

2020 Fall

FOOTBALL PREVIEW



September 2020
A Special Supplement to

**Lake Okeechobee News
& Caloosa Belle**



- **2020 Season Previews**
- **2019 Season Highlights**
- **Schedules & More**

Football returns with a twist: extra safety precautions

The entire world was rocked by COVID-19 and has had to make adjustments to stay safe. Football is no exception.

The new guidelines have made for a unique experience for coaches and players this year.

Face masks and hand sanitizers are now a must have at every practice field around Lake Okeechobee. Coaches have to manage how many players are in each group at a time, players are socially distanced during warm-ups and each get their own personal water bottle.

"Just like everybody else we went out and invested in water bottles for every player," said Okeechobee coach Ty Smith. "It looks like a mess because you have bottles all over the field. We're spraying the footballs down between drills. We're trying to do as much as possible. We're taking those precautions."

The usual post-game handshakes between teams is off the table this year. Following the final whistle both teams will leave the field. Concession stands will be offering only prepackaged goods such as chips,

candy and soda cans. Attendance will be limited at games.

"Like anybody, the kids probably aren't thrilled to have to wear masks," Clewiston coach Pete Walker said.

"And all the other things we have to do to stay safe. But I think if it comes down to it they'd rather be doing all of this rather than not playing."

LAKE OKEECHOBEE NEWS and CALOOSA BELLE are proud to be part of this year's unparalleled season.

Best of luck to all the area teams!

Photo Credit

Photos shown on the cover and on this intro page were taken by Lake Okeechobee News staff photographer Richard Marion



Good luck, Brahmans!



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Watch Out for the Swarm
Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Clewiston defenders swarm a LaBelle player during 2019's Hendry County Bowl. The Tigers won 36-3.

Clewiston Tigers earn their experience the hard way

By Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON – Last season the Clewiston Tigers were able to fight their way back into the playoffs again thanks to a win over the Okeechobee Brahms in the final game of the regular season.

It was longtime Tigers coach Pete Walker's first year back after a two year hiatus. His return helped Clewiston improve their record to 6-6 after the team went only 2-8 in 2018. The Tigers were a young team last year. And they faced all the adversity that comes with that.

But they found a way to win. And as the 2019 season rolled on, it became clear that the young Tigers squad was building confidence and starting to learn how to control a game. Perhaps nothing demonstrated that more than their playoff win over the Lake Placid Dragons.

The Dragons had just scored a touchdown with six minutes remaining in the game, biting into Clewiston's lead to make the score 28-21. The Dragons were looking to score again to tie things up and force overtime, but the Clewiston defense stood strong and forced a turnover on

downs with 4 minutes left in the game, giving their offense the ball at their own 17 yard line.

The Tigers needed a drive on offense to run out the clock and deny the Dragons a chance to tie the game. With all the pressure in the world on them they pushed the Dragons all the way down to the 1-yard line. Jaivus Chavers and Ahmad Gary picked their way through Lake Placid defense with the help of the Clewiston offensive line.



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Clewiston took the final snap of the game in victory formation and quarterback Morris James took a knee at the 1-yard line to end the game.

Now, that young team is back to make another run.

"We have a good football team," said coach Walker before Clewiston's first practice. "Every year each team takes on



its own different personality. Chemistry is so important in football. We feel like we have a good group of kids coming back. They're working hard and they've played a lot of football together. You know they were young last year, but they gained a lot of experience. Some of it the hard way. I thought we were playing our best football at the end of the year."

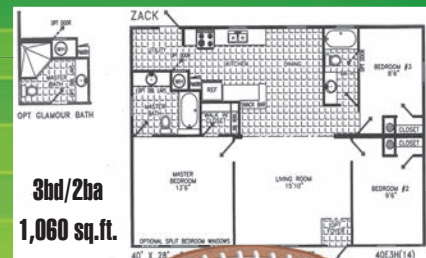
The team has had to adjust to COVID-19 safety regulations in 2020. Face masks when not playing and hand sanitizer are now the mainstay on Cane Field.

"Football is a tough sport to coach as it is," explained Walker. "Been doing it for nearly 30 years now. If you're doing it right it's very demanding. A lot of organization and planning does into it. Now you have to triple that. We're cleaning the equipment regularly, staying on top of the kids about staying apart when not in drills, just all the CDC guideline that you try to do your best with. Football is a little harder to do than most sports. But I think my staff has done a great job."

