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On the Cover: At 6-for-2 and 330 pounds, Jauntavius Johnson is expected to play a larger-than-life role for the Lincoln Golden Bears in the 2014 season. Johnson, an Auburn commitment, leads a Golden Bear squad that expects to be competitive despite a step up to Class 5A this year.

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Silent Warriors

NDIAA

Warriors look to turn it around this year



By SHANE DUNAWAY

After back-to-back one-win seasons in 2012 and 2013, Alabama School for the Deaf Silent Warriors head coach Paul Kulick hopes to turn things around in 2014.

Helping his odds is the fact his team will return to action with the bulk of its starters, including five key offensive weapons: junior wingbacks Anthony Scott and Eddie Thomas, senior tight end and defensive end Cody Maddox, and senior offensive linemen Xavius Turner and Lonzo Brownlee.

"We will depend on Anthony Scott and Eddie Thomas to take leadership roles and show the new and younger players the work it takes to be champions," Kulick said. "Scott was the workhouse rusher last season with 374 rushing yards in a single game. Thomas missed some playing time with an injury that slowed him down the last few games of the 2013 season.

Eddie is now ready to lead the team in the 2014 season."

He explained the team has been putting forth a strong effort in the weight room and adding to its strength and conditioning.

"We will now try to apply that on the football field," Kulick said. "Hopefully, we're headed in the right direction. We've got a great group of kids. The attitude is great. They all work hard, and that makes my job as a coach that much more enjoyable. The same goes for the assistant coaches who give their all to the football program and the ASD Home of Champions."

Maddox discussed the upcoming season and what he hopes will result from the team's hard offseason work.

"I'm looking forward to winning and hitting rough like we did last year," Maddox said. "We've worked hard on what we're doing, so I'm ready to see it work. I'm expecting that this year, we'll

do a lot better than we did last year and I, myself, feel our football team's players are better. We know what we want going into each game, and we want to win it for them."

Brownlee said he's hoping for an even better team this season.

"I feel that this year, we are a lot better," Brownlee said. "We've got a lot of seniors who are coming back, and we're working hard. We're doing everything, and we're looking forward to some good games."

Kulick reflected on 2013, noting the team's "Never give up" attitude as one of the key positive takeaways.

"The 16 young men who made up the ASD football team finished their season with a strong championship attitude, despite what the win/loss column might indicate," Kulick said. "Our Silent Warriors endured injuries, inexperience, low numbers and other adversities. Those 16 young men stuck



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together as a team and refused to roll over and die. They played their hearts out.”

He said he believes that effort will pour over into the upcoming season.

“I know our student-athletes will do much better this year because we’re a little more experienced, stronger and motivated,” Kulick said. “We’re still young from top to bottom, but most players have been in our system for at least a year. They now have experience and have bought into our ASD Home of Champions program.

“The student-athletes are internalizing the weekly and season goals. They understand what we want out of practice and they believe in our system. We believe we will be more ready to work toward our goals this year because the process is already in place.”

Roster

No.	Name	Grade			
2	Miles Gonzalez	7th	44	Jalun Worthey	FR
3	Joshua Edwards	JR	50	Xavius Turner	SR
4	Jacob Darda	FR	52	Lonzo Brownlee	SR
7	Eddie Thomas	JR	54	Uriah Stallworth	JR
10	Anthony Scott	JR	55	Rashard James	SR
11	Payton Stults	FR	58	Matthew Garrett	FR
20	Marc Wallace	FR	60	Gabriel Bridges	8th
21	Cody McKinnie	7th	64	Angleo Cisneros	FR
24	Cody Maddox	SR	65	Nicholas Moses	FR
30	David Dickey	7th	72	Quintrell Little	SR
32	William Autery	8th	74	Tyler Robinson	JR
34	Edwin Johnson	SO	75	Eloy Garcia-Ramirez	SO
42	Jaquan Rankins	7th	77	Angelo Simon	8th
			80	Danny Maddox	FR

Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Alabama School for the Deaf

HEAD COACH: Paul Kulick (11th season)

KEY LOSSES: Matthew Lowry, Xavier Fayson

KEY RETURNERS: Eddie Thomas, Anthony Scott,
Lonzo Brownlee

BASE OFFENSE: Double Wing **BASE DEFENSE:** 5-2

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 1-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 138 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 332

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Waterloo
Aug. 29 Open

Sept. 5 Open
Sept. 13 vs. Indiana School for the Deaf
Sept. 20 at Mississippi School for the Deaf
Sept. 26 vs. Jacksonville Christian
Oct. 4 at Tennessee School for the Deaf

Oct. 11 vs. Louisiana School for the Deaf
Oct. 18 vs. Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
Oct. 25 at North Carolina School for the Deaf
Oct. 31 at Victory Christian

Spotlight



CODY MADDOX AND LONZO BROWNLEE

BY LAVONTE YOUNG

The Alabama School for the Deaf (ASD) Silent Warriors seniors look to turn things around in 2014 after having a rebuilding year in 2013. Head coach Paul Kulick said he will depend on seniors Lonzo Brownlee and Cody Maddox to be leaders this season.”

“Both of them are great men and both will be good leaders for our team this year. We are happy to have them,” Kulick said.

Maddox discussed the upcoming season and what he hopes will result from the team’s hard offseason work.

“I’m looking forward to winning and hitting rough like we did last year,” Maddox said. “We’ve worked hard on what we’re doing, so I’m ready to see it work. I’m expecting that this year, we’ll do a lot better than we did last year and I, myself, feel our friends our better and our football team’s players are better. We know what we want going into each game, and we want to win it for them.”

Lorenzo Brownlee said he’s hoping for an even better team this season.

“I feel that this year, we are a lot better,” Brownlee said. “We’ve got a lot of seniors who are coming back, and we’re working hard. We’re doing everything, and we’re looking forward to some good games.”

This season, the Silent Warriors will play a nine-game schedule.

ASD will take on three public schools: Waterloo, Jacksonville Christian and Victory Christian. The Silent Warriors will also face six deaf schools: Indiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana.

“It is like we are a SEC team,” Maddox said. “I like going to different schools and seeing different states. Being able to travel to play football is awesome. Instead of just staying in one state, we have more ability to travel to different states and see what’s going on. It is a lot of fun.”

Brownlee enjoys having opportunities to play football in different states.

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B.B. Comer not just gearing up to make the playoffs



By LAVONTE YOUNG

The B.B. Comer Tigers are not satisfied with just making the playoffs anymore. The Tigers have made the postseason the past two years, but this season, head coach Anthony Jacks said his team wants more.

"We are excited about that, because for a while we have gone through a lull here at Comer without making the playoffs," Jacks said. "We have made it two years in a row. We are starting to see with especially these older guys that making the playoffs is not the end all be all. In the past that has been good for us to make the playoffs, but now we have done that. We have been to the first round a couple of times, so now the expectation is for us to do something more. You can see that. They want something else, so they have put something else into it."

The Tigers once again will not have much depth this season. B.B. Comer lost several key seniors at key positions. With the loss of three-year starter Tyler Holmes, the Tigers will

depend on Houston Ford to be their field general.

"Depth is going to be an issue with us again," Jacks said. "It is the same song a different year. We will probably have 34 players. We lost Tyler Holmes who started 23 games in a row for us at quarterback. So we have to figure out how to replace that. We lost a good amount of our offensive line. I think Austin Nicholson is our only true returning starter. We played some guys at the end of the year that are going to play for us, but we had four seniors up front for us last year. We have to replace our quarterback and offensive line – that's a huge part of your offense. Houston Ford is going to be a sophomore for us. He has all the skills and all the tools. He is learning how to play quarterback right now. We are excited about him. He is going to be an exceptional player. We are going to have a lot of junior up front on the line. They are short on experience but they are big. It is going to be our job as coaches to teach them how to play."

The fifth-year head coach

believes that the defense will also improve despite losing several key pieces off last season's team.

"Defensively, we have some skill guys that can play," Jacks said. "We have some guys that can take it the distance. Defensively, I think we will be pretty good."

With reclassification, the Tigers move to Class 3A, Region 3 with teams such as Prattville Christian, Beulah, Midfield, Coosa Central, Fultondale and Montgomery Academy. Jacks said he expects his team to compete for the top seed.

"We like the way the region alignment set up for us," Jacks said. "In the past years we had Trinity and Clay County in there and you say 'these are the big dogs of the region.' We look at our region now and we expect to compete. That is our goal. We don't want to look at it and say 'maybe we can be second or third or fourth.' We are looking at it that it is all up for grabs. The expectation is we want to be in competition for the region championship."



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Roster

No.	Name		
1	Houston Ford	23	Brady Burton
2	Alvin Burton	24	Daniel Caldwell
3	Justin Holmes	25	Terrell McCain
4	Tay McElrath	27	Kesean Averette
6	Jacoby Kelley	32	Corey Strickland
9	Zach Queen	33	Demetrius Griffin
10	Dee Embery	50	Austin Nicholson
11	Henry Averette	51	Patrick Farris
12	Austin Swain	54	Deon Gaddis
13	TJ Lamberth	56	Gabe Williamson
14	Conner Bobo	65	Braxton Cherry
15	Spencer Lykes	68	Taylor Owings
17	Zach Dobbs	70	Lynn Harris
19	Lanoah Ealy	72	T.J. Tyler
20	Treston Dew	73	Jacob Polk
21	Tyre McKinney	75	Del McMillian
22	Jartavious Hall	77	Isaiah Pearson

Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: B.B. Comer

HEAD COACH: Anthony Jacks (5th season)

KEY LOSSES: Tyler Holmes, Jordan Butler, Cory Harris

KEY RETURNERS: Daniel Caldwell, Austin Nicholson, Houston Ford

BASE OFFENSE: Wing T **BASE DEFENSE:** 50

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 212 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 256

Schedule

Aug. 29 vs. Childersburg
Sept. 5 at Prattville Christian
Sept. 13 vs. Beulah
Sept. 19 at Montgomery Academy
Sept. 26 vs. Vincent

Oct. 3 at Fayetteville
Oct. 10 vs. Fultondale
Oct. 17 at Midfield
Oct. 24 vs. Central Coosa
Oct. 30 at Sylacauga

Spotlight



AUSTIN NICHOLSON AND DANIEL CALDWELL

By LAVONTE YOUNG

It has been 13 years since the B.B. Comer Tigers had a winning season. The last two seasons the Tigers have made the postseason, but still ended the year with a losing record.

Senior lineman Austin Nicholson said he hopes to put an end to his team's losing-record streak.

"I want to have winning season," Nicholson said. "The last few years they have been talking about us being successful, but in reality we still have been going 5-5 and that is not a winning season. We are trying to jump over that bridge and have a winning season and make it deeper in the playoffs. If we can beat both Sylacauga and Childersburg I'm pretty sure that will put us over the hump."

Nicholson said the senior players are going to have to do a better job of leading by example if they are going to earn a winning record.

"We have to show the other guys how hard you have work to be successful," Nicholson said. "Being there and being on time is the key. If you have people dragging in late it drags the team behind. It takes you longer to get going and focused for the day. If you can be there and be on time that is a simple thing for being better for the day. If we

win those days then we win on Friday nights and have a successful season."

Nicholson is the only returning lineman for B.B. Comer. He said he believes that the new linemen are bigger than the guys that they had in the past.

"It is definitely different," Nicholson said. "This is going to be the biggest line that I have played with and they are smart, so they are going to catch on fast. We are running a new offense, so they will catch on real quick and we should be really successful."

Daniel Caldwell is returning in the backfield for B.B. Comer and the senior tailback is looking to have a breakout season.

"I want to beat Sylacauga and Childersburg because it has been awhile since we have defeated them," Caldwell said. "I want to make a deep run in the playoffs this year."

Last season, Caldwell rushed for 1,000 yards and scored 11 touchdowns for the Tigers.

"Daniel had a good season for us last year," Nicholson said. "The year before that he never really got out of the gate. He had a hamstring, and he had an ankle, so he was never fully healthy. Last year, he had more of a healthy year and he was really productive."



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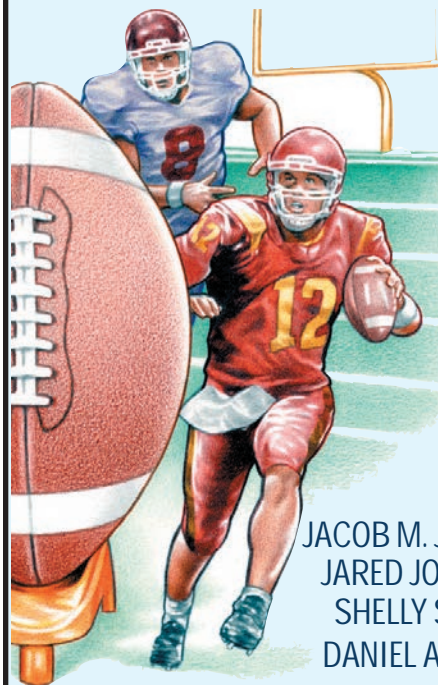


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Childersburg tigers

CLASS 4A
REGION 3

Tigers taking another step in the right direction



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Childersburg took another step in the right direction in 2013 under head coach Adam Fossett. The Tigers went 9-3 and advanced to the second round of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 4A playoffs for the second consecutive season.

The AHSAA rules have changed and there are now seven classifications. The new rule gives teams the option to play a week earlier than normal and take a bye week in the season. The Tigers opened the season on Aug. 21 at Class 2A Reeltown.

