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The Clinton Chronicle

# PIGSKIN PREVIEW

August 28, 2013

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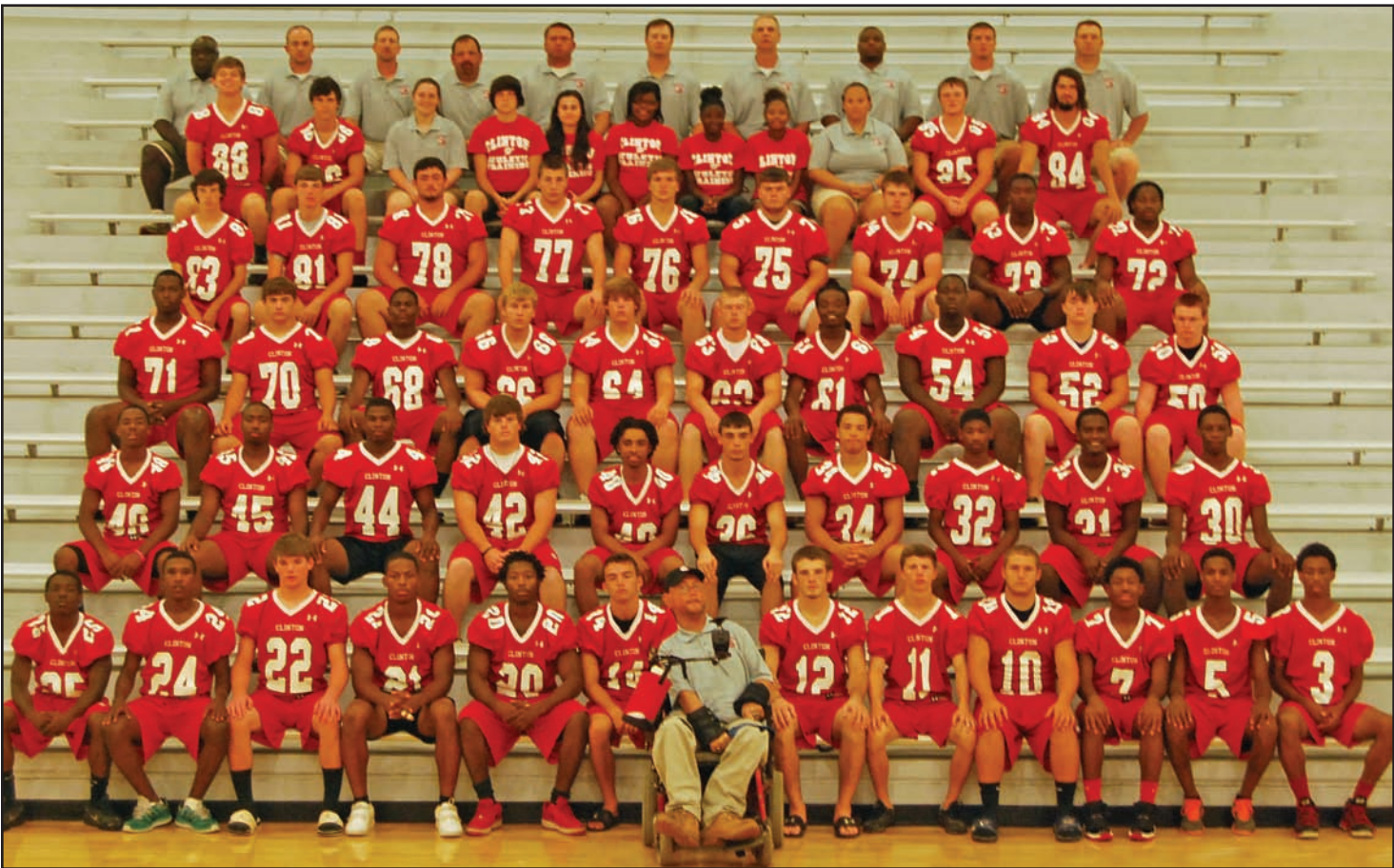
# Red Devil coach sees ‘wide open’ competition helping team’s drive

By Vic MacDonald  
Chronicle sports

No Clinton Red Devil was guaranteed any position going into fall conditioning and practice, in preparation for the 2013 season. Head coach Scott King said that is by design. King is looking to give his squad a “boot in the butt” by making all the players work hard and get mentally tough by competition in an attempt to have a bounce-back season. Clinton missed the Class 3A playoffs in 2012, and King is charged with the responsibility of being sure that doesn’t happen in 2013. By 2014, Clinton and the “leftover” teams in Region III-3A will have two new opponents to scout.

“We want to play the best people,” King said of having perennial state powerhouses Gaffney, Byrnes and Abbeville on the 2013 schedule. “We will have a new conference in 2014, it’s a done deal.” Replacing Chapman and Woodruff on the Red Devils’ region schedule will be Lancaster and South Pointe, and with the SC High School League move there’s just one certainty - the Red Devils will spend more time on the bus.

