

The Daily Home

PREP FOOTBALL 2018

ROSTERS

TEAM PREVIEWS

PLAYER PROFILES

SCHEDULES

**BAND &
CHEERLEADER
PHOTOS**

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6:30, Friday night.

The stands are almost full, and people are still pouring in the gate.

Another half-hour, and the place will be rocking.

There's been something in the air all day, a kind of atmosphere and excitement that exists only one day each week for only a few weeks each year.

It first erupts by mid-afternoon during the tribal rite of a pep rally. The players are in their game jerseys, the cheerleaders are dancing on the gymnasium floor and a crowd of youngsters and teenagers demonstrate their school spirit – not to mention their appreciation for a chance to get out of class – with a deafening series of shrieks and screams.

Then the countdown begins.

As kickoff nears, there's just enough time to grab a quick bite on the run, at the risk of being late for the opening festivities.

And here we are, 6:30, Friday night, sitting on the 50-yard line looking at the field, the long green carpet that's seen its share of flags and whistles, touchdowns and injuries, and celebrations and consolations. Coaches, officials, managers, trainers, statisticians and photographers are already pacing it, making their final preparations.

Finally, it's time.

Cheerleaders hoist a huge paper sign depicting their team's mascot bludgeoning, pummeling, throttling, incinerating or perpetrating other bodily harm on the opposing team's mascot. The band lays down the opening notes of the fight song, and the music slices through the spectators like a stiletto.

The fans are on their feet. The anticipation is rising. Adrenaline is pumping, and everything explodes as the home team rips through the thin paper wall and takes the field. Within five minutes, summer unofficially ends with the opening kickoff, and the stadium is witness to at least two hours of the kind of guts and glory associated only with a community football game.

High school football. You can't beat it with a stick.

BUDDY

On the Cover: Munford's Justin Sistrunk, left, and Cameron Lemons will have to play major roles for the Lions this season after losing key players from the 2017 roster to graduations and transfers. They'll have their hands full as Munford moves up to Class 5A for the first time and will have to contend with the likes of Central Clay County, Moody and Sylacauga.

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Alabama School for the Deaf SILENT WARRIORS

NDIAA



By SHANE DUNAWAY

Alabama School for the Deaf experienced an internal homecoming of sorts when former head coach Paul Kulick rejoined the program after a two-year hiatus.

The Silent Warriors finished 5-5 in 2017, but managed to rally down the stretch after a rocky start to the season.

"After our first four games, we were 0-4," Kulick said. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I went to all those boys standing there. I looked them all in the eye and I said, 'What's going on?'"

Kulick said after talking to assistant coaches Walter Ripley, Cedric Tyson and Kevin Cronin, he determined the Wing-T offense ASD had been running for several years was no longer working and made an unconventional midseason swap to the spread offense that matched his players' skillsets. They went 5-1 in their final six games.

The strong finish provided Kulick with a favorable outlook entering the 2018 season.

"I'm really excited about what we have coming back," he said. "We only lost four -- Ke'Trez Holman, Keith Williams, Mark Wallace and Matthew Garrett. We graduated those four, but we've got several young freshmen and sophomores that really surprised me last year with what they could do. There are several good athletes, so I'm very excited about this year, our boys and their attitude. They're top-notch and they're going to work hard until the end of every game."

Kulick said the Silent Warriors have 25 players on the roster, but could bolster their numbers before the season starts by adding athletes from the Alabama School for the Blind

after receiving approval from the Alabama High School Athletic Association to tap into those resources. He added ASD was the only deaf school in the country that wasn't already incorporating visually-impaired talent into its program.

"They have several good players on the wrestling team, and they've got a lot of big boys who've won a lot of state championships in wrestling," Kulick said. "I was wondering maybe if they would like to play football. This year, we were able to get together and work it out. Hopefully, that'll help us out with our football program."

The biggest challenge Kulick said he faces going into the season is finding someone to fill Holman's shoes at quarterback.

"Ke'Trez did an amazing job for us ... but we've got two young sophomores, Michael Paige and Jacquavius McCrae," Kulick said. "Both of them have very strong arms. We haven't really gotten them to work out with the team yet, but we'll look this fall to see about either one of them."

"Also, we've got all our offensive line back this year except for our left guard. The rest of it is the same. We'll put one more person in there, and I'm pretty sure that our offensive line will be a really good one."

Kulick said senior center Zachary Beaver will be one of the team's key leaders this season.

"He's been playing for me for four years, and he did great for me last year," Kulick said. "He can play both sides of the football -- at center and defensive end. I'm really impressed with him, and I'm excited to have him as one of our leaders on the team this year."

Beaver said accepting a leadership role is something he embraces coming off a year where

he played at center full-time on offense. Prior 2017, he rotated to various positions on the line.

"We have a lot of young players coming out, and it's very important to teach them and help them to improve, and for me to improve myself, he said. "It's all about the next team coming up and helping them have a better season maybe even next year. This year, I feel like we're going to have a great year."

While ASD doesn't have many players available to work out during the summer, Kulick said one who has really stood out to him is nose guard Vitroni Williams.

"He's had a surprising summer," Kulick said. "He's small and thin. He may be only 130 pounds, but he has been so impressive during the summer ... He plays nose guard, and I know people look at him and say, 'What? You're playing him at the nose guard position?' But he is skilled at getting through that line, so he's always disrupting the other team and getting to the quarterback."

Kulick said the team has lofty goals for 2018.

"I think we're going to have a good year," he said. "I'm excited about how many we have back this year, and our goal is to have as good a year as we can -- one of the top years ASD has ever had. That's the main goal."

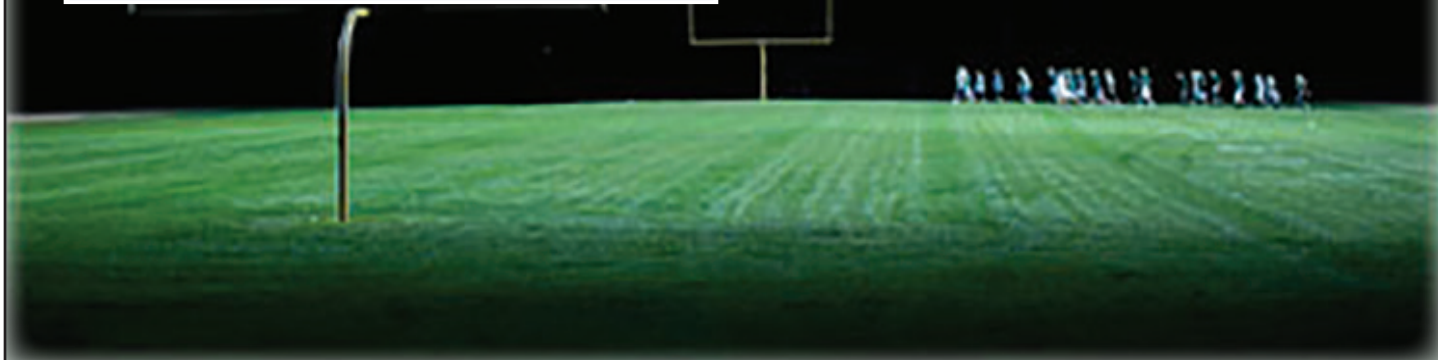
As for the opponent the team looks forward to facing the most, Kulick said they'll be itching to play the Oct. 27 home game against Florida School for the Deaf.

"That's one of our rivals," he said. "Last year, we went to Florida and played them. It was a tough game that went to (double) overtime and we won (26-25). We were so excited about that win. Florida's coming here this year ... and our boys are ready for that game."

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SPOTLIGHT



ZACHARY BEAVER

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

Ryan Kelly. He used to play at Alabama back in 2016, and he's a really great offensive center. I've looked up to him since I started playing football ... He works really hard. He's gotten a lot of commendations and awards for his position, and he's been a role model for me.

What are your post-high school plans?

I would really like to play college football. I don't want to stop in high school. It scares me right now to think that this might be my last year playing football, but I plan to apply to several Division I colleges, maybe even Division II. I would like to get some football scholarships to a few. I haven't gotten any offers yet, but I've gotten some emails from teams asking me to come to camps and other things. I plan to wait until the season and try to prove myself.

What motivates you to work hard?