"We don't have a jamboree this year, we are going straight into playing and we have a week off during the season," Fossett said. "The important part of the summer for me is that it is extremely important for these guys to work in the weight room and make sure that they are conditioned. I may be different than others because it is important for them to get some rest. At the beginning of summer, we took two weeks off, which put us in a situation where we have a few less workouts.

Like I said I think rest is important for these guys to recover from whatever sports they were doing and so they can get off their feet a little bit."

Fossett has stressed to his players during the offseason that they can't live off last season's success. He believes that the Tigers have shed the title of being a homecoming team.

"Last season was definitely a great year for us," Fossett said. "A 9-3 Childersburg football team has been unheard of for awhile, so the guys from last year did a great job of buying in and doing what they were supposed to do. I had to remind them that last year is over and that was their legacy. Now it is time for these guys and the 22 seniors that we have to make a mark and leave a legacy.

I have explained to these guys that all we have done is make a bigger target on our back. Where we used to be homecoming four to six different weeks out of a season, now it is more than likely we won't be somebody's homecoming game. More people are respecting that we are playing good football and we have made a turn for the best."

Returning to the playoffs for the third straight season will be challenging with the Tigers' difficult Class 4A, Region 3 schedule. The region features a talented Munford team that made it to the Class 4A semifinals last season, and Leeds moved into the region after reaching the Class 3A finals last season. The rest of the region stayed the same. Fossett referred to last season's region as the SEC West, but he believes this year's region may be tougher.

"I do feel at the end of the season with the region that we are in somebody is going to be sitting at home that could probably go win a playoff game on Friday night," Fossett said. "A lot of great teams like Munford, which is in our county system, went to the fourth round and almost beat the state champions. Leeds played for the state championship in 3A. We lost Dallas County and Beulah, but we picked up Leeds and Munford. If it was possible for the region to get tougher it got tougher. I think the guys understand that, and they understand the concept. I remind them quite often that we can't sit back and rest on what has been



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done. I have kind of engrained in them that you have to keep taking steps forward. You just can't be happy where you are at. Mediocrity will not be accepted. We have a lot of work ahead of us as far as our region schedule."

Childersburg will be strong again offensively as it returns senior quarterback Zach Lightsey and playmaker Frank Wilkerson.

One of the aspects of the game that Childersburg excelled in last season was on the defensive side of the ball. The Tigers had one of the stingiest defenses in the state as they held their opponents to 17 points per game.

"Defensively, we do a good job of moving kids around," Fossett said. "My defensive staff does a great job of making

the kids enjoy it. I think that is a big key to our defense is that the kids enjoy it. They like the calls, there are calls that they beg for. We like to let them get after it. We are going to take chances and bring people at you instead of sitting back and wait. We have a lot of holes to fill. We lost a lot of guys. We lost both defensive ends, we lost our starting linebacker, we lost a DB (defensive back) in Justin Baker, who was solid at what he did and at corner you didn't have to worry about him. Even though we are a veteran-laden team, we have a lot of spots to fill. We have the guys capable to do it, but we have to put the pieces together and put them in the right place."

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Spotlight



ZACK LIGHTSEY

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Childersburg Tigers senior leaders look to add another chapter of success to what they have experienced the last two seasons under coach Adam Fossett.

"The expectations are definitely higher since we are seniors this year," senior quarterback Zack Lightsey said.

Lightsey has been fortunate to have the same group of key players surround him on the offensive side of the ball these last few seasons. In his first season as a starter the Tigers went 6-5 and lost in the first round of the playoffs. Last season, the Tigers went 9-3 and lost in the second round to Charles Henderson. Lightsey threw for close to 2,000 yards for the Tigers last season.

"I am a lot more comfortable," Lightsey said. "We have a lot of our skill guys back, most of our playmakers and offensive line back. Offensively, I feel like we do the things that we have always done."

Fossett said he believes

several of his players have worked hard to improve this summer.

"With this being Zach's third year in the system he is going to be way more comfortable," Fossett said. "As far as offensive and defensive line Tyler Garrett has probably worked harder than anybody to get better and get in better shape and do all the things he is supposed to do."

Offensive and defensive lineman Tyler Shepard hopes that Childersburg can continue to take a step forward this season.

"We have been building as the years go by," Shepard said. "It started out my freshman year when we were really bad. We continued to improve over the years as we were able to host a playoff game. Hopefully, we won't fall short and we will continue with the success that we had over the years."

Last season, Shepard played a huge role in the Tigers success on defense that allowed 17 points per game. The senior said he believes the Tigers have the potential to be better this season.

"If anything it's higher than it was last year," Shepard said. "That is easier said than done, but with the intensity that we have and with the great energy and the flow of our defense on the field. Everyone is connected with the bond that we have. Our defense is going to come with it again this year. We are going to be a fully physical defense this year."

Roster

No.	Name	Grade		
2	Hunter McCain	SR	32	Terrion Smith FR
3	Zack Lightsey	JR	33	LaTimothy Headen SR
4	Daniel Morris	FR	34	Bralyn Odum FR
5	Jalen Kidd	FR	35	Timothy Garrett JR
6	Tim Tilley	SR	36	Jadon Ball FR
7	Nick Cohill	SR	50	Elijah Slaughter SO
9	Tanner Gamble	JR	52	Bryant Milam SO
10	Tylan Coleman	JR	53	D.K. Mann S O
11	Devondre Garrett	JR	54	Matt Hall SR
12	Nick Looney	JR	55	Micah Hall JR
13	Fontavius Garrett	JR	57	Devonte Twymon SR
15	Jarius Patterson	JR	59	Noah Smith SR
16	Deshawn Leonard	FR	60	Tyler Shepard SR
18	K.C. Calhoun	SO	64	Jacob Davis SR
19	Frank Wilkerson	SR	65	Cory Dates SO
22	Sychem Butler	SR	69	Dontae Borden FR
23	Eli Clarke	SR	70	Jawan Wilson SR
24	Kylan Bennett	SR	72	Michael Sanders JR
25	Jeremiah Marbury	SR	74	Steven Dates SR
26	Jay Twymon	SR	76	Montrell Battle FR
30	Kevondre McMeans	SO	77	Alex Morris SR
31	Justin Taylor	FR	85	Dewayne Garrett FR

Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Childersburg

HEAD COACH: Adam Fossett (3rd year)

KEY LOSSES: Kendarious Calhoun, Elijah Richardson

KEY RETURNERS: Zach Lightsey, Frank Wilkerson

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 9-3 **POINTS SCORED:** 312 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 208

Schedule

Aug. 21 at Reeltown
Aug. 29 at B.B. Comer
Sept. 5 at Handley
Sept. 12 vs. Dadeville
Sept. 19 Open
Sept. 26 vs. Sylacauga

Oct. 3 at Holtville
Oct. 10 vs. Munford
Oct. 17 at Leeds
Oct. 24 vs. Elmore County
Oct. 30 vs. Lincoln



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Rebels have set playoffs as their 2014 goal



By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Bob Taylor era is about to get started at Coosa Valley Academy, and he has high expectations for the Rebels in his first season at helm.

“Our goal is the playoffs,” Taylor said. “I think it was Herm Edwards that said if you don’t get in the playoffs you don’t have a chance to win. Our goal is to make the playoffs, and we want to host. We want to host the playoffs all the way to the finals. Our goal is to get in to host the playoffs all the way through.”

Taylor said things will have to come together and that they will have to stay healthy if they are going to make a push toward the playoffs.

“Things are going well,” Taylor said. “We’ve had a good summer with the workouts. They are getting used

to me and how everything is going to work. Practice has been good. Our expectations are high just like everywhere else. I think we have a chance to be a really good football team if things come together. We are still in that stage of what are we doing and how do we do this? We are still learning terminology, but I think we really have a good chance to be a good football team if things come together and we stay healthy.”

Taylor said the community has been very supportive since he took the job in May, and that community support played a major role in his decision to come to CVA.

“Everything has gone well,” Taylor said. “The Coosa Valley family has been very accepting, and I am very excited. They are bending over backwards to help us get done the

things we need to get done. Any help that they have provided has been great. They are like what can we do to help and how can we help? That is a good thing. Coosa Valley has always had the reputation of having a good strong following and that is part of the reason I choose to come here.”

Taylor said he has been impressed with several players during their summer work outs.

“Walker Holmes is going to be a key cog for us,” Taylor said. “He is making the transition to running back. Anthony Eads is another kid on the offensive line. He has been working hard. Logan Guy is a lineman, and I believe he will step up and do big things for us. Alex Trout was here two years ago and came back. He will be a plug down there in the middle on the offensive

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and defensive lines. Easton Hopkins transferred and he has been a very good surprise for us. Miles Sharp, his brother was the kicker here last year. He is going to step in and take over those duties. He will be a part of our offensive and defensive group, too. The kids have really worked hard and I can't complain about the work ethic that they have shown because they have really worked hard."

The Rebels have a quarterback battle going into the season with two players competing for the position.

"Walker Jones, who just transferred in, and Mason Houston, a ninth grader are in the battle for it right now," Taylor said. "They are dictating what we do and how we do it. They have a lot to learn, so we have been real basic and real plain in what we are doing. We want to make sure we have the base stuff down before we move on to anything else. You are



coming from a run-based offense that they have run the last couple of years to a more multiple offense.

"If they want us to run, we are going to run. If they want us to throw, we are going to throw. We are going to try to take the defense gives us. They have done a really good job, so far. I am pleased with the way that they have progressed."

Taylor said his team has to continue to get a better understanding of the offense, defense and special teams system before the season starts.

"We have to work hard, grasp what we are trying to offensively and defensively," Taylor said. "The offense is different, the defense is different. If the guys continue what they are doing we should be ready to go by week one."



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Spotlight

By LAVONTE YOUNG

Coosa Valley Academy's Walker Holmes has high expectations for his senior season. Holmes, who is a member of the baseball team as well the football team, believes the success the team had on the diamond last season can carry over to the gridiron.

"Most of the players that play baseball play football," Holmes said. "We were able to see how it felt in baseball to lose, and I don't think that there is anyone out there that wants to feel that feeling again."

Last season, the Rebels went 6-6 and earned a berth in the AISA Class AA playoffs. Holmes believes if the Rebels outwork their opponents during the week they will win on Friday.

"I think we can accomplish anything," Holmes said. "I feel like if we go out there and outwork our opponent every week we can beat anybody we get on the field with."

"We have a lot of good athletes and a lot of good attitudes on the field. We just have to buy into coach (Bob) Taylor's offense and what he wants."

This season, Holmes will be moving from the fullback position to the running back position.

"It is definitely different, but it is still the game of football," Holmes said. "I am going to be the one running with the ball instead of blocking for them. I have to find the holes and hit them."



WALKER HOLMES

Being a leader is a role that Holmes embraces in his senior season. He said he knows that his actions could have a positive or negative effect on his teammates.

"I just try to help when I can," Holmes said. "I have to have a positive attitude because if I am sour about everything that we are doing everybody else will be. I just try to keep my head up and push through whatever coach tells us."

Holmes transferred to CVA from Childersburg after his sophomore year. He said he has been welcomed by everybody in the school.

"I was worried about that last year when I came," Holmes said. "All the kids have been here, and I was new here. I don't know why, but everybody meshes here. I love everybody on my team, and I hope they feel the same about me."

Holmes and the Rebels open the season on August 29 against Edgewood Academy.

Roster

No.	Name	Grade			
3	Miles Sharp	SO	60	Colton Cain	JR
8	Zach Brooks	SR	66	Anthony Eads	SR
14	Walker Holmes	SR	68	JT Millers	SR
18	Chris Malone	SR	71	Trent Mays	SR
24	Michael Cain	SR	77	TJ Miller	JR
25	Tyler Warren	JR	79	Cooper White	JR
42	Taylor Pardue	JR	80	Logan Guy	SR
44	Rowe Fredrick	SR		Ryan Baker	SR
57	Alex Trott	SR			

Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Coosa Valley Academy

HEAD COACH: Bob Taylor (1st year)

KEY LOSSES: Niko Teofilo, Charles Wilson, Zachary Sharp, Colton Pace

KEY RETURNERS: Walker Holmes, Logan Guy, Miles Sharp

BASE OFFENSE: Spread **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 6-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 395 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 337

Schedule

Aug. 29 vs. Edgewood

Sept. 5 at Evangel Christian Academy

Sept. 12 vs. Lakeside

Sept. 19 vs. Bessemer Academy

Sept. 26 at Macon-East Academy

Oct. 3 vs. Northside Methodist Academy

Oct. 10 at Springwood

Oct. 17 Open

Oct 24 at Kingwood Academy

Oct. 31 vs. Chambers Academy

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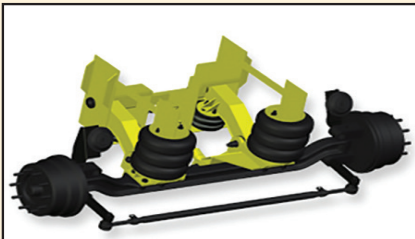
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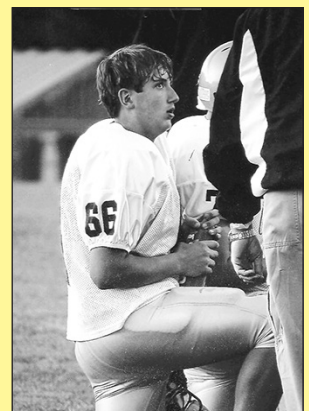
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Moving up in class and ready to win



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Last season, the Fayetteville Wolves had one of their best seasons in school history. They opened the season by going 5-1, but then dropped three out of their last four games to miss the playoffs. Third-year head coach John Limbaugh said anything short of making the postseason this year will be a disappointing season.