Both new opponents are about 70 miles from Clinton; Chapman is about a 50 mile trip, and Woodruff less than 25 miles away. Chapman is moving to a different 3A region; Woodruff is going down a class to 2A, but it will be the second-largest school in the class (Dillon is the largest). Clinton will be the smallest school in 3A, with an average attendance of 842. “Everybody we play is larger than us,” CHS Athletics Director Dr. David Barnes said. “That’s not a complaint. That’s a challenge.” The Red Devils will be able to avoid looking ahead because there is work to do this season. They have to show better against Gaffney and Byrnes; they have a win-able game at Laurens, and they need to have a much better region record - playing schools at least of comparable size. Every game matters, but some important dates are Sept. 13 at Laurens District 55 High School; Oct. 11 Homecoming against Chapman; and Nov. 1 playing host to Woodruff. The proud Wolverines were marching



The 2013 Clinton High School Red Devils

--Photo by Vic MacDonald

with momentum toward the state playoffs in 2012 when Clinton derailed them briefly, at Willie Varner Stadium, on a last-minute touchdown pass. Blaine Wilbanks threw it as QB fill-in for Landon Allison who had started all season. Both quarterbacks are back for this season. Catching the highlight-reel pass was Lavadrick Glenn. He is one of three key losses for the Red Devils to graduation; receiver/defender Keon Brown and kicker Truett Burns are two others. All three - Glenn, Brown and Burns - will be competing for college teams in 2013. Brown has a chance at playing time for the Presbyterian College Blue Hose, their head coach Harold Nichols has said during pre-season workouts. Along with Wilbanks and Allison competing at quarterback, the Red Devils have returning their MVP, runningback Matthias Williams, and tight end/defensive end Hunter Stewart. Stewart made the tackle that ended the Woodruff game, with the Wolverines poised

to take one last, Hail Mary shot at the end-zone. He and Allison had some success in the passing game in 2012, but again in 2013 that will not be the Red Devils’ strength. They will run, block, and run some more. “Keep it away from them (the opponent’s offense),” King said. “Most definitely.” Clinton wants to shore up its offensive line, block its assignments and have Williams and other runningbacks grind out yardage. That chews time off the clock; that keeps opponents’ offenses - especially Byrnes, an every- season nationally ranked high school team - from establishing their run games and then bombarding the Clinton secondary with passes. Once an opposing player has the ball, Clinton has to do one fundamentally important thing for every football team, from Pee Wee to Super Bowl champion. They must tackle. “The only bad tackle,” coach King said, “is a missed tackle. We did not tackle well last year. We will tackle better, or I’m going

to be real disappointed.” The Red Devils are running tackling drills every day in practice. It’s a safe bet their tackling form has been a point of discussion after scrimmages Aug. 9 and 13, and watching film from game scrimmages Aug. 15 (Woodruff) and Aug. 20 (Ninety Six). Barnes said there is another “fundamental” the CHS Athletics Department will instill during 2013. “We are Red Devils,” he said. As a challenge to CHS student-athletes during last fall’s post-season athletics awards program, Barnes called for a re-commitment to Red Devils’ athletics. He reinforced the call at the Aug. 1 meeting with parents of fall sports athletes. “A chain is as strong as its weakest link,” Barnes said. “We want the parents to understand that the player needs to bring issues to the coach. Then, if it’s beyond (the player’s) understanding, the parent should bring it to Clinton, Page 10

## Junior Varsity

From Page 4

“We have six to eight runningbacks, and the guys in front of them are pretty solid,” Wofford said. At quarterback, Wofford and fellow coaches Bobby Jones, Joseph Terry and Dontavius Green seem to have settled on Donovan Benson, 10th grade, and Charlie Craven, ninth grade. Running the ball is a hallmark of Clinton football. Wofford said it is important for the junior varsity to add to the players’ consistency when dealing with a running game. “We’re doing the exact same thing as the varsity,” Wofford said. “Same terminology, some of our guys will be playing with the varsity. At the middle school level they want to do it, too; I know they use the same offense.” Going into the Aug. 20 scrimmage, Wofford said the JV had “not had a whole lot of time to work on team defense.” In general, he liked what he saw defensively on the field against Ninety Six. Just like the varsity, Clinton JVs are plac-



ing emphasis on the defensive side on tackling. The scrimmage against Ninety Six was “the first time we’ve been able to scrimmage except against ourselves,” Wofford said. “This is a dress rehearsal to play against Chapin.” Clinton JV will have a rare Wednesday night game (Aug. 28) to start their season. “Gaffney dropped us (a scheduled Aug. 29 game), so we were lucky to find another game,” Wofford said. “Chapin wanted to play it on Wednesday. They have a lot of USC fans down there.” For their part, all this schedule shuffling might work to the Clinton JV team’s advantage. They will get a good tune-up tonight (Aug. 28), then have a chance to watch college football Thursday, followed by the Clinton varsity traveling to defending state champion Gaffney Friday night, and then more college football Saturday. After this week the players who want to play will start emerging, but until then Wofford says, “We’ll be playing a lot of people,” and the more, the better.

