

Bulldogs' summer work paying off leading up to kickoff

By Chris Siers
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First-year coach Shelby Waddell has gone through the typical new-coaching adjustment, but the output his team has given in the summer months leading up to the season's kickoff against Richland has been just what the new coach has wanted to see out of his team.

"Participation has been good and has improved as the summer has gone on, we have had some kids come back out for football that were not playing and had played before and some who have never played. I have been pleased with our core group that has shown up every day to get better, they have gotten after consistently all summer," Waddell said.

Last season, Cornersville relied on the efforts of then-sophomore Ben Franklin to lead the charge out of the Bulldog backfield.

Franklin got Cornersville started on its season campaign with a 199-yard effort against the Raiders and Waddell hopes to find ways to get the ball into the bruising junior tailback's hands this season.

"Ben is someone everyone knows for sure, he brings a lot to the table and will have a big role in the offense for sure, we do have some other pieces that I believe can help us as well by getting the ball in their hands. To be a good offense we need to get several guys involved so we would like to do that, that's only going to make us more versatile," Waddell said.

But Franklin is just one piece of the puzzle that can lead the Bulldogs back to the postseason for a seventh-straight year.

In addition to Franklin's efforts this season, Waddell has seen excellent production in the summer from several players the Bulldogs will need to deliver this season.

"Ben Franklin, of course, at running back. Riley Qualls is a Swiss Army knife that can play multiple positions and will help us some at running back as well.

Quarterback Blaine Woodard has made strides this summer along with receiv-

ers Khi Canty, Blake Estes, and Mason Calahan, they can make plays with the ball in their hands," Waddell said.

In addition to the skill players on the Cornersville roster, the Bulldogs will lean on a senior trio up front to help establish the line of scrimmage.

"Up front John Michael Jeter, David Metcalf, and Bradden Hickman are three seniors that bring experience to help us up front as well," he said.

Several of those players will be two-way players and also contribute pivotal roles on the defensive side of the ball as well, with Qualls being the quarterback of the defense as well.

"Defensively it starts with Riley Qualls, he is the heart and soul of the defensive side of the ball, he brings it every day and is a guy I think you could put anywhere and he would find a way to be successful. Khi Canty and Blake Estes give us two good options at corner," Waddell said.

"Estes is a guy you could even see work in at backer as well. Ben Franklin, David Metcalf, and Bradden Hickman give us some good options on the defensive line as well. Then, you throw in guys like Wesley Pigg at inside backer and Blaine Woodard at safety and it gets you excited about the defense."

One of the biggest assets Cornersville features isn't a new feature that's come in with the new coach, but rather an embodiment of what Bulldog football has been for several years.

The physical, tough brand of football Cornersville plays is one of the team's greatest attributes, Waddell said.

"I think one of our strengths is our overall toughness. We have tough kids that come to work every day to get better, plus I think it's a group that really just likes being around each other and playing for each other and that goes a long way as well," Waddell said.

Cornersville opens the 2022 season on the road at Richland in the Battle of Buford Station.

2022 Cornersville Bulldogs

No. 2	Riley Qualls	RB/LB	Sr.
No. 5	Khi Canty	WR/DB	Sr.
No. 7	Austin Cooper	RB/DB	Soph.
No. 8	Mason Calahan	WR/DB	Sr.
No. 9	Blaine Woodard	QB/DB	Jr.
No. 11	Joseth Palma	K	Soph.
No. 12	J.P. Bennett	WR/DB	Soph.
No. 15	Wesley Pigg	RB/LB	Jr.
No. 19	Blake Estes	WR/LB	Sr.
No. 20	Kale Adcox	WR/DB	Jr.
No. 21	Joey Cole	WR/LB	Jr.
No. 32	Hunter Uland	WR/LB	Fresh.
No. 33	Ben Franklin	WR/DL	Jr.
No. 34	Austin King	RB/LB	Jr.
No. 38	Jonathan Zuniga	RB/LB	Jr.
No. 40	Caden Bush	RB/LB	Fresh.
No. 50	John Michael Jeter	OL/DL	Sr.
No. 54	Hunter McNeese	OL/DL	Sr.
No. 55	Zac McCombs	OL/DL	Soph.
No. 56	Bradden Hickman	OL/DL	Sr.
No. 63	Trenton Walker	OL/LB	Jr.
No. 65	Peyton Cherry	OL/DL	Jr.
No. 66	Cooper Jones	OL/DL	Soph.
No. 68	Caden Osterman	OL/DL	Fresh.
No. 70	Kel Ford	OL/DL	Soph.
No. 72	Sam Wray	OL/DL	Soph.
No. 75	Jake Welch	OL/DL	Soph.
No. 76	Wyatt Freeman	OL/DL	Soph.
No. 77	David Metcalf	OL/DL	Sr.
No. 81	Beau Schilig	WR/DB	Jr.
No. 83	Braxton Hunter	WR/DB	Soph.

Head Coach: Shelby Waddell
Assistant Coaches: John Conklin, Eliot Cook, Greg Davis, Henle Mitchell, Louis Scheuchenzuber, Jason Starr, Andy Woodard, Bradley Woodard

2021 Rewind

Aug. 19	vs. Richland	31-7	W
Aug. 27	at Forrest	16-6	W
Sept. 3	at Huntland*	39-0	W
Sept. 10	Clay Co.	38-12	L
Sept. 17	Collinwood*	21-0	W
Sept. 24	at Eagleville	22-7	L
Oct. 1	vs. Fayetteville*	18-8	W
Oct. 15	Wayne Co.*	31-0	W
Oct. 22	Moore Co.*	35-14	W
Oct. 28	Zion Christian***	1-0	W
Nov. 5	vs. McEwen**	2-8	W
Nov. 12	at McKenzie**	28-0	L

*Denotes Region 5-A game
**Denotes Class A playoff game
*** Denotes win via forfeit

2022 Schedule

Aug. 18	at Richland
Aug. 26	vs. Forrest
Sept. 2	vs. Huntland*
Sept. 9	at Clay Co.*
Sept. 16	at Collinwood*
Sept. 23	vs. Eagleville*
Sept. 30	at Fayetteville*
Oct. 14	vs. Wayne Co.*
Oct. 21	at Moore Co.*

*Denotes Region 5-A game



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FROM THE TOWN OF CORNERSVILLE

