

Johns Creek Gladiators Varsity Football Preview 2020-21

National: 986 State: 64 Region: 1 | 2019 Record: 10-2 | Projected Record: 8-1

Head Coach: Matt Helmrich | Location: Johns Creek High School Coliseum



Johns Creek opened the 2019 season with high expectations and a playoff berth in mind. Led by one of the deepest wide receiver units in the state, Johns Creek cruised through its hapless region with ease, beating up opponents by an average of 29.2 points. Johns Creek made history in its 2019 campaign by becoming the first team ever to reach the second round of the playoffs. Heading into the 2020 season, they will have a new-look offense and a defense that is bringing back half of its 2019 starters. Navigating a schedule with new region opponents and a headline opener at Milton will be tricky, but Johns Creek is more than capable of handling the new challenge as they look to repeat as region champs and make another deep playoff run for the second year in a row.

OFFENSE: Ben Whitlock, Will Watson, Dalton Pearson, Min Lee, and Justin Campbell are all gone, but they all have talented replacements eager fill in their big shoes. Senior quarterback Quinn Teeple will look to lead a Gladiator offense with Tank Pritchett and Dylan Parr in the backfield alongside him. Tank exploded in his junior year averaging 4.5 yards per carry and a team-high 8 touchdowns on the ground. For receiving, Coln Raad and Ethan Storey take over a young group of wide receivers that lost 7 starters from last year. Big defensive end/tight end Cole Nelson and other dual-position players will help the team when necessary. The offensive line brings back 4-star recruit Tyler Gibson as well as 2019 rotational starters Andrew Song and David Alexander to block and keep quarterback Teeple on his feet. Even though the Johns Creek offense lost most of its offensive starters from a year ago, they have reloaded nicely and look to finish the job the 2019 team started: to win a state championship.

DEFENSE: The Johns Creek defense in 2019 can only be described in one word: spectacular. Holding offenses to a measly average of 18.6 points per game, only two teams in the 12-game season were able to put up more than 28 points on this defense. Leading the gladiator secondary is senior safety John Stegenga who was a force to be reckoned with against opposing offenses a season ago. Stegenga had a team-high 4 interceptions with 124 yards on those interception returns. On the defensive line, key returning players include Charlie Leon, David Alexander, and Virginia Tech defensive end commit Cole Nelson. Both Charlie and Cole pummeled opposing quarterbacks as they combined for 12.5 sacks in 2019. With key big-time playmakers returning for their senior seasons at Johns Creek, the Johns Creek defense will be locked and loaded to continue their mission of shutting down opposing offenses as they look to be the steady backbone of the team once again.

SPECIAL TEAMS: Star punter Josh Huie returns for his senior year with the Gladiators and looks to handle punting and kicking duties in the fall. Huie converted on 16 of 20 PATs and FGs combined for a solid 80% conversion rate. 5-star long snapper Kurtis Robinson will look to continue his outstanding Johns Creek career as he works alongside Huie. Johns Creek's special teams unit looks to grow around these two seasoned stars as they improve on a very successful 2019 campaign.

2020 Schedule	2019 Results
9.17 @ Milton	@ Fairfield Central W 44-6
9.25 Westlake	Orlando Jones L 16-47
10.2 Sequoyah	North Atlanta W 42-13
10.9 @ Riverwood	@ Chattahoochee W 41-0
10.16 Chattahoochee	@ Northview W 42-28
10.30 @ Cambridge	@ Pope W 38-0
11.6 @ Centennial	Cambridge W 57-20
11.13 River Ridge	@ Centennial W 37-17
11.20 @ Creekview	Alpharetta W 31-16
	Dunwoody W 49-14
	1 st Rd. Alexander W 59-34
	2 nd Rd. Valdosta L 24-28

OFFENSIVE RETURNING LEADERS STATS 2019
Quinn Teeple: 19 comp, 194 yd, 2 TDs
Tank Pritchett: 375 rush yd, 8 TDs
Ethan Storey: 15 rec, 210 rec yd, 1 TD
Coln Raad: 3 rec, 12 yd

DEFENSIVE RETURNING LEADERS STATS 2019
Cole Nelson: 37 solo tackles, 7.5 sacks
John Stegenga: 50 solo tackles, 4 INT
Charlie Leon: 23 solo tackles, 5 sacks
Monte Barnett: 48 solo tackles, 2 sacks
Jack Yensel: 29 solo tackles, 3 INT

SPECIAL TEAMS RETURNING LEADERS STATS 2019
Josh Huie: 16/20 PATs/FGs, 41 punts with 34.2 yds avg
John Stegenga: 2 KO Returns with 16.5 yds avg, 1 Punt Return for 15 yds