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FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2024



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024



Senior Drew Price takes over the starting reins at quarterback for the Sharks.



Senior Brian Case is hard to bring down with his physical running style.

PONTE VEDRA SHARKS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks will have a new look at quarterback this season as senior Drew Price takes over for Ben Burk, who had been the starter for three years prior to graduation.

Although it will look different for fans as Burk had become a staple at the position, Price has been sitting behind him learning the system and is ready to take up the role.

Price is similar in stature to Burk and has the potential to hurt a defense with his arm and his legs, so the Sharks offense should not look too different, especially with fellow senior Brian Case at running back.

Case runs with a physical style and seems to only get stronger as the game wears on, running with the same authority on his 10th carry as he does on his 20th.

One of Price's early go-to targets has



been wide receiver Jack Berquist, who at 6-foot-3 and 195 pounds presents a combination of a large catch radius and speed.

Defense has been a staple for the Sharks in recent years and everything hints at that being the same again this season.

Any success they have will start up front with a defensive line that has disruptive playmakers throughout, including Ryker Kemp and Robbie Grieco coming off the edge and Martin Geary clogging up the middle as a 280-pound defensive

tackle.

Length and athleticism are what makes the defensive line so good and a constant for opposing offensive coordinators this will be figuring out the best way to consistently run the ball against this stifling front seven.

Part of the front seven includes the linebacking corps where junior Talan Babin takes over more of a leadership role at middle linebacker as he takes over for his brother Maddux Babin.

The secondary is the level of the defense where there are perhaps the most questions entering the year, after losing several seniors, including both starting safeties.

However, there is a lot of talent that has been waiting in the wings and will now have an opportunity to make their mark, such as junior safety Fionn Day, who will be roaming around in coverage along with senior J.M. Pawlick.



Photos by Anthony Richards
Robbie Grieco (No. 48) and Martin Geary (No. 50) will be a pair of forces to reckon with along the defensive line for the Sharks this season.



Jack Berquist (No. 14) has been a favorite target of Drew Price's.



The Sharks' secondary is revamped for the 2024 season.

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2024 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT/LOCATION |
|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Aug. 30 | 7:00 pm | @ Bartram Trail |
| Sep. 6 | 7:00 pm | Baker County |
| Sep. 13 | 7:00 pm | Beachside |
| Sep. 19 | 7:00 pm | Menendez |
| Sep. 27 | 7:00 pm | @ Fleming Island |
| Oct. 11 | 7:00 pm | Middleburg |
| Oct. 18 | 7:00 pm | @ Orange Park |
| Oct. 24 | 7:00 pm | @ IMG Academy White |
| Nov. 1 | 7:00 pm | Creekside |

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Senior Maddox Spencer leads a deep Nease receiving corps. The Charleston Southern commit is one of the top receivers in the area.



The Nease Panthers look to repeat as district champions.

Photos by Anthony Richards

NEASE PANTHERS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

By Anthony Richards

The Nease Panthers defense looks ready for another successful season, especially with the return of defensive coordinator Robert Garth, after a stint at Arkansas State University.

The Panthers have a bevy of experience returning on defense and it starts with the linebacker corps, with senior Joe Miracle, junior Noah Hodge and junior Jacob Curry.

Miracle is back after missing a year due to injury and his time away has made him even more hungry for his senior season to begin, while Hodge and Curry have continued to develop within the Panthers' program and have gone from being the next wave of great Panther defenders to veteran leaders.

Senior safety Shemar McNair transferred to Nease and gives the Panthers another veteran to lean on in the secondary along with Elisha Luckett III, who had a breakout season a year ago when



it comes to interceptions and blocked kicks, and he looks to build off that as a senior.

Offensively, the Panthers are always fun to watch with head coach Collin Drafts calling the plays, and this year should be no different.

Nate Harry is the starting quarterback, which is a role he has been in before, having started several games last season.

That experience and familiarity with his receiving corps should pay dividends, especially with the depth of talent the Panthers have out wide.

It all starts with senior Maddox Spencer whose quickness makes him difficult to cover and a threat to turn a quick slant into a long touchdown in the blink of an eye.

Defenses will be aware of his ability and seek to limit his chances for a big play, but that just creates opportunities for the likes of Brayden Felder and Tyler Ghazanfari.

