

IT'S

GAME TIME

2025

GRIDIRON GUIDE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Info, stories, schedules, photos and roster from
Gordon Central High School Football and info on the
Blue Wave Marching Band and Warrior Football Cheer

GORDON CENTRAL

August 2025

2025 Gridiron Guide - Gordon Central

Gordon Central High School

Gordon Central Football Preview
4-5A

Gordon Central Cheer
6A

Gordon Central Marching Warriors
7A



In addition to a summer full of strength and conditioning workouts combined with field practice, the Warriors participated in several 7 v 7 matches, both at high school and college campuses. The team also had two organized team activities while participating in community service projects, such as volunteering at the Voluntary Action Center. GC's football program participation has increased 33 percent from last season, which now has a team of 48 players.

“
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daughter
again—not just her
her caregiver.”



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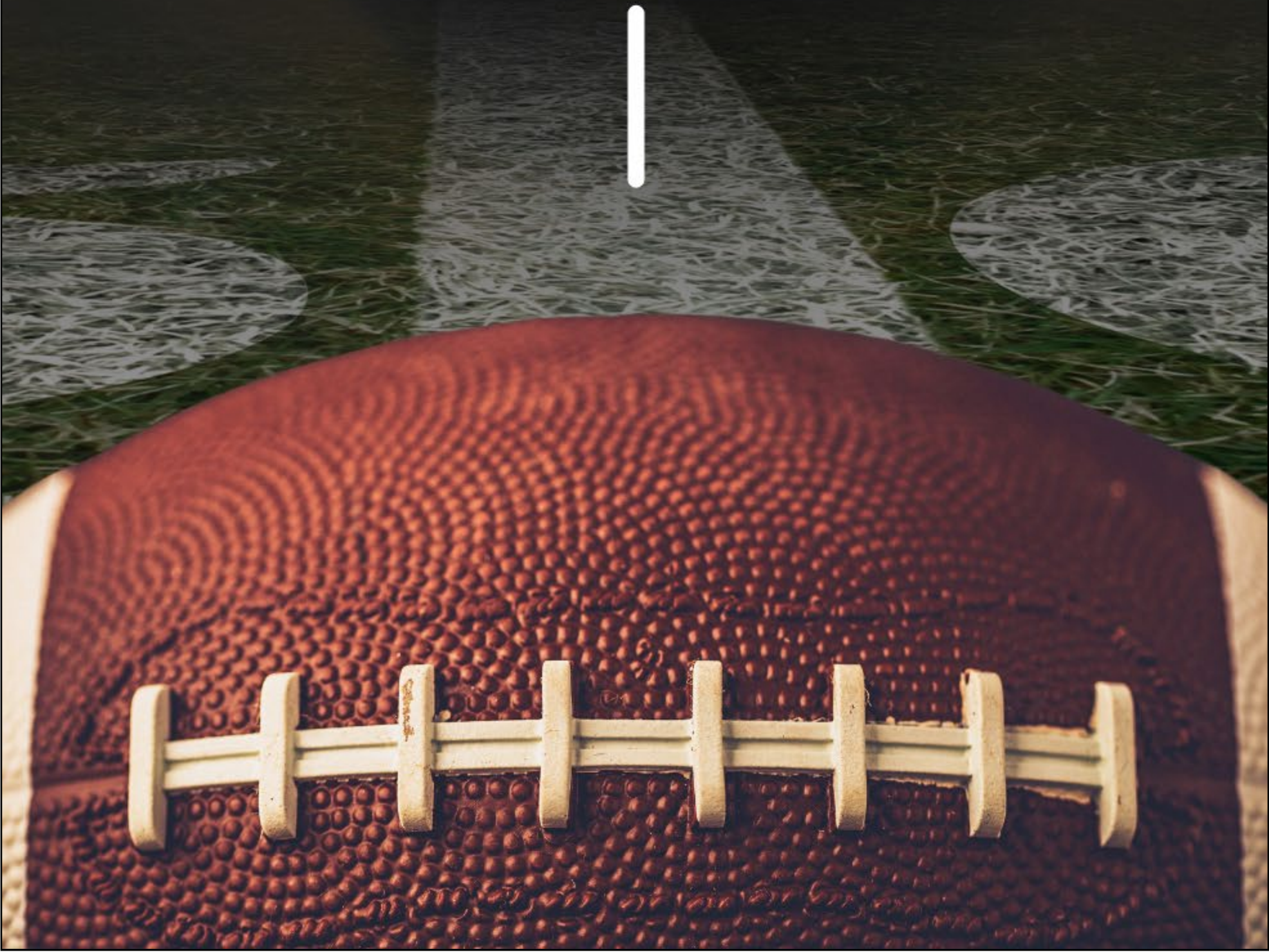
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GORDON
Gazette

