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COMMONWEALTH 2021 COACH & PLAYER OF THE YEAR

House, Johnson made history at Leflore

By CALVIN STEVENS
Sports Writer

When Henry Fant was still the head football coach at Amanda Elzy High School, he had a young coach on his staff who he knew one day would be a head coach himself.

That man was Eric House. House became the head coach of the Panthers in 2008 after Fant retired, and after spending seven years on the sidelines at Elzy, he joined the Leflore County staff as an assistant under Sherrod Gideon. House eventually became the Tigers' head coach in 2016.

Under House's guidance, Leflore County reached the State 2A championship game this season, falling to Scott Central. Along the way, the Tigers won the North State title with a win over Charleston and went through

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Leflore County head coach Eric House turned the Tigers around after a 1-3 start, leading them to their first state title appearance in school history.

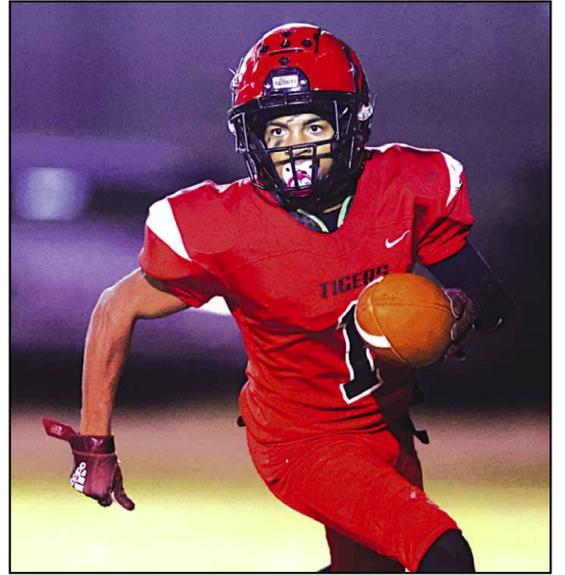
By RILEY OVEREND
Sports Editor

Before each game, Dekari "Turbo" Johnson reverts back to the same routine of religiously watching highlights of Tavon Austin at West Virginia. Austin's explosive tape has become a virtual Rosetta Stone of juke moves, racking up over 20 million views since it hit YouTube eight years ago.

A student of the game, Johnson schooled MAIS Class 1A defenses at Delta Streets Academy last year. The do-it-all playmaker put up video game numbers for the Lions, totaling 1,776 yards and 25 touchdowns.

But even still, the 5-foot-6 speedster had his doubters after transferring back home to Leflore County over the summer. Could Johnson really just run all over public school competition?

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Leflore County senior Dekari "Turbo" Johnson was in a league of his own this fall, totaling 1,796 yards and 26 touchdowns during the Tigers' deepest playoff run in program history.

2021 ALL-COMMONWEALTH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

DEQUARIONNE JONES
QB, Sr., Leflore County

Helped lead the Tigers to the 2A state title game in his return from Delta Streets. Threw for 1,181 yards on 57-of-106 passing with 11 touchdowns and six interceptions. He also ran for six scores for the 10-4 Super 25 team as a quarterback.



DAYNE SANFORD
RB, Jr., Pillow Academy

Hard and physical runner, rumbuling for a team-leading 960 yards on 168 carries (5.7 yards per carry) and 10 touchdowns. Also had seven receptions for 90 yards and one TD. As a linebacker, had 32 total tackles (17 solos) with one interception.



DEZMOND RAY
RB, Jr., Leflore County

A nice compliment to Dekari Johnson as he rushed for 820 yards and four touchdowns on 110 carries. He also had 22 2-point conversion runs during the season, and tacked on two receiving TDs and one score on a kickoff return. He finished with 13 catches for 184 yards.



MADDOX CARPENTER
RB, Jr., Carroll Academy

One of the toughest runners on Carroll's roster. The 5-foot-11, 175-pound Carpenter ran for 810 yards and five touchdowns on 154 carries for the 6-5 Rebels. He also had one receiving touchdown. On the defensive side of the ball, he racked up 76 total tackles, 10 tackles for loss, three sacks and two interceptions.



D'ANTHONY MCGLOTHAN
WR., Sr., J.Z. George

Capped his senior year by playing in the Bernard Blackwell Classic. He had 20 receptions for 301 yards and eight TDs and ran for 790 yards and 11 scores on 61 carries. On defense, he had 85 total tackles and four interceptions. Has numerous offers from junior colleges in the state.



BROCK MAKAMSON
WR, Jr., Pillow Academy

Came on big time for Pillow this season, finishing as the leading receiver. He had 27 catches for 510 yards, with a long of 75 yards, and four touchdowns. He gained 266 yards after the catch. Played well on defense as well, recording 51 total tackles (29 solos). Broke up three passes and forced a fumble.



TAVARIAN DEAN
OL, Sr., Leflore County

Provided protection for quarterback Dequarionne Jones from his right guard position. The 5-foot-10, 245-pound Dean was named to the Region 4-2A Super 25 team voted on by the district's head coaches as an offensive lineman.



LAWSON STEED
OL, Jr., Pillow Academy

The 6-foot-1, 260-pound Steed "has the disposition to play OL", said his head coach. Helped pave the way for a ground game to gain over 1,700 yards and a passing game to amass over 1,500 yards. Played tackle for the Mustangs.



