



2025 North Carolina High School Athletic Association Football State Championship Notes

313

Playoff games so far

112

Years of NC HS Football

16

teams remaining

8

State Championships

8

Games on NFHS Network & Live TV

3

Championship Venues

CHAPEL HILL -- The North Carolina High School Athletic Association released the brackets for the 2025 Football Championships on Sunday, November 2, ahead of the First Round Games on Friday, Nov. 7. This year's State Championship Games will mark the 111th season in which North Carolina has crowned a high school football state champion, dating back to Raleigh's win in 1913 (no champion in 1918). The 2025 football playoffs are the first iteration of the current NCHSAA Football Playoff format as the Association now has eight classifications for the first time in its history.

The 2025 Championship Games will be held December 11-13 at Kenan Stadium on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Moretz Stadium on the Campus of Lenoir-Rhyne University and Durham County Memorial Stadium. The schedule for the weekend is listed below.

Thursday, Dec. 11 at Kenan Stadium on the campus of the University of North Carolina

4:00 p.m. – 1A Championship: Wilson Prep vs. Robbinsville

8:00 p.m. – 8A Championship: Millbrook vs. Hough

Friday, Dec. 12 at Kenan Stadium on the campus of the University of North Carolina

4:00 p.m. – 6A Championship: Middle Creek vs. Watauga

8:00 p.m. – 7A Championship: Clayton vs. Grimsley

Saturday, December 13

Moretz Stadium on the campus of Lenoir-Rhyne University

11:00 a.m. – 4A Championship: Reidsville vs. Brevard

5:00 p.m. – 2A Championship: Tarboro vs. Murphy

Durham County Memorial Stadium

2:00 p.m. – 3A Championship: Kinston vs. Shelby

8:00 p.m. -- 5A Championship: J.B. Hunt vs. Crest

Championship Venue History

UNC's Kenan Stadium is the most frequent host of NCHSAA Football Championship games having hosted 84 championship games since 1989. This year's games will make 88 total games (First in 1929). Durham County Memorial Stadium and Moretz Stadium at Lenoir-Rhyne are making their Football Championship Venue Debut this year. DCMS hsa hosted the Lacrosse Championships for the last several years. Carter-Finley has hosted 36 Championship Games. Wake Forest's BB&T Field (Groves) has held 25 Championship Games and Duke's Wallace Wade has played host nine times. In 1988, Groves Stadium hosted the 4A Championship, prior to that game, championships were played predominately at high school sites. From 1990-2001, all four classifications played their Championship Games at Kenan.

This Championship Media Guide contains information on each of the 16 Regional Championships and, when provided by the school, an expected depth chart for this week's Games.

Robbinsville Black Knights

1A West Champion

Location: Robbinsville (Population: 597)

Enrollment (2024 ADM) : 334

Conference: Smoky Mountain

2025 Record: 10-3 (5-1)

Home Record: 8-1

Away Record: 2-2

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 473

Points Allowed: 173

Current Streak: 5 Wins

Founded: Early 1900s

County: Graham

Principal: Dr. Erica Sawyer

Athletic Director: Lucas Ford

Head Coach: Lucas Ford

Mascot: Black Knights

Colors: Black and White

Distance from Kenan Stadium: 311 miles

Distance from Wilson Prep: 387 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	Tuscola	28 - 14 (W)
8/29/25 vs.	Franklin	7 - 28 (L)
9/5/25 at	Mountain Heritage	19 - 50 (L)
9/12/25 vs.	Mitchell	35 - 6 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	Hayesville	29 - 10 (W)
9/26/25 vs.	Andrews	56 - 0 (W)
10/3/25 vs.	Swain County	23 - 20 (W)
10/10/25 at	Murphy	10 - 17 (L)
10/17/25 at	Rosman	61 - 0 (W)
10/31/25 at	Cherokee	54 - 7 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Andrews	56 - 7 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	East Columbus	54 - 7 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	South Davidson	41 - 7 (W)

This is the first season under Lucas Ford after Coach Dee Walsh led the program for 17 seasons.

This will be the first time that Robbinsville and Wilson Prep have ever met on the gridiron. `

NCHSAA Championship Game History

17th Appearance (14-2)

1966 1A Region 4 - Robbinsville 34, Spruce Pine 7*

1969 1A - Robbinsville 14, Manteo 8

1970 1A - Robbinsville 28, Saratoga 6

1971 1A - Robersonville 30, Robbinsville 18

1973 1A - Robbinsville 50, Rosewood 0

1974 1A - Robbinsville 27, Manteo 0

1976 1A - Robbinsville 34, Princeton 6

1977 1A - Robbinsville 42, Rock Ridge 7

1979 1A - Robbinsville 46, Princeton 8

1980 1A - Robbinsville 40, Rosewood 0

1981 1A - Robbinsville 68, Belhaven Wilkinson 0

1982 1A - Robbinsville 21, Bath 6

1983 1A - Robbinsville 28, Creswell 6

1992 1A - Robbinsville 35, Lakewood 0

2014 1A - Robbinsville 21, Plymouth 18

2015 1A - Plymouth 28, Robbinsville 20

2019 1A - Robbinsville 45, Northampton County 14

2025 1A - Robbinsville vs. Wilson Prep

*No Statewide Champion

Assistant Coaches: Dale Farr (Co-DC), Cullin Buchanan (Co-DC), David Maldwin (OL), Randy Moody (DB), Josh Winfrey (D-Line), Jason Postell (WR), Phil Lucksavage (K), Shawn Lakey (DB), Colton McClung (OLB/RB), Travis Chastain, Payton McCracken, Wren Millsaps

Robbinsville Black Knights

1A West Champion

Defensive Starters

D-Line- Sr. Kellen Ensley-#54- Strong End (3 yr varsity)
Sr. Kasen Buchanan#55- Def end (3 yr varsity)
Sr. John Dominguez #74 NG (3 yr varsity)
Sr. Dane Daniels #76 Tackle (3 yr varsity)
Jr. Christian Koeller #33 Def End/Tackle (2 yr Varsity)
MLB- Sr. Isiac Collins #7 (3 yr varsity)
MLB- Sr. Ryelon Waldroup #42 (3 yr Varsity)
MLB- Jr. Luke Green #23 (2 yr Varsity)
OLB- Sr. Kyzik Teesateskie #5 (3 yr Varsity)
OLB- So. Benton Gibby #24 (2 yr Varsity)
OLB- So. Elijah Kirkland #12 (1 yr Varsity)
LB/DE- So. Braydon Lane- #20 (1 yr Varsity)

Corner- Sr. Luke Lovin- #3 (3 yr Varsity)

Corner- Jr. Tucker Jones- #2 (2 yr Varsity)

Corner- So. Eli Lambert- #21 (1 yr Varsity)

Corner- So. Cameron Allison #4 (2 yr Varsity)

Free Safety- So. Xamuel Wachacha #1 (2 yr Varsity)

Offensive Starters

Center-Sr. Bracey Wilson#50 (1 yr Varsity)
SG- Sr. Kasen Buchanan#55 (3 yr Varsity)
ST- Sr. Dane Daniels#76 (3 yr Varsity)
TE= Jr. Christian Koheller#33 (2 yr Varsity)
QG- Sr. Kellen Ensley#54 (3 yr Varsity)
QT- Sr. John Dominguez#74 (3 yr Varsity)
QB- SR. Luke Lovin#3 (3 yr Varsity)
HB-Sr. Kyzik Teesateskie #5 (3 yr Varsity)
FB- Sr. Isiac Collins #7 (3 yr Varsity)/So. Benton Gibby#24 (2 yr Varsity)
WR Flanker- Jr. Tucker Jones #2 (2 yr Varsity)
WR Split end- So. Cameron Allison#4 (2 yr Varsity)/
So. Eli Lambert#21 (1 yr varsity)

Offensive Backups

QB- So. Braylon Blevins #9 (1 yr Varsity)

FB- JR. Luke Green #23 (2 yr Varsity)

O-Line- So. Landon Rose #52 (1 yr Varsity)

WR- Jr. Pacey Cable #6 (2 yr Varsity)

RB- So. Elijah Kirkland #12 (1 yr Varsity)

Special Teams Starters

Kicker- Fr. Zander Lucksavage #15 (1 yr Varsity)
PAT Long Snapper- Sr. Ryelon Waldroup #42 (3 yr Varsity)
Punter- Sr. Isiac Collins #7 (3 yr Varsity)
Long snapper- Jr. Christian Koeller #33 (2 yr Varsity)
Kick Returners- So. Cameron Allison #4 (2 yr Varsity)/
So. Eli Lambert #21 (1 yr Varsity)/ So. Xamuel Wachacha- #1 (2 YR Varsity)

Players to Watch:

O-Line/D Line #3 Luke Lovin, #5 Kyzik teesateskie, #24 Benton Gibby, #54 Kelen Ensley, #7 Isiac Collins, #76 Dane Daniels, #21 Eli Lambert, #4 Cameron Allison, #1 Xamuel Wachacha

Coach Ford pointed to the game against Swain as the most galvanizing moment of the season.

“This team is full of great hard-working young men! They have been a joy to coach! Our team is still improving everyday and hopefully peaking at the right time! We are loving what we are doing and not ready for it to end! Has really been a very fun season with best staff, players and parents I could ask for as a first year Head Coach ”

Pronunciation Guide:

#5 Kyzik Teesateskie
ki-zik Tea-sa-tes-key

Wilson Prep Tigers

1A East Champion

Location: Wilson (Population: 47,851)

Enrollment (2024 ADM) : 191

Conference: Eastern Carolina

2025 Record: 8-5 (3-0)

Home Record: 2-3

Away Record: 5-2

Neutral Record: 1-0

Points Scored: 504

Points Allowed: 320

Current Streak: 7 Wins

Founded: Became K12 in 2018

County: Wilson

Principal: Darrell Johnson

Athletic Director: Daryl Woodard

Head Coach: Phil Dickens

Mascot: Tigers

Colors: Navy and Orange

Distance from Kenan Stadium: 75 miles

Distance from Robbinsville: 387 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 at	Clayton	12 - 52 (L)
8/29/25 at	West Craven	14 - 33 (L)
9/5/25 vs.	Greene Central	8 - 30 (L)
9/12/25 vs.	Northeastern	32 - 41 (L)
9/19/25 vs.	Farmville Central	38 - 21 (W)
9/26/25 vs.	SouthWest Edgecombe	26 - 33 (L)
10/3/25 at	Mount Zion C. Acad.	36 - 16 (W)
10/17/25 at	Washington County	46 - 6 (W)
10/24/25 vs.	Sallie B. Howard	64 - 10 (W)
10/30/25 at	North Edgecombe	70 - 0 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Southeast Collegiate	64 - 40 (W)
11/21/25 at	KIPP Pride	42 - 16 (W)
11/28/25 at	Northside - Pinetown	52 - 22 (W)

Phil Dickens has been the Tigers Head Coach in all four years the program has existed. He is 39-12 in those four years with a 25-2 conference record.

