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The Clinton Chronicle

August 20, 2014

PIGSKIN PREVIEW

2014

INSIDE:

Clinton High Varsity
Presbyterian College
Clinton High JV

Ugonna Akoh
Kenny Cook
More

Seniors, returning starters to lead Blue Hose

By Ryan Real

For Pigskin Preview 2014

The Presbyterian College football team's transition into Division I has not been easy. Since bidding farewell to the familiar success of Division II and moving up to the top level of college football, the Blue Hose have battled their way through the dark but can see the light—figuratively, with a strong senior class, and literally, as PC will host night games for the first time since 1990.

This season, the Blue Hose aim to improve on a 2013 campaign that saw the squad go 3-8 and 1-4 in the Big South Conference. The offense and defense return six starters each, part of 55 returning letterwinners.

Head coach Harold Nichols, returning for his sixth season, sees a lot to look forward to in 2014. The PC alumnus cites the leadership of a senior class that may be the team's strongest-ever in Division I.

"This senior group has been through an



Enter the Scotsman. Presbyterian College during the 2013 football season inaugurated an Enter the Scotsman pre-game entrance for the Blue Hose football team at Bailey Memorial Stadium. The Scotsman stands on a rock near Yonce Field House, pulls his sword from the stone, and charges onto the field as the team enters, through a gauntlet made by the PC cheerleaders. This season, PC will play its first two home games - Sept. 6 against Bluefield and Sept. 13 against Furman - at night, the first night football on campus since Oct. 27, 1990, when the Blue Hose faced off against Wingate at the Old Bailey Stadium. Photo by Vic MacDonald

PC, Page 3

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It's simple. This is basic football - running, throwing and catching. PC QB Heys McMath connects with running back Blake Roberts for a touchdown in last November's game against Charleston Southern at Bailey Memorial Stadium. McMath threw for 298 yards in the Blue Hose 27-16 home loss to the 9-1 Bucs in Big South Conference action. Pre-season for 2014, Charleston Southern is picked No. 3 and PC is predicted to finish No. 6 in the six-team Big South. - Photos by Vic MacDonald



Hitting somebody else. Since the start of high school football practice Aug. 1, players on the same time have been hitting mostly each other. In Aug. 12 scrimmage action at Belton-Honea Path, the Clinton Red Devils got to hit an opponent. CHS varsity also scrimmaged in Greenwood, Woodruff and at home (Aug. 15) in preparation for the season-opener this Friday - Photo by Larry Franklin

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PC

From Page 2

awful lot here as players," Nichols said. "They're a battle-tested crew and I have so much respect for them and their work ethic. They're self-made and their leadership is contagious. Football matters to them and that's going to help our team."

Preseason All-Big South Conference wide receivers Jeremiah McKie and Tobi Antigha lead the seniors, as does Preseason All-Big South longsnapper Cannon Jordan. McKie starred as the league's best return man last season and Antigha enjoyed a career year with a team-leading six receiving touchdowns.

Sophomore quarterback Heys McMath enters the fall as the No. 1 option behind center. McMath made his collegiate debut six games into the season and threw for 1,142 yards and 10 touchdowns, averaging 190.3 yards per game.

An experienced running back corps re-

turns seniors Demarcus Rouse (103 carries, 514 yards, seven TD), LaQua Mayes (320 yards, 71 carries, three TD) and sophomore Blake Roberts (52 carries, 322 yards, one TD) but will likely feature red-shirt freshman Darrell Bridges in his rookie season.

Senior linemen Hunter Gray and Devinn Ritter anchor an offensive line that allowed six fewer sacks than PC opponents last season. Nichols hopes the line will bolster the team's running game, an area of emphasis for the Blue Hose this season.

"We have to do better at running the football," Nichols said. "We also have to do better on defensive third down. We need to be able to get off the field. We would be good for a while and then give up that big play. Those will be areas of improvement."

The Blue Hose defense enters its second full season under defensive coordinator Tommy Spangler, who helped to bring opponent scoring down by nearly a touchdown and limited foes to 75 fewer yards per game.

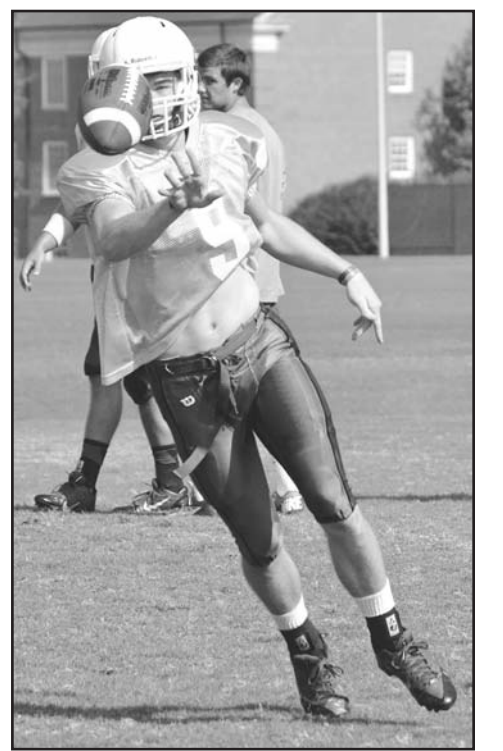


"Don't be last to work." Presbyterian College coaches shout encouragement and instructions to Blue Hose players working hard during practice six, the second full contact practice of the summer, Aug. 7 at the Maple Street football practice fields. The Blue Hose sharpened up for scrimmages Aug. 9 and 16, and will have the annual Fan Day Scrimmage this Saturday, 10 a.m. at Bailey Memorial Stadium. Meet the players will be at 9 a.m. (earlier in the morning will be Flight of the Dove bicycle run fund-raiser for Hospice of Laurens County starting from the front driveway of the stadium). The Blue Hose open the 2014 season with non-conference action at 2012 and 2013 BCS-bowl participant Northern Illinois next Thursday (Aug. 28). - Photos by Vic MacDonald

Redshirt sophomore lineman Ugonna Akoh led the team last season in tackles for loss (14) and sacks (3.5) in 10 games. The defense returns 12 of its 17 sacks and both of its two interceptions. Returning tackler Breyon Williams (70 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 sack), as do four of the team's five leading tacklers. The unit receives a boost in the return of 2012 All-Conference linebacker Donelle Williams, who missed most of 2013 with an injury.