I come from a very large family, but my parents don't make a lot of income, and they never really have. My mom, she's a single mom right now, and I've always looked up to her because she's worked her hardest to try to provide for us even when it seems like we might not have anything ... She's worked hard, and it has made me want to work harder so that I can have more in life.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

The beginning of the season when everybody comes back (to school) is what I look forward to the most. It's great because school ends at the beginning of summer and all the kids go home. I sit around at home working out, training and running. When we come back in the fall, it's always great to see all the players who have come back and see, really, family come back to our team because that's what these brothers are to me ... they're brothers – they're family.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I love math, science and aerospace engineering. That's one of my goals in college is to go into an engineering career field.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I really look forward to the track season because track helps me improve my speed and help me improve my strength because ... I (throw) the discus. I'm open to, if I can't get a football scholarship, to maybe get a discus scholarship to a college.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The best part, I would have to say, is to hang out with my brothers on the team after workouts and after practice, and getting to talk to them about their summer and their experience. The worst part, I would say, is ... I don't really think there's a worst part. I always look forward to fall camp and working hard because it pushes me individually to my limit and always helps us as a team understand where everybody is and how we can work together as one.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math.

What are three things that you can't live without?

God, food and teamwork.

What's a quote that you live by?

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

ROSTER

No. Name

Zachary Beaver
Jacob Johnson
Quindaius Millhouse
Angelo Simmon
Vitroni Williams
EJ Wilkins
Corey McKinnie
David Palacios-Campos
Jaquan Rankins
Cullen Crook
Joel Esponosa Cruz
Jacquavius McCrae
Dallas McMullen-Schifferle

Michael Paige
Sedrick Smith
Jaelin Blackburn
Addison Taylor
Kaleb Buck
Bogdan Dailey
Taylor Dubose
Josh Kelley
Stacey Phillips
Luke Rains
Ty'Qarevious Robinson
Denijah Swain
Austin Hayes
Brown Austin

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Alabama School for the Deaf

HEAD COACH: Paul Kulick (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Ke'Trez Holman, Keith Williams, Mark Wallace

KEY RETURNERS: Cory McKinnie, Zachary Beaver, Angelo Simon

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

2017 IN REVIEW: RECORD: 5-5

POINTS SCORED: 184 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 237

SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 vs. Valley Head, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 vs. Jacksonville Chr., 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 at Shoals Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 vs. Indiana School for the Deaf, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Model Secondary School for the Deaf, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Louisiana School for the Deaf, 2 p.m.

Oct. 18 at Arkansas School for the Deaf, 11 a.m.

Oct. 27 vs. Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, 2 p.m.

Nov. 2 at Gaylesville, 7 p.m.

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By SHANE DUNAWAY

A familiar coaching face returns to Talladega County in 2018 as Adam Fossett takes the reigns at B.B. Comer Memorial High School.

Fossett coached for four seasons apiece at Winterboro and Childersburg, leading both teams to three playoff appearances. He spent the past two seasons coaching at Class 7A Smiths Station, but he returns to the county to rebuild the Tigers program “one block at a time.”

“We have good kids here, and they’re waiting for something good to come along,” he said. “I’m looking for kind of revitalization and to move forward for (myself) personally, and they’re looking to move forward as well as a program. We’re a good marriage right now. We’re all working for the positives, and we’re all working to move ahead ... I think for us as a staff, (we want) to see organized football. We want to see the kids stay, buy in and do all the things you need them to do.”

Fossett said he devised a plan using the social media platform Twitter to generate interest and support for a school rich in tradition.

“Coming in the first day I was hired, everybody’s on hashtags now,” he said. “I’m not even 40 yet. I’m not even sure I understand the whole hashtag thing, but I came up with the hashtag #RestoreTheRoar. I’ve had people from (ages) 16 to 65 coming up to me and telling me that’s the greatest thing in the world. That’s awesome.

“That’s what we’re trying to do. We’re trying to restore what was Comer football. We’re trying to restore what was Comer athletics. Years ago, it was a force to be reckoned with. You didn’t want to play Comer in anything ... You also have to look at this as this process is kind of like eating a dinosaur – you’re going to have to do it one bite at a time.”

The Tigers went 7-23 under previous head coach Mike Battles Sr. Fossett said the team couldn’t afford to dwell on recent shortcomings.

“The very first thing was to meet with the guys and say, ‘Whatever’s done is done. It’s all over with,’” he said. “We’ve got to move forward. We immediately started after-school workouts, started getting guys involved and started getting them to come out so we could see where they were physically and mentally, and see (if) they were going to fit in with what we were trying to do.”

Despite taking over the remnants of a roster where four of its 13 varsity players graduated, Fossett said he’s been able to shore up numbers for the barren program.

“We started workouts the second week of June, and seventh through 12th grade, we’re averaging 50-55 at workouts,” he said. “We took 18 kids to a 7-on-7 (on July 26), and that was just our varsity kids. We didn’t take any linemen or anything like that, so we’re going to look to dress anywhere from 30-36 on Friday night. We will have some guys who play both ways, but we have some new kids who are stepping up, doing some things and learning the system.”

Of the seven victories earned under the previous regime, three came against county rival Fayetteville, including a 2017 season finale that ended in a 42-34 overtime victory for the Tigers that Ward Rush said gave the team confidence heading into the offseason.

“I’d have to say the best momentum-builder there was just coming into halftime, I think we were all tired,” Rush said. “Everybody’s going both ways because we only have 13 players. We knew we had a chance, and we just finished it ...

“We’ve had more players coming out (since the win). That was the first time since I’ve been at the school that I’ve seen the fans get into a game, so that felt really good.”



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Good Luck All Teams!

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Fossett said the Tigers will be throwing multiple formations at their opponents on both sides of the ball.

"We're definitely going to be a run-heavy team," he said. "We do have the ability to throw the ball around ... For us to be able to line up, it all starts up front, and we've got a couple guys on the line that are doing well for us, Jared Horton and Brent Beard. They're kind of the leaders of our offensive line ...

"Defensively, we're going to get after you. We're going to show multiple fronts, depending on what they give us ... You may guess right against us, or you may guess wrong against us. Our goal is at the end of the night, they're going to know they played against a physical Comer team."

This year Comer moves from Region 6 to Region 3 in Class 3A.

"The region itself is a very tough region," Fossett said. "You look at Saks, who was in the third round of the 4A (playoffs) last year. Piedmont and Randolph County played each other in the semifinals to see who went to a state championship game. You throw in a Wellborn, Weaver and other



schools like that, you have a region that's very top-heavy. You have some unknowns like us, Pleasant Valley and Glencoe ...

"Every situation is unique, and for us,

we've got to worry about ourselves. We still have to play them. The region, it is what it is. We get Saks early, so we'll see early on how we compete against a school like that."

*Good Luck
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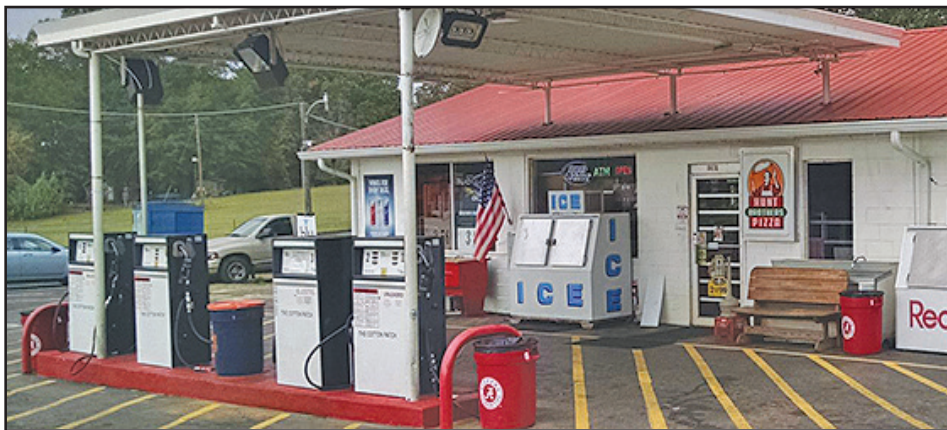
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ROSTER

No. Name

2	Jason McMillion	27	Rodney Looney
3	Justin Vincent	32	Jason Swain
4	Brian Bradford	33	Christopher Garrett
6	Rapheale Johnson	42	Hagan DeLee
8	Jerrod Looney	44	Dakota Watts
9	Adam Odum	50	Daniel Murphy
10	Tamar King	51	Alex Baird
11	Ward Rush	53	Jared Horton
12	Julius McCain	55	Blayne Spalding
13	Zackary Murphy	56	Brandon Blankenship
14	Khalil Wilson	64	Dakota McKinley
17	Keon Driver	65	Zachariah Carpenter
18	Dayleon Welch	66	J-Qwon Brownfield
19	Cordez Harris	72	Brent Beard
20	John Murphy	74	Corby McCain
21	Devonta Carmichael	75	Terryon Pope
22	Trent Roberson	76	Cole Murphy
24	Jordan Worsley	77	Hunter Harries
25	Jamarion Seals	78	Zach Mitchell

SPOTLIGHT



TAMAR KING

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

(Former Louisville quarterback) Lamar Jackson. He's my favorite football player because he's the captain of his team at quarterback. He's a captain of his team, he's fast and he's a good thrower.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

The Fayetteville game from last year; we won in overtime. We were down by halftime, but we tied it up despite only having 12 players on the team.