This will be the first time that Robbinsville and Wilson Prep have ever met on the gridiron.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

1st Appearance

2025 1A - Robbinsville vs. Wilson Prep

This is the third year in a row that the Tigers have made the playoffs. They fell in the first round in 2022, the fourth round in 2023 and the regional final in 2024, losing to eventual Champion Tarboro.

Assistant Coaches: James West, Anthony Edwards, Leon Parker, Ricky Stanley

Wilson Prep Tigers

1A East Champion

Defensive Starters

DT Reginald Holmes 3 yrs Varsity, All Conference,
DT Christopher Perry 3 yrs Varsity,
DE Zalek Cannady 1 yr Varsity All Conference,
DE Keenan Howard 1yr Varsity,
LB Ethan Nelson 4 yrs Varsity All Conference,
LB Travon Usher 4 yrs Varsity All Conference & Conference Player of the Year,
LB Tashawn Thorne 1 yr Varsity,
LB Shimar Williams 1 yr Varsity All Conference,
DB Jayden Johnson 1 yr Varsity, DB Nazir Vines 2 yrs Varsity All Conference,
DB Tyquan Whitaker 3 yrs Varsity All Conference.

Defensive Backups

DT Kameron Best 3 yrs Varsity,
DE Gabriel Reyes 1 yr Varsity,
LB David Acuna,
LB Jonathan Powell-Battle 2 yrs Varsity,
LB Brandon Bruno 2 yrs Varsity,
LB Malicah Perry 2 yrs Varsity,
LB Julius Kenely 3 yrs Varsity,
DB Tazion Barnes 1 yr Varsity,
DB Khalik Cover 1 yr Varsity,
DB Jeremiah Everette,
DB Manny Dickens 4 yrs Varsity and All Conference,

Offensive Starters

G Reginald Holmes 3 yrs Varsity, All Conference,
T Christopher Perry 3 yrs Varsity,
C Zalek Cannady 1 yr Varsity All Conference,
T Keenan Howard 1yr Varsity,
GKameron Best 3 yrs Varsity,
RB Ethan Nelson 4 yrs Varsity All Conference,
RB Travon Usher 4 yrs Varsity All Conference & Conference Player of the Year,
QB Manny Dickens 4 yrs Varsity All Conference,
WR Tyquan Whitaker 3 yrs Varsity All Conference,
RB Nazir Vines 4 yrs Varsity All Conference,
TE Brandon Bruno 3 yrs Varsity

Offensive Backups

OT Kameron Best 3 yrs Varsity,
G Malicah Perry 2 yrs Varsity,
G Julius Kenely 3 yrs Varsity,
T Gabriel Reyes 1 yr Varsity,
WR David Acuna,
WR Jeremiah Everette,
WR Tazion Barnes 1 yr Varsity,
TE Brandon Bruno 2 yrs Varsity,
TE Jonathan Powell-Battle 2 yrs Varsity,
RB Khalik Cover 1 yr Varsity,

Special Teams Starters

Isreal Taylor 2 yrs Varsity,
Ysreal Taylor 2 yrs Varsity,
Jeremiah Everette 1yr Varsity,
Tazion Barnes 1 yr Varsity,
Malicah Perry 3 yrs Varsity,
David Acuna-Reyes 1 yr Varsity,
WR Tyquan Whitaker 3 yrs Varsity All Conference,
Ethan Nelson 4yrs Varsity,
RB Nazir Vines 4 yrs Varsity All Conference,
TE Brandon Bruno 3 yrs Varsity,
Khalik Cover 1 yr Varsity,
Jaydin Johnson 1 yr Varsity,

Players to Watch:

Travon Usher, Ethan Nelson, Manny Dickens, Tyquan Whitaker, Nazir Vines, Zalek Cannady

Coach Dickens pointed to the game against Northeastern as the most galvanizing moment of the season.

“We scheduled one of the toughest schedules in the State to prepare us for the end. A lot of people counted us out but we knew the expected end. God got His glory and now we are here!”

Murphy Bulldogs

2A West Champion

Location: Murphy (Population: 1,608)
Enrollment (2024 ADM): 422
Conference: Smoky Mountain
2025 Record: 12-2 (6-0)
Home Record: 8-0
Away Record: 4-2
Neutral Record: 0-0
Points Scored: 529
Points Allowed: 191
Current Streak: 9 Wins

Founded: 1891
County: Cherokee
Principal: Wendy Leatherwood
Athletic Director: Joseph Watson
Head Coach: Joseph Watson
Mascot: Bulldogs
Colors: Black and Yellow
Distance from Moretz Stadium: 185 miles
Distance from Tarboro: 424 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 at	Franklin	29 - 16 (W)
8/29/25 at	Heard County	10 - 42 (L)
9/5/25 vs.	East Surry	42 - 6 (W)
9/12/25 at	A.C. Reynolds	14 - 34 (L)
9/26/25 at	Cherokee	35 - 0 (W)
10/3/25 vs.	Rosman	71 - 0 (W)
10/10/25 vs.	Robbinsville	17 - 10 (W)
10/17/25 at	Andrews	59 - 0 (W)
10/24/25 vs.	Hayesville	50 - 7 (W)
10/31/25 at	Swain County	28 - 0 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Albemarle	57 - 14 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	C. S. of Davidson	62 - 20 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	Corvian Community	49 - 40 (W)
12/5/25 vs.	Starmount	14-2 (W)

Joseph Watson is in his fifth year as the Head Coach of the Bulldogs and he has a career record of 51-17 (21-5 in conference) He was an assistant coach in the 2017 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas. He is a graduate of Murphy.

This will be the first time that Murphy and Tarboro have ever met on the gridiron.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

13th Appearance (9-3)

1961 2A Region 3 - Appalachian 20, Murphy 13*
 1962 2A Region 3 - Appalachian 39, Murphy 7*
1970 2A West - Murphy 20, Bandys 8*
1974 2A - Murphy 32, Robersonville 22
1986 1A - Murphy 27, Tabor City 3
1987 1A - Murphy 56, Columbia 15
1991 1A - Murphy 30, Rosewood 3
 1994 1A - North Edgecombe 7, Murphy 6
1996 1A - Murphy 13, North Edgecombe 0
 2010 1A - Wallace-Rose Hill 22, Murphy 21
2011 1A - Murphy 21, Jones Senior 6
 2012 1A - Plymouth 20, Murphy 15
2013 1A - Murphy 35, Plymouth 34
2016 1A - Murphy 15, Plymouth 14
2018 1A - Murphy 60, Pamlico 27
20-21 1A - Murphy 14, Northside-Pinetown 14
2025 2A - Murphy vs. Tarboro

*No Statewide Champion

Assistant Coaches: Heath Curtis (DC), Michael Kernea, Erik Laney, Tyler Edwards, Erik Brinke, Josh Farmer, Gary Thompson, Wayne Watson, Mike Catuto, Joey Curry

Murphy Bulldogs

2A West Champion

Defensive Starters

Ryan Payne, DB, SR, 2x All Conference, 2x All WNC, 3 yr V
Anthony Catuto, LB, SO, 1 yr V
Dalton Farmer, LB, SR, All Conference, 3 yr V
Grayson Hall, DB, JR
Aayden Williams, DB, JR
Dontae Barber, DB, SO
Landen Lape, DL, SR, All SMC
Brody Orton, LB, SR, All SMC
Janthony Gooden, DL, SR, All SMC
Jude Pinkerton, DL, JR, All SMC
Camden Breazeale, DE, JR, 2x All SMC, 2x All WNC

Defensive Backups

Blake Davis, LB, SO
Brody McFaddin, LB, SR
Michael Brown, DB, JR

Offensive Starters

Cameron Clem, RB, JR, SMC Back of the year,
3 year varsity
Brady Grant, QB, SR, All SMC
Michael Brown, RB, JR
Blake Davis, RB, SO
Ryan Payne, WR, SR, All SMC
Anthony Catuto, TE, SO
Grayson Hall, WR, JR
Brody McFaddin, FB, SR
Landen Lape, OL, SR, All SMC
Brody Orton, OL, SR, All SMC
Janthony Gooden, OL, SR, All SMC

Braden Gaither, OL, SR All SMC

Elijah Kerley, OL SR, first year starter

Offensive Backups

Sheldon Owens, OL, JR
Jude Pinkerton, OL, JR

Special Teams Starters

Dalton Farmer, P, SR, All SMC
Jerry Bui, K, SR, All SMC
Ryan Payne, LS, SR
Grayson Hall, Holder, JR
Ryan Payne, Punt Returner, SR
Blake Davis, KR, SO

Players to Watch:

Brody Orton, #55, OL & LB,
Janthony Gooden, 71, OL/DL,
Cameron Clem, 5, RB,
Ryan Payne, 3, WR/DB

“A big part of our success this year has been our guys completely buying into their roles. Nobody’s worried about touches or stat lines, they’re locked in on doing their job and doing it well. It’s a selfless group, and as long as that scoreboard shows a ‘W’ at the end of the night, that’s all they care about. Our Senior QB threw one pass in our 3rd round win vs Davidson, and when asked about the game he just said “as long as we win, who cares.”

Tarboro Vikings

2A East Champion

Location: Tarboro (Population: 10,684)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 520

Conference: Eastern Plains

2025 Record: 14-0 (5-0)

Home Record: 8-0

Away Record: 6-0

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 594

Points Allowed: 124

Current Streak: 24 Wins

Founded: 1881

County: Edgecombe

Principal: Terry Hopkins

Athletic Director: Reginald Bass

Head Coach: Jeff Craddock

Mascot: Vikings

Colors: Purple and Gold

Distance from Moretz Stadium: 246 miles

Distance from Murphy: 424 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 at	Rocky Mount	20 - 16 (W)
8/28/25 vs.	Hunt	34 - 17 (W)
9/5/25 at	Havelock	35 - 7 (W)
9/12/25 at	SouthWest Edgecombe	14 - 0 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	Northampton County	49 - 0 (W)
10/3/25 at	Greene Central	56 - 16 (W)
10/10/25 vs.	Farmville Central	55 - 14 (W)
10/17/25 vs.	Beddingfield	55 - 0 (W)
10/24/25 at	Ayden - Grifton	41 - 0 (W)
10/31/25 at	Kinston	42 - 35 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Camden County	52 - 0 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	Hobbs	47 - 12 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	East Bladen	54 - 7 (W)
12/4/25 vs.	Warren County	40-0 (W)

This is Coach Jeff Craddock's 22nd season at the helm of the Vikings and his 14th appearance in the State Championship Game. He has a career record of 261-47, giving him the sixth most wins at a single school in NCHSAA Football history.

