

2026 FALL BALL

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Special section in The Apopka Chief, August 21, 2026

Darters welcome new leaders of the flock

Apopka enters 2026 with high expectations for bounceback season

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Apopka Blue Darters enter the 2026 season with a group of players who now understand what it means to wear blue and white.

At the center of it all are the team’s leaders.

Senior running back Joshua Taylor, senior defensive end Marcus Young and several other veteran players will be counted on to guide a team that has spent the offseason building toward a return to the postseason.

Leadership is not limited to the seniors. A deep junior class has emerged as an important part of Apopka’s plans.

McNenney, a member of the Class of 2028, enters the year in the lead for the varsity quarterback position with a chance to take control of the offense.

The junior aspires to play college football at LSU, Miami or Florida and enjoys the atmosphere surrounding those teams as much as the game itself.

“I like crazy fans and the nighttime atmosphere of a Saturday night game,” McNenney said. “It’s very, very nostalgic and just a great feeling.”

McNenney studies two quarterbacks

in particular when looking for ways to improve his own game: Caleb Williams and Matthew Stafford.

He admires Williams’ confidence and ability to make plays when his team needs it, while he notes Stafford’s mechanics and ability to manipulate defenders with his eyes.

McNenney also takes a calm approach to preparing for games. His pregame playlist includes artists such as Rod Wave, which he believes helps him settle into the calm mindset required to play quarterback.

“I’m a soft music type of guy that likes to stay calm,” McNenney said. “I feel like the quarterback position is supposed to be played calm, so when I’m listening to calm music before the game, it prepares me to play at a calm level.”

His goals for the season start with the team.

McNenney wants the Blue Darters to improve from last season and ultimately make a run all the way to the end.

His personal goals include maintaining a positive touchdown-to-interception ratio and adding rushing touchdowns, but he said protecting the football remains his biggest priority.

At the junior varsity level, quarterback Brodie Bolly is also developing into a leader for the program.

Bolly, another member of the Class of 2028, has family ties to Florida Atlantic University but considers Hawaii his

dream college because of its culture and community.

His quarterback inspirations include Lamar Jackson and Drew Brees.

Before games, Bolly turns to a combination of reggae and worship music, including Bob Marley, Elevation Rhythm, Cody Carnes and Brandon Lake.

For Bolly, football is about more than individual development.

“I just want to do better than we did last year,” Bolly said. “I think that truly, if we stick together and we are truly committed, we could win state.”

Bolly believes that commitment starts with trust.

“As long as we’re a brotherhood and trust each other and trust God, we can do anything,” he said.

Apopka’s senior leaders are setting the standard throughout the rest of the roster.

Running back and Swiss Army knife Joshua Taylor is one of the team’s most important offensive leaders.

The Miami fan aspires to play college football for the Hurricanes and draws inspiration from running backs Jaden Baugh and David Montgomery.

His pregame routine is built around faith and music. Taylor reads Bible verses such as Isaiah 40 and Psalm 37 before games and listens to Lauryn Hill as he prepares to take the field.

His goals are straightforward: help Apopka go all the way and do whatever

is necessary to make that happen. Individually, Taylor is aiming for at least 1,000 rushing yards.

This season, he will also wear a number that carries special meaning within the Apopka program.

Taylor was awarded the No. 11 jersey, which has been reserved for a player who represents the qualities the program values in a leader.

The number previously belonged to Theotis “Trey” McMiller, an Apopka graduate from the Class of 2001 who was known as a versatile athlete and team-first leader. McMiller later played at Western Kentucky before his tragic death following his freshman year.

The jersey was set aside for a future player who could embody the same type of all-around leadership and play, and Taylor was chosen as the latest recipient.

On the other side of the ball, Young is preparing for a senior season with equally high expectations.

The defensive end, also a member of the Class of 2027, hopes to continue his career at the University of Florida and models his game after NFL star Von Miller.

When the games get bigger, Young turns to “Dead Wrong” by The Notorious B.I.G. to get ready.

His expectations for Apopka are even louder.

