



FOOTBALL

2018 Season Preview

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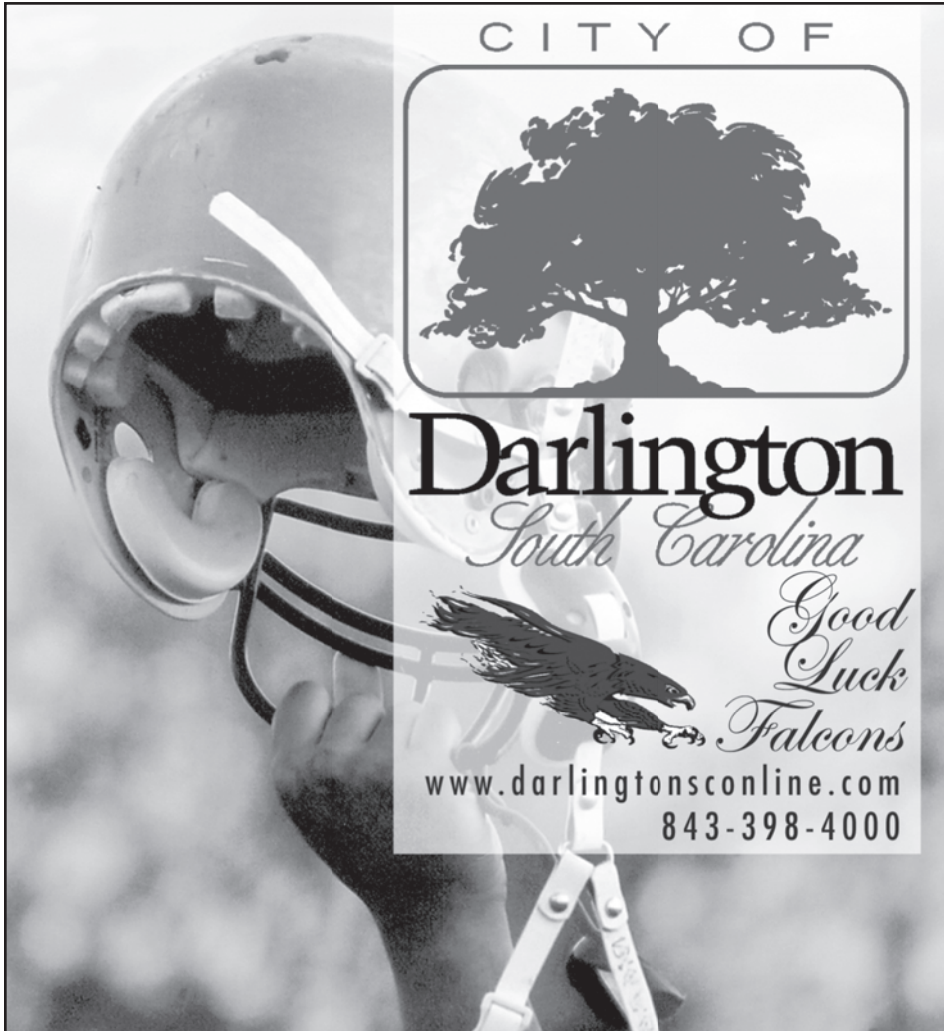
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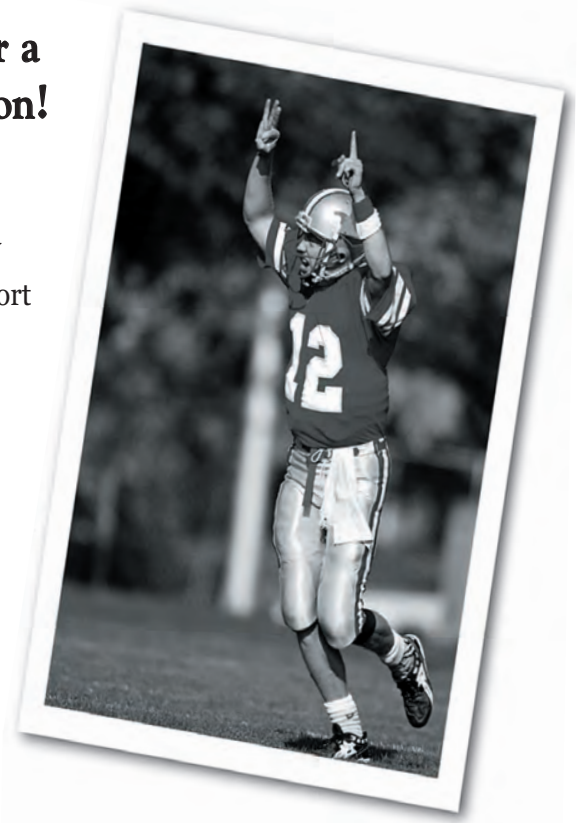
Darlington High School's Varsity Cheerleading Squad recently participated in a National Night Out event hosted by the City of Darlington and the Darlington Police Department. Cheerleaders performed and also set up a face painting station. Photo by Kendre' Thomas-Williamson



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The 2018 Lamar High School varsity football team. Photo by Melissa Rollins

Silver Foxes aim for successful title defense in 2018

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Lamar – The king of 1A football is getting ready to defend its crown.