This will be the first time that Tarboro and Murphy have met on the gridiron.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

17th Appearance (10-6)

1966 3A Region 1 - Tarboro 13, Greenville 7

1984 3A - Tarboro 20, A.L. Brown 0

1998 2A - Shelby 34, Tarboro 14

2008 2A - Newton-Conover 51, Tarboro 28

2009 2A - Tarboro 28, Mountain Heritage 3

2010 2A - Tarboro 21, Carver 13

2011 2A - Tarboro 39, Lincolnton 36

2012 2A - East Lincoln 24, Tarboro 20

2017 1AA - Tarboro 32, Mount Airy 7

2018 1AA - Tarboro 50, East Surry 10

2019 1AA - East Surry 56, Tarboro 28

20-21 1AA - Tarboro 25, East Surry 7

2021 1A - Tarboro 28, Mitchell 7

2022 1A - Mount Airy 20, Tarboro 7

2023 1A - Mount Airy 21, Tarboro 3

2024 1A - Tarboro 45, Corvian Community 24

2025 2A - Tarboro vs. Murphy

Assistant Coaches: Andrew Harding, Ricky Babb, Steve Burnette, Eric Duff, Don Reams, Eric Jones, Adrian Brown, Sean Howard, Melvin Ward, Irvin Glass, Billy Boddie

Tarboro Vikings

2A East Champion

Defensive Starters

DE: Tyler Powell (Sr.), 3 Years, 2025 Defensive Player of the Year in the Eastern Plains, Shrine Bowl
DE: Josiah Dickens (Sr.) 3 Years, 2025 1st All Conference
DT: Jer'Mil Warren (Sr.) 2 Years, 2025 2nd Team All Conference
DT: Donovan Willis (Sr) 3 Years, 2025 1st All Conference East/West All Star Game, Greatest American Rivalry Scholar Athlete
OLB: Jhalen Pharr-McNair (Sr) 2 years, 1st Team All Conference Athlete
OLB: Keivious Bridgers (Sr) 3 Years, 1st Team All Conference
MLB: Carmello Bullock (Jr) 1 Year, 2nd Team All Conference
MLB: Antonio Draughn Jr (Jr) 1 Year,
C: Jaden Jenkins (Sr) 3 Years, 2nd Team All Conference DB
S: Kip Biggs Jr (Sr) 2 Years, 1st Team All Conference DB
C: Caiden Everette (Sr) 3 Years, 1st Team All Conference RB

Offensive Starters

QB: Tyler Powell (Sr) 3 Years, 2025 Defensive Player of the Year in the Eastern Plains Conference, Shrine Bowl
RB: Kamerin McDowell-Moore (Sr) 4 Years, 2024 1A State Championship MVP, Shrine Bowl, 2025 Eastern Plains Conference Player of the Year, Elon Commit
RB: Caiden Everette (Sr) 3 Years, 1st Team All Conference
FB: Antonio Draughn Jr (Jr) 1 Year
TE: Keivious Bridgers (Sr) 3 Years, 1st Team All Conference
TE: Josiah Dickens (Sr.) 3 Years, 2025 1st All Conference
T: Emmanuel DeBerry (Jr) 2 Years
T: Michael Edwards (Sr) 2 Years, 2nd Team All Conference
G: Jer'Mil Warren (Sr.) 2 Years, 2025 2nd Team All Conference
G: Donovan Willis (Sr) 3 Years, 2025 1st All Conference DT, East/

Special Teams Starters

Punter: Landon Browning (Sr) 2 Years
Kicker: Angel Gaytan-Medina (So) 1 Year
Snappers: Kip Biggs Jr (Sr) 2 Years, 1st Team All Conference DB and Camden Matthews (Sr) 2 Years
Returners: Kamerin McDowell-Moore (Sr) 4 Years, Jhalen Pharr-McNair (Sr) 2 years

Special Teams Backups:

Punter: Antonio Draughn Jr (Jr) 1 Year
Kicker: Kamerin McDowell-Moore (Sr) 4 Years
Returners: Caiden Everette (Sr) 3 Years

Pronunciation Guide:

Kamerin (Cameron)
Keivious (Key-Ve-Us)
Amarion (Ah-Mar-e-on)

Kemorierion (Key-Moore-E-on)
Deberry (Dee-Berry)
Jahvon (Jay-Von)
Reign (Rain)

Defensive Backups

DE: Zakari Pettaway (So) 1 Year
DT: Emmanuel DeBerry (Jr) 2 Years
OLB: Landon Browning (Sr) 2 Years
MLB: Amarion Andrews (Jr) 1 Year
LB: Kamerin McDowell-Moore (Sr) 4 Years
DB: Reggie Bess II (Jr) 1 Year
DB: RJ Fiddemon Jr (Sr) 2 Years
DB: Jahvon May (Jr) 1 Year

West All Star Game, Greatest American Rivalry Scholar Athlete
C: DeMarcus Bodrick (Sr) 2 Years, 2025 1st All Conference
Braden Gaither, OL, SR All SMC
Elijah Kerley, OL SR, first year starter

Offensive Backups

QB: Reggie Bess II (Jr) 1 Year
RB: Jhalen Pharr-McNair (Sr) 2 years, 1st Team All Conference
FB: Carmello Bullock (Jr) 1 Year, 2nd Team All Conference
TE: Jaden Jenkins (Sr) 3 Years, 2nd Team All Conference
TE: Zakari Pettaway (So) 1 Year
OL: Taylen Dickens (So) 1 Year

Players to watch: Kamerin McDowell-Moore; Tyler Powell; Jhalen Pharr-McNair; Caiden Everette; Donovan Willis, Kip Biggs Jr

Win against Kinston proved to be a galvanizing moment for the team.

Keys to success: Establish the run game, Read Keys and Play Fundamental Defense, Get Purple Hats to the Ball

Shelby Golden Lions

3A West Champion

Location: Shelby (Population: 21,868)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 792

Conference: Southern Piedmont

2025 Record: 12-3 (7-1)

Home Record: 5-1

Away Record: 7-2

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 717

Points Allowed: 290

Current Streak: 8 Wins

Founded: 1877

County: Cleveland

Principal: Eli Wortman

Athletic Director: Mike Wilbanks

Head Coach: Mike Wilbanks

Mascot: Golden Lions

Colors: Black and Gold

Distance from Durham County Memorial

Stadium: 184 miles

Distance from Kinston: 283 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 at	Kings Mountain	14 - 30 (L)
8/29/25 vs.	Crest	24 - 31 (L)
9/5/25 at	Highland Tech	90 - 0 (W)
9/12/25 at	West Lincoln	49 - 14 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	Cherryville	62 - 0 (W)
9/26/25 vs.	Stuart W. Cramer	50 - 29 (W)
10/10/25 at	Lincolnton	34 - 35 (L)
10/17/25 at	East Gaston	42 - 6 (W)
10/24/25 vs.	Bessemer City	67 - 0 (W)
10/31/25 vs.	Burns	36 - 35 (W)
11/7/25 vs.	McMichael	70 - 14 (W)
11/14/25 at	East Rutherford	65 - 34 (W)
11/21/25 at	Mount Airy	41 - 21 (W)
11/28/25 at	Eastern Randolph	43 - 41 (W)
12/5/25 at	Lincolnton	30 - 0 (W)

Mike Wilbanks is in his seventh year as the Head Coach at Shelby and he has an overall record of 76-20 (41-3 in conference). He won both the 2019 2AA and 2021 2A Championships with the Golden Lions.

Shelby and Kinston have met once before in football, 10 years ago in the State Championship. Shelby won the 2015 matchup 57-21 at NC State.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

18th Appearance (12-5)

1924 Open - Rockingham 7, Shelby 0

1986 3A - Shelby 9, Havelock 6

1987 3A - Shelby 19, Williams 0

1988 3A - Cummings 41, Shelby 14

1997 2A - Clinton 30, Shelby 14

1998 2A - Shelby 34, Tarboro 14

2004 2A - Southwest Onslow 49, Shelby 21

2005 2AA - Shelby 26, Reidsville 18

2006 2AA - Shelby 27, Southern Vance 24

2007 2AA - Reidsville 28, Shelby 20

2013 2A - Shelby 29, Southwest Onslow 7

2014 2A - Shelby 31, Clinton 7

2015 2A - Shelby 57, Kinston 21

2016 2AA - Shelby 28, Northside-Jacksonville 6

2018 2AA - Shelby 42, North Davidson 21

2019 2AA - Shelby 34, Salisbury 0

2021 2A - Shelby 55, Wallace-Rose Hill 34

2025 3A - Shelby vs. Kinston

Shelby also reached the WNCHSAA championship 9 times between 1947-1976 going 4-3-2 in those games.

Assistant Coaches: Chris Emery, Ray Barkley, Jamie Dunaway, Damon Scott, Dobson Collins, Aubrey Holifield, Sam Baldree, Van Eskridge, Dorian Davis

Shelby Golden Lions

3A West Champion

Defensive Starters

DE Tyson Williams, 2 years
DT Malachi Hopper, 3 years
DT Crishun Harris, 3 years
DE Noah Gartner, 3 years
LB Landon Hollifield, 3 years
LB Grady Nodine, 3 years
LB Julius Brooks, 3 years
CB Cahari Corry, 3 years
CB Jayden Williams, 4 years
FS Derrick Kee, 4 years
SS Kendrick Raper, 3 years

Defensive Backups

DE AJ Whisnant, 3 years
DT Tee Hollifield, 2 years
LB Dominique Woody, 4 years
SS Calvin Ramseur, 4 years
CB Keyaaron Thurman, 2 years

Offensive Starters

QB Lan Farmer, 4 years
RB Jonas Woods, 1 year
WR Immanuel Collins, 3 years
WR Calvin Ramseur, 4 years
WR Lorenzo Roseboro, 2 years
WR Kendrick Raper, 3 years
LT Tee Hollifield, 2 years
LG Malachi Guest, 4 years
C Brett Morgan, 4 years
RG AJ Whisnant, 3 years
RT Crishun Harris, 3 years

Offensive Backups

QB Kendrick Raper 3 years
RB Julius Brooks, 3 years
OL Jaquell Joyner, 2 years
WR Cole Wakefield, 4 years

Special Teams Starters

K Matt Grenier, 2 years
P Tee Hollifield, 2 years
LS Brett Morgan, 4 years
Holder Immanuel Collins, 3 years

Special Teams Backups:

K Preston Ashe, 1 year
P Tylar Camp, 2 years
LS Boone Wease 4 years
Holder Keyaaron Thurman, 2 years

Players to watch: QB Lan Farmer, RB Jonas Woods, WR Immanuel Collins, WR Kendrick Raper, LB Landon Hollifield, DE Noah Gartner, DB Derrick Kee

Win against Burns, with a last-second blocked field goal to win proved to be a galvanizing moment for the team.

“Great senior leadership that led our team through a hard working offseason. Those senior leaders also held our team together during an 0-2 start to the season where we lost to two of our county rivals.”

