

# 'Cats - State Runner-Up!



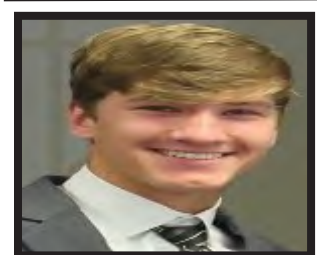
Finally, Pages 12-14 include pictures from Portraits Plus as well as additional pictures and the names of those involved in this historic year.

**R Go Cats! R**



On another note, the end of the semester will be here before we know it. Please keep working hard in your classes and please make sure you are coming to school every day. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season and spend some quality time with your family and friends.

Go Bearcats!



Stand tall. Be cool. Accessorize. Smile. Make people happy just by being you. Go outside. Things will all turn out if you just stick together.

**RHS: An "A" School Again!**

## STAFF REPORT

There is no doubt that RHS proudly represents our community and receives tremendous support from community leaders as well as local businesses. Parents and students benefit as well as the community when all work towards the best interest of the students in local schools. RHS is proud of the designation as an “A” school, and equally proud to receive the distinction of also being recognized as both a Top Gaines Honoree and an Opportunity Honoree.

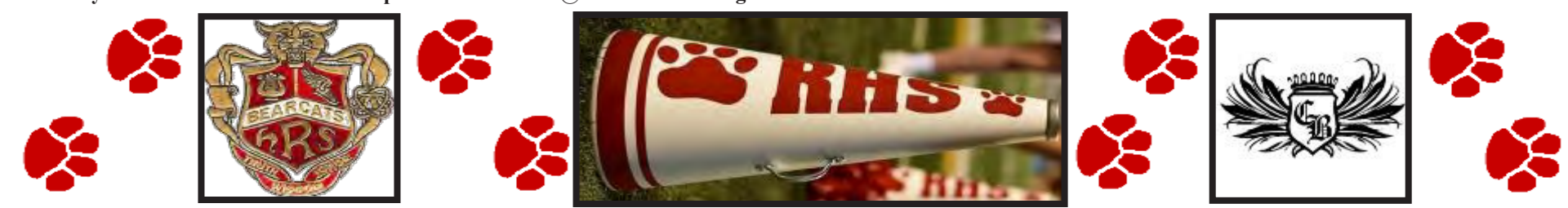
# Bearcat Bites

## Christmas/New Years Break

May 18, 2023

Bearcats students, faculty, and staff are invited to join share *Chatterbox* through any media source.

The purpose of *Chatterbox* is to promote Ruston High School and allow students the opportunity to explore journalism and share the abilities and ideas. Please send any comments or submissions for print to [chatterbox@lincolnschools.org](mailto:chatterbox@lincolnschools.org).







## Students Certify Early in Microsoft Word 2016

Information Provided by Mrs. Lillie Williams

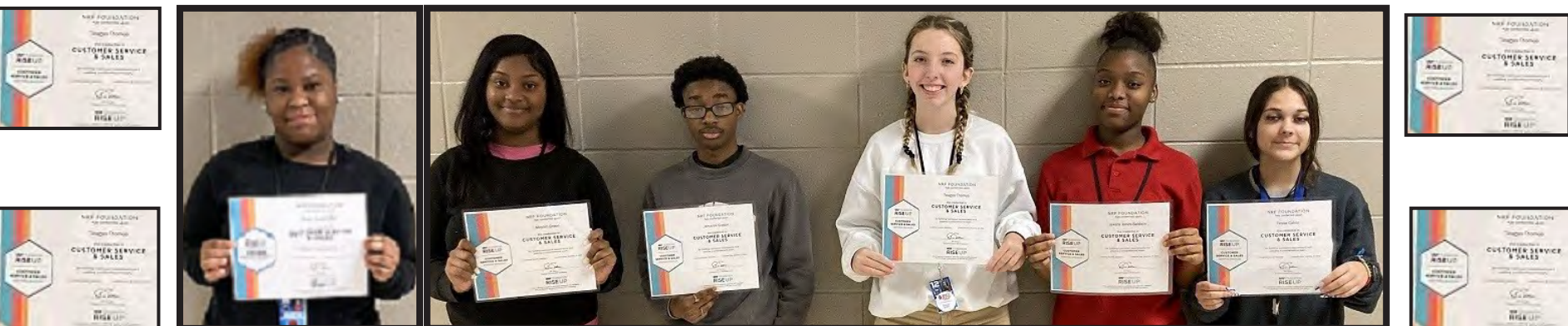
Mrs. Lillie Williams teaches Introduction to Business Computer Applications (IBCA), with certifications in Microsoft Office 2016, a vital certification for all students but especially for students in Jump Start. Every year, her students work hard to meet the national standards required to become certified in many of the suites offered by Microsoft. This year, Mrs. Williams celebrates her first two students to earn their Microsoft Word 2016 certification – Emma Pilgreen and Kimora Thompson. Both students are in her 3<sup>rd</sup> period IBCA class. These two students are recognized for earning their certifications 4 weeks ahead of schedule by working ahead of time. All students taking IBCA are required to certify in a Microsoft Office Suite not just for the sake of certifying, but in order to get credit for the course. Without a doubt, the students in her classes benefit from Mrs. Williams experience in Microsoft and many other areas, and each student is expected to certifying in multiple suites



## FACS Students Certify in Customer Service

Information Provided by Mrs. Tamm Avery, FACS Adviser

Ruston High School (RHS) continues to offer opportunities for students to excel in several areas. In addition to classes offered, the RHS Family and Consumer Science department offers the opportunity to become certified in Customer Service. Customer Service Certification requires students to pass a standardized industry tests on sales and handling issues related to customer questions and complaints. This year, Mrs. Avery had two classes attempt the certification. In one class, Elisha Washington became certified. In the other class, five students certify: Ja’Kerah Jones-Baldwin, Tessa Colvin, Jamarek Green, M’kylah Green, and Teagan Thomas. These students are now certified in a work-related field that is also one of several certifications that work towards the JumpStart diploma.



Pictured left to right: Elisha Washington, M’kylah Green, Jamarek Gipson, Teagan Thomas, Ja’Kerah Jones-Baldwin, and Tessa Colvin.

## Monthly Fire Drills Continue

STAFF REPORT

On Wednesday, November 30, 2022, Ruston High School (RHS) held its monthly fire drill to meet the requirements of the Crisis Management Plan regarding fire drills and evacuations. The fire drill plan had some revisions and assignment changes for students and staff to best ensure that their safety was best protected. Ensuring all of this was done was assistant principal Mrs. Katie Walker ensured the plan was ready to implement and provided the plan to all faculty and staff. As with all fire drills, the fire alarms rang throughout the halls and RHS faculty and staff exited each building through preassigned pathways to preassigned area. The familiar Bearcat paw signs were carried along with roll books, and everyone was accounted for by rally point leaders and administrators. The Ruston Fire Department and state fire marshal were present for this drill.



## Chatterbox, End of an Era

STAFF REPORT

Over the years, *Chatterbox* has seen many versions and updates. Since 2009, *Chatterbox*, with the exception of a two-year break, was published under the advisement of Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner, in printed form. It then transitioned to being published inside the *Ruston Daily Leader*, and then eventually into digital version only. This year, Mr. Bruner will be ending his tenure as *Chatterbox* adviser and retiring after this year. Who will take over is still to be determined. However, he has turned over a copy of every *Chatterbox* published top the library to keep for historical records. The remaining copies were placed in the teacher’s lounge for those interested to enjoy.



# The Adviser's Corner

There was a time when every editorial written this time of year centered on family, friends, and the holidays. With so much going on in the world, it was a chance for many to escape the realities of everyday life and dream of sugarplums dancing in their heads. It was a time of children waiting in anticipation of Christmas, whether rich or poor, naughty or nice, and appreciative of whatever they received and honored to have the opportunity to give as well. Is that time lost on today’s youth as so many have speculated? Have the children of today isolated themselves in their music, their video games, or more, their cell phones? Have today’s youth lost the spirit of the holidays, following the month of November and being grateful, and forgotten the old rule of “it is better to give than to receive?” I am going to say that the answer is “no” based on my perspective at Ruston High School, as the school and so many organizations are stepping up to make sure others enjoy some holiday cheer. Starting with the school, RHS is competing against other area schools in the Christmas Cheer Jingle Food Drive in the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana Competition. Unlike normal food bank donations, all donations for this drive are for dollars rather than food. Although the Food Bank will accept donations of any kind, the donations raised from this drive are able to purchase 30 meals for every \$100 donated. Try that downtown – where the taxes on 30 meals alone would easily surpass \$10 (probably by 3 times). Students and faculty are all encouraged to participate, and if RHS places in the top 3 – everyone will enjoy a free jeans week. It is not too late today, if you are reading this on the *Chatterbox* publication date, as the competition ends tomorrow. Anyone who wishes to donate, simply go to the following link: <https://foodbanknela.salsalabs.org/christmascheer2022/t/rustonhigh/index.html>. Several teachers and staff are already participating in the worthy cause above. In addition, several groups at RHS are also participating in giving through the holidays. The Keywanettes participated once again in Operation Christmas Child. FBLA sponsored Friendsgiving this year. Several students participated in Lincoln “Lights Up the Pines” held December 1-3, 2022, at Lincoln Parish Park, as they do every year. The band as always provides holiday music for the students and the choir performs holiday concerts as well. The Student Council, who is coordinating with other RHS groups, is doing their annual back pack drive as well. These are but a few of the items that students are doing this year and many more are planned. Today’s youth are no different than yesterday’s youth as far as giving. Rather, today’s youth, and us older folks as well, have simply evolved from the manner in which we give. There are still those who secretly leave meals and presents at a stranger’s door and drive away knowing they have given, and many other ways that still occur today. With the use of the Internet and social media that is often a detriment, at least in the area of giving, it has proven to be a positive thing. Enjoy your holidays, and remember to join others at RHS and give to the Food Bank competition. Whether the school celebrates with free jeans for a week or not, the spirit of giving is alive and well at RHS, and there are many who will benefit from it.



