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# ALLWAY '21 THE STATE

McKENZIE  
REBELS  
FOOTBALL

TSSAA DIVISION I CLASS 1A STATE RUNNER-UP  
THE McKENZIE BANNER • SPECIAL EDITION • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021



Left, Team Captains — Trey Cook, Hayden Hudson, Brandon Hatley and Gage Moon ready to meet the Pirates and game officials at mid-field to start the game. Center, Stafford Roditis (13) kicks off for the Rebels. Right, TSSAA's Bernard Childress with Wade Comer, head coach of the McKenzie Rebels. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

## Congratulations, Rebels!

For the people of McKenzie along with alumni and fans of the McKenzie Rebels, this has been the season to remember. In this special collector's edition, we, the staff of The McKenzie Banner, pay homage to a team that has made McKenzie proud. While a loss is sometimes a hard pill to swallow,

state runner-up is a great accomplishment.

### A Special Message to The Rebel Football Team

You have had one if not the most memorable football season at McKenzie High School. Right now, emotions are running high and you might question yourself on

the championship game, but you as a team have accomplished what no other football team in McKenzie history has, an undefeated regular season with a championship game berth. When you look back on the season, don't dwell on the what-ifs, remember the accomplishments and the positives of

the season and playoffs.

This Rebel team was one of the most cohesive teams this staff has ever witnessed. You broke numerous records this season and in a few days, those records can and will be touted. John Maxwell coined the phrase "Teamwork makes the dream work." You young men along with Coach Comer and his staff had a dream; it was accomplished by a TEAM. The hours you

put in the weight room, on the practice field, watching game film and living football made this team achieve the dream.

Trust us when we say it will not take another fourteen years to be in the championship game, it will happen. Seniors, while many of you have played your last down of football, your talent and leadership will not go unnoticed. You have the opportunity to tutor and

mentor the underclassmen and guide them to future successes on and off the field. You are and will always be a McKenzie Rebel.

We thank you for this season and we are so proud of your accomplishment.

### The McKenzie Banner Staff

Joel Washburn, Teresa Washburn, Brittany Washburn-Martin, Jason Martin, Janna Pratt and Jim Potts



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# Rebels Fall Short in Title Game

BY JIM POTTS  
jpotts@mckenziebanner.com

McKenzie’s playoff run set up a rematch with the South Pittsburg Pirates for the Class A State Title on Friday, December 3. I wrote a preview story in last week’s paper on the championship game which included McK-enzie’s ability to overcome their challenges on the field while on a quest for the ultimate perfect season for a football team.

Look at it this way. The Rebel roster has fewer than 40 players total. They were really fortunate on the injury front other than the usual nicks and bruises you collect during games. The only serious injury occurred to Tate Surber breaking a collarbone in practice fairly early in the season and still made it back during the playoffs.

On the other side, South Pittsburg had their challenges too on and off the field. Most of their kids were on last year’s team that made it to the championship and lost to Fayetteville. The Pi-rates lost their head coach suddenly just weeks into the season when he took off for a job in the CFL (Canadian Football League). They also only played eight regular season games while most everybody else plays ten.

**The Title Game**  
The championship game was akin to a title prize fight with the two sides trying to

knock the other out. McK-enzie’s crowd was out in force and South Pittsburg had a great crowd as well. The weather in Chattanooga was near perfect with clear skies and temps in the low 70s more suited for an early season game rather than a championship game in December.

The two teams also featured a pair of Mr. Football finalists in Marquez Taylor and De’Andre Kelly.

McKenzie’s captains were Trey Cook, Hayden Hudson, Brandon Hatley, and Gage Moon. The Rebels won the toss and opted to defer to the second half.

Stafford Roditis boomed a 52-yard kickoff all the way inside the Pirate 10-yard line where they started from the eight-yard line. South Pittsburg moved the ball out to their 39-yard line before having to punt to the Rebels. The punt was only 13 yards giving McKenzie good field position at their own 48.

The Rebels were in Pirate territory quickly and drove to their 23 before a holding penalty and Jackson Cassidy getting sacked on a fourth down play killed the drive and turned the ball over on downs.

The Pirates drove the ball back the other way to the Rebel 27 before throwing an incomplete pass on fourth down giving the ball back to McKenzie.

The Rebels got two big pass completions to Marquez

Taylor for 25 yards and a 48-yard Zay Webber touchdown catch from Cassidy with 1:38 left in the first quarter. Zach Aird’s kick was good for a 7-0 lead.

Less than a minute later, McKenzie had the ball back on a Rashad McCreary interception at the South Pitt 41. With just 38 seconds left in the quarter, The Rebels gave it to Taylor for a 13-yard carry and then scored on a 27-yard Taylor touchdown run. Aird’s kick was good for a 14-0 lead with 15 seconds left in the quarter.

South Pittsburg opened the second quarter with their next possession and gave the Rebels a heavy dose of De’Andre Kelly that resulted in a 19-yard Kelly touchdown run with 8:31 left in the second quarter.

McKenzie’s next drive went 11 plays draining nearly five minutes of the clock to the Pirate 27 where Jackson Cassidy threw an incomplete pass on fourth down and turned the ball over on downs.

Both teams spent the rest of the half swapping possessions and turning the ball over to each other on downs before halftime arrived with the Rebels leading 14-7.

The Rebel’s opening drive of the third quarter went three and out with Andrew Cole punting away. South Pitt’s first possession ended with Etijay Tharpe picking

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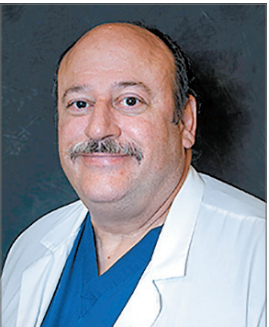
Top, The McKenzie Rebels, coaches and managers with the Runner-Up trophy. Above, Cheerleaders hold a banner that reads ‘Walk The Plank, Pirates.’ Below, Marquez Taylor outruns his defenders. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



## Congratulations on a great season, Rebels!



Dr. Bryan Merrick



Dr. Terry Colotta



Dr. Will Merrick



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Dr. Joseph Hames



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Top Left, Rebel fans enjoy a warm day as they watch their Rebels. Top Right, Rebels fans' view of the game. Left, Young Rebel fans hold up a defense sign. Right, Rashad McCreary finds running room. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



# Title

Continued from Page 2

off the ball near the endzone giving McK-enzie possession at their own 8.

It was here the first turnover occurred on second down when a Pirate defender grabbed the ball away from Marquez Taylor and ran it back 15 yards for a game-tying touchdown with the extra point good for a 14-14 game.

The two teams swapped possessions the remainder of the third quarter with McKenzie having possession heading into the final quarter. After driving to midfield, the Rebels were forced to punt on fourth and long and backed the Pirates to their 22-yard line.

South Pittsburg drove the length of the field in five plays with De'Andre Kelly getting the call on four of them including a 28-yard touchdown run and extra point that gave them a 21-14 lead with 7:53 left in the game.

The second turnover occurred on McK-enzie's ensuing possession when a Pirate defender stripped Rashad McCreary and the Pirates ran it to the Rebel 7. The defense kept them out of the endzone but the

Pirates nailed a 19-yard field goal with 3:01 left in the game to make it 24-14

After Etijay Tharpe returned the ensuing kickoff 30 yards, the Rebels went on a quick drive using short pass completions and scored on a 15-yard touchdown from Jackson Cassidy to Zach Aird with Aird's kick good to make it 24-21 with 1:14 left on the game clock.

McKenzie pooched an onside kick that South Pittsburg recovered near midfield. They went into victory formation and took a knee forcing the Rebels to use up their timeouts and eventually ran out the clock on the game.

The stats were quite impressive for both teams in the contest. McKenzie ran 57 plays for 339 yards while South Pittsburg also ran 57 plays for 309 yards. The Rebels had 137 yards rushing and 202 yards passing while the Pirates had 221 yards rushing and 85 yards passing.

The two Mr Football finalists made their presence felt with Marquez Taylor gaining 85 yards and a touchdown along with a pair of receptions for 38 yards. South Pittsburg's De'Andre Kelly had 177 yards rushing with two touchdowns.

Jackson Cassidy went 13-22 passing for 202 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for another 37 yards. The leading receiver was Zay Webber with 3 catches for 70

yards and a touchdown. Both Andrew Cole and Zach Aird had 43 yards in receptions with Aird catching a touchdown.

Defensively, Cassidy recorded nine un-assisted tackles and four assisted tackles while Aird recorded seven solo tackles and two assisted tackles. Allison Camden and Rashad McCreary recorded five total tackles apiece in the contest.

## Post Game Observations

Everyone I talked to after the game, including South Pittsburg people, had good things to say about the McKenzie Rebels. The Pirate fans were impressed with their sportsmanship telling us this was the best sportsmanship shown to them by an opponent all season long.

Make no mistake, this Rebel team is a special group of young men that took the school and the community for a ride that won't be forgotten!



