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2025 PLGSKIN PREVIEW

CORBIN REDHOUNDS



Corbin is looking to take the next step after going 12-2 in 2024 while capturing another region title before falling to Paducah Tilghman, 31-14, in the Class 4A State Semis. |FILE PHOTO

Salmons’ Redhounds have sight set on district, region and state championships

SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2025

- Sat, Aug 23: Linton-Stockton (Linton, IN) (At Campbell Field, Corbin) - 8:30 PM (Cumberland Falls Pigskin Classic)
- Fri, Aug 29: North Laurel (Away) - 8:30 PM (Praxel Line Services Bowl)

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Fri, Sep 5: Bryan Station (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 12: Pulaski County (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 19: Frederick Douglass (At Campbell Field, Corbin) - 7:30 PM

OCTOBER 2025

- Fri, Oct 3: Johnson Central (At Campbell Field, Corbin) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 10: Harlan County (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 17: Whitley County (At Campbell Field, Corbin) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 24: Perry County Central (At Campbell Field, Corbin) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 31: Great Crossing (Away) - 7:30 PM

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

CORBIN — Just like year’s past, the Corbin football team is gearing up for the new season, and expectations have never been higher. Coach Luke Salmon’s squad is looking to take the next step after going 12-2 in 2024 while capturing another region title before falling to Paducah Tilghman, 31-14, in the Class 4A State Semis. “I love this team,”

Salmon’s said. “We will be replacing some key players from last year and the kids have done outstanding, working hard this off-season and summer. I love the mindset of this team, and our goal is to be playing for it (state championship) in December.” After the Redhounds heartbreaking loss to Paducah Tilghman, there’s a burning desire to take the next step and make a deep run in the

postseason. “Entering this season the players are very excited and hungry,” Salmon’s admitted. “Last year, we got beat in the semifinals and our players are ready to take the next step.” “On the offensive side of the ball, Corbin has significant strengths, returning seven starters, including a strong offensive line, two running backs, and a tight end. While they lost their quarterback, Kade Elam, to graduation, Mason Salmons, who showcased talent on defense last year, will step into the role. Cole Stevens is expected to shine as a 1,000-yard rusher, supported by Trey Person, while Eli Pietrowski returns as a four-year starter. Cam Estep, recognized as one of the best wide receivers in the state, is set to play a pivotal role in the team’s offensive scheme. On defense, the Redhounds are poised for success with six returning starters, including three defen-

sive linemen and three defensive backs. Malachi Brown stands out as one of

the team’s top defenders, while Max Farmer, Luke Hatfield, Myles Marlow, Cam Estep,

Lucas Brittian, and Trey Person—gained SEE CORBIN, PAGE B3

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LYNN CAMP WILDCATS



Coach Darrell Hendrix hopes another challenging schedule will provide the experience his team needs once November hits. |FILE PHOTO

Improved Wildcats looking to make some noise this fall

SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2025

- Fri, Aug 22: Jellico, TN (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Aug 29: Berea (Away) - 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Fri, Sep 5: Knott County Central (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 12: Thomas Walker (Ewing, VA) (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 19: Jackson County (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 26: Middlesboro (Away) - 7:30 PM

OCTOBER 2025

- Fri, Oct 10: Williamsburg (At Willia) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 17: Harlan (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 24: Pineville (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 31: Clay County (Away) - 7:30 PM

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

CORBIN — The 2025 season is going to be an interesting one for the Lynn Camp Wildcats. They return more athletes but aren't so big in numbers. "We definitely have

more speed and more athletes than we've had the couple seasons," Head Coach Darrell Hendrix said. "My biggest concern is our numbers. We only have 21 kids out right now. With low numbers a couple injuries could be a problem. Last season,

we started pretty good and in week five we lost our quarterback/linebacker to a broke foot, two linemen to concussions,, and two knee injuries to linebackers. We weren't the same the rest of the season." Hendrix hopes another challenging schedule will provide the experience his team needs once November hits. "Our schedule is pretty competitive for where we're at with this program," he said. "Our first five games can go either way, depending on how we play. And then we start our district schedule with Middlesboro and Williamsburg which are the toughest two teams. Last year, the Middlesboro game was

