

2023

FOOTBALL

PREVIEW



FEATURING



The Mount Airy News

THE TRIBUNE

THE Stokes News

The Hadkin Ripple

WHAT'S **INSIDE**



- 4** WEST STOKES WILDCATS
- 6** NORTH STOKES VIKINGS
- 9** SOUTH STOKES SAURAS
- 12** MOUNT AIRY GRANITE BEARS
- 15** EAST SURRY CARDINALS
- 17** NORTH SURRY GREYHOUNDS
- 19** SURRY CENTRAL GOLDEN EAGLES
- 22** ELKIN BUCKIN' ELKS
- 24** EAST WILKES CARDINALS
- 26** FORBUSH FALCONS
- 28** STARMOUNT RAMS

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UPCHURCH returns to lead West Stokes

By Robert Money Jr.

rmoney@thestokesnews.com

HEAD COACH

Jimmy Upchurch

ASSISTANT COACHES

Chris Nelson (Defensive Coordinator/ Linebackers); Harrell Bowen (Running Backs); Steven Whitt (Offensive Lineman); Luke Bowen (JV Head Coach/Wide Receivers); Brandon Dawson (Wide Receivers); Josh Sammons (Defensive Line); Jason Sammons (Defensive Backs); Eric Belton (Defensive Backs)

LAST SEASON

5-6 overall, 3-3 conference, fourth in Mid-State 2A Conference, first round of 2A State Playoffs

KEY LOSSES

The Wildcats lose 95% of the teams' offense with Mason Cain, Jasir Gaye, Dillon Stanley, Dakota Barker, Orasha Graham, Conner Lankford, Matthew Gupton, James Spainhour exiting the program. The news gets better, West loses leading tacklers Barker (118 tackles), Stanley (59 tackles), and Graham (89 tackles). Cain, Barker, and Spainhour will continue their careers this fall at the college level.

SEASON OUTLOOK

The excitement is back in King! Coach Jimmy Upchurch is returning to the gridiron after retiring in 2019 where he led the Wildcats to the 2A Western Regional

Finals. Upchurch will look at key returning starters Keyon Rawley, Daniel Stanley, Jackson Roscoe, Jackson Sammons, and Caleb Wood to lead the way with JV team that won the conference last season. The coaching staff will be looking for Aydden Cherry and newcomer Luke Whitt to take on leadership roles.

BIG GAMES

The Wildcats open the season against rival South Stokes and there is no better way than getting Upchurch's first season back under way. Other big games include East Surry, North Surry, McMichael, and of course Reidsville, a state contender, year in and year out.

Robert Money can be reached at 336-749-1193.



WEST STOKES

Wildcats

SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 VS. SOUTH STOKES

FRIDAY, 8/25 VS. RANDLEMAN

FRIDAY, 9/1 @ EAST SURRY

FRIDAY, 9/8 VS. NORTH SURRY

FRIDAY, 9/15 @ T.W. ANDREWS*

FRIDAY, 9/22 VS. MOREHEAD*

FRIDAY, 9/29 @ NORTH FORSYTH*

FRIDAY, 10/6 VS. REIDSVILLE*

FRIDAY, 10/13 @ MCMICHAEL*

FRIDAY, 10/20 OPEN

FRIDAY, 10/27 VS. WALKERTOWN*

*Conference



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2023-24 WEST STOKES VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



Robert Money | The Stokes News



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WEST STOKES WILDCATS

• WEST STOKES ROSTER •

No.	Name	Grade	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
1	Ethan Jessup	Senior	5'8	165	WR/DB
2	Jarious Campbell	Senior	5'10	175	RB/DB
3	Sam Reeves	Junior	6'3	180	QB/WR
4	Jackson Roscoe	Junior	6'2	190	DE/RB
5	Ayddan Cherry	Junior	5'11	170	RB/LB
6	Matthew Grubb	Junior	5'9	170	RB/DB
7	Kobe McMillian	Junior	6'0	175	RB/LB
8	Lino Ruiz Moreno	Junior	5'6	140	RB/DB
9	Caleb Wood	Senior	6'0	188	TE/LB
11	Jonah McCoy	Junior	5'9	140	WR/DB
12	Nate Akers	Sophomore	6'3	210	RB/LB
13	Keyon Rawley	Senior	6'3	185	WR/DB
15	Austin Batchelor	Senior	6'0	150	WR/DB
17	Tanner Carroll	Sophomore	5'10	150	WR/DB
18	Alex Wood	Senior	5'10	145	WR/DB
19	Joey Hefner	Senior	5'10	160	RB/WR
22	Devan Gastley	Freshman	6'1	165	QB
23	Dylan Gastley	Junior	6'2	210	WR/LB
24	Tanner Hodock	Junior	6'0	170	RB/LB
26	Tyler Dolby	Sophomore	5'11	160	WR/DB
27	Micah Long	Sophomore	6'3	190	RB/LB
33	Myles Knox	Junior	6'1	175	Kicker/Punter
40	Austyn Rierson	Junior	5'9	160	RB/LB
42	Zane Vassey	Sophomore	5'9	160	RB/DB
44	Isaac Silmsen	Sophomore	6'1	210	OL/DL
50	Nate Zamor	Junior	6'1	200	OL/LB
51	Kason Horton	Senior	5'11	230	DE/OL
52	Kyle Sellers	Junior	6'0	230	OL/DE
53	Ben Rothrock	Senior	6'0	200	OL/DL
54	Kory Wilkins	Senior	6'2	245	OL/DL
55	Luke Whitt	Junior	6'2	285	OL/DL
56	Amari Graham	Sophomore	6'3	210	OL/DL
57	Jackson Sammons	Sophomore	6'3	285	OL/DL
58	Chase Tuttle	Senior	5'10	220	OL/DL
59	Daniel Stanley	Junior	5'11	185	OL/LB
60	Alex Pegram	Sophomore	5'11	185	OL/DL
61	Daniel Graham	Sophomore	6'4	290	OL/DL
63	Jordan Cave	Junior	6'2	270	OL/DL
72	Dalton East	Sophomore	6'4	280	OL/DL
73	Samuel Ramos	Senior	5'8	190	OL/DL
78	Peyton Delgardo	Junior	5'10	210	OL/DL
80	Mikah Webster	Junior	5'11	150	WR/DB
88	Charlie Reeves	Sophomore	6'3	190	WR/DB

NORTH STOKES VIKINGS

• NORTH STOKES ROSTER •

No.	Name	Grade	Position
1	Justin Aaron	Senior	WR/DB
2	Aiden Bennett	Sophomore	WR/DB
3	Gavin Hernandez	Sophomore	RB/LB
7	John Pratt	Junior	QB/WR/DB
10	Amos Stanbery	Senior	QB/LB
11	Kevin Farmer	Senior	TE/DL
12	Cole Hicks	Senior	KICKER
16	Micah Roberson	Sophomore	RB/DB
19	Ethen Garcia	Senior	RB/LB
23	Austin Durham	Junior	TE/LB
29	Noah Fulp	Junior	WR/DB
54	Cameron Bullins	Senior	OL/LB
55	Jackson Hodges	Senior	OL/DL
60	Noah Bullins	Sophomore	OL/DL
60	Swanson Knight	Freshman	OL/DL
65	Levi Smith	Junior	OL/DL
66	Seth Fultz	Freshman	OL/DL
72	Evan Tucker	Senior	OL/DL
73	Wyatt Collins	Freshman	OL/DL
79	Erick Duncan	Sophomore	OL/DL
80	Jonathan Bryant	Junior	WR/DB
88	Lane Stephens	Junior	WR/DL
	Will Vaden	Freshman	WR/DB



VIKINGS hoping for injury free season

By Robert Money Jr.

rmoney@thestokesnews.com

HEAD COACH

Jamie Fortner

ASSISTANT COACHES

David Anderson (Defensive Coordinator/QB); Ethan Barnes (Special Teams/Running Backs); Austin Boyles (Defensive Line/Wide Receivers); Andy Kopp (Defensive Wide Receivers)

LAST SEASON

1-10 overall, 0-6 conference, seventh in Northwest 1A Conference, first round of 1A State Playoffs

KEY LOSSES

The Vikings lose quarterback Jamison Wood and offensive and defensive lineman Chris Hardin. Both All-Conference and All-County players, Wood started at quarterback and threw

for 329 yards and rushed for another 175 with a combined six touchdowns accounted for throughout the season. Wood also recorded 45 tackles with an interception. Hardin played in the trenches on both sides of the ball.

He was second on the team in tackles with 65, just one short of the team lead of 66.

Season Outlook
The Vikings season looks promising even though player numbers are low.

The team is made up of football players that love the game of football noted Coach Fortner. North suffered through lots of

injuries last season with more than six or seven starters missing from both sides of the ball from the midpoint of the season last year. As long as the injury bug stays away from the Vikings, they should have a solid year with players such as Amos Stanbery, Ethen Garcia, Kevin Farmer, and Cameron Bullins returning. Offensively, Stanbery will start under

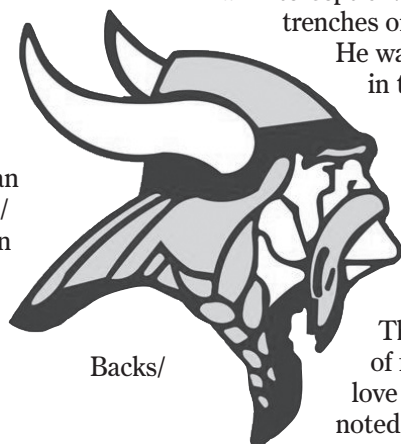
center with Ethen Garcia taking the handoffs. Garcia rushed for 691-yards before an injury ended his season prematurely. Defensively, Garcia (66 tackles), Bullins (63 tackles), and Stanbery (62) return for the Vikings.

BIG GAMES

The Vikings will open against

Chatham Central, the teams only win last season, and could be key to getting North Stokes started in a positive direction. Other big games are always against rivals Patrick County and South Stokes.

Robert Money can be reached at 336-749-1193.