"We left something out there on the field, we came up a game short," Limbaugh said. "We went 6-4 and everybody was mighty proud of us and patting us on the back. As a football coach I feel like we left something out there that we wanted really bad. We had a couple of ballgames that we should have, could have and didn't.

"We want to win every one of

them, and we don't think there is a game this year that we can't win. We feel like we can win every one of them. We are going to go out there and prepare hard and see what happens. Anything short of the playoffs and deep in the playoffs is going to be very disappointing this year."

The Wolves move up to Class 2A this season, and Limbaugh believes that his team played in one of the toughest regions in the state last season

"We played in the hardest 1A region in the state of Alabama," Limbaugh said. "I looked at the schedule for the state and this area had one good team, their area has two good teams. We had five teams in our area that could be what's considered a good football team with us being one of them.

"This year, we have teams coming

like RC Hatch, Holy Spirit who we played last year as non-area school, now they are an area school. Vincent will be a gauge for us. We have the defending state champions in 1A Pickens County coming to us that is going to be a tough test for us. We have a good region and I am excited about being in 2A. It shows the growth of our community and it shows the growth area."

Fayetteville lost several players on both sides of the ball from graduation, which leaves several positions open going into the season. The Wolves used two quarterbacks last season, but Limbaugh said that will not happen this season.

"We have three guys vying for that quarterback position and every one of them carry talents of their own," Limbaugh said. "Jacob Skinner is a

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senior and he has been one of the leaders on this football team for a couple of years now. Jacob is a person of great character and pose. We got some guys stepping into the roles that they need to step in. Jacob could do a great job at quarterback, and we have a couple of more that could do a great. We will see how things play out, hopefully, within the first two weeks of the season I will have a quarterback picked out.”

Limbaugh would have like to have had a quarterback coming out of spring practice, but several players were still playing baseball.

“We have Walker Wesson, who did a good job in the spring,” Limbaugh said. “We had eight players, all of them practically starters, that were baseball players. Our baseball team went to the semifinals in baseball, so we had eight guys that were not with us in the spring. We played a spring jamboree against Isabella. Some people call that a throw away game, but I don’t like to lose at anything. If I am playing checkers against my wife I want to beat here. I can’t stand to lose, that is the truth. We lost that game, but we learned a lot from that game.”





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Spotlight



**JACOB SKINNER, COACH LIMBAUGH,
AND GRAYSON SHAW**

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Fayetteville Wolves got their first taste of success on the gridiron in almost a decade last season, which has made their seniors hungry for more.

"Last season is behind us and there is nothing that we can do about it," senior Jacob Skinner said.

"You just have to look forward and keep moving forward. We left a lot on the football field. We look to win every football game. Our attitude is win, win, win that is what we need to do and that is what we want to do. That's every goal that we have ever had."

Skinner said the team will use falling short in the playoff race last year as motivation.

"That is something that drives us this year," Skinner said. "It seems as if we almost got satisfied around that sixth game. I think some of us where like we have done better than we have before, and I guess we are done now. We came up one game short of the playoffs. That was our goal to get in the playoffs, that what we had our eyes set on."

"When you come up short like that it does one or two things to some body. It either shoves them down in the ground and that is where they stay or lights a fire up under you. For most everybody on the team, I am seeing a lot of fires getting lit. Judging by

that I believe it is going to be a better season."

Skinner said he is going to work hard to try to win the quarterback competition, but he said he is willing to play any position that the team needs him to play.

"I am a really competitive person," Skinner said. "However, I can help my football team I will. It may not be at the quarterback position. If I am needed at receiver that is where they need me that is where I will go play. If coach Limbaugh wants me at quarterback, that is what I am going to do. I am going to do at the best of my ability and I am going to give it everything I got."

Grayson Shaw believes going to boot camp at Fort McClellan is going to help the Wolves pull out the close games they lost last season.

"I think it will because after how hard and tough that was we found out that we could overcome a lot that we didn't think we could," Shaw said. "Trench Hill helped us out a lot with that. It didn't look bad at first but when you get halfway up you are out of breathe and your legs are numb. They made us do that six times, and it was rough. We had to help some our teammates up. I think after that boot camp we found out there is a lot more that we can do. This year, we won't doubt ourselves as much."

Roster

No	Name	Grade		
2	Bailey Deloach	SO	50	Cedrick Lykes SR
3	Jacob Skinner	SR	51	Dylan Shell JR
4	Brandon Oden	SR	52	Aaron Duke JR
5	Justin Wesson	JR	53	Chance Butts SO
6	Sam Manning	SO	54	Logan Blanchard FR
7	Hunter Smith	SO	55	Blake Morris SO
8	Jessica Hill	JR	56	Levi Carpenter SO
10	CJ Townsend	SR	59	Larry Hart JR
11	Zane McGrady	JR	61	Dylan Green SO
12	Tyler Allen	FR	62	Grayson Shaw SR
13	Walker Wesson	JR	63	Terry Wallace SR
15	Michael Moore	FR	64	Luke Murphy SO
21	Andrew Morgan	SO	65	Cole Ford JR
22	Houston Goins	SO	66	Zach Ellison SO
24	Darius Cook	JR	72	Justin Aymond SR
27	Cody Pate	FR	76	Cole Terrell FR
32	Dustin Ingram	JR	78	Hunter Goins SR
33	Payton McKee	SO	82	Matt Reed FR
34	Matthew Hamilton	SR	83	Shane Blankenship JR
38	Noah Perry	SO	88	Mason Vick SR
44	Dalton Karls	JR	90	Quintarious Hale JR
45	Austin Brasher	SR	99	Ethan Usrey FR



key facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Fayetteville **HEAD COACH:** John Limbaugh (3rd season)

KEY LOSSES: Tyari Powell, Jonathan Harbin, Darius Cook

KEY RETURNERS: Jacob Skinner, Grayson Shaw

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 6-4 **POINTS SCORED:** 333 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 219

Schedule

Aug. 29 at Coosa Central

Sept. 5 at R.C. Hatch

Sept. 12 vs. Holy Spirit

Sept. 19 at Vincent

Sept. 26 at Donoho

Oct. 3 vs. B.B. Comer

Oct. 10 vs. Thorsby

Oct. 17 at Francis Marion

Oct. 24 vs. Pickens Co.

Oct. 31 vs. Winterboro

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Golden Bears

CLASS 5A
REGION 5

Golden Bears in a position to be successful



By LAVONTE YOUNG

For the first time in four seasons, the Lincoln Golden Bears will have the same head coach on the sidelines as they did the year before, and Brad Wallace is elated to be entering his second year at his alma mater.

"I'm happy to be back," Wallace said. "I know at the beginning, they had a lot of issues. They weren't trusting that I would be back. I came back after that J.O. Johnson game and they opened their eyes and said, 'He is going to be with us.'"

"We started working then, and we haven't let up as a unit to get us in the predicament that we are in right now. The weight room, you know these guys have been in it, and conditioning wise, they think I am the devil because I have taken them down South."

It was a tale of two halves of the season for the Golden Bears last year.

In the first five games, Lincoln went 1-4, but showed some positive signs in the second half of the season, as it won three straight games before dropping the last two regular-season games. The Golden Bears then fell to J.O. Johnson in the first round of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 4A playoffs.

"I think it was around game five when we started to turn things around," Wallace said. "Things started coming together as a whole. It's a process that we have been working on all the way from the middle of the season. We came in and said 'this is it, we aren't going to lose another game.' They put their foot down and battled in the second half of the season and got in a position where they can get into the playoffs. I think they are really excited about this football year."

Wallace believes the biggest difference from this time last year to

now is that he knows the players better and what position to put them in to be successful.

"I got to know the players better," Wallace said. "Jamario (Howard) is going to be playing more of a safety role this year. As far as our offensive line, we moved some people around that may have been playing in the wrong spots the last few years. We have moved them in different spots so it would help as far as when we get into the season and maybe our team as a whole will be more productive when we are on the field."

"The kids have bought into the speed work. I know it has been tough, but the kids have bought into it tremendously faster. That made a change in where we put guys in position to let them play."

The Golden Bears will depend heavily on junior Zay Caldwell. Last season, Caldwell made a name for himself as a defensive back. Caldwell



picked off seven passes in the first seven games of the season.

"Last season, I had college coaches come in as a sophomore and ask about him," Wallace said. "In the first seven games, he had seven picks and that is unheard of as a corner. He's got a motor. He has a lot of energy to him. He is on

another level when it comes to energy level. He works hard and he has done a good job of making the transition from receiver to quarterback. He has taken that leadership role on, especially the last few weeks (before the start of fall practice). You could see him in our 7-on-7 drills that he has worked hard

to be the captain on the offensive side."

Wallace said he was optimistic about the Golden Bears moving up to 5A this season. Lincoln is in Class 5A, Region 5 with Anniston, Alexandria, Hayden, Moody, Mortimer Jordan, Springville and St. Clair County.

"I think at the beginning I had a lot of nervousness," Wallace said. "I really think they are focused on this season and I think it is going to be a fun season in 5A. I am excited about it, because the region that we were in moved down into the South region, and it is a meat grinder. I am not saying that our region is any different, but there are more competitive teams that are close to them and it will be some big time rivals that come out of that. We play Munford and Childersburg on the schedule from that region. We also have Pell City on the schedule as the first game. They are a 6A school and it's probably since the 1980s since we played them."

Lincoln kicks off the season on August 29 against Pell City at Keith Howard Memorial Stadium

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Spotlight

By LAVONTE YOUNG

Lincoln will depend on its three leaders -- Jantavious Johnson, Jamario Howard and Austin Blanton -- in the 2014 season to take the Golden Bears to the next level.

"They are the guys when things are going wrong they snap it into attention and get it right," Lincoln head coach Brad Wallace said. "I am really proud of these young men and what they are achieving as far the leadership role and our team progressing into season."

Austin Blanton was pleased with the Golden Bears season last year. The Golden Bears went 4-7 and were eliminated in the first round of the AHSAA playoffs.

"Losing in the first round left a bad taste in our mouths," Blanton said. "We know what we can do, so we are going to go out there do our best."

Lincoln had to make a late push to make the postseason, winning three out their last five games to get in the field. Johnson said he had to lead by example and that makes his teammates work harder.

"As a leader, I had to lead by example and not just talk about, it" Johnson said. "Growing up you would look at people and say, 'he is not doing right, so how can he tell me what to do?' I don't do it with talking. I let the other leaders do the talking. I lead by example, and that makes the other guys work harder."



**JAUNTAVIUS JOHNSON,
AUSTIN BLANTON
& JAMARIO HOWARD**

Jamario Howard believes finally having a chance to start to over will do the team some good this season.

"We made the playoffs, but that is all that we did," Howard said. "Us going 4-7, we have something to feed off of, and we have a new beginning. I think everybody knows that. Last season, when we were getting beat we couldn't start over, but we can start over now. I think this will be a good season and a very exciting season for us."

With the 2014 AHSAA reclassification, Lincoln will move up to Class 5A, but Johnson says he isn't panicked about moving up.

"As soon as the guys heard that we were in 5A, I told them we have to work hard, stay humble and grind," Johnson said. "Once they saw how much heart I had, we took it into the weight room, and it has been on from there. I told them 'football is football if you are 1A, 3A, 5A or 6A. It don't matter we just have to go get it.'"



Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Lincoln

HEAD COACH: Brad Wallace (2nd season)

KEY LOSSES: Chance Byrd, Shedrick Thomas

KEY RETURNERS: Jantavious Johnson, Jamario Howard, Zay Caldwell, Austin Blanton

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** 4-3

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 211 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 267

Schedule

Aug.29 vs. Pell City
Sept.5 vs. St. Clair County
Sept.12 at Alexandria
Sept.19 vs. Anniston
Sept.26 vs. Munford

Oct.3 at Hayden
Oct.10 at Mortimer Jordan
Oct.16 vs. Springville
Oct.24 at Moody
Oct.30 at Childersburg

Roster

No	Name	Grade	
2	Donte' Lamar Rivers	SO	36 Drew Lane Snyder SO
4	Danny Lamar Bradford	SR	42 Kenderian Jomond Collins JR
5	Bernard Knight	SR	44 Eddie Lewis Leonard FR
6	Devonte Perez	JR	45 Weston Chance Perry SO
9	Jamychol Kamari Baker	SR	50 James Lee Hobbs JR
10	Zavian Caldwell	JR	51 Nicholas Andre Embry SR
11	Quinderius Rajuan Carmichael	JR	54 Kenneth Antonio Fomby SO
12	Andrew Threatt	JR	55 Zabian James Smith JR
13	Tarez Dontre' Ellis	JR	57 Brannon Keon Woods SO
14	Samuel Baylee Pollard	JR	58 Xzavier Le'Undre Pearson JR
16	Quindarius J Carter	FR	60 Michael Sebron Harmon SO
19	Garrett Cade Vick	FR	63 Aubrey Ti'Mon Young SO
20	Taylor Brandt Allen	JR	65 Jaunta'vius Decharles Johnson SR
20	Dreshawn Smith	SR	66 Luke Austin Britton SR
20	Kendarrius Truss	SO	70 Johnathan Ferrell Howard FR
21	Lejephryes Carmichael	SO	73 Anthony Mi-Keil Zampelli SR
22	Zeke Morgan	SO	74 Marvin Marquese Pearson JR
24	Brikael T Truss	SO	75 Landon Cole JR
25	Patrick Loray Gaddis	FR	77 Austin Mccrary Blanton SR
26	Wesley Lane Jones	JR	78 Vontavis J'quil Knight SR
27	Kendarius M Howard	JR	79 Daniel Jackson Nolen SO
28	Gregory Austin Threatt	JR	81 William Austin Phillips SR
30	Andrew Christopher Wesson	SO	88 Marquis Le'Anthony Arnold FR
31	Kentavious Patterson	FR	90 Sidney Lamar Fomby JR
33	Andrew Crosland Roberts	SO	
34	Dre'Tavious Tyrese Dye	SO	
35	Landon Cooper Higginbotham	JR	

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Munford Lions

CLASS 4A
REGION 5

Munford Lions returning to glory days



By BRANT LOCKLIER

Between 1978 and 1993, under the direction of Tony Motley, the Munford Lions were tough to beat. They compiled a record of (128-61) and had 20 playoff games (12-8). In 1995 the Lions began a down cycle that saw only three winning seasons over the next 17 seasons. Coach Will Wagon has brought that toughness back.

