



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE ZEPHYRHILLS NEWS

# PIGSKIN *preview* 2023

ZEPHYRHILLS  
PASCO  
ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
WIREGRASS RANCH  
WESLEY CHAPEL  
CYPRESS CREEK

**Why Buy From**

# *Jim Browne* **AUTOMOTIVE**

CHEVROLET • BUICK • GMC • CHRYSLER • JEEP • DODGE • RAM

**DADE CITY**

- ★ All-time online reputation score of 4.7 out of 5.0 Stars with over 5,500 online reviews.
- ★ Over 750 New & Used vehicles available
- ★ Guaranteed Market Value for Your Trade In.
- ★ Nationwide Lifetime Warranty
- ★ Recipient of the Customer First Award for Excellence
- ★ Certified Collision Center on US 301 between Dade City & Zephyrhills



*Remember that's Jim Browne with an "E"*

Shop online at

**[JimBrowneAuto.com](http://JimBrowneAuto.com)**





# Friday Night Football is under way for six high school teams in our coverage area with the Bulldogs, Warriors, Pirates, Bulls, Coyotes and Wildcats seeking playoff berths

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter

In what has now become an annual tradition, *The Zephyrhills News* is previewing six high school football teams in our coverage area. That list includes Zephyrhills, Pasco, Wesley Chapel, Wiregrass Ranch, Zephyrhills Christian Academy and Cypress Creek.

All have playoff aspirations. How real those are, however, will be played out during the regular season.

Last year, no team advanced further than Zephyrhills, which is coming off its first region final appearance in school history. The Bulldogs got off to a rough start, losing its season opener at home against Lake Wales, the team that beat them in the region finals and went on to win a state championship.

Despite dropping its first game, Zephyrhills, which has made the playoffs eight of the past nine seasons, should not be counted out so early.

There is plenty of skill with key returners in quarterback Brendyn Colella, running back Rodney Smith, wide receiver D.J. Pickett, a Division I recruit and linebacker Fred Maxiner. Two-way starters Jakobe Campbell and Ted Sands also will contribute.

Line play, on both sides of the ball, must be shored up. Zephyrhills struggled at the line of scrimmage against Lake Wales.

Let's take a deeper look into the other teams now. Pasco made a drastic improvement last season. The Pirates went 9-2 and snapped a long playoff drought under new coach Alphonso Freaney, who has since returned to his native

Alabama.

Taking over is Fred Hicks, whose goal is to ensure that last year's turnaround was not a one-season wonder. To do so, he must replace Tayshaun Balmir, who as a senior rushed for nearly 1,900 yards and is now at Fort Hays State in Kansas.

Hicks, a former assistant at former state champion Armwood, also coached at Tampa Bay Tech and King. He played at East Carolina and in the Arena Football League. He brought three assistants from Armwood.

With Balmir gone, the offense will rely on quarterback Alvaunte Brown, who transferred from Carrollwood Day School, and more experienced blockers up front led by returners Tahir Richards, Mason Phippen and Juan Torres.

Defensive leaders are Tyreese Grosse, Julious Hill and Desmick Davis and despite Pasco losing its season opener against East Ridge, a winning record is not out of the question.

Wiregrass Ranch had a six-year playoff run halted with last year's 4-6 record, which included coach Mark Kantor's 100th career win.

The offense is bolstered by the return of Luke Knight, the quarterback at John Long Middle who spent time at Tampa Jesuit and Merritt Island before returning to Wiregrass Ranch. Other key players are Isaiah Riggins, Jaiden Barron and Fred Adams.

Despite posting the best record in the team's six-year history at 7-3, Cypress Creek missed the playoffs in 2022. Matching that mark this year is not out of the question, which would almost surely get the Coyotes into the postseason.

Another year of experience should benefit two key returners in quarterback Jack Niemann and running back Malachi Askin. Other skill players are Roman Sercu, Milton Garcia and Shawn Smith.

Coming off a winless season, an 0-10 mark cost former coach Tony Egan his job after six seasons at Wesley Chapel. In steps coach Lawrence Coleman, a former assistant at East Lake.

Egan's teams went 34-34 in six years, but Coleman has loftier goals in mind.

Coleman's desire to "change the culture" could go a long way in helping to return the Wildcats to relevance. Wesley Chapel has a young offensive line, but a strong front seven on the other side of the ball with linebacker Wesley Young anchoring that 4-3 unit.

Coleman considers wide receiver-defensive backs Isreal Benton and Bupe Chinsanga as standouts on offense and defense. Converted lineman Logan Pomerence, a senior, is the new quarterback with slot receiver Tavion Cousin expected to make an impact.

There are some major changes at ZCA. Mike Smith, who started the program, is giving way to his son Mike Smith Jr. as the new head coach. As a former quarterback for the Warriors, he will rely on help from coordinators Spence Jones and B.J. Hill.

The Warriors went 4-6 last season to see their five-year playoff run end. Key players are defensive lineman Kaden Paghense, cornerback-receiver Amarri Range, receiver Ramos and Austin, a center. Returning quarterback Parker Stirnkorb should also have an impact.

As has been the case for the past few years, Steve Lee and Andy Warriner will cover the teams. Key contributions for this tab come from publisher/owner Jan Linville, advertising sales manager Theresa LeBlanc, reporter Susan Slater, graphic designer Elizabeth Sancel, accounting manager Cindy DeMatteo, receptionist Josephine Light and James Bannon in circulation.



Left: The 2023 Wesley Chapel Wildcats take the field for their home opener against Sunlake.



Right: The 2023 Pasco Pirates traveled to River Ridge for their preseason debut.

**There's no traffic on the extra mile. GIVE IT YOUR ALL, BULLDOGS!**

**BAHR'S**  
PROPANE GAS AND A/C INC.  
Lic. CAC043948  
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS  
www.bahrsp propanegasandac.com

**Franklin Rinnai DAIKIN FIT**  
Proud to be Your Community Propane Gas and Air Conditioning Company Since 1988  
Lenny Bahr & Kevin Bahr

**DEDA CITY**  
15229 U.S. Hwy. 301  
(352) 567-7678  
M-F 9am-4pm

**ZEPHYRHILLS**  
4441 Allen Road  
(813) 782-5013  
M-F 8am-5pm; Sat 8am-noon

**\$1.00 OFF**  
20 or 30 lb. Cylinder Installation  
Present coupon. Expires 10/31/23. ZNEWS

**\$5.00 OFF**  
29-Point A/C Maintenance Check  
Present coupon. Expires 10/31/23. ZNEWS

**\$10.00 OFF**  
a Service Call  
Present coupon. Expires 10/31/23. ZNEWS

**\$100.00 OFF**  
on any Central A/C Installation  
Present coupon. Expires 10/31/23. ZNEWS

**TOTAL COUPON DISCOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200**

**FREE Extended Labor Warranties Available on Qualified High Efficiency New A/C Units!**

**Representative Randy Maggard**  
Florida House of Representatives, District 54

**Creekside Center**  
35358 SR 54 Zephyrhills Florida 33541  
(813) 780-0667  
(813) 780-0669 Fax  
randy.maggard@myfloridahouse.gov

# Guard the Yard, Bulldogs!

**INDIVIDUALS PLAY THE GAME, BUT TEAMS BEAT THE ODDS!**

Melonie Bahr Monson - Mayor  
William (Billy) Poe, Jr. - City Manager

**ZEPHYRHILLS CITY COUNCIL**  
Lance A. Smith - Council President  
Kenneth Burgess - Council Vice President  
Jodi Wilkeson - Councilwoman  
Charles E. Proctor - Councilman  
Steven F. Spina, PhD - Councilman

**5335 8th Street, Zephyrhills • 813) 780-0000 • www.ci.zephyrhills.fl.us**



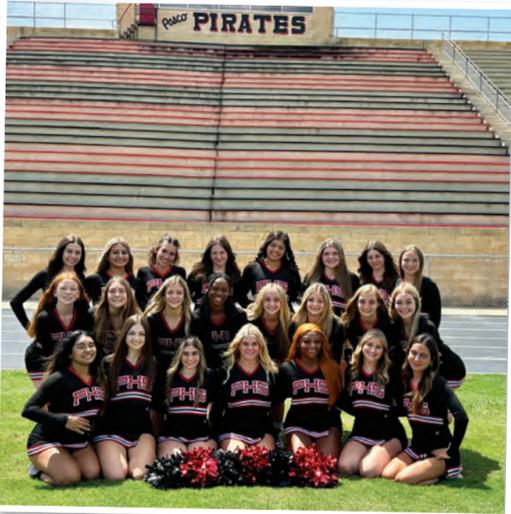


Cypress Creek varsity cheer team

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COYOTES



Zephyrhills Bulldog varsity cheer team



Pasco varsity cheer team

PHOTO BY GIDGET GUIDO-IRIZARRY

Wiregrass varsity cheer team



Zephyrhills Christian Academy varsity cheer team

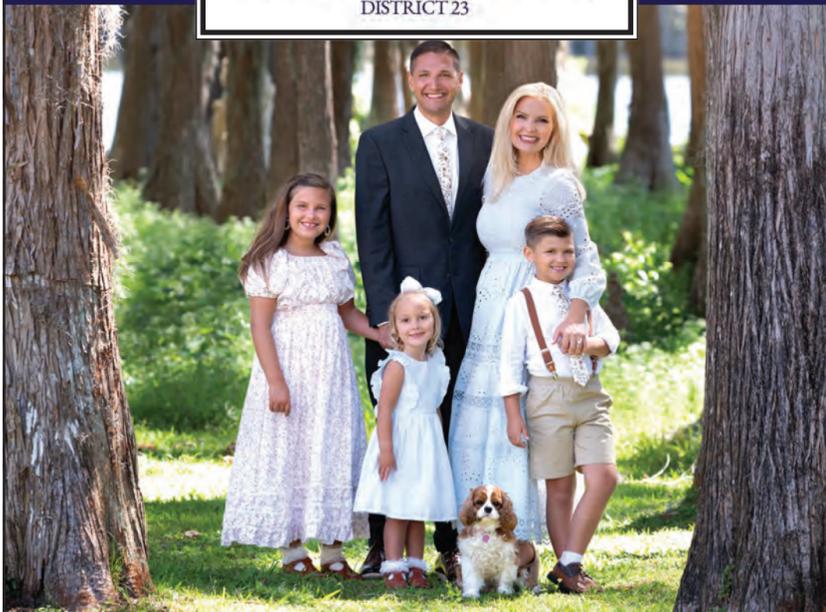


Wesley Chapel Wildcat cheer team



Keep the Dream Alive...  
...Believe & Achieve!

