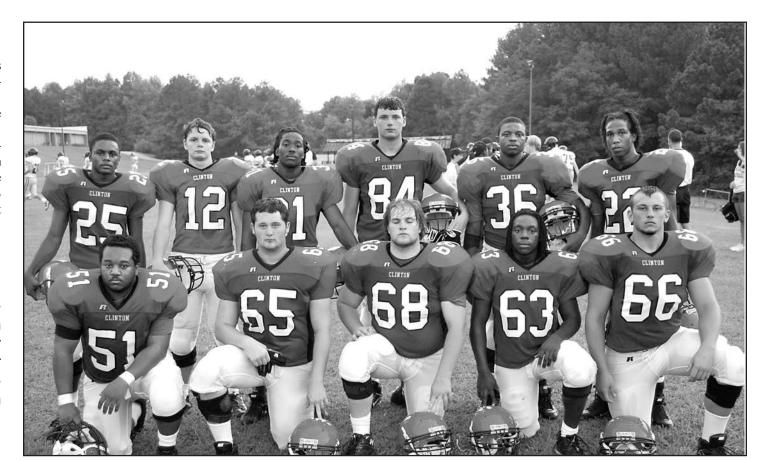
"We're wide open," Young said. "We have three quarterbacks right now."

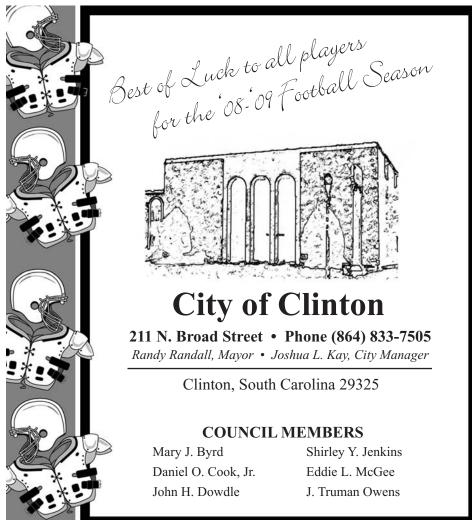
Moving up from junior varsity this season will be two juniors, J.T. Pitts and Griffin Shell. The ex-JV quarterbacks will compete for the starting position with last year's QB for the ninth grade team, sophomore Grant Templeton.

Devils, Page 5

Next generation: Clinton's first team offense is, back row from left; Kenneth Sanders, J.T. Pitts, Matt Ligon, Chandler Ramage, Trobias Brown, and Trevor Watts. Front row; Milton Copeland, Jordan Gaines, Blake Beacham, Quinton Cunningham, and Michael Walker.

- Photo by Bristow Marchant







Junior varsity

From Page 16

as strength coach, so I kind of know what they're capable of as far as speed and strength," he said. "I just need to see what kind of football skills they have."

A lot might be unsure at the beginning of a new season, but both coaches have high expectations for their teams. "I have the same goals every year: go undefeated, 15-0 for the varsity, undefeated for JV and undefeated for the ninth grade team," Lunsford said. "I would be wrong to preach it if I didn't believe it. I tell them if you work hard enough, you can do anything."



Weaving a Webb: Coach Andrew Webb explains formations to the Clinton High JV team. This is Webb's first season coaching junior varsity.

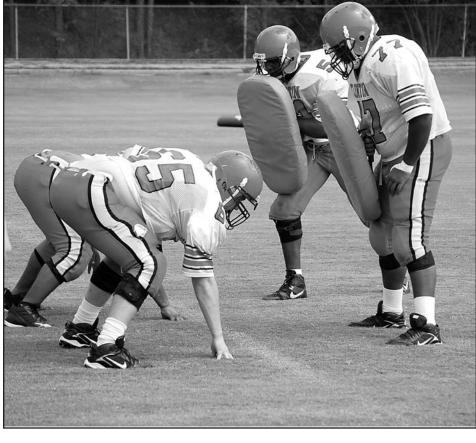
Photo by Bristow Marchant





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Pads on: Red Devil varsity linemen prepare for contact drills as Clinton's 2008 football season gets underway. CHS faces Newberry on Friday in the season's opening game. — Photo by Bristow Marchant

CHS JVs have new coach, same philosphy

By Bristow Marchant

Staff Writer

The 2008 football season will pose some special challenges to Andrew Webb. The Clinton High School coach will take over coaching duties on the junior varsity team from Chris Wofford this fall, placing the job of molding and teaching the next crop of varsity Red Devils squarely on his shoulders.

