

COVE DAWGS

2017 PREVIEW

TEXAS TOUGH

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INSIDE TEXAS

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OUTSIDE THE BOX WITH JACK WELCH



COVE EXPECTS TO BOUNCE BACK FROM SUBPAR SEASON

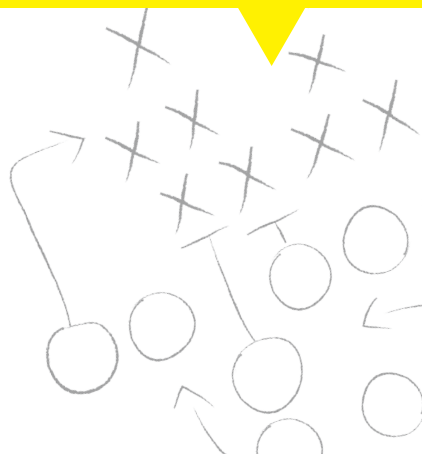
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

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COVE DEFENSE EXPECTED TO BE SHORT, BUT 'SALTY'

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IT'S
GOOD
TO BE
IN

SPORTS NEWS RIGHT NOW.



Promising season ends in 4-5 record for CCHS

"I TOLD THE KIDS AFTER THE FINAL GAME I LOVE YOU, AND I AM PROUD OF YOU."

JACK WELCH

BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

A promising season finished in disappointment for the Copperas Cove football team in 2016.

The Bulldawgs started the season with a pair of wins and were 4-2 at one point in the season with three



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games remaining.

But CCHS lost its last three games of the season to finish at 4-5, missing the playoffs for the first time since 2003.

"I told the kids after the final game I love you, and I am proud of you," Bulldawgs coach Jack Welch said. "They gave it everything they had last season."

Copperas Cove started the year with a 27-14 win over Autonoma de Nuevo Leon and a 48-10 win over El Paso Franklin at home. The Bulldawgs lost a pair of road games to Sachse (48-16) and Midway (48-22).

Impressive defensive efforts resulted in a 43-7 win over Shoemaker and a 38-3 win over Ellison.

"I thought our defense was one of the most improved in the state in 2016," Welch said.

Consecutive losses to Harker Heights (27-7), Killeen (28-16) and Belton (56-21) ended the season for the Bulldawgs.

CCHS was 4-5 overall and 2-4 in District 8-6A, which was good for a fifth-place tie with Ellison.

**JACK
WELCH**



PHOTO BY JEFF STEERS | HERALD

The Bulldawgs scored 238 points last year while giving up 241 points in nine games. A game against A&M Consolidated was canceled due to lightning.

PHOTO BY GABE WOLF | HERALD



Copperas Cove quarterback Jaylen Smith during morning practice in April.


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COVE DAWGS 2017 SCHEDULE

SEPT. 1	AT A&M CONSOLIDATED	7:30 P.M.
SEPT. 8	UANL	7:30 P.M.
SEPT. 15	E.P. FRANKLIN (AT ANDREWS)	7:00 P.M.
SEPT. 22	SACHSE	7:30 P.M.
SEPT. 29	WACO MIDWAY	7:30 P.M.
OCT. 6	AT SHOEMAKER	7:30 P.M.
OCT. 13	ELLISON	7:30 P.M.
OCT. 26	AT HARKER HEIGHTS	7:00 P.M.
NOV. 3	KILLEEN	7:30 P.M.
NOV. 10	AT BELTON	7:30 P.M.

COVE DAWGS DISTRICT 8-6A RECORDS

2016: 4-5
2015: 3-8
2014: 7-4
2013: 6-5
2012: 7-4



I love you. You gave me everything you had. I am proud of you. You gave us everything you had in workouts, in preparation and the game.