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From Page 3

2013.

“There are a lot of encouraging signs,” said Nichols. “We’re a better team fundamentally, we’re a better tackling football team and I think we’ll be able to run the ball a little bit better than what we’ve had in the past.”

PC fans will recognize one familiar face on defense as Tommy Spangler brings his hard-nosed, swarming style of defense to the Blue Hose as defensive coordinator. Spangler holds the record for highest winning percentage (.571) as a PC head coach when he served at the helm from 2001 to 2006. Spangler garnered a South Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year award in 2005 and spent the last six seasons as the defensive coordinator at Louisiana Tech.

“The energy and wisdom that Coach Spangler brings with his expertise can’t be undersold,” said Nichols. “He’s really brought a different energy to our defensive football team.”

Spangler aims to shore up the PC defense with the help of seven returning starters, including junior linebacker Donelle Williams. The linebacker enters this season on the College Football Performance Awards Linebacker Award watch list, which goes to the nation’s top linebacker in the Football Championship Subdivision. Williams earned All-Big South Conference Second Team honors in 2012 and ranked third in the league in tackles (103).

Senior linebacker Isaiah Lynn joins Williams behind a defensive line that brings back starters Keyadd Miller and Joshua Polk. The two combined for three sacks and five tackles for loss in 2013. Spangler will look to several newcomers to plug several holes on the defensive side of the ball that graduated several of its top stars in 2012.

Longsnapper Cannon Jordan, who snapped in all 11 games, will send the ball back to redshirt sophomore punter Stephen Doar. Doar impressed last season by averaging 48.0 yards per punt in five games of action. The team will look to freshman Brett Wilson to handle placekicking duties.

PC signed 25 Blue Hose and added nearly a dozen walk-ons to join the battle in 2013. Clinton High product Kenyon Brown will don a PC jersey and transfer running back LaQua Mayes will challenge for starting time.

This season plays out over an 11-game schedule that offers PC fans the chance to attend six home games for the first time since 2008, beginning with a Saturday home date against Brevard on September 7. The Blue Hose also host Charlotte on September 28, the first-ever FBS opponent to visit Bailey Memorial Stadium. Away from Laurens County, PC battles nearby rivals Furman and Wofford in short road trips during September and October.

Fans can catch four of this year’s games online on ESPN3 and watch four of PC’s home games live online on the Big South Network. For the first time in the league’s history, the games will be available free of charge.



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# Blue Hose begin 100 years of football

By Ryan Real  
For The Chronicle

Presbyterian College head football coach Harold Nichols knows Blue Hose football. Nichols, entering his fifth year at the helm, played quarterback for the Blue Hose in the 1980s and served as an assistant before taking the head job in 2009. So Nichols knows how special this season will be for the school as PC opens its 100<sup>th</sup> year of football at Wake Forest on Thursday, August 29.

“I’m coaching at my alma mater here for the 100<sup>th</sup> year, and celebrating all those great players, great coaches and great teams will be very exciting,” said Nichols. “We’ve had a great offseason and we’ve got a quiet confidence about us.”

The Blue Hose return 46 letter winners and 16 starters, including eight on offense and seven on defense. Those returners will look to improve from a 2-9 season in 2012 with the help of more than 30 newcomers to the program.

Quarterbacks Tamyn Garrick and Kaleb Griffin entered camp vying for the top job



under center and Nichols will likely announce his decision close to kickoff at Wake Forest.

The two redshirt sophomores each had five starts last year, with Griffin holding a slight statistical edge in yardage, completions and touchdowns.

Nichols says the game has slowed down for his two returning quarterbacks and the team will have to take care of the ball better than in 2012 to be successful.

The team lost leading rusher Lance Byrd to graduation but brings back junior running back Demarcus Rouse, who averaged a team-high 6.4 yards per carry last year and delivered nine of the team’s 13 rushing touchdowns.

PC’s offense will benefit from an experienced line that sees five of 2012’s starting linemen—including three seniors—return, including James Festa and James Barnes.

Senior Arthur Williams and junior Jeremiah McKie lead the receiving corps. The two started all but one game and tight end Joey Gilkey and wideout Tobi Antigha will also bolster the group. Overall, eight offensive starters return for the Blue Hose in



PC, Page 14

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# Consistency is watchword for 2013 Clinton High junior varsity football

By Vic MacDonald  
Chronicle sports

Clinton High JV head coach Chris Wofford was generally pleased with the first action by his Red Devils Aug. 20 scrimmaging against Ninety Six JV.

