

Off-season work pays off in season opener

THOMAS J. BARR
THE ANDERSON NEWS

LAWRENCEBURG – A hyped up crowd and an energized team makes for a great combination.

On Friday night on Bob Ware Field, the Anderson County Bearcats got the 2026 football season off to a rousing start.

The Bearcats defeated Washington County 33-7.

Getting off to a quick start is important and the host team did just that.

After the defense held on Washington County's opening drive, Anderson County took over at its own 35. A run by Hudson Hatfield was aided by a facemask penalty, giving Anderson County the ball at the Commander 45.

Hatfield gained nine yards before an incomplete pass and an offsidess call pushed the home team to the 41.

On third down, quarterback Henry Cooper found Hudson DeGarmo in the flat and the senior did the rest finding the end zone with 6:41 left in the opening quarter.

The defense got the ball back immediately on a fumble recovery. And then



BY THOMAS J. BARR

Hudson DeGarmo en route to the opening touchdown of the season in Anderson County's victory over Washington County.

DeGarmo ran his way into the end zone.

From that point on, the Bearcats were playing from ahead, which is just fine for David Buchanan.

"Getting on top of them early was big and then converting the turnover immediately into a touchdown was big," said Buchanan. "I cannot understate how important big play capability is. If you can't get big plays, you have to play near perfect football."

And for most high school teams, perfection is unrealistic.

The veteran coach will always say there is more work to be done but he was very pleased with the enthusiasm and energy every player brought to the field.

"It was a confidence in knowing how well they had prepared not just this week but back to the end of last season," said Buchanan.

But, like any coach, he said there were still plenty of fundamentals which would be addressed in practice.

He likes the work done in the off-season to become stronger and quicker. And

having a larger number of players to throw at the opponent is always a positive.

He credited Davey McCann, Neal Wells and Kaitlyn Riley with doing an excellent job in the weight room to help the players. Buchanan said he had even gotten comments about how the players' bodies had changed.

"We threw the ball well in spots and we did a good job of running the ball," said Buchanan. "Our offensive line has improved substantially and I was really pleased with their effort."

On the defensive side of the ball, Anderson County played a lot of players, especially on the line. With so many players seeing time on the field, there are times in which things did not go well. However, he said building the depth by playing a lot of players would pay off down the road.

"And even when we played poorly, we played very, very hard," said Buchanan.

While a victory in the opener is important, it is just part of the day-to-day progression of the program.

"The biggest day in our

program is going to be the practice Monday after this win," said Buchanan. "How we respond and where we continue to grow and improve is the key to this whole thing really getting this program where we want it to be."

For the game, Cooper was eight of nine passing attempts for 117 yards and two touchdowns.

On the ground, Hudson DeGarmo had a big night with 85 yards in seven carries, which included a touchdown.

Brayden Caldwell ran seven times for 30 yards and Hudson Hatfield scored a touchdown as he ran six times for 25 yards.

Eli McCann ran five times for 19 yards and a touchdown. Cooper scrambled for 12 yards in nine attempts.

Hudson DeGarmo led the receivers with his 64 yards on two receptions, which included the opening touchdown.

Coleman Boggs caught three passed for 43 yards, while McCann caught two for three yards and Hatfield had one reception for seven yards.

Nathan Johnson converted three of his five extra point kicks.

Bearcat punter Simeon Williams had to kick the ball away just one time for 37 yards.

Defensively, the team collectively had 58 tackles.

Hudson DeGarmo led the way with eight total tackles, while Clay Beasley, Eli McCann and Wyatt Shouse all had seven.

Brayden Caldwell and Ezekial Pacheco each had four stops, while Hudson Hatfield and Aiden Edwards each had three.

Logan Hardin and Owen Dake had two total tackles. Rylan Lucas and Brysen Stucker had one solo tackle apiece.

Jon Jackson Hanks had four assists, Antoine Beeman and Brandon Cole each had two assists, and Nicholas Aldridge had one.

THIS FRIDAY – The Bearcats (1-0) will host Class 5A challengers Grayson County at Bob Ware Field on Friday. Grayson County (1-0) dismantled Edmonson County last week by a 48-0 count. Kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m.

MORGAN

FROM **PAGE A2**

elevate Lawrenceburg as a premier destination within Kentucky's Bourbon Country, driving economic impact through local heritage branding, downtown

revitalization, outdoor recreation, and regional tourism partnerships. Her appointment to the BGADD Board will help strengthen the tie between regional economic development strategies and the economic opportunities generated by tourism and hospitality across Central Kentucky.

Her tenure on the board begins immediately.

ABOUT LAWRENCEBURG/ANDERSON COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION
The Lawrenceburg/Anderson County Tourism Commission works to promote

Lawrenceburg and Anderson County, Kentucky, as a vibrant destination for travel, recreation, and cultural heritage. Located in the heart of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, Lawrenceburg is home to historic distilleries, outdoor adventure, and historic small-town charm. For more

information, visit www.visitlawrenceburgky.com.

ABOUT THE BLUEGRASS AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (BGADD)

The Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) is one of 15 Area Development Districts in

Kentucky. Serving 17 counties in Central Kentucky, BGADD provides regional planning, aging services, workforce development, and community assistance to improve the quality of life for all residents in the region. For more information, visit www.bgadd.org.

EVENT

FROM **PAGE A1**

Chloe is currently home with her parents, Angela and Earl Driskell, of Salvisa. Next week, she will return for additional

testing before undergoing what is expected to be her final surgery. She has undergone multiple surgeries in recent months.

"We decided to do this fundraiser for her because they are expecting high hospital bills and going back and forth to the doc-

tors," said Chloe's aunt, Bridget Cox.

The fundraiser featured a car show with 53 vehicles on display, along with a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, cake walk, and dash plaques for the first 50 vehicles. Registration for the event was \$20 per

vehicle.

All money raised through the event's activities was donated directly to Chloe and her family.

Cox described her niece as "a beautiful redhead girl with a full-of-energy personality." Chloe enjoys working as a waitress at

Family Affair Restaurant and spending time with her twin brothers, Levi and Tyler, as well as her boyfriend, Malu.

Following her surgery and rehabilitation, Chloe plans to attend school to become a dental hygienist. Those wishing to

donate to the family can do so at Small Town Big Bargains, located at 103 Plaza Drive in Lawrenceburg, or at Family Affair Restaurant in Salvisa. Donations collected at both locations will go directly to Chloe and her family.



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