Pronunciation Guide:

Grenier is pronounced GRIN yay
Nodine is pronounced NO din
(long I)

Hollifield is pronounce hall i field

Crishun is pronounced CHRI shun

Kinston Vikings

3A East Champion

Location: Kinston (Population: 19,700)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 659

Conference: Eastern Plains

2025 Record: 11-4 (3-2)

Home Record: 4-2

Away Record: 7-2

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 555

Points Allowed: 307

Current Streak: 5 Wins

Founded: Current Campus - 1979

County: Lenior

Principal: Kellan Bryant

Athletic Director: Jackson Fink

Head Coach: Ryan Gieselman

Mascot: Vikings

Colors: Green and Gold

Distance from Durham County Memorial

Stadium: 110 miles

Distance from Shelby: 283 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 at	South Central	21-19 (L)
8/29/25 vs.	Wallace-Rose Hill	26-24 (W)
9/5/25 at	North Lenior	42-7 (W)
9/12/25 vs.	White Oak	32-36 (L)
9/19/25 vs.	South Lenior	59-6 (W)
10/3/25 at	Ayden-Grifton	33-21 (L)
10/10/25 at	Greene Central	32-21 (W)
10/17/25 at	Farmville Central	55-32 (W)
10/24/25 vs.	Beddingfield	61-8 (W)
10/31/25 vs.	Tarboro	42-35 (L)
11/7/25 vs.	North Moore	53-7 (W)
11/14/25 at	Midway	34-13 (W)
11/21/25 at	Pasquotank County	34-20 (W)
11/28/25 at	Northeastern	28-24 (W)
12/4/25 at	James Kenan	30-7 (W)

NCHSAA Championship Game History

4th Appearance (1-2)

1955 2A - Kinston 12, Hendersonville 7

2011 2AA - West Stokes 21, Kinston 14

2015 2A - Shelby 57, Kinston 21

2025 3A - Kinston vs. Shelby

Assistant Coaches: Corey Bryant, Tyler Buie, Carson Shepherd, Reginald Clark, Winston Thorpe, Terrance Copper, Kacieon Williams, Jacell Jacobs

Coach Ryan Gieselman is in his 13th season as the Head Coach of the Vikings. He has a career record of 106-56 (48-25). He also led the Vikings to the 2015 2A Championship Game where they fell to Shelby.

This will be the second time that Shelby and Kinston have ever met on the gridiron. `

Kinston Vikings

3A East Champion

Defensive Starters

DL- Mishaun Pollard,
Josh Speight,
Isiah Newton
LB- Davieon Jones,
Christian Ham,
Norrice Bell,
Jahmerie Brown
DB-Exzavion Croom,
Jemorris Poole,
Riyan Parks,
Justin Gooding

Defensive Backups

Offensive Starters

QB- Tyler Jones
RB- Genesis Wiggins
WR- Tyreek Copper,
Pap Brown,
Reggie McNeil,
Brennan Chambers
OL- Jaylin Kinsey,
Nick McKenny,
Mishaun Butler,
Javon Banks,
Eddie Thompson

Offensive Backups

Special Teams Starters

Kicker- Johnny Shultis
PR-Tyreek Copper,
KR- ExZavion Croom, Jemorris Poole

Keys to Success: Overcoming adversity all year and staying the course on the mission.

“Season of highs and lows. Battle tested and ready to go. We have stayed the course together.”

Players to watch: Tyler Jones, Genesis Wiggins, Tyreek Copper, Brennan Chambers, Pap Brown, Christain Ham, Justin Gooding, Riyan Parks, Exzavion Croom, Jemorris Poole

Win against Greene Central proved to be a galvanizing moment for the team.

Brevard Blue Devils

4A West Champion

Location: Brevard (Population: 7,744)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 798

Conference: Mountain Eight

2025 Record: 14-0

Home Record: 9-0

Away Record: 5-0

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 558

Points Allowed: 242

Current Streak: 14 Wins

Founded: 1895

County: Transylvania

Principal: David Galloway

Athletic Director: Joshua Galloway

Head Coach: Luke Coleman

Mascot: Blue Devils

Colors: Blue and White

Distance from Moretz Stadium: 111 miles

Distance from Reidsville: 225 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	A.C. Reynolds	31 - 7 (W)
9/5/25 at	Erwin	37 - 14 (W)
9/12/25 vs.	North Buncombe	41 - 14 (W)
9/18/25 at	Franklin	34 - 28 (W)
9/26/25 vs.	North Henderson	52 - 18 (W)
10/3/25 vs.	Smoky Mountain	54 - 12 (W)
10/10/25 at	East Henderson	46 - 7 (W)
10/17/25 at	West Henderson	41 - 27 (W)
10/24/25 at	Tuscola	36 - 3 (W)
10/31/25 vs.	Pisgah	36 - 30 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	West Stokes	41 - 14 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	Burns	30 - 27 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	Pisgah	49 - 28 (W)
12/5/25 vs.	Maiden	30 - 13 (W)

Luke Coleman is in his fourth season at Brevard and has an overall record of 40-12 (22-2 in conference)

Reidsville and Brevard have met seven times before dating back to 1960. Brevard won the first matchup and the two schools played to a 0-0 tie in 1963. Reidsville has won the last five matchups, most recently on Nov. 17 2023. The Rams won that third round playoff game 41-20.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

3rd Appearance (2-0)

1960 3A - Brevard 26, Rockingham 0

1961 3A Region 2 - Canton 20, Brevard 0*

1962 3A Region 2 - Brevard 19, Greensboro Bessemer 13*

1963 3A Region 2 - Brevard 0, Reidsville 0 - TIE*

1982 3A - Brevard 15, Bertie 7

2015 4A - Brevard vs. Reidsville

*No Statewide Champion

Assistant Coaches: Offensive staff- Troy Kessinger, Shayne Worley, Chase McIntyre, Manny Deshautuers
Defensive staff- BJ Owens, Caleb Pearson, Mark Ellenberger, Devon Holmes

Brevard Blue Devils

4A West Champion

Defensive Starters

DE- Toby McCracken, 2 years on varsity
DT- Peyton Owen, 3 years on varsity
NG- Chandler Niven, 3 years on varsity
DE- Brayden Crain, 2 years on varsity
LB- Karter Macfie, 3 years on varsity
LB- Kellan Rogers, 3 years on varsity
LB- Jax Whitmire, 3 years on varsity
CB- Tristan Thompson-Wynn, 3 years on varsity, All conference DB last season
CB- Akai Agyapon, 2 years on varsity
S- Aiden Cantrell, 2 years on varsity
S- Christian Conley, 3 years on varsity

Defensive Backups

DL- William "Willie" Baron- 2 years on varsity
DE/LB- Simon Robinson- 1 year on varsity
CB- Braylon Thompson- 3 years on varsity
CB- Ty Griffin- 1 year on varsity

Offensive Starters

LT- Peyton Owen, 3 years on varsity
LG- Garan Littleton, 2 years on varsity
C- Daniel Field, 3 years on varsity
RG- Isaac Rice, 3 years on varsity
RT- Chandler Niven, 3 years on varsity, All conference 2024
WR X- Aiden Cantrell, 2 years on varsity
WR Z- Tristan Thompson-Wynn, 3 years on varsity
A Back- Kellan Rogers, 3 years on varsity
TE- Brayden Crain, 2 years on varsity
QB- Christian Conley, 3 years on varsity
RB- Braylon Thompson, 3 years on varsity, all conference 2024

Offensive Backups

RB- Nyrell Skinner, 2 years on varsity
ATH- Akai Agyapon, 2 years on varsity
A Back- Jax Whitmire, 3 years on varsity
A Back- Cordae Young, 2 years on varsity
WR X- Ty Griffin, 1 year on varsity
TE- Toby McCracken, 2 years on varsity

Special Teams Starters

Kicker- Andres Melgarejo, 2 years on varsity (Will be wearing #51 instead of #35)
Punter- Aiden Cantrell, 2 years on varsity
Long Snapper- Cole Cubbison, 2 years on varsity

Special Teams Backups

Kicker- Christian Castillo, 2 years on varsity

Players to watch: Offense: QB- Christian Conley, RB- Braylon Thompson, RB- Nyrell Skinner, WR- Tristan Thompson-Wynn Defense: LB- Jax Whitmire, LB- Karter Macfie, DT- Peyton Owen, NG- Chandler Niven

"Brevard's success this season has come from a combination of a balanced, explosive offense and a disciplined, physical defense that consistently wins at the line of scrimmage. Efficient quarterback play and smart, adaptable coaching have allowed the team to start fast and adjust effectively throughout games. Veteran leadership and strong team chemistry have kept the players composed in high-pressure moments, helping them close out several tight contests. This has shown in close games and multiple overtime victories that this team has been through adversity and always finds a way to win."

Pronunciation Guide:

Akai Agyapon-	Karter Macfie- "Carter Mac-a-fee"
"A-k-eye Ag-yu-pawn"	Tristan Cison- Tristan "Ci-z-in"
Cordae Young- "Core-Day" Young	Andres Melgarejo- "On-drey-s Mel-guh-ray-ho"

Reidsville Rams

4A East Champion

Location: Reidsville (Population: 14,583)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 795

Conference: Mid-State

2025 Record: 12-2

Home Record: 8-1

Away Record: 4-1

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 592

Points Allowed: 218

Current Streak: 11 Wins

Founded: 1923

County: Rockingham

Principal: Bertrand Haynes

Athletic Director: Rahim Winston Jr.

Head Coach: Erik Teague

Mascot: Rams

Colors: Blue and Gold

Distance from Moretz Stadium: 118 miles

Distance from Brevard: 226 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	Northern Guilford	L 47-38
8/29/25 vs.	George Washington	W 42-14
9/5/25 at	Reagan	L 35-0
9/12/25 at	Eastern Guilford	W 40-9
9/19/25 vs.	Walkertown	W 44-28
9/26/25 at	Carver	W 44-8
10/3/25 at	Rockingham County	W 42-0
10/10/25 vs.	Morehead	W 55-0
10/17/25 at	Bartlett Yancey	W 57-0
10/31/25 vs.	McMichael	W 69-12
11/14/25 vs.	Red Springs	W 44-0
11/21/25 vs.	Eastern Wayne	W 41-24
11/28/25 vs.	Central Davidson	W 53-20
12/4/25 vs.	West Craven	W 23-21

Erik Teague is in his third year as head coach of the Rams and is making his second trip the final. He has an overall record of 38-4 (18-0 in conference). He is the son of NCHSAA Hall of Famer Jimmy Teague, who led the Rams for 28 years, winning 339 games and eight state championships.