Returning this season are Oran Singleton, Mikel Gordon, Keuntay Felton, Jabrian Davis, James Edwards, Michael Holmes Jr. and more. The Tigers have will have the game day experience to make a run this year.

"With them missing spring football and being gone for a long time, now that they're back they are excited," said Walker. "They're probably not thrilled to wear masks and all the other things we have to do to be safe. But I think they'd rather do that than be not playing."

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Tigers Block Party

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

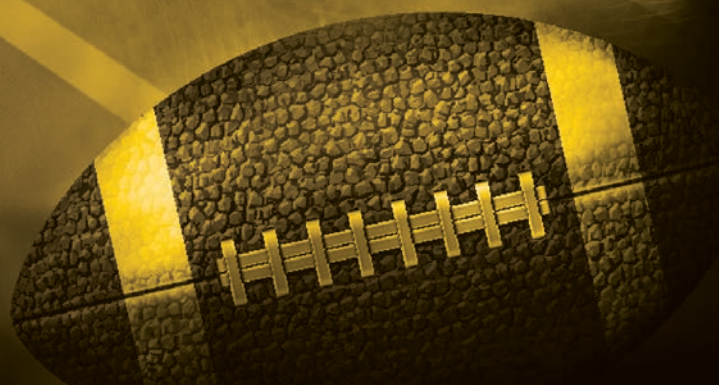
A Clewiston player blocks an Okeechobee player during a 2019 game.

CLEWISTON TIGERS 2020

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



Date	Time	Opponent	Place
09/04	@7:30pm	OPEN	HOME
09/11	@7:30pm	LaBelle	AWAY
09/18	@7:30pm	Wachula Hardee	AWAY
10/02	@7:30pm	Arcadia DeSoto	HOME
10/09	@7:30pm	Archbishop McCarthy	HOME
10/16	@7:30pm	Cardinal Newman	HOME
10/23	@7:30pm	American Heritage	HOME
10/30	@7:30pm	Pahokee	HOME
11/06	@7:00pm	Okeechobee	AWAY



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TEAM ROSTER

Oran Singleton Jr.
#1 WR, DB

Chauncy Cobb
#2 WR, CB

Ahmad Gary
#3 RB, DB

Zaylen Bennett
#4 WR, DB

James Edwards
#5 RB, CB

Morris James
#6 QB

Dawnya Washington
#7 RB, DB

Keuntay Felton
#8 MLB, TE

Jahmad Hanna
#9 DB, WR

Preston Thompson
#10 WR, DB

Michael Holmes Jr.
#11 QB, CB, WR

Jalen Cole
#12 WR, DB

William Rimes
#15 QB, WR, DB

Josue Gonzalez
#17 K

Micah Grooms
#20 WR, DB

Ashawn James
#22 WR, DB

Jose Fajardo
#25 K

Zailin Jackson
#30 RB, LB

Luis Cruz
#33 FB, DE

Isaiah Hughes
#34 De, OLB

Jaiden Washington
#35 RB, LB, DE

Jerron Jackson
#41 MLB, OLB

John Molina
#45 RB, DB

Jose Herrera
#50 OLB

Jase Thompson
#51 OC, DT

Chris Bermudez
#52 G, DL

Jeremy Greaves
#54 OL, DL

Joshua Simon
#55 OL, DT

Mikel Gordon
#56 OL, DL

Jabrian Davis
#57 OC, DL

Isais Raya
#64 DL

Hampton McDonald
#66 Position

Oswaldo Cervantes
#68 T, DT

Waylon Bowers
#70 T, DT

Dayron Franklin
#75 T, DE

Deangelo Williams
#76 OL, DT

Jahiem Burton
#82 TE, DE

Pahokee and Glades Central are making the most of their unexpected opportunity of time

By Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News

PAHOKEE— Something feels wrong about football games kicking-off around Lake Okeechobee without the Pahokee Blue Devils and Glades Central Raiders on the field.

Both programs are perennial powerhouses in the area. While other schools ride waves of success followed by rebuilding years, Pahokee and Glades Central expect to be in the running for a state championship every season.

The annual Muck Bowl between the teams is legendary. Last year a documentary crew followed both teams and captured the ups and downs of each of their seasons leading up to the Muck Bowl. If you've watched a Super Bowl in the last few years, you've probably seen a player or two on the field from one of the schools.

But now, thanks to the threat of COVID-19, these legendary high school football programs are on stand-by.

Still, Pahokee coach D.J. Boldin views the unexpected adversity as another opportunity.

