## TCSS Logo

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## Story Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Georgia High School Football Daily and Team Riddell Georgia Honor**

**Callaway High Students and Head Coach**

LaGrange, Ga., February 25, 2021 – Some of the best athletic talent in the nation is right here in Troup County. Recently, Georgia High School Football Daily (GHSF Daily) and Team Riddell Georgia recognized three talented players from Callaway High School (CHS) and their head coach:

* All-State First Team – RB Charlie Dixon
* All-State First Team – DB Jalin Shephard
* Defensive Player of the Year – LaQuize Gilbert
* Coach of the Year – Pete Wiggins

Each senior received their commemorative jersey and Gilbert also received a football engraved with his name. Gilbert is a Troup County native who has attended Berta Weathersbee, Ethel W. Kight, and Gardner Newman. He began playing football in the seventh grade while at Gardner Newman. He said this honor feels awesome, “It feels amazing because I’ve been working hard to be the best player that I can be and it’s finally showing that my hard work is paying off.” After high school, Gilbert will play football for Georgia Military College and major in Kinesiology.

GHSF Daily is considered the most knowledgeable and credible resource for news and information on Georgia high school football. This is the 12th year they have selected an All-State football team. They consider student performance and strength of schedule during the selection process. During the presentation, Ted Langford, GSHF Daily Marketing Director, had some stats to share about each player with their senior football teammates and administration.

Dixon, while out with injuries most of the season, still scored 20 touchdowns and took his game to another level during the playoffs. Shephard was hailed for having seven interceptions this year, with one being in the state championship. Gilbert was touted as a dominant force in the championship game with 10 solo tackles. That is more than any player in the eight state championship games this season.

Head Coach Pete Wiggins was named Coach of the Year during the ceremony. He has 150 wins in his 16 years with CHS. The team had a 12-1 record before heading into the playoff season.

Gilbert said his teammates and the staff at CHS have been like family, “They mean everything to me as I have worked to get to graduation. All of my teammates, the folks here at Callaway, and the community have been a big, supportive family.” And to the kids that are soon to come after he graduates, he encouraged them by saying, “Go out there and play your game. Believe in yourself. Your hard work will pay off.”

**About Troup County School System**

Troup County School System is an accredited educational system with over 12,100 students in grades K-12. TCSS does offer a free Pre-K program at each elementary school. The system is comprised of eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, one college and career academy, and one alternative learning center. Students within the school system are taught a rigorous and relevant curriculum that helps them make college and career choices beyond graduation and succeed in life. The system 2020 graduation rate is 85.9 percent. To learn more about [Troup County School System](http://www.troup.org/), visit troup.org and the Troup County School System Facebook page.

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* Honorees with family members, senior players, district staff, and school staff.
* Coach Wiggins accepts commemorative football for Coach of the Year
* Honorees with Coach Pete Wiggins
* Gilbert holds football
* Ted Langford, GSHF Marketing Director, snaps a photo of the honorees.