Ava Warman cheers for the Rebels. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

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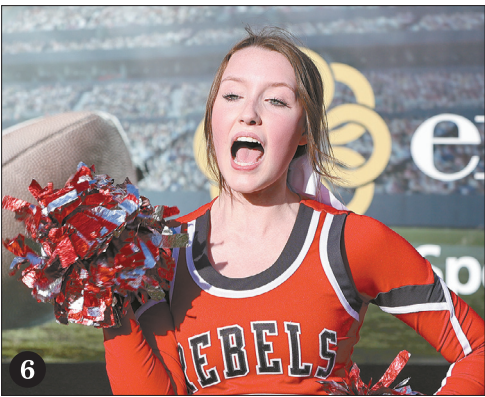
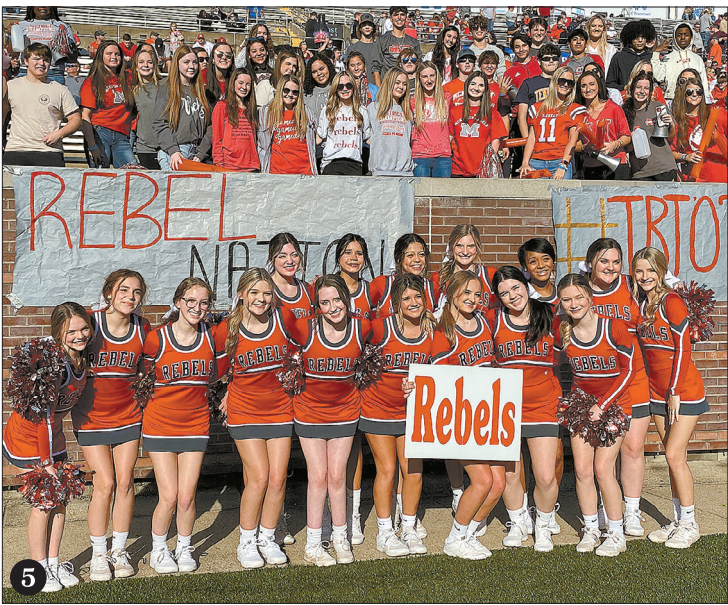
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# Title

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1. Marquez Taylor makes a touchdown while being 'horse-collared' by the defender.
  2. Jackson Cassidy launches a pass.
  3. The student cheering section for the Rebels.
  4. McKenzie Marching Rebels played pep music for the Rebels.
  5. McKenzie Cheerleaders cheered the team.
  6. Reese Carroll cheers for the Rebels.
  7. Zach Aird makes a tackle.
  8. Coach Wade Comer talks to his team following the game.
  9. Jackson Cassidy hands off to Marquez Taylor.
- Photos by Joel Washburn/  
The Banner

Congratulations on the fun year!

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# Title

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Left, The Rebels huddle with Rebel fans in the background. Center, Rashad McCreary finds running room down the sideline. Right, Zach Aird catches a pass in the end zone for a touchdown. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



## 2021 McKenzie Rebels Record

August 20	Huntingdon	W 46-28
August 27	@ Chester County	W 36-0
September 3	@ South Fulton *	W 72-7
September 10	@ Obion County	W 40-14
September 17	Perry County *	W 63-0
September 24	West Carroll	W 54-7
October 1	Dresden *	W 23-14
October 8	@ Gleason *	W 57-16
October 22	@ HR-Bruceton *	W (Forfeit)
October 22	Sequatchie County	W 42-7
October 29	McEwen *	W 42-6
November 5	R1: Moore County	W 63-12
November 12	R2: Cornersville	W 28-0
November 19	R3: @ Fayetteville	W 14-8
November 26	R4: Trenton Peabody	W 36-30
December 3	Final: South Pittsburg	L 21-24
TSSAA Division I Class 1A State Runner-Up		

## 2021 McKenzie Rebels Roster

#	NAME	POS.	GR.	#	NAME	POS.	GR.	#	NAME	POS.	GR.
1	Etijay Tharpe	RB/LB	11	15	Drew Chappell	RB/LB	10	51	Craegen Travis	OL/DL	9
2	Trey Cook	R/LB	12	16	Lute McCaslin	R/DB	10	52	Elijah Edmonson	OL/DL	11
3	Zach Aird	R/DB	11	17	Camden Allison	R/DB	11	54	Brandon Hatley	OL/LB	12
4	Zay Webber	R/DB	11	20	Carson Hill	R/DB	9	60	Gage Moon	OL/DL	12
5	Landon Brown	R/DB	9	21	Ryan McCreary	RB/LB	9	62	Cameron Flippin	OL/DL	10
6	Collin McLearn	R/DB	12	25	Gage Crosland	R/DB	9	63	Aiden Heath	OL/DL	9
7	Marquez Taylor	RB/DB	11	26	Rashad McCreary	RB/LB	11	64	Austin Luci	OL/DL	9
8	Andrew Cole	TE/LB	12	27	Martez Teague	R/LB	9	65	Carter Swalley	OL/DL	9
9	Jake Cassidy	R/LB	10	28	Brady Brewer	RB/DB	10	66	David Cheney	OL/DL	11
10	Lane Anderson	R/LB	10	30	Dalton Hatley	TE/LB	10	67	Jacob Smith	OL/DL	9
11	Jackson Cassidy	QB/DB	11	34	Ty Anderson	TE/LB	11	72	Hayden Hudson	OL/DL	12
12	Colt Norden	R/DB	9	35	KaDarius Cunningham	RB/DL	9	74	Jose Luna	OL/DL	11
13	Stafford Roditis	R/DB	10	47	Ace Fisher	TE/LB	10	77	Daniel Latimer	OL/DL	11
14	Tate Surber	QB/DB	9	50	Braxton Sulock	OL/LB	10				

# 2021 McKenzie Rebels By The Numbers

BY JIM POTTS  
jpotts@mckenziebanner.com

Numerous fans have told us they like seeing the stats in game stories. So this article is dedicated to the numbers for the year which are very impressive. These numbers include all of the regular season, playoffs and state championship games. Let's start at the top. The Rebels scored 637 points this season and gave up 173 points. In fifteen games, the Rebels scored in the 20s three times, 30s twice, 40s four times, 50s twice, 60s twice and 70s once. They shut out three teams and only gave up one touchdown in five games. Now we break this down by game.

### HUNTINGDON

Rebels rolled up 315 yards with 204 rushing and 111 passing while giving up 379 total yards to the Mustangs. Jackson Cassidy completed 4-11 for 111 yards and a touchdown while rushing 32 yards and a touchdown. Marquez Taylor rushed 10 times for 119 yards and three touchdowns while catching one pass for a 55 yard touchdown. He also returned an interception 40 yards for a touchdown. Zach Aird hit a 32-yard field goal and nailed five extra points.

### CHESTER COUNTY

McKenzie had 237 yards with 148 passing and 89 rushing while holding the Eagles to 136 yards offense. Cassidy went 7-16 for 148 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 10 yards and a touchdown. He also had an 82-yard interception return for a touchdown. Taylor had eight carries for 65

yards and two touchdowns while catching two passes for 18 yards. Aird was 2-2 on extra points.

### SOUTH FULTON

The first 400+ yard offensive game with the Rebels rolling up 407 yards while holding the Red Devils to just 42 total offensive yards. They had 296 yards rushing and 111 yards passing. Etijay Tharpe had nine carries for 167 yards and three touchdowns. Tate Surber completed 1-2 passes for 60 yards and a touchdown. The rest of the yardage and touchdowns were spread out among a lot of younger players including Landon Brown, Brady Brewer and Colt Norden. Zach Aird was 8-8 on extra points.

### OBION CENTRAL

The Rebels rolled up their second 400+ offensive game and nearly cracked 500 with 483 total yards while giving up 284 to Obion Central. They rushed for 375 yards and passed for 108 yards. Jackson Cassidy was 8-15 for 108 yards and rushed six times for 100 yards and a touchdown. Marquez Taylor had 19 carries for 219 yards and three touchdowns. Zach Aird booted a pair of field goals from 28 and 39 yards while hitting 3-4 extra point attempts.

### PERRY COUNTY

McKenzie had 387 yards offense with 282 on the ground and 109 in the air while holding Perry County under 20 yards total offense for the game. The Rebels ground out 282 yards rushing and 105 through the air. Taylor had an interesting game scoring touchdowns

three different ways. A 47-yard touchdown run, a 25-yard catch, and a 17-yard punt return for a touchdown. He had 47 yards rushing and 25-yards receiving for the contest. Jackson Cassidy was 4-6 passing for 105 yards and two touchdowns while rushing once for a 43 yard touchdown. Drew Chappell had 53 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Zach Aird was 9-9 on extra point attempts.