What are your post-high school plans?

I'm going to try to play college football.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Winning, going to the postseason and being a captain of this team.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like fishing and playing video games.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

Running.

What are three things that you can't live without?

Football, my mom and my dad.

What's a quote that you live by?

"Aspire to greatness."

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: B.B. Comer

HEAD COACH: Adam Fossett (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Justin Holmes, Kenvarius Weed, Dustin Ogle

KEY RETURNERS: Ward Rush, Tamar King, Brian Bradford

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

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 2-8 **POINTS SCORED:** 150 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 422

SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 at Saks, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 vs. Glencoe, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 at Randolph County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 vs. TC Central, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Walter Wellborn, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. Pleasant Valley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 vs. Weaver, 7 p.m.

Nov. 2 at Fayetteville, 7 p.m.



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Childersburg TIGERS

CLASS 4A
REGION 4



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Now entering his third season at Childersburg, Jonathan Beverly is hopeful the Tigers will continue the trend of improving each season. After missing the postseason his first season, Childersburg earned a berth in the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 4A playoffs with a 5-5 record last season.

Beverly is optimistic that his team will build off last year's success.

"We want to be better than we were in Year 2," he said. "Year 2 was a pretty good year for us. Tangibly speaking, we made the playoffs and that is something that we definitely wanted to accomplish, but in Year 3 we want to be better. We only want to get to a place where we can make the playoffs, but progress in the playoffs. Last year, it was an exit after the first round for us, so we want to get past that. This year, our goal is to keep climbing. I feel these guys have been putting in the work and we are in the position to do that."

The Tigers lost several key pieces from last season's team, including all-state receiver and UNA signee T.K. Kenebrew and Faulkner signee Jelan Kidd. Last season, the duo combined for over 2,800 yards of offense and 39 touchdowns.

With the offense taking a hit with the departure of their two game-changers, the Tigers will depend on their experienced defense that has eight starters back to carry the load.

"No doubt we had a great group of seniors last year. We had a lot of offensive production last year with a couple of those seniors,"

Beverly said. "We feel really good about what we have coming back. Spring practice showed that we could be really good defensively and I think the summer has continued to show that. Defensively, we have an opportunity to be a really good team on that side of the ball. Offensively, we have come to together throughout the spring and throughout the summer."

Austin Douglass will be the starting quarterback for the Tigers. The senior has seen some significant time at quarterback the past three seasons, but now it's his time to lead the offense.

"Getting to play young has really benefited me. It showed me what real game experience is like," he said. "It helped me build my character and play style. Even though I didn't do phenomenal in those games, it helped show what the competition is going to be like and what I need to work on at practice and throughout the week."

Beverly thinks what Douglass has experienced and displayed over the last few seasons has prepared him to have success as the signal caller.

"This is a guy that has battled the last three years," Beverly said. "Honestly, last year as a junior, we felt their were some times from a talent standpoint, mechanical standpoint that he was the best quarterback on our roster, but there were some other things that other guys brought to the table that we needed at that moment. Now as a senior, without a doubt I feel like he is ready and I feel like he is ready to thrive, not just be the guy just because he is a senior. I feel like he can thrive because of the work that he has put in. I feel really

Best of Luck to the Football Teams of

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Coosa Valley Academy, Fayetteville,
Sylacauga & Winterboro High Schools.**

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good about giving the keys to our offense to (him), because there is no doubt that he is battle-tested, no doubt that he knows our system. A couple weeks ago at Samford, he is getting ready to call the play before I could call the play. He knows when we are in the red zone that coach is going to call this play. He just knows it, he knows our system, he knows the rhythm of how I call plays, so that feels good as a play caller, because I know that we are on the same page. We are on the same page, because of the way he has handled himself over

the last few years.”

Douglass as well as the line on both sides of the ball will be major factors in the physical, fast and fun brand of football that Beverly wants to play this season. The Tigers return all four of their defensive lineman and four of their five offensive linemen from last year.

“Our main focus is we are going to be a physical team on both sides of the ball,” Beverly said. “We want to be a very physical defense and we want teams to leave on Friday nights knowing that they

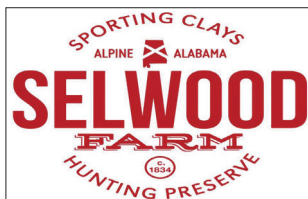
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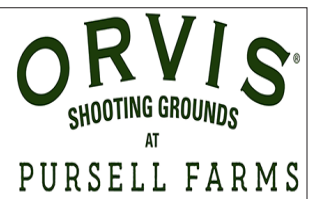
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played a real physical game. Offensively, we want to be physical. Austin (Douglass) does a great job of distributing the football down the field, but without a doubt it starts up front running the football. We want to be physical on both sides of the football. We want to be a punishing front on both sides of the football. Offense and defensive line play will be big for us."

For the first time in several seasons, the Tigers will be in a region that didn't feature a team that made a deep postseason run.

Realignment took two of the top teams in the state -- Munford and Tallassee -- out of the region and replaced them with Lincoln and Talladega. Leeds, Handley, Elmore County and Holtville still remain in the region.

Beverly said the additions to the region makes it one of the toughest in 4A. He also likes that they will have more meaningful county rivalries.

"Those are two teams that are coming down from 5A that are really good football teams and two well-coached football teams," he said. "It is a tough region and a talented region. Honestly, I love the fact that we are in such a region that you have to prepare each and every week. There are no off weeks, so I think it helps us stay in tune during the week ... I think it is fun for us to have inner-county rivals. Being able to add Lincoln and Talladega to the schedule, I think it is great for our fans and great for our community. I think it is great for our kids; they are going to have a lot of fun with it. It's great for our coaches, all of us know each other so it's fun to be able to play those guys that you know. Some of us have worked together so that is fun. We are really excited about it."

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SPOTLIGHT



AUSTIN DOUGLAS

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

My favorite players are Odell Beckham and Tom Brady. The Odell catch, I have the one-hand down pat. I got it. Tom Brady and I play the same position. I used to wear No. 12 and people always used to call me Tom Brady. I am not fast, I am not a running quarterback for sure. I am a throwing quarterback. I like Tom Brady; he is a winner.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Probably getting in against Andalusia. Justin got hurt and Jalen got hurt. Just coming into that pressure situation and playing in a playoff game was a lot of fun. It's a great memory to have.

What are your post-high school plans?

Right now, I plan on going to UAB. My brother is transferring there from a community college. I plan to go up there if I don't have scholarships or offers. I am going to go up there, live with him and go to school. I plan on becoming a physical therapist.

What motivates you to work hard?

My dad and my grandmother. My grandmother has beat breast cancer twice and

she has shown me that if she can do that, I can do anything as long as I put my mind to it and have the Lord. I give him all the praise. My dad pushes me every day, let's go to the gym, let's go workout, let's go throw. Every day we just keep working.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just to play football, it is the greatest game around. I love the excitement all the hype, the adrenaline you get in the games. There's nothing like it.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I love playing Fortnite, I love playing my PlayStation. I also love math. I take summer classes.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

Playing baseball, it is a different arm angle and you are using different muscles. It strengthens my whole shoulder instead of just reusing the muscles from throwing the football. It strengthens my shoulder, which increases my arm strength.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

I really wouldn't say that there is a worst part. The best part is the first day with pads on. It's nothing like it.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math

What are three things that you can't live without?

My phone, my family, and even though he is part of my family, I am going to say my brother. He makes sure that my head is on straight and that I am always doing what I am supposed to be doing.

What's a quote that you live by?

It's by Jerry Rice. "Do what others won't today, so tomorrow you can do what others can't."