The Lamar Silver Foxes kick off the 2018 season as the defending 1A state champions, but the dominance does not stop there.

Over the last three seasons the Silver Foxes have made three straight state championship appearances, winning two out of three. With that type of success it is pretty safe to say that Lamar is the measuring stick for all of 1A.

Success like that is not built over night, however. There are steps that go into building a program as stable as Lamar, making sure that players do not become complacent and while it is a challenge head coach Corey Fountain seems to have found the magic formula.

“We just try to keep ensuring that they are in the weight room and staying with our strength and conditioning program,” Fountain said. “We compete in that. We have a leader board and we have the guys compete. We just try to push these guys to set new goals every year. I mean

we have the same goals, but don’t be satisfied with what you did last year because that’s last year. Nothing you did last year matters this year. Just live in the present and be the best they can be now.”

After a three-year run of dominance, Lamar returns a mixed bag of players.

“We have some key gears in our motor coming back, but we are still missing a lot coming into this season,” Fountain said. “We have to really stay healthy if we are going to be successful. Our line has to do a great job of blocking. We loss two linemen, three of our linemen are back on the OL and most of our D-Linemen are back.”

The two biggest holes that Lamar is going to have trouble replacing is its linebacker core from last year and starting quarterback Rashard Coleman.

While the defense returns six starters, the Silver Foxes basically have to start from scratch with its linebackers. Players like David Cribb and Jeblonski Green have finally exhausted their eligibility and left what was once a stacked, veteran position now young and thin.

Not to take anything away from

Lamar’s defense, but it is the Silver Foxes offense that over the past three years has really become known as explosive and losing Coleman might have a bigger impact on that side of the ball than the linebackers on defense.

Running a hybrid version of the Wing T out of shotgun Lamar seemed to break one 50 plus yard touchdown play after another and while running back Jacquez Lucas was a big reason for that happening, it was the player taking the snaps that really helped everything go together offensively, according to Fountain.

“He kept the defense honest because he could throw the ball out on the perimeter, he could get it to the numbers and guys couldn’t pack the box like they have in years past on us,” Fountain said.

LAMAR ON PG. 5

LHS Varsity Schedule

Kick off is at 7:30 p.m.

August 17 Varsity vs. Hemingway
August 24 Varsity @ Central
August 31 Varsity @ Darlington
September 7 Varsity vs. North Central
September 13 JV @ Cheraw
September 14 Varsity vs. Cheraw
September 21 Varsity vs. Lake View
September 28 Varsity vs. Gray Collegiate Academy
October 12 Varsity @ Timmons ville
October 19 Varsity vs. Great Falls
October 26 Varsity vs. McBee

Lamar

Continued from pg. 4

"For the last two years he has been able to keep the defense honest with the passing game. We are really going to miss him, we really are and hopefully right now Cameron Galloway is going to be the guy that steps in and takes his place. You know, Jacquez Lucas might step in and play a little quarterback as well."

Galloway, who was able to get some playing time last year in mop up duty, is not the passer that Coleman was nor does he have the size, but he does bring a completely different set of skills to the table.

While Coleman could drop back and make throws, Galloway makes up for his passing deficiencies with an uncanny ability to run the football and while not being able to throw the football would seem less than ideal, Fountain believes it can actually help his offense thrive.

"It gives us another threat in the backfield with running the football, having a QB running the football, that puts another threat on defenses," Fountain said.

With the loss of linebackers and quarterback people might be led to believe that Lamar is rebuilding this year and Fountain, for the most part, would

agree. The difference, however, is he believes if this team takes the right steps then this rebuilding could become more of just a reload instead.

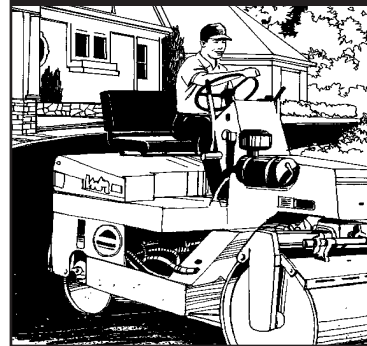
"We are in a more of a rebuilding phase this year, but if we can stay healthy and keep these guys hungry they're ready to compete every night and get better," Fountain said. "We have to get our younger guys getting better every game, better every scrimmage and take what they learn and improve on it each week."

The bright spot, however, for Fountain and company is that despite the fact the defense has to find new linebackers or that the offense needs a new signal caller to replace Coleman, the trenches, where most agree that the game of football is won, seems to be in pretty good shape.

