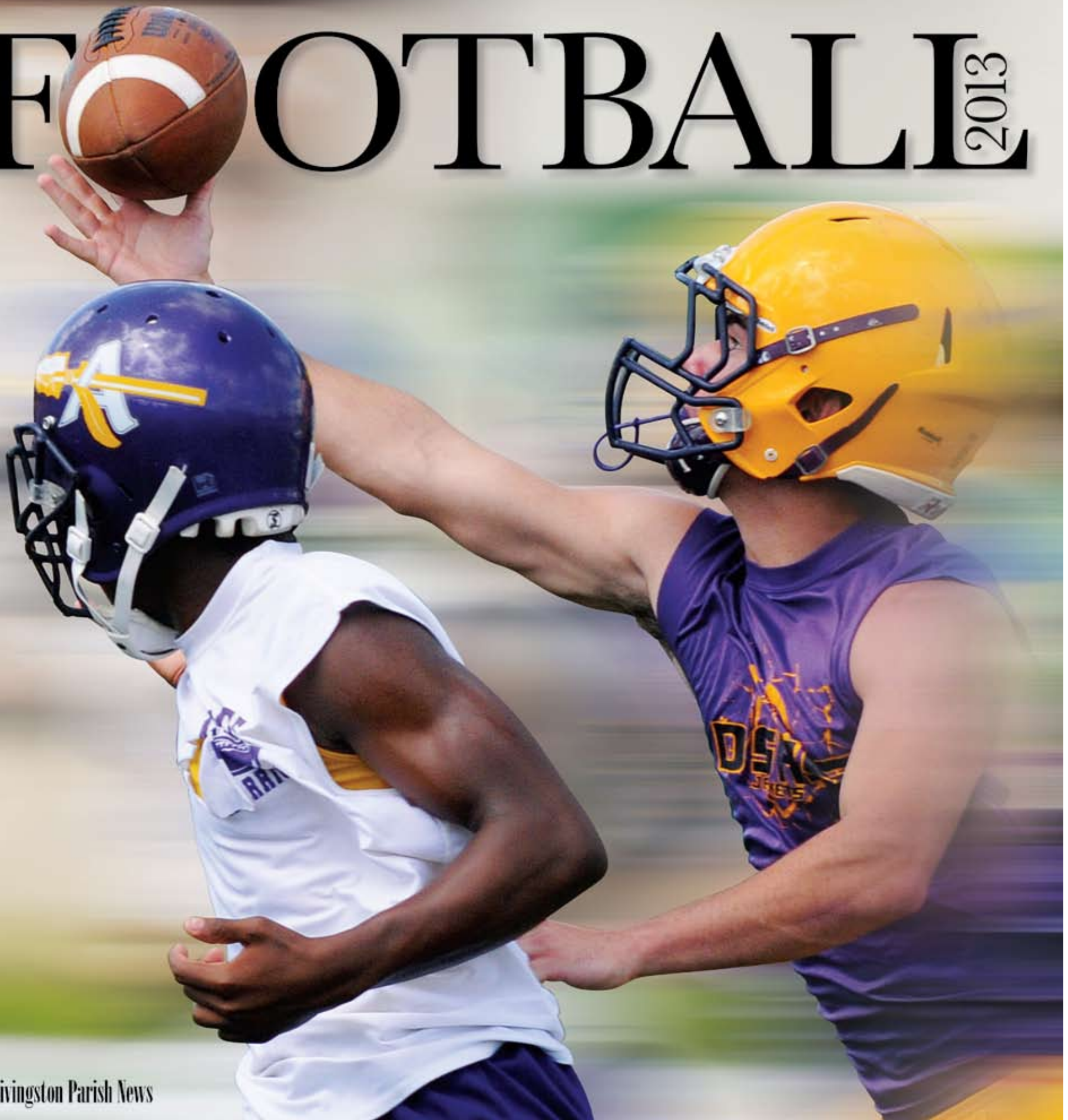


# FOOTBALL 2013



## WHO'S NEXT?

# Playing ball after high school

By **McHugh David**

The Livingston Parish News

The chance of playing football at the next level is an opportunity almost every athlete dreams about.

Last year, Livingston Parish produced three top recruits who went on to top tier four letter schools in defensive lineman Tevin Lawson of Denham Springs (TCU), running back Kaleb Blanchard of Denham Springs (South Alabama) and defensive back Carlton Perkins (University of Louisiana Lafayette).

Historically, Walker has sent two players to LSU who both finished their careers with national championship rings — linebacker Lionel Turner in 2003 and cornerback Chris Hawkins in 2007. Both also tried their hand in the NFL, with Hawkins making the roster of the Tennessee Titans in 2011.

In addition to the big schools from major conferences, opportunities abound for players to make it in smaller programs, both inside and outside Louisiana. Thus this year Denham Springs sent Zach Borne as both a football and baseball player



**Spear**



**Bracy**



**Miller**



**Osbourne**



**Thompson**



**Cambre**



**Gerage**



**Williams**

to Millsaps College and receiver Sterling Suggs to Mississippi College. Offensive lineman Travis Hasselbeck is headed to Louisiana College from the Yellow Jackets program and Brody Guillot is off to University of Arkansas at Monticello.

This year, many players from around Livingston Parish may be provided the opportunity to take their skills to the next level as well.

Denham Springs football coach and athletic director Dru Nettles has a long list of prospective college athletes from his 2013 squad, starting with Cole Spear, a 6'2" 190-lb. safety he said is the program's most recruited athlete. Spear, son of former Superintendent of Schools Bill Spear, has expressed interest in some state schools, but also has the eye of some Ivy League schools due to good grades.

"Cole's got great size and speed for a safety," Nettles said. "He's also very smart; it makes him a desirable defensive back."

Other athletes on Nettles' roster who have a chance to move on are Anthony Bracy, a running back; Barclay Miller, a hybrid defensive lineman and linebacker; Garrett Osbourne, a hybrid

linebacker and strong

**NEXT LEVEL**

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## Football 2013

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Athletes to watch as candidates to continue playing football at the next level.

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# Green Denham is also huge, athletic

By Sam Muffoletto

The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** — When you look at this year's Yellow Jackets' team on paper, many other head coaches would probably have some major concerns with only a combined five returning starters.

But DSHS head coach Dru Nettles, who enters his ninth season at the helm of the Yellow Jackets, doesn't equate the lack of returning starters with the lack of consistency.

And for a program that has made the playoffs for the past five straight seasons, the time eventually comes for a player who had been waiting in the wings to finally answer the bell.

Nettles is confident that he has those types of players in his program to battle through a tough district and non-district slate to make yet another postseason appearance.

"A big plus for us is that consistency of having so many players in the program for four years," said Nettles. "We do have on defense four returning starters, three of which are three-year guys. They can have some great leadership.

"Offensively, we have only one returning starter,



DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

The 2013 Denham Springs High School Yellow Jacket football coaching staff are (from left, front row) Robert Ingalls, A.J. Hebert, Chris Blanchard, Dru Nettles, Trase Satcher, Josh Neal, and Daniel Desselles. Standing are Justin Wax, Pat Hall, Josh Martin, Mark Carroll, Joey Chustz, David Bourque, Caleb Blount, Mitch Covington and Kirk Smart.

but a number of guys have been in the program, and we feel like they can contribute. But it's just the pride of representing Denham Springs High School each and every week have really sunk into these guys to really have some pride in what's going on.

"The negative thing this season is that in experi-

ence against a very tough schedule," said Nettles. "In Class 5A, you have to compete week-in and week-out. And we have to stay healthy, because we're playing a lot of new **DENHAM** guys. Not young, but new. PAGE 5  
Some juniors and seniors



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## Denham returns experience with Erwin, Bracy

From Page 3

starting for the first time, along with some sophomores who have to get ready quick, because you're going to battle some really, really good teams early. So you need to stay healthy."

Offensively, the Jackets will be going with junior quarterback Matt Erwin (5-11, 175), who started three games last season before the coaches decided to go with senior Zach Borne.

"Matt's stepping in and will do a fine job," said Nettles. "He's a baseball player and missed a little time coming off a slight injury. He shows great poise. You can see the maturity that he's gained over a year.

"But I feel the offensive line will be one of the largest groups that we've had," said Nettles. "Size-wise. We have some big kids."

Senior Dylan Cambre (6-0, 275), who started all 12 games last fall, was



Erwin



Satcher



Thompson

moved from center to guard on the offensive line.

