

2024 BUNN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON DAVIS DELIVERING AT BHS

Former Wildcat brings plenty of enthusiasm to the program

From Staff Reports

BUNN -- Players aren't the only people who need to make adjustments when a new high school football coaching staff is implemented.

Sometimes, it's also the coaches.

Such was the case last season when Andre' Davis was selected as the new head grid coach at Bunn High School -- his alma mater.

Davis was a star quarterback during some of the Bunn glory days before heading off to Elon and Campbell to compete on the collegiate level.

Davis surrounded himself with like-minded assistants, most of whom had also played at BHS under either David Howle or Chris Miller -- or both.

But the incoming staff received a bit of a reality check when they quickly realized that some of the givens and expectations of the past were no longer in place.

Like regular participation in off-season workouts. Like intense weight



BHS HEAD COACH ANDRE' DAVIS

room sessions. Like showing up at practice every day with the intent of doing everything to obtain another victory for the Green and Gold.

And just like Rome, a quality football program isn't built in a day, but Davis and Company are making progress heading

into Year Two.

Bunn even earned a victory last week at Northampton County as the Wildcats continue to display improvement -- both on and off the field.

"We had a good off-season," Davis said. "We had a lot of guys who were regulars at workouts. We've stressed to these guys how important that is, and it was nice to not just show up in August and see a lot of new faces."

Bunn struggled to a 2-8 record last season against a brutal schedule -- both in non-league and Big East Conference action.

The Wildcats made some strides on defense, but had difficulty establishing a true identity on offense.

Davis feels like that has changed this fall, as evidenced by his club's 33-point outburst at Northampton County.

"The guys have a better understanding of what we are doing on offense," Davis said. "Lonnie Reid, our quarterback, is now in our second year with it,



BUNN'S LONNIE REID WORKS ON HIS PUNTING SKILLS



BUNN LINEMAN JOSEPH DULL



BUNN'S KYAIRE MOTT-BULLARD IS A POTENTIAL-FILLED FRESHMAN

2024 COLLEGE FOOTBALL SKEDS

From Staff Reports

FRANKLIN COUNTY -- Here are area schedules for the 2024 college football season:

APPALACHIAN ST.

Coach: Shawn Clark

• August 31 -- EAST

TENNESSEE STATE

• September 7 -- at

Clemson

• September 14 -- at

East Carolina

• September 19 --

SOUTH ALABAMA*

• September 28 -- LIB-

ERTY

• October 5 -- at Mar-

shall*

• October 12 -- at Lou-

isiana*

• October 26 -- GEOR-

GIA STATE

• November 2 -- OLD

DOMINION*

• November 7 -- at

Coastal Carolina*

• November 23 --

JAMES MADISON*

• November 30 -- at



SOUTHERN NASH ALUM JACKSON VICK NOW AT NC STATE

Georgia Southern*
* -- Denotes Sun Belt Conference Games

See SKEDS, Page 14

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2024 FRANKLINTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON JUSTICE BRINGS STABILITY

Red Rams looking to build on gridiron

From Staff Reports

FRANKLINTON -- Ask any expert, and they'll be quick to tell you the importance of continuity in building a successful high school football program.

Such is the case at Franklinton, which has boasted a myriad of quality players and coaches through the years.

Of course, players come and go, but so have the coaches -- and there have been some really good ones.

Franklinton hopes that problem will be remedied with the hiring of Michael Justice in the off-season.

Justice becomes the (brace for it) ninth head coach at FHS over the past 30 years -- an extremely high turnover rate, especially given the importance of maintaining continuity.

With each step forward the program seems to

make, there has been a coaching change, and the process inevitably starts over.

Justice is committed to Franklinton for the long-term, and there's plenty of reason for him to do that, considering the Red Rams' successful feeder programs and yearly incoming influx of talented young performers.

FHS will have a nice mix of youth and veterans as part of this year's club, which is off to an 0-2 start, but showed significant progress during a near-miss loss against Apex in the regular season opener.

Franklinton then went on the road last week and was topped at South Central in a strange game filled with poor weather and lengthy delays.