"That's the only thing that doesn't have me panicking right now," Fountain said. "We have some experienced guys coming back on our offensive line and defensive line."

So is this a rebuild or reload? Right now all we can do is speculate, but if we can learn anything from the past then it should be safe to say that Lamar is going to be contender and not a pretender when the end of the season rolls around.

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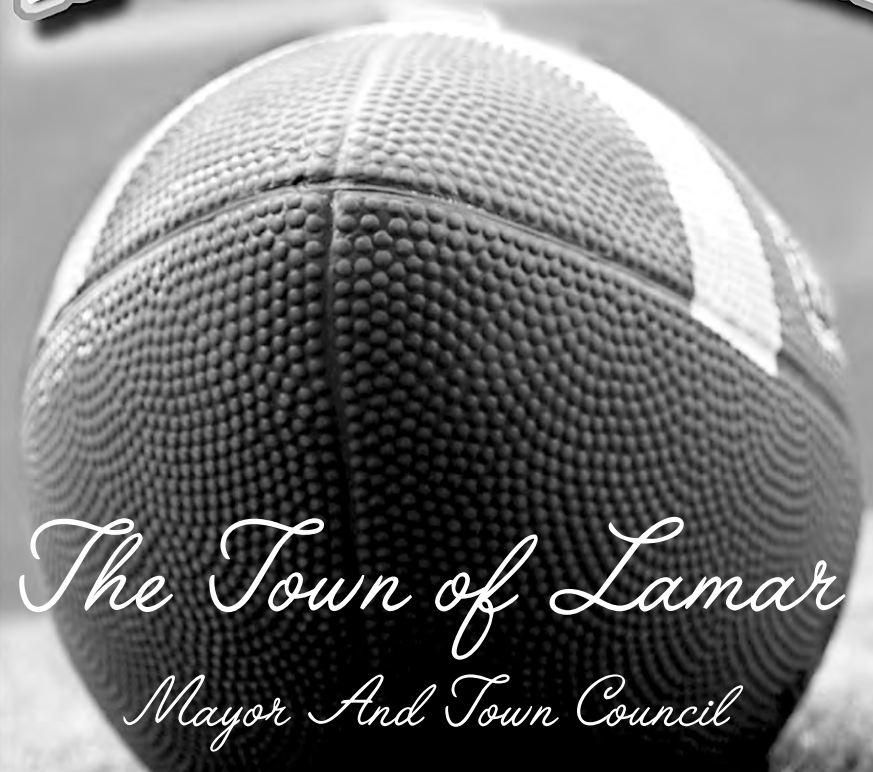


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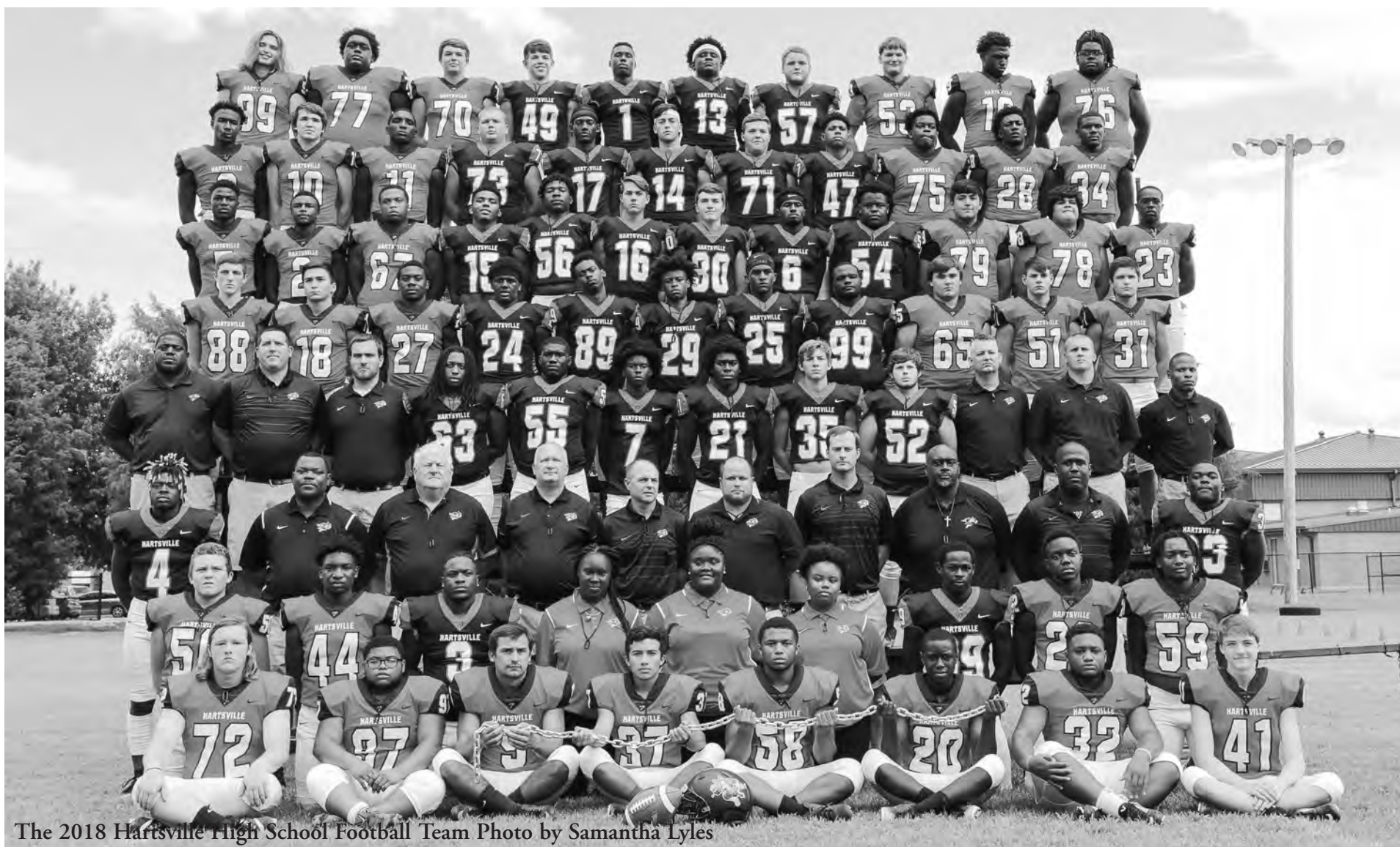
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The 2018 Hartsville High School Football Team Photo by Samantha Lyles