However, it is not just through the air where the Panthers can hurt opponents, but also on the ground with running back K.J. Perry back for his senior season.

Perry showed continued development with every game he appeared in last year and by the end of the year had gained the complete trust of his coaches and teammates in crucial game situations.

He will be running behind an offensive line that although having to replace a bevy of starters, has gelled together very quickly and will look to not miss a beat when it comes to winning the battles in the trenches.



Senior safety Shemar McNair makes his presence known in the Panthers' secondary.



K.J. Perry and Nate Harry's threat as runners add an extra dimension to the Panthers' offense.



Brayden Felder is a dynamic receiver.

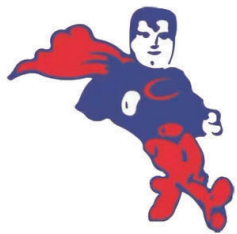
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NEASE PANTHERS

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|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Aug. 30 | 7:00 pm | @ Creekside |
| Sep. 6 | 7:30 pm | Ridge Community |
| Sep. 13 | 7:00 pm | Fletcher |
| Sep. 20 | 7:00 pm | @ St. Augustine |
| Sep. 27 | 7:00 pm | Buchholz |
| Oct. 11 | 7:00 pm | Bartram Trail |
| Oct. 18 | 7:00 pm | Atlantic Coast |
| Oct. 25 | 7:00 pm | @ Toci Creek |
| Nov. 1 | 7:00 pm | @ Beachside |

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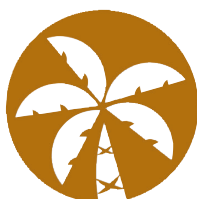
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Beachside High has entered its third season as a football program and the first as part of a district.



Junior quarterback Eddie Jordan surveys the field.

Photo by Anthony Richards

BEACHSIDE BARRACUDAS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

By Anthony Richards

Beachside High has started its third year as a football program, but it will feel different than the first two because the Barracudas are now part of a district after spending its first two seasons as an independent.

In many ways, it is a new era for the Barracudas who are no longer just playing for pride but now have a shot at a



district title and a playoff berth.

Fortunately, for the Barracudas, winning has quickly become accustomed to in their brief history, with the football teams going 6-4 and 9-1, respectively.

Because of the success, the Barracudas find themselves in a unique position as a team that each opponent in District 3-5A will be fully aware of, especially with the high-flying offense they have been known for under head coach Pete Duffy.

The offense involves a heavy passing attack and a major reason for the execution of the offense is the great understanding that triggerman Eddie Jordan has for the scheme.

Jordan enters his junior year at quarterback and has a unique awareness of the field and the ability to make any throw, and over the years he has become the perfect fit for the offense.

BEACHSIDE continues on **Page 22**

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Source: Barron's (May 2024) Barron's Top 250 Private Wealth Management Teams ranking awarded in 2024. This ranking was determined based on an evaluation process conducted by Barron's for the period from Jan 2023-Dec 2023. Neither Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC nor its Financial Advisors or Private Wealth Advisors paid a fee to Barron's to obtain or use the ranking. This ranking is based on an algorithm that includes client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations and quantitative criteria, including assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion. Rankings are based on the assessment of Barron's, and this ranking may not be representative of any one client's experience. This ranking is not indicative of the Financial Advisor's future performance. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC is not affiliated with Barron's. Barron's is a registered trademark of Dow Jones & Company, L.P. All rights reserved.



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|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Aug. 30 | 6:30 pm | @ Englewood |
| Sep. 6 | 7:00 pm | Menendez |
| Sep. 13 | 7:00 pm | @ Ponte Vedra |
| Sep. 20 | 7:00 pm | @ Bishop Kenny |
| Oct. 4 | 7:00 pm | @ Toco Creek |
| Oct. 10 | 7:00 pm | @ Fleming Island |
| Oct. 18 | 7:00 pm | Middleburg |
| Oct. 24 | 7:00 pm | Orange Park |
| Nov. 11 | 7:00 pm | Nease |

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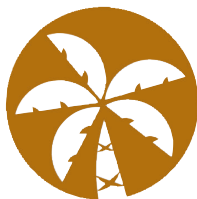


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The Barracudas will compete against several county teams this season.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Beachside defeated Orlando Christian Prep 42-16 to open the season.

