

# **KWHS FOOTBALL RECORDS**

**These records are comprised from the files of the late Glynn Archer Jr. and Mr. Rick Lopez. I want to thank the following for their input as well; Amber Archer Acevedo, Wesley Archer, Mrs. Archer, J W Cooke, Robert James, Pat Freeman, Jerry Hughes, Neda Jackson, Todd Swofford, Vincent Catala, Curry and Sons Printing, Charles Randale, and Mrs. Betsy Ford for editing. As you read, I realized I missed names of great Conchs, but at least we have something to discuss. I also included Douglas High School as they are a part of Key West History. All records have been updated by Coach Judd A. Wise. If we are missing anything, please feel free to contact the Head Coach or the Athletic Director.**

## **COACHES & THEIR RECORDS**

<b>COACH</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>WINS</b>	<b>LOSS</b>	<b>TIES</b>	<b>PCT</b>
<b>PAT FREEMAN</b>	<b>1981-93 &amp; 02-03</b>	<b>87**</b>	<b>62</b>		<b>.583</b>
<b>JOHNNY HUGHES</b>	<b>2012-PRESENT</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>42</b>		<b>.580</b>
HAL ALLEN	1957-63	49	18	3	.700
BOB MENENDEZ	1996-(Interim)	3	1		.750
GENE ROBERTS	1977-80	31	13		.704
ED BECKMAN	1952-56	31	15	5	.607
JERRY HUGHES	1997-98 & 08-11	33	25		.568
ROBERT JAMES	2004-07	19	18		.513
ANDY SIEGEL	1994-95	11	13		.458
WIN JONES	1951	4	5	1	.444
GREGORY KREMER	1999-01	13	18		.418
DAVE MATHESON	1973-76	16	23		.410
JOE RUSSO	1968-72	21	27	4	.403
PAT GALLAGHER	1964-65	6	13	1	.300
MILLARD ANDERSON	1927	3	2	1	.500
FRED DENNEN	1996	2	5		.285
JOE PINEDA	1966-67	2	15	2	.105

\*\*=MOST WINS IN THE PROGRAM

\*Millard Anderson 1925-26 1 4 2 .285--Monroe County High School Conchs

**THE PROGRAM'S OVERALL RECORD IS: 389-315-17=. 539% AS OF 2021**

**Conch graduates who returned to become the Head Coach at their Alma Mater:**

Joe Pineda

Joe Russo

Jerry Hughes

Robert James

Bobby Menendez

## CHAMPIONSHIPS:

<b>District Championships:</b>	1975, 77, 78, 79, 88, 89, & 95
<b>Sub Regional Championships:</b>	1995
<b>Regional Champions:</b>	1977, 78, 88, & 89
<b>Sectional Champions:</b>	1989
<b>State Appearances:</b>	1989 vs Live Oak Suwannee lost 27-10

## SINGLE GAME RECORDS:

Most Yards Total Offense	375	Ran Carthon	97		
Most Yards Rushing	375	Ran Carthon	97		
Most Carries	38	Robert "Speedy" Neal	79		
Most Yards Passing	265	Joey Gandolfo	84		
Most Pass Att	42	Benny Lowe	91		
Most Pass Completions	18	John Jackson	86	Benny Lowe	91
Most Yards Receiving	152	Clives Georges	2009		
Most Td Passes thrown	4	Bill Haney	54		
Most Td Passes Caught	3	Sam Holland Sr.	58		
Most Passes Caught	9	Stanley Payne	86	Antoine Lopez	91
Most Points	30	Robert "Speedy" Neal	79	Alvin Howard	2016
Most Td's	5	Robert "Speedy" Neal	79	Alvin Howard	2016
Most Extra Pts	9	Sam Graveline	2014		
Most Field Goals	3	Chris Wilson	70	Bobby Channell	77
Longest Field Goal	54 yds	Pavel Krzemien	97		
Longest Punt	68 yds	Leslie Yates	78		
	67 yds	Sam Klitenick	2015		
Most Touchbacks	8	Axel Correa	2021		
Most Tackles	20	Phillip Bethel	76	Clinton Storr	2003
Most Fumble Recoveries	3	Chuck Atkinson	76	Wesley Archer	83
		A B Winn	2016		
Most Pass Interceptions	3	Robert James	71		
		Peter Estevez	71		
		Kelly Graves	79		
		James Howard	82		
		Orion Thurston	85		
		Billy Gallagher	88		
		Devin Barber	2011		
Most Takeaways Combined	4	Wesley Archer	83	A.B. Winn	2016
Most Sacks in a game	4	Jesse Garcia	2017		
Longest run from Scrimmage	99 Yds	Ran Carthon	98		
Longest Pass completion	98 Yds	Andrew Freeman	2013		
Longest Pass Reception	98 Yds	Demonte Stemage	2013		
Longest Kick-Off Return	97 Yds	Kelly Graves	79		
Longest Punt Return	98 Yds	Robert Santana	59		
Longest Fumble Return	82 Yds	Kenny Alston	79		
Longest Interception Return	100 Yds	Ernie Henderson	70	Jeff Gunther	80

## SINGLE SEASON RECORDS:

Most Yards Combined from Scrimmage	2,261 Yds	Mekhi Sargent	2015		
Most Yards Rushing	2,094 Yds	Mekhi Sargent	2015	Robert "Speedy" Neal	1,694 79
Most Carries	262	Robert "Speedy" Neal	79		
Most 300 yd games rushing	1	Ran Carthon	97		
Most 200 yd games rushing	4	Robert "Speedy" Neal	79		

<b>Most 100 yd games rushing</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Preston Herce</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Most 100 yd plus games</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Mekhi Sargeant</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Most Yards Passing</b>	<b>1,196 Yds</b>	<b>Stephen (Jones) Valdez</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Most Yards Receiving</b>	<b>694 Yds</b>	<b>Stanley Payne</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Most Passes Attempted</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Benny Lowe</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Most Passes Completed</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>Stephen (Jones) Valdez</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Most Receptions</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>Stanley Payne</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Most Touchdown Passes</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Matteo Gazzle</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Most Touchdown Receptions</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Ernie Jackson</b>	<b>69 James Howard 82</b>
<b>Most Points</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>Mekhi Sargent</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Most Touchdowns</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Mekhi Sargent</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Most Extra Points</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>Sam Graveline</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Most Field Goals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Bob Channel</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Most Touchbacks</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Axel Correa</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Most Punt Returns for a Touchdown</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Robert Santana</b>	<b>1959</b>
<b>Most Tackles</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Chris Rudl</b>	<b>1994 Anthony Henriquez 2014</b>
<b>Most Pass Interceptions</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Chucky Rhaming</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Most Fumble Recoveries</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Ken Albury</b>	<b>55</b>
		<b>Lorenzo Banzells</b>	<b>58</b>
		<b>Wesley Archer</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Most Takeaways Combined</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Wesley Archer</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Most Individual Sacks in a season</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Cameron Fletchall</b>	<b>2016</b>

### **Career Records:**

<b>Most Yards Combined from Scrimmage</b>	<b>4,696 Yds</b>	<b>Mekhi Sargent</b>	<b>2012-15</b>
<b>Most Yards Rushing</b>	<b>4,333 Yds</b>	<b>Mekhi Sargent</b>	<b>2012-15 2,544 Yds Tony Hardin 85-88</b>
<b>Most Yards Passing</b>	<b>2,144 Yds</b>	<b>Stephen (Jones) Valdez</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>Most Yards Receiving</b>	<b>1,406 Yds</b>	<b>Clive Georges</b>	<b>2008-2011</b>
<b>Most Carries</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>Tony Hardin</b>	<b>85-88</b>
<b>Most Passes Attempted</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>Robert James</b>	<b>71-73</b>
<b>Most Passes Completed</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Robert James</b>	<b>71-73</b>
<b>Most Passes Caught</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>Clive Georges</b>	<b>2008-11</b>
<b>Most Touchdown Passes</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>George Mira</b>	<b>56-59</b>
<b>Most Touchdown Receptions</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Richard Howard</b>	<b>73-75</b>
<b>Most Points</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>Mekhi Sargent</b>	<b>2012-2015</b>
<b>Most Touchdowns</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>Mekhi Sargent</b>	<b>2012-15</b>
<b>Most Extra Points</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>Jair Torres</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
<b>Most Field Goals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Bobby Channel</b>	<b>77-78</b>
<b>Most Touchbacks</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Alex Correa</b>	<b>2018-2021</b>
<b>Most Tackles</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>Justin Duck</b>	<b>99-2002</b>
<b>Most Fumble Recoveries</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Earl Findley</b>	<b>87-89</b>
<b>Most Pass Interceptions</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>James Howard</b>	<b>82-84</b>
<b>Most Takeaways combined</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>James Howard</b>	<b>82-84</b>