DANNY BURGESS  
FOR STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 23



HUSBAND. FATHER.  
SOLDIER. LEADER.

www.DannyBurgessFL.com  
f DannyBurgessFL t DannyBurgessFL

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Danny Burgess,  
Republican for State Senate, District 23

**EAT CHIKIN. WATCH PIGSKIN.**

**FREE Large Waffle Fries**  
for Teachers & High School Students on  
Varsity Home Game Days

Valid only at Chick-fil-A Zephyrhills  
Must Show Teacher or Student ID



2023 ZEPHYRHILLS BULLDOGS

# Coming off its first region final appearance in school history, Zephyrhills aims to make a state championship run

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter

The Zephyrhills High football team had never made it to the region finals before last season. With that accomplished, now the goal is to advance even further in the postseason in pursuit of an elusive state championship.

The Bulldogs are chomping at the bit for a deep playoff run. They lost to eventual state champion Lake Wales twice last season, once in the opening game and another in the region final to finish with a 9-4 overall record.

"To lose two times to Lake Wales in one season, that didn't sit well with us," said Nick Carroll, a former Zephyrhills standout now in his eighth season as the head coach of his alma mater.

If that didn't sit well, making matters even worse was beginning this year with a loss to Lake Wales — and at home to boot. Still, Carroll and his assistants told the players to shake it off and focus on one game at a time since there is a possibility of meeting the Highlanders once again in the postseason.

"You might meet them again and it might be a different story," said assistant Tom McHugh, Pasco's former head coach who led that team to eight straight playoff appearances.

To make the playoffs for what would be a ninth time in the past 10 seasons, the Bulldogs will have to rely on a dozen or so key returners. That group includes quarterback Brendyn Colella, running back Rodney Smith, wide receiver D.J. Pickett, a Division I recruit, and safety Fred Maxiner. Two-way starters Jakobe Campbell and Ted Sands also will contribute.

The Bulldogs fared well in the summer's 7-on-7 tournaments, cracking the top four in a few. While those skill players

shined in that format that excludes blockers and defensive linemen, the line of scrimmage is where the team must improve in order to make a playoff push.

Zephyrhills struggled at the line of scrimmage in a pre-season game against East Lake and again in the opener against Lake Wales.

To challenge for a postseason spot, the team will have to rely on a strong foundation that began in the local youth football programs. For years, the high school team has been built with players from the Zephyrhills Athletic League Bulldogs and the rival Pasco Police Athletic League Bulldogs.

That latter program folded several years ago, but the former organization still serves as a feeder program that extends well beyond just Zephyrhills High. Those strong youth organizations have led players to success at Stewart, Centennial and Pasco middle schools, as well as at Zephyrhills and Pasco high schools and Zephyrhills Christian Academy.

Count Pickett and Campbell, both of whom excel as wide receivers and in the secondary, as coming up through the ranks and being teammates since early on in grade school.

Playing together that long made Pickett say, "I feel this team is stronger and better" than last season's squad. "We condition a lot."

"We're going to step up and make plays and get (the offense) back on the field with a chance to score," Campbell said of the defensive unit.

Colella, who enters his second year as a starter after transferring from nearby rival Wiregrass Ranch, is coming off an impressive season. On

the way to getting the Bulldogs deeper into the playoffs than they had ever been he completed 102 of 170 passing attempts for exactly 1,700 yards with 26 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. Plus, he scrambled for 112 yards.

Pickett led all receivers in three categories — 43 receptions for 886 yards and 12 touchdowns. Meanwhile, Sands and Campbell combined for 35 catches with 476 yards and six touchdowns.

With such a high powered offense it's no wonder that Colella said, "My goal this season is for a state championship. I think our offense is good enough to play with any team in the state. We can step on the field and win games."

Added Smith, who last year ran for 1,142 yards and 12 touchdowns, "I feel like we can compete with any defense out there."

Being strong during the season, not only to excel on the field but to help prevent injuries, begins every year with a solid off-season weight training program. As always, Carroll has been encouraged by the number of football players who spent time in the weight room this summer.

"It's imperative," he said. "You have to do that in the summer."

2023 ZEPHYRHILLS BULLDOGS



## — schedule

Home games in CAPS. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

**Last season:** 9-4  
**Class:** 3 Suburban, District 7  
**Coach:** Nick Carroll, eighth season.  
**Assistants:**  
Nikki Fry Ghaemmaghami  
Matt Jackson  
Raleigh Allen  
Bryan Thomas  
Tom McHugh  
Pat Fortunato  
John Colella  
Antrine Wicks

DATE	OPPONENT
Aug. 15	LAKE WALES
Sept. 1	at The Villages Charter
Sept. 8	WIREGRASS RANCH
Sept. 15	at Land O' Lakes
Sept. 22	GULF
Sept. 29	WESLEY CHAPEL
Oct. 6	at South Sumter
Oct. 13	PASCO
Oct. 27	at Cypress Creek
Nov. 3	at Dunnellon



The Zephyrhills coaching staff gather for a group shot.

**HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY SCHOOLS**

**WEE CARE CLINIC**  
Pediatric Urgent Care

Susan Hinds, APRN  
Cynthia Fagan, APRN

**\$25.00**  
School & Sports Physicals

**PHYSICAL EXAMS**

- School / Day Care Physicals
- Camp Physicals
- Sports Physicals
- CDL - DOT Physicals

**LABORATORY TESTING**

- DOT Federal Drug / Alcohol
- Urine Drug Testing
- DNA Testing

**WALK-INS WELCOME • INFANTS THRU AGE 24**

Accepting: Self Pay, Private Insurance and Medicaid

**38023 MEDICAL CENTER AVE., ZEPHYRHILLS • (813) 715-2812**  
*(Located next to Hospital in the blue roof buildings)*

*"There's Pride in Excellence"*

**FOR THE DO-IT-YOURSELFER WHO CAN TACKLE THE PROJECT, VISIT**

**SUN STATE Aluminum, Inc.**  
*Family owned and operated since 1984*

**IMPROVE YOUR HOME SAVE MONEY SOLVE PROBLEMS**

From screen rooms & carports to home remodeling projects and new home construction, we're committed to helping our customers with quality products and honesty!

**6154 FORT KING RD. • ZEPHYRHILLS • 813-788-7308**

**WHERE GAME TIME MEETS FAMILY TIME**

**BEEF O'BRADY'S**  
GOOD FOOD. GOOD SPORTS™

Dine-In • Take Out • Catering  
*Every Neighborhood Should Have One!*

Big Screen TVs • Party Room  
Full Liquor Bars • Free Wifi • Kids Zone

**GOOD TIMES BE ON TAP!**

**Downtown Dade City**  
17136 7th Street  
**352-567-4136**

**Zephyrhills**  
7833 Gall Blvd.  
**813-780-7717**

Sun - Thurs 11am-10pm  
Wed - Sat 11am-11pm

**Wednesday** Dang Yo Trivia from 7-9pm  
**Thursday** Karaoke 8pm-midnight  
Ladies Night 50% OFF  
select Drafts & House Wine  
**Saturday** Live Music 7:30-11:30pm

Choose from a diverse selection from our  
Beer Garden • Whiskey Bar • Wine/Spirits • Premium Cigars

**37916 Pasco Ave.**  
**Downtown Dade City**  
**352-437-4887**

Wed.-Thurs. 2pm - 1am  
Saturday 12pm - 1am  
Sunday 12pm - 11pm  
@dadecitytaphousespirits





2023 ZEPHYRHILLS BULLDOGS

varsity roster



No.	Player	Position	Year	No.	Player	Position	Year
1	Jakobe Campbell	CB, WR	12	30	Zacary Carroll	MLB	9
2	Theodore Sands	WR, CB	12	42	Ethan Stone	S	10
3	Tristan Lennon	QB, OLB, TE	11	44	Patrick White	G	12
4	Jared Cason	ATH	12	45	Raymond Carr		10
5	DJ Pickett	WR	11	50	Tim White	T	12
6	Brendyn Colella	QB	12	51	Dax Kirkland	C	10
7	Rylan Pickett	CB	12	55	Brody Switzer	C, DE	11
8	Fred Maixner	S	12	55	Alexander Chavez	OL	10
10	Rodney Smith	RB	12	56	Hunter Bowman	OL	10
11	Roe Miller	SB, RB	10	60	Samaryn Black	DT	11
12	Jaden Jones	RB, OLB, MLB	11	61	Devin Foss	DE	10
13	Saniiy Black		9	62	Logan Lagrone		12
14	Vikai Dexter	DE, TE	12	63	Jared Apple	DT, T	11
15	Tayshaun Jamison	RB	12	66	Milap Patel	G	12
16	Nate Rios Rivera	K, P	12	72	Christian Velasquez		12
19	Jakarhi Redfield	S	11	75	Christian Coveny	DT	12
20	AJ Jackson	ATH	10	80	Jayden Sanchez		11
21	Lukas Colella	LB, TE, OLB	11		Julius Denson		9
22	David Lannes	C, MLB	11		Devon McLean		9
25	Kingston McCullough		12		John Blanford		9
26	Dylan Burney	DB, RB	9		Tellius Johnson		9
28	Danny Carter	ILB	10		Jahmir Lamar		9
					Tyrone Pittman		11

**Good. Better. Best.**

...Best in the field for first-rate customer care and high-quality workmanship.