**PLEASE GIVE TO THE FOOD BANK AND HELP OTHERS BY TOMORROW, FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 2022**

<https://foodbanknela.salsalabs.org/christmascheer2022/t/rustonhigh/index.html>





FFA Places Several at District Speaking Contest

Information Provided by Antonio Wilson/ FFA Advisor

The Ruston High School (RHS) FFA organization recently competed at the district speaking contest. Several members of the organization participated in select speaking events, and many of the members placed in competition.

In individual events, Brianna McLaughlin placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Prepared Speaking. Also placing 1<sup>st</sup> was Samantha Ovitt in 1st place in Gulf of Mexico. Jackson Washam paced 2<sup>nd</sup> in Extemporaneous Speaking. In Employment Skills, RHS FFA had 2 place, with Harrison Deason placing 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lillian Middleton placing 4<sup>th</sup>. In Geaux Teach Agriculture, Gabe Middleton placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

In team events, RHS FFA had both teams placed in Parliamentary Law. Placing 1<sup>st</sup> was the team of Raymond Granger, Dylan Travillon, Zyiah Jones, Kolby Sonnier, Miles Willis, and Carter Gay. Placing 3<sup>rd</sup> was the team of Cole Spurlock, Jackson Washam, Zrikca Clemons, Abby Baremore, Abby Holton, and Josh Adams.

All students who placed 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> at the district speaking contest qualified to attend the Area competition on Dec. 6, 2022.



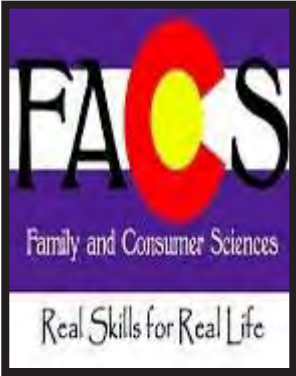
Family and Consumer Science News

Information Provided by Mrs. Kandi Hammons

The Ruston High School (RHS) Family and Consumer Science (FACS) organization choses a primary service project every year to help make a difference and serve a need. This year, FACS has selected the Ronald McDonald House in Monroe, Louisiana, for this service project.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a home for families that have a child receiving critical care or extended stays in local hospitals. These are provided at no or little charge for most families, and provides more than a room and 4 walls. In addition to a place to stay safely and comfortably, they often provide meals and always provide hospitality. These homes are located in close proximity to major hospitals served, ensuring that families and children are close to each other at all times.

FACS will be collecting cleaning supplies to help with this project. Anyone interested in making a donation is asked to do so by January 13, 2023, as the organization will be making the donation on January and plan to visit the house and take our collection on January 18, 2023.



Ruston FFA Competes at Area

Secures State Invitations

Information Provided by Antonio Wilson/ FFA Advisor

District results were impressive and momentum continued as Ruston FFA competed at Area at Louisiana Tech University on December 6, 2022. Everyone who competed performed well and both of our Parliamentary Procedures Teams (PLAW) have now qualified and will move on to state competition. All the members have worked hard the past few months preparing for competition.

In PLAW, RHS FFA captured 1<sup>st</sup> place and qualified for state with the team of Raymond Granger, Dylan Trevillion, Carter Gay, Kolby Sonnier, Matthew Willis, and Ziah Jones. Ruston FFA also qualified for state with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish from the team of Cole Spurlock, Abby Holton, Abby Baremore, Zrikca Clemons, Carl Wesley, Jackson Washam, and Joshua Adams.

In individual events, Brianna McLaughin placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Prepared Public Speaking. In Gulf of Mexico Speaking, Samantha Ovitt placed as strong 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Also placing at Area was Gabe Middleton with his 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in Geaux Teach Agriculture.

The PLAW teams will continue to study and practice as they head to state to take on the best of the best in FFA. Ruston FFA is proud to have them and all other members who are dedicated to doing their best in competition and knows that they will all do well.



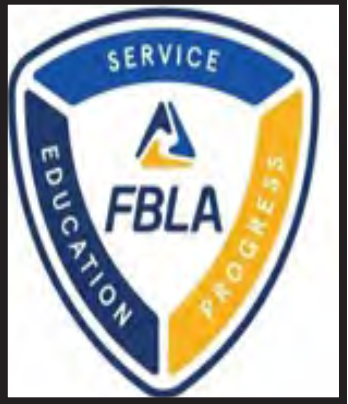
FBLA Friendsgiving

Information Provided by Ms. Dori Lewis/ FBLA Adviser

The Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) celebrated their 1st Annual Friendsgiving on November 17, 2002. The event was a perfect opportunity for all members of FBLA to get to know each other and have fun in a casual environment. Members were encouraged to participate by bringing a food dish to share with the chapter.

Friendsgiving was held at The Gospel, Inc. and decorations were organized by Brianna Alexander. With the encouragement and excitement from all that could attend, we hope to keep this tradition alive for years to come!

In other FBLA news, members are already preparing for regional and state competitive events. All members participating have signed up for their events and are in the process of obtaining study materials. Expectations are high as RHS FBLA has led the state at both regionals and state commotion for years, and the chapter is working hard to provide the best community service and projects as well.



Ruston Agriculture – Planting the Future

Plants Trees in the Community

Information Provided by Antonio Wilson/ FFA Advisor

Members of the Agriculture department had a busy day planting trees in the community and on the Ruston High School campus. Partnering with American Forest, the members planted around 40 trees. In addition to being partnered with American Forest on project for the future, the agriculture department also worked with Weyerhaeuser, the city of Ruston, and with local colleges.

Agriculture students have been learning about the importance of trees and about tree equity score. Tree equity score is a metric that helps cities assess how well they are delivering equitable tree canopy cover to all residents. This opportunity was eye opening for many students as most members never gave much consideration to the fact that tree planting is often planned with certain priorities in certain neighborhoods and areas, and that doing this provides a valuable resource for our habitat and the community.







Top row from left to right: Carter Jackson, Elena Baines, Jacob Miller, Brooke Jackson, Chloe de Mattos, Taylor Bernard.  
Bottom row from left to right: Brittany Gutierrez, Melissa Le, Annie Hoang, Ja'khia White, Kirah Spivey.

## Speech and Debate Shines at Southside Shark Showdown

Information Provided by Ms. Sydney Phillips/  
*Speech & Debate Coach*

The Ruston High School (RHS) Speech and Debate team travelled to Southside High School on December 2-3, 2022, to compete in the Southside Shark Showdown Tournament. In addition to RHS, there were 15 other Louisiana high schools in attendance at this competition. All 11 team members who competed did a great job at the competition, gaining valuable training and experience, as well as having the ability to meet and interact with other school competitors.

RHS Speech and Debate did an excellent job at the tournament in competition, with 7 of the 11 members pulled from preliminary rounds to either semifinals or placed in finals. Those students are: Semifinalist Novice Impromptu- Jacob Miller; Semifinalists Varsity Impromptu- Taylor Bernard, Annie Hoang, Chloe de Mattos; 3rd Place Congressional Debate- Taylor Bernard; 1st Place Novice Impromptu- Melissa Le; 1st Place Humorous Interpretation- Elena Baines; 1st Place Declamation- Melissa Le.

These RHS Speech and Debate Bearcats did a wonderful job representing their program and school! RHS Speech and Debate is looking forward to future opportunities to compete and win this season, and to fine tune their skills as they ultimately prepare for state competition along the way.



## Keywanettes Support Operation Christmas Child

Information Provided by Ms. Jill Benefield/ *Sponsor*

Every year, the Keywanettes participate in Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is the Samaritan's Purse project that collects shoebox gifts with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items and delivers them to children in need around the world. For many of these children, the filled shoebox is the first gift that they have ever received. National collection week for the shoeboxes this year was Nov. 14-21, 2022.

The Keywanette's began the project with a set amount of funds and a goal. They made a list of items that they considered appropriate for the shoebox gifts and planned their shopping. The Keywanettes then made the trip to the Pecanland Mall, Dollar Tree, and Target in Monroe, Louisiana, on November 16, 2022. The girls that attended the trip were Bethany Colvin, Taryn Davidson, Kinsley Foster, Lorelei Freling, Lily Gregory, Kaitlyn Middleton, Claire Nolan, Emma Jane Reeves, Callie Stegall, Lyla Turner, and Kristian Warfield.