Junior Jon Henderson will be one of the largest guys that anybody will see this fall, as he steps in at 6-foot-7, 360 pounds. The right tackle started four or five games last year, but primarily was backup although he got a good number of reps.

Senior Keaton Atwell (6-0, 275) will anchor the line as a first-time center, while another senior Ty Miller (6-1, 270) will play left tackle. Neither had a lot of playing time last season, but Nettles said he is looking for them to really step up in the starting role this



Armstrong



Kinchen



Clouatre

season.

Taylor White, 6-2, 250-pound junior, will play right guard, while junior Ross Olinde (6-0, 230) will also see action as a back-up, along with a freshman, the brother of Jon Henderson, Justin, who is 6-5, 320 pounds.

Sophomore Caleb Roddy will line up at tight end. Roddy, who also plays basketball, stands in at 6-3, 250 lb.

The Yellow Jackets graduated a pair of mainstay running backs from the past couple of years, Kaleb Blanchard and Justin Martin.

Denham does return senior Anthony Bracy (5-9, 190), although he missed

all but the first game last season with an injury.

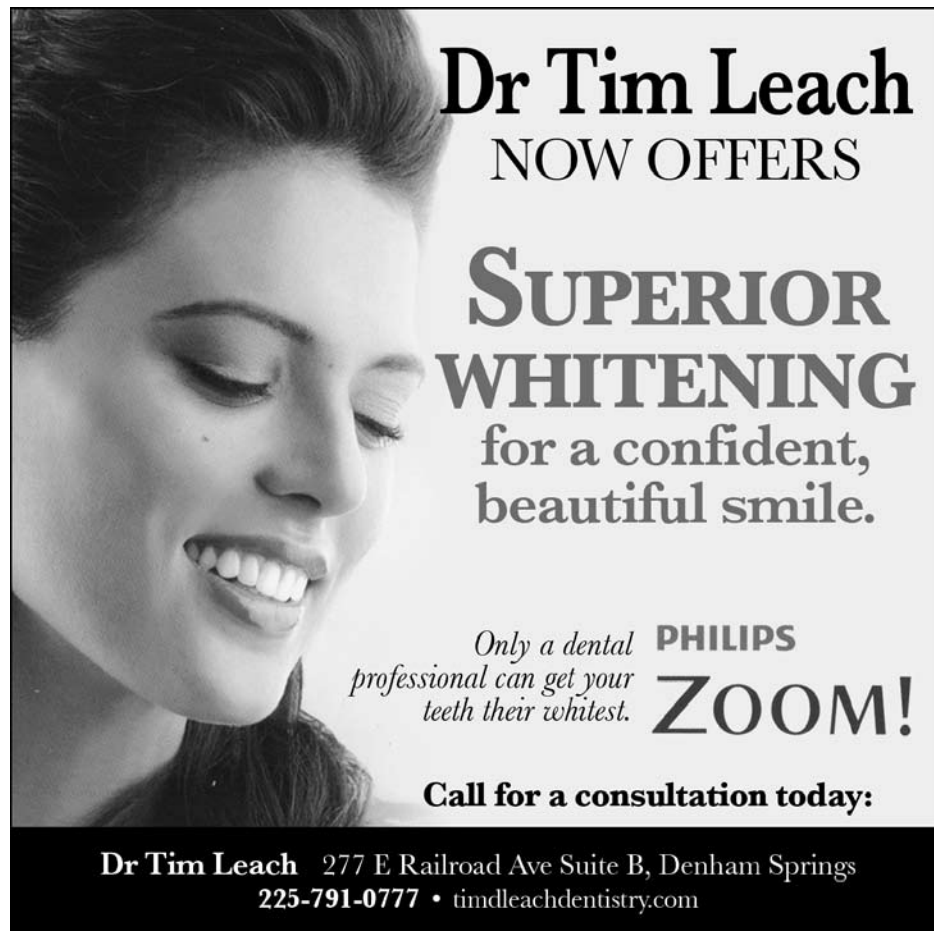
"What a fantastic kid," said Nettles. "A great leader. He still has some time out there to rehab, but as the season goes, he'll continue to improve, but will remain a great leader for our other backs."

Two of those new backs are junior B.J. Armstrong (5-7, 145) and sophomore Roger Thomas.

"I really feel like those three guys can carry the ball and do some things for us," said Nettles. "And they will be led up front by junior fullback Darrell Washington (5-10, 245), who started four games last year as a sophomore.

"Darrell's a big load and really had a great summer," said Nettles. "He loves to hit somebody. And that's what you want from a fullback, to deliver the blow."

**DENHAM**  
PAGE 6



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## Experienced Miller leads giant line for Denham

From Page 5

The receiving corps will be led by senior wide receiver Nolan Satcher (5-11, 170), the son of Yellow Jackets assistant coach Trase Satcher, a former DSHS player himself.

The other wide receivers are 6-foot, 200-pound junior Kyandre Brooks, along with fellow junior Bailey Holstein (6-2, 195).

Senior Mac Sceroler will step in and handle the punting chores for the Yellow Jackets this season, while another new guy, junior soccer player Zach Booth, will handle field goals and the kickoffs.

The Jackets will be led by three-year starter Barclay Miller (6-0, 235) up front on the line.

"When they talk about effort, from the time the ball is snapped to the end of the play, he's going to be going full speed," said Nettles. "I promise you,



Thomas



Washington



Prest



Miller



Henderson



Robinson

he's going to be involved in a lot of things going on."

There will be some new guys in the mix up front, converted linebacker D.J. Robinson (5-11, 185), as well on the inside, Cody Prest (5-11, 220), a senior who was moved from the offensive side of the ball.

Junior Zach Mayo (6-1, 210) and senior David Wale (5-11, 190) will rotate in as well.

The Jackets defensive line will be coached by a new assistant coach, Pat Hall from Ruston High School.

The linebacking corps will be headed up by senior Garrett Os-

borne (5-10, 185), who was a strong safety/linebacker last year, but will be moved inside.

"He's the kind of guy that is going to find the football and make a tackle," said Nettles. "He's the kind of guy you're looking to have on defense. Tough as nails. Between him and Barclay, it's a tight race on their motor and their effort. He's going to get to the ball and we want to keep in a place where he can make some plays for us."

While some linebacking positions are still up for grabs, senior Tanner Cloutre (5-10, 200) is expected to step

in and play the "mike" linebacker position inside.

Another new player who has returned to Denham Springs, Josh Hanes, is expected to be in the mix as the season progresses.

The Jackets' secondary does sport a bit more experience, led by senior safety Cole Spear (6-2, 190), a three-year starter.

At the cornerback slot, senior Jabar Thompson (5-9, 160) is a returning starter, and will see action as well in the return game.

Senior Wes Brown (5-11, 170) is expected to fill in at safety. Brown, who was the Jackets' starting shortstop on the baseball team, is now called upon to play centerfield for the football team at free safety.

The others vying for the corner positions are junior **DENHAM** Zack Stew **PAGE 7**

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DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

The 2013 Denham Springs High School Yellow Jacket football players and coaches are (front row, from left) Coaches Bob Ingalls, A.J. Hebert, Chris Blanchard, Trase Satcher, Josh Neal, Pat Hall, Joey Chustz, head coach Dru Nettles, Mark Carroll, Josh Martin, Caleb Blount, Mitch Covington, Justin Wax, Daniel Desselles and David Bourque. Players are (second row) Jordan Collier, Raphineas Riley, Desmond Hall, Josh Baker, BJ Armstrong, Stephen Duplantis, Brandon Thomas, Jonathon Ingalls, Myles Johnson, Joel Murtes, Jason Musgrove, Lane Foster and Beau Grasse. Third row are Dustin Levert, George White, Chance Barlow, Jordan Paline, Caleb Price, Bailey Spiers, Travis Pasquier, Hunter Hodges, Austin Robichaux, Zach Stuart, Brennan Mire, Jacob Duplantis, Josh Haynes, Corey Williams, Ke'lonis Spears, Anthony Bracy, Tanner Clouatre, and Jabaris Thompson. Fourth row are Dareyn Wilson, Russ Harris, Colby Hayman, Heath Arnold, Chase Albin, Anthoney Deluca, Jesse Carpenter, Daniel Ayres, Christian Purpera, Colton Pomeroy, Reagan Wallace, Garrett Hodge, Luke Duplantis, Ray Walding, Kyle Deer, Jared Wall, Taylor Depoy, and Noah Clark. Fifth row are Benton Lieux, Garrett Osborne, Kade McKee, Brett Ahlf, Elton Knight, Damale Bradley, Seth Jacobs, Jeremy Lindberg, Eli Cawthon, Bailey Gill, Cody Prest, John Henry, Caleb Broussard, Reece Rea, John Ross, Robert Thomas, Landon Fontenot and Chris Roddy. Sixth row are D'Juante Edwards, Logan Landry, D.J. Robinson, Darrell Washington, Kyandre Brooks, Matt Erwin, Keaton Atwell, David Wale, Grant Griffin, Nick Hunt, Eddie Johnson, Ross Olinde, Conner Labatut, Brice Case, Corey Higginbotham, Dimitri Garner, Matt Evans, Barclay Miller, and Dylan Cambre. Top row are Brennan Wall, Nolan Satcher, Cole Spear, Ty Miller, Bailey Holstein, Kyle Thames, Taylor White, Caleb Roddy, Justin Henderson, Jon Henderson, Tyler O'Donoghue, Mac Sceroler, Hunter Langlois, Kyle Hyde, Zach Mayo, Dimitri Garner, Torez Kinchen, Wes Brown, Nick Berthelot, and Casey Bolfa. Not pictured are Kyler Campbell, Jacob Territo, McDaniel Phillips, Austin Averett, Zac Boothe and Jakhari Rushton.