PREVIEW, C3

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Apopka football preview	2-3
Apopka coaches.....	3
Apopka varsity team photo	4
Apopka new player profiles.....	4
Apopka junior varsity team photo.....	5
Apopka football retrospective	6
Apopka faculty.....	8
Wekiva faculty.....	9
Wekiva football preview	10
Wekiva coaches.....	10-11
Wekiva team roster.....	12
City of Apopka Recreation Division	14-15

LIST OF ADVERTISERS	
AOK Tire Mart	9
Apopka High School Administration and Faculty	8
Apopka High School Athletic Department	5
Community Health Centers	12
Culver’s.....	7
Florida Institute of Dermatology	6
HCA Florida	15
Maltby’s Tree Service and Landscaping	16
NAPA Auto Parts	9
Roger Williams	8
Shelley’s Septic Tanks.....	8
State Farm, Shren Yeager	14
VFW, Post 10147	14
Wekiva High School Administration and Faculty	9
Wekiva High School Athletic Department	13

Meet the Blue Darter coaches

HEAD COACH MARCUS NEESON



Head coach Marcus Neeson is entering his 13th year of coaching, his ninth at Apopka and his second season leading the program. Neeson began with the Blue Darters as the freshman defensive coordinator before becoming the freshman head coach. He later coached the varsity secondary and served as defensive coordinator in 2023 before taking over as head coach in 2025. Neeson is joined by a staff featuring both longtime Apopka coaches and several new faces.

MATT ANDERSON



Matt Anderson brings 33 years of coaching experience to the defensive line. Anderson has coached in Texas, Missouri and Florida and has sent players to some of the best colleges in the nation.

DEON WILLIAMS



Deon Williams enters his eighth year coaching as the program's quality control coach, filling whatever role the staff needs.

BOB HEAD



Bob Head is in his first season at Apopka and serves as defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach. Head has 25 years of coaching experience, including 14 years as a head coach in Orange County.

LARVEZ "POOH BEAR" MARS



Larvez "Poo Bear" Mars continues his 10-year coaching tenure at Apopka as the linebackers coach. Mars is also a former Blue Darter who went on to play at Florida International University.

JASON RITZ



Jason Ritz enters his second year coaching at Apopka, working with the offensive line while also coaching at the junior varsity and freshman levels. Ritz is an Apopka graduate from the class of 2001.

NORMAN TAYLOR



Norman Taylor, who has spent 10 years coaching in the Apopka community, works with the freshman team.

JANKO BERAS



Janko Beras begins his first season with the Blue Darters as the offensive line coach after six years of coaching.

FRED BUSH



Fred Bush brings 25 years of coaching experience and serves as the junior varsity head coach.

KELVIN "BIG BABY" JOYNER



Kelvin "Big Baby" Joyner coaches the offensive line and tight ends. A member of Apopka's class of 2014, Joyner is entering his 10th year of coaching.

RIAN DAVIS



Rian Davis is in his first season at Apopka as a linebackers coach. A native of Apopka, Davis played at and graduated from Wekiva High School.

KAREE PITTS



Karee Pitts coaches the running backs and freshman team. Pitts is entering his fourth year as a coach and second season at Apopka. His connection to the program goes back even further, as he grew up in the area while his father coached the Blue Darters from 1996-2006.

PREVIEW

FROM C2

"We should get far into the playoffs this year," Young said. "As hard as we've been working, especially after last year, how disappointing it was, we've been coming back with a vengeance."

Young has set himself a goal of recording at least one sack in every game.

They are joined by other senior leaders including offensive lineman Wilgains Vaval and linebackers Le'melle Griffin and Jayden Caban.

But Apopka's leadership group ex-

tends into the junior class.

Defensive lineman Demetri Tarpley has already received an offer from Georgia Southern University, while defensive back David Wemberly, offensive lineman Jay Rodriguez and running back Jakyvion Kemp have caught the coaching staff's attention throughout the offseason.

The wide receiver room has also emerged as one of the team's most intriguing position groups.

Senior Xavier Cruz and juniors Nyzier Collington, Johnson Navilssaint and Ceon Cotton, along with sophomore

Jaylen Laster, headline a group of natural playmakers. Seniors Aiden Bolden and Lamarqus Ashley provide additional size and receiving ability.

Laster and Navilssaint currently own the team's fastest 40-yard dash times, giving the Blue Darters game-breaking speed on the outside.

Together, the group represents a roster that is not relying solely on its seniors to lead the way.