ROSTER

No. Name

2 Austin Douglas
3 Maurice Bennett
4 William Foy
5 Marquese Duncan
6 Zay Youngblood
7 Darryl Bradford
8 Lamar Duncan
9 Desmond Phillips
10 Kishawn McKinney
11 Xavion Garrett
12 Desmond Pearson
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37 Javarus Embery
42 Peyton Pressley
50 Deangelo Morris
51 Jimmie Garrett
52 Keathen Keith
53 Courtney Gamble
55 Ryan Heath
56 Austin Reason
57 Andrew Chatman
58 Caleb Swain
59 Yancy Turner
60 Kishon Reynolds
61 Isaiah Rodger
62 Skyler Rice
63 Isaac McMillian
64 Isaiash Stamps
71 Andarrius Woody
72 Laquevenn Looney
75 Jaylon Cook
76 Zane Penrod
79 Zac Penrod
88 Emmanuel Percell-Traylor
90 Kanocheon Garrett

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Childersburg

HEAD COACH: Jonathan Beverly (third year)

KEY LOSSES: Jelan Kidd, Takairee Kenebrew, Justin Taylor

KEY RETURNERS: Terry Thomas, Austin Douglas

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 275 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 289

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 vs. Shelby County, 7 p.m.
Aug. 31 at TC Central, 7 p.m.
Sept. 7 vs. Talladega, 7 p.m.
Sept. 14 at Holtville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 21 vs. Handley, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 vs. Sylacauga, 7 p.m.
Oct. 12 at Elmore County, 7 p.m.
Oct. 19 vs. Lincoln, 7 p.m.
Oct. 26 at Leeds, 7 p.m.
Nov. 2 at Anniston, 7 p.m.

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Coosa Valley Academy

REBELS

AISA AA
REGION 1



By SHANE DUNAWAY

There is a lot of excitement around Coosa Valley Academy's football team entering the 2018 season. The Rebels new head coach Jamie Scruggs brought a new level of energy to the CVA community. Scruggs has helped turnaround programs at his three previous stops and he hopes it will do the same in Harpersville.

"I don't have a win number that we are trying to get to or anything like that," Scruggs said. "For me it is how they are competing. I know a lot people say that, but I am trying to teach them how to compete... We are trying to not focus on the results, but focus on what they need to do for what the standard is. (Alabama head) Coach (Nick) Saban uses the process, everyone talks about the process. Here is the standard, did you hit the standard on that play and if you did, I don't care about the results. I want them to fall in love with the idea of giving their utmost work ethic every single play. If they do that, the results will take care of themselves."

Scruggs has served as an offensive coordinator at

Calera, Chelsea and Vincent. In four seasons as the offensive coordinator with Calera, the school went 35-11, and its offense was the primary reason. In all four seasons, the Eagles averaged more than 31 points per game, including two seasons in which they averaged 42 and 45.

Scruggs will try to turn around an anemic Rebels offense that just managed to score 184 points in 11 games last season.

Scruggs said if the Rebels can execute, they have the potential to be as successful as some of his team in the past.

"Me and the coaches are just trying to put them in positions where they can be the most successful," he said. "I prayed about it, God help me put these guys in the position where they can be the most successful. Help me teach them what they need to do to glorify you with our worth ethic and the results fall where they do. Almost everybody is learning new positions, so there is a learning curve that needs to happen there, but really that's the goal. It is not about points, if we put together eight plays where we are out working the other team we will probably score.

That is how we are trying to do it and that's how we did it at the other places. I don't see why our guys won't try to rise up to that standard here, too."

The Rebels offense will be in the hands of freshman quarterback Brayson Edwards. Scruggs has worked with the 6-foot-1 signal caller over the past few summers. Even though Edwards doesn't have any varsity experience, Scruggs is confident to that Edwards has the tools to lead the Rebels to victories.

"We have a really young quarterback, a freshman, but he is a good one," he said. "I worked with him during the offseason that last two years. That's before when I was his coach. I have known him and his family for a long time. When he was a seventh-grader during the spring and summer, he was out there learning three-step drops and how to roll to his right. He is a freshman, but he has been a quarterback and learning how to be a quarterback for several years now."

One of the things that will help the Rebels' freshman

quarterback is their massive offensive line. CVA's linemen average weight is 270 pounds.

"We have an offensive that averages 270 and I am thinking that may be our strength," he said. "That's big and they can move. Going into the season, I think that is strength. You have a 270-pound offensive line; we are going to be able to run the ball behind those guys. In our 7-on-7s, our receivers were going up and catching the ball and our quarterback was throwing dimes. I feel good about that part, too. I am excited about our offense."

No matter what happens on the field this season, Scruggs wants everybody in attendance to be able to tell who the Rebels are playing for.

"I want them to know that they have been at a Christian school," he said. "I want to see that from the time before the coin toss. I want them to see kids that are acknowledging God and praising Him for the abilities that they have been given."



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KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Coosa Valley Academy

HEAD COACH: Jamie Scruggs (first year)

KEY LOSS: Mason Houston, Chase Carlee, Austin Bynum

KEY RETURNERS: Tripp Allen, Camden Knight

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-8 **POINTS SCORED:** 184 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 396

SCHEDULE

Aug. 17 at Hooper Academy, 7 p.m.

Aug. 24 vs. Pickens Academy, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 at Kingwood, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 vs. Autauga Academy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 at Lakeside, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 at Lowndes Academy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 vs. Cornerstone, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Edgewood Academy, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. Springwood, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 vs. Evangel Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 at Southern Academy, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No. Name

1. Jacob Brooks

3. Jackson Bryant

4. Cody Eades

7. Carson Alexander

10. Kaleb Allen

11. Brayson Edwards

13. Tripp Allen

14. Caleb Boackle

15. Judson Eades

18. Christian Marler

20. Lucas Bynum

21. Reid Maddox

23. Cole Davis

27. Joseph Valenti

28. Justin Tate

34. Gavin Curren

50. Sammy Shepard

52. Harley Gerald

57. Logan Cairnes

60. Walt Watson

62. Jakob Laddie

64. Nico Deanna

65. Drake Stiles

66. Nicholas Shepard

68. Mack Palmour

72. Austin Brooks

78. Johnny Cates

81. Jackson Armstrong



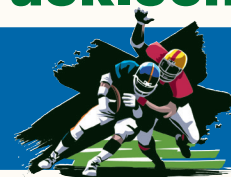
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SPOTLIGHT



TRIP ALLEN

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

Cam Newton. He loves all of his players and he has their back 100 percent.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

When Chase Carlie caught the game winning touchdown right here at home against Kingwood.

What are your post-high school plans?

I am going to try to go to college and get a degree. I am hoping I can go somewhere to play football or baseball.

What motivates you to work hard?

Everybody on the team, which is my family. I want everybody on the team to be family.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I want the team to become a family.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I work a lot so I don't get

to do much, but when I do I like to hang out with my football family and get that connection.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps me with everything. I work out every day. It makes my speed get better and I get a connection with everybody.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

Conditioning is the worst. The best is after we had a hard day of work at practice, we all get in the circle and talk about what we did. We pray about it and get a good connection.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math, the place I work at, all we do is math.

What are three things that you can't live without?

God, my family supporting me in everything I do and my coaches. Ever since I started school, my coaches have led me in the right way with my parents.

What's a quote that you live by?

"Hard work pays off."



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area teams this season!



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Fayetteville WOLVES

CLASS 2A
REGION 4



By SHANE DUNAWAY

It's doubtful Fayetteville High School's football team wants an instant replay of its 2017 season, but the Wolves will have instant replay for the upcoming season.

Fayetteville will be the only school in The Daily Home's coverage area to implement instant replay technology during games in 2018. Wolves head coach John Limbaugh said when the Alabama High School Athletic Association approved the replay initiative, it was a "hallelujah" moment and while he wasn't a fan of instant replay in other sports, he supported it for football.

"In football, it's the hardest sport to be played ..." he said. "It's the most competitive, the most physical sport and the greatest sport in the South. (For) those kids that are laying it on the line every game, you want that call to be correct. Could it go against us? Of course, but that's life. We're excited about it."

The Wolves endured a rough campaign in 2017 that ended

with nine straight losses at the hands of Class 2A, Region 5 foes and in-county rivals Winterboro and B.B. Comer. Limbaugh said while his team had some successes in terms of building character and player development, those gains did not translate on the field.

"Did we own the field of play with the win-loss column? No, absolutely not," he said. "We're not satisfied with that. We've won a (region) championship, and we want to get back to that. That's our goal this year is the playoffs."

Limbaugh said his players have had a great summer in the weight room.