“We hit a couple of big plays,” said Wofford, watching the Clinton varsity from the sidelines at Wilder Stadium. “They were blitzing and we did not do a good job picking it up. Once we did, we got big plays.”

Runningbacks Zikail Livingston and Tashymen Boyd broke long runs for touchdowns for Clinton against the junior Wildcats.

Livingston’s run surprised the Ninety Six coaches so much - in the JV scrimmage coaches were allowed on the field - they had to jump out of the way to avoid the Clinton back headed their way.

After the varsity scrimmage, Clinton JV went back out on the field for another 20



minutes against the Ninety Six squad.

That’s when Vee Thompson started showing out. Splitting time with the varsity, Thompson jumped out of the Clinton backfield, through a hole sliced in the Ninety Six defensive line by the junior Red Devils OL,

for a long run. Thompson also played on defense, on one play coming hard off the edge and knifing a Ninety Six runner at the ankles.

If Thompson and fellow JVer Tra Jones being called up for varsity action, the Clinton JV will have valuable additions to what Wofford calls “a plethora of runningbacks.”

Junior varsity, Page 15

# 2013 CHS Red Devil Roster

#	Name	Position	Height	Weight	Class
3	Tay Cook	WR/DB	6' 0"	142	Soph.
5	Lamonta Simpson	WR/DB	5' 11"	142	Jr.
7	Jay Fuller	QB/DB	5' 9"	157	Soph.
10	Landon Allison	QB/LB	5'10"	208	Sr.
11	Michael Mann	WR/DB	5'10"	125	Jr.
12	Blaine Wilbanks	QB/DB	5' 10"	172	Sr.
14	Donovan Benson	QB/LB	5' 9"	145	Soph.
20	Breshaud Parks	RB/DL	5' 10"	185	Sr.
21	Matthias Williams	RB/DL	6' 0"	190	Sr.
22	Matt Craven	WR/DB	5' 10"	168	Sr.
24	Shabazz Blakely	WR/DB	5' 8"	146	Jr.
25	Kevious Hunter	RB/LB	5' 5"	143	Soph.
30	Dee Jennings	RB/LB	5' 11"	158	Jr.
31	Shakeam Dowdy	RB/DB	6' 0"	184	Jr.
32	Drequan Dendy	WR/DB	5' 8"	135	Jr.
34	Tra Jones	RB/LB	5' 10"	179	Soph.
36	Brett Burton	SE/DB	5' 9"	157	Sr.
40	Vee Thompson	RB/DB	5' 9"	148	Soph.
42	Trey Childress	RB/DL	5' 11"	207	Sr.
44	Hezekiah Simpson	RB/LB	5'11"	185	Jr.
45	Quinn Anderson	TE/DL	6' 0"	206	Sr.
48	Trey Gary	WR/DB	5' 9"	159	Sr.
50	Riley Seals	OL/DL	5' 9"	184	Soph.
52	Justin Baker	OL/DL	5' 10"	208	Jr.
54	Jameel Evans	OL/DL	6' 2"	296	Soph.
61	Drek Lindsay	OL/LB	5' 10"	164	Sr.
63	Clayton Padgett	OL/DL	6' 0"	172	Soph.
64	Jonathan Shiflet	OL/DL	5' 9"	232	Jr.
66	Aaron Hughes	OL/DL	5' 10"	207	Jr.
68	Anfernee Gary	OL/DL	5' 11"	188	Soph.
70	Jacob Wesson	OL/DL	5' 10"	197	Jr.
71	Tavon Carter	OL/DL	6'3"	253	Sr.
72	Devonte Roberson	OL/DL	5' 10"	225	Sr.
73	Keiron Murphy	OL/DL	6' 2"	225	Sr.
74	Jonah Shiflet	OL/DL	6' 3"	216	Jr.
75	Tyson Evans	OL/DL	5' 11"	280	Soph.
76	Austin Ginn	OL/DL	6' 2"	210	Sr.
77	Alan Michael Patterson	OL/DL	6'3"	226	Sr.
78	Tray Gosnell	OL/DL	6' 2"	296	Sr.
81	Daniel Moore	TE/DL	6'0"	175	Soph.
83	Charles McKinney	WR/DB	5' 10"	125	Sr.
84	Hunter Nabors	TE/DL	6'2"	193	Sr.
85	Kendall Pitts	TE/LB	5' 11"	191	Sr.
86	Donovan Blackmon	TE/LB	5' 11"	168	Soph.
88	Hunter Stewart	TE/LB	6'2"	194	Sr.

Principal: Maureen Tiller  
Athletic Director: David Barnes  
Athletic Trainer: Nora Ann Pace  
Head Football Coach: Scott King  
Assistant Football Coaches: Sean McCarthy, Andrew Webb, Tosh Corley, Al Roebuck, Bill Seawright  
Chris Wofford, Bobby Jones, Joesph Terry, and Dontavius Glenn  
Middle School Coaches: John Lapomarda, Michael Turner, Josh Hallman, Ryan Caughman, John Gardner, Darryl Suber, and A.D. Gary

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# Bell Street

From Page 5

damentals and getting in shape.”