Wagon took over the reigns in 2010 and things began to change and each year has gotten better than the last. In 2013 the Lions showed that they were all the way back with an impressive 12-2 season that saw them win a Class 4A, Region 5 championship and advance all the way to the semi-finals before losing to eventual state champion Oneonta 35-21.

He will be entering his fifth season with a 28-18 record over his fourth season and a 20-6 record the last two years. Hopes are up this year after back-to-back winning seasons and the Lions were impressive in the Spring Jamboree held at Jacksonville State University.

"We started out to set a good foundation. The last game Munford played before I got here they had 18 football players out, so we had to get

in the halls and get the kids out and get the numbers up," said Wagon. "We had some big games that first year and beat Lincoln for the first time in seven years. Since then we have just moved forward and try to keep moving forward."

Wagon came from Cherokee County where he was part of a 15-0 state championship team and played college football at Jacksonville State University. "The Lord has blessed me with this opportunity and this is where the Lord wanted me to be and I came," said Wagon.

The Lions won their first four a year ago and then won eight straight before the loss to Oneonta. They did it against a very strong schedule as their opponents compiled a 91-69 won-loss record.

The AHSAA reclassification has moved Munford into the Southern half of the playoff bracket this year, which will be a change for the Lions. Class 4A, Region 3 is loaded with six strong teams, including the Lions. All were 4A last year except Leeds (13-2) and it was the Class 3A state runner-ups a year ago. Dadeville (11-2) has won over 10 games each of the last five years and are always tough. Childersburg

(9-3) is putting together some good seasons recently and Handley (5-6) is just three years removed from a 15-0 state championship. Elmore County (5-5) is always a playoff contender. This leaves Holtville (2-8) with the task of turning its program around in this very tough region. This region will not be for the faint-of-heart.

"It definitely got tougher," Wagon said. "The region is kind of like it was the first year I was here. Last year we were in a region with teams that we had a connection with. We would see each other at the mall and around town and had a lot of special rivalries. I knew the coaches and they knew me and it was a lot of fun competing. Now we move back to the South and have to drive a couple of hours to play some road games. It will be tough, but we will just have to get up for it. We are at a point now where we schedule games to help us in the long run so that we will be ready to play championship football in the playoffs."

The Lions have six starters coming back on offense, but they played 22 different starters on offense and defense. Senior receiver CJ Chapman returns as a three-year starter.

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over a football game at times. Right tackle Trey Roberson is a four-year starter and a leader up front. Senior Calvin Smith and junior Charles Smith are returning starters at running backs that will be the leading ball carriers for the Lions.

Senior quarterback Bret Haynie won the spring quarterback competition and is getting better every day and had a great game against Bibb County. "He's got an opportunity to be outstanding if he continues to improve until the start of the season," said Wagnon.

On defense the Lions have five starters back, but played a lot of players a year ago and will have better depth than a year ago. Senior cornerback Cameron Turner, junior middle linebacker Austin Stephens and junior nose guard Greg Lawrence will anchor the defense for the Lions.

The Lions opened the season on August 22 against Central of Clay County.

Roster

No	Name	Grade		
1	Austin Campbell	JR	40	Khason Lackey SR
2	Tranas Patterson	JR	42	Jimbo Stone SO
3	Charles Smith	JR	45	Takeo Hall SR
4	Devin Strickland	SR	47	Corey Best JR
5	Brett Haynie	SR	48	Adam Rogers SR
6	CJ Chapman	SR	50	Savion Hill JR
6	Kedrick Brown	FR	52	Storm Haynes FR
7	Casey Goins	SR	53	Dylan Campbell FR
7	Kendrick Foster	FR	54	Greg Lawrence JR
8	Cameron Turner	SR	55	Jeffrey Threatt FR
9	Marshall Clark	FR	56	Bryer Bussie JR
10	Tanner Reeves	FR	58	Austin Harry FR
11	James Jenkins	JR	60	Daniel Morgan FR
12	Jonathon Best	JR	64	Luke Gaither FR
14	Austin Stephens	JR	65	Austin Davis FR
15	Nick Parker	JR	66	Jalen Best SO
16	Avery Harris	SO	67	Logan Couch SO
17	Landon Scott	SR	68	Robert Carothers JR
18	Elliott Carothers	SO	69	Kaleb Jennings JR
18	Landon Ashworth	FR	69	Ethan Leahay FR
20	CJ Foster	JR	70	Jakari Robinson SO
21	Draven Campbell	FR	71	Andrew Johnson SO
22	Darren Parker Jr	FR	72	Tucker Jones SR
23	QT Elston	JR	72	Josh Capers FR
24	Laraie Ball	SO	74	Brett Conner FR
24	Brett Sherling	FR	75	Jacob Smith FR
27	Chris Haynes	SR	77	Brodie Bussie FR
28	Greg Oden	SO	78	Seth Thomas JR
30	Tae Borden	SO	79	Trey Roberson SR
32	Calvin Smith	SR	79	Melvin Braxton FR
32	Carson Smith	FR	80	Austin Hurst SO
34	Drew Cooper	SR	82	Austin Hendon FR
36	Ty Kite	FR	85	Christian Caldwell SR
37	Wesley Taylor	SO	87	Lance Ford SO
38	Garen Thomas Jr	SO	88	Justin Mitchell SO

Spotlight

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Munford Lions enter the 2014 season with a target on their backs after having a successful 2013 season that resulted in a run to the Class 4A semifinals last season. The Lions senior leaders are proud of what they accomplished last season, but now they are focused on the upcoming season.

"We want to wipe the slate clean because it is a new year," CJ Chapman said. "We have to go get it every day. We want to still keep on learning what the other guys taught us and what we have been through so don't make the same mistakes."

Fifth-year head coach Will Wagnon has high expectations for his senior leaders, Chapman and Cameron Turner.

"I want them to lead by example," Wagnon said. "We set one goal every year and that is to be a champion every rep, every way, every day. That is what I expect out of them. We also talk about individual goals. Our individual goal for each player is not to catch 200 balls or have seven picks or to score 10 touchdowns. It is to be a complete player. We are trying to be complete players, and if we do those things the winning will take care of itself."

Munford lost several key pieces off last season's team including Monte Garrett, Tavon Lawson and Earl Moss. Turner said not having those guys this season has made the entire team work harder.

"We lost some great players from last year, so we had to work 10 times harder than we did last year," Turner said. "Everybody has the mindset that we have to go get it this year, so that's how



**CAMERON TURNER
& CJ CHAPMAN**

we had to look at."

Last season, Turner made a play that will be remembered by the Munford faithful for years to come. In Munford's third-round matchup at J.O. Johnson, Turner returned a punt 28 yards to the Jaguars' 2-yard line to set up the game-winning field goal late in the fourth quarter.

This season, Turner has moved into a leadership role on the team and is honored that coach Wagnon trusted him enough to select him as a leader.

"It is a great feeling that the coach puts his trust in you and lets you lead the team," Turner said. "The coach can't do everything, so sometimes we have to sit down and talk to the players and let them know how things go."

Chapman had a huge season for the Lions last season with over 800 yards in receptions and 11 touchdowns. Chapman said his job this season is to make sure that none of the players are slacking in practice.

"Just staying on everybody and make sure nobody is slacking off," Chapman said. "If you see one guy doing wrong you have to step up and tell them how they can do better. You have to come out and ball out every day."

Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Munford

HEAD COACH: Will Wagnon (5th season)

KEY LOSSES: Monteo Garrett,
Tavon Lawson, Earl Moss, Brian Strickland

KEY RETURNERS: CJ Chapman,
Cameron Turner,

Austin Stephenson, Rocky Smith

BASE OFFENSE: Pro Spread

BASE DEFENSE: 3-4

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 12-2 **POINTS SCORED:** 432

POINTS ALLOWED: 207

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Central-Clay Co.

Aug. 29 vs. Cleburne Co.

Sept. 5 at Leeds

Sept. 12 vs. Elmore County

Sept. 19 at Handley

Sept. 26 at Lincoln

Oct. 3 vs. Dadeville

Oct. 10 at Childersburg

Oct. 17 vs. Holtville

Oct. 24 Open

Oct. 31 at Talladega



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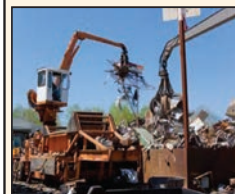
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Part of the new 6A classification, Region 7



By BRANT LOCKLIER

Finally, the smaller Class 6A schools do not have to compete with those large schools such as Hoover, Vestavia Hills, Spain Park and the like.

The AHSAA added a seventh class this year, and the 32 largest 6A schools moved into 7A. Pell City and coach Brooks Dampeer are now the 13th largest 6A school in the state, and the Panthers join 32 other 6A teams from a year ago, along with 26 squads that competed in 5A in 2013, to form the new 6A.

Interestingly, the Panthers are now in the southern half of the playoff bracket and could quite possibly see a

first-round playoff game one day in Mobile or Dothan. They are joined by rival Oxford in the new Class 6A, Region 7 that has schools in three of the state's four area codes. Pell City is in area code 205, Opelika is in area code 334 and Oxford is in area code 256.

Oxford's Roc Thomas is gone to Auburn University, and that is good news for the rest of the region. He has been a one-man wrecking crew against the Panthers the last three years despite Pell City managing to win one of the three games. Dampeer said it is good to keep the long rivalry with the Yellow Jackets going.

"Our kids and community always

get excited about the Oxford game," said Dampeer.

Oxford (9-3) and Pell City (6-4) are joined by Opelika (9-3), a perennial 6A power for many years in Region 3. Benjamin Russell (10-2), a 5A power, is joined by three other 5A teams from a year ago: Chelsea (4-6), Chilton County (5-6) and Valley (6-5).

Chilton County won 10 games in 2012, Valley won nine in 2011 and Chelsea claimed eight wins 2009, so there are no downtrodden 5A teams moving into this 6A region. It should be competitive.

Benjamin Russell is coached by Danny Horn, who led Clay County to six state championships and is in his

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fifth year of rebuilding the Wildcats. His teams are 21-4 the last two seasons. Opelika lost to Hoover in the 6A state championship game in 2012 and has a great tradition and history. The Bulldogs lost their last two games of the season, both of which were fairly close, to Auburn and Hoover, so they may be the team to beat in the region.

Dampeer did a fantastic job for the Panthers last year after serving as an assistant coach for three years at Pell City. They went 6-4 in 2013 in one of the toughest regions in the state. Without three or four bad quarters a year ago, they could have very easily been 9-1 or better in the regular season.

The Panthers started out 3-0 but lost close games to Clay-Chalkville, Oak Mountain, Huntsville and Oxford down the stretch to narrowly miss the playoffs. In all those games, they were in the hunt going into the fourth quarter. They finished with a 4-3 region record.

"It's a good thing to play in a tough region. You like to play good competition. If I could go back and replay one game, it would be the Huntsville game," said Dampeer.

Offensively, the Panthers averaged 28 points a game, but lost some key players off that unit. Running back Ira Burch, running back DeMaurion Wills and quarterback Jackson Williamson are some cogs of that offense who have graduated.

"Things are a little more routine for us this year. How we are going to play is hopefully to take better care of the ball. Sometimes you get that, but as a team we are going to get after our opponents," Dampeer said. "The Gadsden City and Tuscaloosa County games were big wins for us a year ago and our kids played really well."

He hopes to continue that play with a rebuilt offense that has to replace nine starters from 2013. The Panthers will be running a multiple formation offense and plan to take whatever the defense gives them. If the defense lines up eight men on the line, the Panthers will throw it every down. If the defense lines up five men on the line, they will run it every play.

Sophomore quarterback Hudson Hughes looks likely to be the quarterback. He is tall with a strong arm. A host of players will be competing at running back. Sophomore Chris Lynch, senior Javon Russell, junior Gabe McKinney and junior Damion Turner all have the chance to carry the ball a lot this season.

Junior Dylan Wiley and sophomore Kent Foster will lead the offensive line. Junior Devon Mitchell, senior Malik Sanders and senior JaDarius Marbury will head up the Panther receivers.

"We have some talent on the offense. They are just new to what we are doing. We just have to do the right things

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at the right time on each play,” said Dampeer.

The defense was solid a year ago, giving up only 19.6 points a game. Five times it held opponents under 14 points, and it will be counted on for clutch play early in the season while the offense comes together. That defense will run a three-man front with multiple looks.