"I wasn't with the JV team last year," said Webb, who nevertheless has born other responsibilities during his time at the high school. "I've been helping with the varsity team since '04. Last year I was the quarterbacks coach and I worked with the defensive backs."

Webb's JV squad will play a companion schedule to their varsity teammates all season, facing the same schools each week. And while Webb wants his team to defeat their competition on the gridiron on Thursdays, he sees the most important job of a JV team as being the practice field during the week, helping the varsity players prepare for their opposition on Friday night.

"Our biggest goal is to get the varsity ready," he said, which means not only making sure his team is prepared for their opponents' playing style, but also getting his own players to adapt it every week in scrimmages with the senior varsity.

"We have to simulate the opposing team, and get them ready to play bigger and better opponents," Webb said

Webb also expects to give some guidance to players who will switch back and forth from JV to varsity throughout the season.

"I'll have about 20 players who are strictly JV, and about 10 'eight-quarter' players guys who play four quarters Thursday and Friday nights," Webb said. "These players will get a little extra playing time. They might be capable of doing some special teams stuff on Friday, but not offensive and defensive as-

All of Webb's players this year have seen at least some playing time with Clinton's ninth grade team, but he says he will place the greatest responsibility on those who have played "eight quarters."

"Some played a good bit last year (on the ninth grade team)," Webb said. "They have some high school experience, but those eightquarter players have the experience of playing at the varsity level, so when they can play both we'll count on them to provide leadership for the rest of the team."



Reach for the sky: Junior varsity players at Clinton High do jumping jacks as a warm-up exercise. The JV Devils will rely on "eight-quarter" plays who also play some varsity ball on Friday nights.

- Photo by Bristow Marchant

At the same time Webb is acting as a bridge between junior and senior varsity, ninth grade coach Stoney Lunsford has to act as a bridge between middle and high school. Although Lunsford is too busy coaching Thursday and Friday nights to know firsthand signments. Thursdays will give them a how the former Bell Street Wildcats play on chance to gain experience playing on the the field, he has a good feeling about what he's seen from his team so far.

> "There's supposed to be some talent coming over from Bell Street," he said. "We just started practicing, but we've got a few skill positions. Now I just need to find some linebackers."

> Lunsford has worked to make sure his young squad is fit to play when the time comes for them to take the field in a Red Devil uniform. "I lifted all summer with them

Junior varsity, Page 17



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Good Luck to all of our local teams!





QB Shuffle: Clinton High quarterbacks Grant Templeton (10) and J.T. Pitts (12) toss the ball around in practice earlier this month. Who Clinton's starting quarterback will be this year is still up in the air. — Photo by Bristow Marchant



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Devils

From Page 4

"There's no real 1-2-3 right now," the head coach said after watching all three contenders in camp. "It's about even. One's more grounded, one's better at throwing the ball, and one's quicker on his feet. There's not enough that separates them. The test will be in scrimmages who wants it most, who makes the other players want to play more."