Just a couple days before, the Bell Street Middle School Red Team and the White Team laced up their shoulder pads for the first time. They hit the sled, then Lapomarda produced planks of wood. Divided into two groups – not teams, not yet – the players tried to keep their feet on either side of the wooden plank while knocking the snot out of the guy lined up right in front.

It is a “mano e mano” drill used at every level of football.

It’s also a mamma’s worst nightmare.

Without proper instruction, this is how young men get hurt. Duck your head, make the hit – you’re going to feel a ripple in your spine. In the NFL, in the open field, make that head-first hit you’re going to be fined several thousand dollars, possibly suspended.

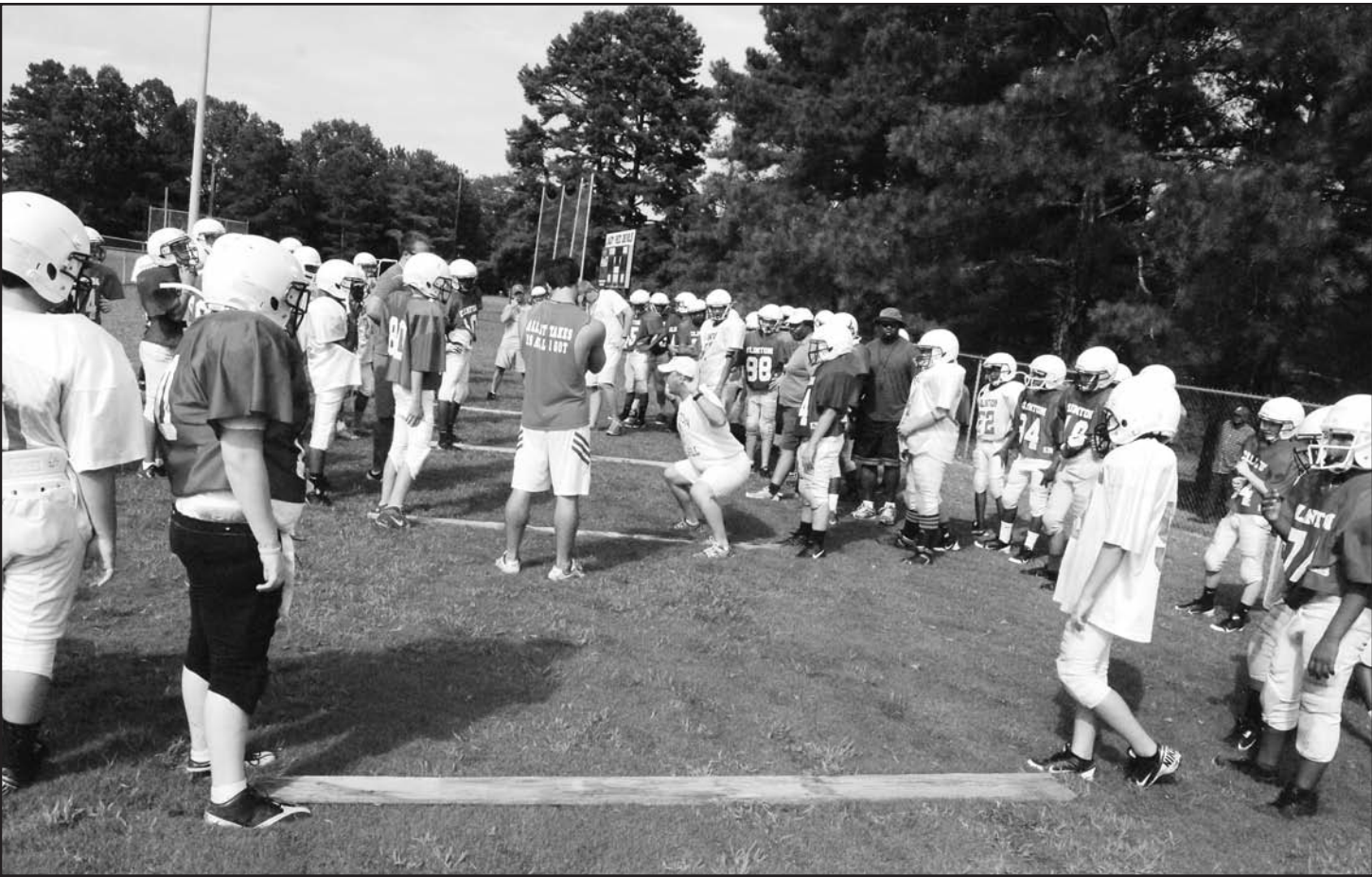
Compression and spinal injury prevention is one reason Clinton High coaches from varsity through JV and filtering down to the Bell Street teams are teaching a new way of “head up” tackling.

