

# 2012: Gaffney State Champions

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Josh Blakwell was the Gaffney Indians mascot for the 2012-2013 school year. The Indians earned their 16th state championship, which is the most earned by any South Carolina football program. Over their extend of dominance, Gaffney never went more than four a long time between title-game appearances. In the 1990s, it was the leader and head coach Joe Montgomery who had driven the program to two state championships and two runners-up. In the 2000s, Phil Strickland was at the steering, and brought the Gaffney Indians three titles in four years. And within the early 2010s, Dan Jones drove the group to two straight appearances within the championship diversion, winning one, within the program's most latest trip. With a bequest that extends over each decade over the past 30 seasons, it is best to begin from the start. Gaffney High School has won more state football titles than any other

school in Locale II-4A. Gaffney has won 16 state championships, the first one in 1927. Gaffney has won a title every decade but the 40's, 50's and 70's. Since 1960, the Indians have won six titles beneath three head coaches. Gaffney found itself with a 5-1 record, coming off a 7-7 season, and battling to outlive in a local race which would see the Indians wrap up tied for moment with a 5-2 record. Gaffney would win the state title in an added time triumph over Sumter. "That year, we were probably the third-best group within the locale," said Joe Montgomery, who still coaches and leads the Indians. "We didn't ought to beat both Spartanburg and Northwestern within the playoffs, fair Northwestern. In those days, we may beat Northwestern but not Spartanburg, and Spartanburg seem beat us but not Northwestern." The Indians misplaced their last two locale diversions that season, 27-26 to Northwest-

ern in twofold extra minutes and 43-22 to Spartanburg. Dutch Fork vs Gaffney was scheduled at Gaffney, in late August, but the upsetting and sad passing away of Dutch Forks best senior lineman rightly cancelled the game everybody had been waiting for. Indian fans liked to think that Gaffney was going to break Dutch Forks sixth consecutive state championship and their 62-game unbeaten streak. Gaffney has an almost perfect record when entering the game. Gaffney vs Northwestern at 16-13, Gaffney vs Spartanburg at 56-31, Gaffney vs Dorman at 42-35, and finally, Gaffney vs Gray Collegiate at 38-35. Indian fans believed that Gaffney could keep their streak up as well as destroying Dutch Forks streak and consecutive championship. Gaffney lost the first quarter 7-13, they were still 7-13 when the second quarter ended, it was not looking good for the Gaffney Indians. Towards the end of



the third quarter Dutch Fork scored a touch down and got another six points which put the score at 7-19, with Gaffney still looking at a loss. Gaffney scored a touchdown in the fourth quarter and put the score at 14-19. They were doing better but it still was not looking good for the Indians. Gaffney scores another touching down, earning six more points, putting the score at 20-19. Gaffney finally coming in close to winning, everybody at the edge of their seats. With 3

minutes and 30 seconds left on the clock, would Dutch Fork score again or would Gaffney be able to stand their ground? Everybody was out of their seats cheering on their team to win the championship. Gaffney makes a safety putting the score at 22-19. As each minute passes it is looking better and better for the Indians. As the time ticks down Gaffney is able to hold their ground. Gaffney wins the state championship 22-19, gaining their 17th state championship.

## Protecting Our Marine Life

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8 billion pieces make their way into our oceans every day, polluting and destroying the home of many sea creatures.

The health of precious marine life is at stake – for waste depletes oxygen and numerous amounts of fish have ingested plastic debris. One of the various ways that pollutants get in oceans is the fertilizer from farmers. This occurs due to the fertilizer running off into waterways and thus into our seas. This is also a

reason for the hazardous algal blooms. Algal blooms are not just dangers to the health of marine and wildlife itself, but for humans as well.

Humans being affected by ocean pollution shouldn't come as shocking. Due to the food chain, the toxins that small ocean life absorb from the over-growing amount of trash intruding their habitat, will eventually be the toxins humans are digesting as well. Though, there are companies that are doing their job

