

# FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



## APACHES VOLLEYBALL

YOUTH IS SERVING UP WINS; AIMS FOR PLAYOFFS

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NEW HEAD COACH DRIVES FOR POSTSEASON

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## MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL

YOUNG, BUT EXPERIENCED SQUAD PRIMED FOR SUCCESS

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## WILDCAT VOLLEYBALL

TEAM LOOKS TO BUILD ON BI-DISTRICT WIN

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Brady Barfield, shown during a punt return against Giddings on Oct. 9, 2020, is being counted on to provide leadership for the Gonzales High School Apaches on both sides of the ball in 2021. (Steve Fountain)

## Will 2020's growing pains pay off in 2021?



Brett Breitschopf returns to the Apaches after a junior season in which he made several clutch catches. (Steve Fountain)

BY STEVE FOUNTAIN  
Inquirer Publisher

With the myriad of COVID-19 requirements from last season reduced or eliminated, Gonzales High School head football coach Mike Waldie is upbeat after going through a nearly normal offseason leading up to the 2021 season. "It's so exciting to just being able to focus on football again," Waldie said. "It's great to get back to hugging kids and building relationships. That's my world. I was struggling with some of the things that went on last year."

Last year started with changes to the non-district schedule as 5A and 6A teams – including a pair of the Apaches' usual foes – were bumped when the 1A to 4A programs started their seasons earlier. The season ended with the Apaches slugging through a disappointing 1-9 record, that included an 0-5 mark in district.

It was a far cry from the 9-3 mark in Waldie's first season in 2019.

If there was a positive to take from last season, it was that 17 freshman and sophomores played in varsity games for a team that only returned six senior starters from 2019 due to injuries and

### GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL 2021 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- (0-0, 0-0)
- Aug. 27: at El Campo, 7:30 p.m.
  - Sept. 3: at Austin-Crockett, 7:30 p.m.
  - Sept. 10: vs. Fredericksburg, 7:30 p.m.\*\*
  - Sept. 17: at Ingleside, 7 p.m.
  - Sept. 24: at Jarrell, 7:30 p.m.
  - Oct. 1: Open
  - Oct. 8: vs. Giddings, 7:30 p.m.\*
  - Oct. 15: at Smithville, 7:30 p.m.\*
  - Oct. 22: vs. La Grange, 7:30 p.m.\*
  - Oct. 29: at Navasota, 7:30 p.m.\*
  - Nov. 5: vs. Cuero, 7:30 p.m.\* \*\*\*

\*4A-2 District 13  
\*\*Homecoming  
\*\*\*Senior Night

### GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL 2020 FOOTBALL RESULTS

- (0-5, 1-9)
- Aug. 28: El Campo 35, Apaches 0
  - Sept. 4: Burnet 29, Apaches 21#
  - Sept. 11: Fredericksburg 46, Apaches 6
  - Sept. 18: LaVernia 47, Apaches 16
  - Sept. 25: Apaches 67, Jarrell 22\*\*
  - Oct. 2: Open
  - Oct. 9: Giddings 47, Apaches 31\*
  - Oct. 16: Smithville 43, Apaches 15\*
  - Oct. 23: La Grange 49, Apaches 25\*
  - Oct. 30: Navasota 47, Apaches 36\*
  - Nov. 6: Cuero 56, Apaches 7\*

\*District 13 4A-2 game  
\*\*Homecoming  
#Senior Night

### COVID-19.

"So many of the freshman and sophomores deserved to play a year on junior varsity," Waldie said. "They weren't mentally and physically. They were thrown into Friday nights. They were so far behind in communication. We are all excited to be moving on from last year. These players can help us get back to the team that we think we can be, like we did in 2019."

While the offseason wasn't completely normal, especially during the spring semester, the team did get a solid dose of summer workouts, 7-on-7 competitions, and time working on implementing the offense and defense schemes.

"It was still not a full offseason," Waldie said. "It was close – way better than the year before when

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Head coach Mike Waldie is back for his third season with the Apaches. He went 1-9 last season after a 9-3 debut. (Steve Fountain)