The tackling drill Bell Street players were doing their first day in pads is the same drill the CHS varsity was doing their first day of practice – helmets and shorts that first day, no pads.

Turner said varsity coach Tosh Corley sent him an e-mail link to the tackling procedure that all coaches in the CHS/BSMS football programs are expected to teach. “It’s injury prevention,” Turner said. “Keep your head up.”

The Bell Street coaches have a while yet to put their young players on the field. They scrimmage next week at Union, then season-openers for Red and White teams will be Sept. 12. Cutoff for players being accepted into the program was Friday.

“A lot of them are green,” Turner said of the “young,” i.e. relatively inexperienced,




Bell Street players. Some have been on a football field before their seventh grade year – many more have not. “Put your thumbs together,” Lapomarda was telling his running-backs.

It looks so easy – accepting the ball from the quarterback – but in all its minute details, it is so complicated. Add onto that more than 20 other players on the field of battle, crowd noise and just the general “all eyes on me” feeling of football – a simple act becomes downright frightening.

The best players calm the fear. The game slows down for them. Right now, Bell Street coaches are willing to go slow, to let those best players find themselves in the game they love to teach.






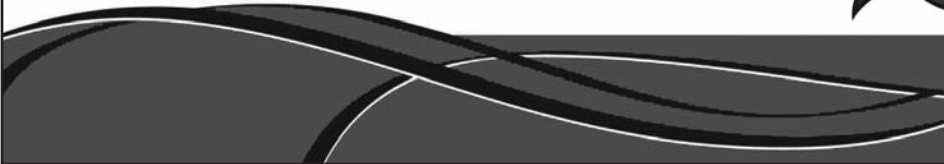
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# Bell Street coaches tell their two teams football is simple geometry

By Vic MacDonald  
Chronicle sports

The numbers are good. Now they have to see if any of them can play.

Mike Turner, Bell Street White, and John Lapomarda, Bell Street Red, were working at practice Aug. 21 with quarterbacks and runningbacks getting them to take the right step, run straight ahead on a line, and get low. “Run tight, first step toward the line, trust the hole will be there,” Lapomarda said.

After a while, on a practice field surrounding by a track behind the former Clinton High School, they changed it up. Now the quarterbacks had to pivot one way, spin and pitch the ball to a halfback starting to run sideways. The fullback took an angle into the line to, hopefully, pick up a blitz, so the halfback could make the sweep behind a convoy of blockers.

“It’s geometry,” Lapomarda told the players in red and white Clinton jerseys. It’s



all about straight lines and angles – football as a math class.


Runners take straight lines to a hole in the line of scrimmage, running as low to the ground as they can, trying not to run up their blockers’ backs.

Tacklers look for the straightest line on the best angle to cut off the runner, or the wide receiver that’s just beaten them over the top.

Quarterbacks have to know more angles than anybody – when a straight line pass is needed, when “getting some air under it” is a better option. How to pivot and stretch just a little, putting the ball into the running-back’s “bread basket.”


“We’re in the crawling stage,” Turner said, watching Lapomarda explain over and over his geometry theory. “You have to crawl before you can walk. You have to walk before you can run. We’re focusing on fun-

Bell Street Page 12




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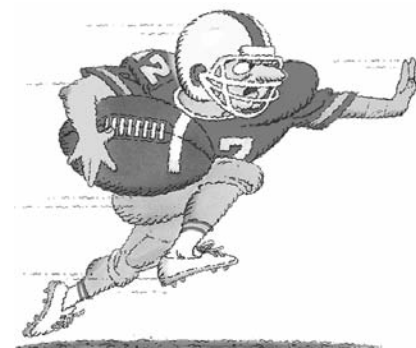


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# Blue Hose tight end spent the summer ministering

**By Ryan Real**  
For The Chronicle

Shortly after finishing his junior year at Presbyterian College this past May, tight end Joey Gilkey re-packed his bags, threw them in his truck and left his comfortable Atlanta suburb to spend his summer in one of America's poorest, most crime-ridden cities—East St. Louis, Illinois.

Instead of hitting the beach or finding a summer job, Gilkey wanted to follow his passion for mentoring and ministering to at-risk youth. The soft-spoken 6' 2", 240-pound senior has signed on to continue his work as a career after graduating next May and sought out the chance to coach football and spend time with the students of East St. Louis High School.

The program, Rebirth East St. Louis, offers Christian-based mentoring to the school's students and teaches life skills, like budget management or how to catch up in school (many read three years behind grade level, according to Rebirth ESL founder Shane Fast).

The city boasts the highest crime rate in the country and the organization's website estimates that 74 percent of its children live in poverty. Though they came from different backgrounds, Gilkey and his students found a way to connect.