Hard work and hunger drive Hartsville this season in football

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Hartsville – As the Hartsville Red Foxes begin to prepare for the upcoming season there are numerous stats, streaks and accolades that I could rattle off that would impress the casual fan all the way to crazy, obsessed, I have not missed a home game in 35 years fan.

The sheer volume of accomplishments over the last six years is nothing short of amazing, but for head coach Jeff Calabrese, his staff and his players, previous accomplishments are nice to talk about they mean absolutely nothing for the upcoming season.

“It’s no different than it is every year to be honest with you,” Calabrese said. “All that stuff is great, but it’s media eye candy, fan eye candy, all of the statistics and stuff like that. This football team hasn’t done anything. We haven’t won a game, we haven’t lost a game, we have a lot of work to do

and even though you return some names and faces, sometimes they are in different positions, you have to try and create depth with what you have.”

To some it might come across as a bit brash, but in reality Calabrese is completely right and that is part of the reason why Hartsville has been able to sustain success for so many years now. What a previous team has done means nothing to the current team, which is why repeat champions are so few and far in between.

It is not that it is impossible, but so many factors go into winning at such a high level like Hartsville has over the past six years. The dedication, the hard work, the overall commitment to getting better every day and previous accolades do not fall into any of the equations to attain those things.

“We are who we are,” Calabrese said. “We as coaches certainly don’t reference last year’s team.

We turn the page in the January and it’s all about 2018. Certainly we have goals and aspirations that we would like to achieve, but at the end of the day if you don’t get one inch better or one foot better then you are getting worse. You are either getting one of the two every day and that is us as human beings; that’s the way we coach and that’s the way we preach to them. You have to get better today; today is an opportunity to step on the field. You can go backwards or go forward and get better.”

Heading into this season, Hartsville is going to be favored by most to make it back to the 4A state championship, and while this senior heavy team has the players to do just that, the path is not going to be easy.

“We do have quite a bit of seniors, but the bottom line is they have to get out there and work and prove that they are capable,” Calabrese said.

HARTSVILLE ON 7

HHS Varsity Schedule

Kick off is at 7:30 p.m.

August 24 Varsity vs. South Florence
August 30 JV vs. Camden
August 31 Varsity @ Camden
September 6 JV @ Conway
September 7 Varsity vs. Conway
September 14 Varsity @ Bluffton
September 21 Varsity vs. Abbeville
September 28 Varsity vs. Myrtle Beach
October 4 JV vs. Marlboro County
October 5 Varsity @ Marlboro County
October 12 Varsity vs. Wilson
October 18 JV vs. N. Myrtle Beach
October 19 Varsity @ N. Myrtle Beach
October 25 JV vs. Darlington
October 26 Varsity @ Darlington

JEFF CALABRESE
HEAD VARSITY

JAMIE HORTON
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Hartsville

Continued from 6

"The conference is extremely difficult, our non-conference is difficult. It's in front of them and they have to go out and do it. We have a lot of work to do. We've worked pretty well this summer, but we have a long way to go."

Calabrese does, however, like the makeup of this team because he believes that these players are hungry to accomplish everything possible on the football field.