SEE CAMP, PAGE B9

CORBIN

Continued from page B2

experience last season, and should be even better this fall. The linebackers Silas Mahan, Kegan Stacy, and Malachi Zachary, and have their potential during the offseason, according to Salmons. Salmons also feels Corbin's special teams play will be importantly to the Redhounds' success. "Special teams are really important," he said. "Games are won and lost often on special teams and also momentum and games change on special teams." When it comes to his team's strengths, Salmons said the program's culture stands out. "We also return many players, and have kids that are ready to step up in 2025 — hard working players that love Corbin Football," he said. I have zero concerns. I think as we go, there is always concerns but the ability to adapt and find a way and work on things is the most

important." Salmons has put together another tough schedule that will have the Redhounds going up against some of the best teams in their respective classes. "We play a really tough schedule and that was the goal," he said. "Most of our teams are 6A and 5A schools. We know that the teams each week are going to be a challenge and we know that we have to prepare each week at a high level to be the best we can be. We want to get to the postseason where it has been a challenge and tough and get used to seeing the best we can." Salmons said Corbin's district remains competitive, and winning the district is an attainable goal. "Our goals are to win the district, then region, and then state," he said. "We feel that we can and that's why we are playing the schedule we are and preparing our kids for. We will not look the same as week number one as we look in postseason. It's a process and we will improve as we go."

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SOUTH LAUREL CARDINALS



South Laurel returns eight starters on offense and six starters on defense, and should be even better on both sides of the ball this season. | FILE PHOTO

Expectations are high for Hines' Cardinals

SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2025

- Sat, Aug 23: Somerset (Away) - 8:00 PM (Alton Blakely Bowl)
- Fri, Aug 29: Clay County (Home) - 8:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Fri, Sep 5: Knox Central (Away at Knox Ky Central) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 12: Whitley County (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 19: Wayne County (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 26: Harlan County (Home) - 7:30 PM

OCTOBER 2025

- Fri, Oct 3: Perry County Central (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 10: Pulaski County (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 17: Southwestern (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 24: North Laurel (Away) - 7:30 PM (First Priority Bowl)

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

LONDON — South Laurel coach John Hines knows what it takes to build a program into a district, region, and state contender — he accomplished all three feats at Pulaski County.

After one season at South Laurel that saw the Cardinals win six games, advance to the Class 5A playoffs while defeating cross-town rival North Laurel during regular season play, they have many folks believing Hines has his squad heading into the right direction.

“The expectations are higher than they’ve been, probably ever,” Hines said. “But that’s OK, we’re not gonna worry about something like that. We’re just trying to take each week as it comes, will be the best team we can be each Friday night.”

“The fact that the team is very hungry to be successful — It’s been the number one asset that we have discovered since we came aboard here,” he added. “The players are hungry to be successful in our willing to do whatever it takes to get there that makes for some very positive outcomes.”

South Laurel returns eight starters on offense and six starters on defense, and should be even better on both

sides of the ball this season.

“We return eight starters on the offensive side,” Hines said. “They’re led by quarterback Mason Griffin, senior, who was the fourth leading passer in the state last season in class 5A. Also, running back Wes Dowell, who is poised to have a tremendous season, and wide receivers Waylon Hensley, and Garrison Brown. New to the team is Carter Kelley, senior, wide receiver. He has shown some real explosive ability in preseason practice. On the offensive line, we return starters Jonathan Inman, Junior, Gunner Queen, Junior, and Tanner Hammons, Senior.

“We return six starters on defense,” he added. “Senior outside linebacker Liam Newton, and senior outside linebacker Tim Thompson, are big-time playmakers for us. Defensive ends, Bridger Ray, and Braxten Carroll, had really strong seasons last year. And in the secondary, cornerback Waylon Hensley tied for the state lead in interception last season in class 5A, is back at one corner, and Garrison Brown returns in the secondary as well. Bo Walters, senior, became a starter mid season last year and returns for his senior year.

“Special teams was a huge bonus for us last season,” Hines continued. “Our Kicker returns in junior Cullen Dalrymple. Cullin is a strong reliable extra point kicker and has become a strong field-goal threat. Jackson Hart is a tremendously talented young Kicker as well. Liam Newton is a very good punter, and will handle that duty most of the time. Garrison Brown can also pun, as can Caleb Roark, and Quinn Strunk. Bridger Ray and Elijah Roark will handle the long snap duties, and Maddox Warren and Mason Griffin will handle the holding duties for field goals. Ethan Leach is the kickoff specialist.”

Senior leadership is the Cardinals’ main strength entering the season, according to Hines.

“We have a very nice senior class, that have all played a lot of football in their career,” he said. “They have been strong to lead the way in everything that we do in the off-season, spring practice, speed training, summer workouts, etc. I’m proud of the example they’re setting.

“Our concerns, are our lack of size upfront, and our lack of depth,” Hines added. “We’re not a very big team. Our matchups upfront with the lineman will hardly ever be in our favor. Our depth, primarily will be our freshman group. We’re very excited about them, they show a lot of ability coming into our program.”

Hines confirmed another tough schedule awaits his Cardinals.

