



Mars Hill's Jaxon Penn. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]



Colbert County's Frank Hayes.



Red Bay's Jaxon Vinson.



Phil Campbell's Hayston Scott.



Mars Hill's Hudson Higgins.



Lauderdale County's Calvin Watkins.



Hackleburg's Cam Ingram.

TIMESDAILY

OFFENSE

QB: Zane Kilburn, Lexington, Fr., 5-11, 162: Class 2A All-State honorable mention. Completed 64% of his passes for 2,537 yards and 28 touchdowns against eight interceptions. Had a 195.3 pass efficiency rating. Accounted for 2,743 total yards and 33 TDs.

RB: Jaxon Penn, Mars Hill Bible, Sr., 5-10, 170: First-team Class 3A All-State and finalist for 3A back of the year. Mustered 1,988 yards rushing and 38 touchdowns in 14 games, averaging 14 yards per carry and 165.7 per game. Had 27% of his carries go for touchdowns. Carried 25 times for 206 yards and three scores in the state championship win over Bayside Academy. Also made 81 tackles on defense with five interceptions. Troy signee.

RB: Hudson Higgins, Mars Hill Bible, Sr., 5-9, 180: First-team Class 3A All-State. Ran for 2,101 yards in 15 games, averaging 13 per carry and 161.6 per game. Had 195 yards and two TDs on 22 carries in the state title game. Finished the season with 88 tackles with three interceptions and scored twice on 12 punt returns. Two-time All-Area. Two-time All-State. UAB signee.

RB: Jaxon Vinson, Red Bay, Sr., 6-2, 215: First-team Class 2A All-State. Averaged 169.8 yards per game and 9.2 per carry. Finished with 2,038 yards and 26 touchdowns. Added eight catches for 171 yards and a score. On defense, made 94 tackles with 10 for loss. Three-time All-Area.

RB: Calvin Watkins, Lauderdale Co., Sr., 6-1, 185: Rushed for 1,231 yards and 15 TDs, averaging 7.3 yards per carry and 102.6 per game. Two-time All-Area.

WR: Will White, Lexington, Sr., 6-3, 187: Second-team Class 2A All-State. Caught 48 passes for 1,004 yards and 10 touchdowns.

WR: Austin Elliott, Phil Campbell, Jr., 6-1, 175: Pulled in 57 receptions for 914 yards and 10 touchdowns. Finished with 1,161 all-purpose yards.

OL: Cord Pigg, Mars Hill Bible, Jr., 6-2, 275: First-team Class 3A All-State. Registered 52 pancake blocks and was the top offensive lineman for a team that ran for over 5,100 yards, averaging over 340 per game.

OL: Elijah Jones, Colbert Co., Sr., 6-2, 265: Second-team 3A All-State. Drew a 92% grade for the year with 50 pancake blocks, including 11 in one game.

OL: Preston Littrell, Rogers, Sr., 6-3, 215: Second-team Class 3A All-State. Had a 92% grade on blocks, with 33 pancake blocks. Tight end had 16 catches for 348 yards and six touchdowns. On defense, posted 72 tackles with 14 for loss, including three sacks. Forced three fumbles. Two-time All-Area. Two-time All-State.

OL: Gage Word, Lexington, Fr., 6-4, 305: Graded out at 81% at right tackle with 34 knockdown blocks and one sack allowed. On defense, had 10 of his 38 tackles go for a loss.

OL: Christian Gonzalez, Colbert Heights, Sr., 5-9, 185: Posted 28 pancake blocks for an offense that averaged 6.4 yards per carry. Had 86 tackles on defense.

K: Matthew Williams, Rogers, Sr., 5-9, 150: Second-team Class 3A All-State. Was 4-of-5 on field goals, including a school-record 48-yarder, and 48-of-53 on extra points. Was successful on six onside kicks.

ATH: Hayston Scott, Phil Campbell, Jr., 5-9, 190: Class 3A All-State honorable mention. Threw for 1,784 yards and ran for 1,049, accounting for 30 touchdowns. Completed 63% of his passes for 19 TDs against five interceptions. Two-time All-Area.

HONORABLE MENTION

Colbert Co.: LB Keshawn Jones.
Colbert Heights: RB Owen Hood.
Collinwood: DB Cole Risner.
Hackleburg: LB Ross Hudson.
Lexington: RB Sawyer Howard, K Aiden Chambers.
Mars Hill: LB Kolton Owens, WR Isaiah Owens, K Carson Longshore.
Red Bay: QB Jeremiah Thorne.
Rogers: QB C.J. Davis.
Shoals Chr.: WR-DB Jack Strickland.
Tharptown: OL Luis Dircio.
Waterloo: RB-LB Aryan Young, DB Connor Scott.
Wayne Co.: RB Avery Vaughn.