"It's very unfortunate that our kids on the muck are on the outside looking in when it comes to playing football this season," said Boldin. "To me this is a great teaching tool. I talk a lot about adversity and life throwing curveballs to my kids. Well, this is one real life situation where life has thrown us a curveball. So what do we do now?"

"The solution to me is simple," continued Boldin. "Continue to prepare yourself for if and when the season is going to start for us, however that will look. Maybe it's 10 games or maybe it's 4. It really doesn't matter because when given the



Go Ahead & Jump

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Pahokee's Jermaine Roberson leaps over Glades Central's Jahmad Hanna in the 2019 Muck Bowl.

opportunity we will make the most of it."

Raiders coach Jessie Hester was let go from the football program at the end of the season last year. Hester had guided the Raiders to respectable 4-4 record through the first half of their season, but an issue with one player's GPA dipping below 2.0 led to the FHSAA forcing Glades Central to forfeit all games in which that player had played.

It was devastating news to the program that was looking to finish strong heading into their final two games of the season. Even with the forfeited games, the Raiders still had a chance to make the playoffs if they beat Pahokee. But the Blue Devils pulled off a late comeback in the Muck Bowl and punched their ticket to the postseason.

Pahokee would go on a tear in the playoffs and fight all the way to the state semi-final where they lost by one point.

After last season Glades Central brought in Rashad Jackson take over coaching duties. Jackson played for the Raiders and won a championship with the team in 2006, so he is well aware of the expectations of Raiders fans. But he is still waiting for his first chance to get his players in pads and get to work.



Muck City Watch

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Glades Central players watch as their defense attempts to stop Pahokee in the Muck Bowl. Both team's 2019 seasons were captured in a new eight-part docu-series titled "4th and Forever: Muck City," which premiered on May 14 on Curiositystream.



Trophy Dreams

Glades Central players are hoping they'll get the opportunity to add their school's name to the Muck Bowl trophy in 2020.

Lake Okeechobee News



Riding Shotgun

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Pahokee's Keyonvis Bouie and Tamichael Boldin line up in the backfield during the 2019 Sugar Bowl.

For now the student-athletes will have to focus on the first part of their title and try to be the best students they can be.

"Now is the time to focus on academics," explained Boldin. "It's very challenging to focus on academics when football is going on and with no football and with the ACT/SAT being waived for college admission, our kids should take advantage. These are all the things that are on the bright side of us being on the outside looking in. Make sure we are taking the correct courses, getting our kids cleared through the NCAA clearing house."

"I am still optimistic about a football season," concluded Boldin. "No matter how it looks or when it will start."



High Toss in the Playoffs

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Glades Day's A.J. McPhee tosses a pass over a defender.

Glades Day Gators ready to build new legacy

By Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News

BELLE GLADE— With public schools in Palm Beach County currently putting a hold on extra-curricular activities, private schools like Glades Day have been one of the few able to continue with their preparations for the upcoming football season.

The Glades Day Gators began their summer workouts back in June, and it was a welcome distraction for many on the team from the pandemic gripping the country.

"The summer went as good as can be expected," said Glades Day coach Zach Threlkeld. "We started summer workouts June 8. We had an excellent turnout.

At that point I feel the kids were ready to train and be back in a structured environment again. They also missed the camaraderie."

COVID-19 has already impacted football programs along the Treasure Coast. Centennial and Fort Pierce Westwood have had to cancel practices, and Vero Beach had to quarantine players after a student tested positive for the virus.

Glades Day is now the first of the football programs around Lake Okeechobee to be affected. Gators players had to quarantine for the two weeks starting in the last week of August following a positive result from a student, which put practice on hold.

That forced Glades Day to move their game on Sept. 11 against Boca Raton Christian to Oct. 9.

Players all around the lake have had to adjust to the safety procedures put in place due to COVID-19. But Threlkeld has preached to the Gators that following them will help them save their season.

"We stressed to the kids that if they wanted to give themselves the best chance to play each game, then they had to be disciplined with the safety procedures," explained Threlkeld. "At first it was difficult getting them to understand this."

One of the biggest losses this season for the Gators was A.J. McPhee, who graduated last year. McPhee had done a

little bit of everything for Glades Day on offense and defense. When they needed a big play, he was the one the team would turn to.

He was able to keep the Gators in the game when they faced the Okeechobee Brahmans last year. Okeechobee senior Veyon Washington deservedly got a lot of the headlines in the days following the game for breaking school records, but McPhee's effort in that game was just as admirable.