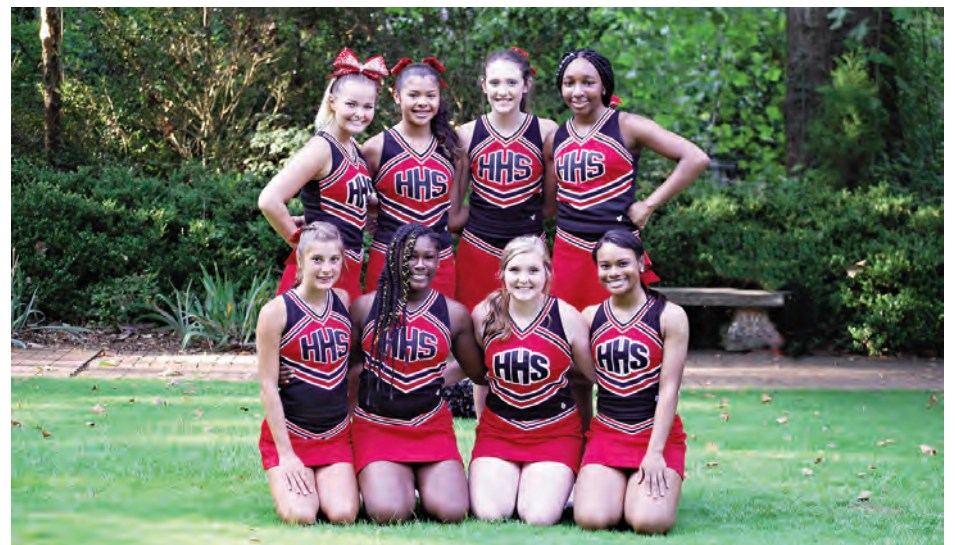
"There are three ingredients to being a good teammate and one of them is being hungry and I do think this team is very hungry for achieving things on the football field,"

Calabrese said. "There are some things that we have to work on, but the hunger aspect is real. They want to be a good football team. They want to make this team proud. They understand that we have a great challenge in front of us, but that is the easy part for these kids. They'll compete, they're hungry."

It is that type of hunger, the hard work in the weight room, the preparation in the film room and time on the practice fields that turns a team into a champion and never the trophies from the previous seasons because trophies are notorious for doing one thing and one thing only according to Calabrese.

"Trophies collect dust," he said.

With that being said, however, Hartsville does hope to add another trophy this season to the large collection that is collecting dust.



Prayer of a Sportsman

By Berton Braley

Dear Lord, in the battle that goes on through life
I ask but a field that is fair,
A chance that is equal with all in the strife,
A courage to strive and to dare;

And if should win, let it be by the code
With my faith and my honor held high;
And if I should lose, let me stand by the road,
And cheer as the winners go by.

And Lord, may my shouts be ungrudging and clear,
A tribute that comes from the heart,
And let me not cherish a snarl or a sneer
Or play any sniveling part;

Let me say, "There they ride,
on whom laurel's bestowed
Since they played the game better than I."
Let me stand with a smile by the side of the road,
And cheer as the winners go by.

So grant me to conquer, if conquer I can,
By proving my worth in the fray,
But teach me to lose like a regular man,
And not like a craven, I pray;

Let me take off my hat to the warriors who strode
To victory splendid and high,
Yea, teach me to stand by the side of the road
And cheer as the winners go by.



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Depth issues, strength of schedule and potential on offense highlight upcoming Falcons season

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Darlington – Remember ever hearing the saying “strength in numbers”. In sports, especially football, there could be nothing truer.

Talent is important, especially when it comes to the starting group, but players, regardless of the sport, have to take breaks and while it is not guaranteed to happen, usually at least one starter is going to get injured at some point in the season.

At those moments, a team’s depth is truly tested. It is where a talented team’s season can go from one of potential to one of disappointment. Heading into this upcoming football season that is exactly where the Darlington Falcons are sitting.

“Our numbers aren’t what we would like, so from a depth standpoint we are kind of concerned on how we are going to be depth-wise,” Darlington head coach John Jones said. “We’ve got to find some

guys up front too. Right now our o-line and d-line is a big concern for us depth-wise and just getting guys into the right spot.”

So how does Darlington combat that type of problem? The answer is to attempt to get more out of what is available, even if it goes against Jones’ normal philosophy.

“We are going to be playing some guys both ways, more guys both ways than what we want, but we have to get the best 11 on the field,” Jones said, despite not wanting to have players go both ways.

And while it is never good to have depth issues, this season might be even more pressing with Darlington’s football region receiving a pretty staggering makeover.

What was a five-team region with Darlington, Hartsville, Crestwood, Lakewood and Lugoff-Elgin, is now a six-team region with Darlington, Hartsville, Wilson, Marlboro County, Myrtle Beach

and North Myrtle Beach.

