

GRID IRON COMMODORES

By: Claire Anne Pugh

Four quarters, sixty minutes, and three thousand six hundred seconds of passionate football to give it your all and leave it all on the field and that was just what they did going 10-3 on the season. This year held some very memorable moments for this year's team.

"We just had to come together as a team and work as hard as we could to be ready for the season," said quarterback Charles Fair.

With only playing three games before the biggest rival of the year, the team practiced and gave everything their all to prepare for this season and not think about what happened in the previous season.

"You can't go into the game thinking about the last game you played. You have to go into every game playing like it is the last game," said junior Kylan Egerson.

For the first time since 2016, the Commodores won the crosstown classic. This was a very memorable moment for this year's team with none of them being on the team from previous years to know what it truly means to "rule" the town in football.

"We were excited because we had not won the crosstown classic while we had been in high school," said senior Mario Wilbourn.

During the game, the commodores were losing at the half against Oxford which is the biggest crosstown rival game of the year. This moment was seen by some as a moment to change how they saw the game and to overcome the losing streak of 4 years to beat the chargers.

"During the Oxford game we were losing at halftime and if we were going to win we had to change our mindset so that we could go back out there and win," said senior John Dukes.

This game was a monumental moment for this season but it was not the end, it was the needed momentum for the season. With district play starting, the next week many saw this as a time to train harder and to attain the goal of going to the playoffs.

"No distractions keep the circle small, execute everything, show up and go to work getting better every day," said junior Desmond Burnett.

The Commodores would go on to the second round of playoffs and end the season with a record of 5-1 in division play. Many saw this end as a time to reset the clock and prepare for the upcoming season and rise to the challenge of filling in the shoes of the ones graduating and living up to the legacies left behind.

1. **Kylan Vaughn**, 12, runs the ball into the end zone to score a touchdown start game on a high note against the Saltillo Tigers.
2. **Kylan Egerson**, 11, tackles the receiver to stop the play against Neshoba Central in the second round of playoffs.
3. **William Dabney**, 11, **Jayden Reed**, 11, and **John Dukes**, 12, run out with the American and First Responder Flags at the September 10th game against SouthHaven.
4. **Qei Darius Booker**, 10, raises The Scooter as the team scores a touchdown against Saltillo during the homecoming game.
5. **Hudson Nelson**, 10, kicks the ball off to start the game against Neshoba Central in the second round of playoffs.



Mario Wilbourn, 12, with trophy in hand runs to the student section to celebrate the win of the Cross town classic after beating Oxford on September 17, 2021 with a score of 34-23 to close out the 2021 crosstown classic.

MR. FOOTBALL



"It was an humbling experience and was a really happy moment" said senior Derrick Burgess. D.J. won the 5A state award given the best overall player for each class. D.J. also received honors for District 1 5A player of the year, 5A State Overall player of the Year, and North/South Mississippi All Star.

WILBOURN



Mario Wilbourn senior was recognized this year for his hard work and was rewarded with a trip to a Alabama Mississippi All-star game. "The game was a different experience," said Mario. Wilbourn was also awarded 1st Team District 1 5A Linebacker, 1st Team 5A All State Linebacker, and Mississippi/Alabama All Star.

HONORS

- # 18 Charles Fair
- # 54 Jalen Gross
- # 5 Jayden Reed
- # 9 Jamari Logan
- # 15 Cooper Mitze
- # 22 Trikyus Woodall
- # 3 Kylan Vaughn
- # 11 D'Camron Lipsey
- # 55 John Dukes
- # 6 Alexander Jones
- # 50 Searn Lynch



the SCORE

	us	them
Tupelo	3	5
Horn Lake	38	7
Southaven	12	8
Oxford	34	23
West Point	0	17
Saltillo	47	10
Columbus	21	12
New Hope	38	18
Cleveland	51	0
Greenville	38	18
Lake Cormorant	49	8
Holmes	28	19
Neshoba Central	21	23

MISSION: TAKEAWAY

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL

Kylan Egerson

DATE: November 4th

vs Lake Cormorant

2 Interceptions

Kylan Egerson, 11, led the defense this year with six Mission Takeaways. Egerson had three Interceptions returned for touchdowns, 1 4th down stop, and three Interceptions over the course of a 12 game season. "It was not really recognition it was part of the plan but it was nice coming from a person you look up to" said Egerson about defensive coordinator Matt McCory. Kylan was recognized for being selected as 1st Team District 1 5A Defensive Back and 1st Team 5A All State Defensive Back.

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