"You know, a lot of coaches have to beg their kids to come to workouts," he said. "A lot of coaches have to get in their cars and go get them because mommy and daddy won't bring them. I haven't had to say one word to our kids all summer. They've all been there."

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to be their football coach and proud of the way they're leading."

Fayetteville players began their summer with a boot camp experience at Fort McClellan.

"I think we were really good as a team at Fort McClellan because that's really what they pushed (us toward)," senior tight end Zach Roberts said. "They'd tell us, 'Do you want to go 1-9 again, or do you want to make your goals?' I think that really encourages us to say, 'Hey, let's get it together and let's work for a common goal. Let's do this.'"

The Wolves return junior quarterback Blake Machen, who Limbaugh said has shown strides in 7-on-7s during the summer after a season weathering the storm and taking his lumps.

"Blake's improved tremendously," Limbaugh said. "He was playing against some of the best teams in 2A football last year, in my opinion. I think it was the hardest 2A football schedule in the state of Alabama. When you're playing against the Lanetts, LaFayettes and Reeltowns of the world right out the gate your first year under center, it's a tough row to hoe."

Machen said he had a rough year in 2017, but he's eager to improve.

"I was nervous playing big teams like Lanett and Reeltown and stuff like that," he said. "I'd had a lot of ups and downs. We went 1-9 last year, and when we got to summer, I was determined. I was going to work out and be really good next year, get my arm stronger, read the field better and make smart plays.

Going to that boot camp this year, my team really lifted me up to being a leader. We all came together as one for one goal, and that's the playoffs."

Fayetteville's road seemingly is a little easier now that the Wolves won't have to face Lanett, last season's 2A state champion, or fourth-seeded Ranburne following a realignment into Region 4 that saw those teams exit and Thorsby enter the mix.

"No love lost there (for Lanett)," Limbaugh said. "Those guys won the state, so we played against a state champion. We played a tough game the year before and gave them all they wanted. We really did, and we were a hare's breath away from winning that ballgame.

"Last year was tough for us, but these guys have gone down to 1A, if you didn't know that. Congratulations to them for going back down to 1A. They'll probably win that, too."

While Limbaugh had to replace senior running back Cody Pate, he'll have another senior Pate in 2018 -- slot receiver and defensive back Jon Dalton Pate.

"I couldn't ask for any more out of a kid," Limbaugh said. "He's going to be that all-county type kid who is going to be playing at that next level. He's that type of kid, and I just can't say enough good things about the way he's addressing himself, his character (and) the way he's working hard. He exemplifies what we're expecting out of the student athletes."

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SPOTLIGHT



ZACK ROBERTS

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

I want to say Baker Mayfield. I love his confidence and love his swagger when he's out there on the field. If you don't have the confidence that he has, then it's not going to fun. You've got to have confidence. You've got to talk a little bit of smack and have some fun out there. That's what I like about him.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My greatest football moment was actually at my previous school. I went to Autauga Academy, and I was a freshman that year. I started all 12 games of the year and ended up going to the second round of the playoffs.

What are your post-high school plans?

My post-high school plans is to either go play football at the next level ... or I'm going into the military. I've contemplated going into the military a couple times. My dad was in the Air Force and went to Germany at 19 (years old). I aspire to be like him.

What motivates you to work hard?

It would have to be my parents and everybody telling me "You can do this" or "You can do that."

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward to how the season goes and how many games we're going to win because I believe this team can win five, six or seven games because of how much we actually want it. We want to see where we can go with this.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I would have to say fishing and hunting with my dad, hanging out with my friends and hanging out with my girlfriend are the stuff outside of sports that I enjoy doing.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

Baseball keeps me in shape and keeps me from sitting around the house not doing anything. During basketball season, I'm always on the field running or doing something with baseball or football.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The best part is probably the first whole practice you're out there the day you're back at football and you're doing what you love. Probably the worst part is when it's 110 degrees out there, you're in helmets, and you're hot and tired, but you've got to push through it.

What's your favorite school subject?

My favorite school subject is history. I love to learn about what has happened in the past and the different people who were around it.

What are three things that you can't live without?

I can't live without my phone, my family and sports.

What's a quote that you live by?

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take."

ROSTER

No Name

1	Levi Phillips	44	Grayson Scales
3	Daurian Cook	51	Austin Jones
7	Jon Dalton Pate	52	Aidan Hill
9	Hunter Hill	54	Dakota Ogle
10	Kolter Usrey	55	Colton Guy
11	Lane Gardner	56	Blake Ritchey
12	Blake Machen	64	Trevor Deloach
13	Luke White	65	Rhett Hayes
14	Lawson Adams	66	Tanner Harry
15	Chandler Earley	76	Lucas Byrd
18	Jacob Vice	82	Wesley Lansford
25	Dustin Wilson	83	Laine Moore
26	Seth Limbaugh	88	Zachary Roberts
33	Brady Ritchey		
35	Payne Cardwell		
38	Lane Hayes		

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Fayetteville

HEAD COACH: John Limbaugh (seventh year)

KEY LOSSES: Cody Pate, Cody Terrell, James Hendrick

KEY RETURNERS: Jon Dalton Pate, Blake Machen, Zach Roberts

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

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 1-9 **POINTS SCORED:** 124 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 369

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 at Woodland, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 vs. Reeltown, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 vs. Coosa Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 vs. Holy Spirit, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at LaFayette, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 at Thorsby, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 vs. Horseshoe Bend, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 at Vincent, 7 p.m.

Nov. 2 vs. B.B.Comer, 7 p.m.

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Lincoln

GOLDEN BEARS

CLASS 4A
REGION 4



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Matt Zedaker took several positives away from his first season as Lincoln head football coach.

The Golden Bears struggled, finishing 1-9 and missing the playoffs for only the second time in seven seasons.

Even though the Golden Bears had a tough year on the field, Zedaker was encouraged by how his team continued to compete even when it did not have anything to play for except pride.

“We didn’t make the playoffs, but what I hope what people

say is even though we were mathematically eliminated from those, we were still in every game,” the coach said. “To their credit through the culture we are trying to build, we were in every game that we played up to Game 10.

“That’s a tremendous motivation to our coaching staff and for these young men, to get Lincoln back in the playoffs. We are going to take it one game at a time, and when those region games come back, we have to approach those like it is a playoff-type atmosphere. We will learn from last year and build on it.”

Finishing was a problem for the Golden Bears in 2017.



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Last season, while in Class 5A, Lincoln dropped four games by seven points or less. Lack of depth seemed to be costly as the Golden Bears had several players going both ways.

"We were the eighth smallest school in 5A," Zedaker said. "We finished the year with 38 players, and right now, we are going to start the season with 70. That makes a big difference that probably contributed to us losing the lead in

fourth quarter, the numbers aspect."

This season, the Golden Bears dropped to 4A, which is something Zedaker is elated about. The second-year coach said being in 4A gives his squad a better chance to compete, but it also comes at the expense of playing two of the top programs in the state in Leeds and Handley.

Zedaker said moving down is a "double-edged sword"

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and believes his team's new region may be the toughest in the state in 4A.

"(You have) Childersburg with Coach (Jonathan) Beverly, who is doing an excellent job of putting them in the playoffs," Zedaker said. "You have a Talladega team that we lost to in overtime (last year). Coach (Ted) Darby is doing an outstanding job with them. It is tough because we are in the unknown with Holtville and Elmore County, which just got a new coach.

"We are excited about the opportunity. We feel like we can match up better with our numbers now. It is a learning process on both sides of it. We are looking to take that next step this year."

Lincoln lost several of its playmakers from last season, including quarterback Earl Wells. Lincoln will turn to junior Javion Surles to lead its spread option attack this fall. The 6-foot-1 quarterback has the potential to make big plays with his arm and his legs.

"He was our starting cornerback last year," Zedaker said. "He is a tremendous athlete, he is a two-sport athlete ... He is a pure, raw talent with a tremendous amount of ability. He will probably be our starter. We have some wrinkles that we can work in with other athletes there."

Lincoln's most inexperienced group from last season will be looked upon as its strength this season. Both the offensive and defensive line return almost intact. Zedaker lauds the improvements that both units have made during the offseason.

"(Last year), we started five offensive linemen that had never played a snap on Friday night," Zedaker said. "Our defensive line, we had one starter back, and the rest of them had never played on a Friday night. We were tremendously talented in our skill set.

"We graduated a ton of that skill -- three of those guys were fortunate enough to go to the next level.