Cove Dawgs head coach

JACK WELCH

Outside the box with Jack Welch



BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

Jack Welch has been coaching high school football at Copperas Cove since 1994. Last year was the first time the program missed the UIL playoffs since 2003. The school has produced 16 NFL players, a number of all-pro players and a Heisman Trophy winner in Robert Griffin III. Here is a recent question and answer conversation that goes all over the map with the successful coach.

Q There are photos of 16 NFL players on your fence outside. What do you think that says about your program and tells younger kids about Copperas Cove?

A We hope people see it, that is why we put it out there. There are also

streets in Copperas Cove named after our players. Robert Griffin III Drive and Charles Tillman Way. It shows the kids opportunities. 'Hey, they are just like me.' We do it for the kids and community spirit.

Q What about Robert Griffin III? Can he still play in the NFL?

A I hope that he does have a chance to make it back to the NFL. He has been injury plagued. He was the world's best zone option quarterback for seven straight years. That is where an offense is geared around him. Can he be an NFL quarterback? Heck yes ... he can throw it a country mile, and he is as fast as the wind. You have to give him time. Everywhere he has gone he has to be the savior. His production was good. With the right quarterback coach and system, he is an All-Pro. The thing about RG3

is he has to grow into his talent. His talent is so great ... I've seen it since third grade. He is the most talented quarterback out there.

Q You have had a number of opportunities to leave Copperas Cove for college positions. What keeps you here?

A I resigned here twice. Both times I turned around and came back. I am more of a college-style coach, but I love high school kids. You can do so much to help them. I have had some offers. It is fun seeing how much we get out of our kids. You can't get anymore out of our kids. We have good kids. That is the exciting part. The wins and losses take care of themselves. If you are playing for the public, you will never be satisfied. It is fun to work with these kids. I influence their lives more as a high school coach. That is the biggest joy.

Q Fill in the blank, football teaches...

A It doesn't teach character, but it reveals character. It teaches self discipline.

Q How tough is it to be the athletic director and head football coach?

A It is a tough job, but I am blessed that I am able to still coach football. I have three assistants that take the load off me. If I didn't have that kind of help, I would just be the athletic director. I have great help. We saw the vision and added a sports information director. It has taken a ton of bricks off of me.

Q What did you say to your players at the end of the 2016 season?

A 'I love you, You gave me everything you had. I am proud of you. You gave us everything you had in workouts, in preparation and the game.' Our kids went out positive.

Q Copperas Cove has a lot of dif-

ferent nationalities and personalities. How do you create unity with such a diverse group of students.

A You have to join all kids together. You need to have the mentality that we are all part of the world. Having a Christian background helps ... we are all valued. This is the hodgepodge of the world here (Copperas Cove). People come from all over the world, or been to all portions of the world. There are a lot of different cultures. You learn to accept that. You wouldn't be here very long if you didn't. Instead of griping about the difference, you appreciate it. I am interested in listening to kids about their adventures.

Q Do Copperas Cove student-athletes have an advantage coming from a program with so much success?

A We have had so many kids go on to play college football. We don't lie to college coaches about our kids. They know how to work, say "yes sir" and "no sir" and go to class. The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender. Our kids get recruited because they work. We work up a profile sheet, film, and send out to the colleges. Coach said we are making a mistake because kids will come to expect it. That's all right. We are asking them to give everything they can for us, I am going to give them everything at our end. They know if they come out of our program, they know how to work and act right. It pays off for them ... it is self explanatory.

Q You have been in Copperas Cove for nearly a quarter century. What can you say about the city?

A We have a good town. I have seen it change over 20 years. Athletics can change a town. I've seen it, I have lived it. The football teams from 1963-93 had only one winning season. We have been very fortunate. Things have changed because of the football pride.