“The schedule is always tough at South Laurel,” he said. “We’ve only had two winning seasons in the last many, many years. Everybody on the

SEE SOUTH, PAGE B9

NORTH LAUREL JAGUARS



The Jaguars came away with some big wins last season, and look to make a run at their respective district's and regional's crowns. | FILE PHOTO

Jaguars return veteran squad that is setting sites on a deep postseason run

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

LONDON — It’s a new season, and second year coach Michael Nelson believes his North Laurel Jaguars are ready to take the next step.

The Jaguars came away with some big wins last season, and look to make a run at their respective district’s and regional’s crowns.

“The entire coaching staff has high expectations for this team,” Nelson said. “The players have not focused on those expectations at all and had a great summer. They had fun and I truly felt like they got better every single day. They know that we play in a tough district and they have to work hard every single day to get better. Nothing is guaranteed to us and we understand that, hard work and pushing each other every single day will help us fight back to the top of district.

“I believe this team is ready to take the next step,” he added. “They are very player led, and we have great seniors this season and they truly believe in themselves and the coaching staff. They are excited for the season and the level of competition we play. They have all the tools to be successful, but they have to push each other every single day.”

With 10 starters returning on offense and nine on defense, you can understand why Nelson is excited to see what North Laurel can do.

“Cooper Robinson is our senior running back returning and we expect him to have a huge season,” he said. “His speed has improved as well as his patience as a runner. Jude McWhorter is coming in as the quarterback and had an awesome offseason, he gained a lot of speed and size as well as his throwing mechanics improving. Cam Anderson is a name we expect to have a huge year at receiver as well as newcomer RJ Noble, and senior Colton Gilbert. The entire offensive line has made a huge improvement and gotten much stronger this season.

“Ryse Sutton is the first name

SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2025

- Fri, Aug 22: Perry County Central (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Aug 29: Corbin (Home) - 8:30 PM (Praxel Line Services Bowl)

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Fri, Sep 12: Madison Central (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 19: Lawrence County (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 26: Whitley County (Away) - 7:30 PM

OCTOBER 2025

- Fri, Oct 3: Collins (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 10: Southwestern (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 17: Pulaski County (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 24: South Laurel (Home) - 7:30 PM (First Priority Bowl)
- Fri, Oct 31: Wayne County (Home) - 7:30 PM

that stands out with his motor on the defensive line,” Nelson added. “Both safeties Jude McWhorter and Cooper Robinson are veterans in the secondary for us and phenomenal tacklers. LB Brody Pruitt and Bryson Nantz also return and have a year of experience under their belts as well as newcomer Caleb Roark at linebacker.

“Special teams can win or lose you football games,” he continued. “We return our kicker and punter Cam Anderson. He is a phenomenal kicker who will kick at the next level and we have all the faith in him to go make anything inside 50 yards. He works hard at his craft and we believe he is a solid weapon for us with his leg.”

The key to Nelson’s team’s success could come down to offensive and defensive line play.

“I believe the strength of our team is in the offensive and defensive lines this season,” he said. “I also believe we have a great senior group who want to be successful and are willing to work to achieve

SEE NORTH, PAGE B9

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WHITLEY COUNTY COLONELS



The Colonels return five starters on offense with the offensive line looking to improve from last season. | FILE PHOTO

Colonels are a work in progress, but possess lots of potential, too

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

WILLIAMSBURG — After posting a 5-6 mark last season while falling to Wayne County during first round action of the Class 4A playoffs, Matt Rhymer's Colonels are ready to surprise.

With running back Dee Parker returning along with his 1,975 rushing yards and 29 rushing touchdowns, many believe Whitley County has the talent to make some noise.

"Our goal will be to compete everyday and be disciplined with our process in order to achieve our goals and one of those is to win a district championship," Rhymer said. "We are getting better and have several new guys that will really help once we all learn how to compete as a team. Our focus is attitude, effort and being

great teammates."

The Colonels return five starters on offense with the offensive line looking to improve from last season.

"Our offensive line has to do a great job setting the tone on the line of scrimmage," Rhymer said. "We have a young quarterback in Eli Rose, who is going to be a tremendous player for us that we have to a great job protecting and allowing him time to develop and get his confidence where it should be. Dee Parker is one of the best returning backs in the state. Landon Rose and Christian Wilson are newcomers for us at wide receiver, and will play a huge part in our offense."

Defensively, Rhymer said four starters return along with a lot of other players that saw playing time last season.

"Julian Jones will be a key factor for us with a lot of experience upfront," he said. "Jace Meadors a newcomer will be a huge factor as well on the defensive line. We will have more depth upfront than we have had. We are skilled in the secondary

but need a lot of game experience with a host of newcomers. We will be playing several different players at LB and will have a lot of depth on those spots as well.