New lights at Bailey Memorial Stadium add to the excitement for 2014. The team hosts Bluefield in its home opener on September 6 and welcomes Furman a week later—both night games. PC opens the season on Thursday, August 28 at Northern Illinois and also faces NC State and Ole Miss.

"You're going see a team that plays with a lot of energy and emotion," said Nichols. "We want a team that our community, student body and alumni can be proud of. We've got the pieces in place to be able to do that."



CHS will play #1,000 on Oct. 24

By Vic MacDonald
For Pigskin Preview 2014

Clinton High varsity football players and coaches don't want to lose any games. But they especially don't want to be the team that failed to live up to the long and storied legacy of Red Devil football by losing on Oct. 24 and 31.

On Oct. 24, the 2014 Red Devils will play the 1,000th football game in Clinton High School history - a legacy that includes multiple state championships.

Since that game is on the road, CHS Athletics plans a celebration of 1001. The department has developed a logo that has little pitchforks in place of the two 1s.

On Oct. 31, Wilder Stadium will be the place for the 1,001st football game in Red Devil history. All fall senior athletes will come to the field, escorted by their parents, for recognition. The Red Devils will take on the South Pointe Stallions, a team new to Clinton's region in 2014 SC High School League realignment.

Also, it's Halloween.
All that is far away from the mind of Red Devil varsity football head coach Scott King



and the staff during morning practice Aug. 11.

The Red Devils were coming off scrimmage action the Friday before at Greenwood, with Emerald, Seneca and Greenwood taking turns on the turf with the Devils.

"We saw good and bad, the thing is we play next Friday (season-opener Aug. 22 at A.C. Flora)," King said. "We only have four legitimate practices before our next scrimmages."

The Red Devil coaches tried to replicate game-action in the Aug. 14 scrimmage at Woodruff and the Aug. 15 Clinton Kick-off Classic scrimmage at Wilder Stadium.

"Our strength will be the seven or eight people who played a lot on defense last season," King said. The Red Devils have last season's runningbacks Shakeam Dowdy and Vee Thompson back, and they will compete to be the workhorse back in the Red Devils' run-heavy offensive sets.

Dowdy and Thompson will have responsibilities on defense, also. In fact, most of Clinton's top-level defenders will see time on the offensive side of the ball.

It's just a fact of life for the varsity football

Red Devils, Page 6

Red Devils 16th most dominant SC football program in past 10 years

Clinton High School is the 16th most dominant high school football program in South Carolina in the past 10 years, according to MaxPreps.

The on-line sports reporting site measured the Top 20 most dominant programs in the MaxPrep era, 2004-2014. That's the timeframe in which MaxPreps has been compiling and distributing football computer rankings, presented by the Army National Guard.

MaxPreps uses a points system (example: 25 points for No. 1 overall finish, 30 points for state championship) and finds Byrnes High School, Duncan, is the No. 1 most dominant team in the past 10 years.

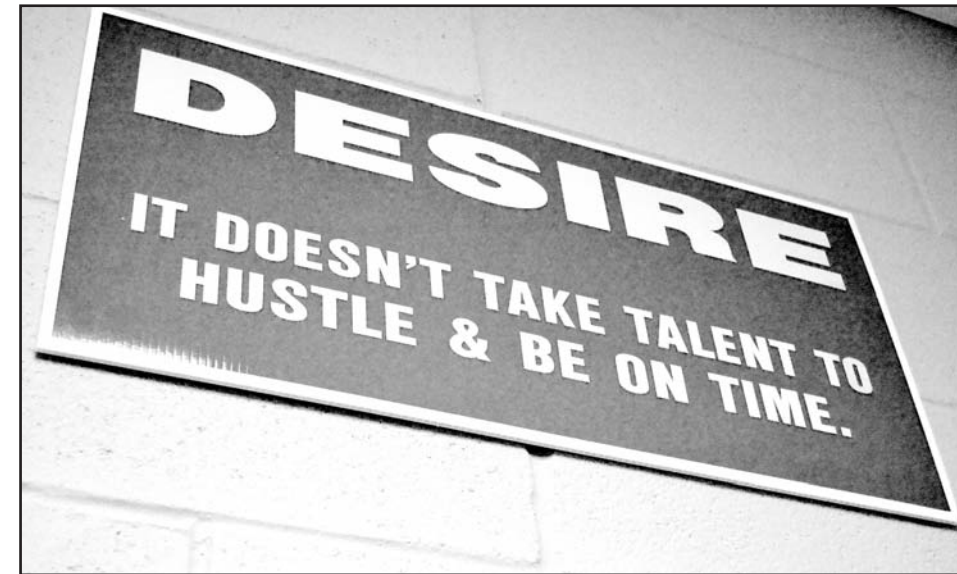
Byrnes scores 434 points, with a 130-15 overall record, six state titles and 10 Top 5 finishes.

Gaffney is the No. 2 most dominant program, scoring 288 points.

At No. 16, Clinton scores 110 points, with an 84-44 record, a state championship and four Top 25 finishes. The Red Devils are just behind Summerville, 113 points 102-32 record, and just ahead of Central, Pageland, with 108 points 101-29 record, in the MaxPreps rankings.