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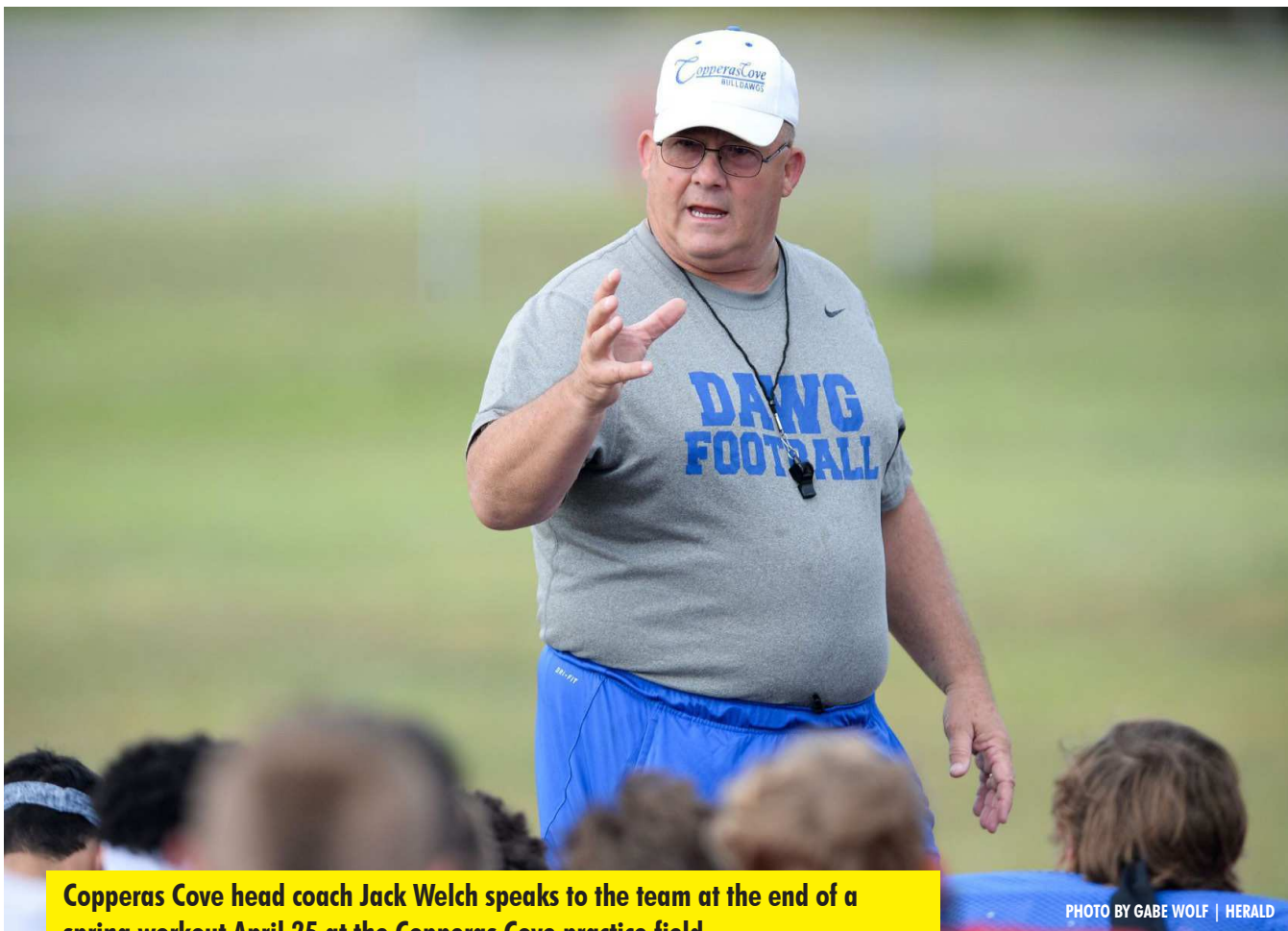
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Copperas Cove head coach Jack Welch speaks to the team at the end of a spring workout April 25 at the Copperas Cove practice field.