Now, Apopka gets its chance to show what all that work looks like under the lights.

The Blue Darters faced West Orange

in their preseason Kickoff Classic last Friday, falling 38-18. They open the regular season Friday night on the road against Boone.

The Boone matchup carries some history. Apopka defeated the Braves 17-3 in the first round of the 2022 playoffs and has won the last six meetings.

After Boone, Apopka returns home Aug. 28 to host Winter Park before welcoming rival Ocoee to town Sept. 4.

Those games will provide the first opportunities for Apopka's emerging leaders to show what they can do when the stakes become real.

2026 Apopka Blue Darters varsity football team



Returning transfers set to play pivotal role

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Blue Darters welcome several new players into the program this season, including a pair of seniors who have already experienced Apopka football before transferring away.

Senior cornerback Kamron Medina and senior defensive back Elysian Williams both spent two seasons at Apopka before leaving for other programs. Now, both are back in the blue and white with hopes of helping the Darters make a postseason run.

Medina, a member of the Class of 2027, transferred to Lake Brantley before returning to Apopka. He said the opportunity to play for coach Marcus Neeson again played a major role in his decision.

"I'm just looking to prove that I can play at a high level," Medina said.

The senior cornerback has his sights set on playing at the FBS level and ultimately earning a Division I opportunity. He enters the season with individual goals of recording at least three interceptions, more than 10 pass breakups

and 20 or more tackles.

Medina also wants the team to make the playoffs and win its district.

His game is influenced by some of the best cornerbacks in football, including Jalen Ramsey and Patrick Surtain II, but his immediate focus is earning the opportunity to show what he can do.

Williams has a deep connection to the program.

After spending two years at Apopka, Williams transferred to Ocoee. The Class of 2027 defensive back said leaving Apopka never felt completely right.

"When I left it was like something was missing and left behind," Williams said. "I grew up with these guys and won a National Championship with them in Pop Warner. I wanted to come back to help."

Williams hopes to help restore the standard he remembers from his first stint with the Blue Darters.

"I left off as a playoff team for the past 25 years, and that's just what we need, I want to bring it back," Williams said. "I'm here to help and fill in where they need me."

Williams looks to former Apopka

defensive backs Brandon Merriweather and KJ Dillon for inspiration, while also studying NFL stars Ramsey and Tyrann Mathieu.

His ultimate goal is to go to college and build a career, with Florida State currently his dream destination.

The Blue Darters also added junior running back Jalen Parmely, a member of the Class of 2028, who transferred from Evans High School.

Then there is freshman quarterback Kai Goodling, who could quickly become one of the most intriguing new additions to the program.

Goodling, a left-handed quarterback from Bridgewater Middle School in Winter Garden, enters Apopka as a member of the Class of 2030 and is already competing for varsity opportunities despite being a freshman.

He embraces the pressure that comes with playing quarterback. He dreams of attending Penn State and loves the environment.

"Being in that atmosphere, I love the pressure," Goodling said.

Goodling lists Baker Mayfield and Jaxson Dart among his favorite quarter-

backs, admiring players who are willing to put everything into helping their teams win.

That same mentality carries into his own goals for his first season.

Goodling wants to improve his composure while adjusting to the demands of high school football and has set an ambitious goal of throwing for more than 2,000 yards.

But the freshman understands that individual numbers will take a back seat to the team.

"Whatever I need to do for my team to win, I'll do it," Goodling said. "I run the ball, pass the ball, I'll do it all. I just want to win."

Goodling also has a unique way of preparing for game day. Rather than turning up the intensity with loud music before games, he prefers a calmer soundtrack, including Morgan Wallen and reggae-inspired music, to help settle his nerves and get into the right mindset.

All four players enter the season looking for the same thing: an opportunity to make their mark in the blue and white.

2026 Apopka Blue Darters junior varsity team



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OPINION

2026 brings optimism for big step forward in Apopka

By Roger Franklin Williams
Correspondent

As we approach a new football season, the biggest impression from this perspective is how far Apopka football has come from this time last year. We entered our Kickoff Classic with West Orange with a program with over 100 players, including a large, well-stocked varsity roster, a big junior varsity roster, a freshman program—which is significant because many area schools no longer have freshman football, and a schedule that is much more manageable. This is quite a contrast from this time last year when our first-year head coach, Marcus Neeson, was attempting to stick a proverbial finger in a dike that was more like a tidal wave.