**WE ARE YOUR COMPLETE COLLISION AUTO REPAIR CENTER**

- Professional Collision Repair & Painting
- Work with all Major Insurance Companies
- Minor Mechanical Repairs
- Uni-body & Full Frame Straightening
- Computerized Laser Measuring Frame & Repair
- Motorhome Repair & Painting
- Major Fleet Service Collision Repair
- 24/7 Towing Service
- Rental Car Agency available in moments notice
- Pick-up & Drop-off Service
- FREE Computerized Estimates



"Family Owned & Operated"

WE NEVER PROVIDE ANYTHING LESS THAN PROFESSIONAL, HONEST WORK!

**DADE CITY**  
14343 8TH STREET  
**(352) 437-3200**

**ZEPHYRHILLS**  
37529 TALL PINES DR.  
**(813) 782-4152**

HOURS: MON.-FRI. 7:45AM - 5:30PM

[www.ReutimannCollision.com](http://www.ReutimannCollision.com)

**Clifton & Lewis Insurance**

...Locally owned & operated for the person-to-person service you deserve!

**YOUR AGENT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.**

Working with someone who knows you, knows your community and takes the time to advise you turns a must-do task into a no stress, reassuring experience.

No voicemail menus! Just real people who care about meeting your individual needs. We've partnered with 26 insurance companies giving us the ability to provide you with the coverage options and price points right for you!

**WE LOVE TO INSURE MOBILE HOMES!**  
Automotive • Motorcycle • Home • Commercial RV's  
• Golf Carts • Boats

**ZEPHYRHILLS**  
38232 5TH AVE. • (813) 452-5382

**DADE CITY**  
14507 7TH ST. • (352) 521-3893

Email: [Cynde@cliftonlewisins.com](mailto:Cynde@cliftonlewisins.com)



**Touchdown!**

Covering the Length of All Your Insurance Needs



2023 PASCO PIRATES

# Pasco Pirates try to keep momentum in 2023

A turnaround season in 2022 put the Pirates in good position for 2023

By ANDY WARRENER  
Sports Reporter

There were two big pieces to the puzzle that pivoted the Pasco Pirates out of a nose dive in 2022. Coach Alphonso Freeney and breakout running back Tayshaun Balmir were instrumental in the program's 9-2, playoff berth season. Freeney moved on to coach out-of-state and Balmir took his almost 1,900 rushing yards to Fort Hayes State University. Enter new head coach Fred Hicks and Tampa-Carrollwood Day School transfer quarterback Alvaunte Brown. If the Pirates are going to pickup where they left off in 2022, they'll need both coach and starting quarterback to make major waves.

**Coaching changes**

Hicks comes from a high-caliber program, having coached at state champion Armwood High School in Seffner, as well as stints at Tampa Bay Tech and King. Hicks himself played collegiately at East Carolina University, as well as in the Arena League. Hicks was an offensive/defensive lineman when he played and comes from the defensive side of the ball as a coach, even though he coached offensive line at Armwood, eventually moving to defensive coordinator.

"I wasn't planning on leaving Armwood," Hicks said. "When (Alphonso) Freeney left, I thought they'd find someone in-house but I was encouraged to apply. I saw the resources they had there (Pasco). The turnaround season, the remaining talent, the history of Pasco football. I wanted to be somewhere where I could build a program."

Hicks brings the approach that storied coach Sean Callahan

brought to Armwood.

"He (Callahan) managed the team well," Hicks said. He brought the right stuff. He didn't micromanage the team. He trusted coaches to do what they do and created a blueprint for success."

Three coaches followed Hicks to Pasco. Chris Lark, Jamison Lee and Shawn Beasley all came over. Lark comes in with a wealth of experience coaching defense for the last five years and will be the team's defensive coordinator. Lee coached at Lake Gibson and Auburndale before spending the last two seasons with Hicks at Armwood. He will be the offensive coordinator. Beasley comes in to coach the offensive line. Holdovers from last year Daryl Nobles, Daniel Sammons and Charlie Greener will try and support Hicks as the Pirates hope to pickup where they left off in 2022.

"I made sure to have the right guys around me," Hicks said. "A good environment generates success. I'm excited to see these guys coach."

**Offensive question marks**

There are a lot of question marks on offense for the Pirates. They were very much a one-trick pony, or rather a one-trick wrecking ball last season with Balmir. They do not have that stud running back this season and will have to spread the ball around to produce in 2023. They hope they can do that with Brown. Brown cuts a dazzling figure at 6-2, 190 but the jury is out as far as how effective he can be with the players around him.

"The receivers are loving it right now," Hicks said. "People don't know who he (Brown) is yet but he's going to be talked about in the area. He's got a high upside."

The X factor is going to be the play of the Pirate offensive line. Last season, the Pirates started a quintet of sophomores. This was dodgy, especially in pass protection but the run game carried them through nine

wins and over 2,000 rushing yards. That squad, now all juniors, is going to be the key if the Pirate offense can match their stingy defense. Hicks mentioned Tahir Richards, Mason Pippen and Juan Torres specifically. Senior Armani Estrada-Brown comes over from Armwood to bolster the unit.

"He (Estrada-Brown) has experience competing at a high level every week and we hope he can help some of the other guys," Hicks said. "The young guys have already latched on to him."

**Devastating defense**

While the Pirates got torched in the regular season opener by East Ridge, the Pirate defense locked down River Ridge in the preseason opener. They amassed six sacks, three tackles-for-loss, three interceptions, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and a defended pass in a 9-0 loss to the Royal Knights, the lone touchdown scored late in the game against the backups. Senior Tyreese Grosse is a 6-0, 285-pound force to be reckoned with. He played most of last season at middle linebacker but could move up onto the defensive line in 2023.

Senior outside linebacker Julious Hill is going to be difficult to stop on the edge. Senior Desmick Davis is another big force on the opposite side of the defense. Utility player Angel Miles is one to watch out for, too. Miles plays on both sides of the ball and is a splash play maker.

It's hard to imagine the Pirates reaching the level they hit last season but if their offense can get on the rails and establish some identity. If Brown can step into the quarterback position and take control, the Pirates have a good chance at a winning record in 2023.

2023 PASCO PIRATES



## — schedule

Home games in CAPS. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

**Last season:** 9-2.  
**Class:** 3 Suburban, District 7.  
**Coach:** Fred Hicks  
Fred Hicks, III  
**Assistants:**  
Shawn Beasley  
Dale Frix  
Charlie Greener  
Joseph Howell  
Chris Lark  
Jamison Lee  
Daryl Nobles  
Daniel Sammons  
Brian Singleton  
Tyler Wilkes

DATE	OPPONENT
Aug. 25	EAST RIDGE
Sept. 1	FIVAY
Sept. 8	HUDSON
Sept. 15	at Hernando
Sept. 29	Cypress Creek
Oct. 6	AUBURNDALE
Oct. 13	at Zephyrhills
Oct. 20	at Crystal River
Oct. 27	WESLEY CHAPEL
Nov. 3	LAND O' LAKES



Head coach Fred Hicks discusses some of the keys to the Pirates' preseason game at River Ridge.

**Focus on healing, we've got everything else.**

In time of need, families rely on the Whitfield experience. We consider it a blessing to live and fulfill our life's work in our hometown's Dade City and Zephyrhills. That's why we say...

*"Our Hometown Family Serving Your Family"*

**OUR FUNERAL HOME PROVIDES:**

- Traditional Funerals • Cremation Services • Transfers North
- Veterans Internment and Cremation Plans, Plans / Preplanning / Prefunding Arrangements

**WHITFIELD FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES** With over 40 years of experience our passion for helping families is the heart of Whitfield Funeral Home.

5008 GALL BLVD. • ZEPHYRHILLS • (813) 783-9900

Since 1972, 3-generations of skilled cabinetmakers providing quality second to none!

**TAKING YOUR CABINETS FAR BEYOND SIMPLE STORAGE.**

- Wood & Laminate Cabinets
- Many Cabinet Door Selections
- Countertops: Quartz, Granite & Laminate

**KITCHEN & BATH RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL**

**FREE In-Home Measurement & Design Consultation**

**38535 PALM GROVE DRIVE ZEPHYRHILLS**  
(off Highway 301, Southside of Zephyrhills)

**MERRILLAT CABINETRY**  
813-788-3856  
www.swcustomcabinets.com

**Victory is the goal. Determination gets you there.**

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT TEAM TO FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS.