*GAME
UPDATES*

**The Gordon Gazette will post
score updates each Friday
night, beginning at 7:30 p.m.
until the end of the game.**

**You can find updates on our
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Team Preview: Gordon Central Warriors

With new coach, Warriors plan to build on successes from last season



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gordon Central Head Coach Marcus Gowan has worked hard with the Warriors over the summer in his first season leading the team.

Brandi Owczarz, Managing Editor
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Gordon Central had a big summer, and pre-season, and are ready to kick off the 2025 season. This is a new era for Gordon Central football, with new head coach Marcus Gowan leading the Warriors, bringing a wealth of experience, leadership and accolades to the program.

Coach Gowan has 13 years coaching experience. This time includes working as an offensive line coach, offensive coordinator, assistant head coach, special teams coordinator, and track/field head coach. Gowan was selected twice as Assistant Coach of the Year through the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA). He was also named as the 2023 6A Parker Resource Offensive Line Coach of the Year. Gowan is committed to the growth and betterment of athletics as a whole, which is why he’s an active member of the GACA. He assists with All-Star Team selections, where he helps recognize and support outstanding student athletes across the state. Additionally, Gowan leads the GACA’s mentor/mentee program, where he connects experienced coaches with newer coaches to build strong relationships and supportive networks to help grow the profession.

Gowan has brought a champion mentality to Gordon Central, and aims to build on the successes that Gordon Central experienced last year; while the team went 4-7 overall and 2-5 in Region 7-A Division 1, the Warriors made their first region play-off appearance in more than a decade. Gowan is now focused on the task at hand: continuing to build Gordon Central Football into a powerhouse program.

The Gazette recently talked to Gowan about the upcoming season.

What did the summer program involve for your team?

Our summer program consisted of strength and conditioning workouts combined with field practice. We participated in several 7-7 matches, both at high-school and college campuses. We also had two organized team activities (OTA’s), while also participating in community service projects such as volunteering at the VAC. Attendance throughout our summer program was consistent, now going into the season with 48 players on the team. This is a 33 percent increase from the end of the 24’25 season. Every player on our team embodies growth in a different way. I think measuring growth is just as important individually as it is for the team as a whole. Student athletes showed growth as leaders, increased their fundamental understanding of the game, and ultimately increased their strength and agility in the weight room and on the field.

How did you keep your

team motivated and encouraged during this time?

One way we keep the team motivated is by making sure they are aware of the growth and progress they are making individually and as a team. When they are able to recognize the strides they are making, their sense of self-worth, commitment, and positive team culture increases.

What do you hope to build on from last year to carry into this season?

The previous coaching staff did a great job transitioning the program in a positive direction. I plan to build on that by continuing to establish a culture of inclusion, measuring the small victories, and providing opportunities for growth of our talented athletes in Gordon County.

What are the biggest keys for this team to focus on in order to have success this season?

Focusing on the little things is key in order to have a successful season. Analyzing the small things like specific movements/directions in a play will ultimately lead to a big thing including the success of that play. Discipline is another big key aspect that we are focusing on to have a successful season, as well as instilling confidence in our student athletes.

Who are some of the impact players for your team in 2025?

SR #24 Rylan Goble RB/LB
SR #1 Brandon Thomas ATH
SR #11 Riley Thomas WR/DB
SR# 7 Tre’Veyon Bigby WR/DB
SR #55 Matthew Grant OL/DL
JR #3 Bentley Talley ILB
JR #4 Jamari Millsap WR/OLB

Who do you think your toughest opponents in your region will be this year?

We are in a very competitive region. To start, Fannin County have been in the playoffs every year under Coach Cheatham, dating back to 2018. They were a quarterfinal team last year and have a tradition and culture of hard work and accountability in their program. There are other teams in our region that will create some challenges for us; however, we are optimistic about our program and hope to build on our previous seasons successes.

What are your overall expectations for what this team can accomplish for the 2025 season?