Ms. Benefield, who sponsors the Keywanettes, stated, "The girls did a wonderful job shopping and purchasing quality items. We had a wonderful time." It was obvious that the girls participating were receiving the spirit of kindness and love just as much as they were providing gifts for others.

After the shopping, the Keywanettes met and built the boxes. After spending much time and care in packing, they had a total of 9 shoebox gifts made. These gift boxes were then taken to Temple Baptist Church, which is the main collection center for our area./ From there, they will be shipped to the nearest distribution center in the United States, and then delivered to 9 lucky children throughout the world.

The Keywanettes were happy to participate in this worthy cause. If anyone is interested in also helping, there are many ways to help. The website for Operation Christmas Child is [samaritanpurse.org](http://samaritanpurse.org). On the site, monetary gifts can be given, one can shop online and purchase items for boxes, and volunteers to assist in various capacities with the project across the United State and beyond are available.



Pictured above, left to right: Emma Jane Reeves, Lorelei Freling, and Kristian Warfield sort gifts; Lily Gregory and Kinsley Foster break from shopping; Callie Stegall, Kaitlyn Middleton, and Taryn Davidson—lunch and sorting; and Kinsley Foster, Lily Gregory, Claire Nolan, Lyla Turner, and Bethany Colvin shop for gifts.

## Art Displays Talent

STAFF REPORT

If you have never done so, the art department has many of the artwork prepared by students displayed proudly in the front hallway of Ruston High School. The display is located just to the left of the main office.

The art featured is constantly changing week to week to ensure that all forms are on display. From ceramic work to self-portraits to almost any form of painting or sketching, there is something that should catch your eye. If you have not done so, the art department invites you to visit the display and enjoy the many talents that RHS students possess.



## RHS Choir Has Busy Holiday Season

Information Provided by Nathan Trahan/ *Choir Director*

The RHS choir continues with their busy holiday season with several performances. The choir has already been busy and has even more events planned. No doubt, they will head into the holidays having accomplished much.

On December 7, 2022, the RHS choir performed for the Ruston Rotary Club for their Annual Christmas Luncheon. The choir also recorded the National Anthem to be presented at the championship game at the Dome. After having our wonderful singers as soloists at every home game, we are thrilled to present the anthem as a Choir!

On December 13, 2022, the RHS choir students will be auditioning for District Honor Choir which will be held at the end of January in Monroe. Following this, the choir will be singing for the Century Next Bank Annual Christmas Breakfast on December 14, 2022.

Tonight, December 15, 2022, the RHS choir will present their Holiday Concert on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the RHS auditorium. This concert is free to the public.

On December 16, 2022, the choir will have their annual holiday party at 6:30 p.m. They will close out the season on December 19, 2022, by performing for the Louisiana Tech Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon at noon.

The RHS choir extends a "Happy Holidays" to the Bearcat Nation and to the Ruston community.



The RHS choir recently performed at the Annual Christmas Luncheon with the Ruston Rotary Club on Dec. 7, 2022.





## Both RHS Cross Country Teams Place at State

**Girls' Team Finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> (State Runner – Up)**

**Boys' Team Finishes 3<sup>rd</sup>**

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) boy's and girls' track teams, led by Coach Dustin Cochran, have had a great season, despite the many injuries and illnesses. After both teams won the district titles at the North Louisiana Championships held at Chenault Park on October 27, 2022, both teams followed it up despite the hardships with victories at the Division I Region I Championships held at Lincoln Parish Park in Ruston, Louisiana, as well.

The RHS track teams ended their seasons on a high note at the Oschner Health LHSAA D1 State Championship at Northwest State on November 14, 2022. The girls' team placed second (state runner-up) with a score of 77 points, led by senior Lily Garrett. Lily recently signed with the University of Tennessee. The boys' team, with a score of 92 points, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall at state, with senior Andrew McKaskle who ran his last race for RHS but not in Louisiana as he heads to the University of Lafayette – Louisiana (ULL). Also highlighted at state was freshman Taylor Roller, who finished with the fastest freshman runner's time at the meet.

In the girls' championship, Lily Garret led the way as state runner-up with a time of 18:10. Also placing in the Top 20 at state were Sara Naff (13<sup>th</sup> – 19:03); Parker Nations (14<sup>th</sup> – 19:19); and Sydney Owens (19<sup>th</sup> – 20:35). Joining in with their state finishes were Zoie Holstead (40<sup>th</sup> – 20:35); Hallie Hebert (48<sup>th</sup> – 20:58); and Maddy Parkman (56<sup>th</sup> – 21:14).

ehind in twenty-first at 20:56.5.

In the boys' championship, Thomas Rogers led the way with his 10<sup>th</sup> place finish and a time of 15:37. Joining him in the Top 20 was Taylor Roller at 18<sup>th</sup> with a time of 15:50. Also placing at state were Bryar Madden (23<sup>rd</sup> – 16:19), Landon Byrd (24<sup>th</sup> – 16:20); and Andrew McKaskle (27<sup>th</sup> – 16:25).

In a year of continuous adversity, and with a mostly younger runners, the girls' team ended the season as district champions, regional champions, and state runner-up. The boys' team ended the season as district champions, regional champions, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at state. Coach Cochran and the team look forward to returning next year, ready to make an even more impressive run at the state championship again.

## RHS Swim Teams Compete at State

**Girls' Team Places 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 2**

STAFF REPORT



The RHS swim teams wrapped up their season at the Louisiana Athletic Association State Swim Meet on November 16-19, 2022, held at the Recreation and Aquatic Center. After strong finishes from the young team, the boys' and girls' teams competed against the best in the state at this last high school sanctioned event for swimming.

The girls' team featured many individual finishes. In the 50 Freestyle, Sadie Huenefeld placed 1st and Kate Boersma placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the 100 Freestyle, Sadie Huenefeld captured her second 1<sup>st</sup> place finish. In the 200 Freestyle, Julie Roberson placed 16<sup>th</sup>. Emma Huenefeld went the distance and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 500 Freestyle. The 100 Backstroke featured Kate Boersma finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and Julie Roberson finishing 21<sup>st</sup>. Karalinn Hoover captured 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 Breaststroke. In the 100 Butterfly, Lydia Watts placed 8<sup>th</sup> and Carmen Bishop placed 12<sup>th</sup>. The 200 Individual Medley featured 2 swimmers in the Top 5 as Karalinn Hoover took 2<sup>nd</sup> and Emma Huenefeld captured 5<sup>th</sup>. Lydia Watts finished 7<sup>th</sup> and Julie Roberson finished 8<sup>th</sup>. Capturing first in the 200 Freestyle was Sadie Huenefeld, who also set a Red River Conference Championship record in the event. In the 100 Backstroke, Sadie Huenefeld placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kate Boersma finished 4<sup>th</sup>, Emma Huenefeld captured 5<sup>th</sup>, Lydia Watts secured 8<sup>th</sup>, and Melissa Le rounded it out with her 13<sup>th</sup> place finish. Karalin Hoover captured 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100 Breaststroke and was 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200 Individual Medley.

The girls' team also placed well in the team relays. In the 400 Free Relay, the team of Sadie Huenefeld, Emma Huenefeld, Karalin Hoover, and Kate Boersma finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the 200 Free Relay, the team of Sadie Huenefeld, Kate Boersma, Julie Roberson, and Lydia Watts also captured 3<sup>rd</sup> place. In the 200 Medley Relay, 5<sup>th</sup> place was won by the team of Emma Huenefeld, Karalin Hoover, Lydia Watts, and Julie Roberson.

In addition to placing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, the girls' team had individual honors earned as well. Kate Boersma, Karalinn Hoover, and Sadie Huenefeld all earned all-state recognition in their events.

On the boys' swim team, individual honors went to multiple swimmers as well. In the 100 Butterfly, Owen Frick brought home his 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish, followed by Cade Campbell in 12<sup>th</sup> place. In the 100 Backstroke, Robert Campbell brought in an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. In the 200 Individual Medley, Robert Campbell earned his second 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish with Cade Campbell placing 11<sup>th</sup>. Owen Frick also went the distance and finished strong with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 500 Freestyle. In the two team events that the boys' team competed in (the 200 Medley Relay and the 400 Medley Relay), RHS placed an impressive 8<sup>th</sup> in each with the team of Owen Frick, Adam Campbell, Cade Campbell, and Reese Campbell.

In addition to their individual and team performances, a couple of boys' team swimmers were also recognized with individual all-state honors. Robert Campbell and Owen Frick both received all-state recognition in their events.

Both teams performed well in the meet. With the overall make-up of both teams being underclassmen, and with the size of the boys' team expected to increase next year, next year's teams look to perform even better. The swimmers will continue practicing and preparing for various meets and for next year, and Bearcat Nation should expect to hear even more about them in the future.