Heading into that matchup the comparisons between the two players were unavoidable. Both Washington and McPhee were in their senior season and both played in multiple key positions on their team such as quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back. Both had shown an ability to move the ball on offense, through the air and on the ground and both are previous Big Lake Athlete of the Week winners.

For every touchdown Washington scored, McPhee had an answer. Glades Day nearly forced overtime in the high-scoring game, but came up just short and fell 48-40.

Now it will be another Gator's turn to step up. The Gators will be back on the field to face King's Academy on Sept. 18 in Belle Glade.



In the pressure cooker

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Moore Haven's Zion Moore puts pressure on Glades Day quarterback Matthew Shannon. Zion was a force of nature on the defensive line for the Terriers in 2019.



Hard Work Pays Off

Courtesy Photo/Glades Day Facebook

Hard work, dedication and teamwork paid off for the Glades Day Gators as they proudly showcased one of their Class 1A Football State Champions trophies on the school's official Facebook account.



Rain, Rain, Go Away

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

The Glades Day Gators look to the sideline as rain pours down in their game against the Okeechobee Brahmans in 2019.

GLADES DAY GATORS 2020**FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE**

Date	Time	Opponent	Place
09/18	@7:00pm	King's Academy	HOME
09/25	@7:00pm	Berean Christian	HOME
10/02	@7:00pm	Jupiter Christian	AWAY
10/09	@7:00pm	Boca Raton Christian	HOME
10/16	@7:00pm	First Baptist Academy	HOME
10/23	@7:00pm	Moore Haven	HOME
10/30	@7:00pm	Okeechobee	AWAY
11/06	@7:00pm	St. John Paul II Academy	AWAY

Glades Day Cheerleaders

*Arielle Harvey • Camber Pope • Landry Pitts
Jenna Smith • Hana Lohmann • Isabella Filocomo
Sophie Stroud • Sydney Stroud • Melody Viera*

**TEAM ROSTER**

Damian Cunningham
#1 CB, WR, RB

Marquis Clarke
#2 WR

Everic Morgan
#3

Adrian Espinoza
#4

Hardley Gilmore
#5

Wyatt Vallee
#6

Dylan Wilkins
#7 WR, SS

Jenorris Wilcher
#8

Dante Marquez
#9 WR, CB

Austin Russell
#10

Asher Prescott
#11

Pete Morell
#12

J.T. Ocanas
#13 WR, CB

Jamaurio Castenada
#14

Ryan Hale
#15 MLB, RB

Julian Bueno
#34

Jose Cabrera
#44 OLB

Greyson Gonzalez
#45

Imanol Hernandez
#50 G, DT

Francisco Barbosa
#51

Noah Deaton
#52 DE, T

Miguel Gonzalez
#53 DE, DT

Stacey Shannon
#54 G, DT

Koda Ivey
#55 WR, SS

Jorge Navarro
#56 DE

Dhruv Patel
#57 T

Johnathan Rivera
#58 DE, G

Julian Ramos
#64

Beau Hughes
#66

Anthony Martin
#70 G

Isaiah Hinojosa
#73

McKinley Holman
#75

Angel Silva
#77



LaBelle Cowboys look to ride again in 2020

Blinded by the Light

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

LaBelle's Paul Morrison leads his teammate to sunlight as the Tiger defense attacks.



By Richard Marion

Lake Okeechobee News

LABELLE— Last season former LaBelle Cowboy Matt Davidson took over the reigns as coach of the program after a talented 2018 senior class graduated and moved on.

Those seniors propelled the Cowboys all the way to an 8-4 record and a ticket to the regional semifinal in 2018. Losing them was a big blow for Davidson, who had been the coach of the junior varsity program. But it's something every football program has to overcome.

The Cowboys opened 2019 in dominant fashion, with a 49-6 blowout win over Southwest Florida Christian. Senior Cutter Cochran ran for two touchdowns and junior Jaylon Gallegos rushed for two more. The game was a great start for a young Cowboys looking to make a run. But it would turn out to be one of their only two wins that year, as LaBelle finished with a 2-8 record.

But that 2-8 record on its face can be deceiving. Many games last season were closer than you would think looking at their record.

The Cowboys lost two games by only one point last year. Facing district newcomers Mariner and Cape Coral, LaBelle lost 18-19 and 13-14 respectively. Heartbreaking losses, but young teams facing the adversity that comes from kind of close losses often come out on the other side a better team. Steel sharpens steel. The Cowboys last year found themselves on the edge of winning those games. This year



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they need to take that extra step and cross the finish line.