Backs/

NORTH STOKES

Vikings

SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 VS. CHATHAM CENTRAL

FRIDAY, 8/25 @ BISHOP MCGUINNESS

FRIDAY, 9/1 VS. SOUTH DAVIDSON

FRIDAY, 9/8 VS. PATRICK COUNTY

FRIDAY, 9/15 VS. MOUNT AIRY*

FRIDAY, 9/22 @ ELKIN*

FRIDAY, 9/29 VS. STARMOUNT*

FRIDAY, 10/6 AT ALLEGHANY*

FRIDAY, 10/13 @ SOUTH STOKES*

FRIDAY, 10/20 OPEN

FRIDAY, 10/27 VS. EAST WILKES*

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2023-24 NORTH STOKES FOOTBALL TEAM



Sarah Bullins | For The Stokes News



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2023-24 SOUTH STOKES VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



Robert Money | The Stokes News

ROGERS era begins

By Robert Money Jr.

rmoney@thestokesnews.com

HEAD COACH

Justin Rogers

ASSISTANT COACHES

Tanner Haynes (Offensive Coordinator); Charles Brewer (Running Backs/Quarterbacks); Cory Wood (Wide Receivers); Steven Morrison (Offensive Line); Spencer Wells (Defensive Backs); Matthew Waters (Linebackers); Michael Fallin (Defensive Line)

LAST SEASON

4-7 overall, 3-3 conference, fourth in Northwest 1A Conference, first round of 1A State Playoffs

KEY LOSSES

South Stokes lost several key members of the team last season including legendary coach David Diamont. The Sauras lost noted players such as Nolan Coe, Brendon Bradford, Arlyn Durrell, Jaryd Galloway, and Daniel Martin.

Bradford led the team with 31 catches for 384 yards scoring four touchdowns with Martin grabbing 28 receptions for 296 yards and three touchdowns. Both players have signed to play at Guilford College this fall.

Coe, Durrell, and Galloway were huge on the defensive side of the ball last season. Coe recorded 66 tackles, Durrell 44, and Galloway with a team leading 83 tackles. Galloway



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SOUTH STOKES *Sauras*

SCHEDULE

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FRIDAY, 8/18 @ WEST STOKES

FRIDAY, 8/25 @ NORTH SURRY

FRIDAY, 9/1 @ MCMICHAEL

FRIDAY, 9/8 VS. EAST SURRY

FRIDAY, 9/15 VS. ELKIN*

FRIDAY, 9/22 @ EAST WILKES*

FRIDAY, 9/29 VS. ALLEGHANY*

FRIDAY, 10/6 @ MOUNT AIRY*

FRIDAY, 10/13 VS. NORTH STOKES*

FRIDAY, 10/20 @ STARMOUNT*

FRIDAY, 10/27 OPEN

*Conference

also rushed for 404 yards with five touchdowns.

SEASON OUTLOOK

Coach Justin Rogers will begin his coaching career against rival West Stokes, and the return of coach Jimmy Upchurch to the Wildcats. Key players returning for the Sauras are Barry Hairston Jr., Deuce Chalmers, Parker Barron, Jordan Fulp, Bryce Epperson, Alex LaRoache, and Dez Galloway.

Hairston threw for 912 yards and rushed for another 442. Chalmers ran for 858 yards with 12 touchdowns. Fulp (45 tackles), Chalmers (53 tackles), and Dez Galloway (45 tackles) will anchor the Sauras defense.

BIG GAMES

The Sauras open Rogers coaching career against rival West Stokes. A win could jump start a promising



season for South. Other games the Sauras considered important are against East Surry, North Stokes, and defending state 1A champion, Mount Airy.

Robert Money can be reached at 336-749-1193.

• SOUTH STOKES ROSTER •

No.	Name	Grade	Position
1	Barry Hairston Jr	Senior	QB/WR/DB
2	Deuce Chalmers	Senior	RB/LB
3	Conner Cox	Junior	QB/DB
4	Jason Hernandez	Junior	WR/DB
5	Elijah Tyler	Sophomore	RB/DB
6	Isaias Santana	Sophomore	WR/DB
7	Jamison Canty	Sophomore	RB/DB
8	Keymani Brown	Freshman	RB/DB
9	Tucker Monday	Sophomore	WR/DB
10	Jahmari Morris	Freshman	WR/DB
11	Bryson Stephans	Junior	WR/DB
13	Jordan Fulp	Senior	RB/LB
16	Blaine Ellis	Freshman	WR/DB
22	Parker Barron	Junior	WR/LB
33	Justin Joyce	Junior	RB/LB
50	Bryce Epperson	Junior	OL/DL
51	Emmanual Rowe	Junior	OL/DL
52	Patrick Chaney	Junior	OL/DL
53	BJ Grey	Sophomore	OL/DL
55	Jack Fretag	Junior	OL/DL
56	Bryson Mabe	Junior	OL/DL
68	Elijah Tilley	Junior	OL/DL
70	Dalton Hutchens	Junior	OL/DL
72	Alex LaRoche	Senior	OL/DL
76	Colton Pruitt	Junior	OL/DL
79	Dezmond Galloway	Senior	OL/DL



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BEARS ready to run it back

By Cory Smith
csmith@mtairynews.com

HEAD COACH
J.K. Adkins

ASSISTANT COACHES

Austin Taylor (Co-Defensive Coordinator); Darron Taylor (Co-Defensive Coordinator); David "Murdoch" Meredith (Defensive Line); Jordon Tucker (Defensive Line); Caleb Pardue (Defensive Backs); Richard Grissom Jr. (Defensive Backs); Nic Isom (Linebackers); Justin Combs (Offensive Line); Weston Miller (Offensive Line and Tight Ends); Justin Moore (Running Backs); Dennis Moore (Running Backs); Kelly Holder (Wide Receivers); Tanner Hiatt (Quarterbacks); Gerald Travis (Director of Football Operations); Sam Chamberlain (Director of Football Operations)

LAST SEASON

15-1 overall, 6-0 conference, Northwest 1A Conference Champions, 1A West Regional Champions, 1A State Champions

KEY LOSSES

Mount Airy graduated eight players in spring 2023: Logan Fonville, Connor Burrell, Traven Thompson, Avery Poindexter, Jonah Bilyeu, Cam'Ron Webster, Brandon March and Josh Chavis.

Four Granite Bear grads earned All-Conference honors in 2022: Bilyeu on offense, Webster on defense, and Fonville and Burrell as NW1A Honorable Mentions. Bilyeu and Webster were both multi-time All-Conference selections.

Bilyeu helped Mount Airy's offensive line lead one of the state's most prolific rushing games, while Webster's 81 total tackles and 21 tackles for a loss helped the Bears record six shutouts and hold opponents to fewer than eight points per game. Bilyeu also played some defensive line alongside Webster.

Webster will continue his football career at N.C. Wesleyan University.

Burrell and Fonville joined Webster as forces on defense. Burrell, a linebacker, was Mount Airy's third-leading tackler, while Fonville, a defensive back, had four interceptions and 12 passes defended.

Fonville doubled as a wide receiver, and Traven Thompson was among Mount Airy's battalion of running backs.

SEASON OUTLOOK

The defending 1A State Champions return more than 75% of their starters from 2022 team.

Head Coach J.K. Adkins call the 2023 Bears the deepest team he's had as Mount Airy's head coach. Many of the returning players are multi-year varsity players, with a good percentage being multi-year starters on teams that have only lost twice in two years.

Mount Airy consistently had more than 50 players attend workouts over the summer, and Adkins said the team did much more than just go through the motions.

"I was a little worried about complacency heading into the summer, but that hasn't been an issue at all," Adkins said. "The guys worked, and continue to work, harder than they ever have. They're really mature and really competitive, and that level of competitiveness is going to push us."

Mount Airy's explosive offense returns its top six leaders in total yards. Taeshon Martin is a rising sophomore, while the remaining five will be seniors: Tyler Mason, Ian Gallimore, Caleb Reid, Walker Stroup and Mario Revels.

Mason, Reid, Gallimore and Martin led the ground game and combined for 4,321 of Mount Airy's 5,248 yards rushing. Mount Airy was fifth in the state overall in yards rushing this past season.

Mason, a Virginia Tech commit, set an array of single-season school records, including the records for rushing

touchdowns (49), total touchdowns (52) and points scored (314).

As much of an impact as Mason had, what made the Bears' truly dangerous was how players they utilized to wear down opponents. Reid and Martin both posted double-digit rushing touchdowns and averaged better than 10 yards per carry, while the quarterback Gallimore posted three games of at least 100 yards rushing – including a career-high 177 yards and three touchdowns against Ashe County.

Mount Airy will also have new blood fighting for reps at running back, including senior William Pilson.

Gallimore aired it out when necessary and threw for north of 1,000 yards. He has another year with his top two receivers, fellow seniors Stroup and Revels, who combined for 836 yards receiving and nine touchdowns in 2022.

Adkins mentioned sophomore Zach Goins as a player moving up from JV that he expects to make a splash at receiver.

Three of Mount Airy's starting offensive lineman return for the 2023 season: seniors Hayden Bender, Landon Cox and Spencer Baldwin. Adkins called Cox "probably the best center I've ever coached."

The Bears did graduate their left side guys, and Adkins said the team will plug in different players they think can make an impact early on. Two of the names fighting for those spots are juniors J.D. Harper and Jourdain Hill, whose older brothers – Sao Lennon and Mason Hill – were a dynamic duo on the line a few years back.

Junior Tyson Youmans is expected to take reps at tight end this season.

One of the biggest holes left on Mount Airy's team was left by Cam'ron Webster on the defensive line.

"I think that may be by committee until we figure it out," Adkins said. "I think we'll have a healthy rotation there."



Senior Deric Dandy and sophomore D.J. Joyce return as defensive ends, and as sophomore Third Floyd returns as a defensive tackle. Adkins said Cox could also play on the end or on the inside. Harper, Baldwin, Bender and junior Dee Dawkins will also be part of the rotation.

Dandy, another Virginia Tech commit, led Mount Airy in tackles for a loss, QB hurries and sacks in 2022.

Gallimore and Reid, who were first and fourth respectively in total tackles last season, return as starting linebackers. The pair combined for 43 tackles for loss.

Adkins said Stroup could move from defensive back to linebacker to fill the spot previously held by Burrell. Stroup, who posted three interceptions and 15 passes defended in 2022, played linebacker for the state championship game and was awarded defensive MVP honors by the media.

Adkins also mentioned juniors Bryson Caudle and John Martin as linebackers.

Stroup's move to linebacker opens the door for Martin to start at defensive back. He is joined in the defensive backfield by returning players Revels, who led the team with five interceptions and tied Stroup with 15 passes defended, and Mason, who had three interceptions and nine passes defended.

