

GBCYFL thrives despite competition from others

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SHEPHERDSVILLE – Looking at it from a wider view, it might seem that the Greater Bullitt County Youth Football League is facing competition at every corner. That might be true, but league president Grant Knox feels that he is offering a product that many in the community still need....and desire.

It was several years ago that Bullitt East and then the other two high schools added middle school football, taking the oldest players out of the league. Then, Bullitt East expanded that program to include all age brackets. North Bullitt and Bullitt Central has followed that lead the past two seasons, conducting programs for kids all the way down to the first grade.

While the league did move away from its middle school age league a number of years ago, the 53-year old league is holding fast on their present age groups. There are still GBCYFL programs at Mount Washington and Pleasant Grove as well as teams in the north end and in the central and southern areas.

In fact, Grant and vice-president Taylor Garvin said a week before the 2026 starts on Saturday with a full slate of games, that the league has increased its participation numbers to 1,300 overall, including football, dance, flag and cheerleading. That is the best number in several years.

“I have no ill will,” Knox said of the changes going on around him. “I have to run this program and provide for the families that come to



File photo

Championship Saturday 2025 was filled with excitement.

us.

“We are a little different here,” the president said. “We provide more space for play time.”

Overall, the league has eight programs, but once again does not have a Shepherdsville program. After a year with the Fairdale program out of the league, that group has returned with a full group of teams.

So, each program has a full group of eight teams with the exception that there were not enough players in the Little Bullitts program from Cedar Grove.

The full group of teams includes the Overdale Chiefs, the Mount Washington Colts, the Pleasant Grove Dolphins, the Maryville Patriots, the Lebanon Junction Seahawks and the Cedar Grove

Vikings. The Brooks program is also in the league, but that group has changed from its long-time nickname of Saints to the Buccaneers or ‘Bucs’ as they like to be called.

There will be 21 games played each Saturday starting at 8 a.m. The Junior and PeeWee age groups will play on the ‘big’ field while the Little Bullitts and Flag game will be played on the small field.

There are ten weeks in the regular season. The league will play for two weeks and then take off the Labor Day weekend. There will then be eight more weeks of action before a three-week post-season. Championship Saturday is set for November 14.

The youngest flag teams will be Co-Ed for 4 and 5-year-olds. The

Little Bullitts will be tackle football for 6 and 7-year-olds. PeeWee is tackle football for 8 and 10-year-olds while Junior Division is tackle football for 10 to 12-year-olds.

The is also flag football for girls with teams for 2nd through 4th-grade and another group for 5th through 8th-graders. Starting with the next school year, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association will sanction flag football for girls at the high school level. All three Bullitt County high schools have already formed programs.

The flag leagues play 7-on-7 football.

In the spring the league conducted an all-inclusive league for players with disabilities. That program will return this fall with contests on Sunday. Players from the Junior Division will be selected by their coaches to help with those contests.

Knox and his board do take pride in that they promote special events to help others in the community.

Ticket prices have not changed for single day entrance. The prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for school-age kids as well as seniors and First Responders. Children under-5 are free.

One promotion this season will be a bottomless Cup for \$20. The refills will be free during the season. That is being sponsored by White, Greer and Maggard Orthodontics.

The league has had good feedback from the community. They have gotten help with projects or sponsorships from Windows Plus, Shirley’s Way, Kentucky Pediatric Dentistry, First Harrison Bank and Performance Heading and Air as

well as System Max Audio.

As the season progresses, the league will work with Shirley’s Way to collect items for Thanksgiving meals in the community.

It was a good off-season for the league in that there was no major flooding that reached the fields or the buildings, something that has happened several times in the past.

The league acquired a golf cart for season for use by the medical and training staff. There has also been work done on drainage control and drain tiles as well as a new flag pole and repaired scoreboards.

The season is starting a week later this season and that was a good thing as Knox said that it was too hot to play either day that weekend. The league has returned to a 100-degree heat index number to stop all play. There is a heat schedule for use if games at put on hold.

On Sept. 12 there will be a Community Heroes Day. All military, nurses, fire and EMS will have free admission and there will be free meals for those as long as it lasts.

The league officers for this season include Grant Knox as the president, Taylor Garvin at the Vice-President, while the Secretary is Josh Happel with Wes Lennan being the Treasurer and Patrick Garvin the Director of Football Operations.

Watch The Pioneer News each Thursday for results from the prior weekend. Each team is responsible for supplying statistics which are detailed and legible.

CENTRAL

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physical.

“We need to protect the kids,” the coach pointed out. “I don’t think we would be much different if we had 100 kids.”

So far, so good is good news for the season that opens this Friday when the Cougars travel to East Jessamine.

“We have been fortunate so far,” Faucett said. “There have been some bumps and bruises. But no varsity issues. With our older kids we have been fortunate.”

Out of the 50 players, Faucett is thinking that 18 or 19 players will do most of the heavy lifting.

“We are looking at three or four guys going both ways,” the coach explained. “That leaves 18 or 19 kids starting. We will rotate the kids at certain spots. We have some who start and then are the number one backup on the other side of the ball.

“We will have some younger kids help on special teams,” Faucett added.

The best news for Cougar fans this season is the return of senior quarterback A.J. Lee. He has started 31 games already in his career at Bullitt Central, every game except the first contest of his freshman season. Lee was the Class 5-A, Region 3 Offensive Player of the Year last season.