Coach Neeson took over a program that was reeling from massive player defections (over 30 varsity players exited the program after spring football), a severely depleted coaching staff and a schedule that was possibly the most difficult in Florida—one that included eight playoff teams and was loaded with some of the most elite programs in

Florida.

It is impossible to overstate the job Coach Marcus Neeson has done off the field as he has worked around the clock to rebuild Blue Darter football. His efforts have spanned the realm of reaching out to area youth football programs, which start around age 7, to proactively bring former Blue Darter players, including former and current NFL players and other Apopka football legends, back into the program in dramatic and creative ways.

One more important thing to note is that despite all the extraordinary obstacles, Coach Neeson and his band of courageous overachievers were able to capture two victories last year, which included ending the season with a 35-0 victory over rival Wekiva to capture the “Battle for the Mayor’s Cup,” thereby ending a season with unspeakable hardships on an upliftingly positive note.

Last Friday, he led Apopka football toward the next step—the ON-THE-FIELD phase of rebuilding. We traveled to West Orange for the 2026 Kickoff Classic against West Orange. It is interesting to note that this is perhaps the first season since West

Orange High School was established in the fall of 1975 that Apopka and West Orange have not played in the regular season. Preseason games do not count toward the regular-season record or qualifying for the playoffs.

Our regular season starts with a trip to Orlando to play the Boone Braves, a 2025 district champion with an 11-2 record last season. According to Coach Neeson, the 2026 Blue Darters will include a mix of returning players who gained valuable experience last season, players up from the

freshman and junior varsity teams, as well as a few transfers.

According to Coach Neeson, Blue Darter fans can expect an offense that employs “multiple” formations and tactics; a solid defense; a coaching staff that is well stocked with experienced coaches; and a schedule that is tough but much more realistic than in 2025. Coach Marcus Neeson has made extraordinary strides in rebuilding Apopka football off the field in the past 12 months. We eagerly anticipate the on-the-field season results, starting Friday..



Blue Darters take the field against West Orange. | PHOTO BY VINNIE CAMMARANO



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Deana Tolbert **60**



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Ashley Schneider **42**



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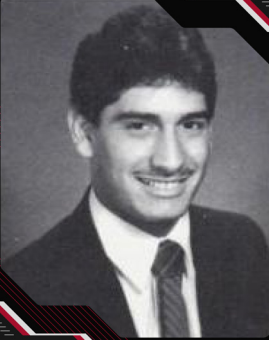
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Mustangs look to rebuild standard of Wekiva football

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Wekiva Mustangs aren't running from last season. They're using it as motivation.

After finishing with just one win in 2025, Wekiva enters the 2026 season with a revamped roster, a new-look coaching staff and a group of players determined to establish a new standard for Mustang football.

The changes are noticeable throughout the roster. Wekiva added eight varsity transfers during the offseason, bringing in players from Evans, Ocoee and Lyman while also adding two freshmen from West Oaks Academy.

The influx of new players has given coach Ashton Watts and his staff plenty of pieces to work with as they attempt to rebuild the program.

The Mustangs got their first opportunity to see that new-look roster in action during the preseason Kickoff Classic against Tavares. They scored a 14-13 comeback win against a 2025 playoff team.

Now, the games begin to count. Wekiva opens the regular season at home against Cypress Creek on Friday before hitting the road for three consecutive games.

Leading the Mustangs into the season are four captains who have emerged as some of the team's most important players: senior wide receiver Reshard Ricketts, senior running back Landon Jerome, senior line-

backer Jaylyn Noel and senior safety Avantae Scott.

Ricketts transferred from Evans and has quickly made an impression on the coaching staff. The senior brings size, speed and reliable hands to a receiving corps that could become one of Wekiva's biggest strengths.

Jerome has been one of the team's most consistent standouts throughout the offseason. The senior running back has turned heads with his physical running style and ability to break off explosive plays.

He showed that ability during both the Maroon and Gold Game and the spring jamboree, where he broke loose for several big runs.

After putting together a strong offseason, Jerome enters the season as one of the players Wekiva will rely on most to establish its offense.

