



### 24 PLAYERS TO WATCH

**RETURNING WITH RESILIENCE** 

# 

**Baldwin County Tigers** 

**Bayshore Christian School Eagles** 

**Bayside Academy Admirals** 

**Daphne Trojans** 

**Elberta Warriors** 

Fairhope Pirates

Cover Story: The Year of the Experienced Returner

Other Fall Sports Highlights

**Foley Lions** 

**Gulf Shores Dolphins** 

**Orange Beach Makos** 

Robertsdale Golden Bears

**Snook Christian Academy Eagles** 

**Spanish Fort Toros** 

St. Michael Catholic Cardinals

\*Football schedules are subject to change\*

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Standout players from teams across Baldwin County are poised to shine on the field this season. For more on top players to look out for this year, read team breakdowns in the pages of this magazine.

Photo by Micah Green

## Paldwin County TIGES

- With Andrew Davis taking over as head coach, the Baldwin County Tigers are looking to claw their way back into the thick of the Class 6A Region 1 playoff picture by building on the energy created so far in the weight room.
- Led by a mix of quiet and loud leaders like linebacker Keller Coston and defensive lineman Elisha Jones III, Davis said this year's Tiger squad will look to its seniors to lead the way on a fast, violent defense.

### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

DL Elisha Jones III
ATH Ti Mims
LB Keller Coston
DB Keshaun Washington
OL Willie Walker



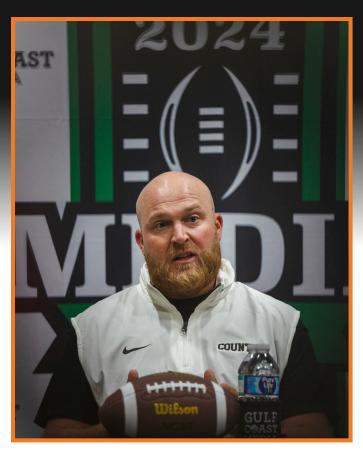
"Both (Elisha Jones and Keller Coston) play their positions with a speed that's not normal, and they're both violent. And that's what we need on defense. We're going to be a violent defense that plays fast."





		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
08/23	Foley	HOME
08/30	St. Paul's Episcopal	HOME
09/06	Spanish Fort	AWAY
09/13	Theodore	AWAY
09/20	OPEN	
09/27	MGM	AWAY
10/04	Saraland	AWAY
10/11	Murphy	HOME
10/18	Blount	AWAY
10/25	Gulf Shores	HOME
11/01	McGill-Toolen	HOME









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## Payshore Christian School IIAGILIES



### 4 PLAYING TO WATCH

OL Aiden August LB Cyrus Dorsey ATH Jack Malone QB Nate Crooms



	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDUL	Ē
08/23	OPEN	
08/30	McIntosh	AWAY
09/06	OPEN	
09/12	Clark County	HOME
09/20	St. Luke's	AWAY
09/26	Florala	HOME
10/03	Washington County	HOME
10/11	Central Hayneville	AWAY
10/18	Chickasaw	AWAY
10/24	J.U. Blacksher	HOME
11/01	J.F Shields	AWAY

- With four junior-varsity games under their belt from last year, the Bayshore Christian Eagles will play a full varsity schedule in just the second year of the football program.
- The newest team in Class 2A Region 1 will be led once again by Hall of Fame head coach Phil Lazenby who says that while the football IQ is increasing every day, the athletes are coming in well-conditioned from the offseason.



"I'd say we've got a lot to do but, as far as the conditioning and the strength, we feel good about that. Now we're working on where to lineup, what your job is, how this is executed, the kicking game and all of that, so we've got a lot to do, but I feel good about the kids. They're good kids."



## Bayside Academy Little Little

"Returning a front offensive line that is going to be productive for us, we've got a handful of guys who have played a lot of football on the offensive line, so we're excited. We're going to be an attacking offense at all times. We're going to stretch the defense horizontally and vertically throughout the entire game and make them play sideline to sideline."



### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

LB Billy Neill
TE Miles Uter
LB Monroe Partin
WR Noah Cain
DB Palmer Angermeier

- With a step down to Class 3A due to enrollment, Barrett Trotter has been spending some of his first full offseason studying Bayside Academy's new opponents. He's also been able to spend more hands-on time with his team that is returning plenty of last year's contributors.
- With returning weapons at skill positions, Trotter a former Auburn quarterback will lean on an experienced offensive line group to help the Admiral offense stay on the attack.



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	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDUL	E
08/23	St. Michael Catholic	HOME
08/30	Marbury	AWAY
09/06	Orange Beach	HOME
09/13	Monroe County	AWAY
09/20	Flomaton	HOME
09/27	OPEN	
10/04	Hillcrest Evergreen	AWAY
10/11	Cottage Hill Christian	HOME
10/18	Exel	AWAY
10/25	T.R. Miller	HOME
11/01	Tuscaloosa Academy	AWAY

### Daphre TROJANS



### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

DL Marquaes Lambert
OL Jacob Luna
DL Talib Graham
QB JJ Thibodeaux
DB EJ Williams



### **2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

08/23	McGill-Toolen	HOME
08/30	Pine Forest (FL)	AWAY
09/06	MGM	AWAY
09/13	Foley	AWAY
09/20	Baker	HOME
09/27	Spanish Fort	AWAY
10/04	Davidson	HOME
10/11	Alma-Bryant	AWAY
10/18	Fairhope	HOME
10/25	Robertsdale	HOME
11/01	OPEN	

- While starters are returning all over the field for the Daphne Trojans, the tone will be set in the trenches, and that's just the way head coach Kenny King wants it.
- With familiar faces in defensive backs Jayden Lee and EJ Williams, as well as linebacker Andre Houston, the defense will have eight starters returning with highlighted guys up front including defensive linemen Talib Graham and Marquaes Lambert.









"This senior group has been with us for a while now. These guys played at a young age, so I know this senior group is going to lead this team to success. They know what to do, they know how to do it, and they know when to do it, so it's a testament to our coaches and our staff here at Daphne."



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Mayor Charles Murphy
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### Elberta

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- Although the Elberta Warriors will be starting the season with heavy hearts following the loss of their teammate Avery Pickle, head football coach Nathan McDaniel said the turnaround shown by the students has been inspiring.
- On the field, plenty of key contributors to last year's efforts return with more experience and playing time and are ready to ascend into bigger roles this year.



"A lot of people preach family. Very few actually live it. But Elberta, Lillian and Summerdale, the support has been incredible for our kids. It has been very inspiring. It's been very helpful to us, to the family, to walk through this thing together and, the kids are resilient. ... To hear them laughing again and get them back in the flow of things again, it's been tough but a good thing for us."





### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

LB Corbitt Williams
WR Rosson Duplesis
WR Adrian Billups
QB Sam Harrison
LB Noah Garcie



	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
08/23	Orange Beach	HOME
08/30	Robertsdale	AWAY
09/06	Williamson	HOME
09/13	B.C. Rain	HOME
09/20	Faith Academy	AWAY
09/27	OPEN	
10/04	Vigor	AWAY
10/11	LeFlore	HOME
10/18	UMS-Wright	HOME
10/25	Citronelle	AWAY
11/01	Marbury	HOME

## Fairhope 1911345126

- A new offense will look to turn the tide back to Fairhope's winning ways as experienced players return to key roles in 2024 led by guarterback Jackson Robertson, tight end Harrison Cook and a 7A-looking offensive line.
- The 3-7 record in 2023 marked the first losing season in Fairhope since 2016 and was only the third time in head coach Tim Carter's nine previous years that the Pirates missed the playoffs.



### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Jackson Robertson
TE Harrison Cook
OL Brady Nelsen
RB Bryon Martin
WR Andres Hunt

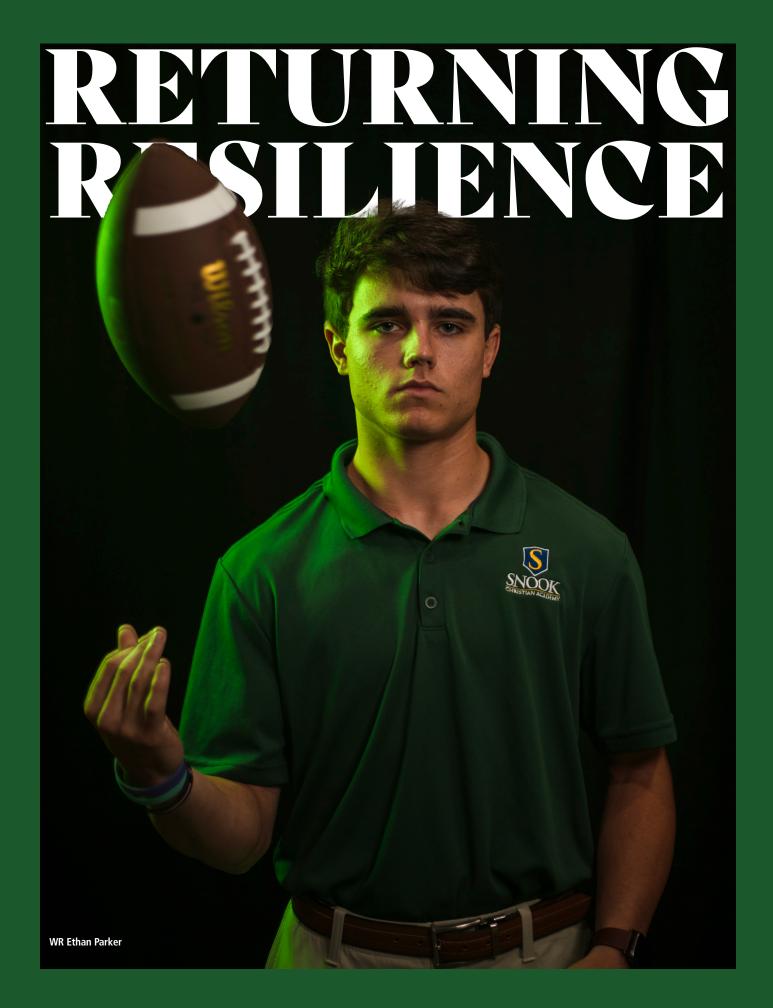


**2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE** 08/22 **HOMF Spanish Fort** 08/30 **Faith Academy AWAY** 09/06 **Alma-Bryant AWAY Davidson** 09/13 **HOME** Robertsdale 09/20 **AWAY** 09/27 **Theodore HOME** 10/04 **Foley HOME** 10/11 **MGM AWAY** 10/18 **Daphne AWAY** 10/25 **Baker HOME OPEN** 11/01



"Our O-line is mostly juniors, but we'll actually look like a 7A O-Line this coming year. We've got three dudes that are 6-2 and higher. Billy Eriksen, Brady Nelsen (senior), Caden McCartha, Parks Glaze and Wesley Sandefur. A lot of them are juniors, and we're asking a lot of them to step up and be a 7A football player this year They can't wait any longer."





### Top storyline from every team heading into 2024 season



### By Cole McNanna

2024 might be the year of the dragon, but in Baldwin County it's also the year of the experienced returner as nearly all 13 local football teams return multiple athletes who have already played meaningful varsity football.

Whether it's rising sophomore quarterbacks, like Gunner Rivers at St. Michael or Judson Harris at Gulf Shores, or established veterans in the middle, like linebackers Billy Neill from Bayside Academy and Corbitt Williams from Elberta, it won't be hard for any fan to watch experienced varsity players on Friday nights.

With the countdown to kickoff only getting shorter, Gulf Coast Media compiled the top storylines and players to watch from across Baldwin County.

Follow @GCMSportsAL on social media for immediate updates from the sidelines, and visit gulfcoastmedia.com/sports for full coverage.