"We focus a lot on special teams," Rhymer added. "We will have ath-

SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2025

- Fri, Aug 22: Knox Central (Away at Knox Ky Central) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Aug 29: Hazard (Home) - 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Fri, Sep 5: Rockcastle County (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 12: South Laurel (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 19: Bell County (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 26: North Laurel (Home) - 7:30 PM

OCTOBER 2025

- Fri, Oct 10: Perry County Central (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 17: Corbin (At Campbell Field, Corbin) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 24: Harlan County (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 31: Madison Southern (Away) - 7:30 PM

letic guys in our kicker and punter spots this year so that will allow us to be creative in that area and hopefully create some positive plays for us and be efficient.

"We have really good kids who want to put on the Colonel uniform," he continued. "Our ability to run the football is a big factor for us, we have a solid line and good backs. Hopefully, this will allow us to create some balance and also get the ball in space to some of our athletes who also can make plays. Defensively we have several players who really want to play defense and take a lot of pride in their performance. We also have a lot of newcomers with great ability but they haven't played a ton of football. Early in the season I think we have to be able to overcome

adversity and keep getting better."

A tough schedule and district will prepare the Colonels for postseason play.

"We definitely have a tough schedule that will test us each week," Rhymer said. "There is no question our schedule can help prepare us for postseason. We are in a very respectful 4A district. Our goal is to play a home playoff game and finish in the top two somewhere. A district championship will always be the goal here.

"We are a work in progress," he added. "This group is fun to coach and has a great desire to compete and get better. I certainly think we have a lot of potential and the ability to compete every week. We have to stay steady and take it one week at a time."

IT'S FOOTBALL TIME IN WHITLEY COUNTY!

Best of luck to our coaching staff and Colonel Football team throughout the 2025 season.

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It's football season, and we wish our Colonel football team a successful and exciting season!

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Making Great Things Happen

WILLIAMSBURG YELLOW JACKETS



Williamsburg posted an 8-2 record in 2024 before falling to Hazard in second round action of the Class A playoffs. | FILE PHOTO

Yellow Jackets return eight starters on offense, and six starters on defense

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

WILLIAMSBURG — With a lot of talent returning from last season, Jerry Herron’s Williamsburg Yellow Jackets have all of the ingredients to make a deep postseason run in Class A.

Williamsburg posted an 8-2 record in 2024 before falling to Hazard in second round action of the Class A playoffs.

“We have several returning starters,” Herron said. “We have a young team that has some experience. We hope to improve weekly, so we can be competi-

tive in our district and region.

“We have young and enthusiastic team,” he added. “This team is developing and if they continue to improve they will put themselves in contention. We have some experience and team speed this year with a good mix of veterans and youth. We can be an exciting team if we continue to improve this season.”

Herron said he has eight starters returning on offense, and look for receivers Chase Meddles, and Peyton Hamilton, full back Eli Meadors, center Gabe

SCHEDULE
AUGUST 2025
- Fri, Aug 22: Leslie County (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Aug 29: Paris (Away) - 7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 2025
- Fri, Sep 5: Frankfort (At Williamsburg) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Sep 12: Sayre (At Sayre Athletic Complex) - 7:30 PM
OCTOBER 2025
- Fri, Oct 3: Pineville (At Williamsburg) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 10: Lynn Camp (At Williamsburg) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 17: Middlesboro (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 24: Harlan (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Fri, Oct 31: Knox Central (At Williamsburg)) - 7:30 PM

Prewitt, and tackle Toby Downs leading the way. Reece Hatcher looks to take over at the quarterback position and is expected to put up big

numbers after throwing for 454 yards and four touchdowns while completing 35-of-43 pass attempts last season. Williamsburg returns

six starters on defense which looks to be a strongpoint. Returning are defensive tackle Caleb Gray, linebackers Gary Tye, Chase Grubb, and Isaiah Sizemore, and defensive back Lane Jeffries.

Special teams play is also important to Herron. “Special teams always set the tone for the start of the game,” he said. “It’s key to be solid and have a high level of awareness and intensity.”

Herron said his Yellow Jackets will be tested once again with the schedule he has put together.

“We play some solid opponents early this year, especially on the road, including last year’s state champ,” he said. “Our district will be physical with some key games on the road. We hope to improve weekly so that we will have the opportunity to be competitive and reach the region playoffs.

“This is a young and extremely hard working team,” he added. “We have developing leadership and team speed. If we continue to improve this team has the opportunity to be competitive in the district and the playoffs.”

GOOD LUCK

Wishing all the teams and coaches a successful season!

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UNION COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

UNION FOOTBALL 2025 SCHEDULE



CUMBERLANDS
AUG. 28 | 7:30 P.M.



THOMAS
SEPT. 6 | 1:30 P.M.



S.C. CENTRAL CHRISTIAN
SEPT. 13 | 4:00 P.M.