**CIVIL TRIAL PRACTICE • FREE CONSULTATION**

**Drew Ben Hudgins, Esq.**

**HUDGINS LAW FIRM**

*Every victim deserves justice. For us, it's just that simple. That's why our firm has spent over 35 years assisting clients in all types of cases. We'll stand by you every step of the way, fighting for the compensation you deserve.*

- CAR & MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS
- TRUCK ACCIDENTS
- BOAT INJURIES
- JET SKI ACCIDENTS
- TRIP AND FALL INJURIES
- SERIOUS INJURIES
- WRONGFUL DEATH

**800-950-5534 • HudginsLawFirm.net**





PHOTO BY GIDGET GUIDO-IRIZARRY

2023 PASCO PIRATES

varsity roster



No.	Player	Position	Year	No.	Player	Position	Year
1	Angel Miles	ATH	12	34	Desmick Davis	DE, OLB	12
2	Demontia Hudson	WR	10	35	Brady Bass	MLB	11
3	Zabrian Freemond	DB	12	36	Jackson Borders	LB	10
4	Nazyrh Freeman	WR	11	39	Bowen Haislop	MLB	10
5	Sidney Allen	TE, QB	12	40	Matthew Cloversett	LB, HB	10
6	Sage Stinyard	DB	10	42	DJ Pope	DE, DT	12
7	Alvaunte Brown	QB	12	44	Reyes Garcia	LB	10
8	Julious Hill	OLB, DE	12	49	Karl Skoll	DE, DT	9
9	Amari Williams	WR	11	50	Austin Lee	DE, DT, OL	10
10	Darrell Tearrt, Jr.	RB	12	51	Anthony Lane	DE, DT, OL	10
11	Amontiy Hudson	RB, LB	9	52	Julien Robledo	NG, DT	12
12	Deori Pope	DB, WR	9	54	Armani Estrada-Brown	G, T, DT	12
13	Luis Stanley	TE, DE	11	55	Allen Clark	NG, DT	12
14	Amerh Norris	RB	10	56	Markus Clark	OLB, DE	10
15	Xavierjohn Lewis	LB	11	57	Logan Fernandez	G, C	12
16	Jayce Smenda	WR	9	58	Reign Henry	T, NG	11
17	Davion Smith	DB	9	60	Juan Ramirez	G	10
18	Ethan Frix	DB	10	61	Aiden Martinez	T, G	9
20	Leonardo Ingalls	LB	11	62	Joseph Knight	T, G, C	11
23	Tanarion Sims	WR, CB	11	65	Tahir Richards	C, T, G	11
24	Leroi Vickers	LB	11	66	Ethen Frederick	G, T, C	10
27	Bryce Frix	WR	10	67	Rikardo Robledo	G	10
27	Cameron Batson	WR	9	70	Mehki Jordan	G, DT	12
28	Yanuel Mercado	WR	10	73	Mason Pippin	T, C	11
29	Brady Stevens	OLB	9	80	Manuel Servindelamora	WR, K	9
30	Joshua Garcia	CB, WR	10	83	Jamaal Smith	WR	10
32	Gavin Harrelson	RB	11	84	Tyreese Grose	T, MLB	12
33	Jalandis Smith	RB, DB	10		Abraham Sanchez	G, C	10
					Hunter Owen	QB	9

Expert Orthopedic Care



For More Moments

Like These

When joint or back pain begin to limit your life,

you need expert care from a trusted team. Using the latest innovations and minimally invasive techniques, we provide nationally-recognized orthopedic and spine care - so you can live life pain free.

Take your first step to feeling whole at [FloridaOrthoExperts.com](http://FloridaOrthoExperts.com).





2023 ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WARRIORS

# Stalwarts and sleepers have ZCA Warriors looking strong in 2023

*The ZCA Warriors have a strong hand to play and a wildcard up their sleeve*

By **ANDY WARRENER**  
Sports Reporter

The Warriors have solidified themselves as an annual contender the last few years and they fully expect to be in the play-off hunt again in 2023.

**The stars that shine bright**

If there are four players you'll want to keep your eyes on in 2023, they are Kaden Paghense, Amarri Range, Jayden Ramos and Elijah Austin. Paghense is just a freshman but if the early part of the season is any reference he's going to be a terror for opposing offenses. He was a constant presence in the backfield during the Warriors's preseason matchup against East Ridge. He was also instrumental in the 40-7 throttling of Tradition Prep in the regular season opener.

"He (Paghense) is a monster on the defensive side," head coach Mike Smith Sr. said. "I have not coached many kids as good as him."

Paghense can line up at defensive tackle or end and is going to disrupt the opposing offense wherever he lines up. Range is a lengthy (6-3, 175) defensive back/wide receiver that can stretch the field or lock down a team's star receiver. He had a pick, a defensed pass and a touchdown catch in the regular season opener.

"(Range) has offers from Middle Tennessee State and Memphis, he's six-four and fast as heck," Smith said.

Ramos has already sent shockwaves in the early part of the season. He ran back a kick return for a touchdown in the preseason and caught four passes for 103 yards and a touchdown in the regular season opener.

"(Jayden) Ramos is our slot receiver and he's been in and out this spring, battling back from an injury but he's our best route runner and very quick," Smith said.

Smith had to mention Austin on the offensive line at center. A 6-1, 245-pound senior, Austin is going to be the centerpiece, the leader up front for the Warriors. He'll keep that group in check and lining up where they are supposed to be.

"He (Austin) is a great leader on offense," Smith said.

**Stars emerging from darkness**

The Warriors will try veteran quarterback Parker Stirkorb. Stirkorb threw for 990 yards a season ago and is off to a strong start in 2023, helping the Warriors to their first win against Tradition Prep by going 13 for 19 passing with 300 yards and four touchdowns but the Warriors have a wildcard that could factor into the position as soon as he mends from an ankle injury. Freshman Myles McDonald has the ZCA coaching staff excited about both the future and the present.

"(Stirkorb) is definitely growing, maturing but McDonald is going to fight for that starting spot," Smith said. "He's a big part of the future of this team."

**The Swiss Army Knife**

He might not want you to know about it but sophomore athlete Kendall Johnson is the place kicker that the Warriors haven't had since Colin Eckell in 2018. The Warriors just went for two-point conversions the last five years but they have a bonafide kicker now.

"He doesn't miss extra points and I've seen him kick a 60 yarder," Smith said. "He's also got blazing speed, hands and runs strong."

In the regular season opener, Johnson logged two catches for 76 yards, one for a touchdown, a 57-yard punt return for a touchdown, kicked off seven times and punted twice for a 48-yard average.

**Home growth**

ZCA senior quarterback Parker Stirkorb lets this pass fly during the preseason game.



The Warriors don't have a JV team, they have a middle school team but their combined varsity and JV squad has more than 40 athletes on it. There are some public schools that struggle to field more than 40 players.

"We are able to practice 11 on 11 now," Smith said. "You're able to see everything that's going down when you can do that. It's huge for us."

Smith Sr. is giving way to Smith Jr. now. Mike Smith Sr. built the program at ZCA. His son, Mike Smith Jr. played in high school for Carrollwood Day School and moved very quickly into a coaching position at ZCA. Smith Sr. is now ready to hand the reins to Smith Jr.

"Mike is moving to more of a head coaching position now, he's on his way to taking it," Smith said.

Smith Sr. is glad to have offensive and defensive coordinators BJ Hall and Spence Jones on staff to guide the transition.

2023 ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WARRIORS



## — schedule

Home games in CAPS. Start time is 7:00 p.m. - Except 10/27 at 10:30 a.m.

DATE	OPPONENT
Aug. 25	TRADITION PREP
Sept. 1	at New Smyrna Beach
Sept. 8	JOHN CARROLL CATHOLIC
Sept. 15	LAKELAND CHRISTIAN
Sept. 22	YOUNG KIDS IN MOTION
Sept. 29	at Victory Christian Academy
Oct. 6	ZAREPHATH ACADEMY
Oct. 21	MACLAY
Oct. 27	NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN
Nov. 3	SPECIALLY FIT ACADEMY

**Last season:** 4-4.  
**Class:** 1 Suburban, District 5.  
**Coach:** Mike Smith, ninth season.  
**Assistants:** James Everett, BJ Hall, Malik Jones, Spence Jones, Phil McDonald, Mike Smith II, Javan Smith, James Everett

Make Your Dreams A Reality With Us

**First**

National Bank of Pasco

ESTD 1986

Official Bank of the American Dream™

Safety, Strength & Financial Soundness



SCAN ME



Visit us online at [FNBPasco.com](http://FNBPasco.com)



Celebrating life,



— ONE FAMILY AT A TIME —

TRADITIONAL LOCAL BURIAL  
GRAVESIDE SERVICES • MEMORIAL SERVICES  
PRE-PLANNING • CREMATION

"Our Family Serving Yours"

**HODGES FAMILY**

*Funeral Home*

East Pasco's Only Locally Owned On-Site Crematory

**DADE CITY ZEPHYRHILLS**  
**352-567-6100 813-788-6100**  
11441 Highway 301 36327 State Road 54  
Dade City, FL 33525 Zephyrhills, FL 33541

**CHAPEL HILL GARDENS • FLORAL MEMORY GARDENS**  
11531 Hwy 301, Dade City, FL 33525  
**352-567-5571**

[www.hodgesfuneralhome.com](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.com)