Starting in the northern end, the Baldwin County Tigers will look to new head coach Andrew Davis to get back into the thick of the Class 6A Region 1 shuffle with offensive weapons the likes of Ti Mims. Davis is one of three new local head coaches, but he previously served as an assistant in Bay Minette and played his high school ball at Daphne High School.

Over on the Eastern Shore, the Spanish Fort Toros are also members of the Southern Region of Death in Class 6A Region 1. This year, head coach Chase Smith will look to a group of seniors, including Sawyer Wilson, who have lived the Toro Way through and through.

Down the road in Daphne, head coach Kenny King, a former defensive lineman, said the Trojans will have the tone set in the trenches as a similarly experienced group highlighted by Marquaes Lambert will look to lead the way on a new turf field. They'll be searching for a second-straight playoff berth.

It's back down to Class 3A for the Bayside Academy Admirals, but that won't do much to slow down the offense led by head coach and former Auburn quarterback Barrett Trotter. A veteran bunch of defenders, including Billy Neill, will look to complement the offensive

### 24 LOGAL PLAYERS TO WATCH IN '24

Baldwin County: Ti Mims, Elisha

Jones III

**Bayshore Christian:** Nate

Crooms, Cyrus Dorsey

Bayside Academy: Billy Neill,

Miles Uter

**Daphne:** Talib Graham, Marquaes

Lambert

Elberta: Corbitt Williams, Adrian

Billups

Fairhope: Jackson Robertson,

**Harrison Cook** 

**Foley:** Jaylon Domingue, Ty Motes

Gulf Shores: Kolin Wilson,

JaMichael Garrett

Orange Beach: Austin Beck,

Logan Kruse

Robertsdale: Spencer DeAngelo,

**Pevton Dallas** 

Snook Christian: Kile Votaw.

**Ethan Bettner** 

Spanish Fort: Sawyer Wilson,

**Newton Gardner** 

St. Michael: Brody Jones, Brady

Zdyb

attack

Ready to get back to their winning ways, the Fairhope Pirates have installed a new offense to try and light up the scoreboard once again with Jackson Robertson calling the signals at quarterback. They'll be looking for a seventh trip to the playoffs in the last eight years under head coach Tim Carter.

Baldwin County's newest varsity football team, Bayshore Christian, will be playing its first full season this year under Hall of Fame head coach Phil Lazenby. Seniors like Cyrus Dorsey understand they only get one shot at a first impression and want to make it worth their

while.

Riding high off the program's first playoff berth in its seventh varsity season, head coach Philip Rivers and the St. Michael Cardinals only added to the good vibes with a nearly unbeaten summer 7-on-7 circuit. Weapons the likes of Brody Jones are only getting warmed up for another breakout season.

Another new head coaching position was filled in Robertsdale where Cris Bell has been tasked with changing the attitude about football. Golden Bear seniors like Spencer DeAngelo are beginning to turn the tide and have raised expectations for this season.

Elberta head coach Nathan McDaniel said his squad is closing the gap to match the upgraded facilities made around Cobb Stadium. Proven leaders, including Corbitt Williams, have helped the team through an up-and-down summer and are ready to strap on the pads for real.

Only one season removed from the playoffs, the Snook Christian Eagles and head coach Keith Smith are heading up to Class 2A in AISA but will look to leaders in the trenches like Kile Votaw to establish the nastiness and finish every block

Also looking to get back to their physical roots, Foley head coach Deric Scott thinks this group might be the one reminiscent of the old Lion squads from back in the day. Behind the blocking of Seth Hartleroad, Foley will look to be in the mix of Class 7A Region 1 by leaning on its discipline.

Gulf Shores' reward for claiming a Class 5A state title was a step up to Class 6A to join a Region of Death where five of nine teams have won a championship in the last 10 years. But head coach Mark Hudspeth and the Dolphins will still have Kolin Wilson, a Mississippi State commit, to consistently tote the rock once again offensively.