Adkins also expects Goins to step up at DB.

The coach added that senior Blake Hawks would be used as a "utility knife," that has the skills to play anywhere he's needed on defense.

BIG GAMES

The word "repeat" isn't part of Mount

2023-24 VARSITY GRANITE BEARS FOOTBALL TEAM



Cory Smith | The Mount Airy News

Airy's vocabulary for 2023.

"All of our attention is on North Surry," Adkins said. "They bring a nine-win JV team up to fill a bunch of spots, and they get back a lot of varsity players. They're going to be a formidable opponent. We have to be ready, and they deserve all the attention."

"Coaches say this a lot, and it's cliché, but we're going to take it week by week. That's really how we're approaching things."

North Surry was one of only two teams in 2022 to score more than 17 points on Mount Airy, though 23 unanswered points in the fourth quarter did lift Mount Airy to a 46-18 victory in that game.

Mount Airy has won its past 15 meetings against North Surry.

The Bears' Class of 2024 looks for its first win over East Surry. East handed Mount Airy its only loss in 2022, 14-12, and the Cardinals have won each of the past four meetings in the rivalry. This year's Cards will have a different look after the program lost 19 seniors to graduation in the spring.

"We've got to do a better job of being better early because we're going to need that," Adkins said. "Last year we did not play well defensively week one and were okay on offense, then week two we were really bad on offense and pretty good defensively. From week three on

we were a lot more consistent, but that's something we need to see from day one now."

Mount Airy will also face Ashe Co. and Surry Central in nonconference competition. Ashe was the only team to score more than 18 points on Mount Airy, and, like North Surry, kept the score close for three quarters before Mount Airy scored 21 unanswered in the fourth.

The Granite Bears then travel to Dobson to face a Surry Central team that returns most of its starting roster from 2022.

Mount Airy looks to capture its third consecutive Northwest 1A Conference Championship. The Granite Bears have

outscored NW1A opponents 630-26 the past two seasons.

Starmount, who travels to the Granite City on Sept. 22, is projected to be one of Mount Airy's toughest opponents in 2023. The Rams have finished runner-up each of the past two seasons, and were one of just two NW1A teams to score on the Bears in 2022.

Starmount is under new administration, and has a mix of returning talent and new faces.

South Stokes also returns a wealth of talent, as does Alleghany. Adkins' also expects a lot out of East Wilkes as he is set to go head-to-head against one of his former assistant coaches in Travis Walker.



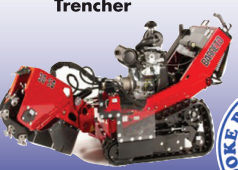
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MOUNT AIRY BEARS

• MOUNT AIRY ROSTER •

No.	Name	Grade	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
1	Zach Goins	SOPHOMORE	WR/DB	6'1	164
2	Landon Gallimore	JUNIOR	QB/DB	6'2	197
3	Mario Revels	SENIOR	WR/DB	5'11	162
4	Taeshon Martin	SOPHOMORE	RB/DB	5'9	168
5	Tyler Mason	SENIOR	RB/DB	6'1	193
6	William Pilson	SENIOR	WR/DB	5'8	180
7	Blake Hawks	SENIOR	H/DL	6'2	172
8	Cash Hemric	JUNIOR	WR/DB	5'9	146
10	John Martin	JUNIOR	RB/LB	6'0	172
12	Tyson Youmans	JUNIOR	WR/DB	6'2	238
14	Fletcher Gallimore	JUNIOR	WR/DB	5'10	154
15	Ian Gallimore	SENIOR	QB/LB	5'11	200
19	Yanniel Arce	JUNIOR	WR/DB	5'8	145
20	Jayle Bryant	JUNIOR	H/LB	5'10	171
21	Walker Stroup	SENIOR	WR/DB	6'1	187
22	D.J. Joyce	SOPHOMORE	RB/DL	6'2	211
25	Caleb Reid	SENIOR	RB/LB	6'2	196
27	Jamie Hearl	SENIOR	QB	5'2	106
32	Deric Dandy	SENIOR	H/DL	6'4	221
43	Nassir Lemon	SENIOR	OL/DL	6'0	163
44	Bryson Caudle	JUNIOR	H/LB	5'10	192
45	Dyson Long	JUNIOR	WR/LB	5'9	157
50	Dee Dawkins	JUNIOR	OL/DL	6'0	209
51	Spencer Baldwin	SENIOR	OL/DL	6'7	254
54	Hayden Bender	SENIOR	OL/DL	5'10"	218
55	Javian Moore	JUNIOR	OL/DL	6'0	171
59	Tyler Grant	JUNIOR	OL/DL	6'1	190
60	Karson Pack	JUNIOR	OL/DL	5'11	180
65	Landon Cox	SENIOR	OL/DL	6'2"	209
66	J.D. Harper	JUNIOR	OL/DL	6'0	232
68	Jayden Sechrist	JUNIOR	OL/DL	5'10	220
70	Jourdain Hill	JUNIOR	OL/DL	6'2	205
71	Third Floyd	SOPHOMORE	OL/DL	5'11"	327
72	Anderson DeVore	SENIOR	OL/DL	6'1	210
73	Colin Hiatt	JUNIOR	OL/DL	6'1	215
74	Jackson Byerly	SOPHOMORE	OL/DL	6'4"	233
80	Ethan Clabo	SOPHOMORE	H/DE	6'3	185
82	Karson Strickland	SOPHOMORE	WR/DB	6'1	175

MOUNT AIRY SCHEDULE

Bears

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 VS. NORTH SURRY
 FRIDAY, 8/25 @ EAST SURRY
 FRIDAY, 9/1 @ SURRY CENTRAL
 FRIDAY, 9/8 VS. ASHE COUNTY
 FRIDAY, 9/15 @ NORTH STOKES*
 FRIDAY, 9/22 VS. STARMOUNT*
 FRIDAY, 9/29 @ EAST WILKES*
 FRIDAY, 10/6 VS. SOUTH STOKES*
 FRIDAY, 10/13 OPEN
 FRIDAY, 10/20 VS. ELKIN*
 FRIDAY, 10/27 @ ALLEGHANY*

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CARDINALS aim to reload, not rebuild

By Cory Smith
csmith@mtairynews.com

HEAD COACH

Trent Lowman

ASSISTANT COACHES

Randy Marion (Defensive Coordinator); Joe Denny (Defensive Backs, JV Head Coach); Rusty Slate (Offensive Line); Travis Lowery (Offensive Line); Devin Slate (Inside Linebackers, JV Defensive Coordinator); Jarrod Wilhite (Running Backs); Garrett Chamberlain (Wide Receivers); Andy Jessup (Outside Linebackers); Kolt Bullington (Defensive Line, Special Teams Coordinator)

LAST SEASON

12-1 overall, 6-0 conference, Foothills 2A Conference Champions, third round of the 2A State Playoffs

KEY LOSSES

East Surry graduated 19 players in spring 2023: Matthew Keener, Folger Boaz, Dylan Cox, Doug Lambert, Brett Clayton, Colby Johnson, Kyle Zinn, Hayden Sammons, Gabe Harpe, Luke Brown, Anderson Badgett, Stephen Brantley, Joshua Parker, Daniel Villasenor, Gavin Atkins, Kole Pruitt, Eli Becker, J.T. Simmons and Bryson McBride.

Five of the graduates – Clayton, Johnson, Brantley, Atkins and Pruitt – will continue their football careers in college, while another – Boaz – is set to play college baseball.

East Surry graduates also swept the Foothills 2A Conference's top honors last season: Boaz was offensive player of the year, Clayton was defensive player of the year and Brantley was specialist of the year.

The following Cardinal grads earned All-Conference recognition in 2022: Boaz, Zinn, Johnson, Keener, Brown, Pruitt, Atkins, Clayton, Badgett, Villasenor and Parker. Simmons was an All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Last season, the class of 2023 combined for: all but 17 of the team's 3,138 yards passing, all 48 passing and receiving touchdowns, 27 of 31 rushing touchdowns, 526 of the team's 558 points

scored, and every punt, kickoff, field goal and PAT.

The Cardinals graduated their five leading rushers and six leading receivers.

SEASON OUTLOOK

The Cardinals were hard at work during the offseason and preseason as they trained to continue East Surry's streak of success.

"We probably had 95% of players that attended all summer long," said head coach Trent Lowman, who enters his sixth season in Pilot Mountain. The Cardinals have won four consecutive conference titles during Lowman's tenure, as well as multiple regional titles and one state title.

The loss of 19 seniors means there will be a lot of holes to fill from last year's team, but Lowman looks at it as an open opportunity for the newest class of Cards to step up and carve their own legacy.

"There are a lot of spots open to be taken, so we are looking to see who's looks good and who really wants it," Lowman said. "It may be something where we don't realize a particular lineup that stands out until October. We have some guys with very limited varsity experience, so we're waiting to see who wants to rise to challenge and play their hardest on every play."

A reload isn't something brand new under the Lowman administration. East Surry previously graduated 19 seniors between the 2019 and spring 2021 seasons, then the spring '21 team went on to finish 1A State Runner-up.

That said, Lowman wants this year's team to play with the mindset of each of his previous teams lived by: focus on what you can control and get better every day.

East Surry's most experienced group will be on the defensive side of the ball. Junior linebacker Hatcher Hamm, one of East's two returning all-conference players, led the team with 122 total tackles and was second with 21 tackles for a loss.

The Cards' other returning all-conference player is senior defensive back Will Jones. Jones led the team in interceptions (4), fumble recoveries (3) and blocked punts (1). He was also second in passes defended (8) while

being seventh in total tackles (44).

Also returning in the defensive backfield is junior Lindann Fleming, who was an all-conference honorable mention in 2022. Fleming's 16 passes defended were twice as many as anyone else on the team in 2022, and he was also tied for second in fumble recoveries with two.

Junior Stevie Keener moved into a starting role as a DB in mid-September of the 2022 season and still managed to tie for second on the team in interceptions with two.

Lowman also mentioned juniors Matthew Edwards as someone expected to take on a bigger role at defensive back. The coach added that junior Braden Snow would get reps at linebacker, and that seniors Isaac Vaden and Lane Snow, as well as junior Lucas Chappell, would have big opportunities on the defensive line.