This will be the eighth time that Reidsville and Brevard have played since 1960. Reidsville leads the series 5-1-1.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

29th Appearance (20-7-1)

1930 Class B - Reidsville 20, Apex 7

1931 Class B - Reidsville 6, Apex 0

1932 Class B - Reidsville 32, Elizabeth City 12

1934 Class B - Edenton 6, Reidsville 0

1937 Class B - Reidsville 19, Hamlet 6

1939 Class B - Reidsville 18, Hamlet 0

1940 Class B - Reidsville 14, Elizabeth City 12

1943 Class A - Reidsville 6, Laurinburg 6 (TIE)

1944 Class A - Laurinburg 8, Reidsville 7

1945 Class A - Reidsville 27, Laurinburg 0

1949 Class A - Henderson 20, Reidsville 14

1950 2A - Reidsville 26, Henderson 0

1951 2A - Lumberton 18, Reidsville 13

1954 2A - Reidsville 20, Graham 6

1963 3A Region 2 - Reidsville 0, Brevard 0 (TIE)*

1969 3A West - Reidsville 35, Mount Airy 12*

1970 3A West - Reidsville 10, Pisgah 7*

2002 2AA - Reidsville 34, Bandys 14

2003 2AA - Reidsville 68, Bandys 12

2005 2AA - Shelby 26, Reidsville 18

2007 2AA - Reidsville 28, Shelby 20

2008 2AA - Reidsville 24, East Lincoln 7

2009 2AA - Reidsville 28, Newton-Conover 6

2016 2A - Reidsville 58, Holmes 12

2017 2A - Wallace Rose-Hill 35, Reidsville 28 (OT)

2018 2A - Reidsville 31, Northeastern 28

2019 2A - Reidsville 14, Northeastern 0

2020 2A - Reidsville 25, Mountain Heritage 6

2022 2A - East Duplin 24, Reidsville 21

2023 2A - Reidsville 28, Clinton 18

2025 4A - Reidsville vs. Brevard

*No Statewide Champion

Assistant coaches: Justin Jackson, Titus Jones, Jamie Jackson, Doug Marrs, Seth Jeffries, Kwame Graves, Jimmy Teague, Lyquan Graves, Bobby Martin, Jawan Hammock, Steve Knowles, Ivan Courts

Reidsville Rams

4A East Champion

Defensive Starters

CB	15	Dionte Neal	SR
CB	5	Damarien Whitted	JR
Safety	4	Jorden Robinson	JR
OLB	14	Derek Lyons	JR
OLB	12	Josiah Samolu	SO
ILB	6	Athone Peele	SR
ILB	7	Savvion Johnson	SR
DE	18	Kadence Pruitt	JR
DE	0	Kendre Harrison	SR
DT	9	Zaylin Hampton	JR
DT	44	Devonte Campbell	JR

Defensive Backups

DB	3	Frankie Galloway	SR
DB	2	Ladonn Hatfield	SR
LB	7	Savvion Johnson	SR
DL	11	Keonte Brunson	SR
DL	53	Tyson Albright	SO
DB	8	Richard Brathwaite	JR
DT	77	Jaquez Tynes	JR

Offensive Starters

WR	3	Frankie Galloway	SR
WR	0	Kendre Harrison	SR
WR	1	Dionte Neal	SO
WR	5	Damarien Whitted	JR
RB	14	Derek Lyons	JR
RB	17	Michael Smith	SR
QB	13	Tyson Broadway	JR
LT	52	Jacoby Cannon	JR
LG	56	Chris Cobb	SR
C	51	Christen Kelly	JR
RG	77	Jaquez Tynes	JR
RT	54	Jayden Slade	SR

Offensive Backups

WR	2	Ladonn Hatfield	SR
RB	20	Kesean Henry	SO
RB	12	Josiah Samolu	SO
OL	55	Tannar McKinney	SR
OL	53	Tyson Albright	SO
QB	10	Braxton Johnson	SO

Special Teams Starters

Kicker	60	Alex Penaloza	JR
Punter	14	Derek Lyons	JR
Snapper	18	Kadence Pruitt	JR

Keys to Success: Team Defense and forcing Turnovers, Offensive Big Plays by Dionte Neal and Kendre Harrison

Win against Walkertown proved to be a galvanizing moment for the team.

Special Teams Backups

Kicker- Christian Castillo, 2 years on varsity

Players to watch: Dionte Neal, Kendre Harrison, Kadence Pruitt

Crest Chargers

5A West Champion

Location: Shelby (Population: 21,868)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 1,098

Conference: Big South

2025 Record: 12-2 (5-1)

Home Record: 6-1

Away Record: 6-1

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 630

Points Allowed: 171

Current Streak: 5 Wins

Founded: 1967

County: Cleveland

Principal: Jeremy Shields

Athletic Director: Jeff Melton

Head Coach: Greg Lloyd

Mascot: Chargers

Colors: Green and Yellow

Distance from Durham County Memorial

Stadium: 187 miles

Distance from Hunt: 256 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 at	Burns	55 - 14 (W)
8/29/25 at	Shelby	31 - 24 (W)
9/5/25 vs.	Asheville	55 - 12 (W)
9/12/25 vs.	Weddington	10 - 31 (L)
9/29/25 vs.	Forestview	48 - 0 (W)
10/3/25 vs.	South Point	42 - 7 (W)
10/10/25 at	Huss	62 - 7 (W)
10/17/25 vs.	North Gaston	76 - 0 (W)
10/24/25 at	Ashbrook	14 - 21 (L)
10/31/25 at	Kings Mountain	70 - 0 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Concord	69 - 6 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	East Lincoln	31 - 14 (W)
11/28/25 at	South Point	28 - 14 (W)
12/4/25 at	Hickory	39 - 21 (W)

Greg Lloyd has been coaching in North Carolina for 21 years and is in his second season at Crest. He has a career record of 181-86-1 and is 22-5 at Crest. He was the Head Coach of the West in the 2017 East-West Game, representing Kings Mountain.

This will be the first time that Crest and Hunt have ever met on the gridiron.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

11th Appearance (6-4)

1994 4A - Crest 28, Jacksonville 7
1996 4A - Crest 20, Douglas Byrd 7
2001 3A - Parkland 27, Crest 21
2003 3AA - Crest 40, Eastern Randolph 0
2004 3AA - Crest 26, Dudley 14
2010 3AA - Northern Guilford 21, Crest 20
2011 3AA - Northern Guilford 31, Crest 7
2013 3AA - Southern Durham 38, Crest 31
2014 3A - Crest 24, Havelock 3
2015 3AA - Crest 55, Southern Durham 21
2025 5A - Crest vs. Hunt

Assustant Coaches: Frank Toms III, Brad LeVine, Skip Young, James Brown, Tray Watkins, Omar Porter, Reggie Ross, Marquiet Pettis, Tyrice Brooks, Mark Latham, Tony Nalley, Ryan Hamrick, Jake Lloyd, AJ Hames, Alan Wacaster

Crest Chargers

5A West Champion

Defensive Starters

D'Various Surratt - Safety, 4 yrs. Varsity, Shrine Bowl Participant, NC State Commit

Lyrrik Pettis- Safety, 4 yrs. Varsity, Shrine Bowl Participant, Duke Commit

Donovan Walton- Corner, 2 yrs. Varsity, Gardner Webb Commit

Javion Hopper - Corner, 1 yr. Varsity

Jah'mere Canady- Safety, 1 yr. Varsity

Chris Gunter LB, 3 yr. Varsity

Nehemiah Parker LB, 3 yr. Varsity

Khali Clark LB, 2 yr. Varsity

Taveon Whistnant DL, 2 yr. Varsity

Paxton Dobbins DL, 3 yr. Varsity

Eli Black DL, 4 yr. Varsity

Offensive Starters

Ely Hamrick QB, 2 yr. Varsity, Virginia Commit

Jason Black RB, 1 yr. Varsity

Majay Thompson WR, 1 yr. Varsity

Michael Edwards WR, 3 yr. Varsity

Brock Melton WR, 2 yr. Varsity

Romeo Sanders TE, 2 yr. Varsity

Gavin Ledbetter OL, 4 yr. Varsity

Luke Ruppe OL, 2 yr. Varsity

Nick Albright OL, 2 yr. Varsity

Tucker Wesson OL, 2 yr. Varsity

Denarion Hickman OL, 2 yr. Varsity, Gardner Webb Commit

Defensive Backups

Christian Stowe- DL, 2 yr. Varsity

Carmelo Fuller- DL, 2 yr. Varsity

De'Kevious Sims- CB, 2 yr. Varsity

Mehki Pryor- OLB, 2 yr. Varsity

AJ Davis- DL, 3 yr. Varsity

Dakota Smith- CB, 1 yr. Varsity

Offensive Backups

Malachi Gamble RB

Mari Faulkner WR

J.C. Hunt OL

Special Teams Starters

Carson Grier- PK/Punter

Silas McCurry- LS/Holder

Levi Martin- LS

Special Teams Backups

Levi Jones PK/Punter

Players to watch: Ely Hamrick, Lyrrik Pettis, D'Various Surratt, Michael Edwards

Keys to Success: We have a veteran team with many returning starters.

Win against South Point proved to be a galvanizing moment for the team.

J.B. Hunt Warriors

5A East Champion

Location: Wilson (Population: 47,851)
Enrollment (2024 ADM): 1,102
Conference: Big East
2025 Record: 12-2 (5-1)
Home Record: 9-0
Away Record: 3-2
Neutral Record: 0-0
Points Scored: 515
Points Allowed: 300
Current Streak: 6 Wins

Founded: 1942
County: Wilson
Principal: Eddie Doll
Athletic Director: Jon Smith
Head Coach: Juan Jackson
Mascot: Warriors
Colors: Blue and White
Distance from Durham County Memorial Stadium: 69 miles
Distance from Crest: 256 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	Lee County	37 - 7 (W)
8/28/25 at	Tarboro	17 - 34 (L)
9/5/25 at	Martin County	37 - 26 (W)
9/12/25 vs.	South Garner	40 - 22 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	C.B. Aycock	52 - 0 (W)
9/25/25 at	Southern Wayne	63 - 0 (W)
10/10/25 vs.	Southern Nash	51 - 34 (W)
10/17/25 at	Northern Nash	14 - 49 (L)
10/24/25 vs.	Rocky Mount	30 - 9 (W)
10/31/25 at	Fike	50 - 34 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Eastern Alamance	30 - 28 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	Southern Nash	42 - 21 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	Croatan	32 - 29 (W)
12/4/25 vs.	Northside - Jacksonville	20 - 7 (W)

Juan Jackson is in his sixth season as Head Coach at Hunt. He has an overall record of 46-21 (28-11 in conference).