# RHS Bearcat Soccer



## Girls' Soccer is Playing Strong

Information Provided by Coach Jacqueline Bean

After kicking off their season with a 1-0 win against Minden on November 14, 2022, the Ruston High School girls' soccer team participated in the Haughton Tournament, hosted by Haughton High School. Against the host team, the Lady Bearcats fell in the tournament opener with a score of 2-1, evening their record at 1-1. The Lady Bearcats then took on Bossier and exploded on offense, winning 7-1 and improving to 2-1 on the season. Against another tough north Louisiana team, the Lady Bearcats closed out the tournament in 4-1 loss to Airline, leveling their record 2-2. Returning home, it was the Lady Bearcats taking on Haughton again, only this game proved to be a defensive showdown, and after a scoreless first half, the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The month of December began with a home game against Northwood-Shreveport, with the Lady Bearcats victorious with a 3-2 win to improve to 3-2-1. It was a solid win for the team. Tonight, the Lady Bearcats host OCS on December 15, 2022. Kick off is 5:30 p.m..

The Lady Bearcats will open 2023 with a 4-game home stand at Hoss Garrett Stadium. The home stand starts on our first day back against Pineville (Jan. 5); followed by West Monroe (Jan. 7). District play begins vs Franklin Parish on Jan. 10 followed by Tioga on Jan. 12. The Lady Bearcats will then go on the road to take on West Ouachita on January 19th before returning home again to take on Neville (Jan 24). The Lady Bearcats close out the regular season with 2 games on the road with a District game at Ouachita (Jan. 26) followed by their final match at Sterlington (Jan. 30).

With multiple home games this year, the Lady Bearcats welcome Bearcat Nation to come out and enjoy the spirit of the game of soccer. They hope to see you fill the stands and cheer them on through district play and beyond .

## Boy's Soccer – Playing Hard

Information Provided by Coach Hankamer

The Ruston High School boys' soccer team began their season with a home game against Minden on November 14, 2022. The boys' played hard but the rain and weather in general, along with a strong Minden team, prevailed, as Minden took the season opening 1-3. On November 17, 2022, the 'Cats took on West Monroe at home in what would turn into a defensive battle. The single goal scored by West Monroe proved to be enough as the 'Cats fell 0-1, dropping their record to 0-2 for the year.

The 'Cats start off play in December on the road against West Ouachita on December 6, 2022, and came out victorious to capture their first victory of the year, 2-1, a critical district contest. Goals were scored by Carlos Sanchze with an assist from Cam Harps; and a goal from Koy Tolar who rocketed in the winner from 30 yards out. This victory improved the 'Cats to 1-2, 1-0 in district play.

As stated, this was the first victory of the year, and Coach Hankamer's first victory as coach. "As this was my first win as the head coach for the Bearcats, it feels great to get over the hump after starting the season 0-2," stated Hankamer. "The boys played with more heart and determination then in the beginning of the season, and I told them if they continued to play like this, we would be a hard team to beat."

The 'Cats headed down the interstate to take on a determination and experienced Parkway on Dec. 12, 2022. Despite the hard effort, the 'Cats fell 0-4, bringing their record to 1-3 on the year. Tonight, December 15, 2022, the 'Cats look to carry momentum with them as they face OCS on December 15, 2022. On December 19, 2022, the Cats close out the year against Pineville and Loyola Prep.

With school returning, the 'Cats will celebrate the opening first day of school back in session for the new year on the road against Sterlington on January 5, 2023. The 'Cats will then lay 2 straight at home against Natchitoches (Jan. 9) and Tioga (Jan. 12). Then its back on the road to take on Alexandria before returning home for 2 games as they face River Oaks (Jan. 21) and Neville (Jan. 24), before closing the month and the regular season on the road as they take on Ouachita.

Coach Hankamer states, "I am proud to be the coach of this team and a part of Bearcat Nation." The 'Cats hope to see you fill the stands, regardless of the weather, and pull for them throughout the season and district play. With 14 games and a tournament on the slate for the year, they hope to see you at as many as possible and cheering them on.



# Go Cats!







## Ruston High School Volleyball: Recognition for District Excellence

Information Provided by Coach Lucie Hunt

The RHS volleyball Lady 'Cats had a great season this year, finishing 28-13. After a great district showing, the Lady 'Cats qualified for the playoffs, and won their first ever road playoff match.

The season ended but several members of the team have earned recognition for their excellence in district play. Starting the awards off, Coach Lucie Hunt, named Co-Coach of the Year. The honor came to her for her leadership and the number of players under her recognized showed it was well deserved.

The RHS Lady 'Cats received recognition for earning both the Defensive Player of the Year and the Offensive Player of the Year in district. Taking the honor as Defensive Player of the Year was Lorelei Freling, who was an obvious and easy selection. In a year of great offensive players, Jade Smith's recognition as the Offensive Player of the Year said much about her game.

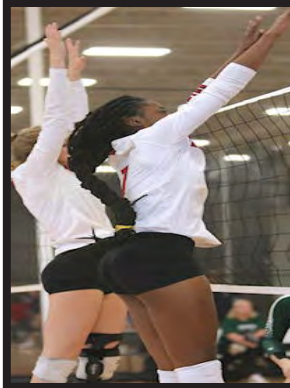
Receiving First-Team All-District honors were Hannah Johnson and Harper Cauley. Joining them with Second-Team All-District honors were Maggie Ambrose, Hannah Rollins, and Rhagen Shallowhorn. Closing out the honors was Allie Richardson, named Honorable Mention.

In addition to the accolades received with All-District honors, the Lady Cats also had two members recognized for their academics as well. Seniors Maggie Ambrose and Lorelei Freling were both named to the Composite Academic All-State team. This recognition came as both players have all "as" on their academic transcripts.

The RHS Lady 'Cats had a great season and made many memories. The number of honors received shows that they were a team with a mission, and played great team volleyball. Additional honors and recognition are sure to come from these young lady athletes.



## Congrats Lady Cats



## Competition Cheer Captures Regional Win

Information Provided by Chander McDonald/ *Cheer Coach*

On November 20, 2022, the Ruston High School (RHS) Competition Cheer team travelled to Lewisville, TX to compete in the North Texas UCA Regional. At the competition, the team took home first place along with a bid to the National High School Cheerleading Championships in February 2023.

RHS Competition Cheer has done an amazing job preparing for competitions during the long football season while still cheering on the Bearcats, preparing for pep rallies, and participating in community service. They will return to competition on December 18, 2022, at the Louisiana Regional where they hope to defend their 1st place finish from last year.

Pictured right: Back row: Camille Maier, Sophia Roberson, Maddie Ray Hancock, Kailyn Shipley, Ella Love, Taylor Skapura, Sarah Kate Taylor, Landry Grace Nelson, Mia Puckett, and Hannah Reeder  
Front row: Anna Colvin, Belle Burns, Gabbie Granger, Anna Puckett, Brenan Barnette, Mia Rabb, Molly Rabb



## RHS Girls' Basketball Playing Hard

Information Provided by Coach Meredith Graf

As reported last edition, the Ruston High School (RHS) girls' basketball opened the season on the road on Monday, November 14, 2022, with a 41-36 over Benton. They continued their winning ways and went 2-0 on the season by defeating Minden at home by a score of 56-31. After press, the Lady Cat's defeated Haughton on November 18, 2022, on the road 51-44 to go 3-0.

After a strong 3-0 start, the Lady Cat's traveled to the St. Thomas More Tournament in Lafayette on November 21-22, 2022, where they took on several tough opponents. Despite their efforts and intensity, the Lady Cats could not find a victory at the tournament, losing to Hathaway (35-45), Sam Houston (38-45), and South Beauregard (35-58).

With a 3-3 record for the year, the Lady 'Cats returned home to close out the month on November 29, 2022, against Bossier, returning to their winning ways with a blow-out 63-12 victory to improve to 4-3 on the year.

Into December, the Lady 'Cats headed south to compete in the Hamilton Christian tournament, Dec. 1-3, 2022. They opened the tournament with a big 48-28 victory over Madison Prep. Next up in the tournament was Fairview, which the Lady 'Cats faced a team that made every opportunity work for them, falling 38-73 (5-4).

Hitting the road again after the tournament, the Lady 'Cats faced opponents back to back on Dec. 5-6, 2022, taking on Winnfield and then Union. Against Winnfield, the offense came alive as the Lady 'Cats won with a decisive 67-54 victory. Against Union, the pace continued and the Lady 'Cats moved to 7-4 on the year with a 56-33 win. Next up before the holiday break, the Lady 'Cats took on Arcadia. Against Arcadia, the 'Cats faced a tough defensive struggle, losing in a heartbreaker 36-38, bringing their record to 7-5 for the year.

Into the break, the Lady 'Cats will head to the Walker Tournament on December 16-17, 2022. After the tournament, the Lady 'Cats will returned home to face Gibsland-Coleman on December 19, 2022. They will close out the 2022 year on the road at the West Monroe tournament held Dec. 28-29, 2022.

The new year has the Lady 'Cats on the road for 2 straight games against Richwood (Jan. 3) and the district opener against West Ouachita (Jan. 6). The Lady 'Cats then play 2 district games at home against West Monroe (Jan. 10) and Ouachita (Jan. 13). Then it's back on the road against Pineville (Jan. 17) and Alexandria (Jan. 20). After a return home to face West Ouachita (Jan. 27), the Lady 'Cats close out Jan 2023 on the road against West Monroe (Jan. 31). Game results and more will be published as known, and the Lady Cats hope to see you at every game, cheering them on to victory.