All-Area team compiled by A. Stacy Long in consultation with area coaches. No information received from Belgreen, Cherokee, Sheffield or Vina.



Mars Hill's Samuel Swinney.

2025 SMALL SCHOOL ALL-AREA FOOTBALL

DEFENSE

DL: Samuel Swinney, Mars Hill Bible, Sr., 6-0, 220: First-team Class 3A All-State and finalist for 3A lineman of the year. Two-way starter, through 13 games, had 92 tackles on defense with 15 for loss, including four sacks. Played five snaps as a running back and scored four touchdowns. North Alabama signee as a tight end. Two-time All-Area. Two-time All-State.

DL: Thomas Smith, Lexington, Sr., 6-3, 215: Class 2A All-State honorable mention. Credited with 11 sacks among his 17 tackles for loss with 75 total stops. Over the last two seasons, made 152 tackles with 35 for loss and 15 sacks. Two-time All-Area.

DL: Matthew McIntyre, Mars Hill Bible, Jr., 6-3, 220: Class 3A All-State honorable mention. Made 57 tackles in Mars Hill's first 13 games despite being regularly avoided. (One team, in 41 rush attempts, ran away from him 40 times.) Also caught 16 passes for 456 yards and five touchdowns.

DL: Hunter Scruggs, Phillips, Sr., 5-11, 175: Class 1A All-State honorable mention. Credited with 17 sacks among his 23 tackles for loss and 110 tackles.

LB: Evan Austin, Mars Hill Bible, Sr., 6-0, 180: Second-team Class 3A All-State. Had 150 tackles in Mars Hill's first 13 games and made seven, including two for loss, in the state finals.

LB: Frank Hayes, Colbert Co., Sr., 6-0, 215: Class 3A All-State honorable mention. His 115 tackles included 17 for loss with seven sacks. Made two interceptions and blocked two punts. On offense, ran for 725 yards and 19 touchdowns. Three-time All-Area.

LB: Chance Campbell, Lauderdale Co., So., 5-10, 190: Totaled 117 tackles with 19 for loss. Intercepted two passes, forced two fumbles and recovered two fumbles.

LB: Noah Tubb, Hackleburg, Sr., 5-8, 165: Finished with 68 tackles in eight games. Two-time All-Area.

DB: Cam Ingram, Hackleburg, Sr., 6-0, 160: First-team Class 3A All-State. Drew the opposing team's best receiver and made 35 tackles with two interceptions. Between offense and special teams, rolled up 1,136 all-purpose yards with 10 touchdowns.

DB: Coyrian Campbell, Colbert Co., Jr., 5-11, 175: Intercepted three passes, returning two for touchdowns. Scored five different ways: rushing (one TD), receiving (five), punt returns (two) and kickoff returns (two), along with the interceptions. Minus his interception returns, had 868 all-purpose yards.

DB: Mason Bryant, Colbert Heights, Sr., 5-9, 170: Intercepted six passes and made 84 tackles. With the ball, ran for 488 yards and eight touchdowns, including a 76-yard TD on a fake punt. Threw for 521 yards and six scores.

DB: David Ullman, Wayne Co., Sr., 5-10, 152: Made 100 tackles in nine games with one interception.

ATH: Nic Grigsby, Rogers, Sr., 6-2, 165: Class 3A All-State honorable mention. Totaled 1,868 all-purpose yards with 25 touchdowns. Had 1,393 yards and 17 TDs rushing, averaging 8.2 yards per carry and 126.6 per game. Caught 39 passes for 475 yards and eight scores. Over the last two seasons, ran for 2,656 yards and 32 TDs. Two-time All-Area.

ATH: Camden Hill, Lauderdale Co., Sr., 6-0, 165: Scored four different ways with three rushing touchdowns, two receiving, two on punt returns and once via interception. Posted 474 yards on punt or kickoff returns.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Oscar Bonds, Colbert Co.: In his first year at Colbert County, led the Indians to an 8-4 record, a three-win improvement over 2024, with three of the losses to teams that posted double-figure wins. Guided Colbert County to a second-place finish in 3A, Region 7, its best playoff seed since 2016. Helped the Indians post their 13th winning season in 14 years. In eight seasons as a head coach, has a 36-40 record.



Lexington's Zane Kilburn.



Rogers' Nic Grigsby.



Colbert County's Coyrian Campbell.



Colbert Heights' Mason Bryant.



Lexington's Will White.