For Justice and Company, the non-league schedule is a brutal one -- and things don't get any easier once Big East Conference action begins in



FRANKLINTON'S KALIK ALSTON PICKS UP YARDAGE VS. SOUTH CENTRAL

two weeks.

Consider this -- three of the league juggernauts (Northern Nash, Southern Nash and Rocky Mount) have played four times for a state crown in the past 10 years, and Rocky Mount has won one of them.

Realignment will come next year, but Justice's initial campaign will see the Red Rams once again picked fourth in the four-team Class 3-A portion of the Big East behind the aforementioned Nash County juggernauts.

But FHS has pulled off upsets against those clubs in the past, notably a stunner over Rocky Mount three years ago. And the Red Rams were able to control Northern Nash during the Jimmy Williams Era, but that was before the Knights hit their stride in recent seasons.

Franklinton has some solid returnees such as Chan Thomas, Elijah Ellison, Trey Macholl and tackling machine Ray Crudup, among many others.

Keith James, a star last



NEW FHS FOOTBALL COACH MICHAEL JUSTICE

year on the JV squad, will take over at quarterback this season for the Red Rams, and he will have some targets to throw to,

including Thomas and Jamaal Epps.

Alijah Durham, who saw some spot varsity duty in 2023, will be Franklinton's chief running back.

James and Durham certainly have genetics on their side as their fathers -- Kevin James and Donnell Durham -- were stars on some of the great Bunn clubs in the late 1990s.

Franklinton's defense should be stingy, so if the Red Rams can score some points out of their spread offense, they could very much be a surprise this fall in what should be a powerful Big East Conference.

FHS will play at Louisburg this week and will return home

See RAMS, Page 14



FHS QUARTERBACK KEITH JAMES

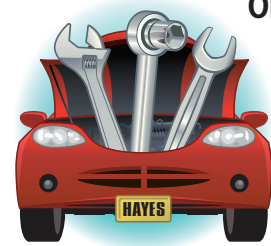


FRANKLINTON FOOTBALL CAPTAINS (L TO R) TREY MACHOLL, KENNETH MIDDLETON, RAY CRUDUP AND KEITH JAMES

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2024 LOUISBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON LHS YOUNG AND HUNGRY



DONDRE ALLEN EMERGED LAST FALL FOR LOUISBURG Warriors will lack experience once again during '24 season

From Staff Reports

LOUISBURG -- Strange as it may sound, it's as if a time capsule landed at Louisburg High School and took away two consecutive senior classes from the Warriors' football program.

Last year, the Warriors had only five seniors on their roster -- but quality certainly trumped quantity in the form of now-graduated greats Donte' Strickland, Anthony Carter and Isaiah Eddie.

As good as those players were, it takes 22 to fill out a starting lineup, which meant several underclassmen were thrown into the fire early in their respective varsity careers.

Because of that, Louisburg got off to a slow start, but those youngsters

developed as the campaign went on -- so much so that the Warriors eventually reached the second round of the Class 2-A State Playoffs -- and came within a two-point conversion of making it all the way to the third round.

Those seniors are now gone, so it would be expected that this year's Warriors would have a deep senior class.

Right? Wrong.

Again, Louisburg has just five seniors on its roster, but here's the good part -- because of what happened last year, LHS has a more experienced lineup than what its roster would initially say, thanks in part to so many freshman and sophomores competing on the varsity in 2023 while literally

learning on the job.

Despite losing the likes of Strickland, Carter and Eddie, LHS is strong once again at the skill positions, led by Michah McKnight.

McKnight saw plenty of action in 2023, especially when Louisburg went to a power package to make the best use of Strickland's running abilities.

And with Carter needing rest between playing so many snaps on offense and defense, Dondre Allen emerged as a high-quality running back as a ninth-grader.

McKnight and Allen are back this fall, and both played key roles in last week's 21-14 road decision against former league opponent Southeast Halifax.