### **Team Records: Season/Game:**

<b>Most wins in a Season</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Highest winning %</b>	<b>1.000% (8-0-2) &amp; (11-0)</b>	<b>1953 &amp; 2014</b>
<b>Longest winning streak</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1953-54</b>
<b>Most Points Scored in a Season</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Most yards rushing in a Season</b>	<b>3,817</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Most shut outs by the defense in a Season</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1953</b>
<b>Most Consecutive shut outs in a Season</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1953</b>

<i>Least amount of points given up in a Season</i>	19	1953
<i>Most Sacks in a Season</i>	20	2017
<i>Most Interceptions in a Season</i>	16	1969
<i>Most Fumble recoveries in a Season</i>	20	1969
<i>Most Points scored in a half</i>	56	2021
<i>Most Points scored in a game</i>	69	2014
<i>Most Consecutive TD Drives in a game</i>	10	2021
<i>Most Consecutive Drives for a score</i>	15	2021
<i>Most Td's in a game</i>	10	2014
<i>Most Td's in a season</i>	73	2014
<i>Most Rushing yards in a game</i>	475	1954
<i>Most Passing yards in a game</i>	265	1984
<i>Most Takeaways in a game</i>	9	2016
<i>Most Points the Conchs gave up in a game</i>	67	1967 vs Miami High
<i>Most Touchbacks in a game</i>	8	2021
<i>Most Touchbacks in a season</i>	33	2021
<i>Most Extra Pts. In a game</i>	9	2014
<i>Most Extra Pts in a season</i>	56	2014
<i>Most Field Goals in a game</i>	3	1970
<i>Most Field Goals in a season</i>	10	1977

## ***ALL TIME RUSHING LEADERS:***

### **4,000 YARD PLUS CLUB:**

**MEKHI SARGEANT-4,333—2012-15**

### **3,000 YARD PLUS CLUB:**

**NONE**

### **2,000 YARD PLUS CLUB:**

**RED STICKNEY 2,476—1952-55**

**ROBERT "SPEEDY" NEAL-2,523—1977-79**

**TONY HARDIN-2,544—1986-88**

**PRESTON HERCE-2,452--2018-2021**

### **Most 300 Yard Games:**

**RAN CARTHON-1**

### **Most 200 Yard Games:**

**MEKHI SARGEANT-6**

**ROBERT "SPEEDY" NEAL-4**

### **Most 100 Yard Games:**

**MEKHI SARGEANT-15**

**PRESTON HERCE-14**

TONY HARDIN-11

RED STICKNEY-9

**JR. COLLEGE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**

***MEKHI SARGEANT-at Iowa Western 2017.***

**JR. COLLEGE ALL AMERICAN:**

***MEKHI SARGEANT-IOWA WESTERN***

**COLLEGE ALL AMERICAN:**

***GEORGE MIRA-2 TIME ALL AMERICAN THE UNIV. OF MIAMI***

**HEISMAN TROPHY FINALIST:**

***GEORGE MIRA-UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI 1962***

**HULA BOWL OFFENSIVE MVP:**

***MEKHI SARGEANT—TEAM AINA***

**CONCHS WHO HAVE WON A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:**

***ROBERT JAMES---FL. A & M UNIV.----2 TIMES***

***ROBERT "SPEEDY" NEAL---UNIV. OF MIAMI***

***KENNY LOPEZ---UNIV. OF MIAMI----2 TIMES***

***COREY SAWYER---FLORIDA STATE UNIV.***

***JESSE MITCHELL-UNIV. OF MIAMI***

***FRANKIE GRIZZLE MALGRAT-FLORIDA STATE UNIV.***

**FHSAA TOP 100 PLAYERS OF ALL TIME:**

***GEORGE MIRA-KEY WEST CONCHS***

**CONCHS DRAFTED/OR SIGNED:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ROUND</b>	<b>PICK</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>
<b>GEORGE MIRA</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>NFL</b>
<b>GEORGE MIRA</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>AFL</b>
<b>GEORGE HALAS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>NFC</b>
<b>ROBERT "SPEEDY" NEAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>AFC</b>
<b>COREY SAWYER</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>AFC</b>
<b>RAN CARTON</b>	<b>SIGNED AS AN UNDRAFTED FREE AGENT-2004</b>			
<b>MEKHI SARGENT</b>	<b>SIGNED AS AN UNDRAFTED FREE AGENT-2021</b>			

**CONCHS WHO PLAYED OR ARE PLAYING IN THE NFL:**

***GEORGE MIRA-49ers, Eagles, Colts & Dolphins***

***GEORGE HALAS-Seahawks***

***ROBERT "SPEEDY" NEAL-Bills***

***COREY SAWYER-Bengals & Jets***

***RAN CARTHON-Colts & Lions***

***MEKHI SARGEANT-Titans, Rams, & Jaguars***

**CONCHS WHO PLAYED IN THE CFL:**

***GEORGE MIRA-MONTREAL ALOUETTES, & TORONTO ARGONAUTS***

**CONCHS WHO PLAYED IN THE WFL:**

***GEORGE MIRA-JACKSONVILLE EXPRESS, & BIRMINGHAM AMERICANS***

**CONCHS WHO WON A STATE TITLE, NATIONAL TITLE, SUPER BOWL, WORLD BOWL, OR GREY CUP**

***GEORGE MIRA-STATE TITLE, SUPER BOWL, & WORLD BOWL***

**RETIRED NUMBERS:**

***GEORGE MIRA-10***

***GEORGE HALAS--73***

***SPEEDY NEAL-41***

***COREY SAWYER-12***

***RAN CARTHON-6***

***MEKHI SARGEANT--1***

**LONGEST TENURED HEAD COACH:**

***PAT FREEMAN 15 YEARS***

**HISTORY OF OUR PROGRAM:**

*The Conchs of Key West High School began playing football in 1951, but there was a team in the 20's. It was the Monroe County High School Conchs. The first season was 1926. The first head coach was Millard Anderson. His record was 1-5-1 in that seasons as head coach. In 27, the school Monroe County High School became Key West High. They had a football team in that inaugural year went 3-2-1 with Coach Anderson. Their very first win was against the U.S. Marine Team winning 25-0. The Conchs traveled by boat to St. Petersburg and Fort Myers. The very first game was in St. Petersburg against State Champions St. Pete Green Devils, and the Conchs fell just a bit short, as the final score was 96-0. The home games were played in the afternoon at the Army Barracks field (which we know as Peary Court), and the bleacher less fans would follow the team up and down the field. Travel was difficult as you can imagine. The weather and long boat rides were a factor. The 1927 Conch Yearbook documents a trip to Fort Myers to play the Green Wave as follows:*

*"The next game was with Ft. Myers and after a fake start in which the team was forced to return to the city owing to rough weather, rather than dis appoint Ft. Myers the team made another attempt, arriving*

*there after a 25 hours of sea travel. The boys were in no condition to play, and we suffered a defeat at their hands by a score of 33-0."*

*This is what I found from Charles Randale who wrote about the Keys sports history. "In oct. of 26, the conch football team was rescued at sea after their steamer, the vessel Halifax sprung a leak just 6 miles from the shores of Key West. The 23 hardy youths bailed water as they waited on the Coast Guard to rescue them. After a short trip back to shore they boarded a Coast Guard vessel and made their way to Ft. Myers to play the contest.*

*The following season the Conchs went back to St. Petersburg and only lost 28-0. The Conchs played eight games in season two going 1-4-3, and had their very first winning season in 1927, going 3-2-1. This is how the Conchs traveled to games other than a vessel. They would drive to Big Pine and then board Henry Flagler's train. They would take the train to Islamorada and then get on buses to their final destination.*

*Football stopped after the 1927 season, and wasn't resumed until 1951. This renewed interest was made possible mainly through the efforts of the Key West Jaycees, who spearheaded an intensive drive to secure the necessary equipment and funds. To this organization and to the Quarterback Club, who provided everything from Barefoot League uniforms to sod for Wickers Field, to the Halfback Club, school administration, and the many civic-minded people who donated their time, money, and efforts, the youth of Key West High School owe a debt of gratitude.*

*When football resumed 23 years later, Fred Dopp, Glynn Archer Sr., and Fred Carbonell had sons who played on the 51 squad, and Earl Yates had a son on the 53 team.*

*In the 51 & 52 seasons, the Conchs flew to the Panama Canal Zone to do a home and home series with Cristobal High School from Coco Solo. Cristobal is the sister naval base to our Boca Chica Naval Air Base.*

### **DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL:**

*In 1948, Douglas High fielded it's first gridiron team. They were led by Coach Alfonso Dean. The very first game was against Miami Carver High. They played Everglades Vocational High of Belle Glade for homecoming. They had a huge homecoming dance, and crowning of Miss Douglas High. They went 0-2 in their very first season.*