### WEST CARROLL

Marquez Taylor spear-headed McKenzie's third 400+ yard effort with 210 yards rushing on nine carries for three touchdowns along with 16 yards receiving. The Rebels had 437 yards while holding the War Eagles to barely over 100 yards for the game. 344 of those yards were on the ground while 93 came in the air. Jackson Cassidy went 7-12 passing for 93 yards and a pair of touchdowns to Andrew Cole and Zay Webber. Cassidy also ran three times for 44 yards and a score. Rashad McCreary contributed 46 yards on four carries for the Rebels. Aird was 6-8 on extra points.

### DRESDEN

The Rebels earned 389 yards offense with 276 on the ground and 113 in the air while holding the Lions to 113 yards offense. Taylor had 20 touches for 131 yards and two touchdowns plus another 19 yards receiving. Cassidy had a busy night 8-17 for 113 yards and ran six times for 79 yards. Rashad McCreary had 8 carries for 42 yards and a score. The receiving yards were spread out among several players during the game. Zach Aird

was 2-3 on extra points and nailed a 22-yard field goal.

### GLEASON

The trip to Tater Town produced the fourth 400+ yard game with 467 total yards while giving up 164 yards to the pesky Bulldogs. The rushing game was good for 228 yards and the passing went for 199 yards. Jackson Cassidy went 6-7 for 199 yards and two touchdowns to Zay Webber who had 135 yards on the two touchdown catches. Cassidy had three rushes for another 67 yards and a touchdown. Taylor had 11 carries for 124 yards and five touchdowns. Aird hit 7-7 extra points in the contest.

### SEQUATCHIE COUNTY

McKenzie rang up their third 300+ yard game with 337 yards most of which came on the ground with 293 yards along with 44 passing yards. The Rebels had two 100-yard rushers in this game with Marquez Taylor rushing 20 times for 163 yards and three touchdowns along with two catches for 16 yards. Rashad McCreary had seven carries for 107 yards and a touchdown. Jackson Cassidy had two touchdowns on three carries totaling 14 yards while hitting 5-12 for 44 yards. Aird was 6-6 on extra point attempts.

### McEWEN

Senior Night and the final home game produced the fifth 400-yard game for the Rebels with 266 yards on the ground and 134 passing while giving up 153 yards to the Warriors. Cassidy was 8-16 for 134 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 35 yards. Taylor had 15 carries for 181 yards and four touchdowns. An-

drew Cole and Zach Aird were on the receiving end of the two touchdown passes. Aird was 6-6 on extra points for the game.

### MOORE COUNTY

The first playoff game produced the fourth 300+ yard game with a 377-yard effort. The Rebels went 232 on the ground and 145 in the air. Jackson Cassidy had a huge game with 5-7 passing for 145 yards and three touchdowns and rushed three times for 130 yards and two more touchdowns. The touchdown passes went to Aird, Andrew Cole, and Rashad McCreary. Marquez Taylor had six carries for 68 yards and a touchdown and picked off a pass for a 50-yard touchdown. Zach Aird also had a 58-yard pick-six for a touchdown while hitting 9-9 extra points.

### CORNERSVILLE

McKenzie recorded their fifth 300+ yard offensive game with 317 yards with 215 on the ground and 102 in the air. Taylor earned 98 yards on 19 carries and a touchdown while catching three passes for 37 yards and two touchdowns. Jackson Cassidy rushed 18 times for 82 yards and a touchdown while throwing 6-7 for 89 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Aird was good on 4-4 extra points.

### FAYETTEVILLE

In largely a defensive game. The Rebels had 266 yards in offense with 173 on the ground and 93 in the air. Cassidy was 12-16 passing for 93 yards and rushed 15 times for 59 yards and a touchdown. Taylor had 16 carries for 65 yards and a touchdown while catching

four passes for 14 yards. Rashad McCreary had 49 yards on 11 carries. Andrew Cole had two catches for 19 yards and Zay Webber had two catches for 32 yards.

### TRENTON PEABODY

This was only the second game McKenzie gave up more yards than they got. Peabody ran up 402 yards offense while the Rebels had 313 which was split down the middle with 156 yards rushing and 157 yards passing. Marquez Taylor did most of his damage catching three passes for 145 yards and two touchdowns while rushing 16 times for 69 yards and three touchdowns. Cassidy was 5-10 for 157 yards and two scores. Aird hit 2-3 extra point attempts for McKenzie

### SOUTH PITTSBURG

The title game was as close statistically as you can ask for with the Rebels rolling up 339 yards while the Pirates had 309 yards. McKenzie had 137 on the ground and 202 in the air. Marquez Taylor had 21 carries for 85 yards and a touchdown while catching a pair of passes for 38 yards. Jackson Cassidy threw for 202 yards on 13-21 passing and two touchdowns to Zay Webber and Zach Aird. Cassidy also had 10 carries for 45 yards. Webber had three catches for 70 yards and one score. Zach Aird had two catches for 43 yards and a score. Andrew Cole had four catches for 43 yards.

### SUMMARY

In a future article, we will total these numbers up and see how many school records and possible state records were broken by this team.

CONGRATULATIONS, REBELS!

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NOVEMBER 26



Left, The final scoreboard says it all! McKenzie is headed to the State Championship in Chattanooga! Right, Coach Wade Comer speaking to the players reminding them there is one more game to go! Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

# Rebels Outlast Tide To Punch State Ticket

**McKenzie 36,  
Peabody 30**

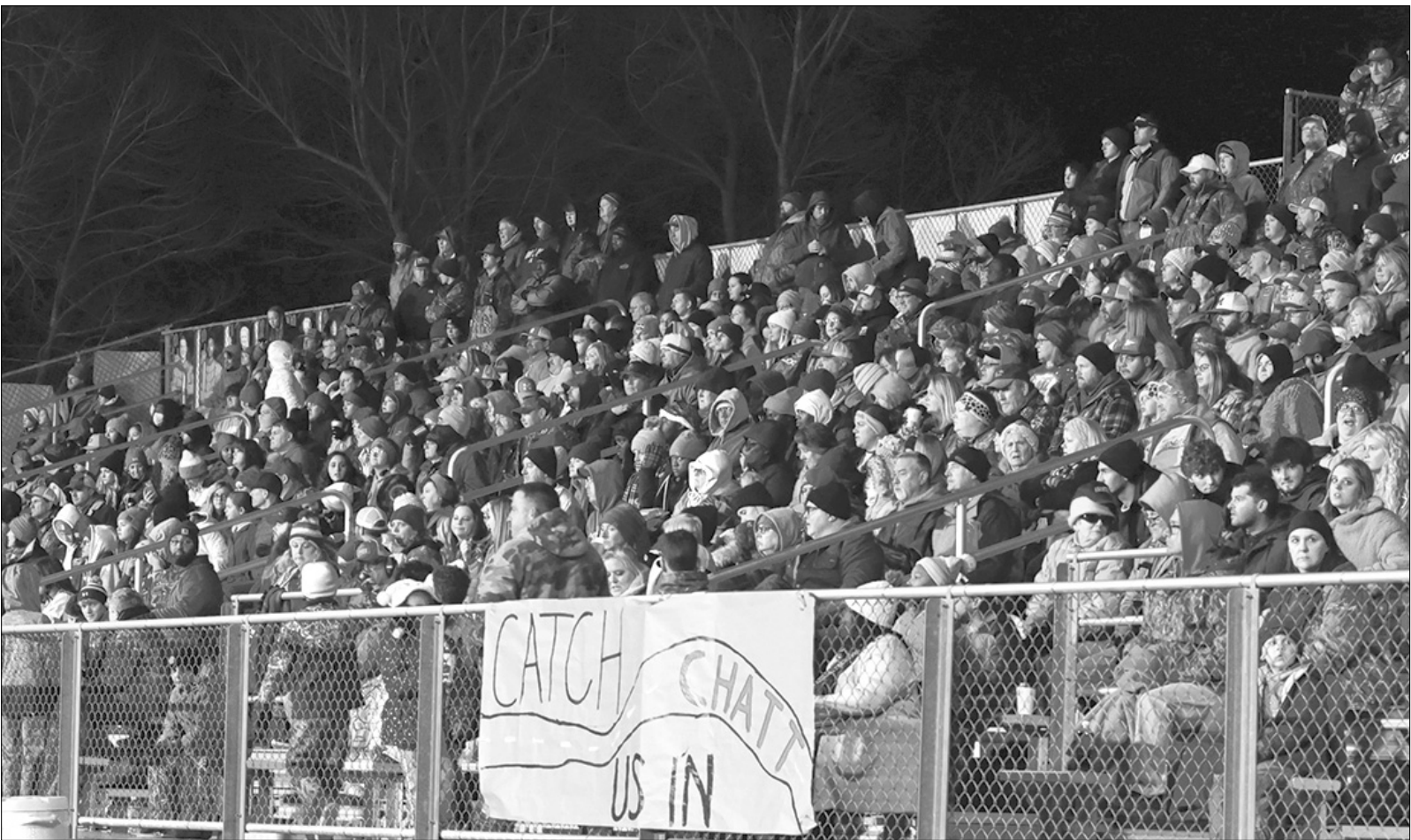
Back to the friendly confines of McKenzie Stadium and Randy Thomas Field for another near-freezing Semi-Final game against Trenton Peabody to decide who goes to the State Championship at Chattanooga.