The Mustangs will also have plenty of speed on the outside.

Senior track athletes Bakary Manley and Dominique Walker are expected to play major roles at wide receiver. Walker made his presence known during the spring jamboree as one of the team's primary targets, while Manley's speed gives Wekiva another player capable of stretching a defense.

Scott also gives the Mustangs another option at receiver. The senior captain is expected to contribute on offense, defense and special teams, including returning kicks.

Defensively, Scott will have one of the most important responsibilities on the field.

As the team's safety, he is trusted to prevent big plays from developing behind the defense. His speed has made him one of Wekiva's most reliable athletes in the secondary, and Watts has shown confidence in his ability to handle the responsibility.

Noel will be another key piece of the defense.

The senior linebacker has spent the summer establishing himself as a vocal leader in the middle of the field. During 7-on-7 competition, Noel

made multiple interceptions while showing the versatility to make plays in coverage.

The roster overhaul goes beyond the four captains.

The Mustangs also added senior defensive back Tommy Henderson from Ocoee. Henderson recorded 18 tackles last season and brings varsity experience to a secondary that will need to develop quickly.

WEKIVA, PAGE 11



Dominique Walker blasts his way into the end zone for Wekiva's first touchdown last Friday, when the Mustangs came from behind to defeat Tavares, 14-13.

| PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

New coaches bring new expectations to Wekiva

By Vinnie Cammarano | Reporter



HEAD COACH
ASHTON WATTS

The Wekiva Mustangs enter the 2026 football season with a new-look roster and a renewed sense of purpose. Head coach Ashton Watts enters his 13th year of coaching and his first season at the helm of Wekiva, bringing with him nearly a decade of experience coaching at the high school level. He fits into a coaching staff that combines years of experience with familiarity inside the

program.

Watts began coaching in 2015 with Ocoee Pop Warner before moving on to West Orange and Ocoee high schools. He later spent five years as the offensive coordinator at Horizon before taking over at Wekiva. Now, Watts is leading a program coming off a one-win season and overseeing a significant roster overhaul.

The work began in the spring and continued throughout the summer, with Watts saying the offseason seemed to pass more quickly than any he has experienced.

"It's just been a beautiful thing to enjoy the process and watch these guys grow from the spring," Watts said. "I'm actually amazed with the growth that we've had from the spring, just in our mindset and our mentality. It just went by so fast."

That growth has been a major focus for Watts and his staff.

Wekiva added eight varsity transfers during the offseason, while several returning players have taken on leadership roles. The Mustangs have also spent the summer competing in 7-on-7 events and preparing for the regular

season.

Watts just wants his players to focus on what they can control each day.

"Come out, try to win each day, and get better every single day," Watts said. "If we handle that part, you know, wins and everything else will fall in place. I'm not a prediction guy, but I believe if we put our focus in on winning and being successful every day in everything that we do, we will be successful."

Watts has plenty of experience around him to help deliver that message.

WEKIVA

FROM PAGE 10

Senior Reshard Ricketts and junior Gavin Anderson-Brown both transferred from Evans. Noel and Henderson came from Ocoee, while juniors Jaiden Robison and Marquavius Teague-Petit transferred from Lyman.

Wekiva also added freshmen Nehemiah and Jeremiah Middleton from West Oaks Academy.

Anderson-Brown enters the season with additional momentum after earning a college offer from Warner University during the offseason.

At quarterback, senior Dominick Sanguine takes over after playing at Olympia last season.

Sanguine has impressed the Wekiva coaching staff throughout the offseason and has emerged as a senior leader for a team that has undergone significant change. His ability to command the offense and distribute the ball to Wekiva's collection of playmakers will be important as the Mustangs look to find consistency on that side of the ball.

Freshman Terrance Cook will provide depth at quarterback at the junior varsity level as Wekiva continues developing its young talent.



Avantae Scott breaks up a pass late against Tavares. | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

The Mustangs' biggest challenge may be turning all of those individual pieces into a cohesive team.

The roster has changed. The coaching staff has changed. The expectations inside the program have changed.

Now comes the difficult part: proving it on Friday nights.



