

SPRINGVILLE



## Springville's new head coach ready to LEAD THE TIGERS

By **LOYD MCINTOSH**  
Times sports writer

In his first head coaching role, Chris Metcalf has big plans for Springville, but there is no doubt that returning

the Tigers to the mountaintop will be an uphill climb.

The rookie head coach takes over a program that went 3-7 in 2024 and hasn't had a winning season since 2009. Regardless, Metcalf is optimistic he can change the culture at Springville and is eager to get his

first year at the helm underway.

A 1996 graduate of Clay-Chalkville High School, Metcalf is the son of John Metcalf, a former Erwin High School head coach, and Renee

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Metcalf, a retired math teacher at Hewitt-Trussville. Having grown up nearby, Metcalf was familiar with Springville, especially during the mid-to-late 1990s, when Thomas Curry led the Tigers to numerous wins and made deep playoff runs in Class 2A and 3A football.

After graduating from Auburn University, Metcal took assistant coaching roles at John Carroll, Hoover, where he coached wide receivers George Pickens and Shedrick Jackson, and spent seven years at Minor High School, where he was most recently the defensive coordinator.

While Metcalf knew he wanted to become a head coach eventually, he was content with his position at Minor. However, Metcalf's radar screen lit up like a Christmas tree following the resignation of Jon Clements.

"I'll be honest, I really wasn't looking for a head coaching job. I was really happy (at Minor) calling defense," Metcalf said. "I knew I was ready for the next jump, but I wasn't just going out and applying for jobs.

"The Springville job came open, and it was intriguing because of what I know about this place, what I know about the community, and the kind of people that are here in Springville," Metcalf said. "It was somewhere where I thought you could definitely build a culture of greatness."

Giddiness aside, finding success in one of the toughest regions in the state (Class 5A Region 6) will be a major challenge.

This spring, Metcalf decided to forgo a spring game, choosing to focus on intrasquad work and training.

In July, Metcalf chose to enter Springville in the Hustle Up 7 on 7 tournament in Hoover, going 4-2 during the three-day event geared toward teams that are a little more high-flying than the average three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust offenses. The tournament and some other off-season moves have provided a sneak preview of Springville's offense.

First, former Hewitt-Trussville and

Auburn wide receiver and Pinson Valley head Coach Lee Guess joined the coaching staff as offensive coordinator. Together, they are doing away with the triple-option in favor of modern offense.

To lead the offense, Metcalf and Guess have tapped Brennan Archer as the starting quarterback.

As a freshman, Archer appeared in eight games, mostly in relief for outgoing senior Jake Conner, who missed three games due to injury.

Archer completed 11 of 23 attempts for 215 yards and two touchdowns and also rushed for 114 yards on 28 carries during that stretch.

Metcalf said Archer is adapting well to the starting role, and he has a lot of faith in the talented sophomore.

"He's our guy. He did a really good job this summer making that transition," Metcalf said. "He played well in the 7-on-7 tournament and made good decisions, and he has a cast of guys to throw to in the receiving corps."

Metcalf said the receivers are a young group overall, but they are led by seniors Brady Caldwell and Reed Wallace.

Listed at five feet, 11 inches, and 150 pounds, Metcalf said Caldwell is a leader on and off the field and will provide stability for a young Tigers squad.

"He's the guy that we kind of lean on, like an emotional leader," Metcalf said.

Wallace, standing at five feet, 11 inches tall, will also be a target for Archer in 2025.

On the defensive side of the ball, Metcalf is counting on the leadership of a pair of veterans, Cody Parker and Kaden Jeffery.

A six-foot rising junior, Parker is the anchor of the linebacker corps and for all intents and purposes, the quarterback of the defense.

"He's the leader of the defense for sure," Metcalf said. "He's the guy that everyone listens to. He gets us to the right checks and calls."

Jeffery, a senior cornerback listed at six feet, is a three-year starter for the Tigers and, Metcalf said, is one of the best true athletes on the team.

"He's just a football player," Metcalf said. "He's going to make plays and be in the right spot, and he's just a really tough kid."

Metcalf is also excited about an array of sophomores on defense and offense, including Gabe McCain at safety, Noah Crawford at cornerback, and running back Trigg Murdoch.

Seeing action in all 10 games in 2024, Murdoch averaged 7.7 yards per carry, amassed 479 yards, and scored six touchdowns as a freshman.

## SPRINGVILLE 2025 HIGH SCHOOL FOOT- BALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 22 vs. Ashville

Sept. 5 at Leeds

Sept. 12 at Alma Bryant

Sept. 19 vs. Lincoln

Oct. 3 at Jacksonville

Oct. 10 vs. St. Clair County

Oct. 17 at Moody

Oct. 24 vs. Center Point

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On special teams, Springville is blessed to have one of the state's best kickers, senior Patrick Williams.

Also lining up at wide receiver and safety, Williams ended summer practice with a 50-yard field goal. He also raised plenty of eyebrows at the 2025 Kohl's Southern Showcase Camp in May, where he nailed a

75-yard kickoff with 3.53 seconds of hang time, and committed assault and battery on a poor football with a 50-yard punt with 4.62 seconds of hang time.

Metcalf said Williams' talent will give them an edge in 2025.

"He is an elite weapon. He is going to be big time," Metcalf said, adding

# BAND



that Williams is drawing interest from many college recruiters. "He'll definitely get to the next level without a doubt.

"He is going to help us out on special teams to give us an advantage

in that phase of the game," Metcalf added. "Patrick Williams is the guy."

Springville hosts Ashville to start the 2025 season on Friday, August 22. Kickoff is at 7 pm at Springville Stadium.

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