*In 1950, the tigers played their games at Ocean view Park. Members of the squad were: leslie McCloud, Kenneth Carey, Gerald Poitier, Eldridge Curry, Donald Adams, Wilford Raymond, Wm Robinson, Wm Curry, Kenneth Butler, Floyd Culmer, Ralph Welters, Wm Pittman, Norman Woods, Wm Knowles, George Demeritt, Richard Hall, Theodore Suarez, Solomon Scott, Edward Scott, Harry Rivas, George Bain, Hilton Williams, George Sears, Charles Clarke, Ellsworth Edwards, Edward Clare, J. Allen, C. Leland, W. Stewart, F. Terry, F. Tynes, R. Manuel, A. Scott, and A. Davis*

*In 1951, Douglas High played their home games at the Naval Base Key West. They played Roosevelt high of West Palm Beach and lost 19-0 as they scored all their points in the final 4 minutes.*

*In 1953, fielding one of the best teams in tiger history, Coach Dean's tigers led by Donald Carey's 3 td's whooped Stuart Vocational High 39-0. Members on that team were: Donald Carey, Samuel Hannibal, Raymond Hannibal, Rufus Rolle, John Saunders, Wm Carey, Willie Haggins, Weldon Dean, Theodore Suarez, Edward Clarke, Nathanel Bennett, Hugh Bryant, Robert Whyms, Joseph Kee, Wm Edwards, Floyd Sweeting, James Poitier, Alfred Curry, Carl Adams, Marvin Castillo, Lionel Ashe, Joseph Carey, kernel Albury, Wardell Hanna, Bruno Cattlin, A.D. Montgomery, Hoseph Mills, Richard Hall and James Leland.*

*In 1965 Desegregation took place in the USA, and all three high schools became integrated. Douglas High shut it's doors!! Charles Walker became the first Black Athlete to compete at Key West High School.*

### **RADIO/TELEVISION BROADCASTS:**

*In 1987 a deal was struck by Gayle "Swifty" Swofford, Principal Tommy Roberts and Glynn Archer Jr. to start broadcasting the Conch Football games home and away on the radio. WKIZ 1500 AM was the station, and the broadcasters were Gayle "Swifty" Swofford and his color commentator Todd Swofford. After the 88*

season "Swifty" left the booth, and Timothy Lee Swofford took over as Todd's color commentator. Timothy Lee worked until 97, then became the producer from 1998-2002. The broadcast moved from station WKIZ, to a better signal on the Spottswood's owned station, WKWF 1600 AM starting in the fall of 94. Rick Lopez joined Todd in the booth in 1998 as his color commentator. Todd retired in 2005 but will always be known as the "Voice of the Conchs". Rick Lopez takes over as the lead voice and Coach Judd A. Wise became Rick's color commentator. Todd is the producer of the show at "WAVK EL NORTE." In the fall of 2020 the station changed to WAVK 97.7 FM, 100,000 watts of power. Rick and Judd still broadcast all the games home and away for the Conch fans to enjoy.

In 2021 The Conchs entered a new era of technology by live streaming all their games on You Tube. The Website was started by Sebastian Dietrich. KWHS.Live, now all Conch fans can watch live, and listen to Rick and Judd's broadcast, just like they were watching an NFL game.

### **CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

The Conchs very first championship was the 1953 season, as they were CO-CHAMPIONS with South Broward in the Gold Coast Conference, with a perfect season 8-0-2. Our first District Championship was 1975, under head coach Dave Matheson. Key West won District Championships in 77,78,79,88,89, & 95. Our only state final appearance was in 1989 under Head Coach Pat Freeman. This was the first year the FHSAA moved the State Championships to a neutral site. If they would have stayed with the previous format, the game would have been a home game in Key West at Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium. The weather in Daytona Beach was brutal, dark gray skies, temperatures in the mid 30's and a wind-chill of 25 degrees. The Conchs were shell shocked by the weather, but they left it all on the field that day, losing to Live Oak Suwanee 27-10. 3,000 loyal Conchs made the trip to Daytona Beach.

We have had two undefeated seasons. 1953 the Conchs were 8-0-2, and a Perfect season was achieved in 2014, Going 11-0, winning the GOLD COAST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP under the leadership of Head coach Johnny Hughes. There has only been one season where the Conchs did not win a game, in 1967, they finished 0-10-0.

### **TIDBITS OF HISTORY:**

- \* First season was 1927, Millard Anderson was the very first coach
- \* Football is disbanded in 1928 due to the depression and the economic woes of Key West.
- \* Football is restarted in 1951.
- \* Ken Bazo is the first Conch to be named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State, an offensive lineman, and the first gridiron to go play major college football at FSU.
- \* The Conchs flew to the Panama Canal Zone for a game against Cristobal High in '51. They get to tour the canal zone and are treated to banquets while there.
- \* Deanna Archer became our very first Homecoming Queen. They called it the Football Queen back then, and she was selected by the Football players in '51.
- \* All games from '51-54 were played at the old Wickers Field which is now George Mira Field.
- \* Glynn Archer Jr. played football for the Conchs, graduated in '53, and became the first Conch player to graduate and become principal of Key West High School.
- \* The largest crowd to attend a Conch football game was at Wickers field in 1953, as the Conchs trashed Tampa Jefferson 27-6 before a crowd of 6,000.
- \* In 1954, ten greyhound buses make the trip to South Broward high to watch the Conchs play. 5,000 people in attendance watch a 7-7 tie.
- \* In 1955, Key West High Stadium was built with lights on wooden poles. The Conch's very first game was against St. Anns, in front of 7,500 fans and they didn't disappoint, winning 58-0. The following week 8,500 fans packed the house against Miami tech.



- \* Red Stickney of the 55 Conchs was the first back to rush for over 200 yds. in a game and over a 1,000 yds. for the season, and over 2,000 in his career. Red was our very first ALL AMERICAN at Key West High, and received a scholarship to play for the Crimson Tide at the University of Alabama under Bear Bryant.*
- \* 56-59, George Mira was the starting quarterback for the Conchs, then went on to star at the University of Miami and was a two Time Collegiate ALL AMERICAN, and Heisman Trophy Finalist in 62. He was our very first player to get drafted in 64 and went on to play in the NFL, CFL, & WFL.*
- \* 62, Bobby Menendez becomes the Conchs All Time Tackling leader for a Career. He received a scholarship to play at FSU, and later became principal and interim Head Coach at KWHS.*
- \* In 63, the Conchs upset the No. 1 Team in the Nation and State, Coral Gables 7-6.*
- \*64 Desegregation takes place and black students are attending all the keys schools. Douglas High shuts down.*
- \* In 67, the Conchs join the Greater Miami Athletic Conference (GMAC). We are the smallest school population wise.*
- \* In 68, Former Conch Joe Russo becomes the Head Coach.*
- \* In 1970, Julio Avel replaces Bobby Menendez as the Conchs All Time Tackling leader with 105.*
- \* 72, Robert James is a three-year starter at QB for the Conchs, receives a scholarship to Florida A & M University, and leads them to two National Championships.*
- \* In 74, the Conchs drop out of the GMAC.*
- \* In 75, the Conchs are now in a District made up by the FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (FHSA). It was District 16AAa, and the Conchs win the District Championship that year, but lose to Ft. Lauderdale High in the Regionals.*
- \* The Conchs win three District Championships in a row: 77, 78, & 79. They win regional championships in 77, & 78.*
- \* 78, Leslie Yates punts the ball 68 yds to set the single game record.*
- \* 77, Bob Channel is 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State Kicker*
- \* 78, Bob Channel sets the career mark and finishes with 17 field goals. He was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State again*
- \* 78 George Halas gets drafted by the Seattle Seahawks*
- \* 79, Robert "Speedy" Neal rushes for an all-time school record high 1,694 yds, and leads the state in rushing. Speedy is the Miami News Player of the year, and becomes a High School ALL AMERICAN. Speedy receives a scholarship to the University of Miami, wins a National championship with them, and gets drafted by the Buffalo Bills in 84.*
- \* During the 60's & 70's according to Conch Great Robert James, "The Conchs averaged over 3,000 fans."*
- \* Tony Hardin ends his 4 yr. Varsity Conch Career as the all-time leading Rusher with 2,544 yds. 85-88.*
- \* In 84 QB Joey Gandolfo sets record for passing yds. in a game (265).*
- \* In 87 Wide Receiver Stanley Payne sets records for Receiving yds. in a season (694), and career (1,109).*
- \* In 87, Tommy Roberts, Conch Great, became Principal of his Alma Mater and tragically passes away April 1 of 88. The Stadium is renamed: TOMMY ROBERTS MEMORIAL STADIUM*
- \* 88, Kenny Lopez becomes a great defensive end for the Conchs, receives a scholarship to the University of Miami, and wins a National Championship.*
- \* The 88 Team had nine All State Players, and 89 had five All State players.*
- \* The 88 Team beat the No. 1 team in the state, Clewiston, 35-8 in Key West in front of 4,000 fans.*
- \*89 Corey Sawyer returns from a broken collar bone in the loss to Wauchula Hardee in the Sectional Championship in 88 to lead the Conchs to their only State Finals Appearance in 89. Corey is a Parade All-American, He receives a scholarship to play at FSU, wins a National Championship, and gets drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals in 94.*
- \* 89, Chris Thompson breaks the 19 year record of tackles in a career with 109, Chucky Raming has nine interceptions that season to break the record.*
- \* The 89 Team beat No. 1 Belle Glades Central in Belle Glade 16-15, then went on to crush Avon Park in Avon, 42-12, to advance to the State Finals against Live Oak Suwannee. This was the first year they changed*