This is the Top 20:

1. Byrnes
2. Gaffney (three state titles)
3. Northwestern, Rock Hill,



A reminder. Clinton High Red Devil football players are reminded by a hallway sign at their locker room that even less talented athletes can succeed with will and hustle. The lesson has translated into multiple State Championships and a football tradition that will reach 1,0001 games-played by the end of the 2014 season.
- Photo by Vic MacDonald

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 265 points, 107-33 record (since 2004) | 6. Myrtle Beach, 213 points, |
| 19 record | 7. South Pointe, Rock Hill, |
| 4. Dillon, 235 points, 122-112-24 record | 8. Dorman, Roebuck, 180, |
| 5. Greenwood, 230 points, 203 points, 87-24 | |
| 108-28 record (undefeated in 2012) | |

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 97-35 record | 9. Goose Creek, 137 points, |
| 104-28 record | 10. Chesterfield, 134 points, |
| 85-42 record | 11. Dutch Fork, Irmo, 130 |
| points, 78-51 record | 12. Cheraw, 127 points, 96- |
| 39 record | 13. Irmo, 117 points, 89-42 |
| record | 14. Stratford, Goose Creek, |
| 116 points, 89-44 record | 15. Summerville |
| 15. Summerville | 16. Clinton |
| 16. Clinton | 17. Central, Pageland |
| 17. Central, Pageland | 18. Rock Hill, 104 points, |
| 18. Rock Hill, 104 points, | 19. Clover, 94 points, 68-54 |
| 70-55 record | record |
| 19. Clover, 94 points, 68-54 | 20. Christ Church Episcopal, |
| record | Greenville, 90 points, 98-28 record. |

In a new region alignment, Clinton plays host to No. 7 most dominant South Pointe - two state titles, seven Top 25 finishes since 2004 - Oct. 31, senior night for the Red Devils at Wilder Stadium.

CHS Athletics will have a program during this game in commemoration of the 1,001th varsity football game in Red Devil history.

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Cook

From Page 17

tributing to a total of nine of the school's top 20 single-game performances, including a CCU record 652 yards of offense in a win over Elon last season. Ross, who completed 232-of-358 passes for 3,093 yards and 26 scores in 2013, led the Big South in seven offensive categories last season while ranking sixth in the FCS in passing efficiency (156.3), 14th in passing touchdowns (26), 14th in points responsible for (194), 16th in passing yards (3,093), 18th in yards per completion (13.33), 19th in completion percentage (.648) and 29th in total offense yards per game (259.5). He additionally ranked sixth in the Big South with six rushing TDs and seventh in the league by rushing for 540 yards. In 21 career games at Coastal, Ross has completed 258-of-406 passes (.635) for 3,520 yards with 10 interceptions and 31 touchdowns. His 156.6 career pass efficiency to date is a school record. Ross also has the two longest pass plays in CCU history, completing an 86-yard touchdown to DeMario Bennett in an NCAA second-round playoff win at Montana this past sea-

son and an 81-yard touchdown completion to Niccolo Mastromatteo in his first career start at Gardner-Webb in 2012.

The Sports Network established the Walter Payton Player of the Year Award in 1987, and it is presented annually to the most outstanding college football player on the FCS level.

The winner is chosen by a nationwide panel of sports information and media relations directors, broadcasters, writers and other dignitaries from the division. When the award was established, it was the only such award to be presented to an individual player in FCS football. Previous winners include the likes of Steve McNair, Tony Romo, Brian Westbrook, Armanti Edwards and 2013 recipient Jimmy Garoppolo.

The award honors former Jackson State star Walter Payton, who scored 66 touchdowns on the collegiate level – and went on to a Hall of Fame career with the Chicago Bears.

The legendary Payton retired as the NFL's all-time rushing leader with 16,726 yards. A nine-time pro bowl selection, Payton was named league MVP in 1977 and 1985.