This game and matchup had been on a lot of people's calendar for a long time. The Tide eliminated the Rebels in the second round in 2019. In 2020, they met in the quarter-finals (3rd round) and went double overtime before Trenton won it with a field goal. The Tide came into this game 3-time defending Class AA champions with an 11-1 record with the loss coming at Huntingdon which snapped a 44-game win streak.

With a full house crowd, it was a game for the ages. Both teams featured Mr. Football Finalists in Marquez Taylor and Trenton's Khalik Ganaway.

Peabody got the ball first driving into Rebel territory until Trey Cook caught Ganaway for a four-yard loss that stalled the drive forcing a punt. McKenzie started from their own 12 and quickly were in Rebel territory behind a 51-yard pass from Jackson Cassidy to Marquez Taylor. One play later, Cassidy went to Taylor again for a 33-yard touchdown pass. Aird was good on the extra point for a 7-0 Rebel lead nearly four minutes into the game.

The Tide answered with a 69-yard touchdown and extra point tying it 7-7. After a short McKenzie possession, Trenton went to the air again on a 34-yard touchdown with the extra point good for a 14-7 Tide lead. McKenzie tied it 14-14 on a 61-yard touchdown from Cassidy to Taylor with the extra point good a little over a minute left in the first



What a crowd! Home stands were nearly full an hour before kickoff with temps around freezing. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

quarter.

In the second quarter after a short Peabody possession, McKenzie took the lead 20-14 on a 22-yard Marquez Taylor touchdown. The extra point was good but a Trenton penalty gave Aird another attempt which was blocked.

The Rebels got another scoring opportunity when Trenton faked a punt attempt and threw the ball incomplete on fourth down giving McKenzie excellent field position at the Tide 18. Trenton's defense got stingy on the first two downs and sacked Cassidy on third

down forcing a fourth down play. Zach Aird nailed a 39-yard field goal to increase the score to 23-14.

Trenton answered it with a two-play drive capped by a 45-yard Khalik Ganaway touchdown run. They missed the extra point making it 23-20. McKenzie went three and out on the next possession and got the ball back on a Cassidy interception and took a 23-20 lead into halftime.

In the third quarter, the Rebels took the opening possession and had to punt but Khalik Ganaway fumbled the

punt return with McKenzie recovering at the Tide 14. Three plays later, Marquez Taylor was in the endzone on a 7-yard touchdown. A two-point conversion attempt failed but the score became 29-20 in favor of the Rebels.

Malik Ganaway took the ensuing kickoff to McKenzie's 37 from where they scored a few plays later on a 1-yard touchdown with the extra point good. The score became 29-27 with 5:05 left in the third quarter.

McKenzie drained nearly all of the remaining third quarter clock with Taylor

scoring a 3-yard touchdown with just 10 second left in the quarter. Aird's kick was good for a 36-27 lead heading into the final quarter.

Peabody chewed up over seven minutes of the fourth quarter clock and were held to a 21-yard field goal cutting the Rebel lead to 36-30 with 5:34 to play in the game.

After the kickoff, McKenzie went a short three and out punting the ball back to the Tide with just over four minutes left to play. They reached the Rebel 17 before a penalty pushed them back to the 22-yard line. Two plays

later, Khalik Ganaway was dropped for a two-yard loss.

On third down, David Cheney broke through his block and sacked Trenton's quarterback for a big loss forcing fourth down. Trenton tossed a Hail Mary pass to the left corner of the endzone where Zach Aird and Marquez Taylor along with Trenton's Malik Ganaway were waiting on it. Aird came down with the interception for a touchback punching McKenzie's ticket to the State Championship.

Continued on Next Page

**ANDREW COLE #8**

**ANDREW,**  
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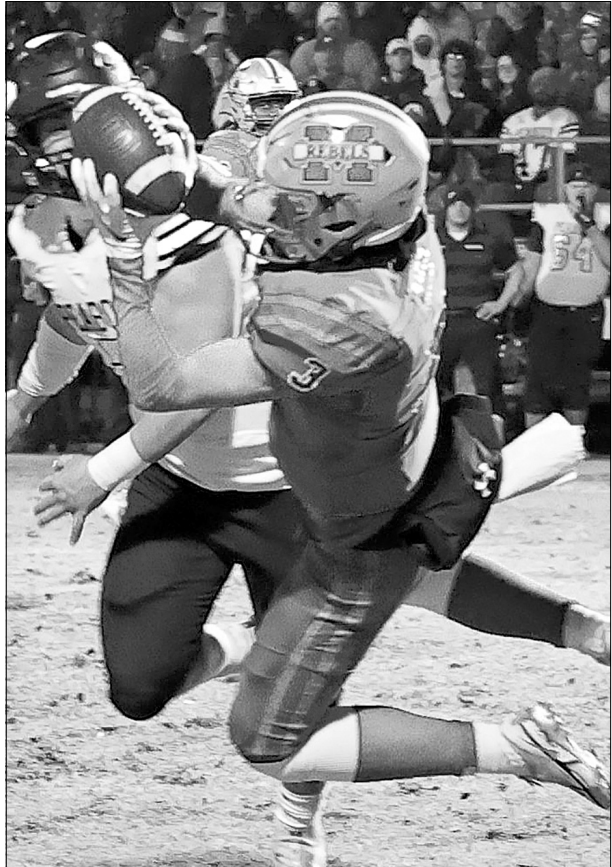
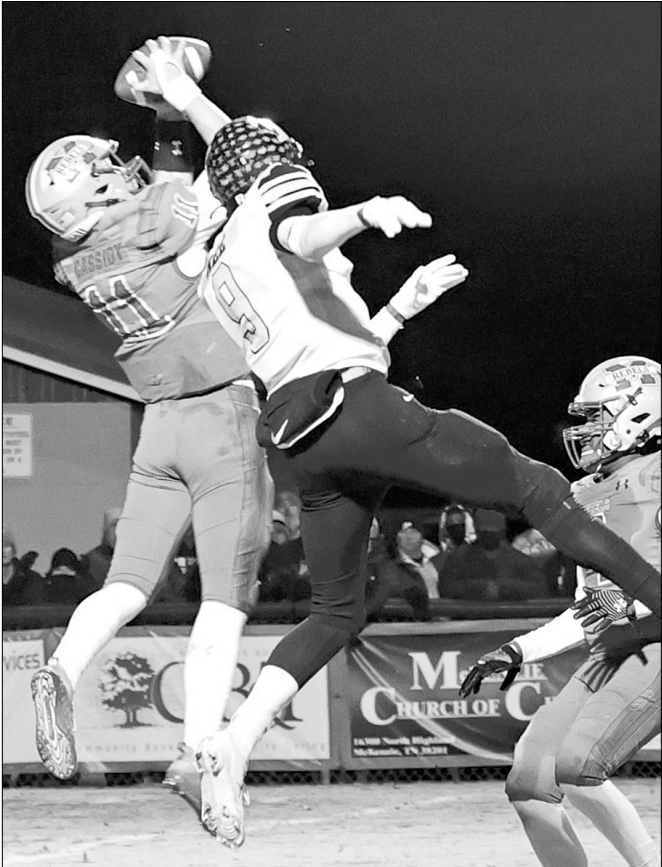
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# Tide

Continued from Previous Page



Top Left, Final Play — Zach Aird, Marquez Taylor, and a Peabody receiver, all have their hands on the ball. Aird came down with it for a touchback sealing the 36-30 victory for the Rebels. Top Right, Zach Aird and Marquez Taylor trotting off the field after Aird picks off the ball in the end zone on the last play of the game. Above Left, Jackson Cassidy (11) intercepts a Trenton pass in the first half. Above Center, Drew Chappell (15) gets up close and personal with Peabody's Malik Ganaway on a tackle. Above Right, Zach Aird (3) hauls in a pass against Trenton. Below Left, David Cheney (66) sacks Trenton's Sam Driggers for a big loss with assistance from Trey Cook (2). Below Right, Jackson Cassidy (11) sacks Peabody's Sam Driggers (16). *Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner*



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NOVEMBER 19

# McKenzie Defeats Defending State Champions-Fayetteville

**McKenzie 14, Fayetteville 8**

McKenzie hit the road for a meeting with another top 10-ranked team in Fayetteville who was also the defending Class A champions. The Tigers came in with an 11-1 record including a 9-1 regular season record plus playoff wins over Gleason and Dresden. This was the first really cold game with temps near freezing but that didn't deter McKenzie fans and Fayetteville fans at all. The game opened with both teams punting to each other. On their second possession, the Rebels threatened to score reaching the Tiger 2 and were stopped just short on a fourth down play turning the ball over to the Tigers. Two penalties and a Trey Cook quarterback sack forced Fayetteville to punt out of their endzone.

