

6-5A, DIV. I

# Heritage COYOTES

The Heritage football team has been known for success on offense. The Coyotes have averaged more than 26 points per game since 2019, including a staggering 37.3 in the 2021 season. Heritage showed a year ago that it was again an offensive juggernaut as it put up 26.6 points per game.

However, it wasn't just on offense where the Coyotes shined. Led by a relentless defensive line that put relentless pressure on opposing offenses, Heritage won six contests – its most in a single season since going 10-3 in 2014 – and made



## PLAYER to watch

**OBI UDOM**  
**DEFENSIVE END**  
 Udom enjoyed a breakout junior season in which he was named the 6-5A Division I defensive newcomer of the year. He was a force all season, registering 69 tackles with 17 for loss, seven sacks, nine quarterback pressures, three forced fumbles, two blocked kicks and a fumble recovery. Udom had a 10-tackle, two-sack performance against Sherman and he shined against district champion Reedy with 12 tackles, with three for loss, a sack and a forced fumble.

the playoffs. Depth could be an issue, said head coach Kenneth Gilchrist, so staying healthy will be crucial. But he has a lot of playmakers on defense ready to create havoc.

Senior Obi Udom, named the District 6-5A Division I newcomer of the year as a junior, had seven sacks with seven quarterback hurries and 69 tackles. Udom and junior nose guard Dominic Nolan provided a solid one-two punch up front. Nolan, like Udom, was a wrecking ball, recording 5.5 sacks with 38 tackles. Joining Udom and Nolan on the Coyotes' defensive line are seniors Ethan Ramirez and Brian Okekeuche.

Anchoring the Heritage secondary will be senior D'Andre Stephens. Stephens finished his junior season with 81 tackles and three interceptions, on his way to being named to the all-district first team. Senior middle linebacker Diego



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN GUNN

Gonzalez is a four-year varsity player.

Heritage received stellar quarterback play from Devan Calvin last year, but with him having graduated this year, those duties will now fall on Rock Hill transfer and dual-threat junior Jiyere Cogshell. Cogshell played in five games during the 2022 season for the Blue Hawks.

Sophomore Tatum Bell Jr. played every game as a freshman and he will

be joined at wide receiver by multi-sport standout Cameron Lomax and Vincent Hooper, both sophomores.

Heritage will be running back by committee. Sophomore 6-foot-2, 225-pound tailback Denzel Okekeuche is expected to play significant playing time. The Coyotes' offensive line is slated to be led by three-year starters and seniors Tyler Cisneros and Nathan Wilkinson.

## Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	W.T White	Ford Center at The Star	7 p.m.
Sept. 1	Independence	Ford Center at The Star	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Wakeland	Ford Center at The Star	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Liberty	Toyota Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	Centennial	Kuykendall Stadium	7 p.m.
*Sept. 29	Lebanon Trail	Ford Center at The Star	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Sherman	Bearcat Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Frisco	Kuykendall Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	BYE		
Oct. 27	Reedy	Toyota Stadium	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	Lone Star	Kuykendall Stadium	7 p.m.

\*Homecoming

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