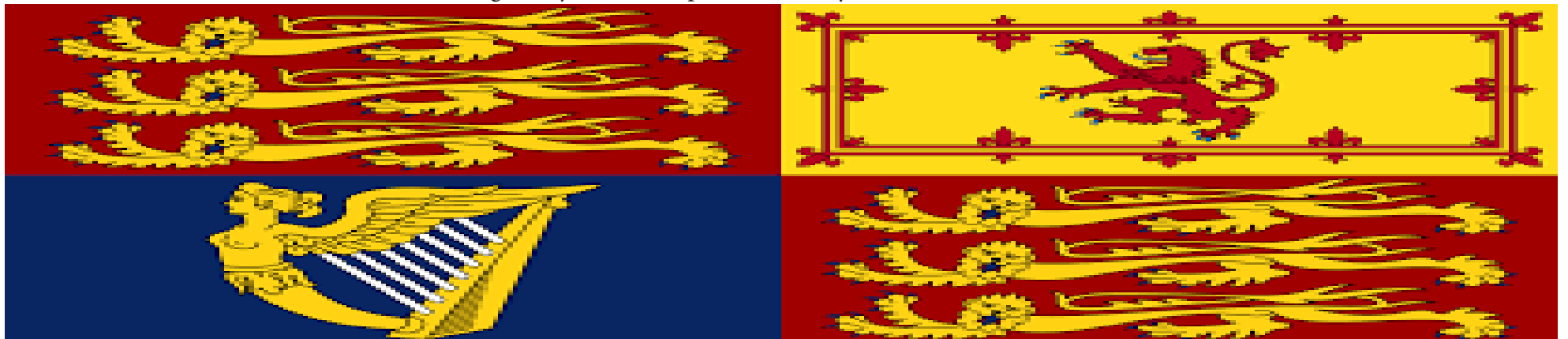
to help clean the world's oceans and rivers. The Ocean Cleanup is one of these. The non-profit environmental organization is made up of scientists, engineers, and researchers devoted to reducing and cleaning 90% of floating ocean plastic by the year 2040. Another non-profit environmental organization is Seabin. Seabin cleans the liter and debris found in oceans by a water pump that, with usage of a catch bag, filters it all to be disposed of or recycled if

possible.

Marine life is just as valuable and important as human life. There are many ways to make an effort to help clean our oceans and protect the life that resides in them. Along with volunteering, simply picking up a piece of plastic and recycling it will still go a long way for the sacred lives of sea creatures.

"Without healthy oceans," says a volunteer from Seabin, "there is no life. Oceans are

the lifeblood of our planet and humankind. It is in our best interest to keep them clean."



## Her Majesty the Queen, Has Died at Age 96

London Bridge is officially down.

Elizabeth II was Queen of The United Kingdom for exactly 70 years and 214 days. She was the longest reigning British monarch; being a face of determination, will, and strength for the people of the UK.

Operation London Bridge was the plan set for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. Created in the 1960's, the plan has changed numerous times following up to her abrupt passing this Thursday. The Queen herself signed off on every step and her son Charles finalized and approved the intricate plan. It starts with its widely recognized code – "London Bridge is down." When the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom would be told this, it thus initiates the articulated plan in gear.

With this procedure in mind and own details presented for The Queen herself; her son Prince Charles will automatically become monarch. Now,

better known as King Charles III. This afternoon, September 9th, 2022, he made his first speech addressed to the public as King. "I speak to you today with feelings of profound sorrow. Throughout her life, Her Majesty The Queen – my beloved Mother – was an inspiration and example to me and my family ... Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today." King Charles was adamant on his promises to his people for The King he will be; as the position that once belonged to his mother now lies in his hands. He goes onto say, "As The Queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the Constitutional principles at the heart of our nation. And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the Realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be

your background or beliefs, I shall endeavor to serve you with loyalty, respect, and love, as I have throughout my life." King Charles III concludes his speech by a thank you to his mother. "And to my darling Mama, as you begin your last journey to join my dear late Papa, I want to simply say this: thank you. Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years."

Operation London Bridge covered aspects from the public and media to broadcasting. On September 8th, 2022, at the Balmoral Castle in Scotland, the plan came to fruition.

It had been spread by the media that The Queen was in ill health just hours before her eventual passing. Though the specific root of reasoning for her death has not been released, it was stated that her passing in her summer getaway was quite peaceful. Word from her first born, who now honorably holds his

mother's place, was delivered out onto social media. "The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty The Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family." King Charles III goes on to say, "I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people across the world."

When the public gained notice of The Queen's passing, it spread rapidly. An outbreak and frenzy of questions built on a flood of overwhelming emotions. From concern, confusion to even nostalgic and reminiscent of Lady Diana Spencer. Through the rise of this chaos, it made people hyper-aware of the powerhouse that Queen Elizabeth was and the history that she not only lived through but made. From World War II, 9/11, the Cold War, 14 U.S. Presidents, and the Covid-19 Pandemic, she was a witness to unique and pivotal times in our history. Queen Elizabeth II watched a transformation

of her people and the world in her reign as Queen.

Countless news outlets and civilians began remembering and showcasing the extraordinary, courageous life she lived. Ruling for seven decades, The Queen may not be physically present anymore, yet her impactful and resolute essence remains. It's strung throughout not only through The United Kingdom, but the World entirely.

On September 19th, 2022, a state funeral will be held for Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II.