Kenny Cook, #19

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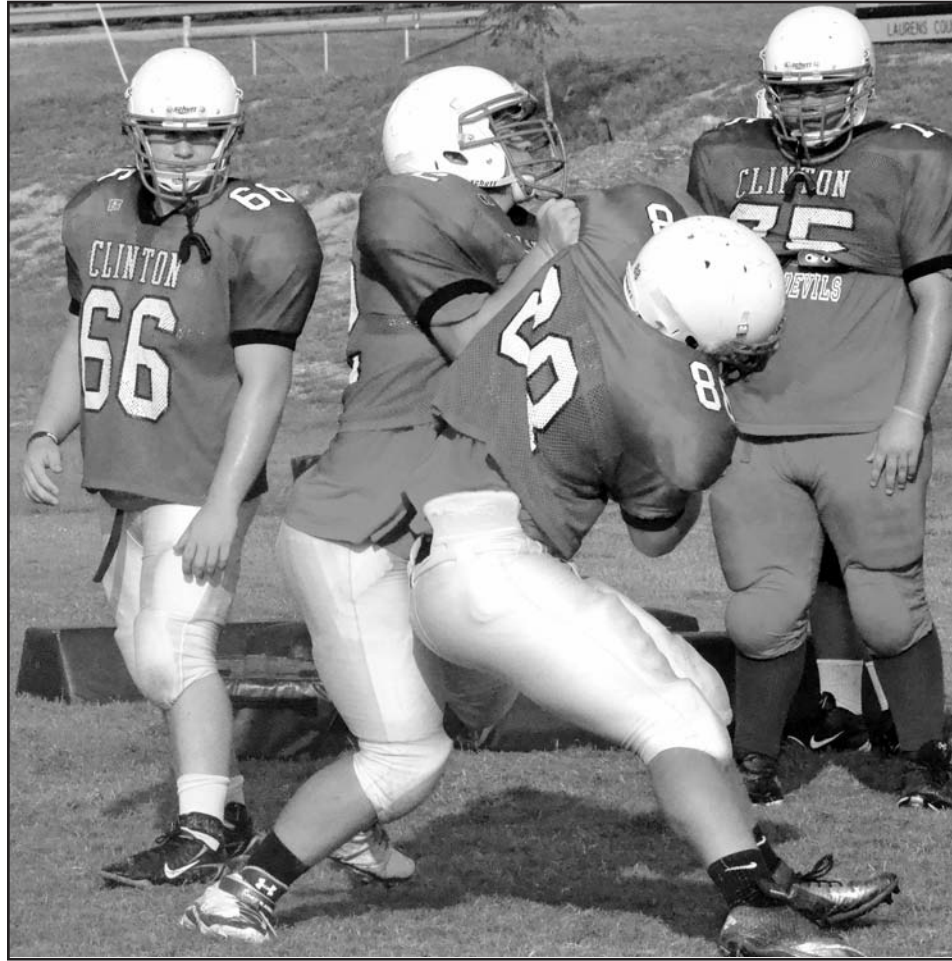
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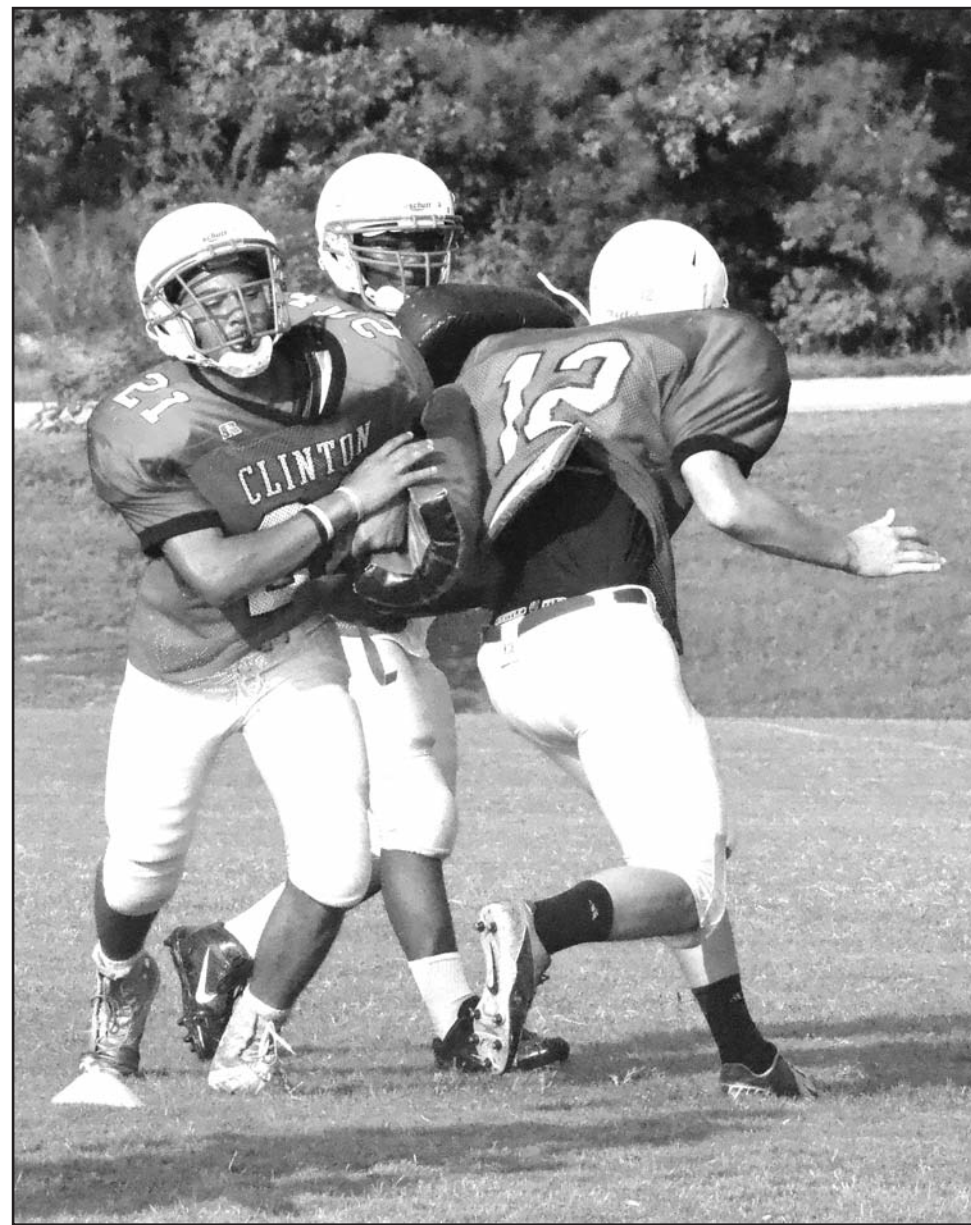
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A sense of urgency. Day 4 preparations for the Clinton High School Red Devil football varsity include position drills on blocking techniques, ball security and fumble recovery. Since a rain-out on Aug. 1, the first day of practice for SC High School League football teams, Red Devils Head Coach Scott King, the varsity coaching staff and players prepared daily while looking ahead to the season-opener this Friday at A.C. Flora. - Photos by Vic MacDonald



Red Devils

From Page 4

team representing the smallest (by enrollment) school in SC High School League Class AAA. Dillon is just below Clinton, in enrollment, as the largest AA school.

SCHL region realigners did Clinton and the others in its region no favors for 2014 by bringing in year-after-year powerhouses Lancaster and South Pointe.

"You play who you play," King said, keeping his eyes more on his team than on the opponents. "The main difference is going to be the long road trips (to Lancaster and Rock Hill) for the other sports."

King knows the Red Devil player fans need to look for right off the bat. "The leader of our team," he said, is defensive end Hezekiah Simpson, an all-everything performer last season as a junior.

"He is a football player," the coach said.

"And a good one."

Simpson and all the top-level defensive players will "play all the time," King said.

"It all starts with your defense."

For the Red Devils, the 2014 varsity football season lines up this way:

- Aug. 22, at A.C. Flora (Columbia)
- Aug. 29, at Greer
- Sept. 5, at Newberry
- Sept. 12, home vs Woodruff
- Sept. 19, home vs Laurens
- Sept. 26, bye
- Oct. 3, home vs Broome (Homecoming)
- Oct. 10, at Lancaster
- Oct. 17, home vs Union County
- Oct. 24, at Chester
- Oct. 31, home vs South Pointe (Senior Night)

All varsity games kick-off at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Night Football Carolinas magazine touts South Pointe as the No. 2 team in Class

AAA, and places Clinton's season-opening opponent, A.C. Flora, as the No. 5 team in the classification. Clinton, 5-7 in 2013, defeated Flora last season in the first round of the Class AAA state playoffs.

