

# Estill opens Friday against Pirates and Mike Jones

The Estill County Engineers football team will open up the 2021 season this coming Friday, August 20th away at Stanton. The Engineers will be playing long-time rival, the Powell County Pirates, and for the first time will be matched up against former Estill head coach Mike Jones who was named Powell County coach starting in the 2020 season. The teams were scheduled to play in 2020 but the game was cancelled during the Covid-shortened season.

Jones went 90-107 in 18 years at Estill County, including a district title in

2016 when the Engineers went 9-3. He was named "3A Coach of the Year" that year as well in 2014. Powell County finished 2-4 last season under Jones.

Third year coach Jordan Marcum is 7-8 at Estill County after the Engineers finished 2-2 in the Covid-shortened 2020 season. Estill never played a single district game and missed the playoffs in the six-team district.

The Engineers will be competing once again in 3A District 5 with Bell, Garrard, Jackson, McCreary Central and Rockcastle. This is the third time that Estill has

been placed in a 6-team district which means two teams are left out of play-offs while another district has only four teams, each with automatic qualification. However, the Jackson County Generals are not competing within the district this year, leaving only five teams.

Powell County was originally also placed in District 5 but wisely opted out for District 6 because of the long drive times to Bell and McCreary. That means for this term, 2019-2022, Powell and Estill are competing non-conference. The Pirates' district has Fleming, Lewis, Mason, Pendleton and West Carter.

To say that the 2021 Estill County Engineers will be dominated by its seniors may be an understatement since the team fields 12 senior players with eight of them who are in their 4th year of play for Estill.

Leading the Engineers' pack will be 5-9 senior Ty Niece at quarterback. Ty had 222 yards rushing and scored three touchdowns in a single game last season against Lynn Camp. He also plays on defense at safety. His family has a long tradition of football at Estill and even the football field is named for Ty's grandfather, former Estill head coach Hoover Niece.

Other seniors with three years high school experience at Estill include Gabe Hall, Jake Kirby, Caleb Knopp, Noah Lutes, Bailey Muncy, and Jonathan Short.

Short rushed for 98 yards and scored two touchdowns in Estill's last game of the season, a 53-7 win over Owen County. Lutes scored one touchdown each for receiving and rushing in that game.

Dustin Beeler, who graduated last year and played one year for Estill, has opted to return to Estill for another year in order to attend the vocational school. Beeler is also an excellent soccer player and received the 2020 Will Wise Boys



**Estill Head Coach Jordan Marcum**

Soccer Award.

Kaden Arthur played for the Engineers in his sophomore and junior years. Elliot Hardy played as a freshman but did not play for the past two years because of a shoulder injury.

Seniors Canon Scenters and Bryce Willis will both be playing football for the first time for the Engineers.

Braeden Waddle is one of the underclassmen to get a lot of playing time. He ran for 56 yards in a single game in a losing cause against Breathitt County last season. On defense, he stopped the Bobcats with 15 tackles including nine solo.

Caden Arvin, a 5-6 junior, had 48 yards against Lynn Camp in 2020 and scored one touchdown.

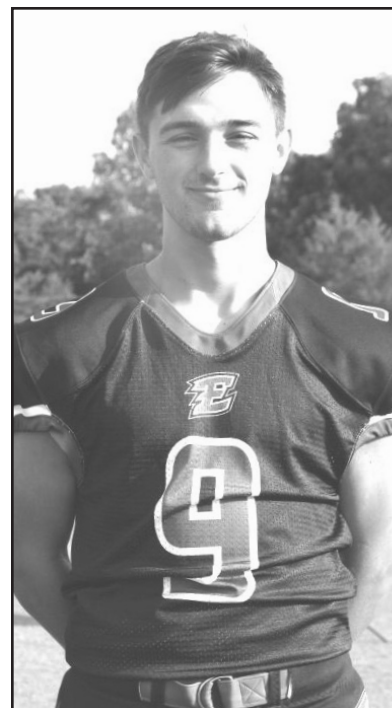
Coach Marcum has several other good players as well with five juniors total, six sophomores and five freshmen.



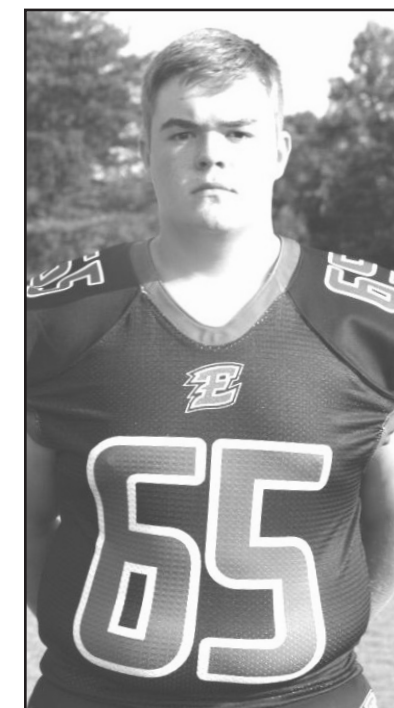
**Estill 5th year senior Dustin Beeler (#9) practices a kick during media day on Tuesday, August 5th. Beeler, a 2021 graduate has opted to stay another year at Estill in order to attend the new vocational school.**