FAULKNER
SEPT. 27 | 12:00 P.M.



***REINHARDT**
OCT. 4 | 1:00 P.M.



***POINT**
OCT. 11 | 12:00 P.M.



***RIO GRANDE**
OCT. 18 | 4:00 P.M.



***KY. CHRISTIAN**
OCT. 25 | 4:00 P.M.



***PIKEVILLE**
NOV. 1 | 3:00 P.M.



***BLUEFIELD**
NOV. 15 | 4:00 P.M.

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PLEASE NOTE THE SCHEDULE CHANGES BELOW

2025 Union football schedule announced; UCU opens by hosting Cumberlands in night game

BARBOURVILLE — The Union Commonwealth University football team has announced its 2025 football schedule.

The Bulldogs' first two games of the season will be played in the familiar confines of Williamson Stadium at Burch/Nau Field.

The Battle for the Brass Lantern will begin the 2025 campaign. The game will be played on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7:30 p.m., which is sure to provide an electric atmosphere for Union's season-opening home game under new head coach Boston Bryant.

UCU will follow that up with a home game against Thomas on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 1:30 p.m. Union will then host South Carolina Central Christian on Sept. 13 at 4

p.m.

Following a bye week, the Bulldogs will host Faulkner on Sept. 27 at noon in what will be UCU's final non-conference game of the regular season.

Conference play for Union will begin with a road game against Reinhardt on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 1 p.m. UCU will host Point on Oct. 11 at 12:00 p.m. before playing at Rio Grande on Oct. 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Senior Day for the Bulldogs will be on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 4:00 p.m. against Kentucky Christian. Following that, UCU will have two conference road games.

The Bulldogs will play at Pikeville on Nov. 1 beginning at 3:00 p.m. Following a bye week, Union will face Bluefield on Nov. 15 at 4:00

UNION FOOTBALL ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Union Commonwealth University football team has announced schedule changes to two football games for the upcoming season.

The Bulldogs' matchup against Thomas on Saturday, Sept. 6, was moved from a 7 p.m. kickoff to a 1:30 p.m. kickoff.

Additionally, the Saturday, Sept. 13 game, originally scheduled as an away contest, will now be played at home. The Bulldogs will host South Carolina Central Christian with kickoff set for 4 p.m.

p.m.

Union Commonwealth University is excited to host Homecoming on September 19-20, 2025 — a weekend that will mark a truly historic celebration as we welcome alumni back to campus and inaugurate our 20th presi-

dent, Dr. DJ Washington.

While this special date has been selected and widely planned around, the football game originally scheduled for that Saturday has been impacted by unforeseen circumstances. Unfortunately, two teams have had to with-

draw from competing on that date, and we are actively exploring all options to secure a new opponent.

Though the September 20 football game is not currently listed on our published schedule, we are still working to finalize a matchup and will share updates in the coming weeks.

Regardless of the outcome, Homecoming 2025 will be a weekend to remember. We're planning an incredible lineup of activities to honor the legacy and future of Union, and we can't wait to welcome our Bulldog alumni and friends home.

Stay tuned for more announcements — and mark your calendars for September 20!

—Courtesy Union Commonwealth University

GO TEAMS!

We hope everyone has a safe and successful season!

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Colonels capture Kentucky 2A, Section 7 championship



Led by Rizzo Cima's two goals, Whitley County handed the Redhounds a 3-1 loss while defeating Corbin for the first time since Oct. 2, 2010. | PHOTO BY JOHN CRISOLOGO

Defeat Corbin for first time since 2010

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

CORBIN — Whitley County snapped a 19-game losing skid to Corbin on Tuesday while capturing the Kentucky 2A, Section 7 championship.

Led by Rizzo Cima's two goals, Whitley County handed the Redhounds a 3-1 loss while defeating Corbin for the first time since Oct. 2, 2010.

Cima now has 20 goals on the season

while the Colonels improve to 4-1. The loss drops the Redhounds to 1-2.

Brody Moses also scored a goal for Whitley County while Hydro Cunnagin and Levi Huddleston both had an assist apiece.

"I feel like we started really strong," Whitley County coach Michael Branham said. "We played a little more defensively than usual to counter Corbin's possession. We countered

well and had some early chances.

"Rizzo Cima found the back of the net at the 25-minute mark of the first half," he added. "Rizzo scored again off a free kick from deep 10 minutes into the second half. About 12 minutes later, Brody Moses found the back of the net. We battled for a full 80 minutes and I couldn't be more proud of our guys for playing with so much heart and determination."



The Lady Yellow Jackets picked up a 3-1 win over McCreary Central on Tuesday. | PHOTO BY CARRIE MATTINGLY

Lady Yellow Jackets reel off three straight set wins en route to 3-1 victory

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

WILLIAMSBURG — Williamsburg suffered a 26-24 loss in the first set to McCreary Central before reeling off three consecutive set victories (25-23, 25-17, 25-20) to defeat the Lady Raiders on Tuesday, 3-1.