The last stop on the trip is also the third and final new head coach to Baldwin County as Wade Waldrop has taken the reins in Orange Beach. However, defensive end Austin Beck said it best when he said, "I'm just ready to hit people."

### LOGAL GEAMPIONS RETURNING TO MARE MORE NOISE IN 2024

Top storylines entering volleyball, cross country, swimming seasons around Baldwin County

### By Cole McNanna

Baldwin County's championship programs are not limited to the gridiron as a Blue Map trophy returned with the Bayshore Christian boys' cross country team thanks in part to the individual champion, Caden Phillippi, who will return to defend his crown for his senior season.

The biggest change is on the volleyball court, however, as Bayside Academy's state championship streak ended at 21 years in the 2023 Class 6A semifinals. The Admirals were still one of four local schools recognized by the Alabama High School Volleyball Coaches Association.

Spanish Fort also reached the Class 6A state semifinals in 2023 and will be looking an eighth trip

to the final four in the last nine years.

The Central Christian Saints also made noise on the volleyball court after they won their first Panhandle Christian Conference championship since 2012. Lily Wright was named conference tournament MVP and will return for her final season with Central Christian this year.

Back on the cross country course, Annie Midyett from Bayside Academy and Beck Montiel from Gulf Shores joined Phillippi in racing to individual sectional championships, and all three will return to defend

their crowns.

Midyett finished fourth, just behind Catherine Doyle who finished as state runner-up, to help the Admirals claim a Red Map trophy as state runners-up. Doyle is

also gearing up for her senior season this year.

At the swimming and diving state championships, three recent graduates collected gold medals as individual state champions. They were joined by seven more individuals and two relay teams in taking home hardware with podium finishes. The Gulf Shores Dolphin boys' team claimed a Red Map trophy as

state runners-up.

Gavin Cobb and Gray Bias earned silver medals last year and return for one more season in the pool for Gulf Shores. Also for the Dolphins, Hope Moyers

is gearing up for her junior season fresh off three bronze medals, two on relay teams and one as an individual.

From Daphne, Dane
Goodman will look to
defend his silver medal
in the 100-yard backstroke
and bronze medal in the
100-yard butterfly as a
senior. Similarly, rising senior
Suzanne Rainer from Bayshore
Christian earned bronze medals in the
100-yard butterfly and 200-yard individual
medley.

Revisiting reclassification

2024 will look a little different for some regions with a few schools on the move in the biennial reclassification of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Despite coming up short of a second-straight volleyball state title in Class 6A, Bayside Academy is still stepping up to Class 7A due to the Competitive Balance Factor. The Admirals will branch off with Fairhope, Foley and Robertsdale to create an all-Baldwin Area 3. Daphne will remain in a three-team Area 2 with Davidson and McGill-Toolen.

Also due to the CBF, cross country teams from Bayshore Christian and Bayside Academy will be stepping up a classification. The Eagles are set to join Orange Beach and St. Michael Catholic in being local

representatives in Class 4A Section 1.

The Admirals will now be with Baldwin County, Gulf Shores and Spanish Fort at the Class 6A Section 1 level with Elberta as the lone local team in Class 5A Section 1. Daphne, Fairhope, Foley and Robertsdale are Baldwin's teams in Class 7A Section 1.

The swimming scene remained mainly unchanged following reclassification with only Gulf Shores moving up from Class 1A-5A to Class 6A-7A due to enrollment.