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SPOTLIGHT



DALTON GOWER

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

J.J. Watt. I like his intensity.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Last year, I got hurt in my fifth game. This offseason coming back and grinding has helped me grow as a player.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go play college football somewhere. I got invited to play in the Blue-Grey All-American game at Dallas Cowboy Stadium. Hopefully, I will show out and show off my talents.

What motivates you to work hard?

My mom. She played basketball at Jacksonville State. She had to work hard all of her life. She has installed her work ethic into me.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I want to see how our guys are going to produce and what the outcome is going to be.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I play the guitar. I have been playing for five or six

months.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It keeps you on your toes, it keeps you healthy and active all year.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

Learning the plays, everybody learning and syncing together is the worst part because it is a learning curve. The best part is once get that bond, everything will be stronger in your game. Everybody will be on the same page.

What's your favorite school subject?

Science, because I want to be a nurse when I get out of college. I like to study the human body and the functions of it.

What are three things that you can't live without?

My truck, my phone and church.

What's a quote that you live by?

I have a favorite Bible verse. Isaiah 40:31. "For those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and they shall walk and not faint."

ROSTER

No Name

1. Shamar Hampton
2. Tre Garrett
3. Joc Howard
4. Keyshon Townsend
5. Eziyah Carter
6. Javion Surles
7. Montez Hall
8. Jeremy Lane
9. Brian Garrett
10. Siete Garrett
11. Quintin Cotton
12. Cam Reynolds
13. Chase White
14. MK Swain
15. Jarrod McBurnett
17. Nick Pope
18. Dazhone Finley
19. Michael Morris
20. Jack Poarch
21. Tyler Stallworth
22. Dawson Stanford
23. Rodney Bagsby
24. Tre Wilson
25. Anthony Gallimore
26. Steve Hines
27. Jamichael Johnson
28. Kyle Patterson
29. Tre Hines
30. Tae Elston

31. Jai Tanner
32. Corion Kelley
33. Nick Munroe
34. Kendrick Truss
35. Luke Collier
36. Nick Robinson
38. Hunter Johnson
40. Nigel Williams
41. Brayden Watson
42. David Jacobs
45. Peyton Miller
48. Zac Wren
50. Javon Ward
51. Dalton Gowers
52. Isaac Britt
53. Zion McCluney
54. Steven White
55. Kevon Moore
56. LeBreyton Looney
58. Trey Scott
59. Zay Ragland
60. Kaden McKenzie
61. Jayden Wilson
63. Marcus Sego
64. Gavin Gaddis
65. Brodie Williams
66. Ethan Hushour
67. Bryson Bean
68. Malakai Straw
69. Julian Sanchez
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This year, we feel our strength is our line coming back. Our entire offensive line is intact, and they have worked tremendously hard in the offseason. That group probably leads our team more than anybody. We are really going to lean on them this year.”

Zedaker also expects the defense to be improved. The Golden Bears allowed 396 points, which was a team record, a year ago. Zedaker believes getting some of the younger players valuable playing time last season will pay off.

“We got some key guys returning, but when you are in a season like we were last year with 38 players, you have a lot of kids playing ball,” Zedaker said. “You could look ... at the end of last season and see two to four freshmen on the field. What we developed last year in that losing season in game time ... on Friday night under the lights is going to be a strength for us this year. We have a lot of kids that played that will be able to build off that experience.”

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Lincoln

HEAD COACH: Matt Zedaker (second year)

KEY LOSSES: Montrell Johnson, Earl Wells, Quinn Carter

KEY RETURNERS: Javion Surles, Dalton Gowers, Jarrod McBurnett

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

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 1-9 **POINTS SCORED:** 263 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 396

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 vs. Southside-Gadsden, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 at Wellborn, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 at Leeds, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 vs. Talladega, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 vs. Munford, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Holtville, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 vs. Handley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 at Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 vs. Elmore County, 7 p.m.

Nov. 2 at Montevallo, 7 p.m.



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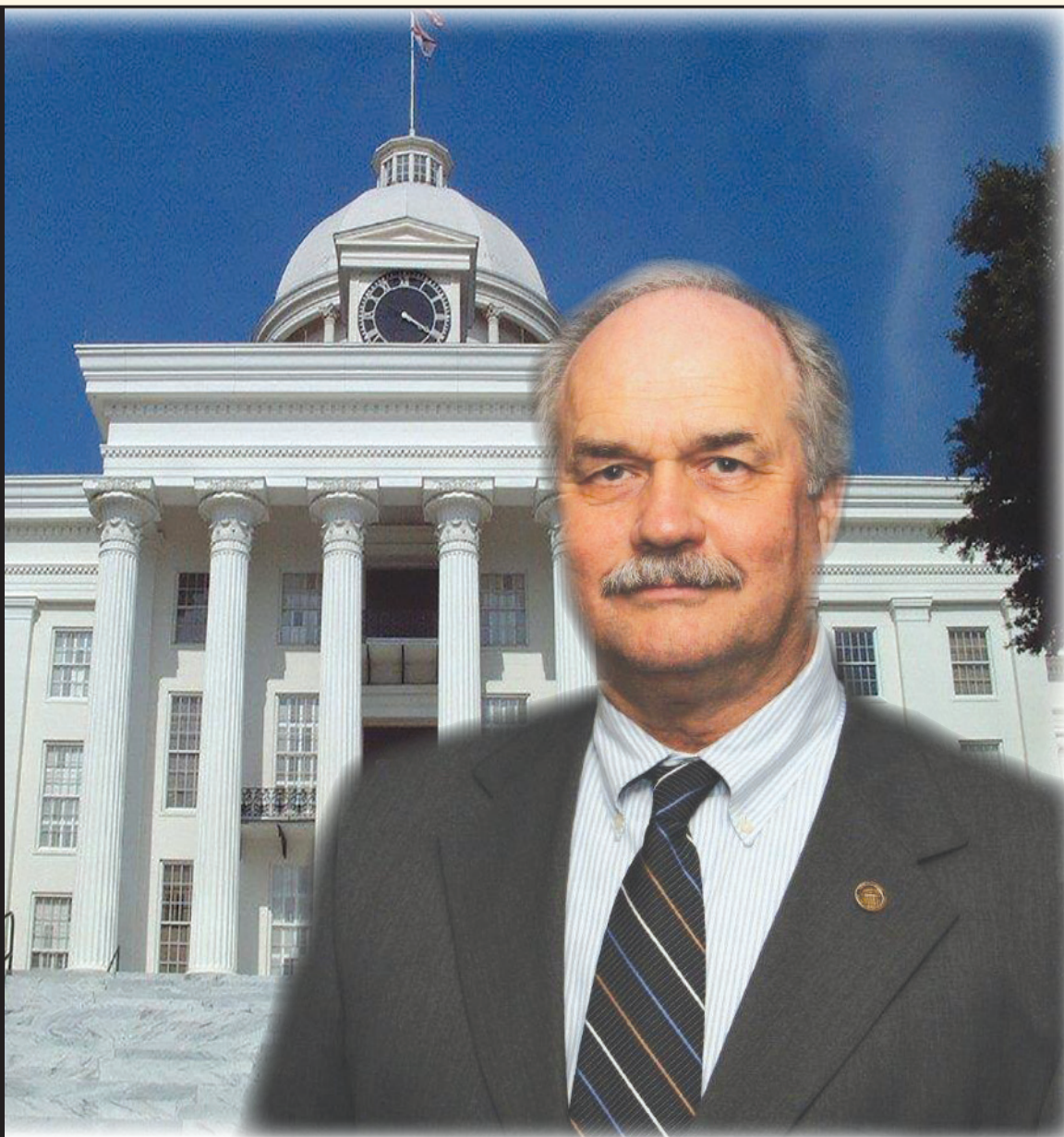
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Munford LIONS

CLASS 5A
REGION 5



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Munford High School football team enters the 2018 season in unfamiliar territory. For the first time in Bill Smith era the Lions will have to replace both of his coordinators as well as having their best player transfer.

Smith who is entering his fourth season at the helm at Munford said he is prepared to face these new challenges.

"This has been the summer of adversity," Smith said. "One thing that you always know is that things don't stay the same... There have been some changes, but I have been able to get some new coaches. I had to shift some things in my coaching staff, but overall, we had a great summer. Adversity reveals character."

Along with the coaching changes, Munford lost a talented senior class as well as junior Zay Britt who transferred to Oxford. Britt was one of the most electrifying players in the state last season. Britt lined up all over the field for the Lions. As a receiver, he recorded 50 catches for 788 yards and 10 touchdowns. As a running back, he rushed for 303 yards and 10 TDs on 30 carries. Britt was also a weapon for the Lions' special teams unit. He had six punt returns for 252 yards and three scores.