The Rebels showed a different look bringing in freshman quarterback Tate Surber, who had missed a big chunk of the season with a broken collarbone and was making his return. Surber completed a pass and handed off on another play near the close of the first quarter.

The second quarter got underway with both teams turning the ball over to each other and spent the remainder of the quarter swapping possessions with both teams making big defensive stops on the way to a scoreless first half.

Fayetteville got the ball first second half on a short-lived drive that ended with Zach Aird picking off a pass and returning it to the Tiger 31. The Rebels grinded on a drive that resulted in a 4-yard Jackson Cassidy touchdown. Aird nailed the extra point for a 7-0 Rebel lead with just under six minutes to go in the third quarter.

A holding penalty and a Rashad McCreary sack ended Fayetteville's next drive in Rebel territory forcing a punt. McKenzie got the ball back and began a drive that rolled over into the fourth quarter. Taylor scored just six seconds into the final quarter on a 6-yard touchdown run. Aird's kick was good for a 14-0 lead.

The Tigers answered on their next possession with a 46-yard touchdown pass and completed a two-point conversion pass to make it 14-8 with just over nine minutes to go. McKenzie ate up over three minutes on their next possession but had to punt near midfield and backed the Tigers up inside their own 10-yard line.

On the next Tiger possession, Rashad McCreary sacked their quarterback and Elijah Edmonson pressured their quarterback into hurry-up pass that fell incomplete. The defense forced a fourth and one play and stuffed it for a two-yard loss regaining possession with a little over two minutes left in the game.

The Rebels forced the Tigers to use the rest of their timeouts and went into victory formation to run out the clock securing the win.



Above Left, Ty Anderson looking for running room after a catch. Above Right, Andrew Cole getting tackled after a catch. Below Left, Rashad McCreary takes a handoff from Quarterback Jackson Cassidy in the Fayetteville game. Below Right, Marquez Taylor gets loose for several yards. Photos by Jessa Potts



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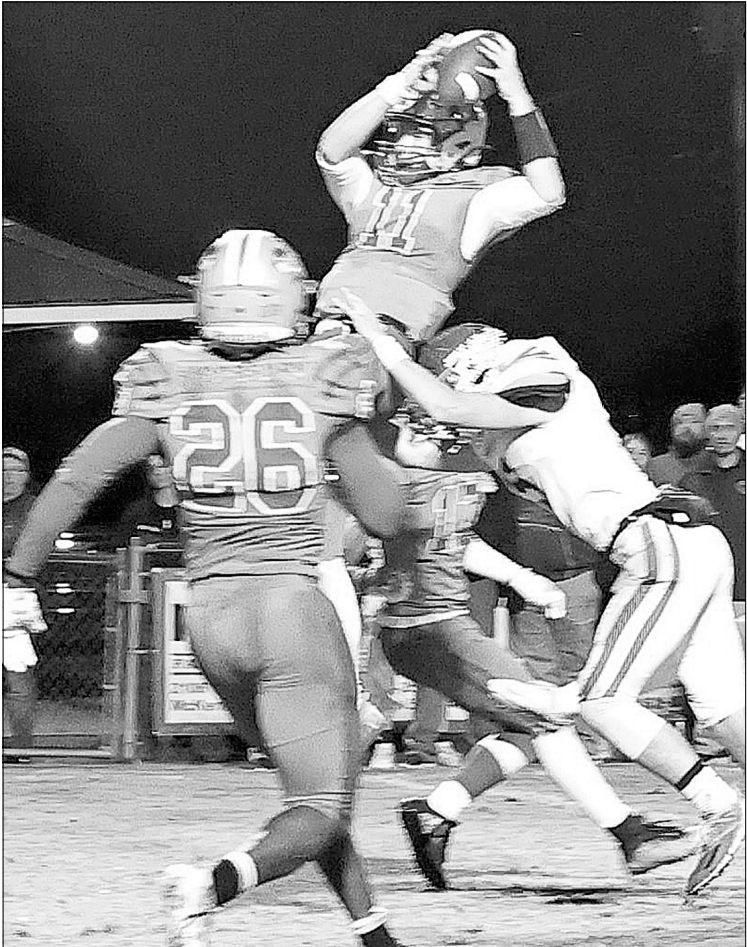
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NOVEMBER 12



Left, Zach Aird brings down Cornersville back. Right, Jackson Cassidy leaps up for an interception. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

# Rebels Blank Cornersville

**McKenzie 28, Cornersville 0**

McKenzie hosted the first of three top 10-ranked teams in Cornersville's Bulldogs. They came into the game with a 9-2 record and losses to ranked opponents.

This game was controlled by McKenzie's defense which tallied numerous stops for no gain or losses in the backfield as well as intercepting a pair of passes to set up touchdowns.

The Rebels started things off with a good kickoff return by Etijay Tharpe to the McKenzie 41. McKenzie drained the first five minutes of the first quarter on a drive resulting in a 15-yard Jackson Cassidy to Mar-

quez Taylor touchdown pass. Aird's kick was good for a 7-0 lead.

The remainder of the quarter went scoreless with McKenzie stuffing the Bulldogs on one drive but turned the ball back over to them in Rebel territory. Cornersville got to the Rebel 13 before McKenzie stopped a fourth down play getting the ball back.

As the second quarter began, the Rebel D stuffed another Bulldog drive forcing them to punt. After swapping possessions for the rest of the quarter, McKenzie got the ball near midfield after a punt and later scored on another Cassidy to Taylor touchdown pass for 13-yards with 25 seconds left in the half. Aird's kick was good for

a 14-0 lead headed into halftime.

The third quarter started with both teams swapping possessions until Jackson Cassidy made a leaping interception at the Cornersville 20-yard line. A few plays later, Taylor had his third score of the night on a 6-yard touchdown with the extra point good for a 21-0 lead.

McKenzie began the final quarter with possession of the ball resulting in a 15-yard Cassidy touchdown run. Aird's fourth extra point finished the scoring at 28-0. McKenzie's defense took care of business the rest of the way completing the shutout.



Marquez Taylor running with blocking help from Rashad McCreary. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner



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NOVEMBER 5



Above, Andrew Cole intercepts the ball against Moore County. Below Left, Colt Norden scores the final touchdown for McKenzie. Below Right, Stafford Roditis picks off a pass late in the game. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



# McKenzie Rolls Moore County in Round One

**McKenzie 63, Moore County 12**  
The Rebels headed into the playoffs ranked No. 1 in the state and had the first two rounds of the playoffs at home thanks to winning Region 6-A. First up was the Region 5-A fourth seeded Moore County Raiders. The Raiders came in looking to key on tailback Marquez Taylor and ended up getting demolished with McKenzie scoring points on offense, defense, and special teams plays that set up scores.  
After forcing the Raiders into a short possession to start the game, it took the Rebels two plays to score on a 60-yard run by Jackson Cassidy. Zach Aird hit the first of nine extra points to make it a 7-0 early lead. After another three and out for the Raiders, Cassidy hit Aird for a 75-yard touchdown pass with the extra point good for a 14-0 lead.  
Moore County got on the

board on their next possession after a drive capped off by a 5-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was no good leaving the score 14-6 with just under three minutes left in the first quarter.  
McKenzie answered the Raider score with another one of their own. Jackson Cassidy got loose for a 59-yard touchdown run on first down with the extra point good for a 21-6 Rebel lead. McKenzie's defense stopped a fourth down Raider play getting the ball back on downs just before the end of the quarter. Just seconds into the second quarter Rashad McCreary caught a 27-yard touchdown pass from Cassidy with the extra point good for a 28-6 lead.  
The score became 35-6 on a 59-yard Zach Aird pick-six nailing his fifth extra point. Two possessions later, Drew Chappell recovered a bad Moore County punt

snap setting up McKenzie's next score which came on a 7-yard Marquez Taylor touchdown and extra point making it 42-6 and starting a running clock. Taylor found the endzone again on the next Raider possession picking off a pass and taking it 50-yards for a touchdown with the extra point good for a 49-6 lead. It became 56-6 after the Rebels recovered a fumble that set up a 32-yard Cassidy to Andrew Cole touchdown shortly before the half.  
In the third quarter, both teams swapped possessions until Cole picked off a Raider pass midway through the quarter. Freshman back Colt Norden scored on a 5-yard touchdown run a few plays later with the extra point good to make it 63-6. Moore County tacked on a touchdown with their young players late in the fourth quarter to end the scoring.



Jackson Cassidy on one of his two long touchdown runs. Photo by Jessa Potts

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# Rebels Finish Regular Season Undefeated

BY JIM POTTS  
jpotts@mckenziebanner.com

During the numerous years I have either covered the Rebels or watched them, I've heard at least three Rebel coaches, including Richard Chappell, Randy Thomas and Wade Comer, say that the next season starts right after the previous one is done.

