HABERSHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS
P.O. BOX 70 ✦ CLARKESVILLE, GEORGIA 30523 ✦ 706-754-2110 ✦ PATRICK FRANKLIN, SUPERINTENDENT

After 12 proud seasons leading Raider Football, I am stepping down as head football coach at Habersham Central High School, effective November 19, 2026.

Leading Raider Football has been the honor of my career, and I am proud of what we built together:

- 4 Straight State Playoff Appearances for 1st time in school history
- 6 total State Playoff Appearances, tying Coach Larry Black for most all time
- Region Runner-Up (2025)
- Sweet 16 (2018)
- 35 players signed to play college football

To my players, you are the reason that I have done this for the last 12 years at Habersham Central. I will forever cherish the relationships that I have built with each one of you. Time spent with you preparing and then coaching you on Friday nights will always bring a smile to my face and be some of the greatest moments of my life. I hope that you have learned something from me that will help you become a better husband and father one day. I can say that you have taught me so much over the years that have certainly made me better. The game has always been about the players, not about me. I'm so thankful for all of the sacrifices that you have made over the years and for allowing me to be your coach. I truly love you.

To my assistant coaches, you have been amazing. There is nothing like the coaches' office! The conversations, the laughter, the disagreements, the friendships, the brotherhood that all come from that office make this the greatest profession in the world. Nobody really ever gets it except for the men in that office. Thank you for all that you have done and your loyalty to the program and me. You are all lifelong friends and the best at what you do. Thank you!

To the parents and fans, thank you for supporting us in the good times and the hard times. Parents, thank you for all of the sacrifices that you have made to allow your son to play football. I appreciate it more than you will ever know. Thank you for entrusting your son to me. It has never been taken for granted. Fans, they do not come any better than the ones that support the Raiders. We see that every week at home games and when we go on the road. Thank you for always showing up for our team. Habersham is a special place because of you!

Thank you as well to Principal Adam Bagwell, Athletic Director Geep Cunningham, Habersham Central Assistant Principals, Superintendent Patrick Franklin, Assistant Superintendent David Leenman, and the Board of Education for their unwavering support. I know this for sure because I talk to other head coaches all of the time. There is no system that gives more support than you do and cares like you do. Thank you so much for that!

As assistant athletic director, I look forward to helping find HCHS's next head football coach, someone who will lead with high standards, integrity, and a genuine commitment to our student-athletes.

I will be able to share more about my new leadership opportunity within Habersham County Schools in the upcoming weeks. I am grateful that I will continue to serve the students and families of Habersham. Once a Raider, always a Raider.

Benji Harrison

HABERSHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS
P.O. BOX 70 ✦ CLARKESVILLE, GEORGIA 30523 ✦ 706-754-2110 ✦ PATRICK FRANKLIN, SUPERINTENDENT

Coach Geep Cunningham, Athletic Director

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Coach Benji Harrison for all the hard work and dedication that he has given to our football program here at Habersham Central for the past 12 years. Coach Harrison has led the Raiders to 6 playoff appearances, including the last 4 years in a row while earning a home playoff game in each of the last two seasons.

Coach Harrison and his family have become an integral part of the Habersham community, and we look forward to many more years of service in our school system.

Thank you, Coach; you have done a good job.