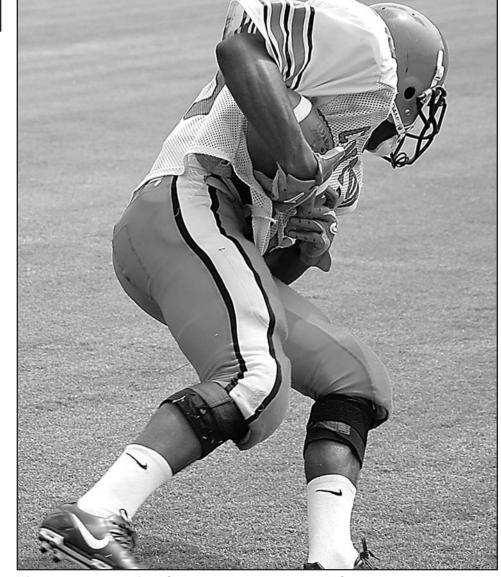
During jamboree games against Dreher and J.L. Mann earlier this month, Young started Pitts and then rotated in Templeton on alternate drives. A final decision may wait until the regular season is underway.

"I don't know that anyone's hot right now," was how the coach saw his team after a four-day summer camp where players practiced in full gear everyday and slept overnight in the gym.

"We got everyone through it and didn't lose anybody. Right now we're in the same positions. The changes will come when we get into the scrimmages. Then we'll see who can think under pressure. That will be our first test, and that will be a good test."

If the final pecking order hasn't been worked out yet on the 2008 Red Devil squad, Young hopes the long series of preseason drills has at least taken a disparate group of players and forged them into a

"In the end, I think these players got behind each other, and I hope they did some bonding. When you go through something like that together it's hard to separate after that. That's our philosophy; I want players who don't care about who gets the credit, who just care about the team."



Hit the ground running: Senior wide receiver Kenneth Sanders makes the catch in practice drills during the run up to the 2008 season at Clinton High. "He's catching everything in practice," said Head Coach Andy B. Young. — Photo by Bristow Marchant

ife Comes at You Fast!

RENEA S. ROWLAND

Are you ready for some football?

Fall is approaching, my friends. Ah, the highly-anticipated season that will bring us new leaves, pumpkins and the greatest sport there ever was — girl's high school volleyball.

Unfortunately I won't be discussing the county's top setters, spikers and servers today. Instead, my duties are to bring you a football column.

In my four collegiate years, my school's team never lost a game, not one. That's right, undefeated since '04. In fact, undefeated since FDR was in office.

This is, of course, because College of Charleston hasn't fielded a football team since the roaring twenties.

For thousands of college students from the Ivy's in the Northeast to the surfers of So Cal, fall Saturdays **B'rat Packer**

are their relief from reality. This is the day they wake up to kegs and eggs at 8 a.m. to ensure hours of debauchery prior to kick off.

By Trevor Baratk

For me however, Saturdays were different. We tailgated for a night at the bars on the sands of Sullivan's or floating down the Cooper. While it's an experience that sparks a few of my fondest memories, I would be lying if I said there wasn't a small void these past four years. A tiny piece of me always longed to throw on my vintage Ohio State Chris

Spielman jersey and act a fool with my childhood pals in Columbus. five, 10 years? I may, but as of right That is why...

I declare this my chance at re- Hose. demption. After being assigned to the PC football beat, I have officially adopted them as my "collegeexperience" football team. I am still undecided if the 8 a.m. ragers will sincerely invited. Women as well.

This gracious little town is the all of us. perfect setting for a college football fanatic — like a mini Happy Valley. Factor in PC's top-notch facilities and recent transition to division one and what more could one ask?

As an aspiring sportswriter, I mean... As a sportswriter (I'm still getting used to the fact I graduated) this is what I spent four years (and for The Clinton Chronicle. His \$100k) at college for. This is the email whimsical life I chose.