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Beachside

Continued from 20

It also helps that he has weapons surrounding him, including a trio of game-breaking receivers in senior Zach Duncan and juniors Drew Watson and Maddox Hunstad.

Helping protect Jordan are senior Alex Hunter and junior James Harding, who play a vital role as offensive tackles, especially the amount of times Jordan drops back to pass. Providing a clean pocket for Jordan to work in and proper time for plays to develop are their pri-

mary jobs and they are good at it.

Jack House is a versatile player for the Barracudas and has shown the ability to make plays both in the backfield as a running back and with his coverage skills in the secondary.

While House is patrolling in the secondary, senior Riley Hofrichter has a knack for creating turnovers from his defensive end position, including four fumble recoveries a year ago.

The Barracudas are a true wild card this season as they play fellow county teams Ponte Vedra, Nease, Toco Creek and Menendez, which should make for a fun season.

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|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Aug. 30 | 6:30 pm | Parker |
| Sep. 6 | 6:30 pm | @ Atlantic Coast |
| Sep. 13 | 7:00 pm | @ Nease |
| Sep. 20 | 6:30 pm | @ Sandalwood |
| Sep. 27 | 7:00 pm | @ Oakleaf |
| Oct. 4 | 7:00 pm | Flagler Palm Coast |
| Oct. 11 | 6:30 pm | Mandarin |
| Oct. 25 | 6:30 pm | First Coast |
| Oct. 31 | 6:30 pm | Trinity Christian Academy |

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY FOOTBALL PREVIEW

By Anthony Richards

St. Johns County is packed with quality teams this football season, which is even more the case than in recent years because Beachside High and Toco Creek High continue to grow their programs in years three and four, respectively.

This means that the county teams will be playing each other often throughout the season, which is something that just feels right and those local rivals are what high school football is all about at its roots.

The Toros have won their share of games with 11 victories in the last two seasons, but now the focus is on the next step and using those winning seasons as a springboard with playoff bids and deep runs once they get there.

Starting quarterback Ryan Killmer returns for his senior season after tossing 16 touchdowns for the Toros a year ago.

However, he will have a relatively new receiving corps that he will be looking to build connections with in the early going, but he will have junior Vincent Galella to hand the ball off to again.

The St. Augustine Yellow Jackets are looking for another deep run in the postseason after earning a trip to the Class 3S state championship but falling to Mainland.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Senior quarterback Locklan Hewlett orchestrates the St. Augustine offensive attack.

Following a 13-1 season is always difficult but the Yellow Jackets do have key contributors returning that know what it takes to make a title game run.

At the top of the returning playmakers list on offense is Locklan Hewlett, who is the team's signal caller and will have his main target to throw to in fellow

senior Carl Jenkins Jr.

But what makes the Yellow Jackets offense so dangerous is the balanced nature of its gameplan, which should not change too much this year with junior Trendell Anderson stepping into a starting role this season, after averaging 50 yards per game coming off the bench last season.

The Bartram Trail Bears and Creekside Knights are both looking for more consistency despite finishing with winning records last season.

The Bears have shown that they are capable of a winning season even when they experience turnover on the roster and that will be the task at hand this season, as they look to replace most of its offensive and defensive production.

For the Knights, it's about finding consistency despite going 6-5 last season, and it starts on the defensive side of the ball after they struggled and gave up 33 points per game.

The Menendez Falcons continue to build its program under head coach Anthony Rivers, and one area where they have done well is in district play, where they have had winning records each of the past two years.

Now they just must translate that to the rest of the schedule and a winning season is within reach.