2023 ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WARRIORS

varsity roster



No.	Player	Position	Year	No.	Player	Position	Year
0	Jayden Ramos	WR, FS	12	19	Malachi Harriston	S, WR	9
1	Amarri Range	WR, CB	11	20	Terry Williams	S, CB, WR	9
2	Kendall Johnson	WR, RB, ATH	10	21	Jordan White	CB, WR	10
3	Roger Jones	WR, DB	11	23	Javier Lopez	RB, LB	11
4	Chris Trivigno	WR, SS	10	34	Amann McLendon	DB, WR	10
5	Chris Bailey	WR, DB	11	40	Barron Barber	TE, MLB	12
6	Alexavier Hairston	RB, LB	12	50	Kiah'ezeh Russell	G, DT	10
7	Joshua Casarez	FB, MLB	11	52	Kaden Paghense	DT, DE	9
8	Noah Coates	OLB, TE	12	53	Blake Alford	G, DT	10
9	Kameron Battle	RB, DB	8	54	Jacob Alford	NG, G	9
10	Brayden Larson	LB, FB	11	55	Elijah Austin	C	12
11	Gavin Davis	WR, S	9	65	Joel Thompson	NG, G, T	11
12	Parker Stirnkorb	QB	12	74	Brady Barowski	G, DT	10
13	Konner Boismclennan	MLB, OLB	12	74	Isiah Yingling	T, DE	9
14	Myles Mcdonald	QB	9	74	Isaiah Nazario	G, DT	11
15	Mekell King	CB	10	76	Jaylan Dorsett	G	11
16	Toccarra Johnson	WR, CB	11	78	Sammi Iacono	T, DE	11
17	Brent Clements	LB, DE, RB	11		N'Juan Mattis		
18	David Dehart	WR, DE	11				

Shop Online at [bullfrogperformance.com](http://bullfrogperformance.com)

**POWER, SPEED, AND TEAMWORK**

**Bullfrog**  
PERFORMANCE SPEED & MACHINE SHOP

Jeremiah Swindell Machine Shop | Lee Montgomery Parts Department | COMP | RW

(813) 788-3663 | 5037 GALL BLVD., ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542

**Machine Shop Services**

- Dynamic Engine Balancing
- C & C Boring & Honing
- Line Honing & Boring
- Block & Head Decking & Surfacing
- Rod Reconditioning
- Piston & Rod R&R
- Competition & Street Valve Jobs

Complete Parts Center

**Best Friends Deserve the Best Care.** *"Dedicated to providing a high quality, high volume spay and neuter program that meets or exceeds current veterinary standards of care."*

**PLANNED PETHOOD**  
NON-PROFIT SPAY AND NEUTER  
Est. 2010

**Look No Further for Affordable, Quality Pet Care!**

**NOW OFFERING PLANNED PETHOOD MOBILE CLINIC**

Stay tuned for our upcoming schedule!

**GROOMING AVAILABLE AT ZEPHYRHILLS LOCATION**

**2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!**  
[www.plannedpethoodpasco.com](http://www.plannedpethoodpasco.com)

**LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER WELLNESS & VACCINES**  
Surgery by Appointment:  
Drop off time 8am  
Clinic Hours: 9:30am - 2:00pm

**EXPRESS VACCINATION**  
WESLEY CHAPEL - Friday

**WELLNESS CLINIC / VACCINATION**  
ZEPHYRHILLS  
Monday-Saturday 9:30am-2pm  
WESLEY CHAPEL  
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.

**LOW-COST ULTRASOUNDS**  
Available in WESLEY CHAPEL by Appointment

**ZEPHYRHILLS**  
Mon.-Sat. 8am-5pm  
37815 SR 54 West  
(3/4 mile W. of Zephyr Park)  
(813) 779-7000

**WESLEY CHAPEL**  
Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm  
33931 SR 54 West  
(2 buildings W. of Pasco County Library)  
(813) 524-6400

*Good Luck Teams!*

Your Vision, Our Expertise...  
**TOUCHDOWN!**

Depend on our skills and 30 years experience to create unique ideas for spaces ranging from 1,000 sq. ft. to well over 12,000 sq. ft.

- Custom New Homes, Renovations and Additions
- Custom Wood Decks
- Garage and Storage Buildings
- Pole Barns, Horse Stables

*Our exceptional designs are guaranteed to meet all local and State of Florida Building Codes and will comply to wind code designs for your specific area.*

**RANDY RW WATSON**  
DESIGNS INC  
[www.randywatsondesigns.com](http://www.randywatsondesigns.com)

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A PERSONAL CONSULTATION!  
**352-523-2077**



2023 WIREGRASS RANCH BULLS

# Wiregrass Ranch, which had a six-year postseason run end in 2022, will rely on several key returners and transfers to get back into the playoffs

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter

Sure, coach Mark Kantor notched his 100th win last season, but that career milestone took a backseat to the somber realization of missing the postseason for the first time since 2015. The Bulls' six-year playoff run ended with last season's 4-6 record.

Coaches and players alike, bolstered by a few key transfers and returning starters, are revitalized to ensure that missing out on the postseason will not happen again.

"Everyone wants to go to the playoffs," said Kantor, who in 20 years as a head coach surpassed the century mark with stints at Hudson, Gaither and Wiregrass Ranch. "That's what we want to do, year-in and year-out."

A familiar face is back to lead the team's offense. Quarterback Luke Knight, who at John Long Middle played with many of the current Bulls, is back after a whirlwind journey that included stops at Tampa Jesuit and Merritt Island.

"It feels like I'm back home," he said, adding that his goal is to bring back "a winning mentality and not accepting mediocrity" to be the best at all we do."

At Jesuit, where he led the Tigers to the Class 6A state championship in 2021, Knight learned a lot from that culture: "To do all the little things right."

At Merritt Island last year Knight passed for 1,852 yards with 11 touchdowns and nine interceptions. In Jesuit's title year he threw for 2,511 yards and 30 touchdowns with nine interceptions.

"It starts with his leadership," Kantor said. "He's a great leader and a great teammate."

As for who Knight's primary targets will be, gone is stand-out wide receiver Bryson Rodgers, who is now a freshman at Ohio State. Bryce Randolph, Isaiah Riggins and Alex Condon are lining up as the top three wideouts.

Running back is not quite as settled with Kantor declaring an offensive backfield by committee this season. Kenneth Walker and Davion Brown graduated after combining for 1,381 rush-

ing yards and 16 touchdowns last year. Sharing the load carrying the ball this season will be Alex Cruz, Jordiel Barrios and Ian Wilson, the latter being a transfer from Jesuit.

Other key transfers expected to contribute as seniors are Fred Adams, who has played at Zephyrhills Christian, Zephyrhills and Sunlake, and Brixton Watson from Wharton. Adams can play cornerback and safety on defense and line up as a wide-out on offense. Watson is a receiver.

Up front, the offensive line is anchored by center Jaeden Ortiz and guard Christian Starkey. Both are seniors and returning starters expected to lead a group that includes Elvis Mahoum-Nassar, Jethro Ifemade and Wesley Malave.

"This year, we mean business," Otiz said. "There are no more excuses."

"They're definitely improved," Kantor said of the group. "Lifting in the weight room does wonders for anybody."

On defense, the Bulls could be dominant up front with Billy Rodriguez and Khalial Buckenroth leading the charge.

At 6-foot-1 and 340 pounds, Rodriguez holds down the middle as a nose guard and defensive tackle while the 6-4 Buckenroth, who also is the long snapper and can play some at offensive tackle, lines up on the end. Travis Brown is also on the line.

Kantor spoke highly of line-backer Davon Stokes, Ola Omoloye and Jaeden Barron, calling them "the heart and soul of our team."

Riggins, Aidan Perez and Adams are the leaders in the secondary, which could be deeper and faster than in previous years.

A dominating performance in the preseason gave the Bulls plenty

of optimism for the regular season, which began with a game against longtime rival Wesley Chapel. The rebuilding Wildcats are coming off a winless season and changed coaches in the off-season.

Knight passed for four touchdowns — three caught by Randolph — and ran for another in a 42-24 preseason win over Dunnellon and new kicker Reid Crek went 6-for-6 on extra points. Last year, he kicked for Wiregrass Ranch's junior varsity team that went 5-1.

All of which gives Kantor and the rest of the team cause for optimism.

"I think we've got a good enough football team to be able to make the playoffs," he said. "As long as we steadily improve and do things the right way I think we're going to get back on track."

2023 WIREGRASS RANCH BULLS



## schedule

Home games in CAPS. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

**Last season:** 4-6.  
**Class:** 4 Suburban, District 6  
**Coach** Mark Kantor, ninth season.  
**Assistants:**  
John Grone  
Brandon Tanner  
Rey Urquiola  
LaVonne Gauthney  
Lance Roberts  
Rick Oliver  
Chase Oliver  
Andrew Warner  
Ed Worvie  
Rick Knight  
Ramon Rodriguez  
Jonas Rutledge

DATE	OPPONENT
Sept. 1	at Wesley Chapel
Sept. 8	at Zephyrhills
Sept. 15	MITCHELL
Sept. 22	at Harmony
Sept. 29	at Springstead
Oct. 6	at River Ridge
Oct. 13	SUNLAKE
Oct. 20	BOOKER
Oct. 27	at Land O' Lakes
Nov. 3	VILLAGE CHARTER



Wiregrass Ranch quarterback Luke Knight takes the snap from the center and drops back to pass as his receivers get off the line of scrimmage.

**CATCH OUR FAST, RELIABLE SERVICE TODAY!**

**NEED TO SCHEDULE TOWING, TRANSPORT OR RECOVERY SERVICES?**

**ATLAS TOWING SERVICE INC.**

30115 SR 54 West • Wesley Chapel, FL 33543  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

CALL TODAY  
**813-973-1330**  
24 Hours a Day / 7 Days a Week

**SERVICING:** Wesley Chapel  
Zephyrhills • Dade City  
Lutz • New Tampa • San Antonio

**NOW OPEN IN ZEPHYRHILLS!**

**Just Pull It!**

Pull your tooth today for **Only \$180.00\***

**LOWER THAN CO-PAY ON MOST INSURANCE PLANS!** in **ONE VISIT!**

Don't let agonizing pain keep you down!