This will be the first time that Crest and Hunt have ever met on the gridiron.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

2nd Appearance (0-1)

2004 3A - Concord 27, Hunt 0
2015 5A - Hunt vs. Crest

Hunt also reached the 1983 4A East Regional Finals

Assistant Coaches: John Glover, Shaun Rose, John Glover, Stephen Finch, Josh Avery, Izel Jenkins, Miguel Hall, Billy Woodard, Garrett Brown, Mace McClain, Craig Coley, Jules Harris

J.B. Hunt Warriors

5A East Champion

Defensive Starters

Jr. DE Nick Bynum / First year on varsity
Jr. DE Randy James / Second year on varsity/ All Conference
Jr. DT Christopher Dickerson / Second year on varsity / All Conference
Jr. OLB Jayden Warren / Second year on varsity / All Conference
Jr. ILB Judah Harris / Third year on varsity / All Conference
Fr. ILB Trevorus Cooper / First year on varsity
Sr. OLB Cam Pittman / Second year on varsity
Sr. CB Isaiah Chadwick / Third year on varsity / All Conference
Sr. CB Jamauris Howard / Second year on varsity / All Conference
Sr. SS Jake Harris / Second year on varsity
Sr. FS Xzayvion (Mez) Harris / First year on varsity / All Conference

Offensive Starters

Jr. QB Xzayvion Harris / First year on varsity / All Conference / Conference Offensive Player of the Year
So. RB Doryan Jones / First year on varsity / All Conference
Sr. WR Jamauris Howard / Second year on varsity / All Conference
Sr. WR Jake Harris / Second year on varsity
Sr. C James Gibson / Fourth year on varsity
Jr. G Z'carius Dickerson / Second year on varsity
So. G Darrell Wynn / First year on varsity
Jr. T Aarion Bryant / Second year on varsity / All Conference
Jr. T Braxton Hall / Second year on varsity
Sr. WR Jayson Bell / Second year on varsity
Sr. WR Isaiah Chadwick / Third year on varsity / All Conference

Special Teams Starters

PK, P Sr. Will Doll / Third year on varsity / Conference
Special Teams Player of the Year / Shrine Bowl
Sr. LS Jayson Bell / Second year on varsity
Jr. Holder Xzayvion Harris / Second year on varsity / All Conference / Conference Offensive Player of the Year
Sr. PR Jake Harris / Second year on varsity
Sr. PR Isaiah Chadwick / Second Year on varsity / All Conference
Sr. KR Jayson Bell / Second year on varsity
Sr. KR Jamauris Howard / Second year on varsity / All Conference

Pronunciation Guide:
Doryan Jones: Do-Ryan Jones
Xzayvion Harris: Mez Harris

Jamauris Howard:
Ja-Morris Howard
Ka'Miju Johnson: Ka-My-Ju

Defensive Backups

DT Sr. Cyntarion James / Second year on varsity
LB Jr. Jeremiah Thomas / Second year on varsity
CB Fr. Ka'Miju Johnson / First year on varsity
DT Jr. Z'carius Dickerson / Second year on varsity
DT So. Darrell Wynn / First year on varsity
DB Sr. Jaiden Taylor / First year on varsity

Offensive Backups

OT Fr. Chasen Bridgers / First year on varsity
RB Jr. Jeremiah Thomas / Second year on varsity
RB/QB Sr. Cam Pittman / Second year on varsity
RB Jr. Jayden Warren / Second year on varsity
TE Jr. Randy James / Second year on varsity
OL Sr. Cyntarion James / Second year on varsity
WR So. Kemaury Barnes / First year on varsity
OL Fr. Lendon Sparks / First year on varsity

Special Teams Backups

Fr. Defensive Tyson Baker
Fr. KR Ka'Miju Johnson
Sr. KR Malachi Dublin

Players to watch: Special Teams: Will Doll K/P Offense: QB Xzayvion (Mez) Harris, RB Doryan Jones, WR Jamauris Howard, WR Isaiah Chadwick, WR Jayson Bell Defense: LB Judah Harris, DE Randy James, DT Christopher Dickerson, CB Jamauris Howard, DE Nick Bynum, LB Cam Pittman

Keys to Success: Believing in each other, hard work, determination, maturity of our young team.

Watauga Pioneers

6A West Champion

Location: Boone (Population: 19,851)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 1,583

Conference: Northwestern

2025 Record: 14-0 (5-0)

Home Record: 9-0

Away Record: 5-0

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 628

Points Allowed: 209

Current Streak: 14 Wins

Founded: 1965

County: Watauga

Principal: Scott Strickler

Athletic Director: Dustin Kerley

Head Coach: Ryan Habich

Mascot: Pioneers

Colors: Light Blue, Navy and White

Distance from Kenan Stadium: 162 miles

Distance from Middle Creek: 189 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	Ashe County	56 - 7 (W)
8/29/25 vs.	T.C. Roberson	42 - 0 (W)
9/5/25 vs.	Mount Airy	61 - 7 (W)
9/20/25 at	Erwin	49 - 14 (W)
9/26/25 at	Asheville	49 - 7 (W)
10/3/25 at	Freedom	42 - 20 (W)
10/10/25 vs.	South Caldwell	56 - 0 (W)
10/17/25 at	Alexander Central	42 - 20 (W)
10/24/25 vs.	McDowell	55 - 21 (W)
10/31/25 at	St. Stephens	28 - 18 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	St. Stephens	47 - 6 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	Charlotte Catholic	27 - 19 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	Sun Valley	31 - 28 (W)
12/6/25 vs.	Northern Guilford	43 - 42 (W)

Ryan Habich has been the Head Coach at Watauga since the 2013 season and spent the five seasons before that at Fuquay-Varina. He has a career record of 179-45. At Watauga he is 129-31.

This will be the first time that Middle Creek and Watauga have ever met on the gridiron.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

2nd Appearance (1-0)

1978 3A - Watauga 33, Williams 28

The Pioneers reached the 4A Regional Finals on two other occasions, losing in 2006 and 2007. Watauga also finished as runner up in the WNCHSAA in 1973.

Assistant Coaches: Jason Phelps (Assistant Head Coach & DB's), Dustin Kerley (Head Coach of Defense & OLB), Phillip Hicks (Defensive Coordinator & ILB), Bill Carr (DL Coach), Marshall Thomas (Offensive Coordinator & RB's), Heath Tucker (Run Game Coordinator & OL), Hamilton Castle (WR's), Kevin Yandle (Tight ends), Hannah Blevins (Athletic Trainer)

Watauga Pioneers

6A West Champion

Defensive Starters

OLB – Matthew Leon, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 2-year starter, 1st Team All-Conference
OLB – Thomas Deiters, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference
ILB- JW Mills Sophomore - Varsity (1st year) 1st Team All Conference
ILB- Everett Gryder - Varsity (3 years) 1st Team All Conference
Safety – Evan Burroughs, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 3-year starter, 1st Team All-Conference
Safety – Bowen Mayo, Senior — Varsity (1 year), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity
Corner – Nyle Peays, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 2nd year starting on Varsity.

Offensive Starters

QB – Cade Keller, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 1st Team All-Conference, Conference Overall Player of the Year, 1st year starting at QB on Varsity.
B-Back – Matthew Leon, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 2-year starter, 1st Team All-Conference
Wingback – Evan Burroughs, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 3-year starter, 1st Team All-Conference
Wingback – Bowen Mayo, Senior — Varsity (1 year), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity at Watauga High
Wide Receiver – Nyle Peays, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 2nd year starting on Varsity.
Tight End – Tyler Leyshon, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.
OL – Aiden Plemons, Junior — Varsity (1 year), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.
OL – Brady Lindenmuth, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 1st Team

Special Teams Starters

K – Miller Hankins Juniors — Varsity (1 year)
P- Cade Keller, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 1st Team All-Conference, Conference Overall Player of the Year, 1st year starting at QB on Varsity.
Snapper: William Humphrey, Sophomore — Varsity (1 year)

Special Teams Backups

K – Matthew Leon Senior — Varsity (3 year)

Players to watch: Cade Keller (#10/QB) Evan Burroughs (#12/WB/S) Bowen Mayo (#8/WB/S) Nyle Peays (#9/WR/DB) Matthew Leon #14 OLB/RB) Brady

Corner – Kyle Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.
DE – Aiden Plemons, Junior — Varsity (1 year), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.
Nose – Brady Lindenmuth, Senior — Varsity (3 years), 1st Team All-Conference.
DE – Crue Stoddard, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.

Defensive Backups

ILB- Devan Lacue Junior - Varsity (1st year)

All-Conference.

OL – Kwame Carter, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.
OL – Coy Johnson, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.
OL – Crue Stoddard, Senior — Varsity (2 years), 1st Team All-Conference. 1st year starting on Varsity.

Offensive Backups

Wingback – Thomas Deiters, Senior — Varsity (2 year), 1st Team All-Conference.
Wingback – Kyle Williams, Senior — Varsity (2 year), 1st Team All-Conference.
OL – William Humphrey, Sophomore — Varsity (1 year)
OL – Cayman Hayes, Sophomore — Varsity (1 year)

Lindenmuth #56 DL/OL Everett Gryder #4 LB, JW Mills (#15/LB) Thomas Deiters (#11/LB) Crue Stoddard #54/DE

“Winning the 6A Western Finals last week in front of our hometown crowd at Jack Groce Stadium was a special moment for our team and community, showcasing our players’ resilience, preparation, and determination on one of the biggest stages of the season.”

Middle Creek Mustangs

6A East Champion

Location: Apex (Population: 72,225)
Enrollment (2024 ADM): 1,613
Conference: Triangle Six
2025 Record: 11-2 (3-1)
Home Record: 6-1
Away Record: 5-1
Neutral Record: 0-0
Points Scored: 479
Points Allowed: 275
Current Streak: 6 Wins

Founded: 2002
County: Wake
Principal: Ian Munsie
Athletic Director: Chris Eason
Head Coach: Andrae Jacobs
Mascot: Mustangs
Colors: Red and Black
Distance from Kenan Stadium: 38 miles
Distance from Watauga: 189 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	Fuquay - Varina	37 - 7 (W)
8/29/25 at	Willow Spring	45 - 14 (W)
9/5/25 at	Garner	17 - 41 (L)
9/12/25 vs.	Eastern Wayne	59 - 36 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	J.H. Rose	45 - 28 (W)
10/3/25 vs.	Sanderson	38 - 7 (W)
10/17/25 vs.	Cardinal Gibbons	14 - 40 (L)
10/24/25 at	Cary	42 - 0 (W)
10/30/25 at	Holly Springs	37 - 7 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	West Brunswick	52 - 20 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	Southern Alamance	31 - 30 (W)
11/28/25 at	Northern Nash	31 - 24 (W)
12/6/25 at	Jacksonville	31 - 21 (W)

NCHSAA Championship Game History

1st Appearance (0-0)

2025 6A - Middle Creek vs. Watauga

The Mustangs have reached the Regional Finals three times before, 2013, 2015 and 2016 but are 0-3 in those contests. They beat Jacksonville on the road on Saturday in their first Regional Final appearance.

Andrae Jacobs is in his fifth season as Head Coach of the Mustangs. He has an all-time record of 37-20 (24-8 in the conference)

This will be the first time that Middle Creek and Watauga have ever met on the gridiron.

Assistant Coaches: Jason Willix (OC), Cameron Bailliez (DC), Ben Bostick, Brandon Turner, Yorick Sands, Zack Gordon, Rasheem Eaton, Kwame Dixon, Daniel Jackson

Middle Creek Mustangs

6A East Champion

Defensive Starters

DE- Davis Prichard, Senior. Triangle 6A/7A Conference Player of the Year. Campbell University Commit
DE- Ezra Jobe, Sophomore. Triangle 6A/7A Honorable Mention All Conference - QB
NG - Cullen Hunt. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
DT - Connor Smith. Sophomore. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
LB - Mark Smith. Sophomore. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
LB - Edwin Mendoza. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference Honorable Mention
LB - Eli Johnson. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
C - Tracy Harrington. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference (WR)
C - Zavarius Johnson. Junior.
S - Derrick Morton. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
S - Honor Paxton. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference

Offensive Starters

LT - Sean Clemetson. Senior
LG - David Troublefield. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
C - Stanley Pretrovich. Sophomore. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference Honorable Mention
RG - Ricardo Santos. Senior.
RT - James Han. Junior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
QB - Lex Sevilla. Junior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
RB - Jayden Spencer. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
WR - Nic Bocciardi. Junior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
WR - Nick Belcher. Junior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
WR- Tracy Harrington. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference
WR- Honor Paxton. Senior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference

Special Teams Starters

Kicker / Punter - Ben Ladue. Junior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference. All-American Finalist

Players to watch: #8 Tracy Harrington, #7 Davis Prichard, #0 Jayden Spencer, #12 Nic Bocciardi, #10 Honor Paxton

Defensive Backups

Safety - Jabron Wilson. Senior
Linebacker - Cody Wicker. Junior
Linebacker - Phillip Knott. Sophomore
Corner - Nick Belcher. Junior. Triangle 6A/7A All Conference WR

Offensive Backups

Quarterback - Ezra Jobe, Sophomore. Triangle 6A/7A Honorable Mention All Conference
Wide Receiver - TJ Ali. Senior
Running Back - Ayden Hoffler. Junior
Wide Receiver - Noah Gabor. Junior

Keys to Success: Strong team chemistry and believing in our FAMILY culture.