“We will put as much as speed over on defense as we can and run to the ball,” said Dampeer.

Senior Bennett Fisher, senior Alex Childree, senior Nick Bounds and sophomore Tyler Mixon will be some of the beef on the defensive line. Seniors Matt Sullivan and Bennett Fisher will lead an experienced group of linebackers. They will be joined by juniors Elijah Shepard and Luke Brasher.

Senior Jonathan Spears heads up the secondary for the Panthers. The Panthers will be ready for any hurry-up offenses this year if they see any.

“We want to have our people line up right and have to have check-free formations. If you swarm 12 guys to the ball, that will take care of the hurry-up offense,” Dampeer said.



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Roster

No	Name	Grade	40	Willy McAdams	JR
1	Chris Lynch	SO	41	Shelby Little	SO
2	Devon Mitchell	SR	42	Hunter Defreese	JR
3	Damion Turner	JR	43	Chase Hunter	SO
4	Elijah Shepard	SO	44	Kinsman Trammell	SO
5	Hudson Hughes	SO	45	Owen Emerson	SO
6	Jonathon Spears	SR	47	Andy Heath	JR
7	Milton Bothwell	SR	48	Stanley Layton	SO
8	Malik Sanders	SR	51	Dylan Wiley	JR
9	Gabe McKinney	JR	52	Shakur Stamps	JR
10	JaDarius Marbury	JS	53	Matt Sullivan	JR
11	Michael Smith	SO	54	Emon Roborson	SO
12	Tori Oden	JR	55	Bryce Patterson	JR
13	Logan Tucker	JR	57	Duston McBurnett	JR
14	Jermaine Ross	FR	58	Nick Bowns	SR
15	Sergio Aakvares	FR	61	Kalin Phillips	SO
16	Tyler Holloman	JR	62	Lance O'Neal	JR
17	Austin Stephens	SO	63	Nick Brownlee	SO
19	Bailey Doss	SO	65	Grant Dooley	SO
21	Matt Hill	SR	66	Stephen Poteracki	SR
22	Bennett Fisher	SR	68	Hunter Horton	JR
24	Ethan Smith	JR	70	Josh Evans	SO
26	Hurman Harris	SR	71	Kent Foster	SO
27	Garyon Posey	SR	72	Daniel Crane	SO
28	Wyatt Rich	SR	73	Angel Flores	JR
29	Sonny Warren	SO	74	Jaboriee Fomby	SR
30	Alex Childree	SR	76	Joe Miller	SR
31	Clay Castleberry	SO	78	Caleb Rich	SO
32	Lucke Brasher	JR	79	Bret Dockery	SO
34	Randy Labombard	SO	81	Davis Christian	SO
35	Calis Bullard	SO	82	Dylin Moore	SO
36	Zane McDanal	JR	83	Paul Ryan	SR
37	CameroN Wilkerson	SO	90	Jesse Frank	SO
38	Casey McCrory	SO	92	Tyler Estell	SO
39	Will Jones	SR	93	Doug Bowns	JR

Spotlight

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Pell City Panthers enter the season in a new region in Class 6A. With addition of a new classification the Panthers will face new region opponents this season. Senior offensive/defensive lineman Nick Bowns said the Panthers are ready for the new challenges that await them this season.

"It is a new schedule with new teams that we haven't played in a while," Bowns said. "I am not familiar with some of them, but I feel we are in a good position with the work that we are putting in and the schemes that we have to do well with the new schedule."

Pell City only has one returner from last season's senior laden team. The Panthers only have one returner back from last season on the offensive side of the ball. Bowns said if the offensive line does its job then the skill players will have the opportunity to make some big plays.

"We have some really good running backs in the back field, so up front on the o-line, if we can protect and do our job we can be really successful," Bowns said.

Last season, the Panthers went 6-4, but missed the postseason. Bowns said making the postseason is definitely one of their goals this season.

"We are going to do our best, we are going to fight and get as far as we can this year," Bowns said. "The playoffs are definitely one of our goals."



NICK BOWNS

Bowns is elated to have head coach Brooks Dampeer back for another season. He believes that Dampeer has made an impact in his life on and off the field.

"I am excited about it," Bowns said. "He is a really good coach. He has been with us for a while, and he has really turned this program around. I feel like we are a lot better program not only on the field, but off the field character wise because of him."

Bowns and the other seniors will have to step up and be leaders this season. He said it is difficult having so many young and inexperienced players on the team.

"We lost a bunch of seniors from last year," Bowns said. "We have a lot of sophomores coming up this season. It's harder with a younger class. We have a small senior class, but I feel that it is the strongest that we've had in a while. We have some good leaders up there. We have to show them how to get it done working and staying focus."

key facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Pell City

HEAD COACH: Brooks Dampeer (2nd year)

KEY LOSSES: Ira Burch, Casey Bishop, Damaurian Wills

KEY RETURNERS: Bennett Fisher, Jonthan Spears, Alex Childree

BASE OFFENSE: Spread **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple 3-4

2013 IN REVIEW

Record: 6-4

Points Scored: 284

Points Allowed: 195

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Walker

Aug. 29 at Lincoln

Sept. 5 vs. Chilton County

Sept. 12 at Opelika

Sept. 19 vs. Ben Russell

Sept. 26 at Huffman

Oct. 10 at Oxford

Oct. 17 at Chelsea

Oct. 24 at Valley

Oct. 31 at Oak Mountain

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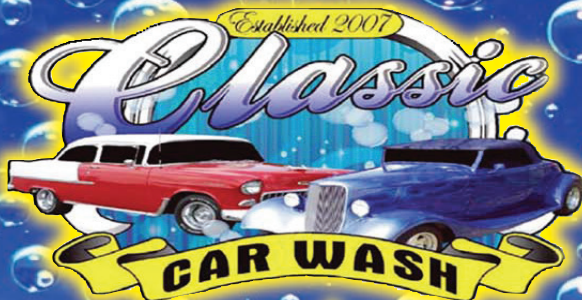
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Ragland

Purple Devils

CLASS 1A
REGION 6

Ragland Purple Devils looking for state title



By BRANT LOCKLIER

The Ragland Purple Devils have turned the corner in the last 17 years.

They suffered through only one losing season during that span, and had nine seasons of nine wins or more. In the previous 45 years, they had only two seasons of nine or more wins – 1956 and 1957.

They are working off of the best four-season stretch in their history (41-8) and looking to expand on that record in 2014 under third-year coach Jonathan Nix. Nix has a 19-3 record the last two seasons, and this year's seniors have only had to practice one time after a loss, so hopes are running high.

The Purple Devils have enjoyed 13 straight playoff trips and are 70-13

in region play since 2001, with two more playoff trips in 1998 and 1999. There had been only three other trips prior to 1999.

"We have an atmosphere where all the pieces are like a puzzle," Nix said. "It starts with the very youngest kids in the community and they come to our youth camps, where our players work with them. Our coaches get to bond with the youth teams and coaches, and they are taught some of our plays."

This process continues all the way through the junior high programs coached by Andy Eaton and TJ Caldwell. That atmosphere even continues into other sports.

"We encourage our kids to play all sports and do what you can to help every team," Nix said. "We are always

together, and it helps the bonding between players and coaches and why we have success in a lot of our other sports, boys and girls, at Ragland. The puzzle involves the community, administration, coaching staff and parents, and if one of those pieces is missing, then we cannot envision where we are going."

The Purple Devils finished the 2013 season ranked No. 9 in the state, losing 28-21 to Addison in the first game of the season. They were eliminated in the third round of the playoffs by the defending state champion, Pickens County, which would go on to win its second crown.

Ragland hung tough with the Tornadoes and was tied 14-all at the half. Pickens County star running back Jemarcus Brown piled up 347

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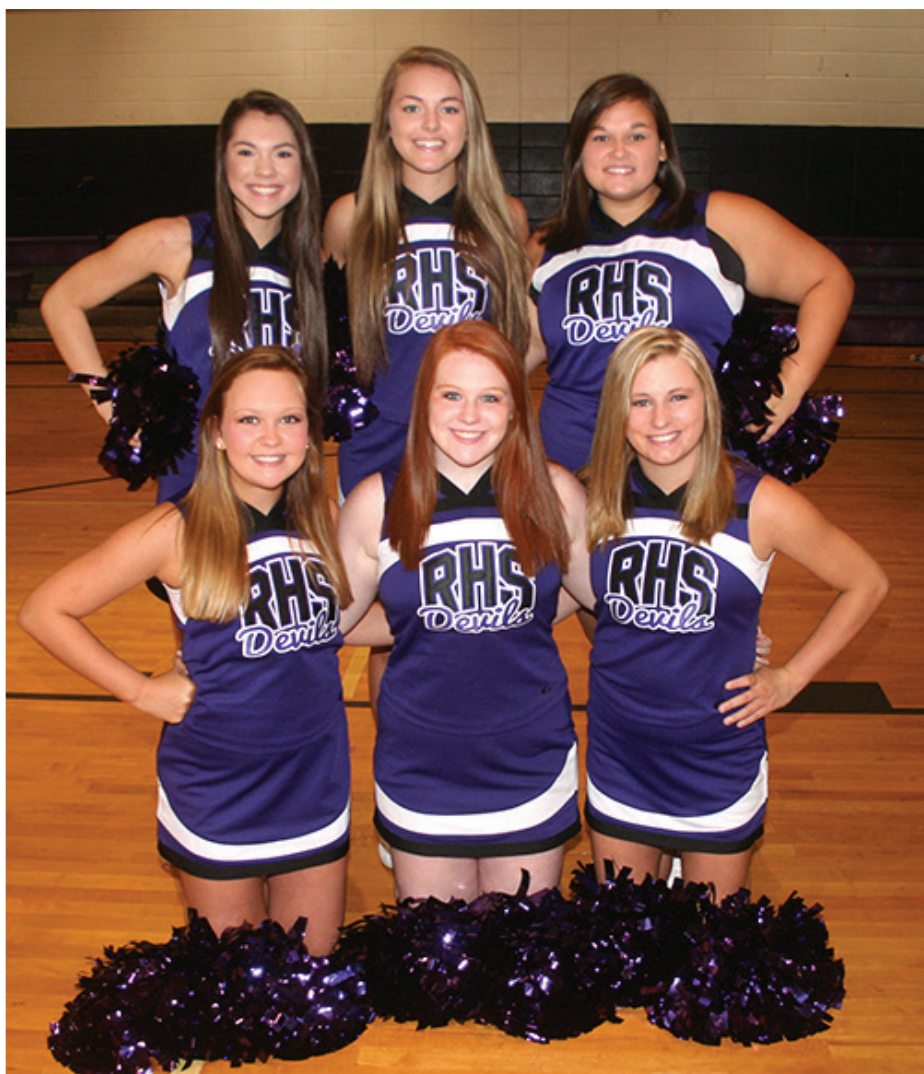
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yards of offense to help his team pull away in the final quarter.

“That loss to Addison really kind of helped us last year, as it sort of put us in our place and got our focus back,” Nix said. “By the season’s end, we beat region champion Falkville 21-0. In the playoffs, we were only down 28-21 with five minutes to go against Pickens County, the state champions. How we handle that loss is how you build character, and our kids have been amazing this summer in the weight room.



“All the young kids have been coming in, and some days we would have 90 kids in the weight room. They play for their school and their parents and family. It is a true small-town atmosphere.”

Offensively, the Purple Devils averaged 41 points per game in 2013, but lost quarterback Kijana Lindsey and 6-foot-5, 235-pound offensive lineman Matt Hicks to graduation.

“Matt was a big leader on our football team,” said Nix.

That line will move around a bit from last year but should be solid with players like Christian Morrow, Jessi Corn (6-6), Dustin Bunt, Donovan Turner and Jeremy Burnham.

Stoney Merritt appears to be heir to the quarterback spot. The sophomore played well in a couple of key relief roles last year as a freshman.

“We need to see how he responds in a game where we are not in control and see how he can manage the game,” said Nix.

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Running back Jadon Killings has tremendous potential, according to Nix.

"He has a chance to be special if he keeps working as hard as he is right now," Nix said.

The defense managed four shutouts during the regular season and had six games where it held its opponents to one score or less.

"Last year we were strong in the secondary and the outside backers and weak on the defensive line and the inside backers as the season started, and they all peaked by year end and were strong. This year going in, we will be just the opposite and have to work on our outside backers and secondary in the beginning of the season," said Nix.

Devin Turner, Blake Turbville and Levi Campbell look to be the anchors on the defensive line, with Tristan Turner and Coby Fuller handling the inside backers. Fuller is a freshman and held his own last year as an eighth-grader playing 50 percent of the time.

"We might have enough kids to be able to get by with only four players going both ways, and in 1A football that can be huge," said Nix.

Ragland remained 1A in the reclassification by the AHSAA earlier this year. The Purple Devils are in Region 5 with Donoho (7-3), Appalachian (5-4), Talladega County Central (5-6), Wadley (4-7), Shades Mountain Christian (2-7), Victory Christian (1-9) and Winterboro (0-10). Donoho has a strong team this year, as do Wadley and Talladega County Central.

Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Ragland

HEAD COACH: Jonathan Nix (3rd season)

KEY LOSSES: Kijana Lindsay, Jacob Brewster, Matt Hicks

KEY RETURNERS: Jadon Killings, Stoney Merritt, Devin Turner

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 10-2 **POINTS SCORED:** 499 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 154

Schedule

Aug. 29 vs. Gaston

Sept. 5 at Wadley

Sept. 12 vs. Winterboro

Sept. 19 at Appalachian

Sept. 26 at Cedar Bluff

Oct. 3 at TC Central

Oct. 10 vs. Shades Mtn. Christian

Oct. 17 vs. Donoho

Oct. 24 at Victory Christian

Oct. 30 vs. Ohatchee

Spotlight

By GARY HANNER

Although he is just a sophomore, Jadon Killings is one of the leaders for the Ragland Purple Devil football team. It may be because he has been playing at the varsity level since he was in the eighth grade.

He knows he is going to need to be in the best shape of his life because he will play on both sides of the ball – running back on offense and safety on defense. That is a pretty tall order for a guy who is 5-foot-8 and weighs 140 pounds. He understands he needs to put on some more weight, but knows it will come as he gets older.

"I love running the football on offense, but I don't mind hitting somebody on defense, either," Killings said.

Ragland went 10-2 last year and 9-1 in 2012. Killings expects the same success this year.

"We will have to play together as a team," Killings said. "Everybody at each position knows they have to play to the best of their ability and potential. Everybody has to buy in to what the coaches are teaching us. If we do that,



JADON KILLINGS

we will have a good team this year."

Ragland head coach Jonathan Nix said Killings brings a good work ethic to the team.

"He had a good summer," Nix said. "He made all of his workouts and his teammates really look up to him as a leader. He, along with the seniors we have, will be a good mesh. I have always said that it does not necessarily have to be seniors who lead a team, but the guys who are doing the right things on the field, being vocal and a good communicator. With Jadon being just a sophomore, his future here at Ragland is bright."

Roster

No. Name

1 Adam Sanders
3 Braxton Thomas
4 Christian Morrow
5 Stoney Merritt
6 Noah Hollingsworth
9 Coby Fuller
10 Jadon Killings
11 Alex Kay
12 Jeffery Bice
14 Keith Darden
15 Levi Campbell
18 Alex McClendon
19 Glad Jones
21 Jalen Byers

23 Jagger Phillips
25 John Brewer
30 Triston Turner
33 Dylan Lively
50 Seth Wellborn
55 Jeremy Burnham
57 Garrett Isbell
58 Blake Turbville
59 Donovan Turner
65 Jacob Phillips
68 Dustin Bunt
71 Jesse Corn
76 Jhase Thompson
79 Devin Turner



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exciting challenges and fond memories.

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teams for a successful and enjoyable season.

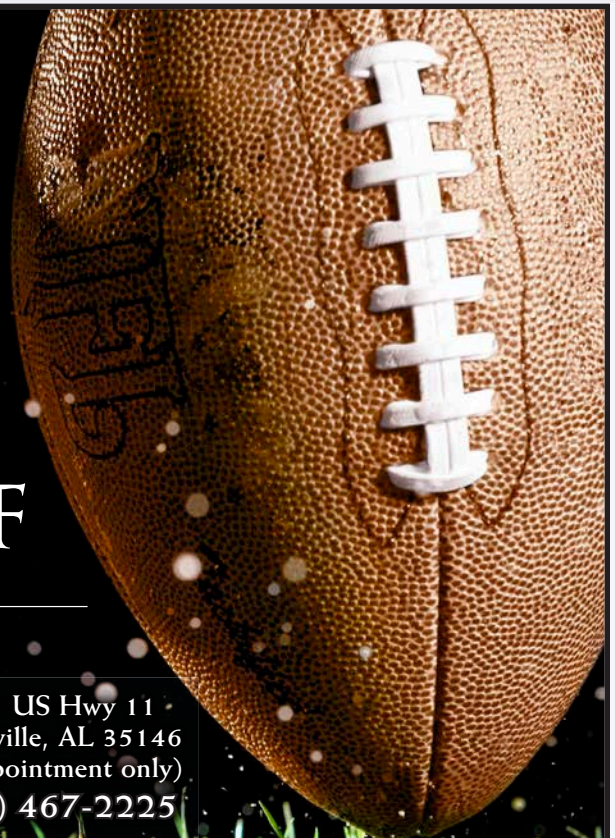
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Aggies making strides towards state championship



By SHANE DUNAWAY

The Sylacauga Aggies seek their third winning season in a row in 2014, following a season where they finally got past the first round of the playoffs under head coach Matt Griffith.

Now that the players have tasted the second round, Griffith will lead them on a quest to progress further after a great summer effort.

"It's been an outstanding summer," Griffith said. "We've had great attendance. If you average ninth through 12th, we've probably averaged 75 to 80 kids. It's been strong. We've not dropped below 55 10th through 12th as far as our attendance, so it's been good.

We've got a lot of things done. This is a young team for us. We've only got 14 seniors. Twelve of those have been with me since the ninth grade. We call them our 'Dirty Dozen.'

"They take great pride that they've stuck with us."

Despite the Aggies being a team that typically averages 18 to 25 returning seniors, Griffith praised them for being an example of quality over quantity in terms of setting an example.

"This senior bunch has provided really good leadership," Griffith said. "They want to keep the winning tradition going. This would be seven years without a losing season, so they know what's at stake, and they're very

proud to represent Sylacauga."

Griffith pointed out how the changes to the region will help clear a path for the Aggies to continue making strides toward a state championship.

"I think going seven classifications, a lot of your predominant big 5A schools moving up to 6A and realizing that we were a second-round team in 5A and a lot of those teams are gone and you go from about 51st or 52nd numbers wise in 5A to number 11, it helps you," Griffith said. "They're excited.

"They've got a great opportunity these next two years to do something, get out of the second round and be special."

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The team will have to make its playoff push while trying to replace Hunter Johns at quarterback and Ian Floyd at running back.

"Jordan Daniels will be stepping in as a junior quarterback," Griffith said. "He's a little bit different style of quarterback. He's a big kid, 6-foot-1 and about 190 pounds. He brings a couple of different things to the table for us. We've got a sophomore running back, Alex Thomason. He

had a great spring. He's got a lot of potential. You know, it's just, 'Can he grow up fast enough in 5A?'"

Another interesting challenge for the Aggies will be the changes made within their region.

"It's going to be some different games for us," Griffith said. "We're going to see some different styles of offense and defense. It's different than that Birmingham area that we've been so heavily in, but we're looking forward to it. It's one of those things where for once, most of the schools are the same size.

"You're not going to get in there playing a Homewood that should've been in a classification above you. You're not playing a Briarwood who can draw a kid from all over Shelby County. We think the region has become very, very equal across the board, and it's anybody's ballgame."

Senior free safety Dexter Averette said he has high hopes for the upcoming season. "This season, we look to be very successful because we've been working very hard this summer," Averette said. "Like coach said, we have a young team, but those young guys have been stepping up and filling shoes. Our seniors are leading the way. We're ring-chasing, just trying to go get it."

Senior wide receiver Brooks Jackson, one of the members of the "Dirty Dozen," emphasized that the team,

Roster

No.	Name	Grade		
2	Brian McGinnis	SR	31	Conner Machen
3	Cade Bryant	SO	32	Keyun King
4	Dexter Averette	SR	33	Thomas Hudgins
5	Alex Thomason	SO	34	Dillon Hickman
6	Donterio Story	JR	35	Joseph Johnson
7	Keaton Wilson	FR	44	Jaylun Thomas
8	Mason Culver	JR	45	Isaiah Brown
9	Curtis Jackson	JR	50	Chase Pruitt
10	Jordan Daniels	JR	51	Baily Bishop
11	Tyreke Watts	SO	52	Chase Merkel
12	Demarcus Daniel	SO	53	Derrick Carter
13	Bailey Bryant	JR	55	Austin Decker
14	Brooks Jackson	SR	56	Logan McEwen
15	Brody Parker	SR	57	Coy Whitehead
16	Jackson Walker	SO	59	Daniel Roberts
20	Jordan Limbaugh	SO	60	Jared Baird
21	Stephen Strickland	SR	61	Dorieon Moon
22	Jacob Daniel	SO	62	Tyler Welch
23	Chandler Deerman	SO	63	Roman Brown
24	Devin Dates	JR	64	Dawson Green
26	Anthony McElrath	JR	65	Willie Ashford
27	Brody Gamel	SO	66	Chandler Swearingen
28	Tashun Looney		67	Paul Craddock
30	Anthony McGrady	JR	68	Kade Dennis
			70	Ben Trice

Good Luck for A Winning Season





particularly the seniors, should not be underestimated.

"It's one of the smallest senior groups we've had, but it's 12 guys who want to be out there," Jackson said. "We want

to take over and lead this team. We're a young team, but we've got a group of leaders who want to step up and take this team further in the playoffs."

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Spotlight

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Sylacauga Aggies senior class doesn't have the numbers like it has had in the past, but the small group has the experience and hunger that makes up for that lack of numbers.

"We only have 14 seniors and 12 of them have been with us since the ninth grade," Sylacauga head coach Matt Griffith said. "We call them our 'Dirty Dozen' and they take great pride that they stuck with us. We have been averaging between 18 to 25 seniors a year, so this senior bunch has had real good leadership. We want to keep the winning tradition going. This will be seven years without a losing season and they are very proud to represent Sylacauga."

Senior Brooks Jackson said that leadership is going to be key if they are going to have success this season.

"Like coach said, this group is the 'Dirty Dozen,'" Jackson said. "It is one of the smaller groups that we have had, but we have some guys that want to be out there. We have a group of leaders that want to step up and do what we can to get further in the playoffs."

Last season, the Aggies went 8-4 and advanced to the second round of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 5A playoffs. Sylacauga fell in the second round to Spanish Fort, 44-7. Parker said gaining experience helped the Aggies prepare for this season.

"It helped us a lot," Parker said. "Most of the 'Dirty Dozen' got a lot of playing time last year. Experience goes far, especially for guys like Alex Thomason, who played last season, but this is the first season as a starter. Experience was factor for us last year and hopefully, we can pass it on to the younger guys."

Last season, the Aggies defense only allowed 19 points per game. Sylacauga's defense was also impressive in its spring game



STEPHEN STRICKLAND, DEXTER AVERETTE & BRODY PARKER

against Dadeville as it only allowed 14 points.

"We had a good defense last year," Strickland said. "We didn't allow a lot of points except for when we played Spanish Fort. We like to play hard-nose defense, we play with a lot of intensity, and we like to fly around to the football. We saw that in spring practice. We were getting at it with the first team offense. Against a good Dadeville team we only allowed 14 points, so we should be all right on defense."

Senior DJ Averette he believes the Aggies can have another big season if the younger guys continue to develop.

"This season, we look to have a very big season," Averette said. "We have been working hard this summer. We have a young team and those young guys are stepping up and filling shoes. Us seniors are leading the group. We are ring chasing; we are trying to go get it."

key facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Sylacauga **HEAD COACH:** Matt Griffith (10th season)

KEY LOSSES: Hunter Johns, Ian Floyd, Qalon Darby, Tristan Foster

KEY RETURNERS: Steven Strickland, Dexter Averette, Brooks Jackson, Dorieon Moon

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 8-4 **POINTS SCORED:** 310 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 235

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Chilton County

Aug. 29 at Springville

Sept. 5 vs. Marbury

Sept. 12 at Beauregard

Sept. 19 Open

Sept. 26 at Childersburg

Oct. 3 vs. Talladega

Oct. 10 at Shelby County

Oct. 17 vs. Central-Clay Co.

Oct. 24 at Tallassee

Oct. 30 vs. B.B. Comer

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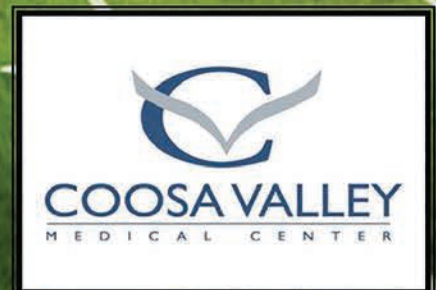
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Talladega Tigers

CLASS 5A
REGION 4

High expectations going into 2014



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Talladega Tigers head coach Robert Herring has high expectations going into the 2014 season. The second-year head coach wants this year's Talladega team to accomplish something the school hasn't done in 19 seasons – make the postseason.

“Last year, we went 3-7 and missed the playoffs,” Herring said. “I can't remember the last time that Talladega was in the playoffs. I think it was 1995. We won three games last year, and this year we hope to get five or six and sneak into the playoffs.”

The Alabama High School Athletic Association realignment that

occurred in January removed several teams on the schedule – such as Briarwood and Homewood – that outmatched Talladega on the gridiron

“In last year's region, there were two or three games that you knew that you didn't have a chance to win,” Herring said. “Those teams that were in our region are in 6A now, so you just feel better about your chances, especially in the playoffs.”

“These guys have been working all summer,” Herring said. “They have done what we have asked them to do. They have shown up this year. Last year, I think we had six or seven seniors. This year, we have 13 seniors -- usually a 5A school has 20 or 30

seniors. I think Munford had 20 in 4A and we have 13 at a 5A school. That is a number that we are trying to build on year in and year out.”

Last season, Talladega struggled to score out of the “I” formation, averaging only 11.9 points per game. The Tigers only scored more than 16 points only once last season, and that came against Shelby County in a 42-35 victory. This year, the Tigers will operate out of the spread, which showed potential against Childersburg in the spring jamboree.

“We were an ‘I’ formation team last year, and this year we are going to the gun,” Herring said. “We still run the option out of the gun and we are



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going to throw the ball a little more. We are going to let Ken Wells throw more this year.