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Panoramic X-ray (D0330)
- Evaluation by our Licensed on-site Dentist (D0140)
- Anesthetic & routine extraction (D7140)

\*Cost per tooth. Wisdom teeth fee \$220 per tooth (D7210)

CALL (352) 833-7855 • 37806 Medical Arts Ct. • Zephyrhills, 33541



**1 TEAM, 1 MISSION**



At Lifetime Family, we believe in caring for the individual. More specifically, we believe each patient has his or her own unique needs. Our practitioners tailor treatment to each patient, and every individual is treated with care and understanding. We invite you to experience the Lifetime difference."

-Dr. Jonathan Yousef, DO, "Your doctor for a lifetime"

**Urgent Care**

- In-office Labs/Testing
- Cold/Flu • Strep
- Rash • Sutures • UTI • EKG

**Adolescent Health Care**

- School Physical
- College Physical
- Pediatric Exams (2+ years)

**Specialty Exams**

- Sports Physicals
- Car Accident
- Worker's Compensation

**Therapeutic Procedures**

- Osteopathic Injections
- Osteopathic Manipulation
- Bio-identical Hormone Therapy

**Dermatologic Procedures**

**Cosmetic Procedures/Services**

- Botox
- Fillers
- Laser Hair Removal
- Qwo® Cellulite Dissolver Injection
- Silhouette Instalift® Threads
- Sopranoice Laser Hair Removal
- Body Fat Reduction Contouring

**Wellness Exam**

- Disease Management
- Female & Male Health Exams

**Weight Loss / Weight Management**

Two locations to care for you!



5801 Argerian Drive • Wesley Chapel, FL 33545  
**(813) 991-4991**  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5pm;  
Saturday 8:30am-3pm



6755 Gall Blvd. • Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
(2 Buildings S. of Golden Corral)  
**(813) 395-0244**  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am-5pm;  
every other Saturday 8:30am-3pm

Alternative Therapies

Traumeel

Pure PRP





PHOTO BY GIGANTE PRODUCTIONS

2023 WIREGRASS RANCH BULLS

varsity roster



No.	Player	Position	Year
0	Gavin Gilyard	FS, WR	11
2	Bryce Randolph	CB, WR	11
3	Jaiden Barron	ILB, RB	12
4	Fred Adams	FS, WR, CB	12
5	Ola Omoloye	ILB, RB	11
6	Luke Knight	QB	12
7	Isaiah Riggins	WR, CB	12
8	Davon Stokes	DE, OLB	12
9	Lincoln McManus	QB	11
10	Reid Grek	K, P	11
11	Alex L Cruz	RB, SB	12
12	Khalial Buckenroth	DE, LS, T	12
13	Jordiel Barrios	FS, QB	12
14	Alex Condon	WR	11
15	Scott Jackson	WR, CB, K	11
17	Grant Watson	DB, WR	11
18	Jamie McLowry, Jr.	WR, CB	12
19	Landon Louis	WR, CB	11
20	Caleb Grone	TE, DE	10
21	Kayleb Samuel	RB, FS, OLB	12
22	Malachi Ford	RB	11
23	Aidan Perez	DB	12
24	Carmelo Joseph	DE	10
25	Jeremiah Julmiste	ILB, RB	12
26	Justyn Semczuk	MLB	10

No.	Player	Position	Year
27	Marco Munoz	CB	11
28	Sebastian Ramos	MLB	11
30	Angel Smith	WR, FS	11
31	Daniel Swain	CB	11
32	Kaycden Van De Cruz	MLB	11
33	Collin Taylor	SS	11
34	Harold Murrill	WR	11
35	Raishaun Deris	CB	12
42	Brodie Hamilton	RB, SS	10
43	Camren Gallimore	TE, MLB	12
44	PJ Baxter	FS	12
50	Jaeden Ortiz	C, G	12
52	Travis Brown	DE, DT	12
53	Aiden Curtis	G, DT	12
54	Christian Starkey	OG	12
55	Angello Hoyos	G, DE	11
60	Elvis Mahoum-nassar	G, DT	11
62	Billy Rodriguez	NG, DT	11
70	Wesley Malave	OG	11
78	Jethro Ifemade	T	11
80	Christian King	WR	10
82	Javier Sergey	CB	12
84	Jevon Perry	WR	12
85	Brixton Watson	WR	11

**TIME-OUT FOR A SERVICE**  
 AT  
**ALMIGHTY Tires Inc.**  
 TIRE SALES & AUTO SERVICE

New & Used Tire Sales • General Auto Maintenance.  
 Tire Repair • Rims • Oil Change • Brakes • CV Joints • Tune-ups

*Honest! Dependable! Fast, Friendly Service!*

OPEN: Monday - Friday, 8:30am-5:30p  
 Saturday 9am-5pm

**813-395-6027**  
 37911 SR 54, ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542  
 Just West of Zephyr Park

**We Hold The Line!** WE WILL BEAT ANY COMPETITOR PRICING!!!

**FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY!**

**JIM CRANDELL**  
**Golf Cart Sales & Service**  
 10634 NORTH U.S. HIGHWAY 301 • DADE CITY, FL 33525  
 (ACROSS FROM SONNY'S APPLIANCES)

FOR ALL OF MY DOG SHOW FRIENDS, TAKE YOUR **CRICKET** WITH YOU! **LIGHTWEIGHT, PERFECTLY PORTABLE AND FUN TO DRIVE!** Several in stock to choose from!

STARTING AT **\$4,950**

2023 CRICKET SX3 36 Volt, Mag Wheels  
 2023 CRICKET RX5 36 Volt, Mag Wheels

**SERVICE SPECIAL**

<b>GAS CARTS \$119.95</b> Includes: • Oil Change • Filters & Spark Plugs • Tire Rotation • Complete Wash	<b>ELECTRIC CARTS \$99.95</b> Includes: • Check Batteries • Front & Rear Bushings Check • Tire Rotation • Complete Wash	Specializing in Custom & Remanufactured Carts <b>Gas • Electric • EFI</b> Scooters and Accessories!
---	--	---

STAR, EZGO, ClubCar, YAMAHA

**813-779-3333 or 813-629-3333**  
 JimCrandallGolfCartSales.com

where **amazing** happens!

Reveal yourself with us! ... where excellence is the standard, not the goal. Have an expert consultation with one of our stylists and come away with hair that looks the way you want it to and fits your lifestyle.

**SPECIALIZING IN TRENDY CUTS, COLOR & CHEMICAL SERVICES**

Jessica Camacho, Stylist 813.312.0965  
 David Robertson, Stylist 813.317.5452  
 April Dobbs, Stylist 352.455.6638  
 Chris Dotson, Stylist 304.483.4699  
 Joni Gauger, Stylist 813.469.3437  
 Sarah Howard 863.698.4386

Owner & Stylist **Andrea Wingo** 813.748.9422

**Infusion SALON**  
 ...where your vision is created

6132 FORT KING RD., ZEPHYRHILLS • LOCATED BEHIND MCDONALDS



2023 WESLEY CHAPEL WILDCATS

# Wesley Chapel Wildcats seeking fresh start in 2023

*A new head coach and some new faces have the Wesley Chapel Wildcats looking confidently ahead as the regular season begins*

By ANDY WARRENER  
Sports Reporter

Last season was a total disaster for the Wildcats. They went 0-10 and even failed to score in all but four of their contests. It ended the otherwise successful run of Anthony Egan at the helm. Egan led the Cats to a 34-34 record over seven seasons including some playoff appearances but a steady decline the last few years culminating in the winless 2022 season, led Wesley Chapel administration to move on.

Wesley Chapel was one of the hardest hit area schools due to the establishment of nearby Cypress Creek. It took a huge bite out of their overall numbers but years have passed and things have stabilized. The new-look Wildcats will have former collegiate wide receiver and Pinellas County East Lake assistant coach Lawrence Coleman trying to bring the team back to relevance in 2023.

Coleman wanted to hit the ground running. He also wanted to make sure to curtail any transfers in the absence of a head coach. Egan was let go this past May after a 10-6 win over Citrus in the spring game. By June, Coleman was in place as Egan's successor.

"When I first got here, I wanted to change the culture," Coleman said. "It had to start from the inside first. Then once we'd done that, we began the x's and o's of coaching."

**A "BIG" coaching change**

Coleman was able to maintain some of his staff from last season. Brian Colding and Mark Barnes are holdovers from last season but new offensive line coach Caleb Benenoch is impossible to miss as he towers over his hefty and fully padded linemen. The Nigerian-born, UCLA product was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2016 and played four seasons with the Bucs before moving on to the Patriots, Bills and Jets. Benenoch retired just this August and after a whiff of coaching high school in Los Angeles, a mutual friend put him on the phone with Coleman and he was convinced.

"I was here (at football practice) the next day," Benenoch said.

Coleman is going to need all the help he can get. He's starting one junior and the rest sophomores on his offensive line.

"We really need him (Benenoch) here," Coleman said. "He's going to be a big help for us."

**Depending on the defense**

The Wildcat offense was abysmal last season. They never did quite settle in on a viable option at quarterback. Dylan McGinnis threw 100 times but only completed 23 passes all season. McGinnis was also the team's leading rusher with a paltry 170 yards all season. While Coleman and the offensive staff try to come up with a way to move the football, the team's front seven

defenders are going to be a bright spot.

"Our front seven is going to be dominant," Coleman said. "Not many teams are going to put points up on us."