Cowboys supporters won't have to wait long for a rematch of last year's Hendry County Bowl. LaBelle and the Clewiston Tigers face off on Sept. 11 this season. Last year the Tigers came into LaBelle and brought the Hendry County title back to Clewiston, beating the Cowboys 36-3.

Most of the damage was done in the second quarter, when the Tigers racked up 29 points. But, once again, the score is a little deceiving. You would imagine with a score of 36-3, the Cowboys must've been rolled over. But in reality, the Cowboys hurt themselves more than anyone else. Costly turnovers and penalties killed the momentum any time they had some positive progress.

Those things happening will cause you to lose games. But the good news is that they are fixable.

LaBelle junior Jaylon Gallegos and senior Cutter Cochran won some hard-fought yards on the ground against a dominant Tiger defensive line in the game in the first half, but it seemed that any time the Cowboys had a big play, a penalty would bring the ball back.

While the Tigers ran up the score in the first half, the second half was almost a completely different game.

The Cowboys defense was able to enforce their will on the Tigers offense and dominate the line of scrimmage after halftime. The Clewiston offensive line had some trouble slowing down the Cowboys early. LaBelle senior Michael Ramos wreaked havoc in the Tiger backfield, often reaching the Clewiston ball carrier right as they took the handoff. Was this the result of the Clewiston offensive line wearing down in the September heat with a short week of practice, or the Cowboys defense starting to pin their ears back in the second half? Probably a bit of both. Regardless, it gave the LaBelle home crowd something to cheer for and frustrated the large Clewiston contingent.

The talent is there for LaBelle. Now they just have to execute and finish games.



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Cowboys!**



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Huddle Up

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
The LaBelle Cowboy offense discusses their game plan during a timeout.

LABELLE COWBOYS 2020

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



Josiah Beecham

#24 CB

Andre Fundora

#26 MLB

Kruz Jimenez

#27 DB

Bayden Oliver

#28 SS, FS

Kade Logsdon

#33 DE, TE

Luis Vizcarra

#34 OLB

Rodrigo Ramos

#42 LB

Johnathan Munson

#44 OLB, MLB

Alexis Lucas

#50 DE

Jaden Razo

#52 OL, DL

Aj Echevarria

#53 FB, DT

James Campbell

#55 C, T, G

Champ Thompson

#56 DE, DT

Xavier Vargas

#62 NG, DT

Jayden Arriaga

#64 G, T

Caden Rimes

#68 OL, DL

Adam Reinbott

#70 T, G

Max Lofton

#72 T, G

Rylan Sanders

#75 T, G

Remington French

#88 OLB

TEAM ROSTER

Colton Bass

#1 WR

Lawson Davidson

#2 QB

Kaden Grimaldo

#3 QB, WR

Jaylon Gallegos

#5 RB, KR

Marlan Skervin

#6 DB, RB, WR

Zack Mann

#7 LB, ATH

Trevor Vahle

#8 WR, LB

Evan Williams

#9 K, P

Tanner Spencer

#10 QB, WR

Elvis Casanova

#11 WR, S

Anthony Horta

#13 CB, FS, SS

Kaleb Byrd

#15 SS

Jose Dimas

#17 WR

Hayden Saxon

#20 LB

Jonathan Howard

#21 CB

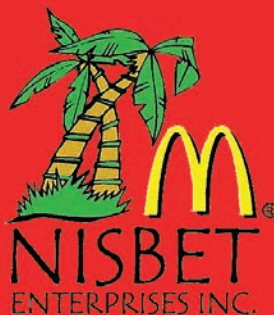
Diomar Rodriguez

#22 WR

Billy Villegas

#23 DL, TE

Date	Time	Opponent	Place
09/11	@7:30pm	Clewiston	AWAY
09/17	@7:00pm	Estero	AWAY
09/25	@7:00pm	Lemon Bay	HOME
10/02	@7:00pm	Mariner	HOME
10/09	@7:00pm	SW FL Christian	AWAY
10/16	@7:00pm	DeSoto County	AWAY
10/23	@7:00pm	Cypress Lake	AWAY
10/30	@7:00pm	Cape Coral	HOME
11/06	@7:00pm	Moore Haven	AWAY

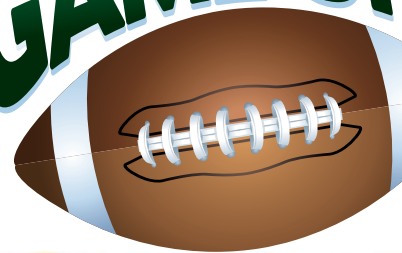


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Moore Haven Terriers rebuild and reload for 2020

Celebrate good times, come on!