In existence for 10 years, South Pointe had moved up to Class AAAA, and now has dropped a classification to AAA, the Stallions moved from Class AAA after the 2011 season.

It was a state championship season for South Pointe.

The Stallions were 11-3, 6-1 in region, in 2013 playing in AAAA. The school has an enrollment of 1,392, the same number listed for fellow region school Lancaster (2-9 in 2013, 1-7 in region), also a newcomer to Region III-3A.

Broome won the region title last season with a 4-1 record (8-4 overall). FNF Carolina expects Clinton region opponent Union County to be improved on offense under the direction of former USC quarterback now UC

football head coach Steve Tanneyhill.

The magazine says Tanneyhill is "a recognized offensive guru with an affinity for lighting up the scoreboard." The Yellow Jackets are looking to improve on a 2-8 record, 1-4 and last place in the region in 2013.

Clinton defeated Union County, 35-14, in 2013, part of the Red Devils remarkable four straight region wins to earn a place in the state playoffs. The streak was part of a 4-1 region mark after a 0-6 start.

Against UC, Dowdy ran for 93 yards and Matthias Williams (now graduated) added 81 on the ground. Clinton completed five passes in five attempts, while Union threw the ball 24 times, completing 15 against the Clinton secondary.

The defensive unit that held Tanneyhill's pass-happy attack mostly in check returns almost completely for the Red Devils in 2014.

Clinton was the Class AAA State Champions in 2009.

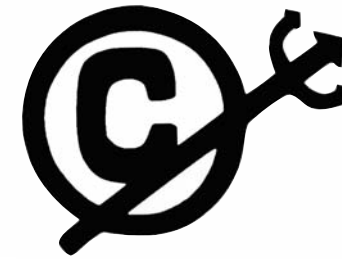


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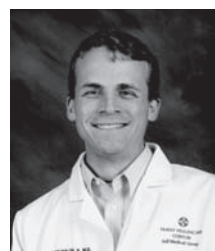


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Clinton's Kenny Cook on Walter Payton Award watch list for 2014

The Big South Conference placed two football players on the 2014 Walter Payton Award Watch List, announced by The Sports Network. Gardner-Webb wide receiver **Kenny Cook** and Coastal Carolina quarterback **Alex Ross** are among the 20 initial candidates for the top individual award in FCS.

Cook (Cross Hill/ Clinton HS) is the first Gardner-Webb student-athlete to make an appearance on the prestigious Payton Award Watch List. GWU's first season of Division I football came in 2000.

A fifth-year senior with NFL talent, Cook has earned preseason FCS All-America honors as well heading into his final season in Boiling Springs. The two-time All-Big South Conference selection is coming off a breakthrough season that saw him lead the league with career-high totals in receptions (76), yardage (1,008) and touchdowns (9).

The 6-foot-4, 218-pound standout was the first player since 2011 to lead the league in all three categories. Cook became the first Gardner-Webb receiver to post a 1,000-yard season since Hall of Famer **Rodney Robinson** did so in 1992 and is only the second man to do so in school history.

Armed with a 6-foot-9 wingspan, great size and athleticism, Cook has emerged as a strong NFL Draft prospect for 2015.

He ranked 21st nationally last season in receptions per game and 25th in receiving touchdowns, and was even better in clutch situations. Cook hauled in a team-high 25 balls on third down in 2013, with 23 of those catches going for first downs or touchdowns. Of his 21 catches on third-and-long, 19 went for either first downs or touchdowns last season. □ The communications studies major is on track to graduate in December and has already caught 124

Big Brother. Kenny Cook, right, is big brother to Tay Cook, center, a Clinton High dual-threat player in the defensive secondary and at runningback/receiver. Tay Cook is shown receiving congratulations from former CHS basketball and football coach Bobby Brock, as Cook was selected in 2013 to attend summer basketball camp. Cook's attending summer camp was made possible by the Coach Bobby Brock Legacy Group, a foundation dedicated to supporting Clinton High School basketball.



A player to watch. Clinton High alum Kenny Cook (18) celebrates a touchdown catch against the Presbyterian College Blue Hose in 2013 collegiate football action at Bailey Memorial Stadium. A 2014 pre-season All-Big South selection at wide receiver, Cook is on the Walter Payton Watch List for NCAA college football players nationwide. - Photos by Vic MacDonald



passes for 1,674 yards and 16 touchdowns in his 23 career games to date. He has seven career games with at least 100 yards receiving and already ranks 12th in program history in career receptions – while ranking eighth in GWU history in receiving touchdowns.

Ross (Alpharetta, Ga. / Buford HS) is one of nine quarterbacks on the initial list (a quarterback has won the award in each of the last 10 years) and one of just three juniors to the list.

Ross is the third Chanticleer to be a Walter Payton Award nominee. Quarterback **Tyler Thigpen** finished seventh in the voting in 2006 and running back **Lorenzo Taliaferro** finished 11th in the voting last season.

Ross is coming off an impressive sophomore campaign – his first year as the Chanticleers' starting quarterback – as he earned first team All-Big South honors by helping the program win its sixth Big South title and set 24 single-season offensive records, including 18 Big South single-season marks. Coastal additionally won 12 games, reached the NCAA Division I Championship quarterfinals and a final national ranking of seventh – all CCU and Big South firsts.

In Ross' 15 career starts, Coastal Carolina is 12-3 and he has been the starter under center in five of Coastal Carolina's top seven games of total offense while con-

Cook, Page 20

PC defensive end Ugonna Akoh a leader on the field and off

By Ryan Real

For Pigskin Preview 2014

If someone were to build a football player from scratch, the end result would probably look a lot like Presbyterian College defensive end Ugonna Akoh. The red-shirt sophomore stands 6 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 230 pounds and can cause nightmares for an offensive line. In 2013, his first season on the field, Akoh led the Blue Hose in tackles for loss (14) and sacks (3.5). This year, he's looking for more.