Our expectation for this season has a direct correlation to our team motto, “HokaHey”. HokaHey is a Lakota Indian war cry that signifies the unity and brotherhood on our team. The saying translates in English to “today is a good day to die with my brothers”, but we use this motto to represent courage, integrity, preparedness, and the community we are creating in our program.

IMPACT PLAYERS

- RYLAN GOBLE, RB/LB
- BRANDON THOMAS, ATH
- RILEY THOMAS, WR/DB
- TRE’VEYON BIGBY, WR/DB
- MATTHEW GRANT, OL/DL
- BENTLEY TALLEY, ILB
- JAMARI MILLSAP, WR/OLB

2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Loc.
AUG. 15	SE Whitfield	HOME
AUG. 22	Butler	HOME
AUG. 29	Josey	HOME
SEPT. 12	Chattooga	AWAY
SEPT. 19	Coosa	AWAY
SEPT. 26	Fannin County	HOME
OCT. 3	Christian Heritage	AWAY
OCT. 10	Gordon Lee	HOME
OCT. 24	Armuchee	AWAY
OCT. 31	Dade County	HOME

All Games Begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



Team Preview:

GORDON CENTRAL WARRIORS

TEAM PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED

TEAM ROSTER

No.	Name	Year	No.	Name	Year	No.	Name	Year
1	BRANDON THOMAS	12	20	BRANDON GLAZE	10	55	MATTHEW GRANT	12
3	BENTLEY TALLEY	11	21	HUNTER BURCHFIELD	10	56	ETHAN DAMPIER	9
4	JAMARI MILLSAP	11	22	ASHER O'NEAL	10	57	HUNTER BENTON	9
5	DRADEN MANIS	10	23	ZADEN BARFIELD	9	60	LANDON WHITFIELD	9
6	ELI RAMOS	10	24	RYLAND GOBLE	12	61	ISAAC PIERCE	9
7	TREVEYON BIGBY	12	25	ERIK GARCIA	10	62	LOGAN SMITH	10
8	ETHAN GARRETT	12	26	AUSTIN BROWN	10	63	AYDEN JACKSON	11
9	GENTRY ALLEN	10	27	NOAH GOFORTH	9	64	TOM PATTERSON	11
10	CLAY ALLEN	9	28	MARK LOPEZ	12	68	LANE BAILEY	11
11	RILEY THOMAS	12	30	CASPEAN GREENE	9	70	ELIJAH NICHELSON	10
12	MORGAN SCHWARTZ	11	31	FRANCO LUZON	9	71	THOMAS MINTON	10
13	BRAYLON SMITH	12	32	RUDY SUAREZ	10	72	MADDEN BURNETTE	10
14	KELLAN PICKENS	14	45	ALEX PINA	12	75	KAIDAN SMITH	11
15	JD CHADWELL	9	50	ANTHONY GREESON	10	76	LEE FOWLER	9
16	JAXON PETTY	9	52	DARIEN LUCKY	10	79	FREDDY VEGA	12
17	JEREMY GREGORY	10	54	KACEDON SMITH	9	89	ROGER CONTRERES	

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Cheer Preview: Gordon Central Warriors



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The 2025 GCHS Warrior Cheerleaders are Hannah Allen, Shelly Allen, Luis Alvarez, Mikayla Beasley, Kymberly Collins, Promise rantzen, Faith Graham, Georgia Gregory, Brilynn Hobson, Zach Kirby, Emma Lamb, Sofia Medina-Soria, Kaylee Mills, Kaitlyn Reeves, Grace Robbins, Abbigail Seay, Brylee Silvers, Olivia Smith, Gracie Tidwell, Arriah Watson and Allison Zapian. Team Manager is Ansley Nix.

Brandi Owczarz, Managing Editor
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Gordon Central High School Cheer is ready for Friday Night Football! This year, Liza Allen is at the helm of the cheer squad. An alum of Gordon Central High School, Allen has spent four years coaching cheer and works as a special education teacher. A native of Gordon County, she is a proud mother of two boys, Isaac and Lucas.

The Gazette was able to catch up with Allen recently to get her thoughts on the upcoming season.

What training/camps did the cheer squad participate in before the start of the season?

The cheerleaders practiced hard all summer to prepare for the season. They also attend Athletic Academy Stunt Camp and FCA Cheer Camp. We will be competing in Game Day this year.

What types of activities will you do for the football team before games to keep the players pumped?

Spirit signs, goodie bags

What are your expectations for the squad this year?