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Terriers' players celebrate following a victory.



By Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN— The Moore Haven Terriers have built themselves into an unlikely powerhouse in the last few years.

Going undefeated in 2017, 8-2 in 2018, and 7-6 in 2019 even while facing a tougher schedule. They also made it into the playoffs in each of those years.

But a lot of the core of those players that made that run has now graduated, leaving behind a younger Terrier squad to protect their legacy.

"We lost 16 seniors off of last year's team," explained Moore Haven coach Brent Burnside. "And a lot of those kids were a big part of our success over the last two or three years. Defensively, we lost a lot of production on that side of the ball. So now the question is who is going to step up?"

Even with the turnover, there are still going to be some familiar faces on the Terriers sideline in 2020.

Nate Crawford will be in the backfield for his senior year. He's been a 1000 yard rusher for the Terriers for the past two years. Johnny Crawford III will be joining him, who Burnside calls a rising junior this year.

"Johnny was injured and banged up for a few weeks early last year," Burnside said. "So he really didn't get to get into a groove. And then he kind of ended up in that backup role. He will have to step up this year, though."

We got a preview of how the backfield will look with Nate and Johnny during the Terriers regional semifinal game against the Westminster Academy Lions last year.

Clinging to a one-point lead in the fourth quarter, Johnny broke loose for a huge 50-yard run to the Lion's red zone. From there Nate Crawford punched the ball into the endzone to put Moore Haven up 20-13. Overall Nate rushed for 181 yards and three touchdowns against the Lions.

Despite the chaos that come with trying to put together a football schedule during COVID-19, Moore Haven will be facing an old rival once again in 2020- Glades Day. But they will also be hosting another school around the lake with whom a new

**To All Area Teams – Good Luck
On A Successful Season!**



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rivalry seems to be sparking – the Okeechobee Brahmans.

"Okeechobee kind of sparked up last year," said Burnside of the Terriers' 2019 game against the Brahmans. "We're pretty similar programs. You know we have some kids that are familiar with each other. I think that could be a pretty good relationship if we can keep that going. Maybe that's something we could pull off traditionally."

Last year's match between the two teams saw Okeechobee take a 14-0 lead with three minutes left in the second quarter. But the Terriers made the most out of those last three minutes.

Moore Haven quarterback LJ Sampson rolled out of the

pocket and hit Kelton Hallback on a 68-yard touchdown pass to cut the Brahman lead in half. Then, on the next Okeechobee possession, Terrier senior Ja'veon Tullock made a diving interception of a pass by Veyon Washington. A few plays later Nate Crawford broke a few tackles and waltzed into the end zone to tie the game up before halftime.

Nate put up two more touchdowns in the second half, while the Terrier defense shut down the Okeechobee offense.

The Terriers host Okeechobee on the first game of the season this year, this time in Moore Haven. The Brahmans will make the trip south of the lake to take on the Terriers at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11.



Rivals Face Off

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Moore Haven and Okeechobee seem to be in the beginning stages of a growing rivalry.



Born to Run

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Moore Haven's L.J. Sampson pulls the ball back as Okeechobee's Tydale Lubin closes in.

MOORE HAVEN TERRIERS 2020

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Opponent	Place
09/11	@7:00pm	Okeechobee	HOME
09/18	@7:30pm	Lake Placid	AWAY
09/25	@12:00pm	Gateway Charter	HOME
10/09	@7:00pm	First Baptist Academy	AWAY
10/16	@7:00pm	Frostproof	AWAY
10/23	@7:00pm	Glades Day	AWAY
10/30	@7:00pm	Evangelical Christian	AWAY
11/06	@7:00pm	LaBelle	HOME