## Bearcat Boys' Basketball Starting Strong

Hosts Remington Butler Classic: December 15-17, 2022

Information provided by Coach Ryan Bond

The RHS boys' basketball team played 3 games in 4 days to open the season. As reported last month, the Cats opened play at home against Minden, starting the season 1-0 with a 55-33 victory, thanks much in part to a high scoring 2nd half of play. After going to press, on November 17, 2022, the 'Cats took on Airline at home, where they moved to 2-0 with a 61-50 victory.

The 'Cats then headed to the Saline Tournament on November 18-19, 2022, taking on and defeating a tough Lakeview team in a defensive battle to go to 3-0 with 38 - 31 victory. Next up in the tournament was Winnfield, with the 'Cats taking the victory with a 71-52. Despite playing 4 games in 5 days, the 'Cats left the tournament with a 4-0 record. The 'Cats rested a short period and then welcomed Bossier at home on November 29, 2022, which resulted in a 49-32 score and brought the 'Cats to 5-0 on the young season.

The month of December to date has been just as busy for the 'Cats. The 'Cats headed to the Hamilton Christian Tournament held Dec. 1-3, 2022, where they first faced Hahnville. The 'Cats move to 6-0 on the year as they defeated Hahnville 64-51 to open the tournament. In the next game of the tournament, the 'Cats faced host Hamilton Christian, moving to 7-0 with a tough fought 50-43 win. The final game of the tournament gave the 'Cats their first loss of the season, 46-54, against a string Madison Prep team, as the 'Cats left the tournament owning a 7-1 record.

After the tournament, the 'Cats went back to work and winning. First up was Winnfield on Dec. 5, 2022, where the 'Cats moved to 8-1 with a big 76-61 victory. The very next day, they moved to 9-1 with a 51-40 defensive battle and victory over union. On December 12, 2022, the 'Cats faced powerhouse Arcadia. Against Arcadia, the scoring came alive as did the 'Cats defense, as the 'Cats brought home a powerful 70-48 win to take their record to 10-1.

As they do every year, the 'Cats will host the Remington Butler Classic, December 15-17, 2022. The tournament starts tonight as the 'Cats faced three quality opponents: Carroll, Franklin Parish, and Neville. Everyone is encouraged to come out and support the 'Cats and the tournament. After the tournament, the 'Cats will welcome Gibsland-Coleman on December 19, 2022. Into the holidays, the 'Cats will close out December playing on the road in 2 different tournaments: the Sterlington tournament on Dec. 29, 2022, and the West Monroe tournament held Dec. 30, 2022.

January 2023 starts with the 'Cats on the road against Richwood (Jan. 3) and then Jonesboro-Hodge (Jan. 6). From there, the 'Cats play the same schedule as the Lady 'Cats for the rest of January 2023, with 2 district games at home against West Monroe (Jan. 10) and Ouachita (Jan. 13); 2 road trips against Pineville (Jan. 17) and Alexandria (Jan. 20); a home game against West Ouachita (Jan. 27); and finally, away again as they take on West Monroe (Jan. 31). The 'Cats hope to see you at every game and promise great entertainment and quality basketball.







## Journey to the State Championship



**Ruston Bearcats**  
**Varsity Boys Football**

 RUSTON, LA

## Regional Playoffs At Home Against



**Ouachita Parish Lions**  
**Varsity Boys Football**

 MONROE, LA

### Bearcats Win Regionals - Head to Quarterfinals

#### ‘Cats Tame the Ouachita Lions - Round 2

STAFF REPORT

The #1 seeded Ruston High Bearcat football team enjoyed a bye week and used it to prepare for the winner of the # 17 seeded Ouachita Lions and #16 seeded Hahnville Tigers bi-district playoff game. The Lions came back from 14-0 down on the road and earned the right to a rematch against the ‘Cats, where they would have to win a second game on the road in the playoffs.

In the first half of the game, the Lions looked ready to take on the ‘Cats. The ‘Cats took the lead early with a touchdown run by Dyson Fields. However, the Lions seemed to have a great game plan as they stormed back as they had done in their last playoff game, scoring 13 unanswered to take a halftime lead of 13-7.

The ‘Cats settled down and showed why they were the #1 seed, making the game a tale of two halves as they dominated during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. On their first possession, the ‘Cats scored to take a 14-13 lead as Fields ran for his 2<sup>nd</sup> touchdown of the game. The Lions did manage to drive the field and take the lead 16-14 with a field goal, but the game went all the way of the ‘Cats afterward.

With the defense taking control and holding the Lions scoreless the remained of the game, the ‘Cats offense went into high speed and scored 23 unanswered points. Dyson Fields ran for his 3<sup>rd</sup> touchdown and the 2-point attempt succeeded, giving the ‘Cats a 22-16 advantage. The ‘Cats kept feeding the ball to Fields on the night, and he answered with his fourth touchdown of the evening, giving the ‘Cats 30-16 after another 2-pt conversion. As the combination worked so well, the ball was again handed to Fields on the next possession and he answered with his 5<sup>th</sup> touchdown run of the night, completing the scoring for the night with the extra point added at 37-16, with the ‘Cats having scored 23 unanswered points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

The # 1 ranked ‘Cats did their part and held the homestand. Now the ‘Cats will face the # 9 seeded Denham Springs Yellowjackets on the road, after the Yellowjackets upset the #8 Benton Tigers on the road with a last second field goal. Quarterfinal action for the ‘Cats is being covered in a separate article, as will each game of the playoffs.



**Ruston Bearcats**  
**Varsity Boys Football**

 RUSTON, LA

## Quarterfinals On the Road @



**Denham Springs Yellowjackets**  
**Varsity Boys Football**

 DENHAM SPRINGS, LA

### Bearcats Win Quarterfinals - Head to Semifinals

#### ‘Cats Sting the Denham Springs Yellowjackets

STAFF REPORT

The #1 seeded Ruston High Bearcat football team hit the road in the quarterfinal round of the division I playoffs to take on the #9 seeded Denham Springs Yellowjackets. A victory in the quarterfinals assures the ‘Cats a trip to semifinal action for the first time since 1999, at home against the # 5 seeded Zachary Broncos who had defeated the #4 seeded Southside Sharks.


It didn’t take long for the ‘Cats to open scoring and sting the Yellowjackets with a touchdown from Dylan Fields to take an early 7-0 lead. After a defensive stop, the ‘Cats drove again scoring on a pass from Jaden Osborne to Aaron Jackson to go up 14-0. Early into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the Bearcats seemed to be on a roll as Jaden Osborne this time connected with Logan Malone on a long pass, giving the ‘Cats what seemed to be a commanding 21-0 lead.

However, with less than 10 seconds remaining in the half, the Yellowjackets answered with a touchdown of their own with a short touchdown pass to cut the ‘Cats lead to 21-7 lead. With a bizarre spotting of the ball at the ‘Cats own 30-yard line, the Yellowjackets successfully pulled off an onside kick, and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> game in a row, time was placed on the clock that allowed the Yellowjackets to kick a field goal. The lead at half cut to 21-10.


The Yellowjackets got within 21-17 as they scored about halfway through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, making it a one possession game. However, the ‘Cats answered back with a 39-yard rushing touchdown by Jordan Hayes to make it a 2-possession game again at Once again, the Yellowjackets would not go away, and on the very next offensive play, they stung the ‘Cats with a 65 yard touchdown pass making in a 28-24 game. The Bearcats remained focus and with a bullet from Jadon Osborne to Aaron Jackson, it became a 2-possession game again at 35-24. After a three and out by the Yellowjackets, Dyson Fields broke loose for a huge 69-yard touchdown run to make it a now 3-possession lead at 42-24.

However, the Yellowjackets returned the kickoff the length of the field to instantly make it a 2-possession game again at 42-31, with over 10 minutes still left to play in the game. The defense hunkered down against the high-powered Yellowjackets and took command after that score. The ‘Cats defense sacked the Yellowjackets for a huge loss on 4<sup>th</sup> down, turning the ball over inside their own 20-yard line on a 4<sup>th</sup> down attempt. The ‘Cats took advantage of the opportunity and Dyson Fields took it in for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time to give the ‘Cats a huge 49-31 lead as time wound down, a lead that would end the marathon and be the final score of the game.


A large crowd of Bearcat fans cheered the ‘Cats on throughout the game, including many who rode the fan bus down earlier that day. The #1 seeded ‘Cats now face off against the Zachary Broncos, who earlier have eliminated in order # 28 St. Amant, #12 West Monroe, and #4 Southside.




**Ruston Bearcats**  
**Varsity Boys Football**

 RUSTON, LA

## Semifinals At Home Against



**Zachary Broncos**

 ZACHARY, LA

### Bearcats Win Semifinals - Head to the Dome

#### Bucks the Zachary Broncos

STAFF REPORT

There is no place like home - except maybe the ‘Dome - the next destination in the playoffs for the winner of the semifinals. The Ruston High School 9RHS) stadium was a full house on Friday, December 2, 2022, as the #1 seeded Ruston High Bearcat football team in Louisiana hosted their first semifinal playoff action since 1999 at Hoss Garrett Field. The opponent, last year’s Louisiana State Champions, were the #5 seeded Zachary Broncos, who had previously eliminated many quality opponents to include the West Monroe Rebels. The ‘Cats had earned impressive wins as well on the way to the semifinals. Tonight, these two teams met with the winner headed to the Superdome for the State Championship against the #3 seeded Destrehan Wildcats, who defeated the #10 seeded Westgate Tigers.