That is not to take shot those three schools leaving, but the four replacing them have just made this region one of the toughest, if not the toughest, in all of 4A.

“I think one thing about this region that we are going into; I believe every coach in this region would tell you if this is not the best region in the state, the most competitive, it’s going to be one of the best, most competitive,” Jones said. “Whoever comes out of this region come playoff time are going to be tested and a tough out in the playoffs.”

But it is not just Darlington’s region that is difficult. The Falcons also play a very tough non-region schedule and that is more by choice than default, because according to Jones that is one of the best ways to prepare for tough region play.

This year’s non-region schedule includes Cheraw, Lamar, the defending 1A state champs, former region rival Crestwood and two 5A schools in West

Florence and South Florence.

“We try to generate our non-conference schedule to make it as tough as we can because we feel like it benefits us when region play starts,” Jones said. “You know a lot of people water down their non-region schedule in different places to do different things, but we just feel like the harder our non-region schedule is the more it is going to help us adapt to what we have to play when we see region, especially in this new region.”

Now with a gauntlet ahead of them, the Falcons, like every other team in the region, is in full preparation mode and for Jones and company it has been somewhat of mixed bag, especially when it comes to depth due to the lower numbers of players coming out.

“We think it has been going pretty good,” Jones said, commenting on the team’s work and preparation over the past offseason. “We felt like we had a good spring; one of the best springs we’ve had.

Our summer has been up and down a little bit, but we are making grounds and we are in a situation where we have to find some depth."

So far the bright spot during this off-season has been the offense, where Darlington returns a vast majority of its talented skilled players. Even more promising has been the competition at the quarterback position.

Originally thought to be junior Brian Robinson's job to lose, senior backup Silas Barr, who played a lot last season when Robinson was hurt, has really come along and spiced things up a bit in practice. That is not a dig at Robinson as much as it is a compliment to Barr who is progressing to help make the team better.

"Right now Silas Barr is doing some great things also," Jones said. "Our quarterback competition, the battle for our job at quarterback, has been very interesting and it is going to continue to be interesting. They've been nip and tuck all summer long. Silas opens the door for us in some ways too. They both have unique charac-

teristics that are going to allow us to do some different things offensively that we haven't been able to do since Frankie was here."

If this can carry over into the regular season, these two quarterbacks, both who have two very different skill sets, can really help ignite the potentially potent spread attack that Jones has envisioned since he arrived four years ago.

It might be believed that defense win championships and that might be true a majority of the time, but what is also true is the team with the most points at the end wins the game and wins can equate into championships if you earn enough of them at the right time.

With so many variables, so many possibilities, so many unknowns this season has the chance to go in so many different directions.

These Falcons know what direction they want to go in and that is down I20 to Columbia in December to play for a state championship.

DARLINGTON FALCONS **2018 Football**

August 17 **Cheraw Braves** 7:30 PM
Week 0 Military/First Responder Night Students: Red/White/Blue Tie Dye

August 24 **@ West Florence Knights** 7:30 PM
Week 1

August 30 **JV vs. West Florence** 6:00 PM

August 31 **Lamar Silver Foxes** 7:30 PM
Week 2 Rec Dept/DMS Night Students: Neon

September 13 **JV vs. Crestwood** 6:00 PM

September 14 **@ Crestwood Knights** 7:30 PM
Week 4

September 19 (WED) **JV vs. South Florence** 6:00 PM

September 20 **@ South Florence Bruins** 7:30 PM
Week 5 THURS

September 27 **JV @ Wilson** 6:30 PM

September 28 **Wilson Tigers*** 7:30 PM
Week 6 Homecoming/Virgil Wells Trophy Students: Black Out

October 4 **JV @ Myrtle Beach** 6:30 PM

October 5 **Myrtle Beach Seahawks*** 7:30 PM
Week 7 Breast Cancer Awareness Night Students: Pink Out

October 11 **JV vs. N Myrtle Beach** 6:30 PM

October 12 **@ N Myrtle Beach Chiefs*** 7:30 PM
Week 8

October 18 **JV vs. Marlboro Co** 6:30 PM

October 19 **@ Marlboro Co Bulldogs*** 7:30 PM
Week 9

October 25 **JV @ Hartsville** 6:30 PM

October 26 **Hartsville Red Foxes*** 7:30 PM
Week 10 Senior Night Students: Purple Out

All Home Games at Falcons Nest Stadium. Dates and times subject to change. *Region 6-4A Game

Varsity Football Head Coach: *John Jones* JV Football Head Coach: *William DuBose*