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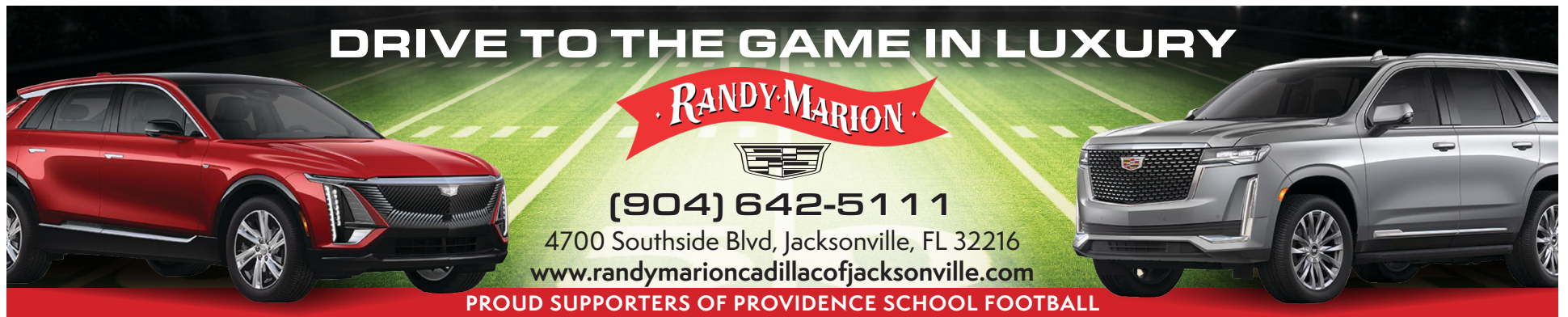
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| Sep. 6 | 7:00 pm | @ Palatka |
| Sep. 13 | 7:00 pm | Episcopal School of Jacksonville |
| Sep. 27 | 7:30 pm | @ Master's Academy |
| Oct. 4 | 7:00 pm | @ Impact Christian Academy |
| Oct. 11 | 7:00 pm | Christ's Church Academy |
| Oct. 18 | 7:00 pm | KIPP Bold City |
| Oct. 24 | 7:30 pm | University Christian |
| Nov. 1 | 7:00 pm | @ Bishop Kenny |

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JAGUARS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

By Anthony Richards

It has been an offseason full of looking back and looking forward for the Jacksonville Jaguars after going 1-5 down the stretch to end last season, which led to them missing the playoffs.

That left a sour taste in the mouths of everyone involved, from the players and coaches to the fans, and the best remedy is to start a new season and make up for it with wins and finishing the job this time around.

Since head coach Doug Pederson arrived in town, he along with general manager Trent Baalke have been instrumental in helping change the culture of the team and with it comes a change in expectations of the fanbase.

Winning and trips to the postseason have quickly become the expected norm, which means not meeting those expectations creates the emotions of shock and disappointment.

The moves made by the Jaguars through free agency this offseason was evident that they are aware of not meeting those expectations and are doing everything to fill the voids that may have been existent a year ago.

It starts with the receiving corps, which lost Calvin Ridley and Zay Jones,



Josh Hines-Allen looks to follow up his Pro Bowl season from a year ago.

but added Gabe Davis in free agency and drafted Brian Thomas Jr. out of Louisiana State University in the first round.

Davis and Thomas Jr. have looked the part during training camp as they have quickly looked fluid within the Jaguars' offensive system and although it may take some time before they are completely on the same page with quarterback Trevor Lawrence, the weapons on that side of the ball are plentiful, especially with Christian Kirk back from a late season injury and Parker Washington continuing his development in his second year.

The question remains on the offensive line, which is a veteran group, but one that has experienced their share of inju-



Photos by Anthony Richards

Trevor Lawrence has a bevy of weapons out wide to throw to this season.

ries of late.

If they can protect Lawrence and allow him the time to find the weapons out wide, it could be a big year both statistically and in the win column.

Defense was a major concern as last season wore on and it became an issue during the losing streak at the end of the year.

As a result, Ryan Nielsen was hired

as the team's defensive coordinator and the early reviews have been extremely positive during training camp and the preseason games, where the Jaguars have been flying to the ball and shown an increased physicality, especially against the run.

Josh Hines-Allen and Travon Walker return as arguably the league's best defensive end duo.

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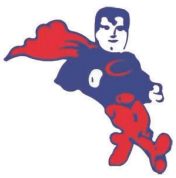
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BARTRAM TRAIL BEARS

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| Aug. 30 | 7:00 pm | Ponte Vedra |
| Sep. 6 | 7:30 pm | @ Ware County |
| Sep. 13 | 7:00 pm | @ Creekside |
| Sep. 20 | 7:00 pm | @ Orange Park |
| Sep. 27 | 7:00 pm | @ Toco Creek |
| Oct. 11 | 7:00 pm | @ Nease |
| Oct. 18 | 7:00 pm | St. Augustine |
| Oct. 25 | 7:00 pm | Buchholz |
| Nov. 1 | 7:00 pm | Ribault |

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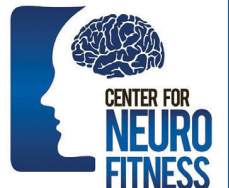
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Nate Harry threw three touchdown passes to help lead the Panthers.