PHOTO BY GABE WOLF | HERALD

**“WE TALK
ABOUT LAST
YEAR EVERY
DAY AND HAVE
A CHIP ON OUR
SHOULDER.”**

MYLES ALEXANDER

Cove expects to bounce back from subpar season

BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

Cradition may be on the side of the Copperas Cove High School varsity football team in 2017.

Since ending Cove’s 38-year playoff drought in 1998, 24th-year head coach Jack Welch’s teams have never missed the playoffs in back-to-back seasons.

CCHS finished the season 4-5 a year ago and missed the postseason

for the first time since 2003 and only the second time since that 1998 breakthrough.

Running back Myles Alexander said those facts will help the Bulldogs this season. Cove is predicted to finish fifth in the 8-6A district by a number of experts — meaning it would miss the playoffs for a second consecutive season.

“We talk about last year every day and have a chip on our shoulder,” Alexander said. “We made sure this

season almost everyone was at workouts."

Alexander will be helped by a pair of running backs — Tim Edwards and Shontez Simmons. Edwards finished with five touchdowns and more than 250 rushing yards.

Floyd Connell is a two-way player for the Bulldawgs who caught 24 passes and finished with nearly 800 all-purpose yards in 2016.

Senior Bryce Ranes caught 27 passes as a junior.

Jaylen Smith will start at quarterback for the Bulldawgs this season. He said walking off the field in 2016 knowing the Bulldawgs would not make the playoffs was sad.

"That was a devastating moment ... Cove has always gone to the playoffs," Smith said. "We are bouncing back, and it pushed everyone this summer in the weight room to get stronger and faster.

"We spent extra time working on the passing game after workouts."

The southpaw would like to play football and baseball in college. His nearly 90-mph fastball has him tabbed as a baseball player at the collegiate level.

"Playing baseball in college would be great ... but I would love to be able to play both sports," Smith said.

Smith disagrees with the assessment that the Bulldawgs will finish fifth in the district.

"That motivates us to get better," Smith said. "We will let everyone else do the talking ... we will do it on the field."

Coach Welch said the Bulldawgs will have to use a ball-control offense, giving the defense time to recover.

"We have to control the clock and give our defense a better opportunity," Welch said. "We are not oversized (defensively)."

PHOTO BY GABE WOLF | HERALD

TIM EDWARDS



PHOTO BY GABE WOLF | HERALD

BRYCE RANES



PHOTO BY GABE WOLF | HERALD

Copperettes feature six All-American dancers

BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

Six members of the Copperas Cove High School Copperettes dance team recently earned All-American honors at an American Dance/Drill Team School.

Football fans at CCHS will witness the All-American dancers during football games this season.

Earning All-American dancer honors were Hadiya Gay, Erin Smith, Victoria Hanson, Lily Salfors, Dorinne McDonald and Justina Lampkin.

All-American honorable mention honors went to Maraya Beundia, Takara Stover, Brianna Buchanan, Brianna Harner, Kayla Herring and Princess Sanchez.

Salfors was chosen as the outstanding performer of the week at the American Dance/Drill Team School private dance camp.

The Copperettes are directed by Samantha Selby.

"This team never ceases to impress me with their hard work and determination," Selby said in a recent article in the Copperas Cove Herald. "As their director, I can't wait to see what the upcoming year has in store for this team."

Selby is in her fourth year as the director.

COPPERAS COVE *Copperettes*



COURTESY OF CCISD

The Copperas Cove High School Copperettes perform their annual show for the public, giving a sneak peek of upcoming performances that will be shown at sporting and community events.



COURTESY OF CCISD

COPPERAS COVE

Cheerleaders

COURTESY OF CCISD



Award-winning cheerleaders to be on sideline this fall

BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

Football fans at Copperas Cove High School will see award-winning cheerleaders on the squad this fall.

The varsity cheerleaders attended a Universal Cheerleaders Association camp at Texas A&M

University in June with more than 350 cheerleaders from schools across Texas.

The cheer team earned a top spot at the cheer camp by winning several awards.