*the game to a neutral site, if it was the old system, the game would have been played in Key West. Can you imagine what the crowd would have been?*

*\* During the 80's Air Sunshine offered their services, and flew the Conch Football Team to Naples, five different times.*

*\* On one particular trip, the coaching staff flew a private Cessna to Naples, but not until they recalculated the weight of the five coaches and pilot, as they had made a mistake and put all the big coaches in the back and the plane stood straight up!!*

*\* 6 Different Head Coaches in the 90's*

*\* 90, Senior Defensive End Jesse Mitchell had a fantastic season, received a scholarship to play for the University of Miami and won a National Championship.*

*\* 91, Erin Greene breaks career tackling record with 236.*

*\* After the 93 season, head coach Pat Freeman steps down after 13 seasons with the Conchs.*

*\* 93 Maor Kainin kicks a 53 yd. field goal to set a new school record and becomes the second conch kicker to be named 1<sup>st</sup> Team-All State under Coach Judd A. Wise*

*\* Fall of 94, the FHSAA has a new rule change where the District runner-up makes the state play-offs.*

*\* 95, under Head coach Andy Siegel, the Conchs win the District Championship, and Sub-Regional Championship, before losing in the Regional Championship.*

*\* At the end of the 95 season, Coach Siegel is let go as the Head Coach.*

*\* 96, Fred Dennen becomes the new Conch Head Coach, as he beats out Mike Leach for the job. Coach Dennen is fired after 7 games, and is replaced by Conch legend Bobby Menendez.*

*\* After a long search in the Spring of 97, Conch Great Jerry Hughes returns to his Alma Mater to become the head coach.*

*\* 97, Senior Ran Carthon has back to back games in Naples where he explodes running the ball for over 200 yds. and 300 yds. He receives a scholarship to play for the Gators (Univ. of Florida), and signs as an undrafted free agent by the Indianapolis Colts in 2004.*

*\* 97, Pavel Krezmeien kicks a 54 yd. field goal to break the school record.*

*\* 98, with only 21 players on the squad, the Conchs make the play-offs, head to Belle Glades and give them all they can handle and are winning at halftime. A serious injury to starting Qb Leander Washington leaves the Conchs without their leader, and the Conchs fall at Belle Glades.*

*\* 98, Coach Hughes resigns and longtime assistant and Psychology/Philosophy teacher Greg Kremer becomes the Conchs 6<sup>th</sup> Head Coach of the 90's.*

*\* 00 Key West and Marathon play for the very first time with Key West winning 35-8*

*\* 00, Key West beats Monsignor Pace and American Heritage Plantation in the same season.*

*\* 01, Head Coach Greg Kremer steps down after the season.*

*\* 01 Jesse Kehoe is a Second Team All-State Kicker under the direction of Coach Wise*

*\* 02, Coach Freeman takes the reigns again for his second stint as head coach.*

*\* 02, Key West loses to Coral Shores for the very first time. The game is played at Marathon High School.*

*\* 02, Justin Duck breaks the career tackling record with 272.*

*\* 03, Coach Freeman retires at the end of the season as the all-time winningest coach and longest tenured Head coach.*

*\* 03, Clinton Storr ties Philip Bethel for most tackles in a game with 20.*

*\* 04, Longtime assistant football coach Robert James takes the helm.*

*\* 04, Terrance Moore jumps over the Key West defensive line and the Ft. Myers offensive line to block a field goal on the very last play of the game to preserve the Key West victory over the Ft. Myers Green Wave.*

*\* 04, Alex Yanovich sets the kick-off touch back record with 15 in a career.*

*\* 04 The Conchs lead Belle Glades Central late in the fourth quarter in the State Play-offs in Belle Glades. On a third and two, Key West running back Poppy Marius leaps for the first down and makes it by a yard, but the refs marked him back by a yard and Key West was forced to punt. A poor punt gave Belle Glades great field position, and they go on to score a late touchdown to win.*

- \* 03-06, 12 Hurricanes dominate the Key West, games are lost, families displaced.**
- \* 06, Conchs lose to Belen in OT, don't qualify for the play-offs.**
- \* 07, Key West loses to Marathon for the very first time.**
- \* 07, Coach James retires from coaching at the end of the season.**
- \* 08, Coach Jerry Hughes comes back to Key West to teach and become the head coach for his second stint.**
- \* 08, Conchs lose to Marathon again, and Coach Lance Martin of Marathon burns the sports section of the Key West Citizen on the Conchs 50 yd. line, causing a major uproar.**
- \* 08, Key West ties Edison, & Belen for District Title. Kansas City Tie Breaker is needed. Conchs miss a field goal and lose to Edison by a field goal.**
- \* 09, Stephen Jones-Valdez breaks two passing records, Most completions in a season 84, and most yds. 1,196.**
- \* 09, Conchs end the decade with a winning season, but miss the play-offs.**
- \* 10, Matteo Gazzle throws 14 TD passes in a season to shatter the school record.**
- \* 11, Clive Georges becomes the all-time receiving leader in receptions (82) and yardage (1,406) for a career.**
- \* 11, Devon Barber intercepts three passes against Hialeah Miami Lakes to tie for the most in a game.**
- \* 13, Andrew Freeman to Demonte Stemage for 98 yds. Becomes the longest pass play on record.**
- \* 13, After the end of the season, Key West makes the decision to drop out of the FHSAA and become Independent, which means they cannot play for a State Championship.**
- \* 14, Key West joins the Gold Coast Conference.**
- \* 14, Key West Scores 69 points against Coral Glades for the most points in a game.**
- \* 14, Sam Graveline kicks 9 extra points against Coral Glades for a single game record.**
- \* 14, Anthony "Cheese" Henriquez ties Chris Rudl for the single season tackling record with 115.**
- \* 14, Key West goes 11-0 winning the Gold Coast Conference.**
- \* 15, Mekhi Sargent goes crazy running the ball and smashes the single season rushing record with 2,094 yds., and records in Career TD's (49), most yards from scrimmage, most 200 yd games (6), 100 yd games (15) and points. (season and career.)**
- \* 16, Key West drops out of Gold Coast Conference, and joins the South East Conference.**
- \* 17, Key West rejoins the FHSAA.**
- \* 17, The FHSAA adopts a rule change for who qualifies for the state play-offs. Only the District Champion gets one of the 8 spots in your region, (there are four districts in a region, and we are the south region). It is based on your record, your opponents' record and their opponent's record, then Max Preps along with the FHSAA determines the RPI to select the next four teams to make the State Play-Offs.**
- \* 17, Key West qualifies for the play-offs and it is supposed to be a home game, but Monsignor Pace receives a forfeit win from a team in the last week of the regular season and Key West has to travel to Pace to play.**
- \* 17, Jair Torres breaks the career record for most extra points with 73.**
- \* 18, Key West was looking like the 6<sup>th</sup> team to make the Regional Play-offs, but Coral Springs Charter has two of their opponents receive forfeit wins, and the point total changes, and by .01, and the Conchs go from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> and Key West fails to make the play-offs.**
- \* 19, Key West qualifies for the play-offs and has to travel to American Heritage Plantation to play.**
- \* 20, COVID causes disruption to all schools nationwide, in Monroe County practice is halted until Sept., and Coach Hughes finds out the State is doing away with Districts, and all teams that opt in by Sept. 18 qualify for the state play-offs. Key West opts in Sept. 18.**
- \* 20, Key West drives all the way to Belen, begins warm-ups, then receives a forfeit win due to COVID!!**
- \* 20, Key West plays host to Miami Northwestern at TRMS, with limited fans allowed, it is our first home play-off game since 1988. In an epic battle which Key West is the heavy underdog, the Conchs fight to the finish and come up one play short in beating Miami Northwestern.**
- \* 21, Mekhi Sargent signs as an undrafted free agent, and makes the 53 man roster for the Tennessee Titans, the 5<sup>th</sup> Conch to make the NFL!!!**
- \* 21, All home football games are played in the new BackYard, as TRMS will get a much need refurbishing.**