"We have two or three good receivers we feel that we can get it to, and two running backs. Our defense is going to be so much bigger up front. We are young, but we are 6-foot-2, 6-foot-3 and 290 pounds at our defensive tackle position. Our two defensive ends are 6-foot-5, 260 pounds. They are 10th graders, so they are going to have to grow up.

"We have two senior linebackers that have been there and are battle-tested. Our secondary is probably going to be the strong point of our team. We are going to a 4-2-5 this year from a 4-3. We have four seniors in the secondary. We are doing a lot more different things than we did last

year. We are trying to use our speed."

Talladega returns Wells at quarterback. The senior experienced growing pains in 2013 in his first season as a starter, but Herring believes Wells will have a breakout season in the spread attack.

"Ken is a worker. He is there every day," Herring said. "He is in the weight room, he does his field work and he is doing his part. Last year was a little tough on Ken. We ran the option under the center, and it is hard to get in a year.

"This year, we have more skilled kids to get the ball to. We lost two senior linemen last year and we have three coming back.

"We went to West Georgia's team camp and 7-on-7 camp. We do the same things that they do with the

two-back, gun stuff."

Wells will have some big targets to throw to. Several athletes from the basketball team came out for the first time. Their addition to the roster allows the Talladega coaching staff to do different things on both sides of the ball.

"The thing about us, after the Childersburg game was over, we were out of school for the next week. It is not like we could sit there and focus on it," Herring said. "As soon as summer got here, we gave them a week off. We have been to a few 7-on-7 tournaments this year. We went to the University of West Georgia, we went to the University of North Alabama and we played Oxford ... We did a couple of things to get them out of Talladega city, so they can see something different."

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Spotlight



MARIO ECHOLS & ANNTONNE GARRETT

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Talladega Tigers seniors have high expectations for the 2014 season. The Tigers enter the season focused on putting an end to a 19-year playoff drought.

"We want to start it off for the younger guys," senior Mario Echols said. "We want to set the standard for us making the playoffs and they can make it to the championship level."

Anntonne Garrett has been on varsity for the last three seasons and he feels this is the best all-around team that Talladega has had since he has been there.

"I think this is the best group of coaches and players that I have been around," Garrett said. "We have some great coaches, my defensive line is bigger, my offensive line is great, the offense is going to put up numbers and the defense is going hit all day."

Talladega head coach Robert Herring said he has been impressed with what he has seen from his senior leaders.

"These are two seniors that have shown up this summer and they know that this is their last shot at it," Herring said.

They are working hard and trying to get where we can have a winning season this season with hopes of making the playoffs."

This season, the Tigers plan to spread things out on offense. Talladega has changed its offense due to the weapons it has all over the field. Echols said learning the new offense is something that they worked during the spring and during the summer. Echols said the offense made progress against opposing teams in 7-on-7 tournaments.

"They went well," Echols said. "We are learned our new spread offense."

Being a good leader to the younger players is something that Garrett is focused on.

"We just have to keep picking them up when they do something wrong," Garrett said. "We have to make them get on the same page as us."

Talladega had several players from the basketball team to join in the football team. Echols believes that it shouldn't take the new players long to get adjusted.

"After they get some game experience, by the time the region starts they will know what is going on," Echols said.

Roster

No.	Name	Grade	No.	Name	Grade
1	Adrian Swain	FR	34	Montrell Johnson	FR
2	Josh Wilson	SR	36	Tyrese Scales	FR
3	Jay Hall	SR	37	Alex Curry	FR
4	Ashton Duncan	FR	39	Dylan Bradford	FR
5	Ken Wells	SR	40	Devin Cameron	SO
6	Desmond Green	SR	41	Brandon Jackson	SO
7	Robert Green	SR	42	Brandon Smith	SR
9	Bruce Garrett	JR	50	Dalton Marlor	SR
10	Mario Echols	SR	51	Jamonte Twyman	SO
11	Ja'Quan Scales	SO	52	Alh'jandre Smith	SO
12	D'myas Beavers	SO	56	Taylor Freeman	SR
14	Kevin Williamson	FR	60	Monquise Lawson	SR
15	Lebronskie Twymon	JR	61	Kevin Garrett	SO
18	Ricky Joseph	JR	63	Nyjah Garrett	SO
19	Hakeem Garrett	SR	64	Isiah Stockdale	JR
20	Jerome Brand	FR	65	Deontarius Harmon	SR
21	Tyler Hallmark	JR	66	Josh Shields	FR
22	Deondre Hall	SR	67	Dillon Sewell	SR
23	Demarcus Truss	SR	68	Austin Pitts	SR
24	Trevor Sykes	SO	69	Arthur McRlath	SR
25	Kendarius Smith	SR	73	Derrion Hardie	JR
27	Kelvontae Wallace	SO	74	Justin Twyman	SO
28	Matt Lackey	JR	80	Jaylon Green	FR
29	Oderius Jemison	SO	82	Florian ZurNieden	JR
30	Shawn McRee	SO	83	Jaymon Gaddis	FR
31	Josh Madden	SR	84	Bailey Irvin	SO
32	Victor Wilson	FR	90	Jae-lyn Russ	SO
33	Anntone Garrett	SR	97	Khalil Keith	SO

key facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega

HEAD COACH: Robert Herring (2nd season)

KEY LOSSES: Ahmad Gooden, Byron Tucker Jr.

KEY RETURNERS: Mario Echols, Ken Wells, Anntonne Garrett

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** 4-2-5

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 119 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 312

Schedule

Aug. 22 at TC Central

Aug. 29 Open

Sept. 5 vs. Tallassee

Sept. 12 at Marbury

Sept. 19 at Beauregard

Sept. 26 vs. Springville

Oct. 3 at Sylacauga

Oct. 10 Open

Oct. 17 vs. Shelby County

Oct. 24 at Central-Clay Co.

Oct. 31 vs. Munford

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Talladega County Central

Fighting Tigers

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REGION 4

Fighting Tigers feature talented senior leadership



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Chris Mahand is back to the place he once called home. The veteran coach has spent the last five years away from Talladega County Central (TCC), but realized what he was looking for at other schools is there in Howell's Cove.

"I am definitely glad to be back," Mahand said. "Like I told them before, when I left, I was going out searching for something that I had the whole time. I had the good community, the great players, the coaches and the will to win. I am just so excited to be back, I don't know what to do."

Coming into the season, Mahand believes he has a team filled with veteran and young talent. Mahand said his senior leaders – Justin

Woodruff and Corey White – have been valuable to the younger players.

"With the kids that I have there now, I have a young group of guys, but they are talented," Mahand said. "I have senior leadership that is also talented. That is something that I have been missing since I left TC. ... You have to have those generals on the field. When you have those guys that you can lean on on the field, who can tell you exactly what's going on, that is big. That's always been a plus at TC. You have guys who really want to play football, and that was one of the things that drew me back to Talladega County Central."

Last season, TC Central won four of its last five games to make the postseason, though the Fighting Tigers were blown out by Brantley in

the first round.

They have a tough road back to the postseason. With the region realignment that took place in January, TC Central will be grouped in Class 1A Region 4 with Ragland, Winterboro, Wadley, Appalachian, Shades Mountain Christian and Donoho.

"No disrespect to any other regions in the state of Alabama, but I believe our region is one of the tougher ones to play in," Mahand said. "This region is going to be battle-tested. It is the SEC of 1A."

Mahand cited the quality teams and coaches in the region.

"You have Ragland, Winterboro, Donoho, Wadley and you have us," Mahand said. "How many more teams you want in there that can play

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football with good coaches? If the Lord blesses any team to come from this region undefeated, they are ready to play some playoff football, because you have been playing in some tough games in this region.”

After not being in the playoffs for the last five years, Mahand said he is ready to get back into the postseason. He acknowledges that staying healthy is going to be vital to the team's success this season because the Tigers are dressing between 30 and 35 players.

“I want to make a playoff run,” Mahand said. “I think we have the talent, but we have a lot of work to do. We can't get complacent and we can't think that we are there. The minute you think you are there is when you begin to fall off instead of getting better. I think we have the ability, Lord willing, to make a playoff run. Health is everything at a small school. You can lose a two-way starter and you will lose two starters with one injury. Injuries are going to play a big part in that. We just have to see what is going to happen.”

The Fighting Tigers lost several key pieces from last season, including quarterback Ze’Kyle Stockdale. Senior

Corey White will be under center this season. White saw time as the signal caller as a sophomore, and Mahand said he is pleased with how White has progressed through the summer.

“I think Corey is going to do a great job replacing Ze’Kyle,” Mahand said. “I have liked what I have seen from Corey this summer – his athleticism and his ability to throw the ball with accuracy.”

Mahand said sometimes first-year coaches will face an attitude of rebellion from their players, but that hasn't been the case as he returns to TC.

“Corey has been real receptive on learning the schemes and the new offense that we plan on running this year,” Mahand said. “I thought I was going to have to take it slower than I did, but he is picking up what we are doing offensively well, so I have been real pleased with that. He has seniors like Justin on his side pushing them. They want to win, and that is what I like about them. They are going to do pretty much what it takes to win. I am expecting big things from Corey and the other seniors.”

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Spotlight



COREY WHITE & JUSTIN WOODRUFF

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Talladega County Central Fighting Tigers gained some confidence last season after reaching the postseason for the first time since 2009. Senior Justin Woodruff said this year's team will not be satisfied with just making it to the first round.

"It motivated us a lot and showed us what we needed to do in order to get where we were last year," Woodruff said. "We are not trying to go to the first round. We are trying to go all the way this year."

The Fighting Tigers will have one of their most successful coaches return to the sideline this season in Chris Mahand. The veteran coach led TC Central to the 1A finals in 2007.

"It is great," Woodruff said when asked about having Mahand back at TC. "We have a lot of people showing up for workouts now. Everything has gotten better. It is big progress from this year to last year."

Senior Corey White is also excited about Mahand being at the helm once again.

"He is a good coach," White said. "He is fun to do stuff with like run and go work out. He peps us up a lot and has us working hard. There is

no failure in him."

After being a big-time playmaker last season at receiver, White will return to the quarterback position.

"I played quarterback my 10th grade year, it was pretty fun and my 11th grade year I got move to wide receiver, and I didn't like that," White said.

White said that Mahand has helped him improve as a quarterback in the few months that he has been back at Howell's Cove.

"Coach Mahand came back and showed me a lot of techniques," White said. "After workouts we go out there and throw the football because there are a lot of younger guys to that he is depending on."

White said is motivated to lead the Fighting Tigers to a great season.

"The spring game went decent," White said. "We were prepared to play, but we played like we should play. Going into the season, we have to go out there and work hard. We have to do what Coach Mahand tells us to do. We have to do better than we have in the past. We can't give up in the fourth quarter. We have to execute and make big plays. We have to plan to make the playoffs and go further than we did last season."

Roster

No. Name

1	Justin Woodruff	30	Kris Embry
2	Darrell Maple	31	Jaylen Swain
4	Jamrai Evans	35	Jaylon Swain
5	Delvecchius Wright	40	Billy Tuck
6	Trovell Stockdale	45	Devin Wilson
8	Dontrevius Johnson	50	Jayden Jones
9	Corey White	55	Brandon Fluker
10	Damion Benjamin	56	Rodney Wilson
11	Swain, Damion	58	Devilyn Keller
12	Jordan Swain	59	Mikell Armbruster
13	Jamar Carmicheal	60	Kaderius Shepard
14	Roderick Wels	61	Dequavion Wright
15	Eric Jackson	63	Micah Embry
16	Hareem Averitte	65	Syncere Brown
21	Walker Dontrell Duncan	70	Antiono Gary
22	Kylen Cross	77	Dennis Stockdale
23	Don Sanders	80	Dennis Swain
25	Rickey Duncan	81	Devin Storey
28	Trebian Garrett	82	Christopher Storey

Key Facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: TC Central

HEAD COACH: Chris Mahand (1st year)

KEY LOSSES: Ze'Kyle Stockdale, Kristian Jones, Derrick Tuck

KEY RETURNERS: Tylan Cross, Corey White, Justin Woodruff

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 236 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 276

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Talladega

Sept. 5 vs. Donoho

Sept. 12 vs. Victory Christian

Sept. 19 at Wadley

Sept. 26 at Spring Garden

Oct. 3 vs. Ragland

Oct. 10 at Appalachian

Oct. 17 vs. Winterboro

Oct. 24 at Shades Mtn. Christian

Oct. 30 at Vincent



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Victory Christian looking to build a team



By BRANT LOCKLIER

The last four years have not been pretty for the Lions of Victory Christian as they continue to try and build a football program from scratch and compete in the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA).

The program started in the AHSAA in 2002, and after just six years the Lions went 8-3 and 9-2 and made the playoffs. However one of

the problems of a small school and a private school can be numbers, and the team has been battling to just have enough to play as injuries took their toll last year with two forfeit losses.

The team will fight on in 2014 behind a new coach in former Alabama football player and offensive lineman Mark Sanders in his first head coaching job. Sanders played his high school football at Ashville under John Grass and played for Dennis Franchione and Mike Shula while at

Alabama. He most recently was an assistant coach at Coosa Christian.

Sanders was completely out of football this past May when he got the call from Victory Christian.

"God spoke to me and it took about .3 seconds for me to decide and I said 'yes.' My dad has been in teaching and administration all his life. I love kids and want to make a difference in their lives. God told me to go chase this opportunity and help some kids," said Sanders.