Reshard Ricketts attempts a one-handed interception. | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

Wekiva has spent the offseason competing in 7-on-7 events and preparing its new group of players for the season. The work has given Watts and his staff an opportunity to evaluate the newcomers while allowing returning players to establish themselves as

leaders. For Jerome, Noel, Scott and Ricketts, that leadership responsibility will extend beyond statistics. They are the players tasked with helping establish what Wekiva football looks like moving forward.

ALEX VASQUEZ



Offensive line coach Alex Vasquez is entering his third season at Wekiva and has nine years of coaching experience. Vasquez also serves as the school's head flag football coach.

JERRY MIDDLETON



Defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach Jerry Middleton brings 18 years of coaching experience to the staff. This will be his fourth year coaching at Wekiva, although it is his first year back with the program after spending the previous three years away.

Middleton also serves as the head coach of Wekiva's girls basketball team.

ANTHONY GAY



Offensive coordinator Anthony Gay, known around the program as Coach Grant, enters his fifth year of coaching and his third season at Wekiva. He will be responsible for coordinating an offense that features several new playmakers, including senior quarterback Dominick Sanguine and a receiving corps led by a versatile senior core.

STEVE BRANDENBURG



Defensive line coach Steve Brandenburg provides some of the most extensive experience on the staff. Brandenburg is entering his 28th year of coaching and his eighth season at Wekiva.

LAMARCUS JACKSON



At wide receiver, Lamarcus Jackson enters his 10th year of coaching and his fifth season with the Mustangs. He will work with a group that has generated plenty of excitement during the offseason because of its combination of size and speed.

COREY BRINSON



Special teams coordinator Corey Brinson also brings extensive experience, entering his 27th year of coaching football and his fifth season at Wekiva.

ADRIAN BUIE



Adrian Buie is entering his first season on the Wekiva staff. He has two years of coaching experience and will work with the inside linebackers while also assisting with the defensive ends.

BRANDIN HAWTHORNE



Brandin Hawthorne joins Wekiva as a linebacker and special teams coach after playing at the University of Michigan from 2009-12. Hawthorne has 13 years of coaching experience and adds a college playing background to a defensive staff tasked with developing a new group of players.



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| ✓ Behavioral Health
NEW SERVICE | ✓ Optometry
NEW SERVICE |



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throughout Central Florida

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Wekiva Mustangs roster

No.	Name	Grade	No.	Name	Grade
0	Avantae Scott	12	27	Isaiah Hollie	10
1	Dominique Walker	12	29	Charles Jean Mary	12
2	Bakary Manley	12	30	Jeamar Gilles	11
4	Landon Jerome	12	32	Dieudson Riche	10
5	Gavin Anderson-Brown	11	33	Elijah Antoine	9
6	Tommy Henderson	12	34	Jontavious Harp	9
7	Reshard Ricketts	12	35	Michael Darget	11
8	Deandre Adams	11	55	Izayah Bell	12
9	Jaylyn Noel	12	56	Brayden Winkelsas	9
10	Braylen Bouie	12	57	Joseph Henry	12
11	Ty'Rance Cook	9	65	Eddie Reed	12
12	Nehemiah Middleton	9	68	Therion Coston	11
13	Anthony Bello	12	72	Klark Joseph	11
14	Jaiden Robinson	11	73	Rodrigo Aguiar	10
15	Dominick Sanguine	12	74	Kyle Sylvester	12
18	Travelle Jefferson	10	75	Yeremiah Allen	10
19	Tre'veion Goldsmith	9	85	Givonny Bufford	10
20	Jeremiah Middleton	9		Malik Barnes	11
21	Jochrist Exantus	11		Jeremiah Caison	12
22	Erwin Joseph	11		Derek Campos	12
23	De'Andre Payne	10		Guy-Hermann Hyppolite	11
24	Jaren Rutledge	11		Josiah Rose	10
25	Peter Njua	10		Marquavius Teague	11
26	Robert Hollis	10		Trenton Rozier	10



Wekiva huddles at practice ahead of the Kickoff Classic. | PHOTO BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

Apopka Recreation Division offers myriad opportunities

The City of Apopka offers a variety of recreational opportunities for residents of all ages, from youth and adult athletics to senior activities, parks and other community facilities.