"Zay and Warren Britt are outstanding young men," Smith said. "We love them and we wish them nothing but the best. We wish them well. I don't know if we can replace that production, but we will try to adapt. Maybe our personality will be a little different, maybe we will run the ball more, maybe we will use more of the short passing game. When you have a young man that's two time all state and a Max Prep All-American that has seven offers. If he was 5-foot-10, 5-foot-11, he would have multiple SEC offers that's coming from an Alabama and Clemson coach."

Britt's departure also changes what the Lions will do at the quarterback position.

"Right now, we are going to be depending on 10th grader Jay Tuck," Smith said. "He had an outstanding summer. He is going

to be really good and I am excited about him. We are going to bring him on slow and not put too much on him to start the year in such high-profile games. He is going to be a good quarterback for us. I've been fortunate to have good quarterback and I feel the system we run is quarterback friendly. We feel like we can adapt. People ask what kind of spread offense do you run, I think the trick for any head coach or coordinator is to adapt your offense or defense around your personnel."

In addition to the changes to have new faces on the sideline Munford will be playing in 5A this season for the first time in school history.

"Our motto is next man up, so these guys got a lot of starts under their belt," Smith said. "Quite a few other guys have playing experience and have started in a number of games. We are in uncharted waters in 5A. I joke about being the only 5A school in the state without a permanent red light, but it is what it is. We are in 5A north, I feel like from the top to the bottom the most competitive 5A region in the state."

Munford will play in 5A, Region 5 against Sylacauga, Central Clay County, Center Point, Moody, Springville, Mortimer Jordan and St. Clair County team that reached the semifinals last season.

"When we first got the news that we were going to 5A north, I had the preconceived notion to be happy about it, then I found out Central Clay County would be in there," Smith said. "It's a larger swath across the state going from Central Clay County to Sylacauga all the way to Mortimer Jordan. It is an eight-team region and I feel like it is very competitive week in and week out. I feel like anybody can win on any given night. We will have to play well every Friday night."

Even though it seems like everything has changed for the Lions over the last several months what they want to accomplish this season is the same as the past seasons. Munford looks to make the postseason for the seventh season in a row.

"Our goal is every week to play our best," Smith said. "We want to make the playoff and we want to see how far we can go

in the playoffs. Right now, that is really what we are focused on."

One of the units that be vital in the Lions success this season is their defense. Munford lost several key players upfront but they their secondary and linebackers have game changing abilities. Last season, Munford only allowed 119 points in 11 games last season.

"We have a really good linebacker core," Smith said." Pernell Mitchell is a three-year starter for us at Mike linebacker, he has a Jacksonville State University offer. His leadership to lead the defense and be physical is awesome. Along side our linebacker we have Justin Sistrunk, we also have Rodney Groce, Both of those guys on the outside. Lance Smith will be a first-year starter and he will be solid. Cam is an outstanding safety and he will be the quarterback of our defense. Kyle Ross will be at strong safety, he has really good speed and he has an Alabama A&M offer. We feel our safeties and linebackers are our strong suit."

Munford will open the season against Oxford on Aug.24.



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KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Munford

HEAD COACH: Bill Smith (fourth year)

KEY LOSSES: Zay Britt, Marshall Clark, Tanner Reeves

KEY RETURNERS: Justin Sistrunk, Rodney Groce Jr., Kyle Ross

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

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 9-2 **POINTS SCORED:** 363 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 119

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 vs. Oxford, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 vs. Talladega, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 at Central Clay County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 vs. Center Point, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 vs. Springville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at Lincoln, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Moody, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. Mortimer Jordan, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 at St. Clair County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 vs. Sylacauga, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No Name

1. Jay Tuck

4. Dreke Dorman

5. Cameron Lemons

6. Rodney Groce

7. Pernell Mitchell

8. Conor Morgan

9. L.J. Flint

10. Ethan Swinford

11. Reshard Russell

12. Caleb Cotton

12. Dre Simmons

14. Lance Smith

15. Carson Tyree

16. T.D. Parker

17. Ontarius Toyer

18. Justin Sistrunk

19. Anthony Stevens

21. Kyle Ross

22. Caderio Holland

23. Drew Harkins

24. T.J. Johnson

28. Damon Casey

29. Cole Roberts

30. Peyton Gaither

32. Corbin Smith

33. MyKhal Thompson

34. Garrett Foshee

35. Landey Bradford

36. Jacolby Young

37. Dalton Osborne

40. Terrance Reynolds

42. Jake Tyree

45. Robert Mayer

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71. Kyler Gibson

72. Jaiden Tipton

73. Maccon Griffin

74. Payton Graben

75. Jackson Dunaway

77. Carson McGuire

79. Jayden Tucker

80. Austin Williams

82. Jay Anderson

87. Jose Arroyo

SPOTLIGHT



PAYTON GRABEN

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

Jalen Hurt. He is the definition of a leader to me. The way he stays composed.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Getting to start last year.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan to go to college.

What motivates you to work hard?

Keeping Munford on the map.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

To see what we have

in store because lost a big senior class last year.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It keeps me active, so that I don't get lazy.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The best part is being with my teammates, the worst part is running.

What's your favorite school subject?

History, I like to learn about the past.

What are three things that you can't live without?

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Pell City PANTHERS

CLASS 6A
REGION 6



By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Wayne Lee era is officially underway at Pell City High School.

Lee takes over a Panthers program that was realigned to Class 6A, Region 6, which features Clay-Chalkville, Pinson Valley, Oxford, Shades Valley and Gardendale.

Lee said he knows his team is facing an uphill battle, but the Panthers are prepared for the challenge.

"It's been a lot of fun, starting in the spring. They have really worked hard for me," Lee said. "They really got in here and got after it. They have embraced the new region that we are in.

"We know it is a challenge, we understand that, but they are

really looking forward to going out there and competing. We get to see some really good players and we are going to get the opportunity to probably play, at some point in time, the No. 1-, No. 2- and No. 3-ranked teams in the state, maybe in our region. ... That's a big challenge, but we are looking forward to it."

Lee takes over for Keith Etheredge, who spent two seasons at Pell City. Etheredge went 12-10 with the Panthers before leaving to take the job at TR Miller.

This is Lee's first stint as a head coach since the 2008. He spent 10 seasons as Pinson Valley head coach before coming to Pell City as an assistant.

"It has been fun. I have a great group of coaches out here,"

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Lee said. "I have moved some up, and that has been fun. Those kids have really responded to these guys, they are working hard and they are here every day."

The Panthers went 6-5 in 2017 and fell to Shades Valley in the first round of the Alabama High School Athletic Association 6A playoffs. Pell City has made the postseason in five of the past six seasons. For Lee, continuing that playoff streak is the goal going into the season.

"Every year, we want to make it to the playoffs," the coach said. "Some people will sit up and say state championships and this, that and another, but you have to get to the playoffs first."

"When you get to the playoffs, it is a one-game (elimination matchup each week) for everybody; you don't know what's going to happen, but you have to get there."

"Right now, it is about getting in. It is a challenge in our region, there are a lot of good teams in it. That's the way it falls, but we are going to compete and see what happens."

The Panthers' inexperienced players will have to be prepared to make an impact immediately if they are going to accomplish their goal of making the postseason. Pell City has four returners on the offensive side of the ball. Going into the season, Pell City's defense may be its strength. There are eight returners on that side.

"We have a lot of people coming back on defense, and the defense over the last several years, the scheme has stayed

intact," Lee said. "These guys have been playing in the same scheme for four or five years now. ... The offense has had some changes, and they are having to catch up, and there are some younger kids out there on offense."

One of the new faces on offense will be at quarterback. The Panthers entered fall camp with a quarterback battle between Mitchell Gossett and Colton Fincher. Lee said leadership will play a role in determining who will start the first game of the season against Fort Payne on Aug. 24.

"It is a competition, and that is the thing that we wish we could have at every position," Lee said. "We fully believe competition brings out the best in everybody. Right now, these two are doing a good job, they are splitting reps."

"Whoever wins the battle, there is going to be playing time at other positions, whether it is on defense, receiver or whatever for the other guy."

Darius Garrett is one of the four starters returning on offense. The senior running back was the leading rusher for Pell City last fall. Garrett has high expectations going into the season.

"I just want to help our team win," Garrett said. "I want to get a lot of yards and score a lot of touchdowns. I have to do what I need to do to help me accomplish my goals."

