GAME ON

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COFFEE HIGH TROJANS

**2019 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

- **09 AUG**
  - FITZGERALD (SCRIMMAGE)
    - Away | 7:30 PM

- **23 AUG**
  - Brunswick
    - Away | 7:30 PM

- **30 AUG**
  - Salem
    - Home | 7:30 PM

- **06 SEP**
  - Ware County
    - Home | 7:30 PM

- **13 SEP**
  - J.P. Taravella (FL)
    - Home | 7:30 PM

- **20 SEP**
  - Miller Grove
    - Homecoming | 7:30 PM

- **04 OCT**
  - Godby (FL)
    - Home | 7:30 PM

- **11 OCT**
  - Northside WR
    - Home - Region Game | 7:30 PM

- **18 OCT**
  - Valdosta
    - Home - Region Game | 7:30 PM

- **25 OCT**
  - Houston County
    - Away - Region Game | 7:30 PM

- **08 NOV**
  - Lee County
    - Away - Region Game | 7:30 PM

15 NOV - 1st Round State Playoffs
22 NOV - 2nd Round State Playoffs
29 NOV - State Quarterfinals
06 DEC - State Semifinals
13 DEC - State Finals at Georgia State Stadium

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So how did the Coffee Trojans follow their state runner up finish from 2017? By all accounts, the Trojans had a solid year. They didn’t get back to the state finals – or even the semi-finals, for that matter. But what they did do was take a team with small, inexperienced skill players, a new quarterback and a lot of youth to a 9-4 record and a third round appearance in the state playoffs. Despite finishing just 1-3 in region play, Coffee demonstrated just how difficult Region 1-6A is – all four of the playoff teams from Region 1 went at least three rounds deep. Two of those teams – Northside Warner Robins and Lee County – played for a state championship, with Lee winning its second straight title 14-0.

Coming into 2019, Coffee, like most teams, has its strengths and weaknesses. Its strengths include returning a proven playmaker under center in junior quarterback AJ Wilkinson, most of the skill positions on offense, and a number of starters on defense. The weaknesses? The offensive line has just one starter and, like the majority of the team, is undersized. They’re tough. They’re quick. They’re strong. But they aren’t big. “They’re going to have to step up. Our size is going to be a factor. Our skill guys average 150 pounds. It’s going to be a little different this year. It’s going to be fast paced and up tempo. We’ve had to change some things up,” says head coach Robby Pruitt.

Despite the challenges, the Trojans opened the season ranked in the AJC top 10 (at #6) and have looked good in the first two games of the season. The good news is that there is some size and talent among the younger kids in the program. Coach Pruitt and his staff have proven they can get the most out of their players and scheme to their strengths. Coffee is positioned to make another run deep into the post-season. Just how deep will they go? We will find out in December.
COFFEE HIGH TROJAN COACHES

Front row: Ben Swafford, Zach Marx, Jason McEachin, Mike Booth, Ricky Hutchison, Jay Jones, John Lindsey.

WE’VE GOT TROJAN PRIDE!

COFFEE HIGH TROJANS
Quarterbacks. Everyone wants to talk about quarterbacks. The Trojans are fortunate to have three excellent signal callers. Junior AJ Wilkerson is back after a solid 2018 campaign. He’s far from a prototypical quarterback but he’s one of those kids who doesn’t care what he’s supposed to do. He’s confident in what he can do – and what he does is make plays. He can run, he can throw, he can lead. And that’s what he’s going to do in 2019.

Backing him up are two talented youngsters. Sophomores Za Simpson and Justin Swords have both shown that they, too, can play the position. Simpson is a dual-threat type of player similar to Wilkerson while Swords is exactly what you think about when you picture a quarterback. He’s not afraid to run but his real strength lies in his arm. He’s a big, fast kid – 6’3” with a cannon of an arm. He’s reminiscent of a Keegan McGovern or Will Gardner, both of whom Coffee fans remember well.

The job is Wilkerson’s. But should the need arise, both Simpson and Swords are capable young quarterbacks.

While everyone likes to talk skill players, the offensive line sets the tone for the entire team. Without a strong offensive line, a team is at a disadvantage. The Trojans have a capable line. They’re certainly strong. But they aren’t experienced and they aren’t very big. Coffee has one senior starter returning from last year – left tackle John Barrett. He is the line’s leader and they’re going to look to him for direction as the season progresses. Peyton Adams, sophomore, is at center. Quinton Texidor, a fellow sophomore, will also see some time at center. None of the guards started last year so their learning curve will be steep. Junior Joey Roberts, senior Bailey Weathers, and junior Parker Mullis will have to grow up quickly. Along with Barrett, sophomore Cole Edge and senior Isaiah Styles will line up at tackle. At tight end, junior Luke Waldron, junior Peyton Wheeles and senior Malachi Williams, along with several other players, will see significant playing time.

And what about that size? Most of these players are around 5’10”, 260. That’s not small – unless you compare them to some of the monsters other teams in the region have on their lines. But what the Trojans lack in size they make up in speed and strength. Coffee’s line is going to be one of the quicker lines in the region. And they’re going to have to use that to their advantage as much as possible.

