

Morning News Preseason

# All-Pee Dee Football Team

Pee Dee

## Elite Eight

Rank. Team (Last season's record) Last poll

**1. Wilson (12-3) 1**

**Last game:** Wilson 14, Chester 12 (Class 3A state championship)  
**Why the Tigers are ranked:** They return a bulk of the team which won the school's first state football title in 50 years. The Tigers return most of their skilled players on offense, including their two quarterbacks, top two running backs and two receivers. A return trip to the title game isn't out of the question.

**2. Cheraw (13-2) 2**

**Last game:** Cheraw 58, Chapman 14 (Class 2A state championship)  
**Why the Braves are ranked:** Led by preseason Player of the Year, Travis Small, Cheraw returns 13 starters from last year's title winning team. In addition to Small, Cheraw has running back Montrell Evans. The duo combined for more than 3,000 yards last season.

**3. Marlboro County (9-3) T-5**

**Last game:** Strom Thurmond 17, Marlboro County (Second round of Class 3A playoffs)  
**Why the Bulldogs are ranked:** Finished season by winning nine of their last 10 games. Have one of the more talented teams in the Pee Dee led by three Division I verbal commitments — Tariq and Tyrell Edwards, Virginia Tech) and Kinsman Thomas (South Carolina).

**4. Lake View (11-2) T-5**

**Last game:** Blackville-Hilda 27, Lake View 7 (Class A Division II lower state championship)  
**Why the Wild Gators are ranked:** Have a strong nucleus back under first-year coach Daryl King led by Paul Thompson and Quandon Christian. Have only two losses to Class A schools since the middle of 2006.

**5. West Florence (7-5) NR**

**Last game:** Berkeley 37, West Florence 6 (Second round of Class 4A playoffs)  
**Why the Knights are ranked:** They are one of the most experienced teams in the area with 31 seniors on the roster. West has the potential to have one of the most stingy defenses. Led by the trio of Sydney Sarmiento (Duke), Avery Murray (Maryland) and Malliciah Goodman (Clemson), all who have committed to Division I schools.

**T-6. Dillon (11-3) 4**

**Last game:** Cheraw 24, Dillon 6 (Third round of Class 2A playoffs)  
**Why the Wildcats are ranked:** They haven't had a losing season and lost more than four games since Jackie Hayes arrived in 1992.

**T-6. Lamar (10-3) T-7**

**Last game:** Carvers Bay 41, Lamar 7 (Class A Division I lower state championship)  
**Why the Silver Foxes are ranked:** J.R. Boyd is calling the shots again and hopes to land Lamar back in the state title game for the first time since 2004.

**8. Manning (11-2) NR**

**Last game:** Central 42, Manning 15 (Third round of Class 2A playoffs)  
**Why the Monarchs are ranked:** Team has maybe the best 1-2 punch at wide receiver and running back in the form of Marcus Lloyd and Jason Witherspoon.

**Others receiving votes:** Carvers Bay, Hartsville Lake City

## SMALL

Continued From 1C

back rushed for 1,964 yards last season, capped off by a 164-yard, two-touchdown performance in 58-14 win over Chapman in the state championship game.

Small has played in the big game every year of his high school career, and doesn't expect that trend to end this year.

"The biggest thing is obviously just going back out there and trying to win another state championship," Small said. "There's always a lot of pressure trying to make it back to a title game, especially when you've been there so many years like we have, but I feel like we have the ability to do it again. "As a senior, I'm hoping to be a little more of a leader and show the younger guys how we do things around here, and what it takes to make it to Clemson." As for his on-field performance, Small's goals remain the same — with a little twist.

"Cheraw's always been known for the running game, and it's a big part of what we do," Small said. "I've spent the summer just working in the weight room and trying to get a little stronger and faster. "I want to be able to take over games this season, but also add a little punishment at the end, hopefully." "Travis is a great running back," Cheraw coach Johnny White said. "He has great speed and vision and is a tremendous threat every time he touches the ball."

Despite racking up 52 touchdowns and more than 4,000 yards as a starter in two seasons, Small hasn't been getting many looks by Division I schools. That's something that Small plans to use as motivation in his final season.