## Denham *schedules to compete at highest level*

### From Page 6

art, along with junior Darien Wilson, who moved in from Mississippi.

"In 2012 we had a good group of players coming back, but we battled some tough situations throughout the year, injuries and so forth," said Nettles, whose team finished 5-6 overall, but did make the playoffs for a school-record fifth consecutive time. "We played a tough schedule at home with the likes of Archbishop Rummel, who went on to win the state championship. They beat us 14-3, but it was 7-3 late in the fourth quarter. And then

losing to West Monroe in the playoffs, having battled them tough through the first half, before losing 31-14.

"I think that season and that schedule continues to show our guys that we've made progress in competing throughout the state," said Nettles. "That it is possible to compete and battle with some of the best teams out there. Each time we step out on the field, if you compete and do the right things, you have a chance to be successful."

DSHS will remain in District 4-5A, although the league grew by one member season with the addition of Broad-

moor, an old mainstay on the Jackets' schedule. The rest of the district includes parish rivals Walker and Live Oak, along with archrival Central and Zachary and Scotlandville.

The Yellow Jackets' non-district slate includes Catholic and Woodlawn from the Baton Rouge-area 5A district, along with Class 3A powerhouse University High and Class 4A Salmen.

"I think our schedule allows us to see where we're at throughout the year," said Nettles. "No one knows how this new playoff season with select and non-select teams will unfold,

but you just have to go out each week and get as many wins as you can. The strength of schedule we're playing will give us some power points.

"Getting to the playoffs for five years in a row, a first time at Denham Springs was an honor," said Nettles. "We continue to try to push through the first round of the playoffs. I feel like no matter whom we play in round one, two or three, our guys will compete.

"And any group that can come together and execute well, you can have success at the high school level," said Nettles.

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DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

The home bleachers of the new Live Oak High School Eagles football stadium will be filled in two weeks for a history-making season opener on turf against Livonia. Ironically, last year those two teams played in a mud-bowl at the old Eagles Stadium.

## Eagles settle in to new nest

**By John Dupont**

The Livingston Parish News

**WATSON** — Live Oak head football coach Barry “Tut” Musemeche can now do something he couldn’t do any other time during his coaching career.

He no longer has to load a team on a bus for home games.

For the first time in his 23-year career, the veteran coach will now step out of his office and walk his team less than 100 yards to the field.

Last year, in his first season at Live Oak, Musemeche’s Eagles played in the old stadium at the old school during a transitional phase when the campus was being relocated. Entering the 2012 campaign, Musemeche had hoped the new field would be ready for homecoming, but that never happened.

“It feels strange,” Musemeche said. “Everywhere I’ve coached, we had to play at another stadium, whether it was at St. Michael, St.

John or anywhere else.”

The Eagles enter the 2013 season with a new stadium and athletic field house, both state-of-the-art facilities for which Musemeche takes great pride.

The stadium and field house come into play just half a year after the opening of the new high school.

He stood in an area between the stadium and field house, and described a vision for the facility that extends far beyond football.

“This is for the parents, the children, the grandparents ... it’s not just about a football stadium,” Musemeche said. “I see this as the gathering place, a centerpiece of the community.

“It’s something for which we want everyone to feel proud,” he said.

The field consists of a gleaming artificial turf put in place by Aus-

**NEW NEST**  
PAGE 24

# Live Oak: Competing for titles is the goal

2012 surprise breeds confidence for up and coming program

**By Sam Muffoletto**

The Livingston Parish News

**WATSON** — Live Oak's second-year head coach Barry "Tut" Musemeche is trying to change the mindset within the Eagles' football program.

After guiding Live Oak last season to its first playoff appearance in over a decade, Musemeche plans on raising the bar once again.

**LIVE OAK**

PAGE 11



The 2013 Live Oak High School Eagles coaching staff are (from left, front row) Eric France, Robert Glueck, Tut Musemeche, Greg Briggs, and Mike Palermo. Back row are Bruce Hoffman, Brent Baker, Robbie Mahfouz, Chris Collier, Lafayette Duhe, Dean Buckland and Vince Argrave.

DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS



*To the teams of  
Livingston Parish...*



**...Good Luck!**

**—Layton Ricks**  
*Livingston Parish President*

## Live Oak loses key starters, brings back promising athletes

From Page 10

“There’s nothing wrong for a group of guys to believe they can be a playoff team every year,” said Musemeche. “But there is also nothing wrong with them thinking that they can compete for a district championship as well.

“Winning a district championship isn’t just a goal for other people,” said Musemeche, “but a goal here at Live Oak that we can attain.”

Coming off a 5-5 regular season, as well as a hard-fought road loss to Parkway in the first round of the Class 5A playoffs, the Eagles are not only tackling a new season, but will be doing so on in their new stadium on a new artificial playing surface.

“But your first goal is that you want to compete every game and every play,” said Musemeche. “And to do that, you need to continue to practice with the confidence that we developed last season.

“We teach that details really matter,” said Musemeche. “When you’re still in the game and playing in the fourth quarter, that’s when those details really matter. If you’re getting blown out, you don’t see the benefits of those details. But we were in a lot of close games last year, some that we lost and that’s when those details really do matter greatly.

“As long as they stay committed to that, we can build on what we’ve done in the past,” said Musemeche.

Live Oak returns seven players on offense, but must also cope with the loss of seven players to graduation on defense.

The Eagles’ offense returns junior quarterback Michael Claverie (6-1, 175), who threw for over



Bonial



Hutchinson



Ricard



Kelly



Forrest



Claverie



Fuller



Webb



Lockwood



White



Dalberg



Freeman

**“We teach that details really matter. When you’re still in the game and playing in the fourth quarter, that’s when those details really matter.”**

**Barry "Tut" Musemeche**

Live Oak head football coach

1,300 yards and 14 touchdowns last season.

“With Claverie coming back as the starting quarterback, that makes the continuity easier for the other guys coming in,” said Musemeche. “We kind of coached around him early on last year, but as the season evolved, he (Claverie) became a central part of our offense. He threw the ball more towards the end, as a lot of what we did offensively was worked around him.”

“We’re going to run a hybrid wing-T spread offense, mostly gun-and-empty formation,” said Musemeche. “But we have a tight end in the set. With this, we create another guy that the defense

has to be responsible for.

“But we never just set out to throw or run the football,” said Musemeche. “My main thing is that we just get it to the play-makers. You get an average of 55 offensive plays in a game. Twenty of those need to go to your No. 1 guy. The next 15 go into the hands of your next best player and then 10 to the next and so forth. But you have to get it in the hands of the guys that are in position to make the big plays.

“We don’t get caught up in what we need to do, but when we need to do it,” said Musemeche.

The Eagles also have senior quarterback Brady Morris (5-11, 160) at the helm of the offense.

Sophomore running back Will Higginbotham (5-6, 145), with his quickness and shifty moves, heads up the backfield, along with a more physical back in 5-10, 240-pound junior Chris Kelly.

Senior Wesley Fuller (5-10, 170) lines up at wingback.