In a season a year ago in which the team posted a 3-8 record, Lee completed 170 of his 282 pass attempts (60 percent) for 1,911 yards with 17 touchdowns and six interceptions.

Lee was also the second leading rusher for the team a year ago, carrying the ball 124 times for 745 yards with a touchdown scored.

“He is very talented and competitive,” Faucett of the reigning Bullitt County Player of the Year in basketball. “He makes us go.”

Bullitt Central is thin at several spots, but not at quarterback. Lee is a proven commodity, but Faucett is also confident that junior Kameron Terrazas could step in and have success. The coach also have confidence in sophomore Tyler Cavote to run the team, if necessary.

“A.J. is the leader. He can do it with his arms and legs,” Faucett said. “But if we need to got to either of the other two, I would feel comfortable.

“They all have different strengths, but the offense

would not substantially change,” the coach said. “We might just need to change a few little things.

Bullitt Central returns only 100 yards from the running back slot after the graduation of Kyler Crenshaw, who scored 16 touchdowns last season the ground. The rest of the team had three touchdowns on the ground.

The starter at this point will be junior Kaden Nusz. He is returning to the team after missing last season with an injury. Kolton Begley, a senior, is the leading returning running back with 89 yards, but he will also be a starter on defense. The third candidate is junior Carter Still, another player who missed considerable time last season with an injury while a defensive starter.

“They will get a lot of reps,” Faucett said. “If one has the hot hand, they are carrying the load. All three play defense so we want to split the work load.”

If there is a player more important to the Cougars than Lee, Faucett says it will be senior Mason Draper. He was the starting center last season, but worked hard in the off-season, lost 50 pounds and is now a strong tight end. He will also start on defense.

Bullitt Central will use the tight end more this season with Draper being a strong option along with Terrazas.

“He has grown since last year,” Faucett said of Terrazas. “He played some wide receiver last year. He has bought into being a tight end.”

Bullitt Central will use two or three wide receivers given the situation. The four candidates for that spot include junior Cameron Probus, sophomore Aden Napier, senior Jacob Selch and senior Virgile Nkurikiyaunukiza, the player with perhaps the longest name in the state.

Probus is the leading returning receiver as he hauled in 33 passes from Lee for 316 and three touchdowns. Selch is another player who is back playing after missing last fall with an injury.

Along the front line, the Cougars have some size and experience.

Draper has moved out to tight end so the center spot will go to junior Gavin Williams. The junior did play a few games last season but missed others with injuries. He will be carrying the signals for the line

At the guard spots, junior Bennett Scott will be one of

the players at that spot along with senior Ely Prater. Outside, the tackles will be senior Peyton Hester and junior Axel Schulz. The sixth player in the battle for the five offensive lineman spots will be junior Jordan Holbrook.

“It will be day-to-day who will start,” Faucett said.

Hester is 6-3, 275 and this will be his third year starting.

“He started as a tight end and moved to tackle,” Faucett said. “He has bought in. He is the most naturally gifted of our offensive lineman. He has tools that you cannot teach. He will be a very important part of our offense.”

Depth on the line could come from sophomore Dakoda Anglin.

Five of the six leading candidates for the line weigh in at over 250 pounds.

DEFENSIVE FORMATION

Along the defensive front line, there will be many of the same names as playing on the offensive side of the ball.

The Cougars will have three defensive linemen. The three candidates to play on the nose will be Holbrook, Scott and Anglin. That group will rotate to rest players for offensive duty.

On the outside two spots, the candidates to play include Draper and junior Landon Gray with junior Chris Pottinger, Ely Prater and Schulz also in the rotation.

At linebacker, the Cougars will start junior Damien Finn and freshman Alex Wilkins. The inside linebacker position will be played by either Camden Leatherwood or freshman Brian Kessinger.

In the secondary, Faucett said that he thought the team had enough talent and depth that they would not need Lee to play except under special circumstances.

The cornerbacks will be Still and Napier. At the safety spots, Terrazas will be a free safety. The other two strong safeties will be from a group that includes Begley, Nusz and Selch.

More depth in the secondary will come from Nkurikiyaunukiza as well as senior Justice Mabry and sophomore Alex Terry.

In the kicking game, Bullitt Central has one of the top punters in the area as Hester returns after averaging 41 yards on each of his kicks last season.

The Cougars have also

gotten a pair of soccer players, senior Declan Flaherty and junior Samuel Wright, to join the program to kick extra points and field goals. Flaherty has been strong during the summer and Faucett says a field goal attempt from inside the 25-yard line is possible.

Bullitt Central lost assistant coach Mike Gossett, but Faucett does have five assistant coaches. The head coach will call the offense while the defense will be

handled by Nathan Jackson. The other assistant coaches include Terry Coulter, Michael Martin, Matthew Lawson and Rick Terry.

Bullitt Central is the only one of the three high school teams in the county to play five home games this season. The team does start the season on the road on Friday at East Jessamine.

An odd scheduling game falls on week three as Bullitt Central will play on Thursday, September 3 against

Breckinridge County. That team was supposed to host the game, but because they are getting a new field that is not yet ready, the game has been shifted to Meade County High School.

Bullitt Central will host Bullitt East on September 11 and will play at North Bullitt on October 23. The game against Fairdale, the team that is the early favorite to win the district will be play in Shepherdsville on October 16.



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