TEAM ROSTER

- | |
|---|
| AJ Anderson
#33 FB, DT |
| Sa'daurveyun Hall Jr
#1 CB, SS |
| Johnny Crawford Jr.
#9 WR, FS |
| Johnny Crawford III
#10 RB, SB |
| Wyatt Hines
#15 QB, OLB |
| Dante Robinson
#19 SB, CB |
| Nate Crawford
#20 RB, SS |
| Maurice McClain Jr.
#22 DT, FB |
| Hector Rodriguez III
#23 WR, CB |
| Wallace Parker Jr.
#23 MLB |
| Artivistus Ware
#25 RB |
| Jamari Edwards
#45 MLB, OLB |
| Hector Rodriguez
#50 MLB |
| Bryan McDuffie
#53 DT, NG |
| Jawaun Cox
#54 T, DE |
| Alec Williams
#57 |
| Eebonik Simmons
#59 G, C |
| Justin Connell
#65 T, NG |
| Jamarion Cunningham
#65 |
| D'Arrion Washington
#81 |
| Elijah Tolen
#82 |



BE THE CHANGE



Brahmans ready to take advantage of their opportunity

Ready or Not, Here They Come

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

The Okeechobee Brahmans wait to make their entrance.



By Richard Marion

Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE— The Okeechobee Brahman are grateful to have the opportunity to play football in 2020.

After COVID-19 effectively ended all spring sports at Okeechobee High School earlier this year, members of the Brahman football program have a new appreciation for how fleeting these moments can be. And they're hoping to

take advantage of the moment in front of them.

"I think the kids are more appreciative of the game," said Brahman coach Ty Smith. "And they're more appreciative of the time they get to spend with their teammates."

The Brahmans went 2-8 in 2019, losing some close games along the way. Despite the uneven season, in one of the most entertaining games of the year,

senior Veyon Washington put up a record breaking performance against the Glades Day Gators.

Washington racked up 397 yards rushing, five rushing touchdowns and one passing touchdown in a 48-40 Okeechobee win against the Gators. He also broke the all-time single game rushing record at Okeechobee High School previously held by Lonnie Pryor. Oh, and he made a few critical game-changing



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plays on defense and special teams as well. No big deal.

That kind of performance is why the Brahmans are going to miss having Veyon on the sideline this year. But coach Smith thinks he has another player ready to step into the role that Washington held in the program - sophomore Michael Burgarelli.

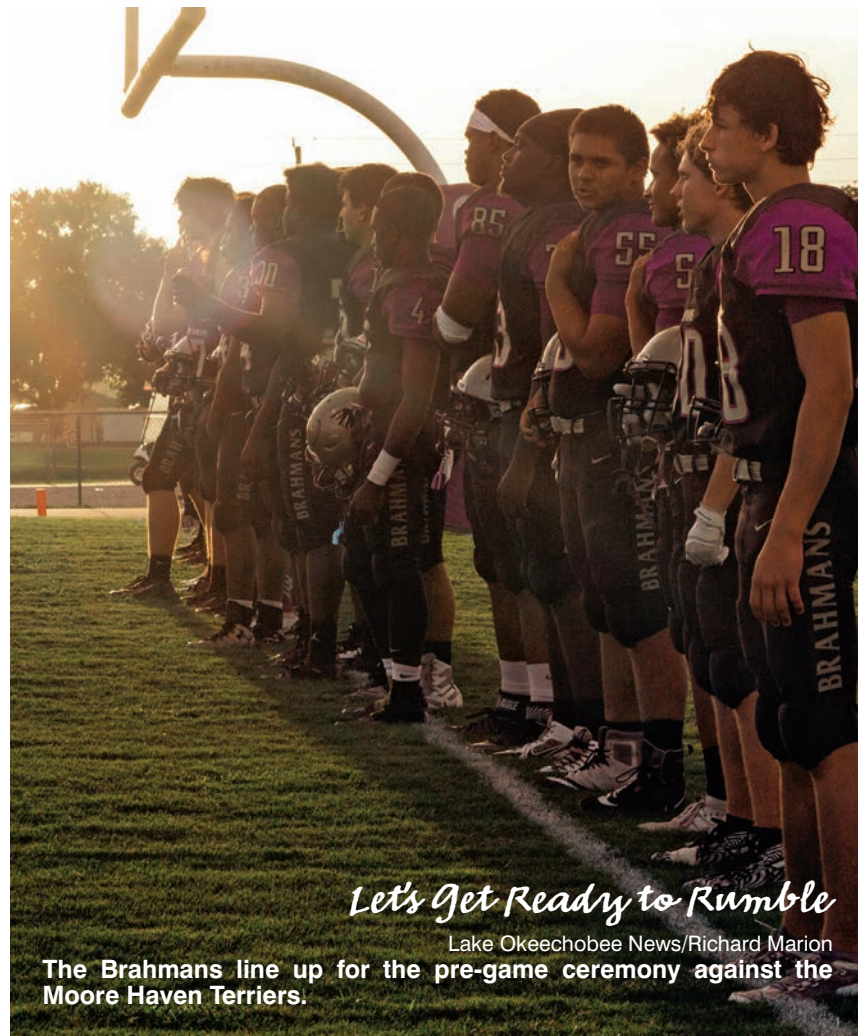
Burgarelli was one of the surprises on the field last year for the Brahmans as a freshman. As soon as defenses began keying in on Washington, suddenly Burgarelli would explode through the line for a huge gain. In the early minutes of Okeechobee's game against Moore Haven it was Burgarelli who caught the Terriers off guard, zooming down the sidelines for a 74-yard touchdown to put the Brahmans up 7-0.