- \* **21, All Conch games are live streamed on KWHS.Live.**
- \* **21, Axel Correa breaks a 17yr. record with 8 touchbacks in a game vs. St. Brendan**
- \* **21, Axel Correa breaks the all-time touchback record for a career with 40.**
- \* **21, Preston Herce joins the elite 2,000 yd rushing club, he is the All-time leading rusher for KWHS Quarterbacks**

### **RECORD BY SEASON:**

1951-4-5-1	1952-7-2-1	<b>**1953-8-0-2</b>	1954-8-1-1	1955-6-4-1	1956-2-8-0	1957-5-5-0
1958-7-3-0	1959-9-1-1	1960-5-3-1	1961-7-2-0	1962-8-1-1	1963-8-3-0	1964-2-7-1
1965-4-6-0	1966-2-5-2	1967-0-10-0	1968-2-7-1	1969-5-4-1	1970-8-4-0	1971-2-7-1
1972-4-5-1	1973-2-8-0	1974-5-5-0	1975-4-6-0	1976-5-4-0	1977-10-2-0	1978-9-3-0
1979-8-2-0	1980-4-6-0	1981-6-3-0	1982-6-4-0	1983-5-4-0	1984-5-5-0	1985-3-7-0
1986-4-6-0	1987-8-2-0	1988-9-3-0	<b>*1989-10-2-0</b>	1990-5-5-0	1991-6-3-0	1992-4-5-0
1993-6-4-0	1994-4-7-0	1995-6-5-0	1996-5-5-0	1997-4-7-0	1998-7-3-0	1999-2-8-0
2000-7-4-0	2001-4-6-0	2002-4-6-0	2003-7-3-0	2004-7-2-0	2005-3-5-0	2006-4-6-0
2007-5-5-0	2008-5-5-0	2009-6-3-0	2010-6-3-0	2011-5-4-0	2012-6-4-0	2013-1-9-0
<b>**2014-11-0-0</b>	2015-6-5-0	2016-6-4-0	2017-7-2-0	2018-5-5-0	2019-5-6-0	2020-5-2-0
2021-5-5-0	2022-					

\*Indicates state championship year

\*\*Indicates Conference Championship & Gold Coast Conference Championship & Undefeated season

### **BY THE DECADES:**

#### **1920's:**

The Conchs did field teams in the 20's. They were the **MONROE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CONCHS**. They fielded the very first team in 1925, and had two more seasons, 26 & 27 before the program shut down. Millard Anderson was the very first Head Coach. The very first season was only 1 game. Season 2 had 8 games, and season 3 had 5 games. The Conchs traveled by boat to their games.

Here is the list of players from the 20's. Earl Yates, Floyd Ayala, Harry Capo, Victor Larson, Glynn Archer Sr. Robert Dopp, Joe Cleare, Octavio Recio, Joe Varilla, Frank Piodella, Robert Bethel, Darnell Carrey, Murray Barker, Fred Carbonell, Leslie "Rope" Russell, Kermit Baker, Joe Pierce, Billy Arnold, Stewart Walker, Earl Jackson, Robert Knight, Floyd Roberts, Theron Gato, Maurice Cruz, Gerald Hernandez, George Adams, Reggie Trevor, Isadore Weintraub, Philip Cosgrove, and Munson Johnson.

#### **50's:**

Football started back in 1951. Our first opponent was Lake Worth High in West Palm Beach. Their newspaper had never heard of Key West and they referred to us as the "Golden Shrimpers." Key West Lost 22-12. The Conchs played what was called an "International Game" as they flew to the Panama Canal Zone for a contest against Cristobal High. They were the public high school on the Naval base and they were the sister base to Naval Boca Chica. The Conchs were treated like royalty, but did not return the favor as they won the game 2-0. The following season Cristobal High flew to Key West and we treated them like royalty except when we played and won that game 21-12. The 53 season was great as the Conchs went undefeated with a record of 8-0-2, and we won our first Conference Championship. The 54 season was led by the "Black Bean Brigade" as the offensive line returned and they were beasts. The Conchs continued their winning ways and went 8-1-1. Chattanooga City High From Tennessee came to Key West, and they battled to a 0-0 tie. The coaches from Chattanooga were thoroughly impressed with the Conchs and stated "They are better than any team in Tennessee!" The 55 season was led by our first All-American Red Stickney. Red had a fabulous season and went on to play for the Crimson Tide of Alabama. The 56 season was a disappointment but the Conchs fought hard. In 57 the Conchs had a new Head Coach and abandoned the Single Wing formation for their new T Formation. Improvement was shown as they finished the year 5-5. In 58 the Conchs had a new signal caller in George Mira, and a great receiver in Sam Holland Sr. along with Major leaguer John "Boog" Powell to help lead them to a 7-3-0 record. 59 was one for the books, and I mean record books. Led by the "Matador" George Mira, Key West went 9-1-1. Key West had to play

SouthWest twice, and in Miami for the championship that year. 1,500 loyal Conch fans made their way to the famous Orange Bowl to watch the game. Injuries hurt the Conchs and they lost 21-7. George Mira went on to the Univ. of Miami, and Boog Powell to the Baltimore Orioles.

Here is the list of key players in the 50's: Bobby Cooper, Billy Osterhoudt, Armando "Bookie" Henriquez, Peter Knight, John Cruz, Javier Oropeza, Glynn Archer Jr., Ronnie Pinder, Stu Logan, George Haskins, Harold Solomon, Gibby Gates, Red Stickney, Vincent Catala, Wayne Brantley, Julio Henriquez, Make Cates, Joe Russo, John Demeritt, John Carbonell, L.T. Curry, Earl Weech, Everette Atwell, Stu Yates, Ray Bazo, Randy Warren, Jimmy Mira, Davis Yates, Bobby Spencer, Lionel Rojas, Al Yates, Neil Jeffcoat, George Mira, Boog Powell, Sam Holland Sr., Clark Knight, Dennis Salinero, Mike Villa, Eddie Jeffcoat, Robert Santana, Mike Hughes, and Bobby Harris.

### 60's

The teams of the early sixties' 61-62-63 had great seasons. The 63 team beat Coral Gables High who at the time was the number one team in the state and nation. The middle 60's '64-68 did not have the best of seasons. 1966 was the last year in the Gold Coast Conference, and in 67 the Conchs joined the Greater Miami Athletic Conference, where we were the smallest school population wise.

Here is the list of key players in the 60's: Darold Leto, David Ogen, Nathan Eden, major leaguer Carl Taylor, Tommy Roberts, Bobby Menendez, Chuck King, Mike Blatt, Jerry Hughes, Ben Lowe Sr. Fred Gandolfi, Bill Trout, Harry Lariz, Fred Salinero, Ronnie and Randy Poindexter, Charlie Lopez, Jim Babbit, David Lariz, Freddy Varela Sr., Danny Sellers, Mike Reeder, Arthur Bain, Larry Brock, Steve Atwood, Tony Nunez, Mike Raymond, Stash Valdez, Kenny Wardlow Sr., and Clarence Higgs.

### 70's

The early 70's were very tough. The Conchs had to play the big boys out of Miami in the GMAC. They battled well, but with schools being bigger, and more athletes to choose from it was difficult competing. In 74 the Conchs left the GMAC, and they were able to schedule schools in similar size and ended up 5-5-0. 75 saw the FHSAA begin what they called District Play. You had to play the schools in your district and the team with the best District record moved on to the State play-offs. Key West won the District in their first year and traveled to Dillard High to play in the Regionals. Dillard proved too much, and the Conchs lost. In 77, head coach Gene Roberts came in and invigorated the Conchs, and they three-peated the District in 77-78-79, and won regional championships in 77-78.

Here is the list of key players in the 70's: Danny Jimenez, Pat Labrada, Artie Grizzle Sr., Alolfo Avel, David Gootee, Mike Jolly, Ron Saunders, Mike Rodriguez, Kenny Allen, Peter Estevez, Robert James, Steve Bringle, Leon Edwards, Eddie Roberts, Louie Pazo, Sid Potier, Richard "Bo" Howard, Skip Parker, Terrance Butler, Philip Bethel, John Fallon, John Morrell, Kevin Butler, David Adair, Carlton "Papa" Howard, Greg James, Danny Oropeza, Bert Budde, Mark Russell, Vurna Staffney, Bubba Osterhoudt, Jay Paul, Tony Roberts, Scott Atwell, Bobby Channel, Robert "Speedy" Neal, Preston Roberts, Mark Jolly, and Jeff Burkett.