“Will is quick and can find the holes,” said Musemeche. “He can do a jitter-bug and is on his way. His style of running can quickly separate himself from the rest.”

The Eagles’ offensive line is anchored by senior center Lance Andrew (5-10, 220), flanked by senior left guard Nick Zewe (5-11, 290) and junior Garrett Lee (5-10, 250) at left tackle, while on the right side are senior Erik Troxclair (5-9, 185) at guard and senior Connor Gerage (6-2, 255) at tackle.

Junior Colby Freneau (6-1, 205) lines up at tight end, while the wide receiver is junior Beau Bergeron (6-1, 165).

Defensively, the Eagles run out of multiple sets, with three, four and five man stunts. Musemeche said that he is comfortable with the depth he has on defense, but would like a little bit more separation among the players.

“We’ve got the experience,” said Musemeche. “We just need to have the right guys out there.”

Lining up at ends will be 5-9, 160-pound Kirk Allen on one side and 6-1, 215 senior Kade Freeman at the other. Senior Luke Dalberg (5-11, 205) is at tackle.

Senior Antonio Williams (6-0, 235) is at middle linebacker, while senior Hunter Hutchinson (6-0, 190) is at the strong-side position and junior Jared Forrest



DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

Members of the 2013 Live Oak High School Eagle football team are (front row, from left) Will Higginbotham, Kirk Allen, David Jones, Jacob Clark, Jacob White, Devin Bennett, Jamison Moore, Zack Shepherd, Christian Kesler, Devin Ricard and Dustin Kimble. The second row are Dan Ricard, Jared Forrest, Alvin Lewis, Tyler McCleary, Jules Laird, Erik Troxclair, Dylan Wang, Cody Boniol, A. J. Boyd, Jordan Sellers, Cameron Simmons, Peyton Horne, Andre Jackson and Mark Rudison. The third row are Garrett Lee, Austin Jessup, Connor Mason, Brett Frazier, Brock Williamson, Travis Simmons, Kenneth Nuckles, Vance Pritchard, Aren Johnson, Tristen Penton, Gage Lockwood, Justin Webb, Dylan Hutchinson, Dustin Jessup, and Nick Zewe. The fourth row are Lance Andre, Antonio Williams, Josh Danna, Dustin Hutchinson, Michael Calaverie, Shane Rushing, Kyle Knapps, Wesley Fuller, Nick McDowell, Kade Guillory, Dominique Jackson, Chris Kelly, Beau Bergeron, Andrew Shelton, Christian Courtney and Patrick Rafeedie. The fifth row are Rhett Summar, Dylan Achord, Dakota Jennings, Kade Freeman, Nick Simoneaux, Hunter Hutchinson, Colby Freneaux, Connor Gerage, Caleb King, Noah Cloud, Hayes Legendre, Kyle Adams, Chris Mury, Luke Dalberg, Ben Johnson, Sheldon Rodgers and Brady Morris.

## Live Oak stresses good angles, fundamentals on defense

### From Page 11

(5-8, 160) on the weakside.

Senior Gage Lockwood (5-9, 170) is at free safety, senior Justin Webb (5-9, 175) at strong safety, while senior Dan Ricard (5-10, 160) and junior A.J. Boyd (5-9, 170) are at corners.

“You don’t have to have great speed and size as long as you

have good athletes that can get the angles and go the ball,” said Musemeche. “And I feel we have that.”

Vince Agrave is the defensive coordinator.

Lockwood will handle the punting duties, while junior Cameron Simmons will do the place-kicking and junior Noah Cloud and sophomore Joseph

Hinton will vye for kickoffs.

Rounding out the coaching staff for the Eagles are Eric France, Robert Glueck, Jesse Price, Robbie Mahout, Lafayette Due, Brent Bake, Chris Collier and Greg Briggs, along with newcomers Mike Palermo, formerly of Catholic, Dean Buckland of Plaquemine, and Bruce Hoffman from Tara, who will

coach the freshmen.

Live Oak plays in District 6-5A with Denham Springs, Walker, Central, Zachary, Scotlandville and newcomer Broadmoor, a Class 4A squad before this year. Last year the Eagles defeated three of those squads to help them generate the coveted power points to qualify for their playoff berth.

# Walker tries to turn corner with seniors

Emerging QB  
Lockhart, big line  
spawn optimism

By Sam Muffoletto

The Livingston Parish News

**WALKER** — Sporting what may be the school's largest senior class ever with 30 returnees, Walker is hoping to use that experience to flip some of the close losses they suffered a year ago into victories.

"This is my first gang of senior kids that I've had who were sophomores when I returned three years ago," said Walker head coach Dwayne



The 2013 Walker High School Wildcat coaching staff are (front row, from left) Gary Coates, Aaron Clark, head coach Dwayne Severio, Matt Carter, Ross Levy, (back row) Donnie Goodson, James Roberts, Tim Ard, John Compton, Erik Peterson, Kerby McGregor and Terry Peters. Not pictured is Randy Sandifer.

**WALKER**  
PAGE 14

MIKE DOWTY | THE NEWS



JEFF ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
OGLESBEE

*for Family Court Judge*

*A Family Man for Family Court*

## Walker relies on more depth to win close games

### From Page 13

Severio. "It's been a slower than I would have liked building process here, but I think we're moving in the right direction.

"We're in a very competitive district, but we're fighting to move into the upper-half," said Severio, whose team finished winless in District 4-5A last year and 2-8 overall. "We were in some close games, but because of our lack of depth and injury problems, we haven't quite gotten there. Hopefully we're deeper this year and if we can stay healthy, we can compete in district."

Although Severio lost standout running back Carlton Perkins, he does return most of his offensive players, including senior quarterback Tyler Lockhart, who threw for some 1,800 yards last season.

"He has started 20 games for us now and he'll now have to carry us until the defense gets its feet firmly planted into the ground," said Severio. "But he's now a third-year starter and he really improved a lot between his sophomore and junior season.

"It's been a while since a quarterback from Walker threw for more than 2,000 yards, but we're looking for big things out of him this year," said Severio.

What Severio is equally excited about is what's in front of his quarterback: six returning offensive linemen, all seniors and all with the type of size that was prevalent at Walker back in the 1990s.

The line is led and anchored at center by senior Wyatt Wales, who has started since his sophomore season, while being complemented by Louisiana Tech commitment, senior Shane Carpenter.

The offensive line, which averages 265 pounds across the board, also includes the likes of Jacob Arnold, Jeffrey Johnson and Tay-



Arnold



Johnson



Thomas



Brumley



Young



Ard



Graham



Sharp



Clarke



Corley



Brown



Terrell

**“We were in some close games, but because of our lack of depth and injury problems, we haven’t quite gotten there. Hopefully we’re deeper this year and if we can stay healthy, we can compete in district.”**

**Dewayne Severio**

Walker head football coach

lor Bowden.

With all that protection, Severio is hoping Lockhart will make a multitude of connections with his receiving corps, which includes senior wide receivers Bryce Brown and Kenny Thomas.

Along in the mix at receivers are seniors Labrodric Young, Matthew Graham and Shea Meliet.

Young will mostly be lining up in the backfield at running back, along with junior Sage Brumley, who picked up a pair of 100-yard rushing games last fall.

Trey Keller, who transferred

from Zachary, will also be vying for action in the backfield. Keller is no stranger to his teammates, as he went to middle school in Walker.

"Although we're moving to more of an air-raid attack, we're still going to be looking for that down-field run," said Severio.

Defensively, the Wildcats will be under the direction of a new defensive coordinator in Jerry Coates, who had coached in Thibodaux and Dutchtown before coming to Walker last season.

"We're very young on defense, but hopefully we can grow up

a little bit rather quickly," said Severio. "Up front, however, we are led by Austin Smith, a 6-foot-4, 220 pound senior end, who had a great off-season. We're expecting him to step up his game this season."

Also on the other end for the Cats is senior Taylor Brown, who broke his ankle and missed most of last year.

On the line for Walker is senior Mandon Clarke at nose tackle, along with junior Brennen Anderson. Severio also looks to rotate two linebackers.

The linebacking corps includes returning inside backers D'Antonio Daigre and Garrett Jones, along with seniors Sherrick Terrell and Chase Corley, junior Peyton Mock and sophomore Monroe Lockhart.

Taylor Brown will be one of those rotating linebacker players from his end position.