"Mike has taken on the role of what Veyon was doing last year," Smith remarked. "He turned our heads. We have a good group of younger guys. Josiah Stanford was injured last year in the beginning of the season as a freshman. He's someone we're looking to see make an impact at running back. I think this is the most depth we've had in the backfield since we had Lonnie playing for us."

Still, the Brahmans are a young team, particularly at the skill position. But Smith highlighted two seniors, Tyrone Thomas and Jihad Yamin, as leaders that have stepped up early this year.

"They have completely stepped their game up so far," said Smith. "They're holding people accountable and being that voice we've needed for the last three years."

Troy Young, Rowan Hanley and Will Rivero are all expected to play big roles on the Brahman defense this season. While



Let's Get Ready to Rumble

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
The Brahmans line up for the pre-game ceremony against the Moore Haven Terriers.



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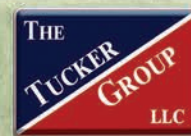


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Duck and Run

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Okeechobee's Jayquavious Thomas ducks under a defender.

Jayquavious Thomas, who already has offers from Arkansas and Wisconsin, looks to be Okeechobee's deep threat on offense.

The Brahmans open their season on the road in Moore Haven for a rematch against the Terriers, who are also fielding a young team this year.

"It'll be one of those competitive games again," said Smith. "Regardless of the classification between our schools, we've always had some battles throughout the years. And our kids know each other, so there's a little bit of trash talk and back and forth. They love to trash talk each other. But at the same time they're friends and I know there is respect hidden behind it."

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Good luck, Brahmans!

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Morgan Jackson
Yajaira Jones
Priscilla Rodriguez
Skye Roberts
Gianna Immerfall
Taylor McCranie
Harley Davis
Madison Hillard
Shelby Wooten
Aubrie McWorter Diaz
Aaliyah Baez

JV

Cloe Rhoden
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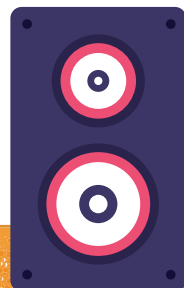
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OKEECHOBEE BRAHMANS 2020

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



Date	Time	Opponent	Place
09/11	@7:00pm	Moore Haven	AWAY
09/18	@7:00pm	John Carroll	AWAY
09/25	@7:00pm	South Fork	HOME
10/02	@7:00pm	Sebastian River	AWAY
10/09	@7:00pm	Westwood	AWAY
10/16	@7:00pm	Port St. Lucie	HOME
10/23	@7:00pm	Martin County	HOME
10/30	@7:00pm	Glades Day	HOME
11/06	@7:00pm	Clewiston	HOME

TEAM ROSTER

Jayquavious Thomas
#3 WR, QB

Michael Burgarelli
#5 RB, OLB

Leonides Castellanos
#6 RB, FB, OLB

Josiah Stanford
#8 RB, OLB

Avonte Hagins
#9 SS, FS

William Rivero
#10 OLB, FB

Joshua Suarez
#13 WR, FS

Sebastian Sims
#18 WR, FS

Braelon Pelt
#21 RB, MLB

Troy Young
#23 RB, MLB

Tydale Lubin
#30 TE, DT, DE

Jerome Roundtree
#32 OLB, RB

Peyton Jarriel
#42 MLB

Jihad Yamin
#52 G, K

Terrance Hill
#56 DE, FB

Ramiro Rodriguez
#60 G, C

Saturnino Jai-
mes-Antunez

#65 G, NG, DT

Kevin Dryden
#66

Derrick Pinder
#80 FS

Gavin Driggers
#82 OLB, TE

Rowan Hanley Jr.
#85 DE, DT

Tyrone Thomas
#99 DT, NG



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