Trailing heading into the fourth quarter, Louisburg delivered 13 unanswered points as McKnight rushed for 80 yards to go with a pair



MICAH MCKNIGHT HAS EXPERIENCE AT QB FOR LHS



CAIDEN GASIEWICZ RETURNS AT LINEBACKER FOR LHS

See LHS, Page 14

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SKEDS

BARTON COLLEGE
 Coach: Chip Hester
 • September 5 -- WEST VIRGINIA STATE
 • September 14 -- at Chowan
 • September 21 -- at Emory and Henry*
 • September 28 -- ANDERSON*
 • October 5 -- at Carson-Newman*
 • October 12 -- at Wingate*
 • October 19 -- LENOIR-RHYNE*
 • October 26 -- at Newberry*
 • November 2 -- CATAWBA*
 • November 9 -- at Limestone*
 • November 16 -- UVA-WISE*
 * -- Denotes South Atlantic Conference Games

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Braxton Harris
 • August 31 -- at Liberty
 • September 7 -- at Western Carolina
 • September 14 -- at Rhode Island*
 • September 21 -- STONY BROOK*
 • September 28 -- DEL-AWARE STATE
 • October 5 -- NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
 • October 19 -- at William and Mary*
 • October 26 -- NORTH CAROLINA A&T*
 • November 2 -- at Elon*
 • November 9 -- RICHMOND*
 • November 16 -- at Delaware*
 • November 23 -- TOWSON*
 * -- Denotes Coastal Athletic Association Games

DUKE UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Manny Diaz
 • August 30 -- ELON
 • September 6 -- at Northwestern
 • September 14 -- UCONN

• September 21 -- at Middle Tennessee
 • September 28 -- NORTH CAROLINA*
 • October 5 -- at Georgia Tech*
 • October 18 -- FLORIDA STATE*
 • October 26 -- SOUTH-ERN METHODIST*
 • November 2 -- at Miami*
 • November 9 -- at North Carolina State*
 • November 23 -- VIRGINIA TECH*
 • November 30 -- at Wake Forest*
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Mike Houston
 • August 31 -- NORFOLK STATE
 • September 7 -- at Old Dominion
 • September 14 -- APPALACHIAN STATE
 • September 21 -- at Liberty
 • September 28 -- UTSA*
 • October 5 -- at Charlotte*
 • October 19 -- at Army*
 • October 26 -- TEMPLE*
 • November 7 -- FLORIDA ATLANTIC*
 • November 14 -- at Tulsa*
 • November 23 -- at North Texas*
 • November 29 -- NAVY*
 * -- Denotes American Football Conference Games

LOUISBURG COLLEGE
 Coach: Quinderra Spellman
 • August 31 -- GEORGIA WARHAWKS
 • September 7 -- vs. Lackawanna College (at Potomac High School, Virginia)
 • September 14 -- HOCKING COLLEGE
 • September 21 -- SUSSEX COUNTY CC
 • September 28 -- at Newport News Apprentice School
 • October 5 -- vs. Georgia Military College (at Brookland-Cayce High School, South Carolina)
 • October 12 -- at Myrtle Beach Collegiate
 • October 19 -- PALMETTO COLLEGIATE
 • October 27 -- at Brevard College JV
 * November 2 -- vs. Nassau CC (at Alexandria City High School, Virginia)
 Note: Home Games Will Be Played At Louisburg High School
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
 Coach: Mack Brown
 • August 29 -- at Minnesota
 • September 7 -- CHARLOTTE
 • September 14 -- NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
 • September 21 -- JAMES MADISON
 • September 28 -- at Duke*
 • October 5 -- PITTSBURGH*
 • October 12 -- GEORGIA TECH*
 • October 26 -- at Virginia*
 • November 2 -- at Florida State*
 • November 16 -- WAKE FOREST*
 • November 23 -- at Boston College*
 • November 30 -- NC STATE*
 * -- Denotes Atlantic Coast Conference Games

NORTH CAROLINA A&T UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Vincent Brown
 • August 29 -- at Wake Forest
 • September 7 -- WINSTON-SALEM STATE
 • September 14 -- DEL-AWARE*
 • September 21 -- at North Carolina Central
 • September 28 -- at South Carolina State
 • October 5 -- at Richmond*
 • October 19 -- HAMP-TON*
 • October 26 -- at Campbell*

• November 2 -- WIL-LIAM AND MARY*
 • November 9 -- at Vil-lanova*
 • November 16 -- at Towson University*
 • November 23 -- ELON*
 * -- Denotes Coastal Athletic Association Games