The first quarter featured no scoring as the ‘Cats set up what would be a ball control type game to great success. Into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the ‘Cats drove the length of the field and Dyson Fields broke out for an 11-yard touchdown as the ‘Cats took a 7-0 lead. Showing they came to play, the Bronco’s responded with their own drive to tie the game at 7-7. The ‘Cats answered with a drive that led to a RJ Brown field goal to take a 10-7 lead. After a quick 3 and out by the stout ‘Cats defense, the ‘Cats were able to overcome a big penalty and sack and display a potent offense as they scored again afterward with only 12 seconds left in the half. Dyson Fields finished up the drive with his second touchdown of the night, giving the ‘Cats a 17-7 advantage going into halftime. That would be as close as it got.

The ‘Cats defense stood strong into the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and after forcing the Bronco offense to punt. Zhy Scott was in the right place and fell on a Jadon Mayfield fumble in the end zone to cap off the first Bearcat drive with of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to give the ‘Cats a 23-7 lead. Another 3 and out later, the ‘Cats took over and Jaden Osborn rushed out of the pocket for a huge 64 yard-touchdown rush, extending the lead to 30-7. Near the end of the quarter, Zachary fought hard for a comeback and drove the length of the field and scored on a scoring pass to make it 30-14.

Into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, Bearcat Nation was excited and nervous despite the lead as expected on such a historic night. The ‘Cats on the field remained disciplined and the ‘Cats put fans at more ease with a 66-yard scoring run by Jordan Hayes to push the lead to 37-14 to start the fourth quarter, putting the game out of reach. The Broncos scored just before timed expired to make the final score 37-22.

As the seconds counted down, the capacity crowd anxiously waited for time to expire and witness in person the victory. As it did, the Catbox emptied on to the field as did fans from end zone to end zone and the large Jumbotron lit up with the final score. The ‘Cats were headed to the Superdome – headed for the state championship. Next up, the #3 seeded Destrehan Wildcats in the Big Easy, deciding which of the ‘Cats will be the Louisiana State Champion.

## Headed to the Superdome!







## Journey to the State Championship

### RHS Football – Regular Season ‘Cats Stats

#### Offensive and Defensive Statistics

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcats head into the playoffs ranked # 1 in Class 5A after taking their first district title in 2-5A with their hard fought 35-17 victory of the West Monroe Rebels. At the conclusion of the regular season, it was truly evident that the team had worked well on both offense and defense. Looking behind the scenes and just the scoreboard, the statistics for this year’s team in the regular season and in the playoffs was impressive.

The regular season ended with QB Jaden Osborne passing for over 1200 yards passing, 13 TD throws, and only 2 interceptions. He also has 246 yards rushing for 1 TD. On the ground, the ‘Cats top rushers and scorers for the ‘Cats were Dyson Fields with 10 TDS and 769 yards rushing; Jordan Hayes with 7 TDS and 793 yards rushing; Jayden Mayfield with 6 TDs and 150 yards rushing; Lajaveon Ellis with 4 TDS and 290 yards rushing; Dylon Brooks with 2 TDs and 116 yards rushing; Josh Brantley with 2 TDs and 75 yards rushing; and Lander Smith with 1 TD and 49 yards rushing. The top 3 receivers in the air attack were Aaron Jackson with 8 TDs on 715 yards receiving; Zhy Scott with 3 TDs on 208 yards receiving; and Logan Malone with 1 TD on 256 yards receiving. Christian Davis also caught a 4-yard TD pass. In the kicking game, Will Fendly has connected on a field goal and 26 point after attempts; RJ Brown connected on a field goal and 17 point after attempts; and Jack Elliot connected on 2 point after attempts.

The defensive side of the ball also had some outstanding numbers. At the defensive linebacker position, Jadon Mayfield and Zheric Hill combined for 93 tackles with 74 assists, including 8 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks, 3 interceptions (2 for TDs), 1 forced fumble, and 3 recovered fumbles, and 3 pass break ups. Safeties Nate Johnson, Kyran McConnell, Ray Owens, and Jacoryian Crowe combined for 115 tackles with 62 assists, including 21 tackles for loss, .5 sacks, 4 interceptions (1 for TD), 1 forced fumble, and 7 pass break ups. Cornerbacks Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, Calvin Baker, and Semaj Jones combined for 57 tackles with 15 assists, 1 tackle for loss, 1 interception, and 7 pass break ups. Defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, Christian Davis, Peyton Bell, Jamious Blackmon, Triston Dumas, and Geordan Guidry combined for 136 tackles with 74 assists, including 23 tackles for loss, 14 sacks, 1 interception, 1 forced fumble, 1 recovered fumble, and 2 pass break ups.



Ruston Bearcats

Varsity Boys Football

 RUSTON, LA

Regionals

Stats



Ouachita Parish Lions

Varsity Boys Football

 MONROE, LA

### RHS Football – Playoff ‘Cats Stats

#### Offensive and Defensive Statistics from the Regional Finals

STAFF REPORT

After an impressive regular season, the ‘Cats continued to show their abilities into the playoffs. A look at each playoff game’s stats shows how the ‘Cats were able to dominate play on both sides of the ball. The season was special for the ‘Cats, and was made possible by the outstanding coaching of the team as well as the outstanding play of the team throughout the season.

Against Ouachita in the quarterfinals, QB Jaden Osborne managed the field against a stout Lion’s defense, using the passing game to keep the Lions honest as the ‘Cats relied heavily on their ground game. On the ground, the ‘Cats top rusher and scorer for the game was Dyson Fields, running for 191 yards and an impressive 5 touchdowns. Joining him to combine for a total of 256 yards on the ground were Jordan Hayes with 46 yards, Jaden Osborne with 16 yards, and Lajaveon Ellis with 6 yards. Included in those yards were 2 point conversions on the ground from Dyson Fields and Zhy Scott. Christian Davis hauled in a 3 yard pass in the game. Special teams play also stepped up. In the kicking game, RJ Brown connected on 3 point after attempts and booted 3 punts with an average of 39.3 yards per punt. Logan Malone returned 2 kickoffs for a total of 35 yards and Geordan Guidry returned a kickoff for 11 yards. Aaron Jackson brought back a punt for 3 yards as well.

The defensive unit held the Lions down with a great team defensive showing. At the defensive linebacker position, Jadon Mayfield and Zheric Hill combined for 13 tackles with 10 assists, including a forced and recovered fumble. Safeties Nate Johnson, Kyran McConnell, Ray Owens, and Jacoryian Crowe combined for 10 tackles with 6 assists, including a pass break up. Cornerbacks Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, and Calvin Baker combined for 9 tackles and 2 pass break ups. Defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, Christian Davis, Peyton Bell, Jamious Blackmon, and Geordan Guidry combined for 15 tackles with 8 assists, including 3 tackles for loss, 1 sack, and 3 pass break ups.



Ruston Bearcats

Varsity Boys Football

 RUSTON, LA

Quarterfinals

Stats



Denham Springs Yellowjackets

Varsity Boys Football

 DENHAM SPRINGS, LA

### RHS Football – Playoff ‘Cats Stats

#### Offensive and Defensive Statistics from the Quarterfinals

STAFF REPORT

In the quarterfinals, a balanced offensive attack along with timely defensive stops gave the ‘Cats a huge win over the Denham Springs Yellowjackets. The offense exploded with 7 touchdowns, with 4 on the ground and 3 in the air. The defense held the high scoring and big play Yellowjackets team down as they tried to again mount a come from behind victory, showing that the teams conditioning was where it needed to be.

Against the Yellowjackets, quarterback QB Jaden Osborne threw for 112 yards and 3 touchdowns, adding in 38 yards on the ground as well. On the ground, the ‘Cats combined for 281 yards and 4 touchdowns. Leading the way for the ‘Cats was Dyson Fields with 123 yards and 3 touchdowns. Jordan Hayes rushed for 119 yards and a touchdown. Jadon Mayfield also continued with a yard rushing. In the air, Aaron Jackson hauled in 2 touchdowns on 70 receiving yards, and Logan Malone hauled in a touchdown on 32 yards receiving. Lander Smith accounted for the other 10 yards receiving. Special teams again stepped up with RJ Brown connecting on all 7 point after attempts and booting 2 punts with an average of 45.5 yards. Will Fiendly punted 4 times for a 41.5 yards average. Dylon Brooks returned 2 kickoffs for a total of 34 yards and Nate Johnson brought back a punt for 10 yards as well.

On defense, defensive linebackers Jadon Mayfield and Zheric Hill combined for 12 tackles with 3 assists, including an interception, a fumble recovery, and a pass break up. Safeties Nate Johnson, Kyran McConnell, Ray Owens, Jacoryian Crowe, and Kaleb Williams combined for 12 tackles with 6 assists, including a pass break up. Cornerbacks Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, Calvin Baker, and Semaj Jones combined for 11 tackles and 3 assists. Defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, Christian Davis, Peyton Bell, Jamious Blackmon, and Geordan Guidry combined for 14 tackles with 3 assists, including 4 tackles for loss, 3 sacks, 1 forced fumble, 1 recovered fumble, and 1 pass break up.