Maddox Spencer of Nease stiff-arms a defender on a kickoff return.

Photos by Anthony Richards

PANTHERS MAKE IT BACK-TO-BACK OVER RIVAL SHARKS

By Anthony Richards

The Nease Panthers opened the season with a memorable victory as they defeated the rival Ponte Vedra Sharks 24-7 on Aug. 23.

It was the second straight win for the Panthers (1-0) over their biggest rival and third in the past four years, which

for seniors like middle linebacker Joe Miracle is a record they will always cherish.

“I love it,” Miracle said. “Best feeling in the world.”

Miracle had a key play in the game as he dove to pick off a pass intended for the running back out of the backfield, which halted a Sharks’ (0-1) drive just

shy of the red zone early in the fourth quarter to help preserve the victory.

According to head coach Colin Drafts, it was one of the best weeks of practice he has experienced in his years coaching, and the results backed that up.

“All week we were locked in and then this morning, we had the best morning lift we’ve ever had to get prepared for

this game tonight,” Miracle said.

It was a complete game all around by the Panthers who were able to control the lines of scrimmage on both sides of the ball and it led to plenty of success.

The offensive line did an excellent job of protecting senior quarterback Nate

PANTHERS continues on **Page 32**



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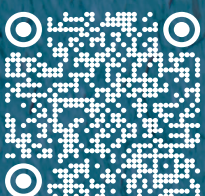
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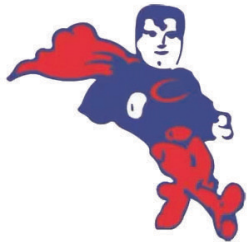
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CREEKSIDE KNIGHTS

2024 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT/LOCATION |
|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Aug. 30 | 7:00 pm | Nease |
| Sep. 6 | 7:00 pm | @ Spruce Creek |
| Sep. 13 | 7:00 pm | Bartram Trail |
| Sep. 19 | 7:00 pm | Winter Park |
| Sep. 27 | 7:00 pm | Sandalwood |
| Oct. 4 | 7:00 pm | @ Fleming Island |
| Oct. 11 | 6:30 pm | @ Atlantic Coast |
| Oct. 18 | 7:00 pm | Raines |
| Nov. 1 | 7:00 pm | @ Ponte Vedra |

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BATTLE OF THE BRIDGE

Ponte Vedra The Nease Panthers started the football season with a 24-7 win over the rival Ponte Vedra Sharks. The following are photos from the week one matchup.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Richard O'Connor's

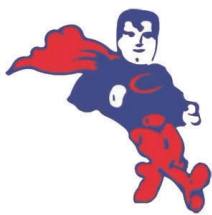
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| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT/LOCATION |
|---------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Aug. 31 | 3:30 pm | Miami |
| Sep. 7 | 7:00 pm | Samford |
| Sep. 14 | 3:30 pm | Texas A&M |
| Sep. 21 | 12:00 pm | @ Mississippi State |
| Oct. 5 | TBA | UCF |
| Oct. 12 | TBA | @ Tennessee |
| Oct. 19 | TBA | Kentucky |
| Nov. 2 | 3:30 pm | vs. Georgia (Jacksonville, FL) |
| Nov. 9 | 12:00 pm | @ Texas |
| Nov. 16 | TBA | LSU |
| Nov. 23 | 12:00 pm | Ole Miss |
| Nov. 30 | TBA | @ Florida State |