With that in mind, this year's Rebels got started after a brief break following the double overtime loss to Trenton in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs last year. They went to work in the off-season workout sessions where there are no crowds to cheer them on. The only words of encouragement come from the coaching staff and each other.

Some of them played basketball and baseball during the second semester and then comes spring practice where kids get an opportunity to step up and earn their roles on offense, defense, and

special teams. Usually, the teams can get at least one, sometimes two scrimmages against other teams in the spring for coaches to see where they are as a group.

Then it's back to the weights, running sprints, flipping heavy tractor tires, and whatever other conditioning methods that are thrown their way. To me, summer workouts are tougher because instead of enjoying being out of school and hanging out with their friends, they make their way to the Holland Field House and go to work getting stronger and faster usually in 90-100 degree temps. The plus side to that is these players are becoming a closer group sweating it out for the same reasons with the same goal in mind.

Then comes the TS-SAA-mandated dead period in July during which there is no athletic activity at all. Once the dead period is over by the last week in July, it is time to start fall practice in helmets and shorts for the first few days to get used to the heat. Once that's over, it's time to rock and roll in full pads in preparation for the season.

## Regular Season Summary

It took 20 years between unbeaten regular seasons. The 2001 Rebels were in Class AA and ran the table on the regular season and made it to the Semi-Finals before losing to Martin Westview. They finished 13-1 that year. However, it was the 2007 Rebels that reached the State Championship game finishing the regular season with a 9-1 record. The lone loss was to Trenton but once they got in the playoffs they won four playoff games and faced South Pittsburg in the final game. McKenzie got behind early and couldn't catch up and ended up as State Runner-Ups. The 2007 final record was 13-2.

OCTOBER 29

## McKenzie Defeats McEwen Finishes Regular Season 10-0

**McKenzie 42, McEwen 6**

McKENZIE — The final regular season game against McEwen was Senior Night and the final region foe for the Rebels. The Warriors opened the game with an unsuccessful onside kick but managed to keep McKenzie from scoring with a short field. Halfway through the first quarter, Jackson Cassidy found Andrew Cole open for a 39-yard touchdown pass to score first. Aird's extra point was good for a brief 7-0 lead.

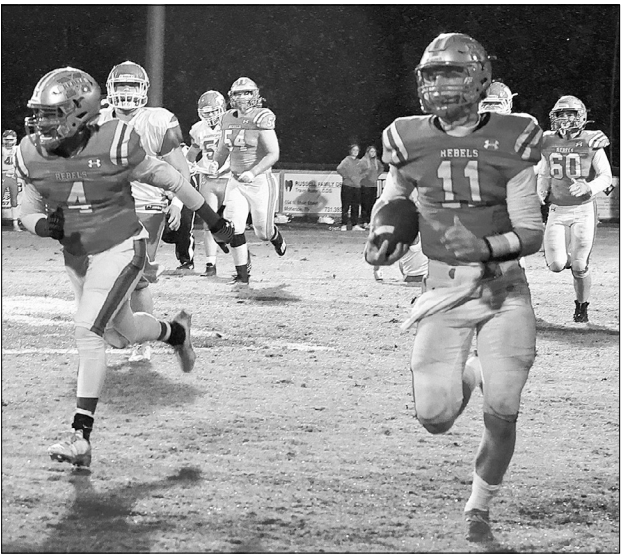
The Warriors answered with a 2-yard touchdown run that was set up by a 59-yard run two plays earlier. They attempted a two-point conversion run that resulted in a fumble and was no good.

Marquez Taylor gave McKenzie the lead for good on the next possession with a 32-yard touchdown run and Aird's extra point good. The Rebels led 14-6 heading into the second quarter.

After swapping possessions for most of the second quarter, the Rebels opened the lead to 21-6 on a 6-yard Taylor touchdown and the extra point good with a little over a minute left in the first half.

McKenzie tacked on two scores in the third quarter on a 39-yard touchdown pass from Cassidy to Aird and another Taylor touchdown on a 63-yard run. Aird hit both extra points for a 35-6 lead heading into the final quarter.

The Rebels converted a McEwen turnover into Taylor's fourth TD on a 1-yard



Above, Jackson Cassidy finds running room on a quarterback keeper. Below Left, Andrew Cole catches a Jackson Cassidy pass for the game's first score. Below Right, Trey Cook sacks McEwen's quarterback.



carry early in the fourth quarter to finish the scoring and secure the Region



6-A Title and head into the playoffs. (See playoff recap elsewhere in this section)

OCTOBER 22



MHS Rashad McCreary outruns a defender. Photo by Tammy Graves

## McKenzie Rebels Win Ninth in a Row

**McKenzie 42, Sequatchie Co. 7**

McKENZIE — After the Rebels enjoyed their bye week, they nearly had another week off when region and cross-county foe Bruceton canceled for lack of players. McKenzie was able to schedule playoff-bound Class 3A Sequatchie County and got another home game out of the deal.

The Rebels scored three touchdowns in the final five minutes of the first quarter to take a 21-0 lead against the Indians. Marquez Taylor started the scoring with a 10-yard touchdown. Etijay Tharpe picked off an Indian pass setting up a 7-yard Jackson Cassidy touchdown. Rashad McCreary scooped up a Sequatchie fumble setting up the third score, a 3-yard touchdown by Taylor with Aird nailing all three PAT's.

After swapping possessions in the second quarter, Cassidy found the end zone on a 4-yard run with the extra point good for a 28-0 halftime lead.

McKenzie got two insurance touchdowns in the third quarter while Sequatchie scored to keep from being shut out. Taylor got his third score of the night on a 2-yard run early in the quarter. The Indians scored on the next



MHS Quarterback Jackson Cassidy runs for a touchdown. Photo by Tammy Graves

possession on a 68-yard touchdown run making it 35-7. McKenzie finished their scoring on a 20-yard Rashad McCreary touchdown. Aird was good on both extra points making the final score 42-7.

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OCTOBER 8



Above, Zach Aird kicks the point-after-touchdown (PAT) as Jackson Cassidy holds the ball. Below, Zay Webber catches a Cassidy pass and scores a touchdown against Gleason. Gleason's Jack Blessingame gives pursuit.



## McKenzie 8-0 with Win Over Gleason

**McKenzie 57, Gleason 16**

GLEASON — Do not let the score fool you because the Bulldogs came to play and led the contest twice in the first quarter. Gleason scored first after recovering a Rebel fumble with Kolton Crochet hitting Isaac Denton for a 20-yard touchdown pass. Crochet ran in the two-point conversion attempt for an 8-0 lead.

Later in the quarter, McKenzie got their first points on a 66-yard touchdown pass from Jackson Cassidy to Zay Webber. Aird's kick was good but the Rebels still trailed 8-7. A Gleason fumble set

up McKenzie's next score which came on 46-yard Marquez Taylor touchdown with the extra point good for a 14-8 McKenzie lead.

The Bulldogs took advantage of Rebel penalties on their next possession retaking the lead 16-14 on a 28-yard touchdown run by Crochet and he scored the two-point conversion with under a minute left in the first quarter. Just seconds later, Zay Webber caught a 69-yard touchdown strike from Cassidy. Cassidy ran in a two-point conversion giving the Rebels a 22-16 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Three second quarter

touchdowns gave McKenzie a commanding lead by halftime. Cassidy scored the first on a 51-yard run followed by a pair of Taylor touchdowns of 37 and 9 yards. Aird hit all three PAT's giving the Rebels a 43-16 halftime lead.

McKenzie scored in the opening minute of the third quarter on a 4-yard Taylor touchdown and later in the quarter, Taylor scored again on a 5-yard touchdown. Aird was good on both extra points increasing the lead to 57-16. With the clock running, both teams played younger players for part of third and all of the fourth quarters.

OCTOBER 1



Rashad McCreary and Marquez Taylor in the backfield proved to be an awesome rushing force.

## McKenzie Beat Dresden in Close One

**McKenzie 23, Dresden 14**

McKENZIE — The Rebels had four touchdowns called back on penalties in the closest game of the year at that point. Dresden scored first on a 3-yard run with the extra point good. McKenzie answered two possessions later on a 9-yard Marquez Taylor touchdown with Aird's extra point good for a 7-7 tie with just over two minutes left in the first quarter.

Both teams swapped possessions with no score for nearly the entire second quarter until Rashad McCreary banged it in from 2 yards away with 15 seconds left in the first half. The extra point was no good but the Rebels had a 13-7 lead going into halftime.

In the third quarter, McKenzie converted a Dresden fumble into a 22-yard Zach Aird field goal increasing the lead to 16-7 for the only points of the quarter.

Dresden made it a closer game early in the fourth quarter taking advantage of Rebel penalties and scored on a 4-yard touchdown with the extra point to make it 16-14 with just over seven minutes left in the game.