"We're going to continue trying to figure out who we are and what we can do," Lowman said. "It may be different every week, but it's just hard to say right now. We're focused on finding the right combination of guys that want to give it all every play to help us succeed."

East's offense is also an open book, with the only returning starter being senior Fletcher Gibson. Lowman said senior Lane Snow, who missed the 2022 season, and junior Trey Grubbs are expected to make an impact on the line alongside Gibson.

When it comes to the Cardinals' offense, Lowman said the following: "Every play in our playbook is in the mix. We have every scheme in mind from five wide to a full house wishbone."

Three players have the potential to go under center for East Surry: senior Will Jones, junior Luke Bruner and sophomore Carter Motsinger.

Fleming takes over a running back spot and is the only returning player that had multiple rushing touchdowns in 2022. Edwards will also take reps at running back as well as wide receiver.

Lowman added that Keener "will have a much larger presence on offense this year."

Keener, Edwards, Fleming and junior Troy Watson will serve on the return team for East. Motsinger and sophomore Josh Key will handle punting duties, and

junior Jonathan Parker will be the team's placekicker.

Vaden, Grubbs and junior Landon Galyean will split snapping duties.

BIG GAMES

While East Surry may have less varsity experience than years past, Lowman stressed that the team can't afford to take their time getting acclimated to the tougher competition.

This would be true of any season, but especially now as the Cardinals open the season with a challenging nonconference slate that includes: Robbinsville, a team that went 9-4 in 2022 and is a favorite to make a deep run in the 1A State Playoffs, the defending 1A State Champion Mount Airy that returns most of its starting lineup, then games against West Stokes and South Stokes teams that are primed for big seasons.

"The biggest thing this year is we've gotta get better every practice, every day and every week," Lowman said. "We've got a week one unlike many other teams. We're leaving 9:30 Friday morning, hoping in a charter bus, going to Big Oaks Stadium and facing one of the best 1A programs ever. Then it doesn't get any easier from there."

"We don't have time to wait and see. Guys are going to have to step up and look to improve every time we step onto a field."

The Cardinals have won four consecutive conference titles, but have their work cut out for them as two of the top contenders for the Foothills 2A Conference Championship also reside in Surry County. Both North Surry and Surry Central return a wealth of talent, and both games will be on the road for East.

"By the time we get to conference we hope to have the kinks worked out," Lowman said. "We hope to make an impact there and then maybe make some noise in playoffs, but right now the only team on our mind is Robbinsville."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

2023-24 EAST SURRY VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



16 FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2023



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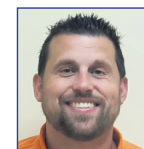
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2023-24 NORTH SURRY VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2023 17

GREYHOUNDS ready to take the next step

By Cory Smith
csmith@mtairynews.com

HEAD COACH
Jackson Smith

ASSISTANT COACHES

Daniel Draughn (Defensive Coordinator, Strength and Conditioning Coordinator, Defensive Line); Will Hodges (Offensive Coordinator, Quarterbacks); Danny Lyons (Assistant Head Coach, Offensive Line); Chris Johnson (Special Teams Coordinator, Outside Linebackers); Cooper Orange (Inside Linebackers); Robby Spurlin (Running Backs); Brandon Crouse (Director of Football Operations)

LAST SEASON

2-8 overall, 1-5 conference, tied for fifth in FH2A Conference, did not make 2A State Playoffs

KEY LOSSES

North Surry graduated 14 players in spring 2023: Jahreece Lynch, Matthew Senter, Jared Hiatt, Talan Vernon, Zabian Galloway, Wesley Atkins, Jake Beamer,

Makiyon Woodbury, Jaxon Ramos, Jimmy Burnett, Zeke Moore, Jase Hernandez, Luis Martinez and Noah Duncan.

Lynch and Moore were both three-time all-conference selections on offense and defense. Both are also continuing their football careers in college. Moore was a force on both the offensive and defensive lines, while Lynch graduated with the second-most career yards receiving and receiving touchdowns in school history.

Woodbury and Hiatt, who joins the track & field team at Appalachian State University, were North's third and fourth leading receivers in 2022.

Many of North's graduates were impact players on defense: Hernandez at linebacker, and players such as Lynch, Vernon, Galloway and Atkins in the defensive backfield.

Vernon and Lynch were speedsters on special teams, and Burnett handled

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SEASON OUTLOOK

Participation in North Surry's football program jumped to nearly 70 players across the JV and varsity programs, and most of those players were regulars at offseason exercises.

"A big focal point for us was to try and get these kids out and playing more," said second-year Greyhound coach Jackson Smith. "The kids really bought in this summer with what we're doing and how we're doing it. They've dedicated themselves to the game and to working in the weight room with coach Daniel Draughn. He's helping these kids develop a lot of confidence."

Despite losing a large class of seniors, including some of the program's staples of the past three or four years, North Surry returns more than half its starting lineup from 2022. The Hounds also have a good amount of experienced non-starting varsity players, as well as numerous players coming up from a 9-win JV team.

The growth of the program will allow most players to specialize at one position, which Smith said will help particularly on defense.

"I think we'll only have three or four two-way guys," Smith said. "That's incredible compared to a year ago when 75% of the unit also played offense. There were a lot of factors in us losing some close games in the second-half last year, and depth definitely hurt us."

"We've still a lot of growing to do on that side of the ball, but I can tell you right now we're much better defensively today that we were a year ago. We will need guys to step up and that will benefit us immensely in the long run."

Senior Ty Gwyn, junior Uriah Kears and junior Anthony Williams both return as disruptors on the defensive line. Gwyn, an all-conference honorable mention in 2022, was one of the team's leaders in tackles for a loss and had the most tackles of any returning lineman.

Senior Garrett Shore returns as a leader at linebacker. The senior tied for the most total tackles on the team in 2022, and is a multi-year starter.

Joining Shore on the inside will be sophomore Eric Cabrera.

Junior Derrick Simmons, who primarily played in the secondary last season, shifts to linebacker to play alongside Shore.

The final linebacker spot will likely vary week to week, Smith said, depending on the team's needs and who steps up. Junior Payten Sechrist and senior Jovani Flores were two names mentioned by Smith, while senior Jake Simmons – who will play a large role on offense – will play some on the outside as well.

Junior Owen McMillian had a big role in the defensive backfield last season alongside Lynch. McMillian tied Shore for the team's most total tackles, tied Lynch with the most passes defended and interceptions, and had one of the team's two defensive touchdowns.

McMillian returns to his starting spot at safety, and will be joined by sophomores Cade Atkins and Fisher Leftwich in the defensive backfield. Smith also mentioned senior Landon Thomas and junior Dayvion Duncan as candidates at the position.

Jake Simmons returns as one of North Surry's most experienced players. The senior running back, whom Smith called, "a Model T and then some," has led North Surry in rushing each of the past three seasons and has earned all-conference or honorable mention honors each season as well.

Jake racked up 968 yards rushing and 10 rushing touchdowns in 2022 despite missing some time with injuries.

"I can't speak highly enough of Jake Simmons," Smith said. "We challenged our seniors to make this a player-led program. We told them, 'you guys need to hold people accountable, push each other to get better and play for each other.' Jake, as one of the veterans on this team, has really taken that and ran with it."

"I haven't even mentioned his athleticism. He's big, fast, strong and runs angry. We challenged him to punish people on yards after contact. It's not always going to be a perfect situation, but we've got to go forward. He's bought into that."

Leading the charge on offense is an experienced group of lineman. Gwyn, senior Aiden Martin and junior Eli Ramey all return as starters, while Williams took a lot of reps toward the end of the 2022 season.

Junior Braxton Montgomery will slide into a key spot on the line to help fill the hole left by Moore.

Junior Kam McKnight returns as quarterback after taking over the starting

• NORTH SURRY ROSTER •

No.	Name	Pos.	Grade	Ht.	Wt.
1	Derrick Simmons	WR, LB	Junior	6'2"	170
2	Kam McKnight	QB	Junior	6'1"	175
3	Fisher Leftwich	WR, DB	Sophomore	6'2"	175
4	Kyler Cain	WR	Sophomore	5'8"	150
6	Owen McMillian	WR, DB	Junior	6'1"	170
7	Landon Thomas	WR, DB	Senior	5'7"	130
8	Jovani Flores	TE, LB, K	Senior	6'0"	210
9	Jake Simmons	RB, LB	Senior	5'11"	205
10	Isaac Webb	WR, DB	Junior	5'8"	135
11	Julius Brintle	WR, DB	Junior	6'3"	170
12	Cade Atkins	QB, WR, DB	Sophomore	6'1"	170
13	Dayvion Duncan	WR, DB	Junior	5'7"	140
16	Najm Hines	WR, DB	Junior	6'1"	145
17	Jaxton Turney	TE, LB	Sophomore	6'0"	175
18	David Schuyler	WR, DB	Sophomore	5'9"	170
21	Payten Sechrist	WR, LB	Junior	5'11"	160
28	Zamari Sweatman	RB, LB	Sophomore	5'7"	160
30	Alex Cazares	RB, LB	Junior	5'10"	170
44	Eric Cabrera	TE, LB, K	Sophomore	6'0"	200
50	Ty Gwyn	OL, DL	Senior	5'11"	285
52	Aiden Martin	OL, DL	Senior	5'11"	220
53	Noah Mayes	OL, DL	Junior	5'9"	200
54	Braxton Montgomery	OL, DL	Junior	5'10"	245
55	Garrett Shore	OL, LB	Senior	5'10"	210
56	Anthony Williams	OL, DL	Junior	6'1"	265
57	Juan Rico	OL, DL	Junior	5'10"	270
58	Joseph Ravit	OL, DL	Senior	5'11"	250
59	Harley Felts	OL, LB	Senior	5'9"	170
64	Eli Ramey	OL, DL	Junior	6'2"	265
65	Marcus Alford	OL, DL	Junior	6'3"	250
70	Steven Snow	OL, DL	Senior	5'11"	230
72	Dillon Shore	OL, DL	Sophomore	5'10"	260
73	Jason Moncus	OL, DL	Junior	5'10"	260
75	Jaime Martinez	OL, DL	Senior	5'10"	260
79	Uriah Kears	OL, DL	Junior	6'1"	320

role near the end of last season. Despite his late start, McKnight threw for 892 yards and six touchdowns.