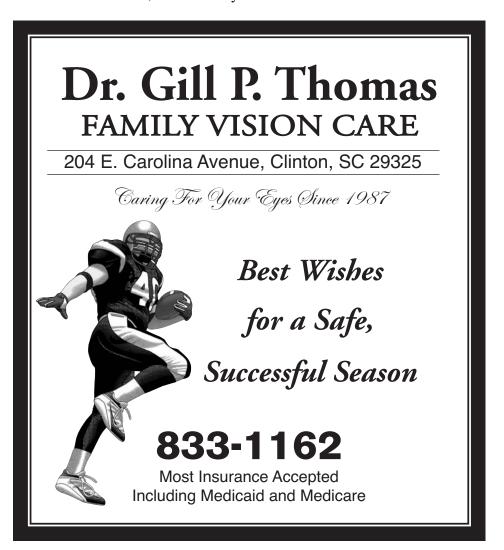
Do I hope for bigger things in now, I'm content with my Blue

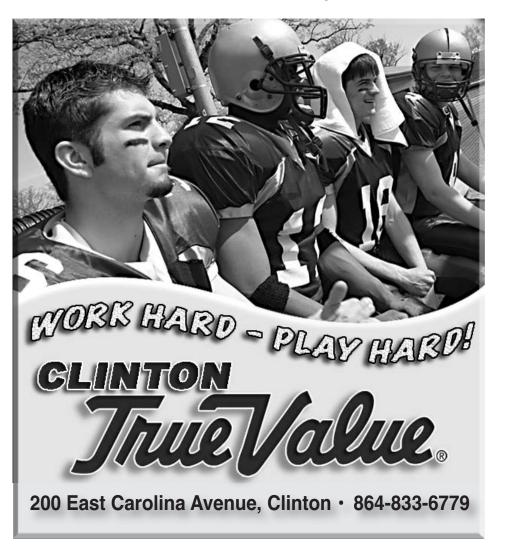
As mentioned in previous columns, I'm not necessarily a huge "football guy." I love the game, as I do all sports. But I am not as thoroughly schooled in its nuances as I take place. If they do, you, sir are am in, say, basketball. So this will truly be a learning experience for

> I shall work tirelessly to provide informative, entertaining commentary for you PC faithful.

> However, if the stories seem scattered or a bit off base, well... I blame the kegs and eggs.

> (Trevor Baratko is a staff writer address tbaratko@gmail.com.)





The voice of Wilder Stadium

By Bristow Marchant

Staff Writer

If you've ever attended a Clinton High School football game, you have probably heard his voice, even if you don't know who he is. After every play, he'll have something to say about it, and he isn't afraid to let you know which team he's a fan of.

"I've had people say they can tell who I root for," Mark Entrekin says with a laugh.

Entrekin has been the PA announcer at Wilder Stadium for 14 years. It's his job to call the action after every play for every team at Clinton's home games all season. It's a part-time job, something Entrekin does for fun on Friday nights after a week at the Timken plant in Honea Path, but still a job the PA man takes very seriously.

Entrekin, his brother Tim, and "spotter" Ricky Polson usually arrive at the stadium 90 minutes before kick off.

"The first thing we do is get the lineups from both sets of coaches, and then start studying the names and numbers of all the players," Entrekin said. "We always get the

and defensive players right then. You don't want to get the kids' names wrong. I've had parents come up to the booth during games to correct my pronunciation."

Besides irritated parents, Entrekin gets other help in the booth as well. "It's not a one-man job," he said. "My brother Tim runs the CDs and music, and Ricky Polson manages time, yardage, and where the ball's spotted. I spot the offense and Ricky spots

Five years ago, Entrekin pushed to have the sound system at Wilder Stadium updated. "We knew sound was going to be crit-

Raising money through the Booster Club, Entrekin was able to add a CD player and a wireless microphone for speakers on the field to the stadium's sound system.

"Now we can play all kinds of different music to motivate the players or get the crowd excited on third down," he said.

The announcer is a proud graduate of Clinton High, class of 1981. Entrekin played on the junior varsity team under then-Assistant Coach Andy B. Young until a knee in-

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Voice from on high: Mark Entrekin stands outside the press box at Wilder Stadium, where he's been announcing Clinton High football over the PA system since 1995. Photo by Bristow Marchant

jury ended his football career. So during his for nothing." senior year, he played on the drumline of the high school band instead.

Entrekin remained a fan of the Red Devils until 1994, when another opportunity to be involved with the team presented itself.