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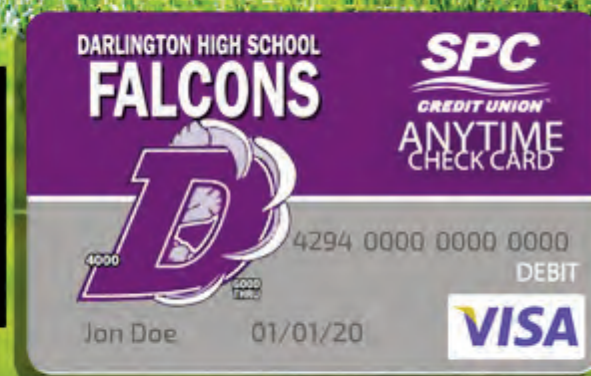


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Jordan has high expectations for Darlington athletics

By Melissa Rollins
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

Michael Jordan is ready to take Darlington athletics to the next level but that doesn't mean that he'll let his student-athletes slide on their grades; far from it. Jordan knows that it takes skills and the brains to back them up for students to be successful.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, the self-described Navy brat traveled all over the country and the world with his family before entering high school and finding himself on the football field at Kellam High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia. His skills there took him to North Carolina on a scholarship, where he soon discovered that he had more to learn.

"I went to Livingstone College on a full football scholarship," Jordan said. "That was an experience. I left Kellam High School as a so-called star football player, played offensive linebacker. I got to Livingstone and I was a little guppy in a big pond. That opened up my eyes



immensely; it was a big shock to me."

After graduating with a degree in education, Jordan returned to Virginia to begin his teaching career; he also began coaching.

"I started teaching in Pennsylvania County, Virginia," Jordan said. "They say at that time it was the largest county in Virginia and also the poorest. I started at the junior high school and coached basketball, football and track. Eventually I got to the high school, coaching not teaching, and I was the defen-

sive coordinator. We started out the first year 0-10, gave up over 40 points a game as a defensive coordinator. Two years later we were playing in the semi-finals of the state championship."

Jordan said that even before the school year kicked off in Darlington County, he had plans in mind to keep his athletes on the right track.

"I will have access to PowerSchool so I will be able to monitor students' progress along with my assistant AD, Coach Sandifer," Jordan said. "Where I came from in Jasper County we had a 2.0 (Grade Point Average) rule. At the same time, I am not one of those coaches who say that a player doesn't have the 2.0 so we're going to discard them. What we would do is they would have to get tutored and get help to bring those grades up."

He will also make sure that his athletes understand that getting recruited takes more than just being able to make the play.

"We are looking at doing a recruiting seminar for our student-athletes and their parents,"

Jordan said. "Our athletic booster club is sponsoring that and sponsoring the program that we purchased. Our athletes can sign-up under our school name and number and it helps them see if they are on track for an athletic scholarship and on what levels. A lot of our parents don't understand what it takes to be recruited. A lot of them think their child is a great athlete and they should just get a D1 scholarship. Character and discipline goes a long way in that too. This program also speaks to them about that. I told a young man registering for ninth grade (the other day) that his academic and athletic recruiting starts now; everything that you do from now on will be scrutinized by college coaches."

Jordan said that he credits all of his success to having a partner every step of the way.

"A great deal of the successes that I have had...have come because I have been blessed with the most beautiful, outstanding wife that anyone could have," Jordan said. "She has never, in 24 years, complained about what I do athletically; the time, the phone calls, never. There is a say-

ing that behind every successful man is a strong woman. My wife doesn't walk behind me; she walks beside me. I cannot thank her enough."

His successes have been great up to this point but Jordan said he has big dream for Darlington as well.

"My expectations are big and they are high; I truly believe that if we set the bar high as administrators, that our coaches and our student-athletes will obtain that goal," Jordan said. "My expectation is to have the best athletic department in Darlington County, the 4A classification, Region 6, the Pee Dee, the lower state and the state. That is my expectation and in order to do that, we have to get those programs that are not winning as much as we would like, we have to get them there. You do that through academics by having your better athletes academically eligible. Ms. Gehrke expects that too. She wants to win. She wants to win on the field and she wants to win in the classroom. She wants the kids to win out in the community. She wants them to be able to compete in a global society."

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Horton up for the challenge of leading Red Fox nation

By Melissa Rollins
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If anyone knows the benefits of athletics, it is Jamie Horton. She started playing softball at four-years-old; last month she was named the Athletics Director at Hartsville High School.

"Darlington County School District has been really big the last few years on what we call 'The Four C's' and it is basically soft skills," Horton said. "Sports and extracurricular activities are some of the best ways in high school to hone and learn those skills like cooperation, communication, collaboration and critical thinking. It puts you in a scenario where you have to do that on a daily basis with other people."

Horton is a native of McBee who first came to Hartsville to study at Coker College; the city stuck with her.

"I played three sports in high school and I got a softball scholarship to Coker," Horton said. "I went through the teaching program there and then did my student teaching at Hartsville High."

Horton said that athletics was a



passion of hers very early on.