"Having a full offseason in that starting role benefits him immensely," Smith said. "We bring back most of our skill guys, and a lot of those are guys that he either had a lot of familiarity with to begin with or that he got close with over the summer. We were able to work with him on the small things in the offseason."

"We're excited for him to take hold of the offense."

Leftwich and Lynch formed a dynamic duo as receivers as the 2022 season progressed, so now the sophomore is ready to help fill the big shoes left behind by Lynch. As a freshman, Leftwich had 33 receptions for 485 yards and four touchdowns.

Smith said Leftwich is a "Swiss Army Knife" that can be used as a receiver or a running back. Depending on the game,

Leftwich could be part of a two-back system one play and catch a touchdown the next.

McMillian and Leftwich, both all-conference honorable mentions last season, will be heavily featured in the slot, while juniors Isaac Webb and Julius Brintle will play on the outside.

Versatility will help North Surry's game plan of creating mismatches, Smith said.

BIG GAMES

With a number of returning players and coaches, Smith is looking at North's nonconference schedule as a chance to prove their growth.

"There's a reason we wanted to face talented teams in our scrimmages," Smith said. "We as a program have to grow. We have some, but are always pushing forward. We are all trying

EAGLES looking to ascend

By Cory Smith

csmith@mtairynews.com

HEAD COACH

Monty Southern

ASSISTANT COACHES

Stephen Priddy (Co-Defensive Coordinator, Defensive Line); Wes Evans (Co-Defensive Coordinator, Defensive Backs); Stephen Young (Offensive Line); Marty Behrens (Receivers, Defensive Backs Assistant); Stephen Bruner (Linebackers, Athletic Director); Karson Crouse (Running Backs)

LAST SEASON

2-8 overall, 1-5 conference, tied for fifth in FH2A Conference, did not make 2A State Playoffs

KEY LOSSES

Surry Central graduated 10 players in spring 2023: Cole Snow, Jerrell Nay, Michael Tucker, Clay Whitaker, Blaise Gwyn, Enoc Lopez, Graden Spurlin, Marcus Opsal, Trevor Dutton and Dante Martinez.

The Golden Eagles' 10 seniors in the class of 2023 may seem daunting at first glance, but it's nothing compared to the 17 seniors – many of whom were multi-starters – in the class of 2022. This doesn't mean the graduates will be easy to replace, though.

Central will feel the effects of graduation most on defense. Clay Whitaker, a defensive back who finished second on the team in total tackles, was one of Central's two All-Conference selections in 2022. The other graduating All-Conference selection, Honorable Mention Enoc Lopez, played a big role on the defensive line alongside fellow grads Graden Spurlin and Blaise Gwyn.

Cole Snow, who also played some wide receiver, joined Tucker and Whitaker in the secondary, while Nay made his mark as a linebacker.

SEASON OUTLOOK

The Golden Eagles were billed primarily as a young team in 2022. While the team is still relatively young on paper, Central returns most of its

varsity starters from this past season – starters that now have an extra year of experience together.

"It's a little bit easier going into a season knowing you've got so many guys returning, especially a group like this that has played together a lot despite being on the young side," said Surry Central coach Monty Southern. "They know what you want and what to expect come game time."

The team's most experienced unit is unquestionably the offense. An argument could be made as to which position group on offense has spent more time together, but Southern said that's a great problem to have.

Starting up front, the Eagles return all five starters on the offensive line. Houston Whitaker is a rising junior, while Reid Danley, Maddox Martin, Landan Beverly and Colby Cruise will be seniors.

"That group probably took 90% or more of last year's snaps. They spent a lot of time side by side," Southern said. "But, and they know this, we don't want anyone to get complacent. If someone isn't a starter, I want them to feel like they have a chance to overtake someone if they put in work."

"Guys have to fight to keep their spots, and that's going to drive everyone to want to keep getting better. That goes for the entire team."

Central's scoring output from 2022 will feature a lot of familiar faces as well. In fact, only one of Surry Central's touchdowns last season was scored by a senior.

Quarterback Mason Jewell threw for 1,165 yards and 10 touchdowns during his sophomore campaign. All but 63 yards thrown by Jewell and backup Lucas Johnson went to returning players.

"The thing that really separates Mason from every QB I've ever seen is his uncanny ability to know how much air needs to be on the ball to get it to the right spot," Southern said. "He places it right where the receiver is going to end up. I don't know if that can be coached; it just comes natural to him."

Jewell also used his legs to rack up

133 yards rushing and three rushing touchdowns.

Johnson will continue serving as a backup quarterback, and Southern said sophomore Saul Oakley – the Eagles' JV quarterback in 2022 – will likely be a backup as well.

Junior Brian Williams, senior Avery Wilmoth and junior Allen Huffman were three of the team's top offensive weapons in 2022 and are projected to take the next step this season.

Allen was a traditional running back, finishing the year with 113 carries for 517 yards and five touchdowns. He took on more and more carries as the season progressed, which culminated with a career performance against North Surry in which he recorded 15 carries for 168 yards and a touchdown.

Wilmoth was used primarily in the slot and led the team in receptions with 23. He averaged 11.3 yards per catch and found the end zone once.

Williams was a hybrid back that finished second on the team in total yards, averaging nearly 100 per game. Williams averaged 41.7 yards rushing, 53.4 yards receiving, was the team's leading receiver with 481 yards and averaged 30.1 yards per catch.

Southern also mentioned seniors Evan Wall and Kyle Inman as returning offensive threats. Both missed some time in 2022 with injuries, but showed greatness when available.

"Assuming we don't have any injuries our offense will look very similar," Southern said. "That makes us as coaches more comfortable not only because it's familiar, but if you move pieces around it gives you flexibility because they know the offense. Being able to move people around and not have a drop off in talent is a pretty good feeling."

Southern said consistency is going to be key for the team as they take the next step in their evolution.

"We've got some guys that can really make plays, but last year it was this kid one game and this kid another with some struggling in-between," Southern said. "As we've grown and matured a little, I think we can get more guys involved every game and be harder to

defend."

Moving from the team's most experienced group to its least, Central looks to overcome the learning curve on the defensive line after losing the likes of Spurlin, Gwyn and Lopez.

Senior Mason Cox returns to the defensive line, and Southern said the coaches are looking to him to lead the young group.

The coach said multiple players have been contending for the D-line spots, but he wasn't ready to name other starters just yet. One of the players in contention is junior Alex Huffman, who played linebacker on JV but Southern said could be converted to D-line.

"I'm pretty excited to see what we can do on the defensive side of ball," Southern said. "Yeah, we lost some studs on the line and we won't be as big, but I think we'll be quicker off the ball."

More familiar faces will be seen on defense moving away from the line of scrimmage.

Central returns all four of last season's starting linebackers: Wilmoth, Johnson, senior Eli Scott and junior Wyatt Wall. Wall led Surry Central with 116 total tackles in 10 games, while also adding an interception and caused fumble.

Southern said the team plans to shift Wilmoth to defensive back to help fill the hole left behind by Whitaker, then added that Oakley will be one of the players moving to linebacker.

"He has had as incredible of an offseason in the weight room as I've ever seen," Southern said of Oakley. "He never got to play fully healthy last year, but now he is and is ready to make an impact on defense."

Wilmoth and Wall are set to start at strong and weak side safety, and Inman is projected will handle one of the cornerback roles. Southern said the other cornerback position is one of the most competitive spots on the team up for grabs, and mentioned players such as junior Sam Wood and senior Landon Pack as contenders that could see playing time early on.

"We've got a lot of great athletes that can play wide receiver and defensive back, and we're hoping that will allow our guys a chance to catch their breath

2023-24 GOLDEN EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM



Corinne Bowman | Special to the News

to perform their absolute best whistle to whistle.”

One new-ish face on defense is linebackers coach Stephen Bruner, a 2015 Surry Central graduate and former Golden Eagle football player.

“He was a really good high school football player and we’re excited to see him shift into that role for us,” Southern said. “It’s really rewarding when you get to this stage and guys start to come back and you get to see them coach.”

Senior Edison Gonzalez will handle placekicking duties for Surry Central.

Williams, Wilmoth, Inman and Oakley are projected to serve on the return team.

BIG GAMES

Prior to the 2022 season, Southern said the team’s week one matchup against Alleghany was all he was concerned with since it would gauge how his young team would fair at the varsity level.

The coach echoed his statement for the upcoming season, but for slightly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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EAST SURRY CARDINALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

EAST SURRY

Cardinals

SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 @ ROBBINSVILLE
FRIDAY, 8/25 VS. MOUNT AIRY
FRIDAY, 9/1 VS. WEST STOKES
FRIDAY, 9/8 @ SOUTH STOKES
FRIDAY, 9/15 OPEN
FRIDAY, 9/22 VS. WEST WILKES*
FRIDAY, 9/29 VS. WILKES CENTRAL*
FRIDAY, 10/6 @ FORBUSH
FRIDAY, 10/13 VS. NORTH WILKES*
FRIDAY, 10/20 @ SURRY CENTRAL*
FRIDAY, 10/27 @ NORTH SURRY*

*Conference

• EAST SURRY ROSTER •

No.	Name	Grade	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Grade	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
1	Stevie Keener	Junior	6'2	175	WR/DB	25	Ashton Stevens	Sophomore	5'11	175	RB/LB
3	Lindann Fleming	Junior	5'11	165	RB/DB	26	Brycen Elliott	Sophomore	6'3	205	TE/DL
4	Luke Bruner	Junior	6'1	185	QB/LB	32	Jonathan Parker	Junior	5'11	175	RB/LB/K
5	Will Jones	Senior	5'10	175	QB/DB	44	Josh Key	Sophomore	5'10	225	RB/DL/P
6	Hatcher Hamm	Junior	5'10	180	RB/LB	50	Trey Grubbs	Junior	6'3	255	OL/DL
8	Noah Felts	Junior	5'11	170	WR/DB	51	Isaac Vaden	Senior	5'11	225	OL/DL
9	Braden Snow	Junior	5'10	180	RB/LB	53	Christian Mikolics	Senior	5'8	165	OL/DL
10	Matthew Edwards	Senior	5'9	175	WR/DB	54	Landon Galyean	Junior	5'10	250	OL/DL
11	Jaxon Bottoms	Senior	6'2	175	WR/DB	55	Jorge Santos	Senior	5'11	235	OL/DL
14	Levi Surratt	Senior	5'9	180	TE/LB	56	Lucas Chappell	Junior	6'3	215	OL/DL
15	Michael Fischer	Sophomore	5'9	160	WR/DB	57	Bryce Lancaster	Junior	5'10	225	OL/DL
17	Banks Johnson	Junior	5'10	155	WR/DB	58	Charles Summers	Junior	6'4	275	OL/DL
18	Ryan Metz	Sophomore	6'3	205	TE/DL	65	Cameron Allred	Sophomore	6'1	220	OL/DL
19	Zach Keener	Sophomore	5'10	150	WR/DB	67	Fletcher Gibson	Senior	6'3	280	OL/DL
20	Jackson Key	Junior	5'9	175	RB/LB	74	Tommy Ledesma	Junior	5'11	225	OL/DL
21	Troy Watson	Junior	5'10	165	WR/DB	75	Aaden Wright	Freshman	6'5	370	OL/DL
22	Carter Motsinger	Sophomore	5'9	150	QB/DB	76	Lane Snow	Senior	6'2	265	OL/DL
23	Ethan Slater	Senior	6'0	185	TE/LB	77	Eli Senter	Senior	5'10	345	OL/DL
24	Porter Gibson	Sophomore	5'11	195	RB/LB	82	Braxton Davis	Sophomore	6'1	185	TE/LB