"I have a bunch of offers from Division II schools, which is good," Small said. "But I guess I don't feel like I have the Division I offers I should. "It's mainly just going to come down to being patient and playing the game the way I know how. I just have to go out there and prove myself again."

**COMING FRIDAY**  
 ■ The Morning News prep football preview section, which gives you capsules of all Pee Dee and Grand Strand teams as well as some of the top storylines for the upcoming season

## PRESEASON PLAYER OF YEAR VOTING

Player (school)	Points
Travis Small (Cheraw)	.27
x-Denzell Wedgeworth (Hemingway)	.23
Elliot Alford (Marlboro County)	.20
Malliciah Goodman (West Florence)	.20
Antonio McAllister (Timmonsville)	.8
Kwame Geathers (Carvers Bay)	.7

x-Out for the season

## Offense

**QB Elliot Alford**  
 Marlboro County Jr., 6-2, 185  
**2007:** Completed 100 of 187 passes for 1,630 yards and 17 touchdowns in regular season.

**RB Travis Small**  
 Cheraw Sr., 5-10, 185  
**2007:** Rushed 240 times for 1,964 yards and 22 touchdowns.

**RB Antonio McAllister**  
 Timmonsville Sr., 5-9, 160  
**2007:** Rushed 205 times for 1,281 yards and eight touchdowns in regular season.

**RB Jason Witherspoon**  
 Manning Sr., 5-9, 175  
**2007:** Rushed 133 times for 1,061 yards and 17 touchdowns in regular season.

**WR Marcus Lloyd**  
 Manning Sr., 6-3, 185  
**2007:** Caught 32 passes for 788 yards and 10 touchdowns in regular season.

**WR Kinsman Thomas**  
 Marlboro County Sr., 6-2, 205  
**2007:** Caught 23 passes for 529 yards and seven touchdowns in regular season.

**WR Bivens Elliott**  
 Wilson Jr., 5-11, 190  
**2007:** Caught 39 passes for 647 yards and 10 touchdowns.

**OL Jaquavious McClain**  
 Lamar Sr., 5-10, 272

**OL Dustin Revell**  
 South Florence Sr., 6-1, 240

**OL Joe Hudson**  
 Hartsville Sr., 6-2, 235

**OL Antonio McPherson**  
 Cheraw Sr., 6-0, 270

**OL Rick Canty**  
 Manning Sr., 6-4, 330

## Defense

**DL Malliciah Goodman**  
 West Florence Sr., 6-4, 260  
**2007:** Had more than 50 tackles with four sacks in regular season.

**DL Kwame Geathers**  
 Carvers Bay Sr., 6-6, 300  
**2007:** Had 89 tackles, nine sacks and recovered three fumbles.

**DL Paul Thompson**  
 Lake View Sr., 5-10, 160  
**2007:** Had 68 tackles and 15 sacks during regular season.

**DL Sydney Sarmiento**  
 West Florence Sr., 6-5, 260  
**2007:** Had 53 tackles and six sacks during regular season.

**DL Quandon Christian**  
 Lake View Sr., 6-3, 205  
**2007:** Had more more than 50 tackles and eight sacks i

**LB Avery Murray**  
 West Florence Sr., 6-1, 220  
**2007:** Had 98 total tackles for Knights' defense.

**LB Kenyatta Gary**  
 Cheraw Sr., 5-10, 190  
**2007:** Recorded 116 tackles and five sacks despite being injured for a portion of the season .

**LB Tariq Edwards**  
 Marlboro County Sr., 6-4, 219  
**2007:** Had 61 tackles and two sacks at linebacker, but will likely be a lineman this year.

**DB Tashan Fredrick**  
 Hemingway Sr., 6-4, 190  
**2007:** Had four interceptions for Hemingway in '07.

**DB John Fulton**  
 Manning Jr., 6-0, 180  
**2007:** Recorded four interceptions for Monarchs.

**DB Grayson Harley**  
 Wilson Sr., 5-10, 170  
**2007:** Had 58 tackles, two fumble recoveries and one interception.

**K/P Ben Hutson**  
 Cheraw Sr., 5-9, 165  
**2007:** 56-for-60 on PATs and 5-of-9 on field goals.