"We played another quality team tonight with McCreary Central," Williamsburg coach Dirk Berta said. "I love the way our team responded, especially after the first set. Tonight was a total team

effort; passing, serving, talking, defense and offense. All facets of the game together for us tonight. We will get back at practice tomorrow and work on a few things to get ready for another quality opponent in CHAT on Thursday. As always, Go Jackets."

MONDAY'S GAME

SOMERSET — Dirk Berta's Williamsburg Lady Yellow Jackets dropped their first match of the season, losing 25-21, 25-19, and 25-15 to Somerset Christian

on Monday.

"Somerset Christian is a good team and a quality opponent," Berta said. "Credit to them and their defense and attack offensively. We just need to get out of serve to receive and have better attacks. In order to reach our goals for this season, we will need to develop that ability and I have full confidence in this group and team that we will. We're excited for the opportunity to play another quality opponent tomorrow at home. As always, go Jackets."

Lady Redhounds advance to 2A, Section 7 title game

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

BARBOURVILLE — Emma Massengill scored four goals, leading Corbin to an 8-0 win over McCreary Central during Tuesday's Kentucky 2A, Section 7 semifinals.

Hadley Elmore, Chloe Hippert, Madalyn Niehaus and Madison Hippert each added a goal apiece in the win.

The win improves the Lady Redhounds to 2-2.

"It was a good win for us," Goins said. "Excited to advance to the championship. We played well tonight. We were a little slow getting started but our possession continued to look good."

"We worked on our passing patterns and ball movement more tonight and I think we are getting

it down," she added. "We looked really good as a team in the second half. I'm extremely proud of our team and our continued improvement."

MONDAY'S GAME

BARBOURVILLE — After being held scoreless for two games, Hannah Goins' Corbin Lady Redhounds struck for eight goals during their 8-0 win over Knox Central.

The eight-goal win advances Corbin (1-2) to the finals of the Kentucky 2A, Section 7 title game.

Emma Massengill scored four goals in the win while Chloe Hippert, Katie Skeene, Mary Simons and Sophie Cima each scored a goal

SEE ADVANCE, PAGE B9

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Hadley Elmore scored a goal for the Lady Redhounds during their win Tuesday night. |FILE PHOTO

ADVANCE

Continued from page B8

apiece. Simons also had two assists while Madalyn Niehaus and Cima finished with one assist apiece.

“We played really well tonight,” Goins said. “We were able to move the ball around and finally got some offense going. It was a good opportunity for us to work on some things. We finally started finding the back of the net, which is the main thing we’ve been working on so I was very pleased with our performance.

“We were able to rotate quite a bit and get some younger players some time and experience,” she added. “We played very well as a team and I’m looking forward to our continued improvement.”

CAMP

Continued from page B3

the game that we had a bunch of injuries. If we can get through those two game without having a bunch of injuries then we play Harlan and Pineville. I’m pretty sure this program hasn’t won a district game since 2019. That’s something the kids really wanna accomplish this season is winning the first district game in a long time.

“I really like my team,” Hendrix added. “The core group I have has really worked hard and are ready to take a big step in the right direction. This group has the best attitude and work ethic of any group I’ve had since I’ve been through head coach.”

SOUTH

Continued from page B4

schedule is good from our viewpoint. Our district is very strong, with Pulaski County, southwestern, and rival North Laurel, all in the Mountain top 10 preseason.

“Our district is very strong,” Hines added. Only four teams, but three of the four, as I said, are ranked in the preseason poles very high. We will probably be a big underdog in each of those games.

“Our goal will always be to achieve our potential as a team,” he continued. “There’s no way to know how many wins or losses that’s going to be, until they shake themselves out. We’re gonna attack it as hard as we can take one game at a time, and try to be the best we can be. We have three concrete goals, That will be our three main goals forevermore. Number one, win the city championship. We want to beat that school across town. That’s very important to us. Number two. Have a winning season. It’s always important to win more than you lose. Number three. Make the playoffs. If you can get hot at the right time, just getting into the playoffs be a huge deal.”

NORTH

Continued from page B4

that success. We are able to do many different things offensively and defensively we were unable to do last season because of the experience.

“Our biggest concern for our football team is depth,” Nelson added. “I believe this is a concern for all high school football teams, but if we are able to keep our guys healthy and focused, the sky is the limit for this group.”

Another tough slate will have the Jaguars prepared for run at their respective district crown.