Dresden attempted an onside kick which McKenzie recovered near midfield and gave the Lions a heavy dose of Marquez Taylor on four straight carries with the last one being for a 14-yard touchdown. Aird's extra point was good for



Etijay Tharpe finds running room with the help of a block by Trey Cook (#2). Photo by Tammy Graves

a 23-14 lead with 3:23 left in the game. The Rebel defense stuffed the Lions on the ensuing possession and took over on downs to run out the clock on the win.

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SEPTEMBER 24



Above, McKenzie's Colt Norden moves the ball before being tackled by Seth Edwards. Below Left, Jackson Cassidy on a keeper for the Rebels. Cassidy made two touchdowns. Below Right, Marquez Taylor finds an open field as he scores for the Rebels. Taylor made three touchdowns. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



## McKenzie Wins Homecoming Contest

**McKenzie 54, West Carroll 7**  
McKENZIE — McKenzie played host to cross-county rival West Carroll for Homecoming '21. After the week-long and pre-game homecoming festivities, the Rebels got back down to business.  
The Rebels got on the board first on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Jackson Cassidy to Zay Webber with Aird's extra point good. West Carroll answered with a 1-yard Xander Moon touchdown with the extra

point good by Jose Martinez to tie the game 7-7.  
It didn't stay tied long as Rashad McCreary went 77 yards for a touchdown on the very next possession with the extra point good for a 14-7 lead late in the first quarter.  
In the second quarter, Marquez Taylor scored on back to back possessions. The first a 5-yarder and the second went 44 yards. Aird hit the first extra point and the second got blocked. Near halftime, Cassidy hit Andrew Cole for a 26-yard touchdown with the extra

point good for a 34-7 halftime lead.  
Jackson Cassidy scored the first of three Rebel touchdowns in the third quarter on a 10-yard run. Aird's PAT kick was blocked as the score increased to 40-7. With the 'mercy rule' in effect, the Rebels added two more touchdowns on a 57-yard run by Taylor and Cole picked a pass for a 20-yard touchdown. Aird nailed both extra points to reach 54-7. There was no score in the fourth quarter with both teams playing lots of younger players.

SEPTEMBER 17



McKenzie's Daniel Latimer (77) blocks a Perry County player. Photo by Tammy Graves

## McKenzie 6-0 with Perry County Win

**McKenzie 63, Perry County 0**  
McKENZIE — The Rebels finally came home for their second region contest winning big. They touched the ball five times in the first quarter and scored all five times. That doesn't count a punt return for a touchdown. The scoring started early on a 43-yard touchdown run by Jackson Cassidy while Etijay Tharpe added a 3-yard touchdown score later. Taylor took a 17-yard punt return to the house for a score. Taylor added a 47-yard touchdown run on the next possession. Zay Webber caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Cassidy and to finish the first quarter scoring, Taylor caught a 25-yard touchdown pass from Cassidy. Zack Aird hit all of the extra points making it a 42-0 'mercy rule' game at the end of one quarter.  
In the second quarter, Colt Norden scored on an 8-yard touchdown with Aird's extra point good for a 49-0 lead. Drew Chappell scored from 1-yard out later in the quarter with another Aird extra point good for a 56-0 halftime lead.  
Both teams played numerous younger players in the second half with no points scored in the third



MHS QB Jackson Cassidy rushes for good yardage. Photo by Tammy Graves

quarter but the Rebels struck one last time in the fourth quarter with Drew Chappell scoring on a 76-yard run with Aird's kick good for a 63-0 shutout.

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SEPTEMBER 10



Brandon Hatley tackles an Obion County player. Photo by Tammy Graves

McKenzie Remains Undefeated

McKenzie 40, Obion Central 14

TROY — McKenzie traveled north again this time to Troy to take on another set of Rebels and also their second Class 4-A opponent in a three-week stretch. The Rebels found themselves trailing early when Obion Central took the kickoff and started a punishing ground game with a big back that gave the Rebels problems. Obion scored first on a 1-yard touchdown with the extra point good for a 7-0 lead.

The Rebels tied it on the ensuing possession on a drive capped by a 14-yard Marquez Taylor touchdown. The extra point was good for a 7-7 tie with slightly over four minutes left in the first quarter.

Obion retook the lead on their next possession with a 20-yard touchdown run and a good extra point to make it 14-7 at the end of one quarter. McKenzie tied it up again 14-14 on a 39-yard keeper by Jackson Cassidy with a good extra point less than two minutes into the second quarter. McKenzie took their first lead on a 28-yard field goal by Zach Aird making it 17-14.

Aird picked off an Obion pass on the next possession and caught two nice passes



Zach Aird makes an interception. Photo by Tammy Graves

to set up his second field goal attempt of the game. He nailed a 39-yard field goal with a tick left on the first-half clock to give McKenzie a 20-14 lead.

McKenzie took the second half kickoff for a scoring drive capped off by a 5-yard Marquez Taylor touchdown with the extra point good for a 27-14 lead. The Rebels added to the score on their next possession with Cassidy finishing a short drive with a

9-yard touchdown run. The extra point was no good as the lead was extended to 33-14 near the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Obion drove to the McKenzie 1-yard line and didn't score thanks to a stingy defense. The Rebels took the ball at the 1-yard line and a few plays later, Taylor took it to the house on a 74-yard touchdown with Aird's extra point good for a 40-14 lead.

SEPTEMBER 3



Left, McKenzie QB Jackson Cassidy. Right, Etijay Tharpe rushes with the ball.

Rebels Rout South Fulton

McKenzie 72, South Fulton 7

SOUTH FULTON — In what could be a record of some sort, McKenzie rang up 44-first quarter points against the Red Devils without the services of Marquez Taylor who sat out the game for COVID protocol reasons. The Rebels scored just about every way possible. The scoring started on a 4-yard touchdown pass from Cassidy to Drew Chappell with Tate Surber throwing to Trey Cook on a two-point conversion pass to make it 8-0.

McKenzie recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff and Jackson Cassidy took it 48 yards for a score with Aird's extra point good for a 15-0 lead. The Rebels recovered a bad snap by South Fulton with Etijay Tharpe going 23 yards on first down for a score. Surber found Cook again for another two-point conversion pass extending the Rebel lead to 23-0.

On their next possession, Tharpe struck again on a 57-yard touchdown on first down with Aird good on the extra point for a 30-0 lead. Just a few seconds later, it became 37-0 on a 27-yard pick six by Tate Surber with the extra point good. That score put the 'mercy rule' in effect but the Rebels weren't finished yet. On the final play of the quarter, Tharpe took it 33



Gage Moon readies for attack.

yards for a score and the extra point good for a 44-0 lead.

A bad punt snap by the Red Devils set McKenzie up for their only score of the second quarter which came on a 2-yard run by Brady Brewer and Zach Aird's fifth extra point making it 51-0.

South Fulton got on the board after a Rebel turnover hitting a 5-yard touchdown pass with a good extra point making it 51-7 at halftime. Both teams were playing younger players near the end of the first half. Tate Surber

stepped in at quarterback and converted a Red Devil turnover into a 60-yard touchdown pass to Landon Brown with the extra point good for a 58-7 lead in the third quarter. Shortly after, Surber scored on a 5-yard touchdown with Aird's sixth extra point making it 65-7.

McKenzie scored one last time in the fourth quarter with Colt Norden getting loose for a 27-yard touchdown and the extra point good for a 72-7 lead.



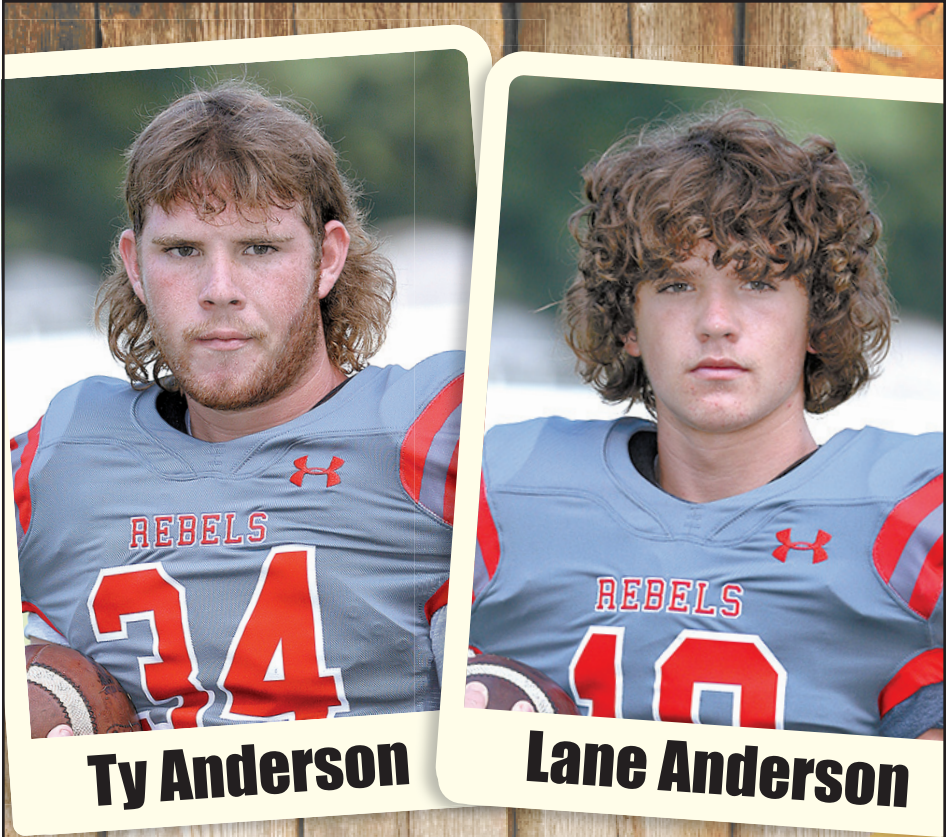
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AUGUST 17