"Joe (Parks, Clinton High announcer for 25 years) was not available for the first game that year," Entrekin remembers. "My friend Ronnie Page was Joe's spotter, and he asked me to fill in for him. I was nervous, but I had a ball, and I was going to the game anyway."

The next season, when Parks retired, Entrekin stepped in to replace him full time. "I sat in on three games with Joe and Ronnie and watched everything they did, learning The coaches here really make us feel like how everything worked," he said.

He gets paid \$30 a game, "but the money's just a token," he said. "I'd do this

Entrekin keeps a list of the best plays he's seen from the announcer's booth over the years: Travis Wilson's 55-yard touchdown run to win the game for Clinton in the second round playoffs in 1998; the Red Devils' late victory against Greer to win the region in the last game of the 2004 season; and Brian Kingsborough's record-breaking performance against Riverside in 2006.

"I've really enjoyed the last three or four year run with guys like Arsi Roberson, Brian Kingsborough, and Chetyuane Reeder," he said. "I hope Coach Young can get a state championship sometime before he leaves. part of the team, and I'm grateful, because it's a lot of fun."

Crusaders face new challenges

From Page 13

mer weight program seems to be paying

With 27 players on the roster, this is the largest team ever assembled at Laurens Academy.

The Crusaders do not return any linebackers on defense, but Kirk believes there is enough talent on the team to step in and compensate for the loss. Junior Devin Sprouse moved from defensive line to middle linebacker help fill the void and Kirk expects defensive end JT Lee to be one of the leading tacklers on the team.

The South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) instituted a new measure disallowing two consecutive two-a-day practices.

"I think that has hurt us a little bit. It is taking us a little longer to catch up," said Kirk.

Beyond Mitchell and Tollison, the two captains, seniors for the squad include linebacker David Stone, linemen Charles Macemore and RJ Doran, tight ends and defensive ends Chris Cranford and Daniel Verdin and wide receiver Ben Oliver.

"Richard Winn should be our first big challenge. They have a good consistent program," said Kirk.

The Crusaders first home game will be Photo by Trevor Baratko this Friday vs. Patrick Henry.



quarterback Luke Tollison.

The Academy opened up with St. Johns Returning the kick: Laurens Academy practices their kick returns during practice. This year's team will be led by returning

2008 VARSITY SCHEDULES

	CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL		LAURENS ACADEMY	
Aug. 22			St. John's	Away
Aug. 29	Newberry	Away	Patrick Henry	Home
Sept. 5	Woodruff	Away	*Richard Winn	Home
Sept. 12	Laurens	Home	*Carolina	Home
Sept. 19	Senaca	Away	*Byrnes	Away
Sept. 26	BHP	Home	*The King's	Home
Oct. 3	*Riverside	Home	RE Lee	Home
Oct. 10	*Blue Ridge	Home	Clarendon Hall	Away
Oct. 17	*Greer	Away	*Williamsburg	Away
Oct. 24	*Union County	Home	*Dillon Ch.	Home
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Blue Hose ready to continue assault on **Division I mountain**

By Trevor Baratko

Staff Writer

According to Presbyterian College Head Coach Bobby Bentley, the Blue Hose will be playing in the Super Bowl every Saturday of the season.

"With the transition to Division I, we're treating every game as if it were a playoff Carolina game. Every game is the Super Bowl for us," he said last Friday.

With an amped up schedule and the hype surrounding the school's transition, one game at a time seems a solid approach

"I think we're more athletic this year than last. We had more players stay this summer to lift and it appears to be paying off," he

Bentley hopes to build on an impressive 6-5 finish last season, where the Blue Hose defeated Division I squads Coastal Carolina and Virginia Military Institute and competed well with Charleston Southern and Western

"Defeating Coastal Carolina was a huge win for us," said Bentley. "They've been very successful in the conference that past



Ready for another year: Presbyterian College's junior running back S.J. Worrell works on his footwork during drills at summer practice. Worrell will be the starting running back for the Blue Hose after accumulating over 1,300 total yards last year. Photo by Trevor Baratko

PC

From Page 7

few years so that shows how far we have come."