“We play a very tough schedule this season, and this group didn’t want it any other way,” Nelson said. “They need to be prepared for playoffs as well as tough district play. They want to be the group to win North Laurel a region championship and the regular season will prepare us. They understand no game on our schedule can be taken lightly.

“We play in a very tough district with three other well coached football teams,” he added. “This group has the capability to win district or finish fourth. It is all about how they mentally prepare and play each game like it’s our last.

“This team can absolutely make a deep run this postseason,” Nelson continued. “That is up to us as a team in how we prepare and take care of our bodies this season. They can have a first round exit or they can make plenty of noise in the playoffs. I believe in this team more than anyone, but I understand high school boys will be boys. They cannot afford to be lazy and relax or we will have a disappointing season.”

Lady Colonels shut out Bell County in 3-0 win

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

BARBOURVILLE — Whitley County freshman Jerrica Shepherd scored three goals to lift the Lady Colonels past Bell County, 3-0.

The win advances Whitley County to the Kentucky 2A, Section 7 title game. The Lady Colonels will face off against Corbin.

MONDAY'S GAME

BARBOURVILLE — Whitley County claimed its spot in the Kentucky 2A, Section 7 title game with a 5-2 win over Harlan County on Monday.

The Lady Colonels will face off against Corbin in the finals.

Gabby Fore scored her team’s first goal with a stunning shot, expertly curled into the corner from 20 yards out.

Jerrica Shepherd showcased her speed, outpacing the backline to net two crucial goals with a Courtney Smith assist.

Callie McQueen calmly converted a penalty kick midway through the second half, bolstering Whitley’s lead.

Kierra Mullins battled through a swarm of defenders to muscle in a gritty goal, finding the back of the net with determination.

Denae Henderson had an assist



Raelynn Jackson and the Lady Colonels picked up wins over Bell County and Harlan County this week. |FILE PHOTO

and proved to be the game’s pivotal force, consistently breaching the defensive line and sparking several critical runs that propelled the Lady Colonels to a 5-2 victory.

“Kiera Cheek was very pivotal

in distributing the ball for the Lady Colonels,” Whitley County coach Nick Shearer said. “Defensively, Olivia Richardson stepped up and covered our defensive half very well and making those transitions from defense to offense.”

Corbin goes on the road to defeat Boyle County in straight sets

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

DANVILLE — Krystal Jones’ Corbin Lady Redhounds hit the road to begin the season, coming away with a three-set sweep of Boyle County.

The Lady Redhounds (1-0) picked up a slim 27-25 win in the first set before rolling to a 25-18 victory in the second set, and a 25-23 win in the third set.

“Tonight our Redhounds came away with a hard-fought victory on the road at Boyle County,” Jones said. “It was a close match from start to finish, and I’m so proud of the way our girls stayed composed

under pressure and found a way to finish strong.

“Games like this are great early tests for us,” she added. “Boyle made us earn every point, and that type of competition only makes us better. We had stretches of great execution and some moments where we’ll need to clean things up, but the fight and determination our team showed tonight says a lot about their character. Getting that first road win in a tight battle is something we can really build on moving forward. I’m excited to see how this group continues to grow as the season goes on. Go Hounds.”



The Lady Redhounds (1-0) picked up a slim 27-25 win in the first set before rolling to a 25-18 victory in the second set, and a 25-23 win in the third set. |FILE PHOTO

Lady Colonels overcome slow start, knock off Harlan County in three sets



The three-time defending regional champs started off slow but finished strong. |FILE PHOTO

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

HARLAN — David Halcomb’s Whitley County Lady Colonels

secured their season-opener by defeating Harlan County on the road, 25-23, 25-14, and 25-22.

The three-time defending

regional champs started off slow but finished strong.

“It’s a good win for our team on the road,” Halcomb said. “I consider Harlan County to be a top three team in our region and I thought they came out ready to play. We were on our heels the first set, but I was really proud of how we came back to pull it out. We had some really good moments where the girls fought together and we also learned what we need to work on.

“Hopefully, this will be a good lesson learned that we have to come out ready to play,” he added. “That falls on me and honestly, I’ll take the blame for us not starting quicker. We have to get better and I’m fully confident we will. This is a special team.”

Colonels cruise to 9-1 win over Harlan County

BY LES DIXON
For the Times-Tribune

CORBIN — Whitley County’s boys soccer team notched a berth into Tuesday’s Kentucky 2A, Section 7 title game with an easy 9-1 win over Harlan County.

The win improved the Colonels to 3-1 as Rizzo Cima scored five goals and finished

with two assists.

Brody Moses, Bryson Mahan and Landen Rose each had one goal and two assists while Rowen Walters scored a goal and Dylan Miracle finished with one assist.