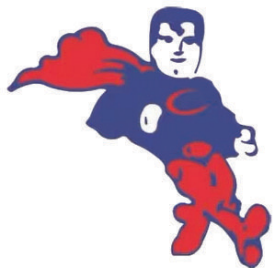


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2024 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT/LOCATION |
|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Sep. 9 | 1:00 pm | @ Miami Dolphins |
| Sep. 15 | 1:00 pm | Cleveland Browns |
| Sep. 23 | 7:30 pm | @ Buffalo Bills |
| Sep. 29 | 1:00 pm | @ Houston Texans |
| Oct. 6 | 1:00 pm | Indianapolis Colts |
| Oct. 13 | 9:30 am | @ Chicago Bears |
| Oct. 20 | 9:30 am | New England Patriots |
| Oct. 27 | 1:00 pm | Green Bay Packers |
| Nov. 3 | 8:20 pm | @ Philadelphia Eagles |
| Nov. 10 | 1:00 pm | Minnesota Vikings |
| Nov. 17 | 1:00 pm | @ Detroit Lions |
| Dec. 1 | 1:00 pm | Houston Texans |
| Dec. 8 | 1:00 pm | @ Tennessee Titans |
| Dec. 15 | 1:00 pm | New York Jets |
| Dec. 22 | 4:25 pm | @ Las Vegas Raiders |
| Dec. 29 | 1:00 pm | Tennessee Titans |
| TBD | TBD | @ Indianapolis Colts |

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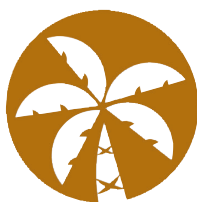
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Nate Harry and the Panthers' offense looks to continue the offensive production against Creekside.

Week 2

Continued from 1

Bartram Trail trailed 12-2 in the third quarter at home against Sumner, but wound up winning 34-12, thanks to a furious late comeback.

The Bears are a traditional winning program, but appeared to figure things out in the second half of their season opener and could carry over the momentum into the next contest against the Sharks.

One of the things the Sharks have going for them is a stellar defense, especially



Photos by Anthony Richards

The Sharks will look to bounce back in week two against Bartram Trail on the road.

along the defensive front that could cause havoc at any moment, and that will be crucial in slowing down the Bears' attack.

The Beachside Barracudas opened the season with a blowout 42-16 win over Orlando Christian Prep and will also go on the road as they travel to Duval County to face the Englewood Rams.

Eddie Jordan and the offense looked sharp out of the gate with a five-touchdown performance and a pair of wide receivers in Drew Watson and Maddox Hunstad having 100-plus-yard nights.

The Barracudas are hoping that offensive production travels well in their first road game of the young season.

Panthers

Continued from 28

Harry, who threw three touchdowns on the night, including a pair to Brayden Felder and another to Maddox Spencer.

Four different receivers caught passes

on the night for the Panthers as Harry spread the ball around to his playmakers, as the Panthers jumped out to a 21-7 halftime lead.

Tyler Ghazanfari connected on a field goal in the third quarter to increase the lead, but the Panthers were able to manage the game from there and work on

running the clock down the stretch.

Defensively, the Panthers were flying to the ball, as they were seemingly filling up every running lane that appeared to be there for Sharks' star running back Brian Case.

"We played together tonight, and I feel like we're just a very disciplined team,"

Miracle said.

The big plays were hard to come by for the Sharks, as a result with Case scoring their lone touchdown in the first quarter from a yard out after quarterback Drew Price broke free into the secondary for a 40-plus yard run and was pushed out at the goal line.



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FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

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|---------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Sep. 2 | 7:30 pm | Boston College |
| Sep. 14 | 12:00 pm | Memphis |
| Sep. 21 | TBA | California |
| Sep. 28 | TBA | @ Southern Methodist University |
| Oct. 5 | TBA | Clemson |
| Oct. 18 | 7:00 pm | Duke |
| Oct. 26 | TBA | @ Miami |
| Nov. 2 | TBA | North Carolina |
| Nov. 9 | 7:30 pm | @ Notre Dame |
| Nov. 23 | TBA | Charleston Southern |
| Nov. 30 | TBA | Florida |



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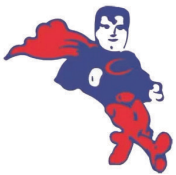
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GEORGIA BULLDOGS

2024 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT/LOCATION |
|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| Aug. 31 | 12:00 pm | Clemson (Atlanta, GA) |
| Sep. 7 | 2:00 pm | Tennessee Tech |
| Sep. 14 | 7:30 pm | @ Kentucky |
| Sep. 28 | 7:30 pm | @ Alabama |
| Oct. 5 | TBA | Auburn |
| Oct. 12 | TBA | Mississippi State |
| Oct. 19 | TBA | @ Texas |
| Nov. 2 | 3:30 pm | Florida (Jacksonville, FL) |
| Nov. 9 | TBA | @ Ole Miss |
| Nov. 16 | TBA | Tennessee |
| Nov. 23 | 12:45 pm | UMass |
| Nov. 29 | 7:30 pm | Georgia Tech |

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