### 80's

Head Coach Gene Roberts stepped down after the 80 season and Pat Freeman took over as the new Conchs Head Coach. 81-83 were winning seasons, and 84 a .500 season. 85-86 the Conchs stumbled to two losing seasons, but 87-89 were some of the best seasons in the history of our program. Great athletes, tremendous work ethic in the weight room and at practice helped lead the Conchs to back to back district titles in 88 & 89. The regional championship was hosted by the Conchs in 88 against the number 1 team in the state, the Clewiston Tigers. Led by a ferocious offense, the Conchs took out the Tigers. Next up in Key West was Wauchula Hardee, and this was for the sectional championship. Key West looked good. Then it happened, after a 17 yd run, starting QB Corey Sawyer was tackled and broke his collarbone. Key West ended up losing. Both the regional and sectional games were played in front of a packed TRMS, estimations were 3,000 plus Conch fans. In 89, the Conchs had to be on the road for the regionals as they traveled to one of the most difficult places to win, Belle Glade. The Conchs went in there with no fear and took out No. 1 Belle Glade 16-15. What a game, and the Belle Glades fans were in shock, asking "Who are these Conchs"???? The following week the Conchs had to travel to Avon Park for the sectional

championship and with all the confidence in the world, they crushed Avon Park 42-12. Our little town shocked the State and would be playing for the State Title!! The FHSAA made a change for this season, and for the first time, the state championship was played at a Neutral Site. This would have been the year that Key West would have hosted the title game. Can you imagine what the crowd would have been? I bet we would have topped the 53 game against Tampa Jefferson. The Conch coaches and team made the eight hour trip to Daytona Beach along with 3,000 loyal Conch fans. The game was the first weekend in December, and the weather did not cooperate. Being from South Florida, the Conchs were used to temperatures in the 60's, but in Daytona Beach, the first major cold front came through and it brought record lows. The game was played with dark overcast skies, temperatures in the mid 30's, the wind howling with windchills around 25. Key West gave it their all, but in the end, Live Oak Suwannee won 27-10. What a way to end the decade.

Here is the list of key players in the 80's: Steve Oropeza, Randy Ely, Kenny Alston, Trond Welters, John Correll, Donnie Catala, Kenny Rhaming, Carl Allen, Danny Mariscal, Randy Acevedo, Joey Gandolfo, James Howard, Alvin Whyms, Gerald Portier, Donzell Leggett, Dedrick Bethea, Mark Sellers, Rick Lopez, Tony Estenez, JoJo Cabanas, Jason Doughtry, Johnny Hughes, Ralph Major, John Jackson, Bobby Highsmith, Morgan McPherson, Mark Vigneaux, John Ganem, Keith Raymond, Mike Cates, Shane Sweeting, Steven Veliz, Stanely Payne, Joey Venice, Calvin Jackson, Joe Lowery, Chaz Freeman, Earl Findley, Kenny Lopez, Joe Grassi, Scott Szmansky, Leo Olatin, Brandon Walteson, Phillip Pierce, Artis Clark, Corey Sawyer, JP Garcia, Craig "Red Rocket" Allen, William Roche, Chris Saunders, Andre Poole, Jordan Holtcamp, Manuel Castillo, and Billy Gallagher.

### 90's

The 90's saw the Conchs have 6 different head coaches. Pat Freeman, Andy Siegel, Fred Dennen, Bobby Menendez, Gerry Hughes, and Greg Kremer. When Coach Freeman stepped down after 13 seasons, the Conchs went out of town for their next hire. Andy Siegel became the new sheriff in town, but his reign only lasted for two seasons. He was last Conch coach to lead them to a district title in 95. 95 saw the Conchs unseat Monsignor Pace to win the District, and win the Sub-Regional Contest against Oakland Park NE at home, but lose the Regional Finals to Ft. Pierce Central. The Conchs started looking for a new head coach, and the list came down to two finalists, both from out of town, Fred Dennen and Mike Leach. The Conchs hire Dennen with his Wing T offense, but after just seven games, he is fired and long time Conch Bobby Menendez replaces him as the interim coach going 3-1. The search goes on for a new coach and after months of negotiations Conch great Gerry Hughes who had coached in Miami at Southridge and West Virginia University was coming home to take over. With his knowledge and discipline, the Conchs made the play-offs in 97 & 98. In 98 with only a 21 man squad the Conchs have a winning record finishing runner-up in the District, and had to travel to Belle Glade Central for the Regional Championship. The Conchs showed the huge crowd what fight they had going into half leading the contest. But for Key West, starting QB and MLB Leondre Washington injured and is out for the rest of the contest. Key West fights to the end but came up short.

Coach Hughes resigns at the end of the season, but the search for the next coach is short and they hire long time Assistant Coach/Psychology/Philosophy teacher Greg Kremer. 99 was a rebuilding year and it showed as the Conchs finished with a 2-8 record to end the decade.

Here is the list of Key Players in the 90's: Jesse Mitchell, Eric Hudson, Michael Ashe, Benny Lowe, Patrick Major, Jeremy Jackson, Lamont Woodberry, Vashon Watson, Anton Lopez, Jeremy Ashby, Maor Kainan, Lemuel "Turkey" Roberts, Joe Henriquez, Robert Thompson, David Monroe, Aaron Jolly, Arvin Ramsey, Michael Dean, Robert Albury, Ramon Richardson, Chris Rudl, Wayne Davila, Sean Condella, Jason McCauley, Vernell Castillo, John Welsh, Steven Sawyer, Bubba Collins, Anthony Thompson, Rozelle Foster, Greg Bringle, Marcus James, Pavel Krzemien, Andy Braswell, Leondre Washington, Ran Carthon, Curtis Butler, Malcom Munnings, Andy Mendez, Jonathan Gonzalez, Adam Burton, Carlton Thurston, Hugh Morgan and Justin Cisneros.

### 2000's

A new millennium started, and the Conchs had a great season in 2000 going 7-4-0 and making the play-offs. The Conchs made a seven hour bus ride to play Rockledge in the Regionals. The stadium was packed with fans, and the Conchs battled but in the end Rockledge prevailed. In Coach Kremer's final season, the Conchs went 4-6-0 and no play-offs. Coach Pat Freeman takes over for his second stint as Head Coach. The Conchs went 4-6-0, but no play-offs and in Coach Freeman's last season they went 7-3-0. He finishes his career as the all-time winningest

coach with 87 victories and the longest tenured coach with 15 years. He was the only coach to take the Conchs to the State Finals. Long time Assistant Coach Robert James steps up to take over as the Conchs Head Coach. Coach James doesn't disappoint as the Conchs went 7-2-0 in his first season and qualify for the play-offs. The Conchs had to travel to Belle Glade Central for the game. In a contest that went back and forth, Key West was leading late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. On a third and one, Poppy Marius took the hand off went to his right and dove for what looked to be a three yard gain as he went out of bounds. The Coaches and team went crazy as we picked up the first down and can run out the clock, but wait a minute, the referee marks the ball back and Key West is denied the first down and it is now 4<sup>th</sup> down and one. With under 2 minutes to go, the Conchs elect to send in their reliable kicker. The snap was solid, the blocking was great, but unfortunately the punt went off the side of his foot for only 7 yards. Belle Glade has great field position to start the drive. Belle Glade scores a late TD and the Conchs lost the regionals, but as the tape showed, Poppy did make the first down. 04-06 proved to be Hurricane Central in the Florida Keys, as 12 named storms came very, very close to Key West. We saw games lost, practice time lost, and when Hurricane Wilma hit in 05, we saw destruction that had not happened in the Key's since the 50's. People lost their homes, families were displaced, but Coach James was able to keep tabs on his players, and they were able to finish the season. We even lost Homecoming that year. In 07 the Conchs faltered with losses to Mater Academy, and for the first time, a loss to Marathon High School. Key West finished the season 5-5-0. Coach James retired from coaching. In 08, Gerry Hughes came back to teach and take over for his second stint as head coach. The Conchs went 5-5-0 in his first season back. They qualify for the play-offs in a three way tie for the District Title with Edison and Belen. The district title is decided by a Kansas City Shoot Out where they draw the names out of a hat to see who plays the first quarter. Key West and Edison play first, and Belen gets the winner. The ball is placed at the 10 yard line, after the first attempt both Key West and Edison were still tied. In the second attempt Key West tries a field goal that went wide right. Edison got the ball and they attempted the game winning field goal, and it was good. The season came to an end. In 09, the Conchs end the decade 6-3-0, but fail to make the play-offs.

