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NEWS

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Pelahatchie Chiefs have best season in 20 years

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Pelahatchie Chiefs football team made it to the fourth round, where they lost the MHSAA 2A state semifinals 60-14 to undefeated Scott Central in Forrest on November 26. They had an 8-6 record. The team, led by second-year Coach Ryan Keeton, made it to the first-round last year.

"Our Pelahatchie Chiefs hit the field for the final time this season tonight (November 26). Our guys played hard, our fans cheered loud, and there is not a single reason to feel defeated. These young men and coaches went further than our Chiefs have in the past 20 years of football. Thank you for an unforgettable season. As always, Our Tribe Our Pride. #Tribe." This post sums up the



Photos by Adlyn Till, Pelahatchie High School student photographer

After a power outage due to a blown transformer during the Friday, November 12 game left the field in total darkness, the two teams were forced to continue the game on Saturday, November 13. After the teams regrouped, the Chiefs went on to win their 2nd playoff game 39-35, defeating the Philadelphia Tornadoes.

great football season the Chiefs had this year.

"It's pretty exciting!" said Coach Keeton, who has won South State in 2016 and 2017 and played in the 2017 state championship. "We had a tough schedule this year, but the kids were resilient and worked hard. After a slow start, they won six games in a row. They believed they could and got it done."

Keeton, who was an assistant coach at Pelahatchie in 2012-2014, said, "This is a springboard for the young kids and a testament for the seniors after working hard for four years. We hope to be there again next year."

ERA girls cross country team wins State Championship

Special to Pelahatchie News

The MAIS AAAAA East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Cross Country Team concluded their 2021 season on Monday, October 26 at the MAIS State Finals at Choctaw Trails in Clinton. Consistently among the top teams competing in MAIS 5A this year, the varsity girls' commitment and steady improvement culminated in their first ever state championship, narrowly defeating the defending champion, Simpson Academy, by two points. The state championship effort was anchored by Leah Collipp finishing second and Emily Williams finishing third, both girls earning All-State honors among the top ten finishers. The varsity men did not run a full team, but solo competitor Grayson Blair improved his 5K time by nearly seven minutes, setting a new personal record of 22:51:00.

The JV teams, competing in the 3K open inclusive of all MAIS JV teams

combined (regardless of class size), featured the Patriot JV boys finishing fourth out of fifteen teams and the Patriot JV girls finishing eighth of seventeen teams. The JV boys' fourth place team finish included Top 25 performances from Walker Sartin (14); John Parker Pierce (20); and Jadon McGee (25). The JV girls' top finisher was Jensen Baker in 25.

As a result of the season performance, the varsity girls' team qualified by time (21:35 average 5K) and state final results to post-season competition at the inaugural Mississippi XC All-State Meet of Champions was held on November 13. This meet pitted the best public and private cross country schools in the state for an overall crown and cross country swag.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The ERA 2021 girls cross country team, led by Coach David Hopper, celebrated winning the MAIS 5A State Championship with Leah Collipp finishing second and Emily Williams finishing third. The Cross Country team also finished third in the All-State Meet on November 13. This meet pitted the best public and private Cross Country schools in the state for an overall crown. All-State honors went to Leah Collipp who finished first; Emily Williams who finished second; and Audrey Mayatte who earned an Honorable Mention. Overall, it was a great season for many ERA athletes who achieved personal records.



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