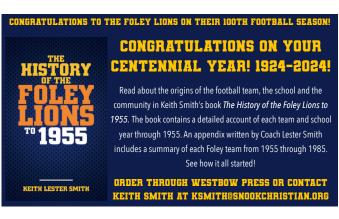
- Head coach Deric Scott said he thinks this year's Lion squad will be one that brings back the physical toughness tradition known at Foley High School.
- A group of tight-knit seniors will be looked upon to carry the torch now that some of the high-profile recent graduates are playing college football. Cont'd on Page 17

	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDU	LE
08/23	Balwin County	AWAY
08/30	B.C Rain	HOME
09/06	Robertsdale	AWAY
09/13	Daphne	HOME
09/20	MGM	HOME
09/27	OPEN	
10/04	Fairhope	AWAY
10/11	Baker	HOME
10/18	Davidson	AWAY
10/25	Alma-Bryant	AWAY
11/01	LeFlore	AWAY









### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

**LB Jaylon Domingue OL Seth Hartleroad WR Shaborn Oakes WR Cooper Hermecz TE Ty Motes** 





- After they claimed the school's first state championship in Class 5A, Gulf Shores coaches have already worked the team back to square 1 to get ready for a step up to Class 6A.
- •Between senior Mississippi State commit Kolin Wilson at running back and junior Auburn pledge JaMichael Garrett at linebacker, the Dolphins have plenty of weapons to keep up in the Southern Region of Death.

	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
08/23	Choctawhatchee (FL)	НОМЕ
08/30	MGM	AWAY
09/06	Saraland	HOME
09/13	McGill-Toolen	HOME
09/20	Blount	AWAY
09/27	OPEN	
10/04	St. Paul's	HOME
10/11	Spanish Fort	AWAY
10/18	Theodore	HOME
10/25	Baldwin County	AWAY
11/01	Murphy	AWAY



"I think we've sort of got past that. I think this spring we kind of worked it out of them. I think we humbled them pretty good early, and we haven't really talked about it. We celebrated the remainder of that semester, and when we came back that January, first day of school, we really haven't even mentioned the state championship."

On the team's mindset after winning their first state championship in program history











### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

RB Kolin Wilson

DB Carter Byrd

QB Judson Harris

DB Blaize Thomas

LB JaMichael Garrett

### Porta... FOLEY LIONS

"What I've been pushing has been the whole standpoint of being the most physical and toughest team in 7A Region 1. That's my goal, and that's what I preach every day. ... When I look back on the tradition of Foley, we have some really good athletes, but when we've been really good, we've been really physical."



## Orange Beach [MC] [S]

- Orange Beach is ready to get to work under a new head coach, Wade Waldrop, who has been building trust in his players through the offseason.
- The players accepted the offseason weight room challenge and have increasingly bought into the new staff's message to get ready for another year in Class 4A Region 1.



"The vibe in the locker room is moving. It's turning. I would say this to these guys, I've said it publicly, we're gaining confidence. Last year was a hard year for these young men to go through. ... You don't look back on that every day, but you need to know what that feels like so you know what you're working for."

	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
08/23	Elberta	AWAY
08/30	Citronelle	HOME
09/06	Bayside Academy	AWAY
09/13	W.S. Neal	HOME
09/20	Satsuma	AWAY
09/27	Robertsdale	HOME
10/04	Escambia Academy	HOME
10/11	Jackson	HOME
10/18	Mobile Christian	AWAY
10/25	St. Michael	AWAY
11/01	OPEN	, , , , , , ,





### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

DE Austin Beck TE Logan Kruse WR Damian Brazzell LB Blake Brunick OL Cooper Sanders



### 

- The work is cut out for the Robertsdale Golden Bears, who step up to Class 7A with a 24-game losing streak. A new head coach, Cris Bell, has already breathed new life into the program, and the players have noticed the change.
- Bell said there's no magic formula to immediately erase the streak but said all the Golden Bears can control is their attitude.



"It comes down to how hard are you willing to work. What are you willing to give up in order to succeed? We talked about it a lot this week with these guys that at some point you have to get tired of getting sand kicked in your face. ... Robertsdale could change coaches every other year, but until our actions change, until our expectations change, the results won't change."