"I started playing recreation league t-ball when I was four and it just became a passion of mine," Horton said. "I have a very competitive spirit. McBee has a junior high and high school all in one. Once I got to that age, I started playing volleyball, basketball and softball. It is a lot easier for someone at a smaller school to participate in athletics because the numbers are lower. Somewhere like Hartsville or Darlington, it is easier for a student to be able to specialize because you don't need to go out

and recruit more kids to make sure you've got enough for a team to be able to play."

Horton credits her family and the skills she learned playing sports for preparing her for life after graduation.

"I had some influential family members who coached me and I had influential coaches in junior high and high school," Horton said. "Sports really helped shape me and give me confidence in moving forward after high school."

After graduating from Coker, Horton took her skills to the classroom but never left that softball glove far behind. After a few years of teaching, Horton returned to the classroom as a student.

"A few years after I first started teaching, I decided I wanted to go back to school to get my masters degree in educational leadership," Horton said. "I just combined that with my love of sports and it brought me to wanting to be an athletic director. I knew when I started my masters that my end game was something in higher education; it just worked out perfectly that my first path to

that is athletic directing."

Coming on the heels of retiring athletic director Phyllis Griggs, Horton said that she is up for the challenge.

"Phyllis Griggs is a legend and I have big shoes to fill from her," Horton said. "I was very fortunate to be able to work with her in a kind of apprenticeship last year. I worked with her through the summer and all of last year trying to soak up as much knowledge as I could. She taught me a lot and she has been a huge supporter and a huge help as I've transitioned into the main role."

Horton served as coach for the softball team and believes that coupling that with her apprenticeship she has a good handle on the athletics at Hartsville and where she wants to take them.

"I learned a lot of what I know from coaching under Phyllis and just being around the other programs," Horton said. "Even though I was the assistant softball coach and then the head softball coach, I attended the basketball games, football games, volleyball games; I was very present in other aspects of the sports programs."

In a community full of Red Foxes, Horton said it is important to her that her student-athletes give back.

"We have a lot of young coaches on staff and I am trying to get them into promoting good things that happen through their teams," Horton said. "Our football team had camp and they went to the Boys and Girls Club of Hartsville and spent several hours there holding a mini camp for the boys and girls, playing games with them. The community needs to know that our athletes are giving back to the people that are so supportive of them."

One aspect of that community support has come through the Byerly Foundation.

"The beginning of June I wrote a grant to the Byerly Foundation for four AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) and lock boxes to put them at our different facilities," Horton said. "We only have two on campus and we have 30 sports teams. I just found out that we received the grant. Now, more of our athletes are covered during games and practices."

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Trinity-Byrnes cheerleader takes message of self-care to national stage

By Melissa Rollins
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The Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School football team is hoping to bring home the title this season after chasing its first state championship title last year. One of their cheerleaders is also hoping for a win, this time on a national level as she competes in the Miss Teen Global United States Pageant.

For Chandler Jordan, though, beauty pageants are less about winning a crown or title and more about making a difference. When she competes in Orlando, Florida this November she will be sharing her Perfectly Imperfect platform, letting others know that they are perfect just the way that they are.

"I did my first pageant when I was seven-years-old," Jordan said. "That sparked my interest in community service. I did it in honor of my aunt who was actually dying from breast cancer at the time."

Jordan said that people often have a misperception of pageants and the people who participate in them.

"There are stereotypes of pageants but I have done so many pageants and the number one thing for me was all of the people that I met," Jordan said. "Those people are people that I still talk to everyday. Every single day I am still talking to some of the people that I met during my very first pageant. We have all done community service project together since then and that is something that we all got motivated to do through pageants."

Her foray into the pageant world was unplanned but the platform she will be running on in November is not, having been carefully crafted over several years.

"My platform is called Imperfectly Perfect and I have been developing it over the last two years," Jordan said. "It focuses on self-confidence and body positivity while



spreading education and awareness of mental health, specifically eating disorders while promoting healthy eating, healthy minds and healthy lifestyles."

The platform is personal for her after developing an eating disorder herself.


"When I was overcoming that, throughout that process which has been going on over the last two years, I realized that there are so many other people going through this," Jordan said. "Like me, they felt ashamed and embarrassed about it. My ultimate goal is to be the voice for people who feel like they can't find their own and to be the light for people who feel like they are in the dark. Being involved in

both the beauty pageant industry and in modeling I have seen so much, not just eating disorders but with mental health in general. I have seen so many overcome it, including myself, and I think that makes us even stronger."

Jordan said that she was unsure about telling her story but quickly realized that other people could relate.

"The first time I talked about (my story) it was awful," she said. "I said that I was done and I was not doing that platform. Then someone called me...and told me on the phone that I had to keep doing that platform. I have been around three other girls in the last few months that have gone through the same thing as me and I have been able to talk them through it. This was definitely meant to be."

Jordan is a sophomore at Trinity-Byrnes. She is a varsity cheerleader, a member of the school dance team, is an honors student and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society.




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