Through its Parks and Recreation Department, the city provides seasonal sports leagues, fitness and social programs, facility rentals and other activities throughout the year. Programs include youth soccer, flag football and basketball, adult softball and kickball, and a variety of activities for seniors.

For more information about Parks and Recreation programs, call 407-703-1784 or visit the City of Apopka website at Apopka.gov.

recreation programs and facility rentals is available online through the city's recreation registration system. Birth certificates are required when registering players for youth and teen programs.

For current registration dates, fees and availability, visit Apopka.gov or call the Parks and Recreation Department at 407-703-1784.

ATHLETICS

The City of Apopka offers youth and adult athletic programs throughout the year. Youth programs include soccer, flag football and basketball, while adult programs include softball and kickball.

Youth Soccer (Spring, Fall)

Youth soccer is offered for boys and

Online registration

Registration for City of Apopka rec-

RECREATION PROGRAMS, FROM PAGE 12

girls ages 4-14 during the spring and fall, with practices and games held at the Northwest Recreation Complex.

For the fall 2026 season, registration for returning spring 2026 players was held July 5-8, followed by general registration July 8-Aug. 4. Practices are scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 24, with games scheduled from Sept. 4 through Oct. 24.

Registration for spring 2027 will open Dec. 6-8 for returning fall 2026 players. General registration is scheduled for Dec. 9 through Jan. 11, 2027. Practices are scheduled to begin the week of Feb. 15, 2027, with games running from Feb. 27, 2027, through April 24, 2027.

For current registration fees and availability, visit Apopka.gov or call Athletics at 407-703-1784.

Youth Flag Football

Youth flag football is offered during the winter for children ages 6-14. The program fee is \$125 for city residents and \$150 for non-residents. Practices and games are held at the Northwest Recreation Complex.

Registration for returning players for the winter 2026 season is scheduled for Sept. 13-15, with open registration from Sept. 16 through Oct. 19. Practices are

scheduled to begin the week of Nov. 2, and games will run from Nov. 14 through Jan. 16, 2027.

Youth Basketball

The city's coed youth basketball program is offered during the summer for children ages 6-14.

The 2026 season was held at Wolf Lake Middle School and Kelly Park School. Teams practiced once a week, with games played Saturdays during an eight-week season. The 2026 season ran from June 6 through Aug. 1.

For information about future youth basketball registration and fees, visit Apopka.gov or call Athletics at 407-703-1784.

Adult Softball and Kickball

The City of Apopka offers men's and coed adult softball leagues and a coed adult kickball league. Adult softball and kickball programs are offered in fall, winter and summer.

Games are held at the Northwest Recreation Complex. For registration information, visit the city's online registration page or call 407-703-1784.

Racquetball Court

The racquetball court at Kit Land Nelson Park, 10 S. Forest Ave., is available

for use by permit. Reservations are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., while weekend use is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

A six-month racquetball/wallyball permit costs \$100, and a 12-month permit costs \$195. Permits may be purchased at the Fran Carlton Center, 11 N. Forest Ave., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 407-703-1642.

TENNIS COURTS

Northwest Recreation Complex

The Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway, has four outdoor hard-surface tennis courts.

Court hours are 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to sunset Saturday and Sunday, with weekend rentals available until 5 p.m.

Courts may be reserved for \$5 per hour, plus tax. Reservations are limited to one per person per day and may be for a minimum of one hour and a maximum of two hours. Reservations may be made up to 72 hours in advance online or in person at the Northwest Recreation Complex Administration Office.

Courts that have not been reserved are available for free on a first-come, first-served basis, with walk-up use limited to

one hour per group.

OTHER EVENTS

Facility and field rental

A variety of City of Apopka facilities and park amenities are available for private rentals, including community centers, picnic pavilions and athletic fields.

The Fran Carlton Center, 11 N. Forest Ave., and the Apopka Community Center, 519 S. Central Ave., are available for private events. For questions about those facilities or available rental dates, call 407-703-1642.

For information about facility rentals, visit the city's online Rec1 page. For information about athletic field rentals, call 407-703-1784.

SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMMING

The City of Apopka offers a variety of programs and activities for senior adults, including fitness classes, arts and crafts, cards, day trips, movies and social activities.

Many programs are held at the Fran Carlton Center, 11 N. Forest Ave. A senior membership is required to participate in the city's senior programs and activities.