Pictured above are front row: John Dykes, Cody Maddox, Luke Waldron, Jamaal Colson, Johnny Wilcox, Joey Roberts.
Middle row: Cole Edge, Parker Hines, Peyton Adams, Conley Harkleroad, Quinton Texidor, Parker Mullis, Jacob Strom.
At wide receiver, the Trojans return several players from last year – again, proven playmakers who already have a great rapport with Wilkerson. Jamal Paulk is the only senior – and he’s going to spend a lot of time in the backfield. Juniors KJ Davis and Trenton Davis, along with a couple of other players who will see action at other positions (including defensive back), will be Wilkerson’s primary targets.
RUNNING BACKS

Running backs. The Trojans are deep and talented at the position. But, like everywhere else, they’re a little small. Maybe the most experienced back is in fact the smallest – the diminutive Antonio Dawson. A senior, Dawson tips the scales at around 130 pounds but has proven to be remarkably durable despite his small stature. He ran into injury problems – literally and figuratively – late last season. Fast, quick, and elusive, he will be a cornerstone of Coffee’s offense yet again this year.

Sharing the ball carrying duties with Dawson will be sophomore Maurice Turner, who, despite his relative youth, is himself a proven playmaker. Senior Jamal Paulk left the Coffee program many years ago for Irwin County. He has moved back to Coffee County and will be an impact player in the backfield and at wide receiver. Sophomores Deuce Eddington and AJ Franklin will also run the ball quite a bit as well. And one of the big surprises from last year, Josiah Killiebrew, will continue running the ball again. A big, bruising kid who is primarily a defensive lineman, Killiebrew proved to be a capable running back in certain situations. He’s not the tallest player in the backfield but he’s the most punishing. At 270 pounds, he’s very difficult to bring down and is surprisingly nimble for such a big guy. With these kids in the backfield, the Trojans will have a formidable running attack once again.

The Trojans’ real strength this year will be the defensive line. They’re a little undersized as well but they have a lethal combination of quickness and strength that will set the tone for the rest of the defense. Seniors Josiah Killiebrew and Malachi Williams are brutes, and junior defensive end Arlis Sutton may be, pound for pound, the strongest player on either side of the ball. He plays much faster and much bigger than he is, and his quiet, unassuming demeanor belies the ferocious competitor that he is. Junior Zy Reed (a returning starter), senior Cameron Arvidson, and sophomore Cameron High will also contribute on the line.

Picture above are front row: N/A, PJ Grady, Arlis Sutton, Parker Hines, Christian Carter, Chance Herring.
Middle row: Samuel Harper, Cameron High, DeJesus Garcia, Ernest Edwards, Alex Alba, Ryan Fields.
Back row: Ricky Hutchison, Chris Wilson, Zyshon Reed, Josiah Killiebrew, John Lindsey, Malachi Williams, Cameron Arvidson, Kenny Clemmons, Jon Jones.
Coffee always has a bruising linebacking corps and this year is no different. Defensive coordinator Randy Garrett has several different choices at linebacker and all can play the position very well. Jase Rish, a senior who started last season hurt and missed the first few games, is healthy and ready to make a statement during his final year as a Trojan. He’s not the biggest member of the corps but he’s never let that stop him. He’s fast, strong, smart, and knows how to evade blockers and get to the ball carrier. Sophomore Anthony Gaskin is another good one, as is fellow sophomore Brandon Hyde. We’ll talk more about Latorik Wynn in a bit. He’s going to get some playing time at linebacker – and when he does, he’s going to wreak havoc on opposing offenses.

The defensive backs are an eclectic group. There is a nice mix of youth and experience in the secondary. Latorik Wynn, a senior, is the anchor. He’s more of the prototypical defensive back than anyone else – tall, long, muscular, and fast, Wynn can compete with any wide receiver in the region. Travaris Jackson, a junior; Antron Rolax, a sophomore; Austin Simpson, a senior; and Brady Skipper, a sophomore, will contribute as well. Skipper and Rolax, like several other players, will also play on offense. Skipper will run the ball out of the backfield in certain situations. “He’s been one of the highlights of the summer,” says head coach Robby Pruitt. “He’s got a good football mind, he’s tough, and he gives maximal effort.”

Pictured above are front row: Dedrick Flagg, DaJuan Sallet, Coach Almon, Tarence Powell, Deuce Ed-dington, Chris Stafford.
Back row: Travaris Jackson, Jeremiah Beard, Brian Colbert, Antron Rolax.
The kicking game hasn’t been a real strength for Coffee over the last few years. The Trojan kickers have been accurate but haven’t had the leg to kick from long distances. That appears to be changing this year. Junior Noah Saylor, who honed his craft on the soccer pitch, saw a little action last year and was solid. This year, he’s the go-to kicker on extra points and field goals. He will do a little punting as well. In two games this year, Saylor has been lights out. Against the Salem Seminoles, he attempted a 43-yard field goal that narrowly missed. He will be hitting those later in the season. Toni Rivas handles the kickoffs and can kick it a mile. Most of his kicks reach the end zone, giving the Trojans a real advantage in the field position battle. Several skill players will also handle some of the punting duties as well. That’s a trademark of Coach Pruitt’s offense. It’s worked well during his time at Coffee and it will remain a component of his offense this year.

Pictured above from left-right are Humberto Rivas, Noah Saylor, Jose Rivas, Coach Hutchison, Jamal Paulk, Antron Rolax.
HALFBACKS


SAFETIES, ROVERS

Pictured above are Coach Garrett, Travarius Jackson, Jaheem Williams, Jai Reed, Latorik Wynn, Brady Skipper, Austin Simpson, Cade Jones, Carson Nugent, Travis Adams, Aries McRae, Coach Booth.
Thank you!
A very special Thank You is extended to The Gallery of Photography and Al Harless for the Coffee High School Trojan pictures!

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WE’LL BE CHEERING YOU ON!

Follow the Trojans all season long at www.DouglasNow.com

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