

## CFCA Football Banquet

Last Monday, Jan. 18, Central Fellowship Christian Academy celebrated its outstanding 2020 football season with a final farewell banquet hosted at Southside Baptist Church, which was decked out head-to-toe with new promotional gear. The team went 11-1 overall this year and secured the state-championship title for the first time in school history.



The evening started with the players entering the banquet hall to the tune of “We are the Champions”, with 140+ guests and booster club members cheering them on as they entered (guests were spread far apart to limit close contact). The players were followed by head coach Jake Walls, who came into the banquet to a song picked out by the players.

“The guys sort of pranked me,” said Walls. “They had me stay behind and played Ric Flair’s WWE intro song as I came in. I was so embarrassed, but it had everyone cracking up.”

Following the team’s arrival, Walls went on stage and thanked all the volunteers that made the season possible. The crowd then ate and watched a highlight reel from the season. After eating, Coach Walls talked about the season as a whole and his assistant coaches, Tanner and Harris, announced the team’s freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Walls himself spoke on the seniors, before handing out plaques for the all-state and all-region players.

The team’s all-region player was #25 junior wide-receiver Andrew Albritton and the all-state players included #5 sophomore wingback Cody Price, #7 sophomore quarterback Jeb Walls, #43 senior linebacker Andrew Evans, #18 senior defensive-end Landon Gallaher, #21 junior linebacker Nate Davis, #2 senior wingback Ethan Queen and #64 senior defensive-tackle Austin Sanders.

“It’s always tough saying goodbye to the seniors. They’re the ones that hang around at the end and want to hug your neck, tell you thank you and get pictures. There’s just a finality to it, especially for the ones that just play football. It’s a little bittersweet because they know this is the end. We’re going to miss all those guys. But I think they’re well prepared for the road ahead, wherever it takes them.”



Coach Walls ended the banquet with the season in perspective, comparing some of their stats this year with where the team was just a couple years back. The lancers were 8<sup>th</sup> in the state for all levels in rushing yards, 23<sup>rd</sup> in scoring and 32<sup>nd</sup> in total offensive yards. The team had a total of 3,389 rushing yards this season and 1,039 passing yards, compared to just 2,204 rushing and 350 passing in 2018.



“As awesome as these statistics are, you don’t win championships because of rushing yards or tackles. Champions are industrious, they work hard. Parents should be thrilled when their kids fall into the car soaking wet and exhausted. It means they’re learning to work with a champion’s spirit. This team played harder and more together than any of their opponents this year. That’s why they are the 2020 GAPPS AA state champions!”