“They loved hanging out with us,” said Gilkey. “I’m a middle class, white kid with a put-together family and these guys loved to hang out with us. They wanted to come to my house, cook out, swim with us. They wanted us to just take them to McDonald’s and hang out. Simple stuff. It was really cool to see the Lord work through us even though we’ve got these socioeconomic differences.”

One of Gilkey's fondest memories came when he and the kids tried to hop over a fence to play on a nearby baseball field.

"We had this guy named Twix—this 17-year-old, 365 lbs. kid—and all the guys below were trying to catch him," said Gilkey. "He jumped and everyone just fell to the ground with him on top, and we're

just dying laughing.”

One memory sticks out for a different reason. While driving some students home on a rainy night, Gilkey's truck died in a flooded street near Washington Park, the most dangerous section of the already unsafe city.

During a 90-minute wait for a tow truck, the senior heard two sets of gunshots ring out and watched numerous motorists slow down to inspect the truck before speeding off once they saw Gilkey inside.

“I was very calm,” he said. “I knew that whatever was good for me was going to happen.”

This fall, Gilkey will bring his quiet, steady leadership to PC for his final season of college football. The tight end started nearly half of the team's games in 2012 and hauled in a career-long pass against Vanderbilt. Gilkey will be expected to lead an experienced group of tight ends and receivers for a team that has a lot to prove.

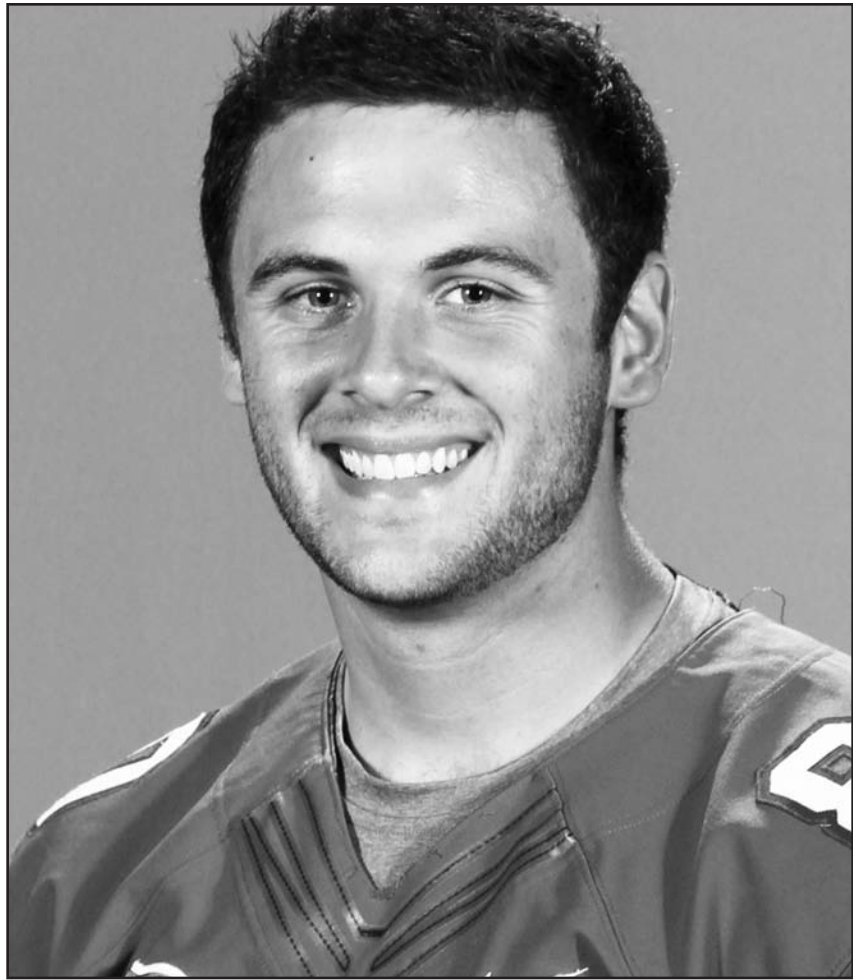
“His faith is very important to him and he’s got a service in his heart that’s shown more through actions than words,” said head coach Harold Nichols. “He’s one of those young men that you love to coach and love to be around.”

Both Nichols and Fast say that Gilkey relates to people on a personal level.

“He has a grip in ministry that people are not targets or objects, they’re people,” said Fast. “He loves them for who they are. The kids were sad to see him leave, they really connected with him.”

Regardless of what happens on the football field—and Gilkey expects a “turning point” for the Blue Hose—the senior has returned to Clinton with a different perspective on life.

“My worldview changed. My understanding of the world, even myself,” said Gilkey. “If I have the opportunity to look back on my life, I want to be able to say that I didn’t waste my life. I want to say that Joey lived for something so much bigger than himself. Nothing’s bigger than working for the kingdom of God.”