In the secondary, Bryce Brown and fellow senior Taylor Sharp are the two returning starters, while the field of competitors vying for spots are sophomores Jaleel Hill, Kyle Nevels and Jacob Ard, along with newcomer Derek Bartholomew.

"We're going to play a 3-4 slant-angling defensive front," said Severio. "We're going to try to get some pressure, blitz and get some turnovers.

"Our secondary is athletic and I feel comfortable with them speed-wise," said Severio. "Half of our kids are returnees and the other half sophomores, but we expect big things out of those sophomores."

Walker will once again be a part of District 4-5, along with parish rivals Denham Springs and Live Oak, as well as Central, Zachary, Scotlandville and league newcomer Broadmoor, a former 4A team that is no stranger to Walker's schedule.



MIKE DOWTY | THE NEWS

The 2013 Walker Wildcats football team includes (front row, from left) trainer Nathan Borget, coaches Gary Coats, Terry Peters, Matt Carter, John Compton, Erik Peterson, head coach Dwayne Severio, Tim Ard, Donnie Goodson, James Roberts, Kirby McGregor, Aaron Clark, Ross Levy, (second row) trainer Heather Martin, manager Austin McMorris, Sage Brumley, Jaleel Hill, Brandon Racca, Ian May, Cody Adams, Casey Childers, Chase Corley, Joel Hughes, Garrett Madere, Nic Cook, trainer Dalton Tribou, (third row) David Bewley, Kenyon Lustfield, Samuel Coniglio, Saadiq Ellis, D.J. Richardson, Kenny Thomas, Donavon Eschete, Slade Madden, Jacob Ard, Cody Bethel, Larry Garlaska, Trey Keller, Mandon Clarke, Derek Bartholomew, (fourth row) Britt Perris, Tanner Dean, Wes Price, Avery Terry, Pierre Gant, Jordon Lefebvre, Brett Ross, Deven Riggs, Justin Perry, Justin Miller, Jean Paul St. Pierre, Brett Usey, Ladrian Talbert, Anthony Montgomery, (fifth row) Shedrick Terrell, Peyton Mock, Tyler Lockhart, Chandler Fredricks, Brennan Anderson, Joley Garner, Jeffrey Johnson, Deno Daigre, Wyatt Wales, Bryce Brown, Taylor Brown, Jimmy Gurzynski, Brady Davis, Garrett Jones, Dylan Gordon, (back row) Christian Moore, Colton Romito, Taylor Sharp, Matthew Graham, Alex Sibley, Terry Bozeman, Austin Smith, Shane Carpenter, Garrett Madere, Kyle Nevels, Monroe Lockhart, Labroderick Young, Taylor Bowden, Shea Meliet and Clarke Turner.

**‘Although we’re moving to more of an air-raid attack, we’re still going to be looking for that down-field run.’**

Dewayne Severio

Walker head football coach

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# New staff at Albany takes rebuilding steps

By Sam Muffoletto

The Livingston Parish News

**ALBANY** — New head coach Blane Westmoreland won't be the only person cutting his teeth at Jesse Fletcher Memorial Stadium this year, as this year's Hornets' varsity squad will have many new faces, including an array of incoming freshmen who will be thrust into the starting roles.

The 25-year-old Westmoreland replaces out-going head coach Brad Ficklin, whose team finished 1-8 a year ago.

Westmoreland, a 2005 graduate of Live Oak High School, had spent the last four seasons back at his alma mater as an assistant football coach of the Eagles.

"We have a lot of freshmen,

**ALBANY**  
PAGE 17



2013 Albany High School coaching staff are (from left) Mark Thompson, Ray Thomas, Blane Westmoreland, John Legoria and Russell Pellichino.

DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

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## Albany needs freshmen youngsters to grow up fast

From Page 16

but they're growing up so fast," said Westmoreland. "But this past summer, we had to push them out of the weight room. The kids are buying into what we're doing that the community is buying in.

"We're going to change people's perception of who Albany is," said Westmoreland. "We're slowly working to do that. We understand you can't do it overnight. But we're building a program here and our players and coaching staff are excited about the upcoming season."

Although Albany lost the likes of standout quarterback Louis Sansovich and running back Branson Nicolosi, the Hornets do return seven seniors, who Westmoreland feels are a big part in "laying the foundation" of the new program, as well sharing in the "team leadership."

Six of those seniors will help spearhead an offense that will be led, however, by freshman quarterback Skyler Lehmann.

Seniors Josh McClain and Bryce Wells will hold down the backfield at halfback and fullback respectively, while senior split end Tanner House and senior tight end Elijah Callahan will head-up the receiving corps.

Senior Austin Kinchen will anchor the offensive line at center, while fellow senior Dennis Lavergne will line-up at right tackle.

The other three linemen will sport a pair of sophomores on the left side in Jonathan Wedman at guard and Conner DeLacerede at tackle, while freshman Tyler Albritton will line-up at right guard.

"Our early concern will be the lack of depth on our offensive line," said Westmoreland. "With just 45 on the roster, we just don't have the depth we need. If something happens, like injuries, we're



Kinchen



Labruzzo



House



Lehmann



McClain



Hall



Kinchen



Ingram



Wells



Gonzales



Thompson



Lavergne

in so much trouble."

Although the lack of experience lies underneath the center, Westmoreland is high on his freshman signal caller.

"Lehmann has a good arm and is a very smart quarterback," said Westmoreland. "He started our spring game. He's a pocket-passer, but is capable of doing a little running.

"McClain has speed and the athletic ability to do a lot of things," said Westmoreland of his halfback. "He can make you miss, as well as being a good down-hill runner.

"And Wells is every bit of a runner you want at fullback," said Westmoreland. "He's a perfect fit for our wing-T offense."

Back-ups in the backfield include junior fullback Zach Gonzales and sophomore halfback Randy Ingram.

Kyle Thompson will not only handle the punting chores for the Hornets, but will also do field goals, extra-points and kickoffs.

McClain, House and Ingram are Albany's return specialists.

Albany will have a new defensive coordinator in Ray Thomas, who spent his last 22 years at LOHS.

The Hornets will show multiple

defense at one of the tackle slots.

Freshman Michael Guillott will hold down the other tackle position, while another freshman, Montre Hall, who has speed at the top of his resume, will be at one end position, along with Dylan Kinchen.

Kinchen's twin brother Dathan, is one of five linebackers in the mix, along with McClain, Gonzales, Callahan and Thompson. Freshman Ridge Ray may also see some action at linebacker.

The Hornets' secondary will have youth as well with freshman cornerback Cheyenne Labruzzo and sophomore safety Randy Ingram, along with House and Alex Vallo.

**ALBANY**  
PAGE 18

looks on defense, with Westmoreland feeling good about the skill and speed that his defense will possess.

With Albany having to go to some two-way players, the 5-10, 270-pound Lavergne will lead the

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DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

Members of the 2013 Albany High School Hornet football team (front row, from left) are Dathan Kinchen, Devin Wells, Cheyenne Labruzzo, William Bradley, Ben McClain, James Williams, Tanner House, Skyler Lehmann, Josh McClain, Simon Wagespack and Montre Hall. Second row are Dylan Kinchen, Randy Ingram, Zach Gonzales, Liek Reck, Nipun Wadwha, Kyle Thompson, Ridge Ray, Devin Dalton, Dennis Lavergine and Garrett Pechon. Third row are Austin Kinchen, Tyler Albritton, Daniel Chester, Verrone Brown, Chase Anthony, Luke Centanni, Jonathan Weedman, and Connor Delecerde. Top row are Lewis Watkins, Vince Hart Jr., Cameron Sellers, Nicholas Centanni, Gerry Williams III, Devin Gonzales, Alex Vallo, Michael Guillot and Reshard Primas. Not pictured are Jesse Bishop, Lucus Cleveland, Roger Murphy, Luke Callahan, Thomas Aguirre, Elijah Callahan and Bryce Wells.

## *New **Albany** coaching staff excited about building*

### **From Page 17**

“Our defense is young, but we’re very quick,” said Westmoreland. “They can get all over the field. Fly to the ball. And they’re very smart. But we’re undersized, so we need those playmakers who can go get it.”

Other than returning assistant coach Mark Thompson, who will coach wide receivers and defen-

sive backs, Westmoreland’s staff is nearly all new as well, with Thomas coming over with him from Live Oak, along with newcomers John Legoria, who will coach both lines, as well as special teams coach Russell Pellacahio, who comes from Ilspapas College and will coach defensive backs and serve as the team’s strength and conditioning coach.