After a season where the Blue Hose posted a 3-8 overall record, Akoh has big plans for the squad this year and beyond.

"We'll continue to improve and do a lot better," he said. "We want to be one of the best in the conference."

After redshirting his freshman year, Akoh played 10 games last season and started in the season finale. Though he only has one season under his belt, PC views Akoh as a leader of the defense.

"He's one of those kids who's a high-effort guy on the field and on the classroom," said head coach Harold Nichols. "He's a real leader on the team. He has a tremendous sense of work ethic and what it takes to be successful and it's contagious with his teammates."

Akoh said defensive line coach Klay Killingsworth wants him to serve as a role model for the younger players on the team. For Akoh, that means leading by example.

"I'm more of a quiet guy on the field," he said. "I just try to play the game and take care of my responsibility."

His responsibility will play a key role on a defense that ranked last in the Big South Conference two years ago. The return of defensive coordinator Tommy Spangler in 2013 gave a shot in the arm to the defense, shaving off nearly a touchdown and 75 fewer yards allowed per game.

"We're a lot more focused on fundamentals and technique," said Akoh. "If you make a good play but were lined up half a yard from where you were supposed to be, you'll know. There's a lot more attention to detail and pursuit of the ball."

Akoh says he owes much of his success



Hey, come back here! PC defensive end Ugonna Akoh (93) makes a Gardner-Webb runningback go wide in 2013 Big South Conference action at Bailey Memorial Stadium. After a redshirt freshman season, Akoh was a breakout star last season on a Blue Hose defense much improved under coordinator Tommy Spangler. PC defenders held opponents to a touchdown less per game than the season before, and Blue Hose opponents' offensives had 75 fewer yards allowed per game.

- Photo by Vic MacDonald

to his family. His upbringing has helped the Blue Hose star become a success in the classroom as well as the gridiron. Akoh's mother works as a pharmacist and his father has earned several awards as a food chemistry research professor at the University of Georgia.

"In our house, you had to have good grades," said Akoh. "C's aren't going to cut it and B's barely cut it. You worked hard and got your homework done early."

As a chemistry major at PC, Akoh earned Big South Presidential Honor Roll

honors thanks to a 3.87 grade point average through his first two years of school and cites PC's strong academics as one of his deciding factors to attend the school. Akoh plans to work in physical therapy to combine his interest in science and sport.

In the short-term, however, the sophomore has his sights set on different kinds of goals. Specifically an 11-game schedule and looming matchups against Furman, Liberty and Coastal Carolina.

"Liberty and Coastal are the two best in our league and I'm ready to get back at

them," he said. "And Furman, we should've had them last year. We want to get them."

Akoh will get his chance against Furman under the lights on Saturday, September 13, a week after PC opens its home schedule at night against Bluefield.

Between academics and athletics, Akoh might be the prototypical Presbyterian College student-athlete.

"His best football is ahead of him," said Nichols. "We're really expecting big things out of him this year."

Red Devil JV running varsity plays wants to build on 5 wins in last 6 games in 2013

By Vic MacDonald

For Pigskin Preview 2014

Coming off a successful 2013 football campaign, the Clinton High junior varsity has players with game experience back and freshmen coming up from the middle school program who want to play.

JV head coach Chris Wofford said before the Aug. 11 practice that the junior varsity coaches will continue to emphasize the formation and play-calling their players will encounter at the varsity level.

"We teach the same stuff the varsity does, and we will take advantage of our talent," Wofford said. Several sophomores were taking reps with the varsity, so Wofford said it was too early to single out players who could be major contributors to the 2014 JV.

"The junior varsity has good numbers and a lot of freshmen," Wofford said, watching his big guys go through the stay-low-and-punch drills the varsity Red Devil linemen go through at another spot on the large practice field on the Clinton High campus.

The JV will play their games Thursdays on the Wilder Stadium turf that houses the varsity on Friday nights.

The schedule is:

- Aug. 28, home vs Greer, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 4, home vs Newberry, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 11, at Woodruff, 6:30
- Sept. 18, at Laurens, 5:30
- Sept. 25, home vs River Bluff,



Lots of football going on. Sharing the practice field at Clinton High School with the varsity Aug. 7, the Red Devil junior varsity football team goes through its drills and position practice in preparation for the 2014 football season. Red Devil JV football heads coach Chris Wofford, the JV coaching staff and players are gearing up for the season-opener Aug. 28, 7 p.m. against Greer at Wilder Stadium. The JV plays a second straight home game Sept. 4 against Newberry

- Photos by Vic MacDonald

6:30

- Oct. 2, at Broome, 6:30
- Oct. 9, home vs Lancaster, 6:30
- Oct. 16, at Union County, 6:30
- Oct. 23, home vs Chester, 6:30

-Oct. 30, at South Pointe, 6 p.m.

"We had a pretty good year last year, and we are excited to be out here," Wofford said. He expected the

JV offense to take its first snaps of the pre-season at the Aug. 11 practice, after working on conditioning and position drills.

"We've got depth on both sides of the ball, and that's a luxury," Wofford said. "We have a good mix - players that played a lot last year, and young ones with really good potential."

Wofford was concerned about practicing on an overcast, cooler than normal for August morning. "They must be going to church each Sunday (to get this cool weather)," the coach said. "It feels like October."

Starting live-action play on the last Thursday of August, the players need some really hot days

to get acclimated to what could be a steamy night, that first regular season game.

"We are working on conditioning but, hey, if it stays like this, we'll practice in it all year."

Clinton High JV football wound up with 2013 with a 6-4 record. The junior Red Devils won five of their final six games.

In the season finale against Woodruff, a 38-14 Clinton win, Kevious Hunter scored three touchdowns, including a 65-yard TD run.

Tyshamen Boyd added a 65-yard scoring run late in the game after Woodruff's first touchdown.