“We started heavy on attack with a three-goal lead 10 minutes in,” Whitley County coach

Michael Branham said. “We gave up a goal on a counter and after that it took us a minute to regroup. By halftime, we had a 6-1 lead. We played much better in the second half and put Harlan county away 12 minutes into the half. Looking forward to tomorrow’s region championship game.”

UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS



UC has won five straight season openers and will work to keep that streak alive with the Battle for the Brass Lantern in Barboursville on Thursday August 28, at 7 p.m. |PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

Patriots release 2025 football schedule

WILLIAMSBURG — The Patriots football program looks forward to their 2025 campaign where Head Coach Shan Housekeeper has released their 10-game schedule, featuring three opponents ranked in the final NAIA Postseason Top-25 Poll last season.

“We are going to be challenged every Saturday,” said Coach Housekeeper. “For us to succeed we are going to have to come out focused and ready to execute every weekend.”

UC has won five straight season openers and will work to keep that streak alive with the Battle for the Brass Lantern in Barboursville on Thursday August 28, at 7 p.m. The Pats will take on the Bulldogs of Union Commonwealth where they will look for their seventh win in a row against their long-time rival’s top start the season off on the right note.

“There will be a lot of emotion and passion in this game, so we will have to do a good job of focusing on the main objective and working toward the end goal,” said Housekeeper on

the season opener with Union.

September begins with the home opener for Cumberland as they host Bluefield University on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. The Patriots look to fill James H. Taylor, II Stadium as they strive for their third straight win against the Rams. UC currently lead the all-time series 6-1, and took down BU 31-9 on the road last year to start the season.

After a bye in the third week of the season, the Pats will host the Seahawks of Keiser University who ended 2024 ranked second in the NAIA after dropping the NAIA National Championship game. Coach Housekeeper talked about the top-ranked matchup saying, “We have to be able to control the things we can control. It comes down to us executing that day at a very high level ... The tougher the competition the better our preparation and focus must be. It will be a fun opportunity to test ourselves.”

The Pats have played KU just one time in the history of the program, taking down the Seahawks in the first round of

the national tournament back in 2019. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in the Burg on the 20th of September.

UC will then go on a three-game road stretch, beginning with Warner University. The Pats will pack up and fly south where they will take on the Royals in Lakeland, Florida for the first time since 2017. This will be the furthest trip for Cumberland over the regular season.

“It will be a great experience for our guys, especially for those who may not have ever been on a plane ... But we will have to continue to be on point and realize that it is a business trip and there is a job to be done,” said Housekeeper about the trip to Warner. The game is being played at Lakeland Christian, kicking off at 3 p.m.

October will see the start of MSC play for the Patriots, beginning with a pair of tough road tests. UC will start the month against Campbellsville University on the 4th before traveling to Columbia, Kentucky to take on Lindsey Wilson the fol-

lowing Saturday. Cumberland has taken eight of the last nine contests from the Tigers but are looking for revenge after dropping the final game of last season to Campbellsville who finished the year ranked 21st in the NAIA. They will then look to take down the Blue Raiders in back-to-back seasons for the first time since the 2012-13 seasons.

“We have to be able to set the tone for conference play early, and it starts with these two games,” said Coach Housekeeper. “Our conference is one of the best and most competitive in the country. The programs in our league all do a great job and we have to rise to the occasion.”

The 18th of October features UC’s MSC home opener as they return to Williamsburg for the first time in almost a month. They will host Faulkner University at 1:30 p.m., competing for their third win against the Eagles in the last four seasons. Bethel University will make the trip up to Williamsburg the next weekend as the Patriots

celebrate homecoming. Coach Housekeeper is 3-0 all-time in homecoming games with the Pats and looks to take down the Wildcats for the first time in four years.

Coach Housekeeper is looking forward to this matchup saying, “It is always nice to get the chance to play in front of our former players and alumni here in Williamsburg.”

The first two Saturdays in November will conclude the regular season for the Patriots.

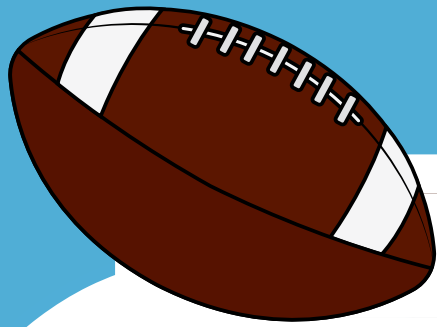
UC will take on the Cumberland University Phoenix on the 1st, looking for their first win in Lebanon, TN since 2019. They then set their sights on the Georgetown Tigers who will make the trip to Williamsburg for the Patriots’ Senior Day. UC will honor their senior class and plan to kickoff at 1:30 p.m.

“This is a great opportunity to honor those seniors that have meant so much to our program while also playing for a chance to keep the season alive.”

— Courtesy University of the Cumberland



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