Several cheerleaders and one mascot were chosen to compete for UCA All-American cheerleader and mascot. After the competition,

senior cheerleaders Carleigh Ross, Allison Chapman, Derrick Burleson and mascot Trajon Thompson were chosen to represent CCHS and UCA as All-American cheerleaders and mascot.

Burleson, Ross, Thompson and Kimberly Cimmino were all selected for the USA Pin It program, where cheerleaders are chosen by staff and a group of other cheerleaders for their leadership skills.

The squad also brought home third-place trophies competing in the extreme routine and game day competitions on their last day of camp.

Both mascots, Thompson and sophomore Cali Jernigan, received awards. Jernigan earned a trophy for her spirit and hard work, while Thompson won the leadership award, a top honor for a mascot.

Burleson was also invited to try out for UCA staff after graduation, a top honor while at the camp.

Other varsity cheerleaders on the sidelines this year are Mikayla Devins, DaZhane Johnson, Lindsey Freeman, Aujanae Duncan, Brooke Heitzman, Jayce Anderson, Celina Resto, Tahlia Thompson, Chloe Herrera, Stefani Vassar, Madisyn Montgomery, Destenee Boyles and Michaela Hartung.

Katherine Seyfried is the head of the varsity squad at CCHS.

Junior varsity cheerleaders this season are Savannah Walker, Nadia Cisneros, Madison Seibol, Morgan Cieslikowski, Mackenzie Cobe, Charlotte Robinson, Taylor Anderson and Jahnea Robinson.

Copperas Cove color guard provides 'visual aspect' of marching band

BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

The color guard for the Copperas Cove High School marching band may play a bigger role this season. The flags may display food items representing Italy as part of the fall program.

Director Nancy Norris said the color guard provides the visual aspect of the band.

"We are really excited about this year's half-time show," Norris said. "It is going to be cute and very entertaining."

Norris said the color guard will be led by senior Breanna Elmore who will serve as the captain.

"She gives instructions to the other members and leads the team," Norris said. "She also leads the stretches, technique blocks and choreographs some of the work."

CCHS hopes to regain the top spot during the winter color guard season. The color guard finished second in the state in 2017 and were state champions in 2016.

COPPERAS COVE *Color Guard*

PHOTO BY JEFF STEERS | HERALD



Members of the Copperas Cove color guard practice Aug. 3 in the parking lot.

CCHS to present Taste of Italy

BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

The 184-member band at Copperas Cove High School will present A Taste of Italy this fall at halftime marching band performances and at UIL competitions around the state.

"It is a bunch of fun music from Italy that will entertain the audience," CCHS Director of Music Tony Chapa said. "There will be pizza on the field, a giant tablecloth with garlic and tomatoes."

But don't think the preparation for the eight-minute routines is cheesy or easy in any aspect.

Fall practice kicked off July 31 with freshmen coming during the morning and mixing with upper-classmen in the afternoon sectionals. The first day of a full band practice was Aug. 3.

Students started with an eight-hour day in week one, that was kicked up to 12 hours per day in week

two and three hours per day once teachers start back-to-school activities.

Section leader Deon Byrd said the experience and long hours were worthwhile.

"The long hours are pretty stressful, but rewarding," Byrd said. "I can take what I learn from here and maybe use it in the future if I become a band director."



PHOTO BY JEFF STEERS | HERALD

Copperas Cove High School senior Michaela Schwyhart checks other band members during a drill Aug. 3.



Juan Jimenez is expected to be one of the top defensive players for the Cove Bulldawgs this season.

Cove defense expected to be short, but 'salty'

BY JEFF STEERS
COPPERAS COVE HERALD

Copperas Cove High School varsity football player Jack Shumaker remembered the moment he was welcomed to the varsity level.

The then-sophomore was picked up by a fellow Bulldawg player



PHOTO BY GABE WOLF | HERALD

Copperas Cove wide receiver Bryce Ranes comes down with the ball and is immediately hit by Floyd Connell during morning practice on April 25.

during a practice and thrown to the sidelines during a drill.