Coleman brings a 4-3 base defense to the Wildcats, a scheme that relies heavily on the skills of its middle linebacker and on its linemen to get pressure on the quarterback. Coleman feels like he has the right guys for this system. Senior Wesley Young is that middle linebacker. He was second on the team in total tackles in 2022 (51), including seven for a loss and three sacks. If anyone on the field is going to get players where they are supposed to be and take over that role, it's going to be Young.

Coleman also likes what he has in his defensive ends, junior Cain Huff and senior Connor Libby. Neither was much of a factor in 2022 but both are over 6-4 and spend a lot of time in the backfield at practice.

"Why do you think we can't even get a play off (at practice)," Coleman said. "I don't think there's a better duo in the county."

**Down the field**

Coleman is also high on his top prospects at defensive back and wide receiver. With a light roster, both Isreal Benton and Bupe Chinsanga will almost certainly play on both sides of the ball. Both stretch past 6-0 and both can run the ball as well as catch. Coleman fashions Benton as his, "Jalen Ramsey" and "shutdown corner."

"The game is starting to slow down for him (Benton)," Coleman said. "We're going to be fine if he can cut the field in half for us."

Coleman's eyes light up when he talks about Chinsanga. Chinsanga is a little bit of an enigma being just a sophomore and a transfer from Texas. He wasn't even on the varsity team last year but he may be their brightest prospect this year, according to Coleman.

"This kid (Chinsanga) is going to be special," Coleman said.

**The backfield**

The Wildcats hope to buttress their inexperienced offensive line with a heavy, bruising option quarterback. Senior Logan Pomeranke is a converted offensive lineman. At 6-2, 195 he's not the swiftest of ball carriers but he's hard to bring down and he will cut up field and run if he gets in trouble with the pass rush. There's a lot to learn captaining an offense and it's pretty certain that Pomeranke will struggle early on but if he's able to get past rushing linemen for solid gains, it may slow them down.

Getting time to throw is going to be a highly coveted prize. Coleman hopes to give Pomeranke some help

with sophomore Tavion Cousin. Cousin was a pickup from the basketball team. At 5-7, Cousin probably doesn't have a long future ahead of him in basketball but Coleman feels like he will be a big contributor to the Wildcat offense this season.

"He (Cousin) is able to create mismatches for us in the run game, screen game and slot (receiver)," Coleman said.

The Wildcats will run a version of a read-option, where the quarterback reacts to what the defensive line does and decides to keep or to give to the running back. The chemistry between Cousin and Pomeranke is going to have to be working if the Wildcats want to recover some of the offensive production that all but evaporated a year ago.

**The season outlook**

It's not great. The Wildcats are in Class 3S District 7 along with Zephyrhills, Pasco and rival Cypress Creek. Zephyrhills has had a string of playoff runs and looks better than they have in years. Pasco had a turnaround season last year. The Wildcats have to play up in classification every year against rival Wiregrass Ranch. Their season finale against Mitchell isn't going to be easy, either. However, matchups against: Gulf, Central and Weeki Wachee could provide some marks in the win column.

2023 WESLEY CHAPEL WILDCATS



## — schedule

Home games in CAPS. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

**Last season:** 0-10  
**Class:** 3 Suburban, District 7  
**Coach:** Lawrence Coleman, first season  
**Assistants:** Brian Surcy, Charles Wilson, Jafus Hooks, Deron Jenkins, Austin Carter, Mark Barnes, Jason Boyd, Brian Colding, Caleb Benenoch

DATE	OPPONENT
Sept. 1	WIREGRASS RANCH
Sept. 8	GULF
Sept. 15	at Weeki Wachee
Sept. 22	CENTRAL
Sept. 29	at Zephyrhills
Oct. 6	SEBASTIAN RIVER
Oct. 13	CYPRESS CREEK
Oct. 27	at Pasco
Nov. 3	at Mitchell

**It's a Numbers Game.**  
Let Us Help You Reach Your Goal!



**B&N LENZ ENTERPRISES, LLC**  
ACCOUNTANT - Business / Individual

Nils R. Lenz, MBA, EA  
PROVIDING FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT, ON-DEMAND EXECUTION OF YOUR FINANCIAL PROJECT.

- Tax Planning Preparation
- Bookkeeping
- Business Start Up Counseling

Are you having problems with the IRS?  
Enrolled Agent • Qualified to Practice Before the IRS

Call today! **(813) 782-9491**

**39104 3RD AVE.**  
**ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542-5264**

**TEAMWORK makes the Dream Work!** *Be a Winner. Eat Fresh.*

**SHOP Shannon's**  
FARM FRESH PRODUCE

For the largest selection of fresh, nutritious farm-fresh vegetables, fruits, and seasonal produce in East Pasco!

- Fresh Herbs • Maple Syrup
- Full Line of Amish Products
- LARGEST Selection of Homemade Jellies, Jams, Local Honey, Pickled Items and Dressings

Visit our nursery for a great selection of indoor and outdoor plants!

**REDUCED ITEMS DAILY**

**FRESH CUBAN, CIABATTA, BAGELS AND PITA BREAD AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY & SATURDAYS**

**813-782-9455** SUMMER HOURS: Tues.-Sat. 8am-6pm; Closed Sun. & Mon.

**DEAN DAIRY & EILAND BLVD. • S.R. 54 WEST BYPASS • ZEPHYRHILLS**

**HUSTLE, HIT & NEVER QUIT**



**BULLDOGS!**

**SECURE! CLEAN! CONVENIENT!** **ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIALS!**

**Premier STORAGE**  
38841 County Road 54 East  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542 • 813.782.6854

**PREMIER STORAGE TOO**  
37625 State Road 54 West  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
813.285.5823

**ALLEN ROAD MINI STORAGE**  
4740 Allen Road  
Zephyrhills, FL 33541  
813.788.7825

**WINNING SMILES START HERE**



**New Patients Welcome!**

From Cleanings and Fillings to Crowns, Dentures and Implants, we have the skills and expertise to improve and maintain your oral health.

**Dental Repairs and Quick Turnaround**  
**Denture Repair and Reline Service**  
Call (813) 788-0451 today! There's no need to travel to Tampa or Lakeland for an emergency dental care provider.

**CareCredit® Patient Payment Plans**



**Matthew S. Bryington D.M.D. M.S.** 37153 STATE ROAD 54  
**GENERAL & IMPLANT DENTISTRY** ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542  
**(813) 788-0451**





2023 WESLEY CHAPEL WILDCATS

varsity roster

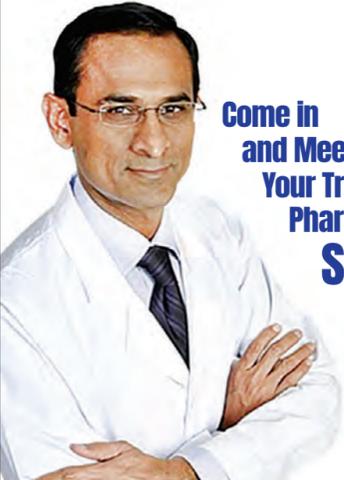


No.	Player	Position	Year	No.	Player	Position	Year
1	Tarvon Hill	WR, DB	12	40	Justin Andreacchio	LB	11
3	Jaylann Lewis	RB	12	41	Jaydon Aldajuste	RB, LB	10
4	Emmanuel Park	LB, RB	12	42	Jacob Matias	LB	12
5	Shawn Kelly	LB, S	10	44	Liam Robinson	DB	9
6	Connor Libby	DE, TE, OL	12	45	Chance Hummel	DB	10
7	Desmond Ghabbour	DB, WR	11	50	Nicholas Jenkins	OL	11
8	DeRon Berry	DB	10	52	Sebastian Rodriguez	DL, OL	10
9	Cain Huff	DE, TE	11	53	Ja'syis Brown	LB	12
10	Thomas Waskovich	WR, DB	10	54	Justice Isaacs	LB	10
11	Bupe Chisanga	WR	10	55	Anthony Pinkston	OL	10
12	Rickey Mingo	DL	12	56	Iain Bales	DL	10
15	Logan Pomeranke	QB	12	58	Christian Hersh	OL	11
17	Eli Chuna	QB, DB	10	62	Tanner Stuelcken	OL, P	10
18	Ian Myer	QB	11	63	Levi Lopez	OL	11
20	Israel Benton	DB	11	65	Kamari Jackson	OL	10
21	Zion Randolph	DB, LB	10	66	Elazar Desin	OL	10
22	Wesley Young	LB, RB	12	70	Elazar Desin	OL	10
23	Judah Howell	DB, RB, WR	10	71	Vincent Parsons	OL	10
24	Tavion Cousin	ATH	10	72	Javon Nunez	DL	11
25	Jadon Wilson	DB, WR	10	74	Shane Richards	DL	10
26	Yahiel Claudil	DB	11	75	Grayson Johnson	DL	9
28	Tavion Cousin	DB	10	76	Christopher Vassilakos	OL	11
30	Sincere Allen	DB	11	77	Javon Nunez	DL	10
32	Travis Hamilton	DB	10	80	Kamiden Steulken	K	10
33	Jaylon Moody	WR	11	81	Aaron Patton	RB, K	12
34	Gavin Barnes	LB	9	88	Kiyh Anderson	WR	10

ONE TEAM, ONE GOAL

"Helping you in your quest toward recovery, wellness and a healthier life."