Senior quarterback Tim Webb and junior running back S.J Worrell both return after solid seasons last year. Webb passed for 1,797 yards and 15 touchdowns in 10 games last year, while completing 73 percent of his passes. Worrell accumulated 600 receiving yards and 700 rushing yards last year.

"S.J. is a tremendous all-purpose back," said Bentley. "We were definitely a passing football team last year, and it will likely be the same this year."

PC finished the 2007 season with 5,290 yards of total offense, making them the first team in school history to surpass 5,000 total yards. 404 points was also a single-season record.

Defense is perhaps the team's biggest question mark, although they do return a number of players from last season's team.

Key returners on defense include cornerbacks Anthony McKnight and Antoine Carter and linebackers Brian Leonardi and Antwan Thomas.

Thomas tied the team lead in total tackles last season with 74 and also had three interceptions.

McKnight had 62 tackles last season and Carter had 52.

Bentley said a couple of young defensive linemen were pleasant surprises during summer practice and weightlifting sessions.

Defensively, PC runs a 3-5 scheme.

Special teams should be a strong suit for the Blue Hose. Sophomore field goal kicker Cam Miller set a school record going 7-9 on his attempts last year and punter Bryson Summers finished second in the conference with an average of 38.6 yards per punt.

The squad enters its first year as a member of the Big South conference and doubles the number of home games from three last year to six. The Blue Hose will not be eligible for postseason play until they complete the transition period in 2011.

They open the season in Spartanburg taking on Wofford Aug. 30.

Other conference games for the Blue Hose include at Gardner-Webb, Charleston Southern and Virginia Military Institute and at home against Coastal Carolina and Liberty University.

"It should be exciting playing more Division I teams and strengthening our schedule," said Bentley. "At the same time, it will be a challenge for us to compete week after week. Playing teams like Wofford and Ap-



Running through the playbook: The Presbyterian College offense polishes their plays in the weeks leading up to their opener against Wofford on Aug. 30. Senior quarterback Tim Webb looks to lead the Blue Hose to better record than their 6-5 showing last year. — Photo by Trevor Baratko

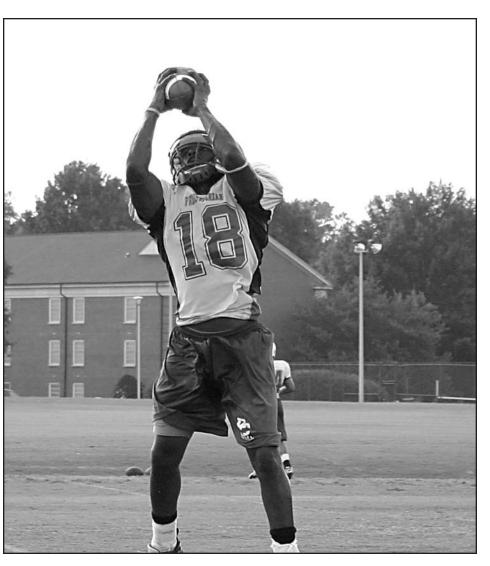
palachian State are an upgrade from Pikeville and Chowan."

As part of the division one transition process, PC is officially incorporated in Big South schedules and count as a Division I opponent and in the RPI. The Blue Hose are not considered a conference opponent and its games aren't counted toward conference standings. PC is also not eligible for the conference championship.

Homecoming will be Oct. 4 against North Greenville University. Bentley hopes to see continued support from the county.

"We are working to build this program and make it known as Laurens County's college football team," he said.

Practicing for picks: PC senior cornerback Antoine Carter is one of the leaders for the Blue Hose defense. Carter was one of the leading tacklers last season with 52. — Photo by Trevor Baratko



LA

From Page 10

that can make it difficult to pass, so I think we will be running a little more than previous years."

Key returning players for the team are quarterback Luke Tollison and running back Jordan Mitchell, who was injured most of last year.