“We’re all looking forward to the

season,” said Westmoreland. “The summer went well. We had a good turnout among the players. They put a lot of work in and we’re very happy in where we are. We’re just ready to hit someone other than ourselves.

“Discipline is big with me and we’re trying to instill that work-ethic,” said Westmoreland. “But I keep telling them you have to bring your A-game if you want to

step up to the next level.

“But they’ve already responded well,” said Westmoreland. “It’s a great group of guys. They go to bat for me and I go to bat for them.

“We’re going to build a new field house and a weight room here at Albany,” said Westmoreland. “That’s gotten the community excited about where the program’s headed. And thus, the kids are excited to start something new.”

# Springfield eager to continue role of big dog

By Sam Muffoletto

The Livingston Parish News

**SPRINGFIELD** — Last season, Springfield was the “November surprise,” as the Bulldogs were the last public school standing as the Class 2A playoffs were down to four teams in the semifinals.

John Curtis, however, prevented Springfield from a first-ever trip to the Superdome Classic.

Even though the Bulldogs lost some high-quality skill players, beginning with quarterback Shaquille Smith, along with the likes of players like Tanner Wild, Thomas Armstrong, Kimanae Claiborne and Wade Wheat, Springfield returns eight players on both sides of the ball.

And even though the private schools will be thrown into their new playoff bracket beginning this season, Springfield head coach Ryan Serpas realizes that you have to earn it all over again.

“This is a different year than a year ago,” said Serpas. “Last year, we sort of snuck under the radar. We’re not going to be able to do that again. People will be looking for us this year. We’re going to have to come out with a great plan, execute it and get after it each week.”

“This is a great group of kids and they work well together,” said Serpas. “But I tell them a lot of the teams that have success, it’s because they work for it. They just don’t expect it. And these guys are already working very hard.”

Although Serpas has some big shoes to fill, many of the players that will be stepping up this season have already worn out some shoes in back-up roles.

“We lost some key contributors, but the kids that are replacing them are field-tested,” said Serpas. “They’re ready to go. There are some question marks at certain spots, but we feel like we’re not exactly starting from ground-zero, but



The 2013 Springfield High School Bulldog coaching staff are (front row, from left) Mike Janis, Ryan Serpas, Austin Thomas and Shelby Billiot. Back row are Russell Loper, Guy Henderlick, Gil Didier, Keith Patterson and John Pace.

rather, we feel like we’re already at mid-season form.

“We’re excited about the season,” said Serpas. “And we’re ready to see how the season plays out.”

Six-foot senior Joseph Kemp will take back over the starting quarterback position, something he held in the past.

“When we changed the offense last year, he (Kemp) accepted another role,” said Serpas. “But he comes into the season with a lot of game experience. But it’s always an issue when you lose a guy like Shaq (Smith).”

The Bulldogs do return four of their five starters on the offensive line, whom Serpas refers to as his “unsung heroes.” They include seniors Dale Smith (5-10, 215) and Travis Tillman (6-0, 235) at tackles, senior Chris Carter (6-0, 260) and junior Jeramine Ross (6-0, 258) at guards and senior Campbell Palmer

**SPRINGFIELD**  
PAGE 20

DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

B | H

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A | A

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DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

Members of the 2013 Springfield High School Bulldog football team are (front row, from left) Chuckie Vicks, Bryant Manchack, Jordan Carter, Josh Taylor, Joseph Kemp, Michael Jackson, Zachary Clark, Lorenza Robertson and Josh Vicks. Second row are Mark Patterson, Demara Claiborne, Dale Ouber, Milan Love, Darrien Schneider, Parth Patel, Michael Sykes, Keenan Austin, and Montreal Reed. Third row are Christian Austin, Roger Calhoun, Kaleb Frichkey, Tristan Hayes, Kaleb Clark, Tristan Morgan, Colden Sharp and William Barnett. Fourth row are Dylan Latham, Blaze Patterson, Slade Bales, Gharmaine Ashton, Dal Smith, Calvin Raymond, Antonio Ashton, Daniel Lawson and Shelvis Burise. Fifth row are David Cambre, Lakendrick Scott, Maverick May, Austin Paradelas, Evan Shearer, Travis Tillman, Jeramie Ross and Jonavon Roberts. Top row are William Rogers, Campbell Palmer, Lloyd White, Chris Carter, Chalmes Tillman, CJ Durbin, Dakota Ross and Matthew Whitaker. Not pictured is Jude Miller.

## Springfield *expects stout line play, improved passing game*

From Page 19

(6-5, 375) possibly being moved to center.

Lining up behind Kemp will be returning senior running back Gharmaine Ashton (5-9, 190) and 6-foot-1 senior Zach Clark.

“Gharmaine is that hard-nosed, down-field runner, while Zach, a two-way player, has not only developed physically into one of the best players in the area, but one of the best athletes in the state.

“And now, Kemp gives us that home run threat with both his arm and his legs. We’re back with that element of throwing the football. It makes our offense two-dimensional. We can open it up a little more with the pass.”

The Bulldogs’ receiving corps includes senior wide receiver Chuckie Vicks (5-9, 160), along with 6-1 junior Milan Love.

Love will also handle the punting chores, while the place-kicker posi-



Vicks



Manchack



Carter



Taylor



Jackson



Clark



Schneider



Reed



Smith



Shearer



Tillman



Carter

tion is still up in the air.

Both Kemp and Clark will be returning punts and kick-offs.

Defensively, Springfield will line up in the ‘50,’ with Serpas’ main concern surrounding the major losses in his linebacking corps from last year.

“The kids that we’ve put in there in the off-season and given a chance to step up and play linebacker are

coming along, but those positions in our defense are still big question marks,” said Serpas. “Chris Carter, however, will anchor our defense line. He’s the heart and soul of our defense.”

Palmer will also play on the defensive line, along with two-way player Ross and junior Jorvan Roberts (5-9, 265), while senior Darrien Schrieder (5-9, 165) will line up at one end slot,

and junior Mark Patterson (6-0, 190) at the other.

Senior Michael Jackson (5-11, 185) will play linebacker, along with junior JoJo Carter (6-0, 182).

The Bulldogs’ secondary returns three starters in free safety Clarke, strong safety Josh Tyler and cornerback Vicks, while freshman Demarea Claiborne (5-9, 150), the brother of former running back Kimanae Claiborne, is expected to play at the corner as well.

“Up front on defense, we’re really good,” said Serpas. “We’re going to be hard to block. We just need to find those linebackers to make the plays.”

Springfield, which is coming off an 8-2A title a year ago, will now be a part of a smaller District 7-2A, along with St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Helena Central and Pine.

After a 3-7 finish and no playoffs in 2010, Springfield finished 11-2 last season, including the school’s first-ever semifinal playoff appearance.

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# Livingston Parish High School Schedules

## Friday, September 6

Denham Springs at Woodlawn  
Livonia at Live Oak  
St. Michael at Walker  
Thomas Jefferson at Albany  
Springfield at Lloyd Star

## Friday, September 13

Salmen at Denham Springs  
St. Helena Central at Live Oak  
Walker at Springfield  
St. Thomas Aquinas at Albany

## Friday, September 20

Denham Springs at Catholic  
Live Oak at St. Michael  
Walker at Pineville  
Springfield at Albany

## Friday, September 27

Live Oak at Denham Springs  
Broadmoor at Walker  
Varnado at Albany  
Northlake Christian at Springfield

## Friday, October 4

Denham Springs at Broadmoor  
Zachary at Live Oak  
Loranger at Walker  
Albany at Christian Life  
Springfield at St. Helena Central

## Thursday-Friday, October 10-11

Live Oak at Broadmoor (Oct. 10)  
Scotlandville at Walker (Oct. 10)  
Central at Denham Springs (Oct. 11)  
Jewel Sumner at Albany (Oct. 11)  
Mt. Hermon at Springfield (Oct. 11)

## Friday, October 18

Denham Springs at Scotlandville  
Walker at Live Oak  
Albany at Independence  
Springfield at Hannon

## Friday, October 25

University at Denham Springs  
Scotlandville at Live Oak  
Zachary at Walker  
Albany at Loranger  
Pine at Springfield

## Friday, November 1

Denham Springs at Zachary  
Istrouma at Live Oak  
Walker at Central  
Bogalusa at Albany  
Springfield at Pope John Paul