My expectations are for us to grow as a squad, not only in skill, but in our relationships with our teammates.

This year's cheer squad includes: Hanah Allen, Shelly Allen, Luis Alvarez, Mikayla Beasley, Kymberly Collins, Promise rantzen, Faith Graham, Georgia Gregory, Brilynn Hobson, Zach Kirby, Emma Lamb, Sofia Medina-Soria, Kaylee Mills, Kaitlyn Reeves, Grace Robbins, Abbigail Seay, Brylee Silvers, Olivia Smith, Gracie Tidwell, Arriah Watson and Allison Zapian. Team Manager is Ansley Nix.

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Band Preview: Gordon Central Warriors



2025 Gordon Central High School Blue Wave Marching Band.

CONTRIBUTED

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The Gordon Central High School Blue Wave Marching Band begins a new era with new band director Cameron Born.

With more than five years of experience working with middle and high school bands across Georgia, Born brings a passion for music, leadership, and a commitment to excellence to the Gordon Central Band Program.

After graduating from Armuchee High School, Born went to Jacksonville State University to pursue a degree in Music Education and participate in their marching band, the Marching Southerners. After completing his undergraduate and master’s degree, he taught for five years before taking over at Gordon Central High School. He and his wife, Alex, currently reside in the Shannon area where we are halfway between family in Rome and work in Calhoun.

The Gazette spoke to Born about what fans in the stands can expect from the Marching Blue Wave Band’s halftime performance this year.

What music will your halftime show feature?

Our halftime show will feature music that represents the battle

between dark and light. It’s titled “Angels and Demons.”

What did you do to prepare for the season, and will you participate in any competitions this year?

The students started with a two-week band camp where they learned their fundamental marching technique, guard spinning exercises, and basic drumline exercises. During those two weeks, they rehearsed up to 8 hours a day. They also learned as much of the show as they could during that time. We will be participating in three contest this fall. We’re hoping that with their hard work that we’ll see a competitive season!

2025 GORDON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING WARRIORS

DRUM MAJOR: ANGEL VASQUEZ

COLOR GUARD: CARISSA BURCHETT, ISABELLA BAZA, LILITHBROOKS, TAYLAR SOS-EBEE, MADDIE BROWN, PAYTON RICHARDS, ISABELLA DAVIS

FLUTES: TRIPPER

BURNETTE, JA’ZAEYAH TORRES, JOANNA PEREZ, STACEY ROMERO, ELIZABETH MORENO, WILL PSENICKA, CLAUDIA RODRIGUEZ, BELLE WATKINS, KENNIA GALLARDO, VENUS SALGADO, VICTORIA NOBLE

CLARINET: SAVANNA FIELDS, ISAI MORENO

BASS CLARINET: SAVANNA FIELDS, ISAI MORENO

ALTO SAXOPHONE: AARON LOPEZ, CECE BOWMAN, HAVEN CLANCE, ISAACRODRIGUEZ, JOCELYN FUENTES, CLAUDIA TORRES, DARYL HENSLEY, KEYLIN LOPEZ, GRIFFIN KIRSCH

TENOR SAXOPHONE: SHEYLA RAMIREZ

MELLOPHONE: GABE QUINONES, CAM COCHRAN

TRUMPETS: TRISTAIN FARRIS, LESLIE FREYA, ALEX HERNANDEZ, JOEL HERNANDEZ, JACE FLOYD, ALEIA GARLAND, LESLIE CAMPOS

TROMBONE: LILLIAN WILLIAMS, JERTZAIN VASQUEZ, JACK WAITS, KALEB HOLBERT,

CONNOR WALRAVEN

BARITONE: ABISAI RODRIGUEZ

TUBA: ETHAN CHILDERS, ALEX VANDER PLOEG

MALLET: ELIZABETH BRICHAUX, HAILEE, CHURCH, BRANDON BRICHAUX

BELLS: EMILIE WILSON

SYNTHESIZER:LAINEY BRISCOE

BELLS: EMILIE WILSON

SNARE DRUM: ISAAC HOLBERT, RAND DEFOOR

TENOR DRUM: BROOKLYNN MCCARTHY, LANDON PEARSON

BASS 1: ADDISON BORN-MANN

BASS 2: LANDRY RAINWATER

BASS 3: WAYLON HARSTINE

BASS 4: JULIE ZAMORA

BASS 5: ETHAN HALL

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