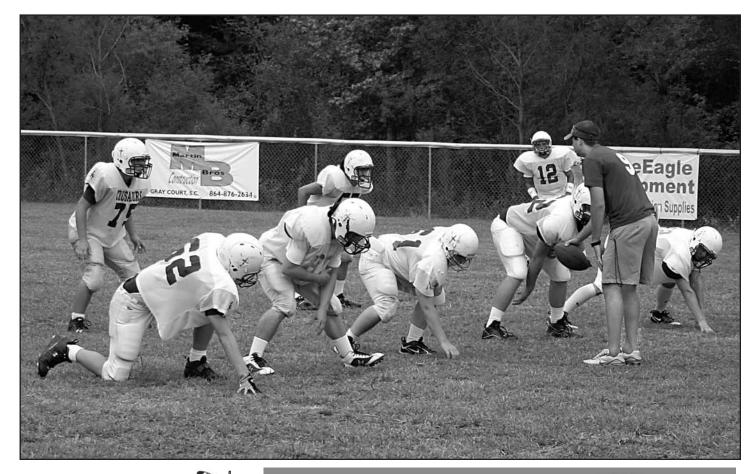
Kirk expects impressive play from Tollison, who has thrown over 100 touchdown passes in his career at Laurens Academy.

"I believe we are a well balanced team. We are in the middle of a great cycle of athletes here at this school," said Kirk. "The kids have worked hard, and the sum-

Crusaders, Page 14

Defensive schemes: Laurens Academy has to rework their defense with the transition from 8-man to 11-man football. The team has their first home game this Friday vs. Patrick Henry.

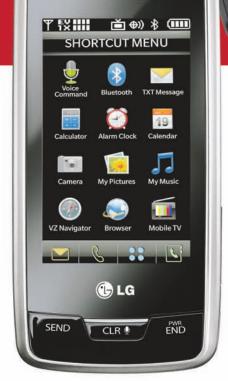
Photo by Trevor Baratko







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The 2008 PC Blue Hose: This year's squad opens away with a regional rivalry against Wofford on Aug. 30. Their first home game will be the following Saturday against Fayetteville State.



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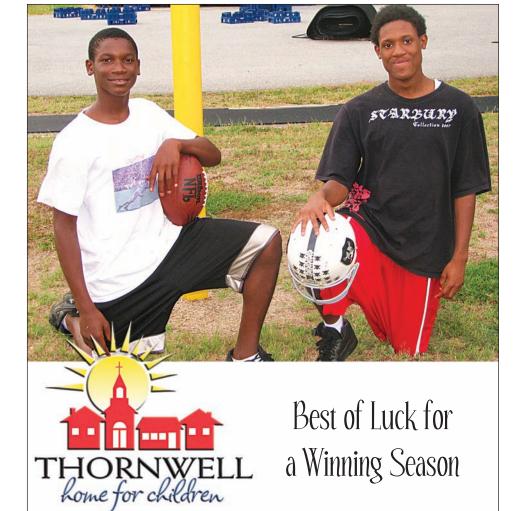
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Crusaders go to 11-man with confidence

By Trevor Baratko

Staff Writer

This may be the first year Laurens Academy fields a full, 11-man squad on the football field, but Head Coach Todd Kirk isn't changing a thing about his approach — or his expectations.

"I have very high expectations for this team." said Kirk.

"Coming off a state finals appearance and returning our starting quarterback, I think we can make a run at the playoffs again."

Of course, it's a whole new ball game transitioning from eight-man football to

Kirk said the Crusaders will need to incorporate more of a running game in their scheme to be successful this year.

"We have a very strong offensive line so I think we'll be very effective running the ball. With 11 defenders as opposed to eight, the field is a lot more clogged up and

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The 2008 Laurens Academy Crusaders: This is the inaugural season for the Crusaders as an 11-man football team. They hope to carry over last year's success as an 8-man squad to this season. — Photo by Trevor Baratko