## Friday, November 8

Walker at Denham Springs  
Live Oak at Central  
Amite at Albany  
St. Thomas Aquinas at Springfield

## ALBANY

Sept. 6	Thomas Jefferson	H
Sept. 13	St. Thomas Aquinas	H
Sept. 20	Springfield	H
Sept. 27	Varnado	H
Oct. 4	Christian Life	A
Oct. 11	Jewel Sumner*	H
Oct. 18	Independence*	A
Oct. 25	Loranger*	A
Nov. 1	Bogalusa*	H
Nov. 8	Amite*	H

\*District 8-3A

## DENHAM SPRINGS

Sept. 6	Woodlawn	A
Sept. 13	Salmen	H
Sept. 20	Catholic	A
Sept. 27	Live Oak*	H
Oct. 4	Broadmoor*	A
Oct. 11	Central*	H
Oct. 18	Scotlandville*	A
Oct. 25	University	H
Nov. 1	Zachary*	A
Nov. 8	Walker*	H

\*District 4-5A

## LIVE OAK

Sept. 6	Livonia	H
Sept. 13	St. Helena Central	H
Sept. 20	St. Michael	A
Sept. 27	Denham Springs*	A
Oct. 4	Zachary*	H
Oct. 10	Broadmoor*	A
Oct. 18	Walker*	H
Oct. 25	Scotlandville*	H
Nov. 1	Istrouma	H
Nov. 8	Central*	A

\*District 4-5A

## SPRINGFIELD

Sept. 6	Lloyd Star	A
Sept. 13	Walker	H
Sept. 20	Albany	A
Sept. 27	Northlake Christian	H
Oct. 4	St. Helena Central*	A
Oct. 11	Mt. Hermon	H
Oct. 18	Hannon	A
Oct. 25	Pine*	H
Nov. 1	Pope John Paul II	A
Nov. 8	St. Thomas Aquinas*	H

\*District 7-2A

## WALKER

Sept. 6	St. Michael	H
Sept. 13	Springfield	A
Sept. 20	Pineville	A
Sept. 27	Broadmoor*	H
Oct. 4	Loranger	H
Oct. 10	Scotlandville*	H
Oct. 18	Live Oak*	A
Oct. 25	Zachary*	H
Nov. 1	Central*	A
Nov. 8	Denham Springs*	A

\*District 4-5A

## 2013 STATE FARM PREP CLASSIC SCHEDULE

**Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013**  
12:30 p.m. -- Division III  
4:30 p.m. -- Division II  
8:30 p.m. -- Division I

**Friday, Dec. 13, 2013**  
12:30 p.m. -- Class 1A  
4:30 p.m. -- Class 2A  
8:30 p.m. -- Class 3A

**Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013**  
12:00 p.m. -- Division IV  
4:00 p.m. -- Class 4A  
8:00 p.m. -- Class 5A

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## ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

# Summer boot camp for competitors

By John Dupont

The Livingston Parish News

LUMBERTON, MISS. — A trip away from the home base of Watson kicked off Live Oak's pre-season football drills.

It was anything but a vacation for the team, which spent four days in this tiny community 20 miles south of Hattiesburg.

Less than one mile separates Kings Arrow Ranch from the speeding cars and truck along Interstate 59. But the surroundings at this 200-acre facility seem much further from civilization.

It was very sunny the day the Eagles arrived at camp, where they practiced on a vast open field. Heat was stifling and shade was sparse.

But it was all part of the process to acclimate players for the routine they will continue at least until November.

"It's out of their comfort zone, out of the environment of being at home," head coach Barry "Tut" Musemeche said. "You can't pick and choose where and when you have to make the play."

A typical day at what many call "boot camp" involves practice sessions round-the-clock.

The first practice begins before dawn, with an additional session in the morning and another in the afternoon. Other drills took place later in the evening, sometimes shortly before midnight.

The routine continued the next few days.

"Hopefully, they've come out of this understanding that the plays you run are the same no matter where you're at," Musemeche said. "It's the same play, no matter the situation, whether it's the jamboree or Week 5 playoffs."

The sessions represent a wake-up call, something of a rude awak-



JOHN DUPONT | THE NEWS

**A quick way for teammates to bond at summer camp is to perform exercises that require them to learn to trust each other. "A lot on this trip isn't about the X's and O's — it's about psychology. It's about being a competitor in life," said head coach Tut Musemeche.**

ening after the summer break.

It's not just about football, either.

"A lot on this trip isn't about the X's and O's — it's about psychology," Musemeche said. "It's about being a competitor in life."

It marked the second annual trip to Kings Arrow for the Eagles. For the upperclassmen, it seemed a little milder this year.

"Last year was rough because we didn't know what to expect," senior safety Gabe Lockwood said. "You have to have the right mindset and be prepared to sacrifice."

The heat and the final session of practice pose the toughest challenge, he said.

"There's no rest for the weary, so you just have to deal with it," Lockwood said. "It definitely shows how tough you are."

The boot camp pays off in another way for players, senior wide receiver Wesley Fuller said.

"It definitely helps us get closer as a team," he said. "I didn't know the name of half these sophomores coming into this camp, and now I know them by name."

The camp also means extra

work for team trainer Stephanie Smith, who must watch closely for heat stroke and injuries.

It's even more critical because the nearest hospital is 30 minutes away.

"You have to stay organized and pack plenty of ice and tape," Smith said. "You have to be prepared for everything."

"You never know when you may have a kid go down to exhaus-

**CAMP**

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DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

**"Classy"** is a word that describes the new Live Oak High School athletic facilities, from the weight room located inside the Athletic Field house to the football locker room to the turf football stadium that can double as a soccer playing field as well among its many other uses. The entrance to the stadium is adorned with a bronze Eagle reminding all comers of the pride that Live Oak takes in its rising sports program.

## **New nest** features modern field house, weight room

**From Page 9**  
tin, Texas-based Hellas Sports Construction, the same group that put in place the turf for AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Aside from a spacious walking area entering the stadium, youngsters can enjoy an enclosed

fully-equipped playground, which Musemeche hopes will be ready by the start of the season.

"The idea is to make this not only a game, but an event and an experience," he said. "It's something for the students and adults, and something for the kids."

The stadium is not only intended for football.

It has already been used for soccer events, while the girls softball team practices on the turf to get a feel for the surface on the diamonds at Frasch Park in Sulphur.

The stadium sits adjacent to a

15,000 square-foot athletic field house, a sanctuary for athletes and coaches.

The foyer of the facility includes and 8-by-8-by-8 oak triangular-

**NEW NEST**  
PAGE 25



## New nest takes pride in community, school history

From Page 24

shaped showcase which features memorabilia from the school's football program, which started in 1975.

Memorabilia includes jerseys, trophies, photos of players and cheerleaders, newspaper clippings and game-day programs, among other items.

"We wanted something that showed visitors the history of our program," Musemeche said. "We're very proud of where we've come from, and we don't want to forget it."

The glassed exterior on the front of the building gives visitors a view of the 1,500-square foot conditioning facility, which houses dozens of weight stations, along with a big-screen TV that will be used to show game highlights, workout stats and other information.

The fieldhouse also includes a training room, where players can soak in heated whirlpools or undergo other prep by athletic trainers before the game.

The facility also includes a locker room with 138 oak lockers, each with its own nameplate.

One feature missing from the locker room: Carpet.