Coach Jacobs pointed to the win against Southern Alamance in the third round as the most galvanizing moment of the season.

Pronunciation Guide

#12 Nic Bocciardi

(BO-CHAR-DEE)

#22 Zai (ZAY) Finnell

Grimsley Whirlies

7A West Champion

Location: Greensboro (Population: 310,258)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 2,044

Conference: Metro

2025 Record: 14-0 (6-0)

Home Record: 9-0

Away Record: 4-0

Neutral Record: 1-0

Points Scored: 571

Points Allowed: 162

Current Streak: 30 Wins

Founded: 1899

County: Guilford

Principal: Ged O'Donnell

Athletic Director: Evan Fancourt

Head Coach: Darryl Brown

Mascot: Whirlies

Colors: Navy, White and Grey

Distance from Kenan Stadium: 54 miles

Distance from Clayton: 96 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	West Charlotte (@ BoA)	28 - 27 (W)
8/29/25 at	West Forsyth	31 - 17 (W)
9/5/25 vs.	East Forsyth	48 - 21 (W)
9/19/25 at	Southwest Guilford	65 - 0 (W)
9/26/25 vs.	Western Guilford	66 - 6 (W)
10/3/25 vs.	Varina (Va.)	21 - 14 (W)
10/10/25 vs.	Ragsdale	43 - 8 (W)
10/17/25 at	Page	48 - 14 (W)
10/24/25 vs.	Dudley	42 - 14 (W)
10/31/25 at	Ben L. Smith	45 - 8 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	West Cabarrus	42 - 7 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	Jack Britt	55 - 12 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	Reagan	24 - 7 (W)
12/4/25 vs.	Weddington	13 - 7 (W)

Darryl Brown has been coaching since 2005 and is in his 10th year at Grimsley. He is 107-24 with the Whirlies and 202-67 overall. In 2022 he was the Head Coach of the East-West All-Star Game and was an Assistant in 2013 at the Shrine Bowl.

Grimsley and Clayton have met twice before as they played a season-opening, home-and-home series in 2021 and 2022. Grimsley won both contests: 56-0 in 21 and 42-14 in 22.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

5th Appearance (2-2) as Grimsley

2005 4A - J.H. Rose 21, Grimsley 0

20-21 4A - Grimsley 28, Cardinal Gibbons 8

2024 4A - Grimsley 35, Rolesville 23

2025 7A - Grimsley vs. Clayton

Grimsley also reached the State Championship Game in 2022 and lost to New Bern. New Bern's title has since been vacated.

Grimsley was renamed from Greensboro High School in 1962. Greensboro made 13 appearances in the State Championship Game and went 4-6-3 in those games.

1919 Open - Chapel Hill 78, Greensboro 0

1927 Open - New Hanover 7, Greensboro 7

1934 Class A - Durham 12, Greensboro 12 (TIE)

1938 Class A - Durham 6, Greensboro 6 (TIE)

1939 Class A - Durham 6, Greensboro 0

1940 Class A - Greensboro 7, Rocky Mount 0

1942 Class AA - Greensboro 12, Gastonia 6

1944 Class AA - Wilson 26, Greensboro 0

1946 Class AA - Wilson def. Greensboro (FF)

1954 3A - Greensboro 20, Durham 13

1956 3A - Fayetteville 6, Greensboro 6 (TIE)

1959 4A - Garinger 20, Greensboro 6

1960 4A - Greensboro 19, R.J. Reynolds 7

Assistant Coaches: Joe Rigsbee, Jesse Tripp, Will Brown, Jamie Cunningham, Toby Williams, Clay Browning, Thad Rice, Lee Meekins, Derrick Waden, Jason Bradley

Grimsley Whirlies

7A West Champion

Defensive Starters

DE: #12 A. ROGERS
N: #95 N. CRAWFORD
DE: #8 J. WARDLAW
JACK: #25 C. BOSTIC
LB: #4 D. SEARLS
LB: #0 K. MILLNER
STAR: #3 K. BARNES
FS: #13 M. YON
SS: #6 EJ DAVIS
CB: #7 P. CARTER
CB: #20 R. HARRIS-DUPREE

Defensive Backups

DE: #39 T. WARDLAW
N: #88 G. VANN
DE: #44 C. RUFF
LB: #21 T. STROUD
LB: #24 T. SHOEMAKE
STAR: #17 M. McLAUGHLIN
FS: #5 K. BATTLE
SS: #29 E. CALDWELL
CB: #31 J. STATON
CB: #28 L. GRICE

Offensive Starters

QB: #11 F. BRANDON
RB: #24 T. SHOEMAKE
TE: #9 DJ HOWERTON
WR: #5 K. BATTLE
WR: #1 K. CATOE
WR: #10 H. COOPER
LT: #75 G. MILTON
LG: #57 J. SAMMONS
C: #62 N. JOHNSON
RG: #51 M. MILLER
RT: #72 N. KASHUBARA

Offensive Backups

QB: #14 B. LOWE
RB: #2 M. WILLIAMS
TE: #16 N. DANIEL
WR: #15 N. MONSANTO
WR: #3 K. BARNES
WR: #19 J. DAVIS
LT: #55 L. DELK
LG: #50 A. HASSAN
C: #52 B. HILL
RG: #77 T. PERCELL
RT: #53 J. SMITH

Special Teams Starters

KICKER/PUNTER: #30 C. HUELLMANTEL
LONG SNAPPER: #4 D. SEARLS
#56 H. ROGERS

RETURNER:

#5 K. BATTLE
#19 J. DAVIS
#1 K. CATOE

Keys to Success: Been a compete team effort. Multiple guys have played vital roles in the success of our team this season.

Clayton Comets

7A East Champion

Location: Clayton (Population: 31,732)

Enrollment (2024 ADM): 1,983

Conference: Greater Neuse River

2025 Record: 12-2 (5-1)

Home Record: 8-0

Away Record: 4-2

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 530

Points Allowed: 197

Current Streak: 7 Wins

Founded: 1901

County: Johnston

Principal: Melissa Hubbard

Athletic Director: John Asmussen

Head Coach: Scott Chadwick

Mascot: Comets

Colors: Blue and White

Distance from Kenan Stadium: 45 miles

Distance from Grimsley: 96 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	Wilson Prep	52 - 12 (W)
8/29/25 vs.	Southern Nash	49 - 14 (W)
9/5/25 at	Hoggard	14 - 38 (L)
9/12/25 at	West Johnston	55 - 2 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	Fuquay - Varina	56 - 10 (W)
9/25/25 at	Smithfield-Selma	43 - 7 (W)
10/3/25 at	Southeast Raleigh	19 - 22 (L)
10/10/25 vs.	South Garner	42 - 7 (W)
10/24/25 at	Garner	34 - 22 (W)
10/31/25 vs.	Cleveland	20 - 3 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	New Hanover	29 - 0 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	D.H. Conley	47 - 7 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	Southeast Raleigh	35 - 21 (W)
12/4/25 at	Cardinal Gibbons	35 - 32 (W)

Scott Chadwick has been coaching for 25 years in Maryland, Georgia and North Carolina. This is his fourth season at Clayton where he has gone 38-12 (22-5 in conference). He coached in three State Championships in Maryland, winning with Bowie in 2001. Chadwick has a career record of 210-94.

Clayton is 0-2 all time against Grimsley.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

4th Appearance (1-2)

1966 2A Region 1 - Ahoskie 55, Clayton 7*

1977 2A - Charlotte Catholic 42, Clayton 20

1979 2A - Swain County 28, Clayton 21

1989 2A - Clayton 16, Monroe 0

2025 7A - Clayton vs. Grimsley

Assistant Coaches: Darren Banks, Brian Bland, Ricky Bucklin, Jalen Chadwick, Jay Chalk, Stephen Larkins, John Hoskins, Bennett Jones, Tre Lennon, Jon Riba, Shane Skeens, Byron Smith, Romeo Stancil, Jalen Thompson, William Walker

Clayton Comets

7A East Champion

Defensive Starters

*DT - #40 KeShawn Stancil 6'3 290 SR
One of the nation's top Defensive Lineman
Signed with Miami - NC/SC Shrine Bowl
DT - #62 Tyler Williams - 5'11 295 SR
DE - #6 Jordan Hamm 6'0 220 JR All Conference
DE - #27 Kaiden Blackwell - 5'11 240 JR All Conference
ILB #11 Christian Schmidt 6'1 190 SR
ILB - #44 Mason Bucklad 5'10 170 JR
*CB - #13 AK Crumel - 6'1 175 JR
One of the top dbs in the nation in the 2027 Class
Two Time All Conference
S - #21 Daniel Lovelace-Davis - 5'11 175 Soph
*S - #3 Ta'Shaun Walker 5'11 175 JR All Conference

*S - #10 Charles Smith 5'8 160 SR 3 year starter

Defensive Backups

#87 DL Cedric Simmons
#34 LB Imari Givens
#24 DB Austin Dalton

Offensive Starters

*QB #2 Aiden Smalls - 6'1 180 SR
GNRC Player of the Year
Selected to play in the NC/SC Shrine Bowl
Signed with NC State
*RB - #1 Noah Smith - 5'8 180 SR- All Conference
WR - #17 Parker Ferguson - 6'0 195 SR- All Conference
*WR - #4 Tyler Campbell - 6'1 165 SR
WR - #9 DeAngelo Ruffin 6'0 160- All Conference
*TE - #14 River Fiore 6'4 240 SR
Selected to the NC Coaches Association East/West Game
Signed with NC Central
*LT - # 75 Cory Robinson - 6'2 280 SR
Two Time All Conference

LG - # 65 Anthony Lopez Mendoza 6'2 280 SR
C - #57 Wesson Barth 5'10 270 JR
*RG - # 50 Ovanny Flores - 6'2 290 SR
All Conference
RT - # 74 Nick Cappelozzi 6'4 270 JR

Offensive Backups

#5 WR/RB Terris Hobbs - JR 5'11 175
#24 WR Austin Dalton - Soph 5'10 170
#7 QB Carson Jones - 6'0 205 SR
#26 TE Brayden Price
#87 TE Cedric Simmons
#73 OL Aaron Gearheart

Special Teams Starters

Kicker/Punter - #23 Nate Lunger - JR
PR/KR - #10 Smith, #9 DeAngelo Ruffin

Coach Chadwick pointed to the Cleveland win as the most galvanizing moment of the season.