Ruston Bearcats

Varsity Boys Football

 RUSTON, LA

Semifinals

Stats



Zachary Broncos

 ZACHARY, LA

### RHS Football – Playoff ‘Cats Stats

#### Offensive and Defensive Statistics from the Semifinals

STAFF REPORT

The ‘Cats earned a spot in the semifinals at state thanks to the great play on both sides of the ball all year. This was the ‘Cats first semifinal appearance in 2 decades, and the ‘Cats went head-to-head with the Zachary Broncos, last year’s Louisiana State Champions. The ‘Cats prevailed with the combined efforts of the offense and defense in the trenches. The ‘Cats offense scored 37 points while the defense held last year’s champions to 22 points.

On the offensive side of the ball, quarterback QB Jaden Osborne threw for 105 yards and rushed 60 yards and a touchdown. The ‘Cats ground game continued to impress as the ‘Cats combined for 279 rushing yards 4 touchdowns. Leading the way for the ‘Cats was Dyson Fields with 86 yards and 1 touchdown. Jordan Hayes rushed for 122 yards and a touchdown. Landon Smith carried for 9 yards and Jadon Mayfield carried for 2 yards. Zhy Scott scored a touchdown on a fumble recovery by the offense in the end zone. In the air attack, Aaron Jackson hauled in 46 receiving yards; Logan Malone brought in 27 yards, Jamar Woods caught for 15 yards, and Jadon Mayfield had 16 yards. On special teams, RJ Brown connected on all 4 point after attempts and nailed a field goal. RJ also booted 3 punts for an average of 27 yards. Logam Malone brought back 2 kickoffs for 24 yards and Jordan Hayes retured one for 13 yards.

On defense, defensive linebackers Jadon Mayfield and Zheric Hill combined for 4 tackles with 6 assists, adding in a pass break up. Safeties Nate Johnson, Ray Owens, Jacoryian Crowe, and Kaleb Williams combined for 9 tackles with 4 assists, adding in an interception. Cornerbacks Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, Calvin Baker, and Semaj Jones combined for 8 tackles and 3 assists, adding in a pass break up. Defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, Christian Davis, Jamious Blackmon, and Geordan Guidry combined for 10 tackles with 3 assists, including 2 tackles for loss, and 4 sacks.











## RHS 'Cats: State-Runner Up!



## State Championship SuperDome



### State Runner-Up RHS Bearcats!

Closes Out Great Season with Defensive Battle  
STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcats headed to the Superdome on Dec. 8, 2022, to play in the Louisiana Division 1 Non-Select State Championship on December 9, 2022. With a solid 12-1 record and playoff victories over the Ouachita Lions, the Denham Springs Yellowjackets, and then the defending State Champion Zachary Broncos, the 'Cats headed from home to the 'Dome to meet the #3 seeded Destrehan Wildcats in the 2022 Louisiana High School Division 1 State Championship.

The 'Cats loaded their commercial buses and received encouragement and support along their route to New Orleans, beginning with the entire student body of RHS in the boulevard. Ensuring all Bearcats and the future were included, Coach Baugh had the buses cruise by Ruston Junior High School where their student body always stood out to provide support for the 'Cats. Throughout the journey to New Orleans, citizens of Ruston and many other communities waited with signs and banners to support the 'Cats, and many phoned in and emailed their support as well. Throughout the week, pep rallies, sign painting, T-shirt selling, business and car window painting, and so many other events brought back the past as every united around the 'Cats.

On Dec. 9, 2022, the game of the year was played as the Bearcats collided with the Wildcats, each familiar with each other the past few years in the playoffs. Lincoln Parish School took the day out and a tremendous fan base traveled to New Orleans from Ruston and afar to watch the game. By all accounts, the RHS fan base was by far the largest fan group in the Dome, easily doubling that of the Wildcats, despite the Wildcats having to only travel 30 miles to the game. When the Bearcats finally took the field against the Wildcats at the scheduled 7:00 p.m. spotlight game, which started closer to 8:00 p.m. after a long day, Bearcat fans in the stands and throughout the state watched and listened in to cheer for the 'Cats. It was time for some Bearcat Friday football.

The game would turn out to be a defensive slugfest. Early in the first quarter, Destrehan opened scoring with a 5- yard rushing touchdown after a huge pass play, taking the early 7-0 advantage. The defensive struggle continued throughout the second quarter, and Destrehan forced a 'Cats fumble on their own 2-yard line. However, the 'Cats defense held strong and pushed the Wildcats backward, and the Wildcats connected on a 33-yard field goal to increase their lead to 10-0.

To this point, the 'Cats had no answers to their own penalties and mistakes, but this changed quickly on the 'Cats next possession. Jordan Hays fired up the 'Cats with a huge kick return bring the ball to the Wildcats 31 yard line, and a penalty added on, the 'Cats were in business on the 16 yard line, Jaden Osborne connected with Aaron Jackson for the 16-yard pass, and the 'Cats cut the deficit to 10-7. Just before half, the 'Cats were on the move again, but a missed long field goal kept the score going into the half at 10-7.

The 'Cats received the ball to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and each team's defenses kept the quarter scoreless. The 'Cats had another long field goal attempt, but it just missed.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter found the 'Cats again facing the opportunity to tie the game with a field goal, and RJ Brown connected from 24 yards out to tie the game at 10-10. Destrehan answered with a drive of their own and took the lead 17-10 and a long rushing touchdown. The 'Cats had opportunities to close in on the Wildcats, but with a strong defense coupled with a few overturned calls, the 'Cats came up just short on their last drive, and the Wildcats escaped the game with the 17-10 victory.

The 'Cats left the field down but not out, knowing that they had played well and that the RHS fanbase was with them and remained with them throughout the season. The seniors would remember this game forever and ever forget the experience and pageantry of the game. The underclassmen further now have the experience and motivation to continue the great play expected and appreciated by Bearcat Nation, and to use the phrase, "We'll Be Back!"

## Jadon Mayfield - State Runner-Up MVP



## Ruston High School Bearcats Louisiana Division I Non-Select State Runner-Up Football Team

### RHS Football – Playoff 'Cats Stats

Offensive and Defensive Statistics from the State Championship  
STAFF REPORT

All year long, the 'Cats found a way as a team to stay in every game – a true team effort. These efforts led to either to dominating wins, close calls, pure battles on the field, or tough losses. Regardless, the team stood as one. The state championship game against Destrehan proved to be one of those game where the 'Cats faced one of those tough losses; however, the team proudly did their best and gave their fans memories for years and hope for tomorrow. Having earned a spot in the State Championship by defeating last year's State Champion Zachary Broncos, the 'Cats proved worthy of being the Louisiana Division 1 Non-Select State Runner-Up with strong play offensively and defensively.

On the offensive side of the ball, quarterback QB Jaden Osborne threw for 95 yards and a touchdown, adding in 25 yards on the ground. The 'Cats ground game fought through the tough defense grind out a combined for 113 yards. Leading the way for the 'Cats was Dyson Fields with 61 yards followed by Jordan Hayes with 27 yards. In the air, Aaron Jackson hauled in a touchdowns on 88 receiving yards, and Logan Malone and Jadon Mayfield each brought in 5 yard receptions. On special teams, RJ Brown connected on his point after attempts and booted a 24 yard field goal. O kick-off returns, Jordan Hayes brought the ball back for 87 yards on 2 attempts, and Logan Malone brought it back 31 yards on his 2 attempts. Nate Johnson brought back 3 punts for 5 yards.

On defense, defensive linebackers Jadon Mayfield and Zheric Hill combined for 14 tackles with 7 assists, including 3 tackles for loss and .5 sacks. Safeties Nate Johnson, Kyran McConnell, Ray Owens, Jacoryian Crowe, and Kaleb Williams combined for 14 tackles with 8 assists, and tackle for loss, and a pass break up. Cornerbacks Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, and Semaj Jones combined for 5 tackles and 1 assist. Defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, Christian Davis, Jamious Blackmon, and Geordan Guidry combined for 10 tackles with 9 assists, including a tackle for loss, 1.5 sacks, and a pass break up.