The Bulldawg defense also was thrown around last season finishing 4-5 and missing the UIL playoffs. Three times last season, CCHS gave up 48 or more points in a game.

Shumaker moved up to the varsity level as a sophomore and started the last three games of the season for the Bulldawgs.

"Going from freshman football to the varsity level was intense," Shumaker said.

The linebacker said there was something different at the summer workouts at Copperas Cove in 2017.

"WE ARE A LITTLE SHORT IN HEIGHT ON DEFENSE ... BUT WE ARE GOING TO BE PRETTY SALTY."

JACK WELCH

"The workout program was the same, but there was an intensity there," Shumaker said. "A couple of times our intensity level (during last season's games) was not where I thought it should be.

"We have to live up to the legacy at Cove."

CCHS defensive lineman Juan Jimenez is expected to be one of the leaders on defense. He said missing the playoffs last season is a lesson

the senior class will not forget.

"It was devastating the way last year ended ... it was a blow to us," Jimenez said. "That was a lesson for us juniors to bring back the legacy of Copperas Cove football."

With 16 NFL players coming from Copperas Cove, Jimenez said it is important for younger players to learn about that legacy.

"It is very special to us Bulldawgs," Jimenez said. "I think that every incoming freshman needs to learn about the legacy at Cove and the pride that we have."

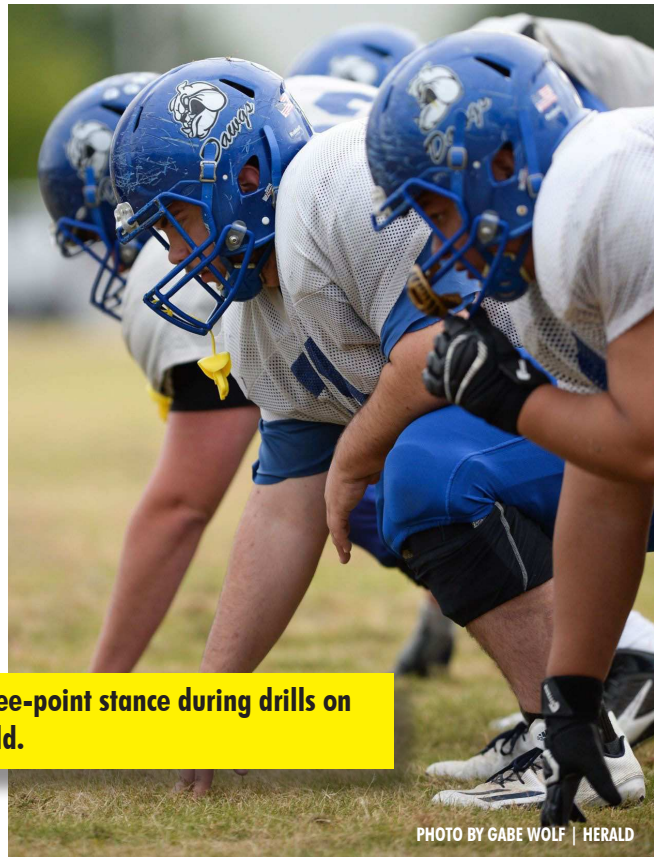
Joining Jimenez on the defensive side of the ball are defensive end Brandon Simmons and secondary player Floyd Connell.

Connell moved into the secondary last season and intercepted three passes, returning one for a touchdown. Connell also averaged 22.8 yards per kickoff return and 7.7 yards on punt returns.

He earned all-district honors for his efforts.

Coach Jack Welch said the Bulldawgs will be aggressive on defense.

"We are a little short in height on defense ... but we are going to be pretty salty," Welch said.



Copperas Cove linemen get down in a three-point stance during drills on April 25 at the Copperas Cove practice field.

PHOTO BY GABE WOLF | HERALD

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