-HEAD COACH CHIS DELL





### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

DB Spencer DeAngelo
OL Peyton Dallas
DB Logan Gregson
OL Brett Boykin
QB Andrew McDaniel



	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
08/23	Chickasaw	HOME
08/30	Elberta	HOME
09/06	Foley	HOME
09/13	MGM	AWAY
09/20	Fairhope	HOME
09/27	Orange Beach	AWAY
10/04	Baker	AWAY
10/11	Davidson	AWAY
10/18	Alma-Bryant	HOME
10/25	Daphne	AWAY
11/01	OPEN	

## Snook Christian Academy 13/1-12/13

- The largest group of upperclassmen Snook Christian has ever seen will be relied upon more than ever in 2024 as the Eagles are stepping up to Class 2A in the Alabama Independent School Association.
- Only a season removed from the playoffs, last year's 0-10 mark wasn't exactly what head coach Keith Smith was looking for. However, he's already seen a change in his Snook Christian squad.



"There's no doubt in my mind that we have improved as a team. I think we have the potential to be a very good team. ... We want to see us close the gap between us and the competition. The margin of defeat is not where it needs to be, so we want to be more competitive and be the best we can be."

### 







### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

OL Kile Votaw
WR Ethan Parker
QB Ethan Bettner
DB Aiden Reynolds
OL Brock Butts

	<b>2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE</b>	
08/23	Rocky Bayou (FL)	HOME
08/30	OPEN	
09/06	Wilcox Academy	AWAY
09/13	South Choctaw Academy	HOME
09/20	Patrician Academy	AWAY
09/27	Escambia Academy	AWAY
10/04	Lighthouse Christian (FL)	AWAY
10/11	Southern Academy	HOME
10/18	Jackson Academy	HOME
10/25	Sparta Academy	HOME
11/01	Macon-East Academy	AWAY

## Spanish Fort II DE 105

- A senior-laden group of experienced contributors is ready to carry the torch for the Spanish Fort Toros in 2024. They will be searching for the program's 17th-straight postseason berth.
- Chase Smith, a former Spanish Fort assistant, earned his first playoff victory as the Toros' head man last year and enters his third season at the helm on The Hill where he knows Class 6A Region 1 will be as demanding as ever.





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### 5 PLAYERS TO WATCH

RB Sawyer Wilson
OL Ryan Perry
LB Newton Gardner
ATH Nehemiah Hixon
LB Bishop Burkhalter



	2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
08/22	Fairhope	AWAY
08/30	Theodore	AWAY
09/06	Baldwin County	HOME
09/13	Saraland	AWAY
09/20	Murphy	HOME
09/27	Daphne	HOME
10/04	Blount	AWAY
10/11	Gulf Shores	HOME
10/18	OPEN	
10/25	McGill-Toolen	HOME
11/01	St. Paul's	AWAY



"Region 1 is going to have a lot of teams sitting at home when the first round of the playoffs hits, so that just aids to the excitement and sense of urgency. Every week you've got to be ready to answer that call. There's no off week, there's no down week, and you've got to be prepared, and you've got to be healthy and ready to go."

- HEAD COACH CHASE SMITH

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**GULF CSAST MEDIA** 

## St. Michael Catholic

- The St. Michael Cardinals are flying home to their on-campus stadium to build on last year's first-ever trip to the postseason. Head coach Philip Rivers enters his fourth season at the helm.
- A freshman All-American quarterback, Gunner Rivers, returns with a more-experienced group of skill players out wide. The team quickly found its camaraderie over the summer and went 29-1 in 7-on-7 events, including wins in three of four tournaments they competed in.





### **5 PLAYERS** TO WATCH

**QB Gunner Rivers WR Brody Jones DB Brady Zdyb OL Rocco Faiupu LB Toby Edmiston** 







		2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
	08/23	Bayside Academy
	08/30	John Carroll
	09/06	W.S. Neal
	09/13	Satsuma
	09/20	Escambia County
	09/27	OPEN
	10/04	Jackson
	10/11	Mobile Christian
)	10/18	Pensacola (FL)
rd.	10/25	Orange Beach
dl	11/01	UMS-Wright



**AWAY HOME** 

**AWAY AWAY HOME** 

**HOME** 

**AWAY** 

**AWAY** 

**HOME** 

**AWAY** 



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