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When the calendar swings to August, there's a little more rustling around and a lot more noise that can be heard in and around the eight high schools in Randolph County.

The sounds of weights being lifted and dropped, footballs and soccer balls flying through the air, the sound of bump, set, spike can be heard from the gymnasiums, the sound of feet running along cross country trails, tennis balls being lobbed back over the net and the woosh of a golf club.

It's fall and all eight high schools are readying for the start of the new high school sports season.

"It's a challenge as far as communication wise," Randleman High School Athletic Director Jake Smith said. "Getting all the kids informed of what's going on and practice times. Coaches having communication with all their players. It's also exciting and fun and we're ready to start a new year. Everything is fresh."

The Tigers begin competition today with games in volleyball and soccer. It's as if someone opened a gate and it's the time of year fall sports are ready to bust through.

Football, volleyball, boys soccer, girls golf, girls tennis and cross country have been working out for some time already and are eager to get into their schedules, schedules that were put together last spring.

"The schedules are done last year, although we may run into a hiccup or two," Smith said. "Ninety-five percent are set in stone."

This year's football schedule at RHS changed when Bartlett Yancey was replaced by Cedar Ridge. A switch in leadership at BY and some communication difficulties led to the change.

Of course, one of the most important jobs of the athletic director is to closely monitor the "student" part of the student-athlete. Each must be eligible to participate in the various sports.

"Really, you have to get after that the first day," Smith said. "You have a list of guys and girls who have been coming all summer, but the official list won't be ready until after tryouts," Smith said. "Myself and the Data Manager work to make sure everything is in place."



At Asheboro High School, there have been plenty of things to make sure are in place. Because of renovations to the school, the gymnasium has been unavailable the past few years. However, most of the renovations have been completed and students will return to campus for volleyball and basketball this year.

"With renovations being finished, I have a punch list that fills up my dry board," AHS Athletic Director Wes Berrier said. "I think we're still about a year away from having everything back to normal. Whenever you buy a new house, you have a list of things that need to be corrected."

One of the big undertakings this summer was readying for the new video scoreboard at Lee J. Stone Stadium.

"Right now it's been a priority to work with the maintenance department, the IT program and installers, which has been ongoing all summer," Berrier said. "We're making sure when they do install the new video scoreboards all we have to do is plug them in and go."

While the gym will be ready for competition, AHS is still working on the sod for the practice fields. The soccer team has been practicing at NAMS thus far this season.

"The summers are pretty busy and you want to make sure the maintenance people are getting lines marked off for all the programs," Berrier said.

The Blue Comets have a new football coach in Calvin Brown and that has led to a special atmosphere in the community,

"There is a definite buzz in the air," Berrier said. "We did Blue Comet Fan Fare and then went over real well. It was a great community night."

And it's going to be a great fall for all eight high schools in Randolph County.