Here is the list of Key players in the 2000's: James "la Rock" Osborne, Mikey Edwards, Patrick Lewin, Pedro Lara, Chaz Jimenez, Justin Duck, Billy Grooms, Josh "Pork Chop" Peters, David Brannon, Latron Hickson, Lamont Castillo, Joseph Morgan, Chris Gibson, Cody Grainger, Michael Brooks, Adron Barnes, Max Labrada, Aaron Barker, Tony Roberts, Patrick Freeman, Jesse Kehoe, Antwon Williams, Keith McLeod, Dexter Butler, Jude Brogli, Erick Brown, Ray Diaz, Daryl Lewis, Terrance Moore, Ian Lauritzen, Alex Yanovich, Ray Alvarez, Clinton Storr, Chris Cervantes, Shannon Butler, Malcolm McKenzie, Harry Bethel, Louven Exilus, Luckson Registre, Poppy Marius, Artie Grizzle, Louie Pazo, Brooks "Blue Suede Shoes" Saunders, Avery Gardner, Richard Multy, Marcus Bolden, Odone Pierre, Keith Durden, Devin Genchi, Dwayne Harry, Sharrieff Vincent, Daniel Paz, Jackson Coleman, Steven Jones-Valdez, Korey Rodriquez, Andres Garcia, Ralph Major, Antwon Lyons, Zack Freeman, Jephthe Riche, Philip Harden, Alfred Rhamming, Brandon Bravo, Ethan McKenzie, Clive Georges, Paul Leatherwood, Fryland Sanon, and Bradley Geide.

### 2000 TEENS:

Years 10 & 11 were winning seasons for Coach Jerry Hughes. Coach stepped down after the 11 season, The 17<sup>th</sup> coach of the program was picked by our new Principal Amber Archer Acevedo. Johnny Hughes will direct the Conchs. The District the Conchs play in is extremely difficult with private schools that recruit and a powerhouse in Miami Jackson. The Conchs go 6-4-0 in Coach Hughes first season, but don't qualify for the play-offs. In his second season, the schedule is very difficult and Key West finishes 1-9-0. The Administration, Athletic Director and Coach Hughes sit down and talk about Key West going independent. The decision was made and Key West drops out of the FHSAA. The Conchs joined the Gold Coast Conference in the fall of 14 with schools from Broward County.

In 14, their inaugural year, Key West has the season of perfection going 11-0-0 and winning the Gold Coast Conference. The following year 15, Key West meets their arch nemesis Archbishop McCarthy for the Championship. What a game it was with two schools who had running backs breaking records with each carry. The Conchs fall to the Mavericks in the contest, but Key West's Mekhi Sargent becomes the first Conch to rush for over 2,000 yds in a season. The following season 16, Key West faces Calvary Christian in the semi's and unfortunately drops the contest.

Key West then drops out of the Gold Coast Conference at the end of the season and Changes to the South East Conference with teams from Palm Beach & Dade County, but also re enters the FHSAA in 2017. The FHSAA changes the play-off format, and there are now 4 regions, 4 districts in each region. Only the District Champion qualifies for the State play-offs, the other four teams are decided by a point system the FHSAA has put together

based on your record, your opponents' record and your opponents' opponents' record. The first standings don't come out until week six of the season. Key West qualifies and has to play Monsignor Pace at Pace. The game was supposed to be in Key West, but Pace receives a forfeit win in the last week and moved ahead of Key West. The Conchs play their worst game of the year and lose to Pace. The following year 18, the Conchs look like they will qualify for the play-offs but they need South Plantation to beat Plantation in a game in Broward County, because Coral Springs Charter has two of their opponents receive forfeit wins. For the Conchs, you learn to never put your faith in someone else, and that is exactly what happened as Plantation wins and Key West stays home.

In 19, the Conchs qualify as the number 7 seed and have to travel to American Heritage Plantation for the playoffs. Key West takes the opening drive and marches right down the field and scores to go up 7-0, and on the following drive Heritage fumbles and after a mad scramble, the Patriots come up with the ball. A bad break for the Conchs as Heritage puts it in overdrive and beats Key West to move on.

Here is the list of key players for 2000 teens: Matteo Gazzale, Kevin Florez, Betrum Hayes, Aldony Pierre, Glynn Archer, Michael Henriquez, Clinton McCoy, Johnny Louis, Houston Wynn, Frankie Grizzle-Malgrat, Jecori Sala, Devin Barber, NaQuan McNeil, Clive Georges, Thomas Ruffenach, St. Pierre Annilus, Jerry Regis, Andre Guieb, William Funnye, Donal Roberts, Robert Valle, Elliott Valdez, Sam Graveline, Jack Gruba, Deonte Stemage, John Pozzi, Garrett Osteen, Antonio Quintana, Casey Sagon, Frederick Carter, Andrew Freeman, Zack Hughes, Jeffrey Annilus, Dorian Cannon, Daniel Dailey Dixon, Josh Shadduck, Victor Carson-Emily, Dylan Burke, Bubba Marius, William Smith, Phillip Barnett, Anthony "Cheese" Henriquez, Mike Clever, Joe Dael Peralus, Chris Brown, Cameron Fletchall, Issac Exilus, Alston Garcia, Mike Simonoff, Mekhi Sargeant, Ellis Williams, Montrel Ashe, Peter Ortiz, William Gregorich, Jayden Glover, Connor Curry, Alvin Howard, AB Winn, Carson Hughes, Damian Alvarez, Colby Kelleher, Ty Torres, Peter Estevez, Jo Jo Edwards, Alonzo Ridgeway, Cade Freeman, Payton Hummell, Jesse Garcia, Spenser Vinson, Jair Torres, Malcolm Gallagher, Odelton Paige, Lamont Woods Jr., Stervens Dor, Jean Nafere, Curtis Knowles, Ethan Hunt, TK Perkins, Garrett Hughes, Jonathan Faatuai, Patrick Barnett, Tyron Carey, and Roosevelt Joseph.

## 2020'S

2020, The year of COVID!!!!!!!!!! No one knows what to do! Will there be sports or not? The FHSAA shuts down all sports on March 18, 2020. No player involvement is allowed at all. No meetings, no practices, nothing. All the coaches can do is call or do Zoom Meetings. The kids have to work out on their own at home. School is virtual for the fourth nine weeks of Spring 2020. What is going to happen in the Fall? The answers finally are made by our new Superintendent Theresa Axford and she determines that school will start virtually for the first 3 weeks, but there will be no sports. The FHSAA has determined that fall sports can begin, but they leave it up to each School Districts decide when they wish to begin. School Districts are scrambling on what to do. All Fall schedules go by the way side, as some schools begin play, others do not. The private schools all begin on time as they don't have to follow District rules. Superintendent Axford makes the decision that Fall sports can begin September 5, except football which can begin to practice the following week, but only in helmets and shorts. No more than 10 athletes to a coach. After two weeks, with only shorts and helmets the pads can be put on. Coach Hughes scrambles along with our Athletic Director Sara Eckert to put together a schedule. Key West has a six game schedule and there will be no visiting fans allowed, and only the parents of our band, cheerleaders, and players to watch the games. Finally, Key West gets to play their first game against Westminster Academy in Ft. Lauderdale. They are not allowed locker room use, and they must dress in the buses and each bus is only allowed 25 people. The Conchs win the game and find out week two's game against Miami Christian has been cancelled. Key West ends up playing a five game regular season schedule going 4-1. The FHSAA gave every school the opportunity to decide if they wish to play for a State Championship. That decision had to be made by September 18. Coach Hughes, Athletic Director Eckert, and Principal McPherson decide we can. Key West opts in. The FHSAA decides that every school who opts in will be in the play-offs. Key West draws Northwestern, the number one team in the State as its opponent. The good news is, the game will be in Key West, the first play-off game in Key West since 1995.

Our Superintendent and school board make the decision fans will be allowed with social distancing, and the FHSAA determines that the visiting school can bring their band, cheerleaders, and must receive 250 tickets. Thank goodness TRMS is large. Athletic Director Eckert and Principal McPherson do a great job in seating and making space for everyone. The game is great and Key West down 28-6 at half, then mounts a great comeback. With the score 28-20 and under two minutes to go, Key West has the ball at the Northwestern 10 with first and goal to goal to tie it up. On the first play, Key West gets flagged for an unsportsman like penalty. The Coaches go crazy, and now the ball is backed up to the 25 yd line first and goal. Key West gets down to the 8 yd line and its



fourth and goal with under 30 seconds to go. QB Will Andrews goes back to pass, Northwestern puts on an all out blitz, and Will's pass falls just incomplete to his receiver. What a game Key West gave the number one team in the State, who took a physical beating from the Conchs and Northwestern loses the following week.