It will be a labor of love for Sanders. As in most small schools, he will be called on to fill in a lot of roles in trying to rebuild a program that has gone 1-37 after that 9-2 season in 2009. One thing that has hurt has been a brutal schedule and having to play bigger schools like Fultondale, Ranburne, Vincent, Walter Wellborn, and Woodland. Those six games were with teams that are in Class 2A and 3A this year and really were physical games due to those teams outnumbering the Lions. The new classification drawn up by the AHSAA has dropped the Lions back down to 1A this year and will really help the schedule.

"I looked at the films from last year and was proud of our kids as they went through those trials. Sometimes they were playing eight against 11 and they fought through adversity and even scored touchdowns. It was promising to see that kind of effort," said Sanders.

Their new schedule has five teams on it that won two or less games a year ago. ASD (1-7), Winterboro (0-10), Woodville (0-10), Holy Spirit (1-9) and Shades Mountain Christian (2-7) are all games that look winnable for the Lions with such an inexperienced team. Appalachian (5-4), Donoho (7-3), Talladega Central (5-6), Wadley (4-7) and Ragland (10-2) will be a different story. The Lions will have to stay healthy to be competitive in those games.

However, Sanders reports that there have been record turnouts for the summer workouts this year, and he is working the student body trying to increase the numbers. He looks to have more than 30 players out this year.

Offense has been a problem the last two years as the Lions have only averaged 8 and 6 points a game. Sanders reports big changes coming in the offense this season as he has a good group of juniors to work with and one senior. Running



back Shawn Trawick may be just what they need as he returns after suffering a hip pointer last season. Freshman Harrison Cheatwood will be returning at quarterback and adds some experience to the offense. "He is a good athlete and competitor," said Sanders. Junior Christian Brown may also see some time somewhere in that backfield.

Sanders is teaching the line fundamentals that he has picked up from his days at the University of Alabama. Junior Kyle Robinson could be on that line, but is being considered for a possible backfield spot by Sanders. "Kyle is one of the best athletes on the team. I like having beef on the line though. It all starts on the offensive line. You got to have a good offensive line to win football games," said Sanders.

The corps of receivers could come from sophomore David Smith, sophomore Cody Lee and junior Lucas Riley, who has good hands and could end up at the tight end spot.

Junior Tanner Love, junior Austin Cody, freshman Brady Holladay, sophomore Justin Dupree, sophomore Wyatt Coss and sophomore Wesley Byrd will be filling out those offensive

line positions.

The defense has struggled in recent years as well, giving up 45 points and 54 points a game the last two years. The Lions will be going mostly both ways, with the offense and defensive lines involving the same players. The Lions will run a 3-5 defense with five linebackers on the field.

Junior Blake Gowers, sophomore Daniel Barber, junior Peyton Barber, junior Alex Boozer, junior Kyle Roberson, and sophomore Shon Paul Dukes will be some of those linebackers. Peyton Barber may see some action at defensive end.

Sanders will have his hands full and will be out walking the halls trying to encourage kids to come out for the team and help build this program. It is going to take a lot of hard work, but the Lions believe they have their guy in Sanders. They will also roll out new uniforms and will have Detroit Lions-type football helmets with a silver-and-blue color scheme.

"We have worked hard this summer and our guys have a great can't lose attitude and we have to go out and try our very best each night. We are shooting for a playoff spot," said Sanders.

Spotlight

By LAVONTE YOUNG

For the past two seasons, the Victory Christian Lions have had 2014 circled on their calendar. After spending the last two seasons struggling to compete, the Lions are excited to be back in Class 1A.

"We have 30 players, so we are going to be in better shape this year," junior fullback/linebacker Kyle Roberson said. "We are excited to be back in 1A. There will be better competition for us and we are definitely looking forward to it."

Making the postseason for the first time since 2009 is the goal for the Lions this season. Roberson said he feels like they have what it takes to make it that far.

"We want to go to the playoffs," Roberson said. "We hope that we can make it. I feel like we have the team to make it. I have high expectations for this team."

The Lions are in a tough Class 1A, Region 5 with rival Ragland, Talladega County Central, Winterboro, Wadley, Appalachian and Shades Mountain Christian. Roberson is confident the Lions will have a shot to make some noise in Class 1A.

"We expect a very good season," Roberson said. "We expect to be able to compete, we are doing our hardest to compete and give it our all."

Mark Sanders was named



KYLE ROBERSION

Victory Christian head coach in May replacing Bobby Fairley. Roberson said he thinks that Sanders has what it takes to turn the Victory Christian football program around.

"It is exciting, we love him," Roberson said. "He is great. He knows what he is doing. He is getting a feel for us, and we are getting a feel for him. We hope he is going to be good for this school."

For the first time in two seasons, the Lions spent the entire summer preparing for the season.

"We went four days a week from 4 to 6 p.m.," he said. "We had weight training for an hour and we ran for about an hour. We did agility drills and a lot of us stayed after to work on different stuff."



Roster

No.	Name	Grade		
1	Ethan Johnson	SO	33	Alex Boozer JR
2	Harrison Cheatwood	FR	42	Kyle Roberson JR
3	David Smith	SO	50	Christian Turley JR
4	Ben Abel	FR	54	Justin Dupree SO
5	Shawn Traywick	JR	55	Wyatt Coss SO
7	Christian Brown	JR	57	Addison Lett SO
9	Blake Gowers	JR	62	Brodie Holliday FR
10	Chase Shirley	SO	68	Wesley Byrd SO
11	Cody Callahan	FR	70	Luke Perry FR
12	Daniel Barber	SO	72	Shon Paul Dukes SO
18	Cody Lee	SO	74	Peyton Barber JR
21	Joseph Megahee	SR	75	Tanner Love JR
22	Garret Dorroh	SO	76	Benjamin Weir SO
24	Michael Venkler	FR	77	Austin Cody JR
25	Lucas Riley	JR	87	Davon Howard SO

key facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega

HEAD COACH: Mark Sanders (1st season)

KEY LOSSES: Micah Dorrah, Easton Hopkins

KEY RETURNERS: Shawn Trawick, Harrison Cheatwood

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 1-9 **POINTS SCORED:** 68 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 361

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Holy Spirit

Sept. 5 vs. Appalachian

Sept. 12 at TC Central

Sept. 19 at Shades Mtn. Christian

Sept. 26 at Woodville

Oct. 3 vs. Donoho

Oct. 10 at Winterboro

Oct. 17 at Wadley

Oct. 24 vs. Ragland

Oct. 31 vs. ASD

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Bulldogs looking for focus and hard work to pay off



By SHANE DUNAWAY

Winterboro Bulldogs head coach Alan Beckett's first season with the team did not go well as the team finished with a winless effort in which opponents outscored them by more than 20 points per game.

As Beckett enters his second season, he noted the importance of keeping his team motivated.

"We're trying to get our kids to fight through adversity because we had a hard time with adversity," Beckett said. "We were talking adversity this time last year when I had first arrived. We knew it was going to be a situation, and we want to battle through adversity and tough times."

He praised the efforts of returning players Jaylen Ashley, Michael Garrett, Justus Garrett, Marcus McMeans, Clay Twymon and B.J. Twymon for staying motivated during summer workouts hampered by the limited availability of the field house due to stadium renovations.

"Everytime the field house has been open, they've been in there and they've worked hard," Beckett said. "Really, our focus this summer has been on cardio. I thought our cardio needed to be a point of emphasis. They really weren't where I wanted them to be last year. We've really focused on getting in better shape. It may have been a blessing from that point of view."

Beckett said he was excited to get B.J. Twymon, a player who battled adversity of his own, back into the mix.

"B.J. battled," Beckett said. "We're happy to have him back this year, and we're hoping for really good things. He's worked really hard this summer, and he battled injuries. He was never 100 percent, and he only got to play in a couple of games."

Ashley, a senior who plays defensive back, running back and slot receiver, will be one of the key seniors Beckett has for the upcoming season.

"He's a guy that's always there on a lot of our leadership committees,"

Beckett said. "He's very dependable kid — always around with a great attitude and a lot of intelligence. He had a really good year as a defensive back."

Garrett, a senior offensive tackle, will help anchor the offensive line, but Beckett didn't rule out playing him in other positions.

"He can be a physical blocker," Beckett said. "We'll try to push him to excel. He's a real intelligent guy. There's nobody in the school who doesn't like Mike. Sometimes, I want him to maybe make some of the guys mad on the other side and maybe everybody in the stadium might not like Mike. I want him to be a little meaner. He'll play a little bit on the defensive side."

Beckett stated Ashley and Garrett's leadership would be needed as the team continues to build character and fight through 2014.

"I'm asking a lot of these two guys from a leadership point of view," Beckett said. "I thought leadership was an issue last year, just to be a little blunt. I think it's something that



definitely needs to be better.”

Ashley seemed focused on making his mark as a leader of the team.

“We’ve just got to instill in them that if you don’t want it, then don’t come, for real,” Ashley said. “A lot of people don’t want it as bad as the seniors do. I know a bunch of underclassmen that think they still got a couple more years left, so they think they can wait until they do their thing. But it’s our last time, so we’ve got to motivate them and encourage them to get on board with us.”

Beckett talked about the history of coaching at Winterboro, where 19 coaches in the school’s history stayed for three years or less, and how those rapid-fire changes caused trust issues to build within the program.

“That’s a lot of turnover,” Beckett said. “A lot of our guys had seen a lot of teachers come and go. I’ve had people come up to me and say, ‘Should I even get to know you? Will you be here next year?’ So I thought relationships were a place we needed to start and learn why we were doing what we were doing.”

Beckett invited multiple guest speakers to talk to the team, including former NFL Rams offensive coordinator Bobby Jackson.

“He’s really good, and it’s pretty neat to have an NFL guy right down the road,” Beckett said. “When I was made aware of him, I was like, ‘Hey, we want to get him in.’ He was better than I expected. He actually came in and met with my staff. I thought it meant a lot what he had to say.”

Beckett said he believes his team will be ready to bring home its first win under his leadership in 2014.

“In these kinds of situations, you really hope you take a step, and then the next year, you take another step,” Beckett said. “I think we’ve really tackled character, leadership and some of those types of things.”





key facts

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Winterboro

HEAD COACH: Mark Sanders (2nd season)

KEY LOSSES: Cardi Duncan, Cedrick McKenzie

KEY RETURNERS: Michael Garrett, Bernard Twymon, Jaylen Ashley

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** Multiple

2013 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 0-10

POINTS SCORED: 102 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 344

Schedule

Aug. 29 vs. Coosa Christian
Sept. 5 vs. Shades Mtn. Christian
Sept. 12 at Ragland
Sept. 19 at Donoho
Sept. 26 at Thorsby

Oct. 3 vs. Appalachian
Oct. 10 vs. Victory Christian
Oct. 17 at TC Central
Oct. 24 vs. Wadley
Oct. 31 at Fayetteville

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Spotlight

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The 2014 seniors on the Winterboro Bulldogs football team look to set the foundation for success this season. Last season, the Bulldogs lacked leadership and it showed as they went 0-10. This season, second-year head coach Alan Beckett will be looking for seniors Jaylon Ashley and Michael Garrett to be the leaders of the team.

"I am asking a lot from these two guys from the leadership points of view," Beckett said. "I thought leadership was an issue last year. I think it is something that definitely needs to be better."

Last season, leaders were lacking and this caused a distraction. Garrett said the players from last season were just focused on being popular instead of doing the right thing.

"I guess you've got to have good leaders," offensive lineman Michael Garrett said. "We had some leaders last year, but they were bad leaders. Believe it or not, there were more people following the bad leaders than they were the good leaders. It was a popularity thing."

Senior Jaylon Ashley saw as a freshman the hard work and dedication that it takes to be a good football team. His message for younger guys is simple: "If you want to help turn this program around come on, but if you don't go home."

"We've just got to instill in them that if you don't want it, then don't come, for real," Ashley said. "A lot of people don't want it as bad as the seniors do. I know a bunch of underclassmen that think they still got a couple more years left, so they think they can wait until they do their thing. But it's our last time, so we've got to motivate them and encourage them to get on board with us."

Beckett hopes that Garrett will be more of a physical presence on the offensive line this season.

"Mike Garrett could be a physical blocker," Beckett said. "We are going to push him to excel. He is really an intelligent guy. There is nobody in the school that doesn't like Mike. Sometime I want him to make guys mad on the other side and everybody in the stadium might not like Mike. I want him to be a little



**JAYLON ASHLEY
& MICHAEL GARRETT**

meaner."

Last season, Ashley's play was one of the only bright spots for Winterboro. In his junior season, he earned All-Talladega County honors. Beckett said he is one of the most reliable young men he has been around.

"He is a guy that leads our leadership committee," Beckett said. "He is a very dependable kid, he is always around. He had a good season at defensive back, he played a little bit more on the perimeter this time we are focus on getting a touch more physical."

Roster

No.	Name	9	Josh Fluker	17	Shaun Vincent
1	Kenyatta Brown	9	Marquez Bryant	20	Ty Embree
2	Brady Wideman	10	Jaylen Ashley	21	Nyjavion Brown
3	Colby Wheeler	11	Deshawn Garrett	22	Bernard Twymon
4	Marcus McMeans	11	Cameron Borden	24	Kaleb Hale
5	Phillip Cook	12	Luke Wheeler	25	Chase Hayes
6	Kenyatta Brown	14	Clay Twymon	30	Javeon Ousley
7	Marquel Bryant	16	Omar Dobbins	33	Desmond Battle



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