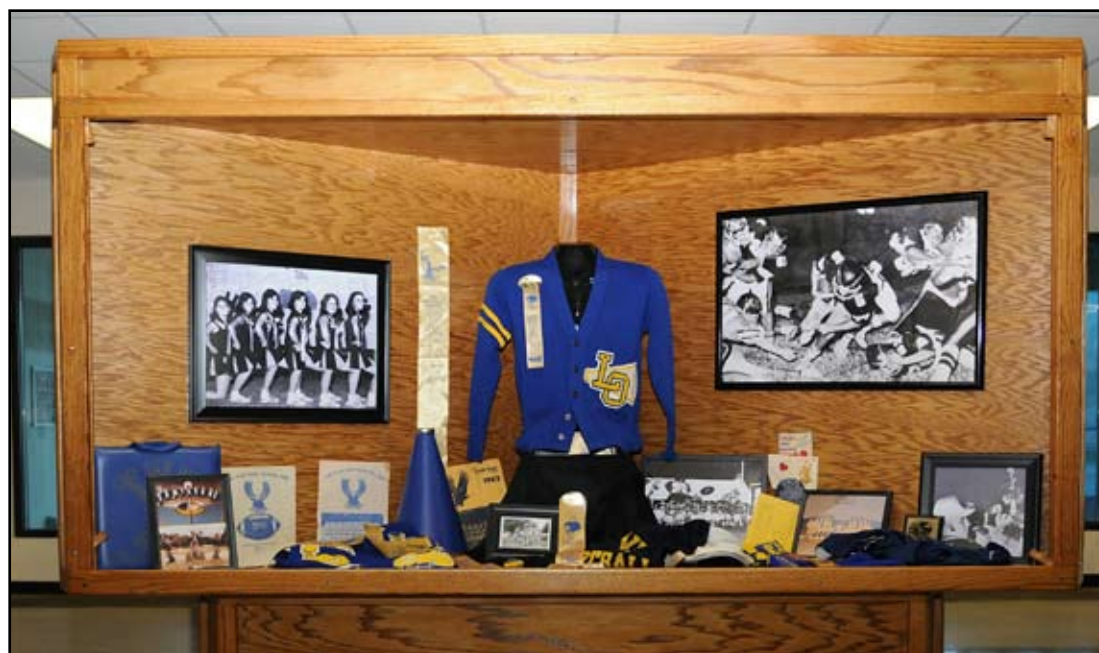
"We didn't want it," Musemeche said. "Dirt and odors linger in the carpet, plus it wears down fast."

The metal lockers from the old locker room occupy another dressing area. The coaching staff opted to keep them in the event they need them in the future.

In addition, players will review the games in a makeshift theater, which has a screening wall where they watch the game. The room includes bleacher seating for the players.

Musemeche takes great pride in the facility, not only for his football team, but all other athletic programs at LOHS.

The new facilities reflect a commitment to make Live Oak both a



DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

**A front view of the new Live Oak High School Athletic Field house looking from the football field offers striking evidence of the growth in the Watson community that has transformed a sleepy country area with a 2A school just 25 years ago into a 5A competitor today. At left, sports memorabilia, trophies, and yearbook photos from years past remind visitors to the lobby of the Field House what used to be.**

top-flight school and athletic program, Musemeche said.

The field house and football field never would've come about without the support of School Board member/LOHS alumnus Kellie Hennessey, principal Tracy McRae and

administrative and School Board personnel.

"I'm grateful for all of their support," Musemeche said. "We had a vision of what we wanted, and they made it happen."

The stadium and athletic field

house fall in place nicely with the opening of the new school, Musemeche said.

"It's a new era," he said. "This will be a source of pride for our community not only for today, but for many years to come."

## Camp takes players out of 'comfort zone'

From Page 23

tion, but we haven't had that problem here," she said. "Our kids are pretty well educated on keeping hydrated, staying on electrolytes and avoiding sodas and fried foods."

The long days not only pose a challenge for players. Coaches also face hardships going into the camp.

"Most of us have families and we're used to going to bed at a certain time every night," Musemeche said. "It's out of our comfort zone, but most of us are fortunate to have wives who allow us to leave a few nights for our jobs. It's as hard on the families at home as it is on the guys here."

Musemeche is no stranger to the camp. It marks the second year he brought the Eagles to the camp and the 13th he has spearheaded. He did them during his tenures at St. Michael the Archangel and St. John-Plaquemine.

He believes the camp puts players in the right mental perspective before they start the season.

"It's good to be out here because it brings you back to reality," Musemeche said. "Our new stadium is nice and we'll never abuse it or take advantage of it.

"We always need to be grounded and understand where we came from," he said. "After forty years in that community, we're fortunate to be where we are."



JOHN DUPONT | THE NEWS

Live Oak football players work on a passing drill during the boot camp earlier this month at Kings Arrow Ranch in Lumberton, Miss.

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## Livingston Parish athletes have size, talent to compete at **next level**

From Page 2

safety; Jabaris Thompson, a defensive back and kick returner; and Dylon Cambre, a guard and defensive tackle.

“All of these guys will have the opportunity to move on to the next level,” said Nettles. “It’s just a question of whether or not the right school wants them, and do they really want to move up?”

Coach Tut Musemeche of the Live Oak Eagles has two players he believes are guaranteed college football athletes - Connor Gerage, an All-District offensive lineman in 2012, and Antonio Williams, a two-year All-District linebacker.

According to Musemeche, Gerage has expressed interest in McNeese, Northwestern, and Southeastern.

“Connor has great game speed, which in my opinion is more important than the 40 time,” Musemeche said. “He’s got a great attitude, work ethic, strength, and feet. He can play any position on the line.”

Williams is also interested in those schools, but is also looking

toward Southern should an offer arise.

“Williams is a great football player. Good eyes for the football, and the right size for a college linebacker,” said Musemeche.

Coach Dwayne Severio of Walker already has one early-commitment player, Shane Carpenter. Carpenter will be playing at Louisiana Tech next season. Carpenter, a 6’6” 275 pound offensive lineman, participated in the Louisiana Tech Football Camp during the off-season, and they had to have him.

“He had a great off-season and a great camp at Tech,” Severio said. “He’s hard working with an impressive transcript, and he’s a basketball player so he’s got great feet.



Carpenter



Lockhart



Smith 51



Bowden 71



Wales 60



Palmer



Ashton



Kemp

He’s pretty much the kind of lineman everyone looks for.”

Severio has several other players who he believes have a shot at collegiate sports - Tyler

Lockhart,

a quarterback; Austin Smith, a defensive end; Taylor Bowden, a guard and defensive tackle; and Wyatt Wales, a defensive tackle.

According to Severio, these players all have schools interested in them, mainly from Arkansas. It’s just a question of whether or not they get the right deal.

Coach Ryan Serpas of Springfield has three individuals who have the potential to play at the next level, two of which already have interested parties.

6’5”, 375 pound offensive lineman Campbell Palmer has garnered interest from Louisiana Tech, Nicholls, and Southeastern.

“He’s a huge kid,” Serpas said. “He’s got great feet; it gives him a lot of potential.”

Running back Ghermaine Ashton has also drawn attention from a few schools. First is Air Force, which runs almost the same offense as Springfield, and several Ivy League schools including Brown.

“Ashton is smarter than people think, and he’s a work horse,” Serpas said. “He’ll have his chance.”

Finally, quarterback Joseph Kemp has a chance to play at the next level due to height, arm strength, and athletic ability.

“I see him as more of a wide receiver in college, but he could play,” said Serpas. “The biggest question mark is his grades.”

Newly hired Albany coach Blane Westmoreland believes that several players on his roster have a chance to move on. However, Westmoreland has a young team at the moment and chose not produce a list of players yet.

## The role of trainers behind the scenes

By Mike Dowty

The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** — Football has always been a rough sport for tough guys, but behind the scenes today’s high school programs have men and women working to keep the players safe and healthy.

“We try to teach our kids the difference between playing hurt and playing injured,” explained Denham Springs High trainer David Bourque. “You can play hurt. You shouldn’t play injured.”

Bourque, a certified trainer for the Yellow Jackets along with assistant Kristy Saltaformaggio, relies on a lot of help to get the job done.

Each summer he brings about a



dozen student volunteers to their own version of a training camp at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. There they learn the arts of assisting players

on the sidelines, helping them stretch, hydrate, ice or wrap twisted ankles and banged-up knees. More important, they watch.

“When you’re talking about 300-500 athletes, they can be our eyes out there,” Bourque said. If they see

something isn’t right, they can report to the trainer, who has the expertise to evaluate.

Of particular concern because of recent medical studies is the cumulative effect of concussions, a common problem in fast-moving collision sports like football, soccer and basketball.

“They’re starting to find out it’s not the one big hit that’s causing all the damage, it’s all the little hits,” Bourque said.

Because of that, some youth leagues have started limiting contact drills in practice, Bourque said.

“Once you’ve had three or four (concussions) at that age, the kid shouldn’t play,” Bourque said.

The high school trainer is particu-

larly concerned that local junior high schools do not require physical exams of their athletes. To counter that, he has opened up participation in the annual Denham Springs High School summer physicals for junior high students.

DSHS has established a relationship with Baton Rouge Physical Therapy, which gives free screenings every year to hundreds of athletes in all sports at the Yellow Jacket Field House.

Education is another role that trainers play by teaching their athletes how to do the right things and listen to their bodies.

“Our kids make it easy,” Bourque said. “Our kids do a great job of taking care of themselves.”

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