## Rebels Blank Eagles, 36-0

**McKenzie 36, Chester County 0**  
HENDERSON — The Rebels hit the road for the first of three straight road games. This first one was to Henderson to face Class 4A Chester Co. Eagles. There was no scoring for much of the first quarter until Marquez Taylor bounced to the outside and scored on a 26-yard run with 3:02 left in the quarter. A two-point conversion was nullified on a Mustang penalty, but

Zach Aird was good on the extra point attempt for a 7-0 lead.  
McKenzie scored twice in the second quarter on defense and offense. Jackson Cassidy had an 82-yard pick six with Drew Chapell scoring a two-point conversion to increase the lead to 15-0. On the ensuing possession, the Rebels sacked the quarterback forcing a fumble that was recovered by McKenzie. A few plays later, Jackson Cassidy hit Zay Webber for

a 60-yard touchdown with the extra point no good. The Rebels went into the half with a 21-0 lead.  
The Rebels added two more scores in the third quarter with Jackson Cassidy scoring from 3-yards out and Tate Surber adding a two-point conversion run to make it 29-0. It became a 'mercy-rule' contest a short time later with Taylor scoring a 22 yard touchdown and Aird's extra point good for a 36-0 score.



Marquez Taylor busts through the line of scrimmage picking up positive yards for the Rebels. Photo by Tammy Graves

AUGUST 20



Left, McKenzie's Zach Aird boots a 31-yard field goal against the Huntingdon Mustangs. Center, Ty Anderson breaks free on the 40-yard pass. Right, Huntingdon Mustang Aiden Hutcherson (25) finds running room as Rebel Andrew Cole (8) makes the tackle. Photos by Tammy Graves

## Rebels Take Down Mustangs in Season Opener

**McKenzie 46, Huntingdon 28**  
McKENZIE — The Rebels opened the season hosting a Mustang team that was expected to be good. The field was soggy but that didn't stop these two teams from putting up big numbers for an opening game.  
Huntingdon took the ball first and drove it downfield in seven plays with Aden Hutcherson putting the Mustangs on the board first with a touchdown with 8:50 left

in the first quarter. The extra point was good for a 7-0 Mustang lead.  
McKenzie answered with a 75-yard scoring drive capped off by a 55-yard touchdown pass from Jackson Cassidy to Marquez Taylor. Zach Aird was good on the extra point tying the game 7-7 with 6:12 left in the quarter.  
Cassidy found Ty Anderson on a 40-yard pass that put the ball at the Mustang 1-yard line. From there, Taylor took it up the middle giving McKenzie their first lead

14-7 after Aird's extra point.  
Huntingdon's defense got tough on the Rebels allowing only 11 yards in six plays until a penalty gave the Rebels a new set of downs but they were forced to settle for a 32-yard Zach Aird field goal increasing the lead to 17-7.  
The Mustangs answered the field goal with a 70-yard drive resulting in another Hutcherson touchdown from 1-yard out cutting the Rebel lead to 17-14 with five minutes left in the second quarter.

McKenzie started their next drive from deep in their territory and scored in less than two minutes with Marquez Taylor going 77 yards for the score. Aird's extra point made it 24-14.  
Huntingdon needed less than thirty seconds to respond with Hutcherson outrunning everyone for an 80-yard touchdown with the extra point good. It became a 24-21 game with 2:49 to play.  
McKenzie marched downfield with the time they had and Jackson Cassidy called

his number and scored with just under 20 seconds remaining in the half. Aird hit his fourth extra point to make it a 31-21 game at halftime.  
The Rebels got the ball first to open the second half going seven plays with Taylor scoring his fourth touchdown of the night. Aird's extra point increased the score to 38-21 with 9:11 left in the third quarter. Huntingdon went three and out on their next possession with their punter's inadvertently

taking a knee in the end zone for a safety making it 40-21 in favor of the Rebels.  
With less than two minutes to play in the third quarter, Taylor took an interception to the house for McKenzie's final score of the night. The extra point was no good but the score stood at 46-21 heading into the final quarter.  
The last quarter saw Huntingdon's Cade Wood take it 88 yards for a touchdown with the extra point good making the score 46-28.

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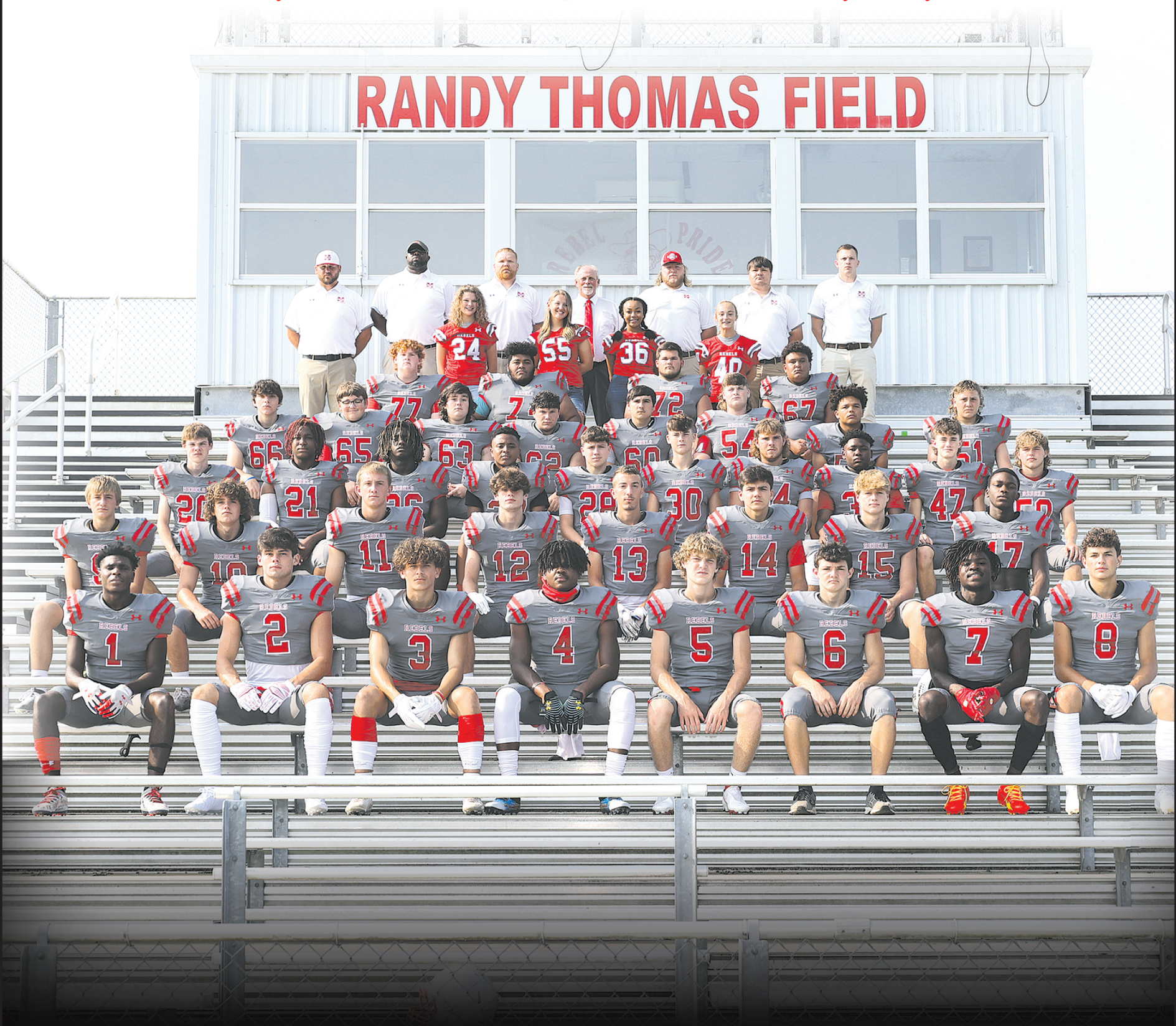


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