DREW HADDON
OL, Sr., Carroll Academy

The 6-foot-2, 255-pound Haddon, known as "Chuck" to teammates and coaches, made the MAIS Class 4A-6A all-star game as an offensive lineman. Helped pave the way for CA running backs to gain over a combined 2,200 yards rushing.



DAMARIUS LEFLORE
OL, Sr., Leflore County

A two-way player for the Tigers on the offensive and defensive lines. The 6-foot-2, 235-pound Leflore helped pave the way for Johnson and Ray as he was named to the Region 4-2A Super 25 team. As a DT, he recorded 72 tackles with seven sacks, two fumble recoveries and a blocked punt that he returned for a touchdown.



ALAN BUSBY
OL, Sr., J.Z. George

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Busby made an "incredible jump" from last season to this season with his work ethic. Head coach said he wasn't afraid to hit someone in the mouth. He earned a spot on the Region 4-2A Super 25 team as an offensive lineman.



HAYES BENNETT
All-Purpose, Jr., Pillow Academy

One of the fastest players in the area. Ran for 259 yards and two scores on 25 carries, caught 16 passes for 311 yards and four TDs, and returned 16 kickoffs for 451 yards and one TD with a long of 99 yards. On defense, he had 47 tackles (27 solos) with three interceptions.



BRITT REICHL
DL, Sr., Pillow Academy

Capped his senior campaign by being named to the MAIS Class 4A-6A all-star game. Makes the All-Commonwealth team for second straight year. Had 91 total tackles (47 solos), which included five quarterback sacks.



MARQUAVIOUS HUGHES
DL, Sr., Amanda Elzy

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Hughes was named the Region 3-3A Co-Defensive Player of the Year for the 2-8 Panthers. He finished with 30 tackles, broke up one pass, forced three fumbles and recovered two, and had nine quarterback sacks.



KEYTHAIN WILKS
DL, Jr., J.Z. George

Wilks had a monster season on the line for the Jags as he picked up 14 quarterback sacks. He finished with 77 solo tackles and 103 total. He also played some at tight end and receiver. Had three catches for 60 yards and two touchdowns. Named to Region 4-2A Super 25 team.



JAVORIUS SHERROD
DL, Sr., Leflore County

A beast on both sides of the line for the Tigers. The 6-foot-3, 285-pound senior amassed 83 total tackles and was credited with six quarterback sacks. Had a season-high 12 tackles and two sacks in Leflore's 30-22 win over Charleston on Sept. 10.



JALYN LEWIS
LB, Sr., Delta Streets Academy

Solid performer on both sides of the ball for the 3-8 Lions. He had 44 tackles and made the MAIS Class 1A-3A all-star game. He was a first-team all-conference selection as a running back. He had 748 yards and scored seven times on 93 carries. Also had a TD reception.



MATHIS BECK
LB, Jr., Carroll Academy

Had a solid year on both sides of the ball. He led the defense with 88 total tackles, which included 20 tackles for loss and three sacks. Also had an interception. Named to the MAIS Class 4A all-state team as a linebacker. Ran for 658 yards and seven scores on 106 carries.



KENDARIUS HEAD
LB, Sr., J.Z. George

Very solid player for the Jaguars as he lined up at linebacker and running back. Also, took snaps at quarterback. He finished with 61 total tackles and five sacks. On offense, he ran for 578 yards and five touchdowns on 71 carries. Named to the Region 4-2A Super 25 team as a linebacker.



IVORY LAMPKIN
LB, Sr., Leflore County

Came through big time in his final campaign. Lampkin, who not only played linebacker but fullback as well, finished the 2021 season with 57 tackles. He also ran for 279 yards and eight touchdowns on 40 carries. He was selected to the Region 4-2A Super 25 team as a linebacker.



DANTE KELLY
DB, Jr., Leflore County

Played strong safety and linebacker for the Tigers, and also saw some time at running back and receiver. He led Leflore with 98 total tackles and two interceptions. He had 165 yards rushing on 15 carries with three TDs. He was named to the Region 4-2A Super 25 team in the secondary.



NOAH BECK
DB, Jr., Carroll Academy

One of the better overall players in the area. As a defensive back, had 55 tackles with five interceptions. As a receiver, led the Rebels with 34 catches for 530 yards and seven touchdowns. Makes the team for the second straight year. He earned a selection as a wide receiver last year.



ALEX CRISS
DB, Sr., J.Z. George

Played in the secondary and at receiver this past season. Recorded 22 tackles and three interceptions, returning one pick 100 yards for a touchdown. On offense, he had 424 yards receiving and six touchdowns. He picked up 92 yards rushing.



NELSON HODGES
DB, Sr., Pillow Academy

Played defensive back, where he was named to the MAIS Class 5A all-state team as an athlete, and played three different positions on offense. Had 38 total tackles and three interceptions. On offense, had 18 catches for 237 yards and two TDs, ran for 516 yards and 14 scores on 112 carries, and threw for three TDs.



DAVIN ANDERSON
All-Around, Sr., Greenwood

Standout defensive player for the 3-6 Bulldogs. Named to the MAC Class 4A all-state team on defense. He racked up 37 tackles and had a fumble recovery. As the teams QB, rushed for 379 yards and seven TDs on 75 carries to go with seven 2-point conversion runs. Threw for 366 yards and five TDs.