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BUCKIN' ELKS ready to get back on track

By Zach Colburn

Special to The Tribune/Ripple

HEAD COACH

Scott Wood

LAST SEASON

1-10, 1-5 conference, tied for sixth place in Northwest 1A Conference (lost in first round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs)

KEY LOSSES

Despite not losing any all-Northwest 1A Conference players from last year, Elkin lost several players due to graduation at the skill positions.

Both quarterbacks from last fall — Jackson Sturdivant and Maecyn Brooks — have graduated; Beau Callahan and Adam Settle also graduated.

Lineman Wesley Nations and linebacker/running back Will Briggs also departed.

SEASON OUTLOOK

With a mix of returning talent and new players on this year's squad, head coach Scott Wood has spent a lot of the off-season getting players acclimated to the varsity game.

And he's liked what he's seen so far, but expects them to continue to make adjustments as the season goes on.

"We want to be better than we were last year. We've got some good pieces in place, including several defensive backs and linebackers," said Wood. "We've had to practice fast and that's been a key. We went to North Surry last week for a scrimmage and we've been practicing against JVs — the game was moving a lot faster. It took them a series to adjust to the speed of a varsity football game so we're working on keeping that speed."

Juniors Drew Kupner and Peyton Luffman, who were all-conference honorable mention last year, headline the returning 2023 Elkin players.

Kupner and Luffman will both see time at linebacker and running back. Sophomore Jericho Edwards is slated to join them in back field; despite returning to the gridiron last year for the first time in a few years, according to Wood, and brings plenty of speed.

Edwards was a multiple-time all-

conference selection in both indoor and outdoor track and field as a freshman, specializing in the sprinting events.

"Both guys have gotten stronger in the off-season and they're tough kids," said Wood. "We've got some big strong receivers that I think will do a pretty good job on the edge and then Peyton and Drew will carry the ball. We've got Jericho back out for his second year in a long time but he's got some pretty good speed and he can go."

After serving as the JV quarterback, Rhet Pardue will move under center for the varsity squad this fall. He'll be joined in the back field by Aaron Caudle, who has seen playing time at multiple positions prior to his senior season.

"Rhet has been our JV quarterback the past two years and he's done really well in the off-season," said Wood. "Aaron's worked hard in the off-season and come a long ways, gotten stronger in the weight room. He started out as an offensive and defensive tackle as a freshman and he's now a wide receiver and a safety as a senior."

On the offensive and defensive lines, senior James Steele will be leaned on heavily, alongside junior Zach Stuart and Braulio Mata-Reyes.

When asked who has really stood out to him in practice this off-season for their improvement, Stuart and Mata-Reyes were two players Wood pointed to.

"Zach has worked extremely hard. He's probably the strongest kid in our program and he only weighs a 180 pounds but he's extremely strong," said Wood. "We've also got a sophomore, Braulio, he's a big kid and we look for good

ELKIN BUCKIN'

Elks

SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 VS. NORTH WILKES

FRIDAY, 8/25 @ WEST WILKES

FRIDAY, 9/1 OPEN

FRIDAY, 9/8 VS. SURRY CENTRAL

FRIDAY, 9/15 @SOUTH STOKES*

FRIDAY, 9/22 VS. NORTH STOKES*

FRIDAY, 9/29 VS. FORBUSH

FRIDAY, 10/6 VS. EAST WILKES*

FRIDAY, 10/13 VS. ALLEGHANY*

FRIDAY, 10/20 @ MOUNT AIRY*

FRIDAY, 10/27 @ STARMOUNT*

*Conference

things out of him. James is another kid to watch out for; he was our center last year and he's changing over to tight end this year; I think he's going to be a good lineman and a good leader — and he can catch the ball too."

Another player Wood noted to have made major improvements in the off-season is senior Luke McComb, who will serve as the team's placekicker.

BIG GAMES

The Buckin' Elks will kick off

their 2023 campaign with a pair of former Mountain Valley 1A/2A Athletic Conference opponents in North Wilkes and West Wilkes the first two weeks.

After a week three bye, Elkin will host Surry Central on Sept. 8 before opening up Northwest 1A Conference play at South Stokes a week later.

On Sept. 29, the Buckin' Elks will host Forbush in the first matchup between the two schools since 2016 (Falcons won that matchup, 27-6). Elkin will be looking for its first win in the series since 2013.

A week later, the Buckin' Elks will host East Wilkes in the third-annual Battle of the Bypass (the two teams split the first two matchups for the trophy).

Elkin will close out the regular season against the top two conference finishers from last season, starting with Mount Airy on Oct. 20. A week later, the Buckin' Elks will travel to Starmount for the annual Battle of the Bridge.



2023-24 EAST WILKES FOOTBALL TEAM



YOUTHFUL CARDINALS

look build off recent success

By Zach Colburn

Special to the Tribune/Ripple

HEAD COACH

Travis Walker, 0-0 record at East Wilkes (first season with Cardinals)

ASSISTANT COACHES

Brannon Church (Offensive Line); Jeff Mickel (Offensive Line); John Vestal (Running Backs); Eddie Guessford (Secondary and Wide Receivers); Robert Johnson (Outside Linebackers); Andrew Elmore (Inside Linebackers); Gavin

Dowell (Graduate Assistant); Brennan Arnder (Graduate Assistant).

LAST SEASON

9-3 overall, 4-2 conference, third place in Northwest 1A Conference (lost in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A Playoffs)

KEY LOSSES

East Wilkes graduated 15 players off-season, which included eight players who were All-Northwest 1A Conference first team or honorable mention.

And those departures also came at skill positions, which included the Cardinals'

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EAST WILKES CARDINALS

quarterback (Briggs Gentry), running back (Brody Martin) and two-way wide receiver (Eric Adams, who is now a member of the North Carolina Central University football program).

Will Martin (defense), along with Colton Hall and Ledger Blackburn (honorable mention selections) both graduated as well. Also gone are Gavin Dowell and Brennan Arnder, who have returned to the Cardinals as graduate assistants on Walker's staff.

SEASON OUTLOOK

The Cardinals will return only two starters on defense and one offense. Those players are senior Tristan Alkire and junior Levi Sadler — both at outside linebacker. Walker also stated that Alkire could also see time as a B back on offense.

In addition to Alkire, the Cardinals have just four other seniors on this year's roster and one of them, Riley Cannon, is playing for the first time since his freshman season.

Zac Helms, Jonathan Hanlin are the only other seniors with experience last season. Newcomer Owen Combs, who was an all-Northwest 1A Conference honorable

mention selection in boy's soccer, joins this fall as a kicker and wide receiver but could be sidelined due to a preseason injury.

"We have five seniors on this year's team, which obviously makes us very young, but we are looking to those seniors to be leaders and help guide our younger guys," said Walker. "We'll be looking to Tristan and Levi on the defensive side of the ball. Jonathan had some starts last season on the offensive line and Zac will see time at safety and A back."

The Cardinals will return several players who transition into new roles after seeing some time in reserve last fall.

Walker hasn't made a decision on who will start under center, but stated

that juniors Seth Lambert and Phoenix Blackburn are in contention.

Lambert saw snaps at quarterback last season (spelling Gentry) while Blackburn is also expected to see time at free safety.

Sam Nelson saw time on the offensive line as a freshman last fall and will be joined by juniors Brody Mathis and Payton Luffman. Junior Raul Aguilar could also see time on the line, along with sophomore Peyton Mahan.

A trio of players — junior Dylan Ramage and sophomores Aiden Guessford and Reece Dobbins — could also see time in skill positions. Sophomore Austin Nash and junior Vance Harris could also see time in the backfield.

"I feel like we are in a rebuilding process, learning a new offensive system and kids having to play a different position and a role from what they may have been used to playing in the past," said Walker. "Right now, we are just really going to focus on us and look to get better each week. I don't have a wins/losses expectation, but my expectations, as well as the entire coaching staffs, are for us to compete and play with great effort."

BIG GAMES

The Cardinals will spend the majority of their nonconference playing in-county opponents, which begins on Aug. 18 at West Wilkes. The game was slated to be at home, but was moved to Millers Creek due to continued construction at Ebb Tharpe Field.

East Wilkes will also face county foes North Wilkes and Wilkes Central on Sept. 1 and Sept. 8, respectively. The matchup with the Eagles is slated to be its home opener.

Sandwiched in between the Blackhawks and Vikings will be a trip to Dobson to face Surry Central on Aug. 25.

EAST WILKES SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 @ WEST WILKES

FRIDAY, 8/25 @ SURRY CENTRAL

FRIDAY, 9/1 @ NORTH WILKES

FRIDAY, 9/8 VS. WILKES CENTRAL

FRIDAY, 9/15 OPEN

FRIDAY, 9/22 VS. SOUTH STOKES*

FRIDAY, 9/29 VS. MOUNT AIRY*

FRIDAY, 10/6 @ ELKIN*

FRIDAY, 10/13 VS. STARMOUNT*

FRIDAY, 10/20 @ ALLEGHANY*

FRIDAY, 10/27 @ NORTH STOKES*

*Conference

Following its open date on Sept. 15 the Cardinals will open up Northwest 1A Conference play the next week at home against South Stokes before a home date with defending NCHSAA 1A champion Mount Airy on Sept. 29.