## Joey Gilkey

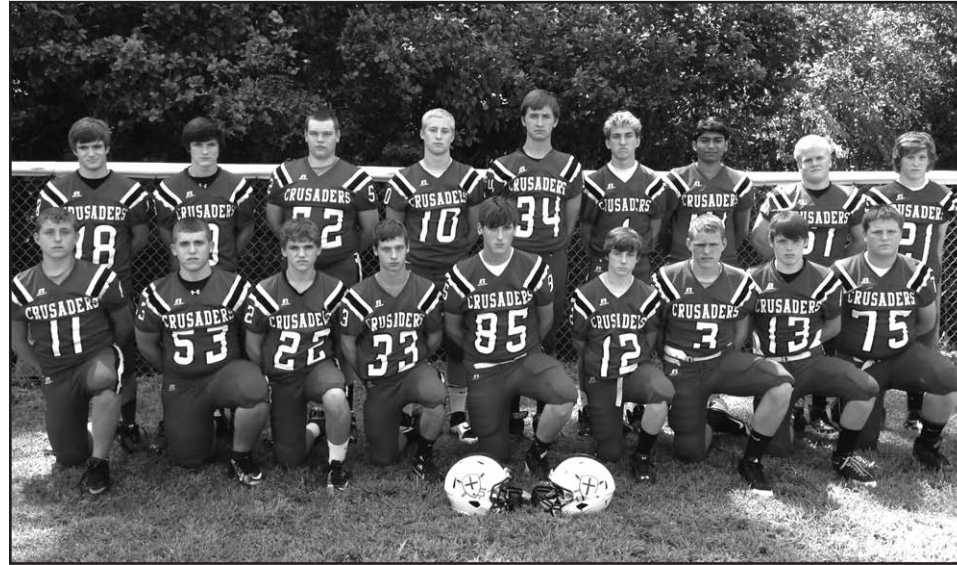
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# Laurens Academy Crusaders for 2013



Laurens Academy Varsity Football					
2013 Schedule					
Date	Time	Team	Place		
16-Aug	6:30	Richard Winn	Home	(Scrimmage)	
23-Aug	7:30	Greenwood Christian	Greenwood		
30-Aug	7:30	Pee Dee Academy	Mullins		
6-Sep	7:30	Wardlaw Academy	Home		
13-Sep	7:30	Myrtle Beach Christian	Myrtle Beach		
20-Sep	7:30	Greenville Hurricanes	Home		
27-Sep			Bye Week		
4-Oct	7:30	WW King	Saluda		
11-Oct	7:30	Fountain Inn Christian	Home	(Homecoming)	
18-Oct	7:30	Oak Level Baptist (NC)	Home		
25-Oct	7:30	Charleston Collegiate	Charleston		
1-Nov	7:30	Ridge Christian	Home	(Senior Night)	
Head Coach: Tyler Van Hook					
Assistant Coach: Travis Plowden					
Statistician: Will Burroughs					



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**Good Luck to  
all local teams.  
We hope you  
have a Winning  
Season!**

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# Clinton

## From Page 2

understanding, the parent should bring it to the coach. Rather than to social media.”

The Internet, Twitter, Instagram, cell phones and iPads make communications instant, Barnes said, but these platforms also can undermine teams - from the NFL and NBA right down to middle school.

Barnes said young athletes are shown every day on ESPN how a performance can be critiqued - instantly - by Twitter. How are they not to be expected to follow suit?

“We are calling for a commitment to Clinton High School Red Devils,” Barnes said. “We brought this out at the parents’ meeting - Team Over Me. It goes directly to our players.”

For the football team, that commitment is expected from competition and senior leadership. “I hope it’s a good competition,” King said specifically of the quarterback head-to-head, but it really includes all players vying for all positions on the field.

“We have a good number of seniors,” King said. “The key will be how they perform on a daily basis, not just games but also

practice. The team is going to be only as good as its seniors - that is shown in history.”

Do the Clinton Red Devils seniors want to be in contention for a region championship and a return trip to the state playoffs - a redemption for 2012?

King said, “I would be highly disappointed if they don’t.”



Left: CHS Head Coach Scott King



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9/28 - 2 P.M. - FAMILY WEEKEND



VMI

10/19 - 2 P.M.



POINT

10/26 - 2 P.M. - HOMECOMING



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11/2 - 2 P.M. - MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



GARDNER-WEBB

11/23 - 1 P.M. - YOUTH DAY



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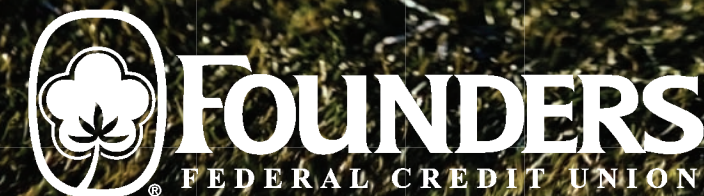


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