For additional information about senior programs and senior memberships, call

MORE PROGRAMS, PAGE 14

Wekiva High School Athletic Department *salutes the* *2026 Wekiva Mustangs!*



GO MUSTANGS!

www.wekivamustangs.com



MORE PROGRAMS, FROM PAGE 13

407-703-1642.

Senior chair exercise class

Chair exercise classes focus on mobility, balance, strength and range of motion. Classes are offered from 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Fran Carlton Center.

An additional class is offered from 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Billie Dean Community Center at Alonzo Williams Park. A senior recreation membership is required.

Senior Zumba

Zumba for senior adults is offered from 9-10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Fran Carlton Center.

The fitness program incorporates dance styles, including merengue, cha-cha, flamenco, belly dance, reggae and salsa. Prior dance experience is not required. A senior recreation membership is required.

Art studio

Senior adults can bring their own materials and get creative with others at the city's open art studio.

Contact the Fran Carlton Center at 407-703-1642 for the current schedule and additional information.

Social bridge

The social bridge group meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at the Fran Carlton Center. Pre-registration is required.

Contact the Fran Carlton Center at 407-703-1642 for additional information.

Crafts and Chatter

The Crafts and Chatter group meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at the Fran Carlton Center. Participants can bring projects to work on while sharing ideas and conversation with other members. A recreation membership is required.

Senior trips and movies

The city offers senior members day trips and movie opportunities throughout the year.

Because destinations and schedules vary, contact the Fran Carlton Center at 407-703-1642 for information about upcoming trips and activities.

Senior potluck lunch

A potluck luncheon is generally held on the last Thursday of each month for senior adult members. The event includes door prizes, guest speakers and an opportunity for members to socialize.

The cost is \$1 plus a covered dish to share. A recreation membership is required.

OTHER FACILITIES

Doctors' Dog Park

Doctors' Dog Park, 21 N. Highland Ave., is located off Highland Avenue behind Edwards Field.

The 750-foot-by-300-foot dog park features water fountains, a pet shower, benches, a pet memorial bridge and open space for dogs to play. The park is open from 8 a.m. to dark daily.

For more information, call 407-703-1642.

FACILITY LOCATIONS

Northwest Recreation Complex

3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway
Apopka, FL 32712
Phone: 407-703-1784

Fran Carlton Center

11 N. Forest Ave.
Apopka, FL 32703
Phone: 407-703-1642

Billie Dean Community Center
at Alonzo Williams Park

225 M A Board St.
Apopka, FL 32703

Phone: 407-703-1742

Apopka Athletic Complex

797 Wells Ave.
Apopka, FL 32712
Phone: 407-703-1784

Apopka Community Center

519 S. Central Ave.
Apopka, FL 32703
Phone: 407-703-1642

Kit Land Nelson Park

10 S. Forest Ave.
Apopka, FL 32703
Phone: 407-703-1642

Doctors' Dog Park

21 N. Highland Ave.
Apopka, FL 32703
Phone: 407-703-1642

Dream Lake Park

364 N. Park Ave.
Apopka, FL 32712
Phone: 407-703-1784

Lake Avenue Park

39 N. Lake Ave.
Apopka, FL 32712
Phone: 407-703-1784



Post 10147

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Bronze - \$300

24" x 18" hole sign

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CHANCES TO WIN:

1st - \$400 2nd - \$300 3rd - \$200 cash prizes

50/50 Drawing

Mulligans - \$5 each (limit four (4) per golfer)

Hole-In-One - \$1000 cash prizes**

Longest Drive - \$100*

Straightest Drive - \$100*

Closest to the Pin - \$100*

ANNUAL
GOLF
TOURNAMENT



Saturday,
October 3, 2026



Registration at 0800
Shotgun start at 0900



Zellwood Station
Golf Course



\$100 per Golfer
Buffet luncheon for
all players

Proceeds benefit
Apopka/Altamonte
Springs Post 10147's
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and reserve units.



*No mulligans on prize holes. **No mulligans. If there is no Hole-In-One winner, the \$1,000 prize will be raffled off during lunch for \$10 per chance.

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Good Luck
Blue Darters
& Mustangs

Shren Yeager, Agent

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