The Cardinals will open up the month of

October at Elkin on Oct. 6 for the third annual Battle of the Bypass. East Wilkes won the trophy last season.

The Cardinals will close out the home slate on Oct. 13 against Starmount and close out the season on Oct. 27 at North Stokes.


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FALCON'S LEANING on returning talent, new faces

By Zach Colburn

Special to the Tribune/Ripple

HEAD COACH

Jeremy Funderburk

ASSISTANT COACHES

Jake Hoots (Running Backs/Wide Receivers); Joe Sikes

(Linebackers); Shane Compton (Quarterbacks/Offensive Coordinator); Jeremy Helton (Defensive Coordinator); Robert Melton (Offensive Line); Loudon Hundley (Defensive Backs).

LAST SEASON

3-7, 3-3 conference, fourth place in the Foothills 2A Conference (did not make the playoffs).

KEY LOSSES

Forbush saw the departure of several key players from some very successful teams, which included workhorse Regan Ramey, who is now playing for Brevard College. Ramey was all-Foothills 2A Conference on both sides of the ball.

Also gone are all-conference linemen Ezra Hutchens and Reece Matthews, along with linebacker Jesse Wooten. Honorable mentions Brady Poindexter and Ethan Pipes, as well as placekicker David Guaderrama, also graduated.

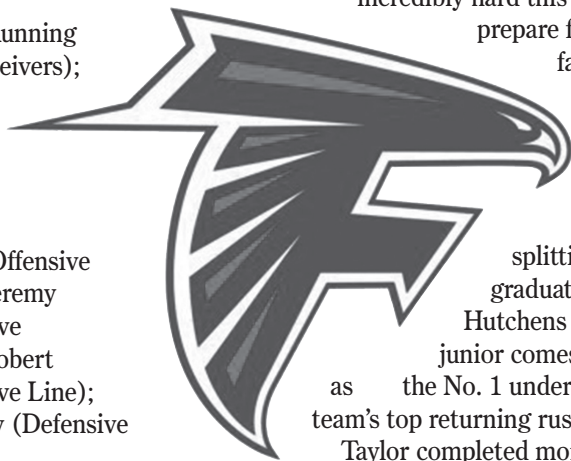
KEY RETURNERS/SEASON OUTLOOK

With the departure of multiple two-way players, Funderburk will call on several holdovers from last year's team.

He'll also look to several new varsity

players as well.

"We have a much younger team this year due to a large number of seniors graduating," said Funderburk. "We must have new varsity players step into roles immediately and become contributors immediately. The players have worked incredibly hard this offseason to prepare for success this fall.



One of those holdovers is Bryson Taylor. After splitting snaps with graduate Andrew Hutchens last year, the junior comes into the season as the No. 1 under center and the team's top returning rusher.

Taylor completed more than 50-percent of his passes last fall for 570 yards and three touchdowns. On the ground, the junior added 460 yards (on 93 carries) with six touchdowns.

Both of Taylor's top receiving targets — seniors Cristofur Martinez and McKinley Reavis — are back this season.

Martinez, who was an all-conference selection on defense last fall, hauled in 21 passes for 279 yards and a touchdown. Defensively, Martinez returns as the top tackler from last year with 59 tackles (37 solo).

Reavis, who along with Taylor took the bulk of the punt returns and punts last year, caught 15 passes for 191 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Defensively, the Falcons will turn to seniors Jason Beck (44 tackles, 33 solo), Austin Choplin (43 tackles, 25 solo) and Nick Myers (26 tackles, 10 solo) for leadership. Choplin had a pair of pass interceptions last year.

Fellow seniors Logan Boles and Collin Johns had double-digit tackles at 17 and 16, respectively. Senior Dylan Windfelder

FORBUSH

SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 VS. NORTH FORSYTH

FRIDAY, 8/25 @ MCMICHAEL

FRIDAY, 9/1 VS. STARMOUNT

FRIDAY, 9/8 OPEN

FRIDAY, 9/15 @ WEST WILKES*

FRIDAY, 9/22 VS. NORTH SURRY*

FRIDAY, 9/29 @ ELKIN*

FRIDAY, 10/6 VS. EAST SURRY*

FRIDAY, 10/13 VS. SURRY CENTRAL*

FRIDAY, 10/20 @ WILKES CENTRAL*

FRIDAY, 10/27 @ NORTH WILKES*

*Conference

and junior Nate Ayers also return with varsity experience.

Several of the new members Funderburk had listed are juniors Hayden Bales, Anthony Leggett Jr. and Zeke Aguilar. Bales is listed as a tight end and defensive while Leggett is listed as a defensive tackle.

Funderburk will also lean on a trio of freshmen in Jahtaveyn Jackson (middle linebacker/running back), Adam Deyab (defensive end and running back) and Adynn Clark (running back, wide receiver and middle linebacker).

BIG GAMES

Forbush will look to avenge a one-touchdown loss to former Western Piedmont 2A member North Forsyth in the season opener at home on Aug. 18

In addition to hosting Yadkin County

rival Starmount in the Unifi Bowl on Sept. 1, the Falcons added away games against McMichael (Aug. 25) and Elkin (Sept. 29). It'll be the first matchup between the Falcons and Buckin' Elks since 2016 (Falcons won that matchup, 27-6).

Forbush will open up Foothills 2A Conference play on Sept. 15 at West Wilkes and host North Surry the following week.

After the matchup with Elkin, the Falcons will host Surry County schools East Surry and Surry Central on Oct. 6 and 13, respectively.

Forbush will close out the season with a pair of road games in Wilkes County against Wilkes Central (Oct. 20) and North Wilkes (Oct. 27).

NORTH SURRY GREYHOUNDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

to ascend together, and these four nonconference games are going to test us and drive us to be better.”

North Surry opens against the defending 1A State Champions. North Surry scored 18 points against Mount Airy in the 2022 opener, and that was the second-most points allowed by Mount Airy in 16 games.

North trailed 23-18 entering the fourth quarter of that game before Mount Airy scored 23 unanswered points.

The Mount Airy was just one example of North dropping keeping a game close but falling short in the end. Three of the Greyhounds’ losses were by one possession, and two of those were by three points or fewer.

“A lot of things played into that, but we – as a team and for us as a coaching staff – learned from those situations,” Smith said. “We reflected on that a lot during the offseason to see what we could do better as a staff, and we feel like we’re in a much better position to handle those close games and play our best even when under pressure.”

Games against South Stokes, South Caldwell and West Stokes round out a tough nonconference slate for the Greyhounds.

“We scheduled it like that on purpose,” Smith said. “Not only do we have to be a second-half football team, but we need to be a second half of the season team. We set goals for ourselves as a program, and winning a conference championship is high on that list. We want to see how we’ve grown as a program, so this is really going to test us and show us what we need to improve for when conference rolls around.”

All three of North Surry’s one-possession losses came in league play last season, and the Hounds look to rectify those losses in 2023 when they get rematches with North Wilkes, Forbush and West Wilkes.

As if there wasn’t already enough motivation to beat rival teams, all three Surry teams in the FH2A Conference feel they have a realistic shot at taking the conference crown in 2023. October games against Surry Central and East Surry are two of the biggest of the season for North Surry.



NORTH SURRY

Greyhounds

SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 @ MOUNT AIRY

FRIDAY, 8/25 VS. SOUTH STOKES

FRIDAY, 9/1 VS. SOUTH CALDWELL

FRIDAY, 9/8 @ WEST STOKES

FRIDAY, 9/15 VS. WILKES CENTRAL*

FRIDAY, 9/22 @ FORBUSH*

FRIDAY, 9/29 VS. NORTH WILKES*

FRIDAY, 10/6 @ SURRY CENTRAL*

FRIDAY, 10/13 @ WEST WILKES

FRIDAY, 10/20 OPEN

FRIDAY, 10/27 VS. EAST SURRY*

*Conference



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2023-24 STARMOUNT VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



UNDER NEW COACH **Rams** look to make noise

By Zach Colburn

Special to The Tribune/Ripple

HEAD COACH

Greg Lloyd

ASSISTANT COACHES

Dillon Reeves (Defensive Backs/ Defensive Coordinator); Ashton Simmons Quarterbacks/Offensive Coordinator); Kris Allen (Defensive Line/ Special Teams Coordinator); Ian Patterson (Offensive Line); Trey Dezern (Wide Receivers); Adrian Dezern Running Backs); Sawyer Davis (Inside Linebackers); Noah Tomlin (Outside Linebackers); Chris Brown (Offensive Line); Austin Laws (Defensive Line).

LAST SEASON

7-4 overall, 5-1 conference, second place in Northwest 1A Conference (lost in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A Playoffs)

KEY LOSSES

Graduation hit the Rams in the off-season, which included the departure of eight players who were either All-Northwest 1A Conference or honorable mention selections; many of those departures came on the offensive side of the ball.

Gone are the likes of Zack Dezern, who graduated as the program's fourth all-time leading rusher, Xavier King, Caden Abernathy, Zack Armstrong and Cole Longworth. Abernathy was an all-conference performer on both sides of the ball.

The tandem of Luke Kimmer and Ryan Kimmer also graduated, along with placekicker Alex Mora, who

recently signed to play for Greensboro College.

SEASON OUTLOOK

There's still plenty of talent on the Starmount sideline this upcoming season, headlined by all-conference performers A.J. Pardue and Mason Anthony.

Pardue returns as the team's leading running back from last season at 408 yards and four touchdowns on 60 carries. He also caught 13 passes for 195 yards and three touchdowns. Defensively as a linebacker, he

had 26.5 tackles, which included nine for a loss; Pardue also had a pair of fumble recoveries and a pair of sacks.

Anthony, who plays on both sides of the line, had 33.5 tackles (eight for a loss) to go along with a pair of sacks and a fumble recovery.

"A.J. was an all-conference player on defense for us last year. He is a physical player who sets the tone each Friday night with his play," said Lloyd. "Mason was an all-conference right guard for us and was a crucial role player for us on defense no matter where he played. He is very physical on both sides of the ball and plays with a great motor."

Also back are seniors Preston Williams and Ja'Don Hurt-Bailey.