Players to watch: QB Aiden Smalls, WR Parker Ferguson, DL KeShawn Stancil, CB Akedran Crumel

“Team was 2-0 and then went to Hoggard and got beat 38-14, leading to many changes in personnel and on the coaching staff. Other than a loss to SE Raleigh, 22-19, the team has gotten better and better every week. This is the 3rd straight 10+ win season, which has only happened one other time in school history (1988-90).”

Keys to Success: Star players/Division I recruits, have played like them. Aiden Smalls, KeShawn Stancil, River Fiore and AK Crumel have all played at the top of their game.

Pronunciation Guide:

KeShawn Stancil - Key Shawn

William Amos Hough Huskies

8A West Champion

Location: Cornelius (Population: 31,412)

Enrollment (2024 ADM) : 2,593

Conference: Greater Charlotte

2025 Record: 13-0 (5-0)

Home Record: 9-0

Away Record: 4-0

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 497

Points Allowed: 93

Current Streak: 13 Wins

Founded: 2010

First Football Season: 2010

County: Mecklenburg

Principal: David Farley

Athletic Director: Derek Butler

Head Coach: DeShawn Baker

Mascot: Huskies

Colors: Black, Grey, Light Blue

Distance from Kenan Stadium: 131 miles

Distance from Millbrook 160 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	South Point	14 - 10 (W)
8/29/25 at	Independence	35 - 0 (W)
9/5/25 at	Highland Springs	17 - 14 (W)
9/12/25 vs.	Mooresville	28 - 21 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	New Bern	53 - 15 (W)
9/26/25 vs.	West Mecklenburg	43 - 0 (W)
10/10/25 at	Garinger	66 - 0 (W)
10/17/25 vs.	South Mecklenburg	42 - 10 (W)
10/24/25 at	Myers Park	28 - 6 (W)
10/30/25 vs.	Hopewell	56 - 0 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Palisades	63 - 7 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	West Forsyth	28 - 10 (W)
11/28/25 vs.	West Charlotte	24 - 0 (W)

DeShawn Baker is in his third season with the Huskies and has amassed a 36-4 record (19-0) in conference play). Before that, he spent three seasons as the Head Coach at Cox Mill.

This will be the first time that Hough and Millbrook have played each other.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

1st Appearance

2025 8A - Hough vs. Millbrook

Hough has made the playoffs for 13 consecutive years and has made the Regional Finals twice. They reached the 2017 4AA Regional Final before falling to Mallard Creek. The Huskies also reached the 4A Regional Final in 2021, losing to Chambers. Hough lost to eventual Champion Grimsley in the Regional Semifinals last season.

Assistant Coaches: ChaChi Sullivan, Michael Barnett Jr., Akeem Barringer, Janelle Byrd, Diandre Davis , Dante Hunter, Darius Jones, Sheridan Jones, Damon Mckee, Marc Nagy, Ryan Redd, Shannon Remines, Mike Tarver, Laramie Thompson, Anthony Tillman, Jason Brower

William Amos Hough Huskies

8A West Champion

Defensive Starters

DE 0 Will Berlin SR
DB 3 Jackson Heath JR
LB 4 LJ Porter SR
LB 5 Ryan Peterson SO
DB 9 Samari Matthews SR
DB 10 Zaine Murphy SR
DB 11 Jason Wilkerson SR
DB 12 Jonah Holloway SO
LB 13 Charles Puckett SO
DL 51 Sincere Brewster SR
DL 54 Chris Hilliard SR

Defensive Backups

DB 25 D'Quayvn SO
DB 28 Drew Johnson SR
DB 20 Yahzir Samuel JR
DE 40 Tyler Bennett SR
LB/DE 43 Brayden Hunt SO
DL 47 Gabe Dunn JR

Offensive Starters

QB 1 Ethan Royal JR
WR 6 Jayden White SR
WR 8 Tyran Evans SR
WR 15 Jahmere Anderson JR
WR 19 Christian Carter
RB 21 Jamarion Morrison
OL 50 Tauatevalu Tuionetoa JR
OL 58 Owen Bishop SR
OL 70 Amaree Lawrence-Broome SR
OL 75 Jarvis Potts SR
OL 77 Shawn Kennedy SR

Offensive Backups

WR 2 Kaden Hornesby SR
QB 14 Christian Druzvik FR
WR 17 Christian Coleman JR
WR 18 Mason Pearsall-Brown FR
RB 20 Marvin Reed SR
RB 24 Kynis Tinnin SR
OL 63 Harrison Buckner JR
OL 65 Brylan Hunt FR
WR 88 Josh Autry JR

Special Teams Starters

K 82 Piercon Selland SR
K 84 Cole Johnson SO
P 86 Baylie Nelson JR
LS 85 Cyler Fraser SR

Players to watch: #1 QB Ethan Royal, #21 RB Jamarion Morrison, #9 DB Samari Matthews, #4 LB LJ Porter, #5 LB Ryan Peterson, #13 LB Charles Puckett, #3 DB Jackson Heath

Keys to Success: Play smart, physical, limit explosive plays

Pronunciation Guide:

Kynis Tinnin (kin-nis Tin-in)
Tauatevalu Tuionetoa (too-eee)
Piercon Selland (pier-son)

The Keep Pounding Classic win over South Pointe to open the season proved to be a huge moment for the team.

“This season we have had our ups and downs but we pulled together when it mattered to have a successful year. Our defense has been the shining star of the year. Our offense has caught fire at the right time which has propelled us to the state championship.” -- Derek Butler

Millbrook Wildcats

8A East Champion

Location: Raleigh (Population: 500,639)

Enrollment (2024 ADM) : 2,538

Conference: CAP

2025 Record: 13-0 (7-0)

Home Record: 7-0

Away Record: 6-0

Neutral Record: 0-0

Points Scored: 515

Points Allowed: 72

Current Streak: 13 Wins

Founded: 1922

First Football Season: 1959

County: Wake

Principal: Dr. Brian Saunders

Athletic Director: Chris East

Head Coach: Laymarr Marshall

Mascot: Wildcats

Colors: Navy, White and Light Blue

Distance from Kenan Stadium: 39 miles

Distance from Hough: 160 miles



2025 Schedule and Results

8/22/25 vs.	Garner	34 - 13 (W)
8/29/25 at	Heritage	36 - 0 (W)
9/5/25 at	Wake Forest	48 - 7 (W)
9/19/25 vs.	Athens Drive	64 - 15 (W)
9/26/25 at	Rolesville	28 - 7 (W)
10/3/25 vs.	Leesville Road	28 - 0 (W)
10/10/25 at	Broughton	42 - 7 (W)
10/17/25 vs.	Enloe	49 - 0 (W)
10/24/25 vs.	Wakefield	55 - 0 (W)
10/31/25 at	Corinth Holders	25 - 6 (W)
11/14/25 vs.	Panther Creek	65 - 0 (W)
11/21/25 vs.	Jordan	27 - 10 (W)
11/28/25 at	Hoggard	14 - 7 (W)

This is the third season for Laymarr Marshall at Millbrook. He has an overall record of 33-5 (15-2 in conference). He spent nine years at his alma mater Mount Tabor and one season at Parkland and has a career record of 121-44.

This will be the first time that Hough and Millbrook have played each other.

NCHSAA Championship Game History

1st Appearance

2025 8A - Hough vs. Millbrook

Millbrook has made the playoffs for six consecutive years and reached the Regional Final once before in 2022.

Assistant Coaches: Marcus Gladden, Sam Blue, Jimmy Vereen, Connor Graffam, Shawn Pullen, Dominique Boyd, Michael Sykes, Hunter Jenks, Ronnie Lee, Jevar Bransome, Brandon Hughes.

Millbrook Wildcats

8A East Champion

Defensive Starters

DE: Rashad Streets (4- star recruit. Conference Defensive Player of the Year)

DE: Markez Wilbert (division 1 recruit. All-Conference)

NG: Kamari St. Clair (college recruit)

OLB: Chase Sizer (college recruit. All Conference)

OLB: Aiden Wilson (college prospect)

LB: Quinton Cypher (4-star Recruit. Conference Player of the Year)

LB: Carsen Adams (college prospect. All Conference)

CB: Marcus Caldwell (college prospect. All Conference)

CB: Noah Ragland (college prospect)

FS: Malcolm McIntyre (college prospect. All Conference)

SS: Cairo Williams (3-star recruit. All Conference)

Offensive Starters

LT: Creston Avery (college prospect. All Conference)

LG: Andrew Jaynes (college prospect. All Conference)

C: Marcelo Chitty (college prospect. All Conference)

RG: William Ramsey (college prospect. All Conference)

RT: Amir Daniels (college prospect)

QB: Bryson Gray (college prospect. All Conference)

RB: Brilison McCullers (college prospect. All Conference)

TE: Hayes Brawner (college prospect. All Conference)

WR: Malachi Gilchrist (college prospect. All Conference)

WR: Malachi Thomas (college prospect. All Conference)

WR: Taden Martin (college prospect. All Conference)

Defensive Backups

DE: Jacob Bowen

DE: Jaden Smith

NG: Jalil Dillard

OLB: Tyson James

OLB: Jarvis Tripp

LB: Isaiah Aimelofoa

LB: Landon Smith

CB: Ra'jon Bynum

CB: Thomas Beck

FS: Brady Graffam

SS: Dominique Ellis Jr.

Offensive Backups

LT: Jayden Shepard

LG: Cameron Teel

C: Jalen Teel

RG: Keation Lyon

RT: Alex McClendon

QB: Reece Kuhns

RB: Santonis Wright

TE: Matt Chapin

WR: Anthony Evans

WR: Phoenix Joseph

WR: Brady Graffam

Special Teams Starters

Placekicker: Yates Stevenson

Punter: Ethan Luberecki

Holder: Brady Graffam

Long Snapper: Braeden LaRocca

Special Teams backups

Placekicker: Ethan Luberecki

Punter: Yates Stevenson

Holder: Reece Kuhns

Long Snapper: Jarvis Tripp

Players to watch: DE: Rashad Streets, DE: Markez Wilbert, OLB: Chase Sizer, LB: Quinton Cypher, FS: Malcolm McIntyre, SS: Cairo Williams, LT: Creston Avery, QB: Bryson Gray, RB: Brilison McCullers, WR: Malachi Gilchrist, WR: Malachi Thomas

Keys to Success: The key to our success this season has been our team chemistry. Our players have committed to player FOR one another. As a result we have been able to overcome the adversity that has come our way

“Our win at Rolesville got us over the hump and confirmed that we were a legitimate contender in the East and at the state-wide level.”

Pronunciation Guide:

Kynis Tinnin (kin-nis Tin-in)

Tauatevalu Tuionetoa (too-eee)

Piercon Selland (pier-son)