2021 The Conchs will play all their home games in the Backyard, as Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium will be getting a major face lift. The preseason contest was a home game as Pace fills in for Hialeah Champagant who cancels at the last moment. The Backyard is packed and the game doesn't go the Conchs way. The opening game is on the road to unincorporated Naples to face Palmetto Ridge. Key West gives up two first quarter TD's and shuts them down but the offense could only get two TD's as well. The difference is 2-two point conversions. Key West loses 16-13. Game two is another long trip to play Port St. Lucie West. The bus ride was longer than week one and it showed as Key West was never in the contest losing 42-14. The first district game is against a team the conchs have never faced. St. Brendan fields a football team and is now in our district. The Conchs crush St. Brendan 55-0, with Preston Herce, and Jeremiah Osborne running for over 100 yards each and a combined 5 touchdowns. Michael Cates scores on an interception and pass play for 2 more touchdowns, and Axel Correira kicks 8 touchbacks in the St. Brendan game to break and establish a new school record. Another new team on the schedule comes to Key West, Miami International Academy. Led by Preston Herce with another great performance, the Conchs crush the Hurricanes 47-12. Axel Correira breaks the record for most touchbacks in a season. Next up is the 4<sup>th</sup> new school Key West will play, Gateway from Ft. Myers. Led by Preston Herce's 193 yds and 2 td's, with a relentless defense the Conchs win their third in a row 48-13. The biggest game of the year is Saturday vs Killian with the District Championship on the line. Giving up the opening kick-off for a Td to the Cougars, the Conchs bounced right back with a drive of 73 yds for the tie ing td. The cougars returned another kick-off back to the conchs twenty and scored immediately. Key West mounted another drive but were stopped on a fourth and one and Killian took over from there and won 46-7. The Conchs take care of Jackson 31-6 with Mike Td Cates scoring 2 td's. The Conchs dominate Surge Academy 63-6 on senior night. They were led by James Reynold's three td's. With 3 runners gaining over 100 yds each, Key West was unable to stop the Firebirds wing T and lose 49-27. Now everything hinges on the game with Dade Christian if Key West wants to get into the play-offs. The homecoming game was billed the Conchs Superbowl. Rosa Nafere is the queen. The Conchs jump out to an early 14-0 lead, but just like the Doral game, Key West was unable to hang on and lose 54-35. Preston Herce rushed for over 100 yards for the 14<sup>th</sup> time in his career, and Axel Correa set records for touchbacks on Kick-offs. With the loss the Conchs will not advance into the play-offs, and the off season begins.

2022

Here is the list of key players in the 20's: Will Andrews, Christian Opalsky, Jason Jeudy, Max Ryan, Mark Ryan, Wyatt Hughes, Nick Duarte and Nick Henriquez., Preston Herce, Jeremiah Osborne, Michael Cates, Nathan Outon, Axel Correa, Kyle Reichard, Brock "Hollywood" Perkins, Marques Williamson, Henry Audette, Jack Molder, Enrique Tabora,

**THIS LAST PART WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT, IT IS OUR CONCH OPPONENTS, AND OUR RECORD AGAINST THEM:**

**A**

American Heritage Delray-----0-1-0  
 American Heritage Plantation--2-10-0  
 Arcadia Desoto-----0-3-0  
 ArchBishop Curley-----18-10-1  
 ArchBishop McCarthy-----6-3-0  
 Avon Park-----1-0-0

**B**

Barron Collier-----2-5-0  
 Bartow----- 0-1-0  
 Bay Point----- 4-0-0  
 Belen Jesuit-----7-8-0  
 Belle Glade Central----- 2-12-0  
 Benjamin-----1-1-0  
 Bishop Verot-----2-0-0  
 Boca Raton-----2-0-0  
 Booker T. Washington-----0-2-0  
 Boyd Anderson-----0-1-0

**C**

Calvary Christian-----0-2-0  
 Cape Coral-----0-2-0

**D**

Dade Christian-----1-2-0  
 Daytona Beach-----1-0-0

Cardinal Gibbons-----12-9-0  
Cardinal Newman-----1-1-0  
Chaminade Madonna-----5-1-1  
Champagnat-----1-0-0  
Chattanooga Tenn.-----1-0-0  
Clearwater Central Catholic--1-0-0  
Clewiston-----1-0-0  
Cocoa-----2-0-0  
Columbus-----6-7-1  
Constance-----2-0-0  
Coral Gables-----1-7-0  
Coral Glades-----2-0-0  
Coral Shores-----9-1-0  
Coral Springs Charter-----1-0-0  
Cristobal-Panama Canal--2-0-0  
Cypress Lake-----1-1-0

**G**

Gateway-----1-0-0  
Gesu-----1-0-1  
Glades Day-----0-1-0  
Golden Gate-----1-0-0  
Gulliver Prep-----9-6-0

**I**

Ida Baker-----0-1-0  
IMG Academy-----1-0-0  
Inlet Grove-----3-0-0

**K**

Keys Gate-----2-0-0  
Kings Academy-----0-2-0

**M**

Marines-----1-0-2  
Marathon-----8-2-0  
Mater Academy-----3-1-0  
Mays-----0-1-0  
McArthur-----1-2-0  
Miami American-----0-3-0  
Miami Beach-----10-6-2  
Miami Braddock-----1-0-0  
Miami Central-----3-3-0  
Miami Edison-----6-3-1  
Miami Ferguson-----2-0-0  
Miami Goleman-----1-0-0  
Miami High-----3-8-0  
Miami Jackson-----4-8-0  
Miami Killian-----0-3-0  
Miami Military-----1-0-0  
Miami Norland-----4-5-0

Deland-----1-1-0  
Deerfield Beach-----0-1-0  
Delray Beach Atlantic-----0-2-0  
Dillard-----0-3-0  
Doral Academy-----0-1-0

**E**

**F**

Fl. Christian-----2-0-0  
Forest Hill-----2-0-0  
Ft. Lauderdale-----4-5-1  
Ft. Myers-----5-3-0  
Ft. Pierce Central-----0-3-0  
Ft. Pierce John Carroll----1-0-0

**H**

Hallandale-----7-6-0  
Hialeah-----0-1-2  
Hialeah Gardens-----1-0-0  
Hialeah Miami Lakes-----2-1-0  
Homestead-----5-5-0

**J**

Jackson, Tenn.-----1-0-0  
Jax Bolles-----0-1-0  
Jax Dupont-----1-0-0  
Jax Terry Parker-----1-1-0  
Jax University Christian--0-1-0  
Jupiter-----1-0-0

**L**

Lake Worth-----1-1-0  
La Salle-----2-0-0  
Lely-----3-7-0  
Lemon City-----2-0-0  
Live Oak Suwannee-----0-1-0

**N**

Naples-----7-0-0  
North Broward Prep-----3-2-0  
Northeast-----2-0-0  
North Ft. Myers-----2-2-0  
North Miami-----2-4-0  
North Miami Beach-----2-2-0  
Nova-----1-1-0

**O**

**R**

Riverdale-----1-1-0  
Riveria Beach Suncoast---4-2-0  
River Ridge-----0-1-0

Miami Northweswtern---0-4-1  
Miami Palmetto-----3-3-0  
Miami International----1-0-0  
Miami Regan-----2-0-0  
Miami South Miami----1-1-0  
Miami Southwest-----8-5-1  
Miami Springs-----1-2-0  
Miami Sunset-----2-0-0  
Miami Tech-----4-1-0  
Monsignor Pace-----21-17-0

**Q**

Oakland Park NE 1-0-0  
Ocala Forest-----1-1-0  
Ocala Lake Weir-----0-1-0  
Okeechobee-----4-1-0  
Oxbridge-----2-0-0

**P**

Pahokee-----2-0-0  
Palmetto Ridge-----1-2-0  
Pembroke Pines Charter-4-0-0  
Pinecrest-----3-1-0  
Pompano Beach-----2-4-0  
Pompano Ely-----4-0-0  
Pope John Paul-----3-0-0  
Punta Gorda-----1-0-0  
Port St. Lucie Centennial West-0-1-0

**S**

Sanford-----1-0-0  
Sarasota-----0-1-0  
Satellite Beach-----0-1-0  
Sebring-----1-0-0  
Seacrest-----0-1-1  
Solid Rock-----2-0-0  
Somerset Academy Charter Silver Palms-1-0-0  
South Broward-----1-6-2  
South Dade-----17-17-1  
South Fork-----1-1-0  
Spanish River-----0-1-0  
Spruce Creek-----0-1-0  
Stoneman Douglas-----2-0-1  
Stranahan-----5-5-0  
St. Annes-----2-0-0  
St. Cloud-----2-0-0  
St. Mary's-----2-0-0  
St. Patrick-----1-0-0  
St. Petersburg-----0-3-0  
St. Peters Paul-----1-2-0  
St. Brendan-----1-0-0

Rockledge-----0-1-0

**U**

University School-----1-1-0

**V**

Venice-----1-1-0  
Vero Beach-----2-1-0  
Villages Charter-----1-0-0

**W**

Wachula Hardee-----2-2-0  
Wellington-----1-0-0  
West Broward-----2-0-0  
Western-----2-2-0  
Westminster Academy--2-0-0  
Westminister Christian-2-2-0

*St. Theresa*-----3-0-0  
*St. Thomas Aquinas*----- 3-6-0  
*Surge Academy*-----2-0-0

**T**

*Tampa Catholic*-----1-0-0  
*Tampa Jefferson*-----1-0-0  
*Taravella*-----0-2-0  
*Tarpon Springs*-----0-1-0