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Trei Oliver
 • September 1 -- vs. Alabama State (at Miami Gardens, Florida)
 • September 7 -- ELON
 • September 14 -- at North Carolina
 • September 21 -- NORTH CAROLINA A&T
 • September 28 -- vs. Norfolk State (at Indianapolis, Indiana)*
 • October 5 -- at Campbell
 • October 12 -- VIRGINIA-LYNCHBURG
 • October 26 -- MORGAN STATE*
 • October 31 -- at South Carolina State*
 • November 1 -- HOWARD*
 • November 23 -- at Delaware State*
 * -- Denotes MEAC Games

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Dave Doeren
 • August 29 -- WEST-ERN CAROLINA
 • September 7 -- vs. Tennessee (at Charlotte, NC)
 • September 14 -- LOUISIANA TECH
 • September 21 -- at Clemson*
 • September 28 -- NORTHERN ILLINOIS
 • October 5 -- WAKE FOREST*
 • October 12 -- SYRA-CUSE*
 • October 19 -- at Cali-fornia*
 • November 2 -- STAN-FORD*
 • November 9 -- DUKE*

continued from page 11

• November 21 -- at Georgia Tech*
 • November 30 -- at North Carolina
 • North Carolina*
 * -- Denotes Atlan-tic Coast Conference Games

NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Jeff Filkovski
 • September 7 -- at Averett
 • September 14 -- FERRUM
 • September 21 -- HUNTINGDON*
 • September 28 -- at Belhaven*
 • October 5 -- METH-ODIST*
 • October 12 -- LAGRANGE*
 • October 26 -- at Southern Virginia*
 • November 2 -- at Greensboro*
 • November 9 -- BRE-VARD*
 • Novembr 16 -- at Maryville*
 * -- Denotes USA South Conference Games

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
 Coach: Dave Clawson
 • August 29 -- NORTH CAROLINA A&T
 • September 7 -- VIR-GINIA*
 • September 14 -- OLE MISS
 • September 28 -- LOUISIANA
 • October 5 -- at North Carolina State*
 • October 12 -- CLEM-SON*
 • October 19 -- at UCONN
 • October 26 -- at Stan-ford*
 • November 8 -- CALI-FORNIA*
 • November 16 -- at North Carolina*
 • November 23 -- at MIAMI*
 • November 30 -- DUKE*
 * -- Denotes Atlan-tic Coast Conference Games

CATS

continued from p. 11

special teams with an 84-yard kickoff return as Bunn rallied with 14 unanswered points in the final stanza of action to obtain the key road triumph. Due to a current lack of depth in the program, several Wildcats will play both ways, including the likes of veteran standouts Perry, Nick Wilson and Dino Longo. Bunn will be at home t his Friday night for a meeting against North Raleigh Christian Academy. The Wildcats' original game against Granville Central was called off when the Panthers suspended their season due to lack of participation. Bunn will open its challenging Big East Conference schedule on September 20 at home against the tradition-rich Rocky Mount Gryphons. Two years ago, BHS upset RM in one of the crowning moments of Dennis Burton's lone season as the head football coach for the Wildcats.

RAMS

continued from p. 12

next Friday for the Red Rams' final non-league tuneup against the Wakefield Wolverines. Franklinton's initial Big East Conference show-down will be September 20 at home against the Roanoke Rapids Yellow Jackets. FHS' run again the 'Big Three' of the Big East will begin October 18 on the road against the Northern Nash Fighting Knights at historic Death Valley on the NNHS campus, which is located in Red Oak. Northern Nash made the state finals in 2022 and was a Final Four participant in 2023 -- and is off to another solid start to the campaign this fall.

LHS

continued from p. 13

of touchdowns. Allen (59) and senior Carlos Person (50) combined for 109 yards on the ground as the Warriors upped their mark to 1-1 overall with the comeback conquest. Key returnee Caiden Gasiewicz, a linebacker, paced the defense with a team-high 12 tackles. The now 1-1 Warriors will be on the road this Friday at Franklinton and will travel to Wake Christian Academy next Friday before opening their Northern Lakes Athletic Conference work-sheet on September 20 at home versus the Carrboro Jaguars -- a team Louisburg defeated on the road during the 2024 prep football campaign.

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