The week before, on the road at Chester, the junior Red Devil defense pitched a shutout against the Cyclones, winning 28-0. In that game, Hunter scored three touchdowns, including a 70-yard TD run on the opening kickoff.

The JVs season looked a lot like the varsity's season. In 2013 the Red Devils lost their first six games, won their final five and made the state playoffs, losing to Daniel, the eventual loser in the Class AAA championship.

Both teams for 2014 want to be much better right out of the chute - running the same plays, getting the same results, and pounding opponents into the ground.



Clinton, LDHS, Laurens Academy, PC

Lights are ready to shine on Friday and Saturday nights in Laurens County

By Vic MacDonald

For Pigskin Preview 2014

Clinton High, Presbyterian College, Laurens District High and Laurens Academy all have football front and center starting this Friday and, in the case of the Blue Hose, Aug. 28 before a national TV audience.

Every Friday and Saturday between now and Nov. 15 will see football fever in Laurens County. One Thursday night - the Aug. 28 PC at Northern Illinois game on ESPN 3 - will be set aside for football, as well, along with JV and middle school games.

Clinton High will compete in Class AAA Region 3 along with Broome, Chester, Lancaster, South Pointe and Union County.

For the first time, all CHS football games will be streamed live on the internet, instead of being broadcast on WPCC-AM radio, which has closed.

Laurens District High School will compete in Class AAAA Region 1 with Easley, Greenville, Greenwood, Hillcrest, TL Hanna, Westside and Woodmont.

Chris Liner comes over from Ninety Six as head coach of the Raiders.

Laurens Academy's 8-man SCISA Region 1 will have Carolina Academy, Clarendon Hall, Francis Hugh Wardlaw, Greenwood Christian, Jefferson Davis, Northside Christian, Richard Winn and WW King Academy.

Todd Kirk returns to the football helm as head coach of the Crusaders.

Presbyterian College will compete with five others in the Big South for a berth in the NCAA Bowl Championship Subdivision national championship. Coastal Carolina is pre-season pick to win the Big South, and enter into the mix for a NCAA national championship.

The Blue Hose will play their first night games since 1990 when they host Sept. 6 against Bluefield College and Sept. 13 against Furman University of the Southern Conference.

For now, the rest of the PC home schedule is daytime games, including the Oct. 25 Homecoming game against Big South newcomer Monmouth.

Also, every other Friday starting Aug. 29, the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce has Touchdown Club lunch meetings set for noon at Lakeside Country Club.

Local coaches will provide updates on their teams, and introduce standout players, along with guest speakers chosen with the assistance of the Laurens County Legends.

These are key dates for Laurens County football season:



Above, the Laurens Academy Crusaders are ready to challenge for the SCISA 8-man Football State Championship as Todd Kirk returns to the helm as football head coach. Below, Hezekiah Simpson (44), in 2013 action against Woodruff, will be the heart and soul of the Clinton Red Devil defense that has returning players with experience at every position.

- Above, Laurens Academy photo; below, photo by Fletcher Pruitt Jr.

Aug. 22 - Clinton plays at AC Flora (West Columbia); Laurens Academy plays at home against Coastal Christian.

Aug. 28 - Presbyterian plays at Northern Illinois, in DeKalb, Ill., 7 p.m. on ESPN 3.

Aug. 29 - Clinton plays at Greer; Laurens plays host to Belton-Honea Path; Laurens Academy plays at Faith Christian.

Sept. 5 - Clinton plays at Newberry; Laurens has a bye; Laurens Academy plays host to Richard Winn.

Sept. 6 - PC plays host to Bluefield College, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12 - Clinton plays host to Woodruff; Laurens plays at Mauldin; Laurens Academy plays host to Clarendon Hall.

Sept. 13 - PC plays host to Furman, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19 - Clinton plays host to Laurens; Laurens Academy plays at Jefferson Davis.

Sept. 20 - PC plays at NC State, Raleigh;

Sept. 26 - Clinton has a bye; Laurens plays at Easley; Laurens Academy plays host to Andrew Jackson.

Sept. 27 - PC has a bye.

Oct. 3 - Clinton plays host to Broome (homecoming); Laurens plays host to Woodmont; Laurens Academy has a bye.

Oct. 4 - PC plays host to Western Carolina, 2 p.m.

Oct. 10 - Clinton plays at Lancaster; Laurens plays at Hanna; Laurens Academy plays at WW King.

Oct. 11 - PC plays host to Coastal Carolina (No. 1 Big South pre-season), 2 p.m.

Oct. 17 - Clinton plays host to Union County; Laurens plays at Hillcrest; Laurens Academy plays host to Carolina Academy.

Oct. 18 - PC plays at Charleston Southern.

Oct. 24 - Clinton plays at Chester (this is the 1,000th varsity football game in Red Devil history); Laurens plays host to Westside; Laurens Academy plays at Wardlaw Academy.

Oct. 25 - PC plays host to Monmouth, 2 p.m.

Oct. 31 (Halloween) - Clinton plays host to South Pointe; Laurens plays at Greenville; Laurens Academy plays at Greenwood Christian.