Primarily seeing snaps late in contests to spell Dezern, Williams certainly made the most of his opportunities, rushing 49 times for 224 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Defensively, he finished with 20 tackles (three for a loss) and a pair of



STARMOUNT RAMS

sacks.

Hurt-Bailey caught a quartet of passes for 79 yards at wide receiver. But defensive back is where he did some of his best work last fall as he forced a trio of fumbles, recovered a pair of fumbles and four pass breakups. He also had a pair of interceptions, including one that sealed the win for the Rams over East Wilkes in the regular-season finale.

Another returnee of note for the Rams will be junior offensive lineman Jacob Mabry.

"Preston is a high energy player who impacts the game with hustle plays on both sides of the ball," said Lloyd. "Ja'Don has some speed that helps open up the passing game for our offense. Defensively, he is a ball hawk. He is always ripping at the ball, trying to force a fumble or breaking up passes in the secondary.

"Jacob has been a 3-year starter on our varsity offensive line at the center position. He brings physicality to our offensive line and manages the game well from the center position," added Lloyd. "We are looking forward to watching him grow as a player and a leader this year on and off the field."

This year's Rams will also feature a trio of transfers who Lloyd will call on to help fill the voids left by graduation.

Junior Colton Allen, who transferred from nearby North Surry, is slated to take over under center at quarterback, while fellow eleventh graders Kinston Crater and Luke Collins transferred from Reagan. Crater is listed at running back while Collins is listed as an athlete.

The Rams roster is comprised of as many seniors (nine) as they have

freshmen and sophomores, but Lloyd likes what he has seen so far. He also stated that the Rams will operate in a 3-4 on defense and the power spread on offense.

"We have a hard working group that is ready to put a good product on the field," said Lloyd. "Team will have good speed and size. Strength on offense will be quarterback and running back as well as a stout offensive line. Defensively, we will be led by our linebacker core."

BIG GAMES

Starmount's nonconference schedule will look different this season as it added former Mountain Valley 1A/2A Conference member North Wilkes, which it will travel to on Sept. 8 — its final nonconference tilt.

After their season opener at home against Trinity, the Rams will host North Iredell on Aug. 25. It will also dedicate their home field in honor of former head coach B.W. Holt that night.

The annual Unifi Bowl with Forbush will be on Sept. 1 in East Bend.

Starmount's Northwest 1A Conference will set up a little different as it will close out the season at home against Elkin for the Battle of the Bridge trophy.

The Rams will open up league play at home against Alleghany on Sept. 15. Then they'll hit the road for a trio of games, which begins on Sept. 22 at defending 1A state champions Mount Airy.

In between its game at North Stokes on Sept. 29 and East Wilkes on Oct. 13, Starmount will have its open week.

STARMOUNT SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 VS. TRINITY

FRIDAY, 8/25 VS. NORTH IREDELL

FRIDAY, 9/1 @ FORBUSH

FRIDAY, 9/8 @ NORTH WILKES

FRIDAY, 9/15 VS. ALLEGHANY*

FRIDAY, 9/22 @ MOUNT AIRY*

FRIDAY, 9/29 @ NORTH STOKES*

FRIDAY, 10/6 OPEN

FRIDAY, 10/13 @ EAST WILKES

FRIDAY, 10/20 VS. SOUTH STOKES*

FRIDAY, 10/27 VS. ELKIN*

*Conference

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• STARMOUNT ROSTER •

No.	Name	Height	Wt.	Pos.	Class	No.	Name	Height	Wt.	Pos.	Class
1.	Luke Collins	6'0	180	ATH	JR.	33.	Cole Freed	5'10	160	WR/OLB	SO.
3.	Jadon Hurt-Bailey	6'0	160	WR/QB/DB	SR.	40.	Jovany Maya	5'10	175	K	SR.
4.	Colton Allen	6'4	205	QB/DB	JR.	50.	Ethan York	5'10	270	OL/DL	JR.
5.	Kinston Crater	6'0	185	RB/DB	JR.	51.	Adrian Navarro	5'11	200	OL/DL	JR.
6.	LT Adams	5'9	150	WR/DB	JR.	54.	Logan Calhoun	6'0	230	OL/DL	JR.
7.	Jordan Cashion	5'11	205	RB/LB	JR.	55.	Landon Roberts	5'11	330	OL/DL	JR.
8.	Timothy Boles	5'11	160	WR/DB	SO.	56.	Mason Anthony	5'11	230	OL/LB	SR.
9.	Koby Patterson	5'10	140	WR/OLB	JR.	57.	Davion Williams	6'3	245	OL/DL	SO.
11.	KJ Allen	5'11	155	WR/DB	JR.	58.	Sailas Brown	5'11	270	OL/DL	FR.
15.	AJ Pardue	6'2	210	RB/OLB	SR.	60.	Hunter Johnson	6'0	190	OL/DL	JR.
16.	Jymir Billips	5'10	140	RB/DB	SO.	65.	Cooper Patterson	5'11	230	OL/DL	JR.
17.	Savion Billips	5'10	140	WR/OLB/DB	SO.	66.	Sam Shore	6'2	220	OL/DL	SO.
21.	Evan Shore	6'2	205	TE/OLB	JR.	69.	Dawson Hayes	5'11	265	OL/DL	SR.
22.	August Townsend	5'8	140	WR/DL	JR.	70.	Jacob Groce	6'3	220	OL/DL/P	JR.
23.	Corey Armstrong	6'1	230	TE/LB	SO.	71.	Jacob Mabry	6'3	245	OL/DL	JR.
24.	Preston Williams	6'0	185	RB/OLB	SR.	72.	Houston Stokes	6'2	195	OL/DL	SR.
25.	Cody Hernandez	5'11	200	RB/LB	FR.	74.	Trace Johnson	5'11	220	OL/DL	SR.
31.	Jordan Dobson	5'11	200	TE/LB	JR.	78.	Mario Harlee	6'5	255	OL/DL	JR.
32.	Deuce Best	5'11	160	WR/QB/DB	FR.	79.	Jonathan Argueta	5'11	315	OL/DL	SR.
						82.	Preston Poe	6'0	170	WR/DL	JR.

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SURRY CENTRAL GOLDEN EAGLES

SURRY CENTRAL *Eagles*

SCHEDULE

Kickoff at 7:30 unless otherwise noted

FRIDAY, 8/18 @ ALLEGHANY
 FRIDAY, 8/25 VS. EAST WILKES
 FRIDAY, 9/1 VS. MOUNT AIRY
 FRIDAY, 9/8 @ ELKIN
 FRIDAY, 9/15 @ NORTH WILKES*
 FRIDAY, 9/22 OPEN
 FRIDAY, 9/29 @ WEST WILKES*
 FRIDAY, 10/6 VS. NORTH SURRY*
 FRIDAY, 10/13 @ FORBUSH*
 FRIDAY, 10/20 VS. EAST SURRY*
 FRIDAY, 10/27 VS. WILKES CENTRAL*

*Conference



• SURRY CENTRAL ROSTER •

No.	Name	Grade	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
1	Brian Williams	Junior	5'8	158	AB/DB
3	Evan Wall	Senior	6'1	157	SE/DB
4	Kyle Inman	Senior	5'10	131	SE/DB
5	Lucas Johnson	Junior	6'0	206	AB/LB
6	Rhylee Anderson	Senior	5'11	172	SE/DB
7	Wyatt Lane	Junior	6'1	185	AB/LB
8	Jesse Jester	Junior	5'11	162	SE/LB
9	Ayden Wilmoth	Senior	6'1	172	AB/DB
11	Eli Scott	Senior	6'1	170	SE/LB
15	Landon Pack	Senior	5'11	142	SE/DB
16	Mason Jewell	Junior	5'11	142	QB/DB
17	Landon Easter	Junior	5'9	132	SE/DB
19	Saul Oakley	Sophomore	6'2	150	AB/LB
21	Edinson Gonzalez	Senior	5'6	130	K
22	Alex Huffman	Junior	5'9	190	SE/DB
24	John Arellano	Junior	5'9	167	AB/DB
30	Ty Lloyd	Sophomore	5'9	142	BB/DB
32	Allen Huffman	Junior	5'8	170	BB/DB
33	Sam Wood	Junior	5'9	140	AB/LB
42	Mason Cox	Senior	6'4	245	TE/DL
44	Logan Wright	Junior	5'10	149	BB/LB
45	Wyatt Wall	Junior	6'0	166	AB/LB
50	Dylan Mosley	Senior	6'4	191	OL/DL
51	Tyler Wilson	Senior	6'2	190	OL/DL
57	Landan Beverly	Senior	6'1	191	OL/DL
58	Peyton Galyean	Junior	5'8	205	OL/DL
60	Colby Cruise	Senior	6'0	200	OL/DL
67	Maddox Martin	Senior	6'7	244	OL/DL
70	Reid Danley	Senior	5'10	196	OL/DL
72	Houston Whitaker	Junior	6'1	192	OL/DL
73	Henry Godinez	Junior	5'7	196	OL/DL
75	Hunter Gilmore	Senior	5'11	201	OL/DL
79	Hagan Simpson	Junior	5'10	234	OL/DL
84	Tripp McMillen	Junior	6'5	196	SE/DB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

different reasons.

Central held a 28-14 lead with four minutes remaining in last year's season opener. Alleghany scored, recovered an onside kick, scored again then converted a 2-point conversion for the win.

"I told the guys that was on me. I misplayed it as the coach," Southern

said. "I think when that happened it put doubt in our mind. When we played North Wilkes and Wilkes Central, which finished second and third last year, we hung around, then late in the game it's almost like we got deflated.

"We've talked lot about it since then, and I think this team has grown a lot and will change with experience. When we have a bad break or make a bad play this year, we're going to have a much better response."

Southern added that consistency will be key for Central in nonconference play as they set the standard for the entire season.

The Eagles travel to Alleghany, host East Wilkes, host the defending 1A State Champions Mount Airy, then travel to Elkin in the nonconference portion of their schedule.

Reshuffling of the conference schedule left Surry Central with a gap in home games between Sept. 1 and

Oct. 6. Following the Elkin game, Surry Central opens conference play at North Wilkes, has a bye then travels to West Wilkes.

The Eagles play three of their final four regular season games at home. The team hosts North Surry in a county rivalry game, travels to Forbush, hosts the defending FH2A Conference Champions East Surry, then closes the regular season in Dobson against Wilkes Central.



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