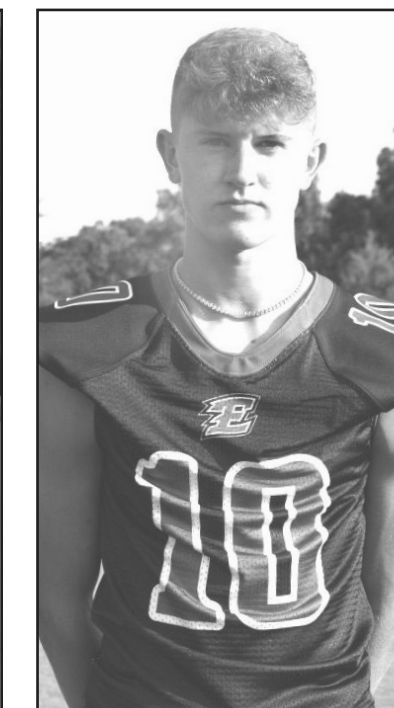
**#69 Kaden Arthur 12th**



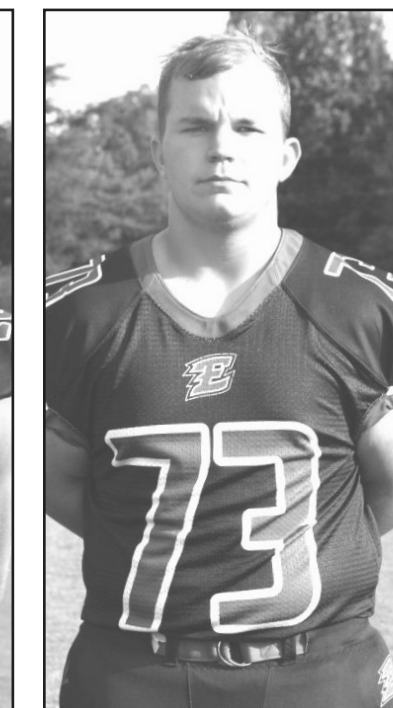
**#9 Dustin Beeler 12th**



**#65 Gabe Hall 12th**



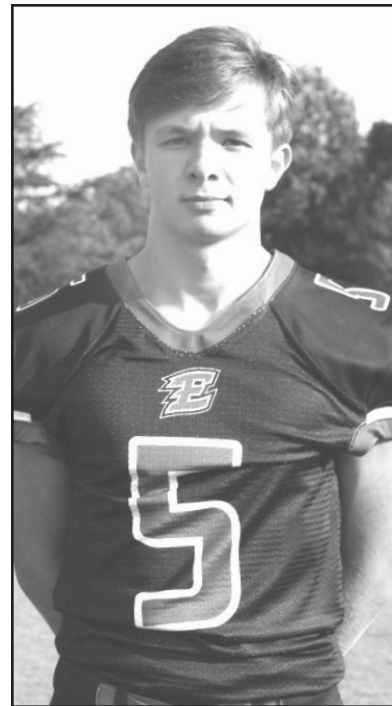
**#10 Elliot Hardy 12th**



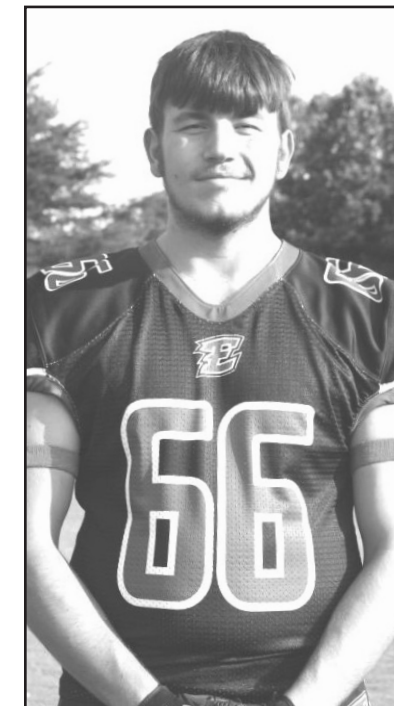
**#73 Jake Kirby 12th**



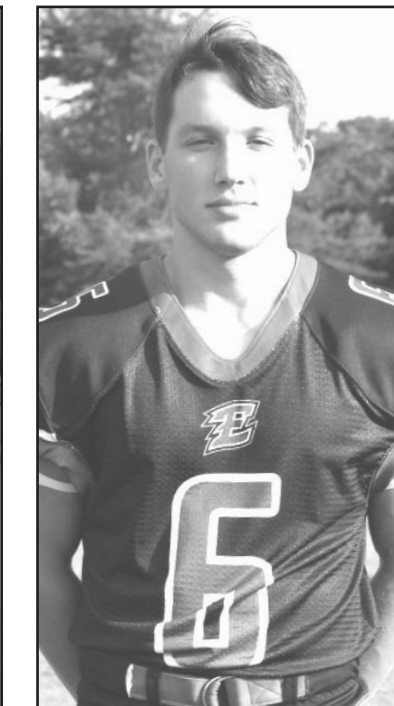
**#84 Caleb Knopp 12th**



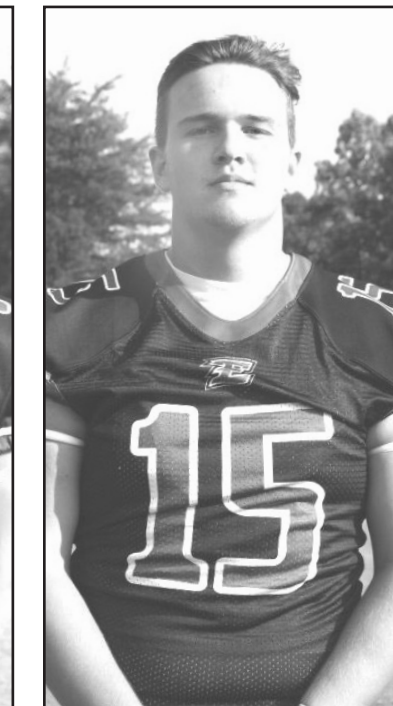