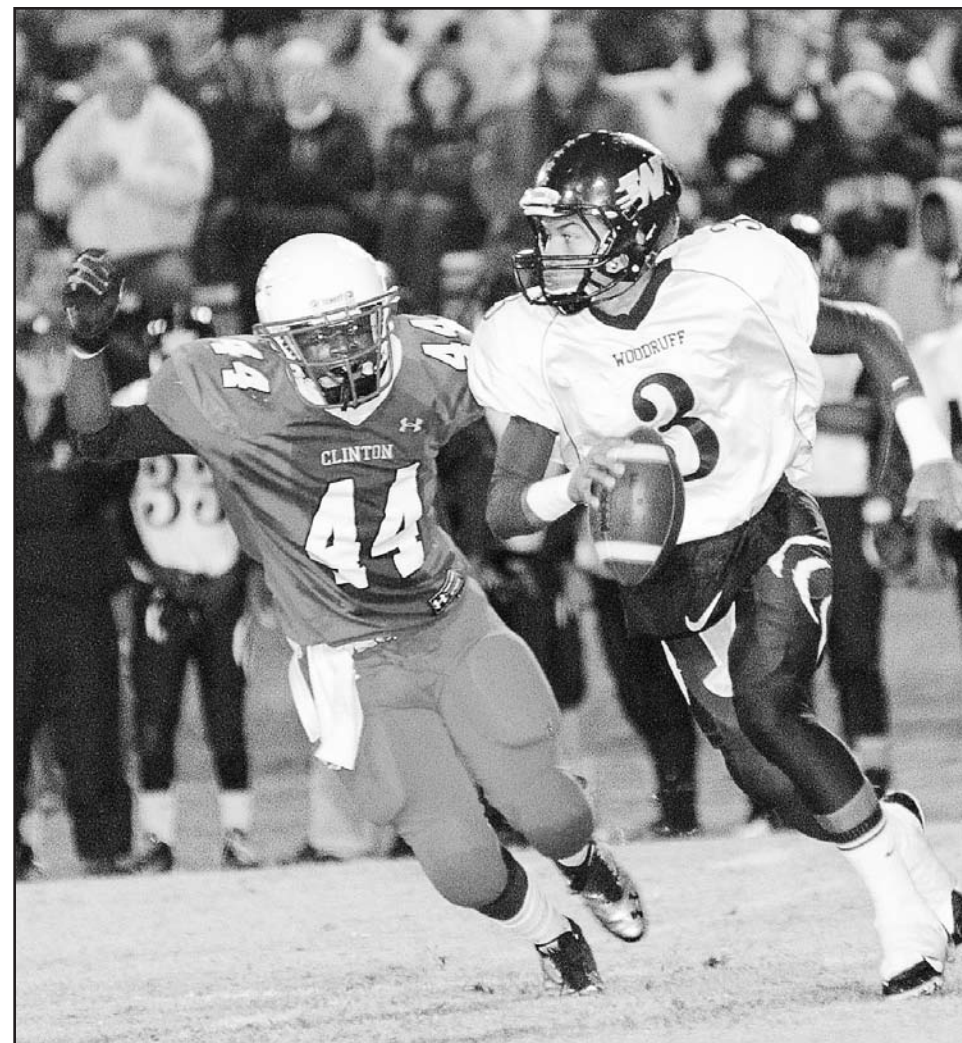
Nov. 1 - PC plays host to Liberty, 2 p.m.

Nov. 7 - Laurens plays host to Greenwood.

Nov. 8 - PC plays at Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.

Nov. 15 - PC plays at Gardner-Webb, Boiling Springs, NC (1:30 p.m. - the final home game for former Clinton High star and potential NFL draft pick Kenny Cook, wide receiver).

**Clinton, Laurens and Laurens Academy games start at 7:30 p.m.



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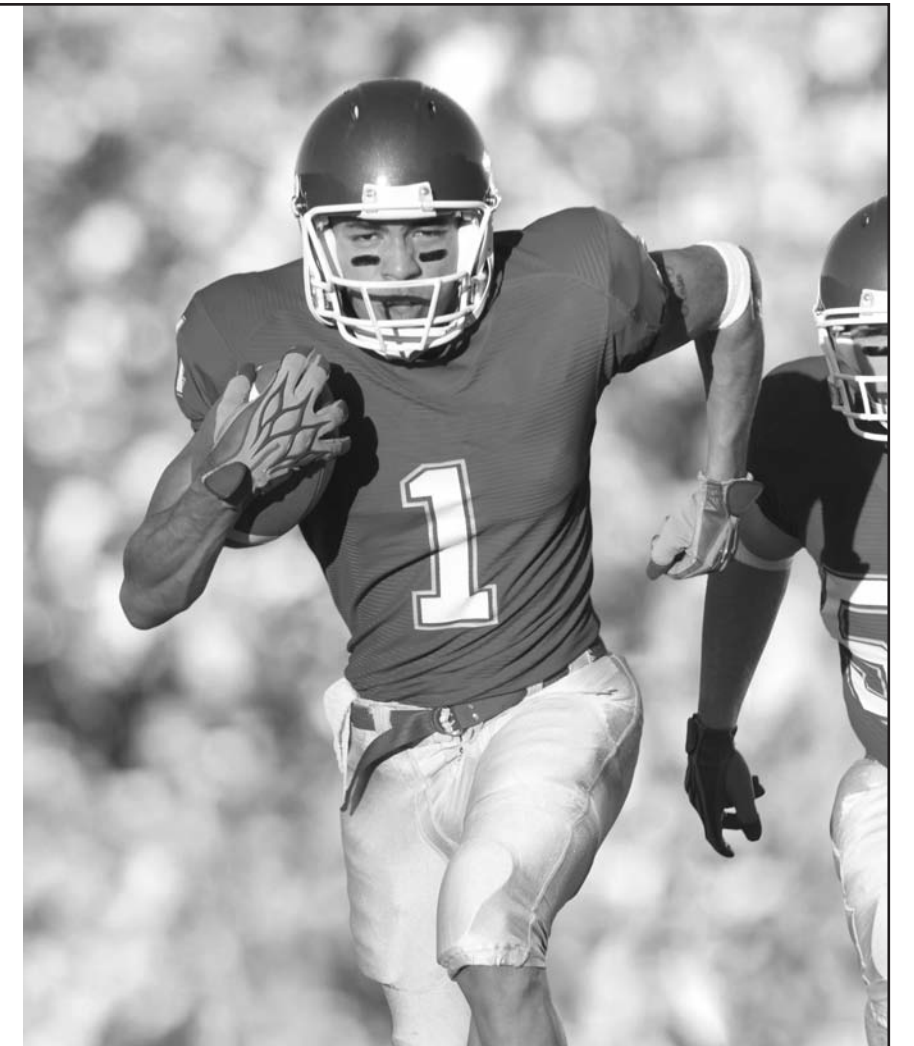
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