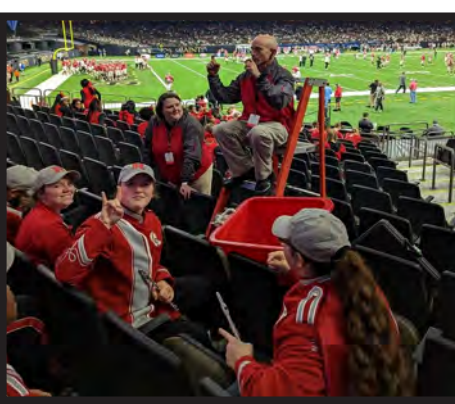
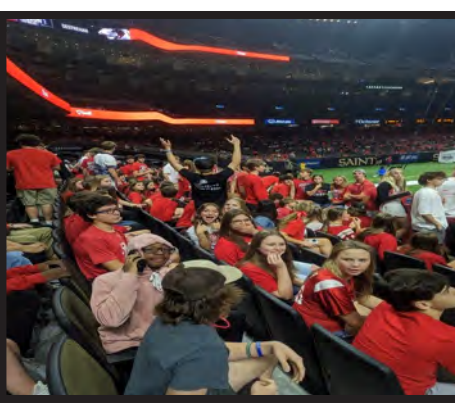
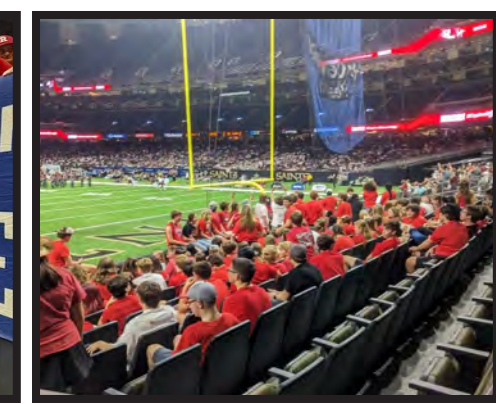
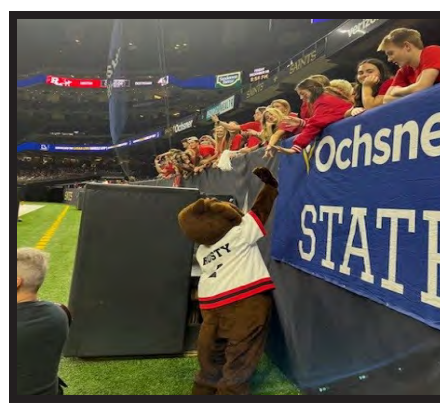
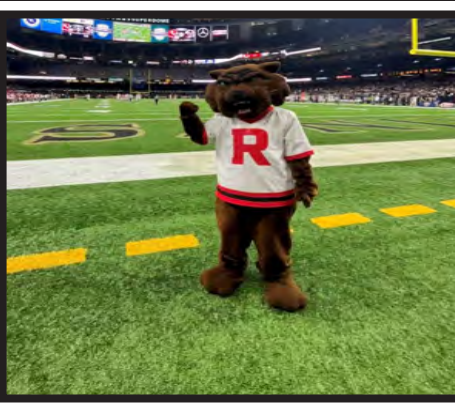
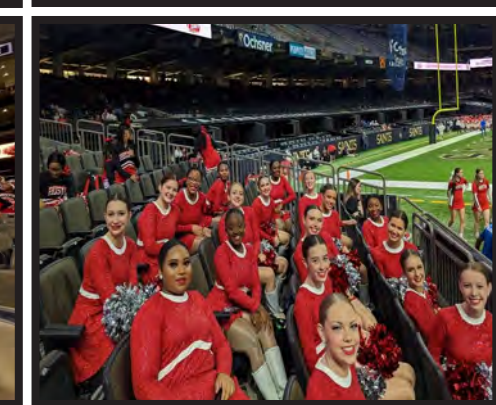
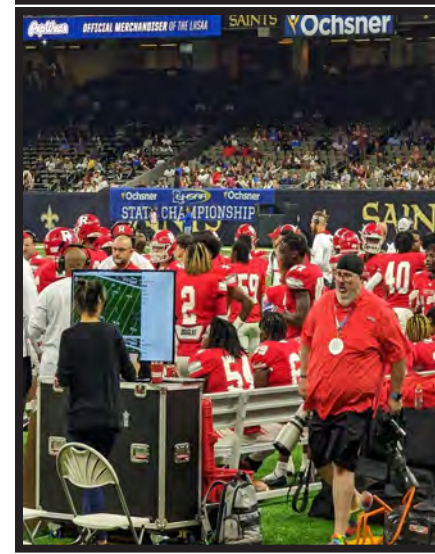
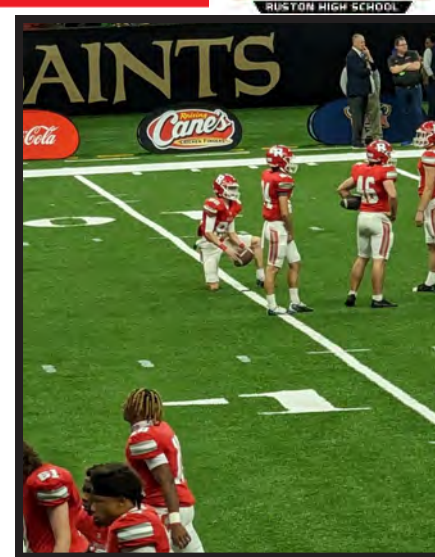
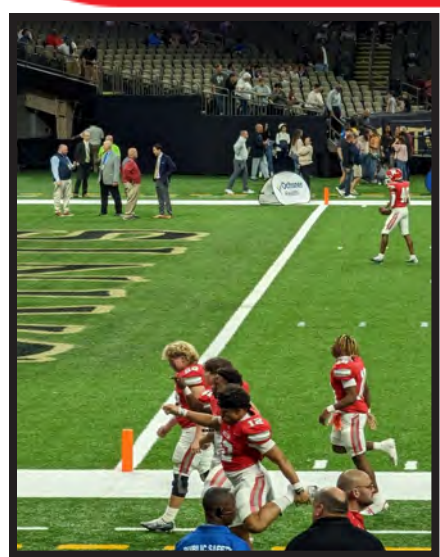




# RHS Represents at State

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## State Runner-Up Bearcats!



2022

RUSTON

BEARCATS



Go Cats!







## State Runner-Up Bearcats!



2022 SUPPORT GROUPS



Go Cats!







# 2022 RHS Football Team



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## State Runner-Up Bearcats!



The RHS Bearcat Football Coaching Staff led by Coach Jerrod Baugh (center).

### The RHS Bearcat Football Coaching/Support Staff

Head Football Coach/Athletic Director: Jerrod Baugh  
Defensive Coordinator: Kyle Williams  
Offensive Coordinator: Earl Griffin  
Special Teams Coordinator: Bryan Beck  
Varsity Assistants: Kai Burrell, Colt Dunbar, Steven Ensminger  
Broderick Fobbs, Chad Reeder, David Taylor, Ross Wiersma, & Ken Wright  
Strength & Conditioning: Frasier Hogam  
Trainer: Chris Brister  
Head Freshman Coach: Bryan Beck  
Freshman Assistants: Rodney Bagwell, Greg Hawkins, & Zach Smith  
Managers: Xavier Barker & Nicholas Lettries



**Senior Bearcats** (In player number order): #1 Aaron Jackson, #2 Dyson Fields, #4 Jaden Osborne, #6 Christian Davis, #7 Jordan McWain, #8 Ray Owens, #10 Jamious Blackmon, #11 Justin Brickey, #15 Percy Williams, #20 Calvin Baker, #25 Gabe Carter, #27 Kyran McConnell, #28 Kendrick Jones, #29 Lajaveon Ellis, #34 Jaavon Worrall, #38 Lane Ashby, #40 Dylar Richmond, #41 Keldon Johnson, #44 Colby Grant, #46 R.J. Brown, #48 Rocky Dyes, #50 Moises Rocha-Rivera, #52 Triston Dumas, #53 Tyon Williams, #54 Ashton Jerro, #56 Jaden Jackson, #58 Imaad Smith, #65 Josh Colvin, #66 Mason Skipper, #78 Parker Perez, #84 Matt Garrett, and #95 Johnathan Brantley.

**Junior Bearcats** (In player number order): #5 Nate Johnson, #13 Jamar Woods, #16 Semaj Jones, #17 Preston Gray, #18 Logan Malone, #19 Jacoryian Crowe, #22 Jadon Mayfield, #35 Jon Robert Scheer, #39 Jordan Dwairi, #47 Nehemiah Addison, #49 Jamarien Banks, #51 Joe Morrow, #59 Avery Overstreet, #60 Dutch Russell, #69 Kylon Bradley, #77 Demario Nash, #80 Ronald Findley, #81 Ke'maree Thomas, #85 Tanner Womack, #87 Zhy Scott, #91 Geordan Guidry, #93 Ahmad Breaux, and #99 Will Fendley.

**Sophomore Bearcats** (In number order): #3 Josh Bradley, #9 Jordan Hayes, #12 Dylone Brooks, #14 Caleb Hampton, #21 Zheric Hill, #23 Darius James, #24 Deangelo Brown, #26 Zander Hayes, #30 Ray Winzer, #31 Miguel Leon, #32 Lamarion Mays, #33 Sven Outley, #36 Ste'vin Rhone, #37 Michael Reeves, #42 Dillon Dorsey, #43 Jack Elliot, #45 \*Lander Smith, #55 Sam Nations, #57 Mahlek Stringfellow, #61 Cooper Martin, #62 Morgan Wells, #63 Ka'Varion Key, #70 Cedric Rhone, #71 Cody Elmore, #73 Dalton Brooks, #74 Womble Jackson, #75 Cameron Venzant, #79 Jayine James, #82 Garrett Taylor, #83 Terry Lewis, #86 Peyton Martin, #88 Andrew Johnson, #89 Gavin Jolivet, #90 Jake Tyler, #94 Payton Bell, and #97 Kaleb Williams

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