**#5 Noah Lutes 12th**



**#66 Bailey Muncy 12th**



**#6 Ty Niece 12th**



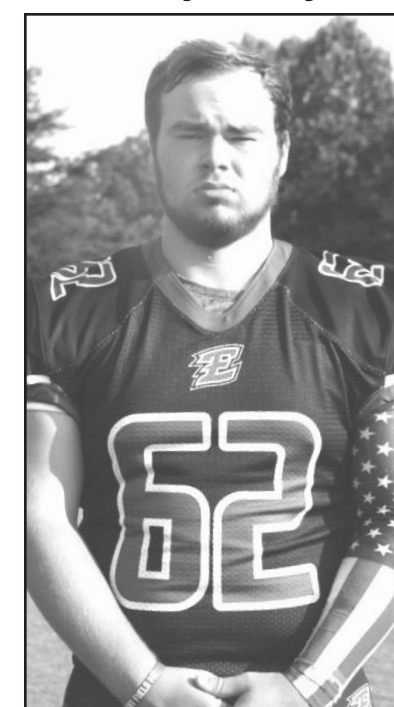
**#15 Canon Scenters 12th**



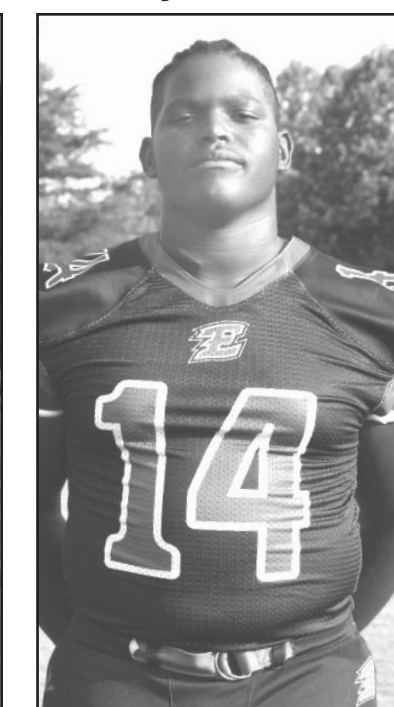
**#8 Jonathon Short 12th**



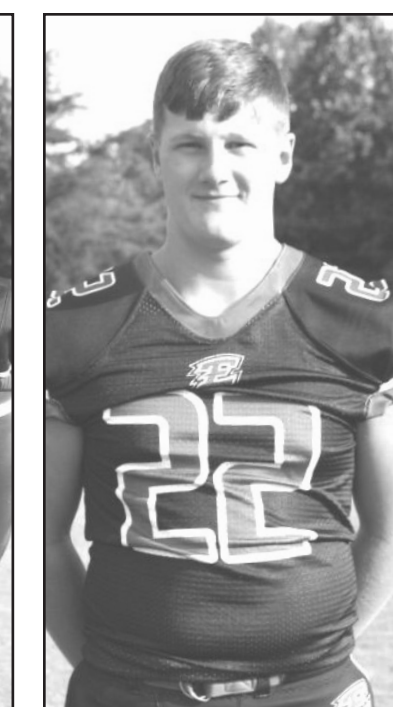
**#4 Bryce Willis 12th**



**#62 Caleb Ross 11th**



**#14 Jeremiah Stephens 11th**



**#22 Braeden Waddle 11th**