FREE DELIVERY EVERYDAY • MOST MAJOR INSURANCES ACCEPTED



Come in and Meet Your Trusted Pharmacist **SAM**



- Various Vaccinations Offered
- Private Consultations
- Compounding
- Compliance Packaging
- Medication Therapy Management Services

6242 GALL BLVD., ZEPHYRHILLS 33542  
 (Across the street from Kaufman Eye Inst.)  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-8pm; Sat. 9am-4pm;  
 Sunday 10am-3pm  
[www.zephyrhillspharmacy.com](http://www.zephyrhillspharmacy.com)

813-395-6161 • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!



Keep America Beautiful By Taking Care of the Environment and Living Sustainably!

Why no glass? When glass breaks it becomes a contaminant to the materials in the overall recycling stream.

- NO Plastic Bags
- NO Milk or Juice Cartons
- NO Tangles
- NO Trashed or Bagged Recycling
- NO Styrofoam
- NO Glass
- NOTHING Bigger Than a Cat Litter Container

NO GLASS RECYCLING REMINDER.



For questions, please email us at: [pubworks@ci.zephyrhills.fl.us](mailto:pubworks@ci.zephyrhills.fl.us) or call our office at **(813) 780-0022**

Score with Calm, Cool, Comfortable ...

- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM
- BEDROOM
- MATTRESSES
- ADJUSTABLE BEDS
- ROCKER RECLINERS
- SOFA SLEEPERS
- LIGHTING
- WALL DÉCOR
- PICTURES

Coastal!



We're more accessible than buying online! Pop in to see our extensive showroom and get a true feel for the look, quality and fit before you buy!

Coastal Furniture & Mattress

4904 ALLEN ROAD • ZEPHYRHILLS  
 NEXT TO BIG LOTS, OFF S.R. 54 WEST



ACCEPTED HERE PROMOTIONAL FINANCING AVAILABLE\*

813-395-5920 HOURS: MON. - SAT. 9AM-6PM

\* With approved credit. See store for details.



2023 CYPRESS CREEK COYOTES

# The Coyotes, who fell short of the playoffs after a seven-win season, aim to play beyond the regular season

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter

Missing out on the playoffs after a school-record seven-win season did not sit well with the Coyotes, who have just one postseason appearance (2019) in their six-year history. Especially considering that several teams with fewer wins played postseason games in 2022.

"It definitely stung pretty hard," said Mike Johnson, the only head football coach in school history. "Their goal is to get back into the playoffs. They definitely put the work in to make sure that doesn't happen again this year."

Although the Coyotes could have a more talented team than last year, a postseason berth still may prove to be a tough challenge since they are aligned in Class 3 Suburban, District 7 with Zephyrhills, Pasco and Wesley Chapel. While the Wildcats are rebuilding and coming off a winless season, the Bulldogs and Pirates were playoff teams last year with Zephyrhills making history by playing in its first-ever region final.

"Zephyrhills is going to be a tough team. That's who we're chasing," Johnson said.

Gearing up for what could be just its second-ever playoff berth and first since 2019, Cypress Creek appears set on offense with eight of 11 returners.

"It just allows you to get a little tricky with the offense and lets (the players) understand what we're trying to do," Johnson said.

Among the key returners is senior quarterback Jack Niemann, who as a junior threw for 1,834 yards and 20 touchdowns with eight interceptions. That marked his first year as a starter with him leading the junior varsity squad as a sophomore.

"I'm really excited about this year," said Niemann, who like his coaches and teammates said that coming so close to the playoffs and missing out last year "is really big motivation."

In a 41-14 win over Fivay in the regular season opener,

Niemann passed for 320 yards and three touchdowns. That showed just how motivated he is now.

"He's progressed as a signal-caller," Johnson said. "He understands our offense and knows what the defense wants to do. He's done a nice job distributing the football. He's delivering it on time and getting the ball out of his hands quick."

Returning starters Malachi Askin and Shawn Smith, both seniors, also will be relied on heavily in what could be a high-scoring offense throughout the season. Askin ran for 76 yards and a touchdown against the Falcons with Smith racking up a team-high six catches for 130 yards and a touchdown.

There is more to the offense than Niemann, Askin and Smith. Versatile running back Jayden Fountain, a sophomore, is being counted on for carrying the ball and catching it out of the backfield. Milton Gracia and Shaan Patel also give the quarterback proven targets to throw to.

"It's tough to stop all five of them," Johnson said of the skill players that Niemann has at his disposal. "It's pretty awesome having five weapons that Jack can go to at any given time."

Additionally, Jadon Manatt and impressive freshman Bryce Flemming are expected to chip in as part of a deep receiving unit. Both had scoring catches in the game against Fivay.

Defense, with 10 returners who either started or saw significant playing time last year, also will be a key factor in the team's success this season. That unit held the Falcons scoreless in the first half of the first game, allowing 14 points in the second half with several backups on the field.

In a glimpse of things to come the Coyotes had four interceptions in the first game, one each by linebacker

Coy Martin, safeties Roman Sercu and Drew Pfeiffer, and Gracia, a cornerback.

"It gives them more confidence and knowing that they can get it right," Johnson said of his players who got those turnovers.

Part of the reason for those changes in possession stem from the solid play of defensive linemen David Kirk, Declan McClure and Jonathan Motta. Add senior linebacker Nolan Lussier to that mix.

"He's coming on. He seems to be that quiet assassin," Johnson said of Lussier.

Lastly, the team has a solid kicker in Cameron Kanard, who converted three PATs and went 4-for-4 on field goals with a long of 42 yards in the opener.

"He's been fantastic," Johnson said. "The kid's a weapon."

All in all, this could turn out to be the best, or one of the best Cypress Creek teams ever.

"The kids are hungry," Johnson said. "We've just got to go 1-0 each week."

2023 CYPRESS CREEK COYOTES



## — schedule

Home games in CAPS. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

**Last Season:** 7-3  
**Class:** 3 Suburban, District 7  
**Coach:** Michael Johnson, seventh season  
**Assistants:** Jon Altonen, Jeff Barnes, Dave Dimarco, Tico Hernandez, Aman Patel, Bruce Patterson, Robb Sercu, Willie Thacker

DATE	OPPONENT
Aug. 25	at Fivay
Sept. 1	SUNLAKE
Sept. 8	at Melbourne Central
Sept. 22	ANCLOTE
Sept. 29	PASCO
Oct. 6	at Hollins
Oct. 13	PARISH COMMUNITY
Oct. 20	at Parrish Community
Oct. 27	ZEPHYRHILLS
Nov. 3	at River Ridge



The Cypress Creek coaching staff gather for a group shot.



2023 CYPRESS CREEK COYOTES

### varsity roster



No.	Player	Position	Year			
1	Roman Sercu	WR, SS, FS	12	42	David Kirk	TE, DE 12
2	Coy Martin	RB, LB	12	44	Titus Northey	OL, LB, LS 11
3	Shawn Smith	WR, DB	12	50	Chase Cholnik	OL, LB 11
4	Malachi Askin	RB, DB	12	51	Austin Slusher	OL, DL 12
5	Milton Gracia	WR, DB	12	52	Marley Walker	OL, DL 12
7	Trindon Symonds	RB, LB, TE	12	53	Jonathan Motta	OL, DL 12
8	Zebra Jackson	DB	12	55	Rony Tannoukhi	OL, DL 12
10	Logan Wilson	WR, DB	12	60	Bryce Browdy	DL 12
11	Shaan Patel	WR, DB	11	61	Matthew Lambeta	OL, DL 10
12	Jack Niemann	QB	12	62	DiMarco Jon-Michael	OL, DL 11
13	Andrew Pope	WR, DB	11	64	Dace Jonke	OL, DL 10
14	Jadon Manatt	WR, DB	11	65	Raheem Pitts	DL 12
18	Declan McClure	DL	12	66	Lucas Pavlikovic	OL, DL 11
19	Drew Pfeiffer	WR, DB	11	70	Jerome Thomas	OL, DL 10
20	Nolan Lussier	LB	12	71	Joshua Fernandez-hodge	OL, DL 11
22	Jayden Fountain	RB, DB	10	72	Duncan McCallister	OL, DL 12
23	Trip Jackson	QB	11	77	Thiago Dematos	OL, DL 10
24	Blaine Marinko	DB, WR	11	80	Cameron Kanard	K, P 12
25	Starlin Montero	WR, DB	10	81	Bryce Flemming	WR, DB 9
30	Drew Walls	LB, RB	10	82	Robert Mesa	WR, DB 10
32	Bret Marinko	RB, LB	10	84	Hayden Watson	WR, DB 12
33	Andrew Alvarez	RB, LB	12	85	Cason Corrao	P, K 10
40	Owen Price	WR, DB	10	88	Aiden Sutherland	TE, DE 11
41	Hudson Merkle	LB, DL	12		Preston Campbell	10
41	Mekhai Santiago	WR, DB	12		Jakob Criswell	11



Cypress Creek junior varsity team



Pasco junior varsity team



Zephyrhills junior varsity team



# Neighbor-to-Neighbor Newspapers continue to be the long-established, trusted communications source.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$25.00**  
**2-YEARS \$40.00 (SAVE 20%)**  
Inside Pasco County. (Outside Pasco \$40.00/yr)

We are community minded, community driven... covering local news, government, schools, police logs, and events.

We feature advertising from local businesses ready to serve your needs. People who are eager to build trusted, personalized relationships that will exceed your expectations – but not your budgets.

Delivered by the U.S. Postal Service every Thursday or available online at [thezephyrhillsnews.com](http://thezephyrhillsnews.com). Whether you're in need of community connection or advertising solutions, we're eager to provide.

**The Zephyrhills News**  
...your local source since 1911

38333 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL 333542  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
**CALL 813-782-1558**

To order by mail:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Please include your check or money order for \$25.00 for one year or \$40.00 for two years.