With several traditional powerhouses in the region, Pell City is expected to struggle in region play. Garrett said he wants

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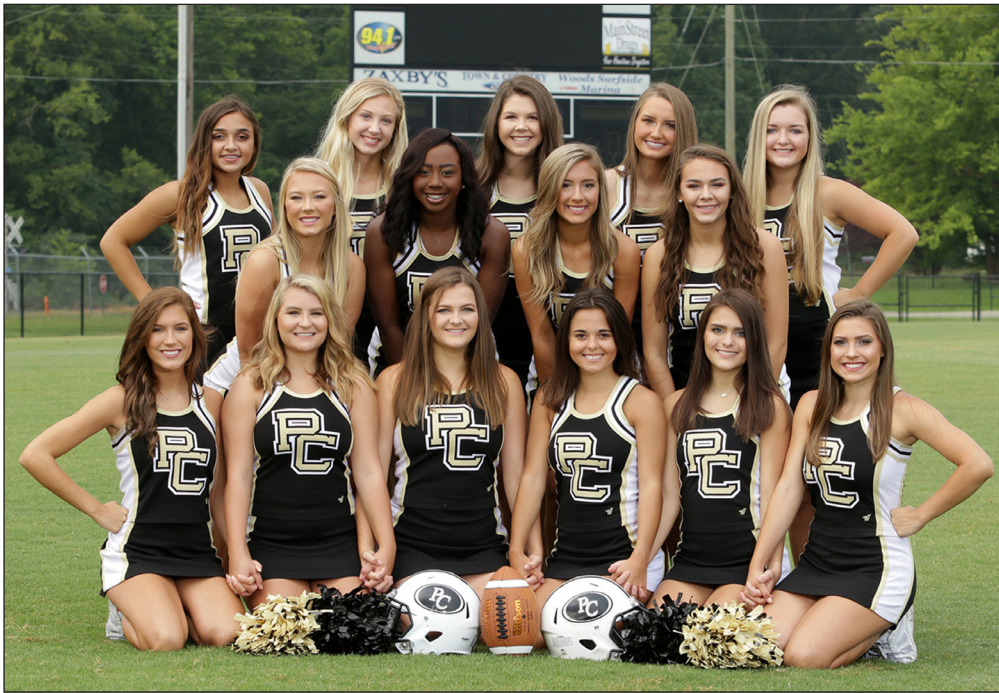
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the team to prove all its naysayers wrong in 2018.

"We are out here working hard because we know that we are playing good teams that can make it to the playoffs," Garrett said. "People are doubting us, but we are working hard to prove people wrong. We want to get everybody out here to watch us. We have to make sure we are working hard, stepping up and being a leader out here."



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GREAT YEAR!



Blakeley
Goodgame



000256459r1

SPOTLIGHT

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

Ray Lewis is a pretty good dude. I like his story of where he came from and how he overcame his obstacles. He didn't want to go back to where he was from.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My favorite moment was the Cullman game (a 19-16 win) from last season. We went to two overtimes and we were just fighting them. It took a lot of heart. I like games where it comes down to the heart and who can fight all the way down to the end. It is kind of like life, stuff is going to get hard, but it is going to see how you can take it.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan on going to play college ball somewhere and major in criminal justice.

What motivates you to work hard?

This team. I have been here for so long and I have grown up with these guys. We have been fighting like dogs together since we were kids playing pee-wee. You just make a bond with your team, and it is hard to let them down.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I look forward to playing these bigger teams. It is going to get everybody more exposure. We can shock the world. We are going to come out and roll like we have been and show them what we got.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like deer hunting and fishing.



AVERY WEISS

That's all I do.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The best part is being motivated to come out here to get the games going. Everybody looks forward to playing the game. Practicing has gotten better. I like practice more than I used to, because when your time is running out, all you want to do is practice. There is no worst part. The way I see it, conditioning only helps us get better.

What's your favorite school subject?

I like science.

What are three things that you can't live without?

The Lord helps you in multiple ways, so you can't live without him. My family and phone.

What's a quote that you live by?

"How do you want to be remembered?" You can sit out here and do whatever you want. You can try to be the best or the worst. How do you want to go out? Do you want to go out on top, do you want to be that guy that people talk about? How bad do you want to go out on top?"

ROSTER

No Name

1 Collier Slovensky
2 Bryant Freeman
3 Clay Hardie
4 Mitchell Gossett
5 Baylor Smith
6 Kolton Fincher
7 Conner McCombs
8 Clayton Rich
9 Kentrell Borden
10 Harrison Faughsnaugh
12 Ian Crow
13 Gannon Osborne
14 Christian Howard
15 Carson Walker
16 Brody Eades
17 Jarod Posey
19 Tillman Patterson
20 Bryson Clough
21 David Keith
22 Darius Garrett
23 Matt Frey
24 Ethan Bynum
25 Brett Staples
26 Dylan Thomas
27 Darius Posey
28 Anthony Emerick
29 Joseph Carslile
30 Caden Graham
31 Isiah Bedford
32 Noah Doss
33 Will Thomaston
35 Austin Funderburg
36 Andrew Williams
38 Darion Posey
39 Zach Diogardi

40 Matt Weems
42 Brandon Jaks
43 Paul Kirk
44 Tyler Parker
45 Aries Woolsey
46 Ethan Jett
48 Tanner Clowdus
50 Mason Barnes
51 Tyler Maze
52 Adam Lee
54 Braden Obar
55 Tyrone Bush
56 Avery Weiss
57 Christian Whaley
58 Zach Dugger
59 Luke Hall
60 Jonah Ledlow
61 Jacob Smith
63 Jon David Freeman
64 Colvin Foster
70 Cam McGowin
71 Jalen Gilbert
72 Justin Isbell
74 Will Pittman
75 Ryan Alldridge
79 Gage Andrews
80 Colby Isbell
81 Isac Isbell
82 Landon Smith
83 Austin Isbell
84 Blaze Isbell
85 Kaylon Sanders
86 Isiah Bossie
88 Noah Parker
89 Adhius Burton
92 Jacob Fomby

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Pell City

HEAD COACH: Wayne Lee (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Sergio Alvarez, Gaitlin Roberson, Maleek Robinson

KEY RETURNERS: Darrius Garrett, Avery Weiss, Collier Slovensky

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2016/17 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 6-5 POINTS SCORED: 234 POINTS ALLOWED: 270

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 vs. Fort Payne, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 vs. Calera, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 at Oxford, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 vs. Gardendale, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 vs. Huffman, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Etowah, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. Clay Chalkville, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 at Pinson Valley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 at Shades Valley, 7 p.m.

Nov. 2 at Chelsea, 7 p.m.

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Good Luck
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A portrait of Randy Wood, a man with a mustache wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is positioned in the foreground, with the Alabama State Capitol building in the background. The building features a large dome and a portico with several columns.

**Randy
WOOD**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 36**



Ragland PURPLE DEVILS

CLASS 1A
REGION 5



By GARY HANNER

After spending the last two years as defensive coordinator at Ragland High School, Derrick Sewell is now the Purple Devils' new head football coach.

This is the first time Sewell has been a head football coach, and he said he's thankful.

"First of all, I am thankful to God that He decided a long time ago that this was His plan for me," he said. "I am very thankful to my wife and family for allowing me to pursue this dream. I am thankful to my principal, Jennifer Ball. I'm just very thankful for the opportunity."

Sewell, 31, attended Sylvania High School through halfway of his junior year where he played football, basketball and baseball. He transferred to Ft. Payne High School where he graduated in 2005. He received a football scholarship to Kentucky Wesleyan, a Division II college, where he was a receiver.

Last year, Ragland finished the season 5-6. The year before that, the Purple Devils finished 7-4. Both years they lost in the opening round of the state playoffs.

When asked what it will take to win a first round game and move on to the second round, Sewell said it's a matter of taking

care of the week-to-week business.

"In the past, we have said we can beat this team, this team and that team in order to match up with a certain team in the playoffs," he said. "That's all fine on paper, but what can help us to advance to the second round of the state playoffs is beating Ashville the first game of the season."

The Purple Devils are in Class 1A, Region 5 along with Appalachian, Donoho, Spring Garden, Talladega County Central, Victory Christian and Winterboro.

Sewell said each team in the region will be better, and they all have great athletes. He said the team to beat in the region would be Spring Garden due to the level of success they've had in recent years.

"They will probably be the team to beat just because of the reputation they bring to the region," he said.

Ragland lost 12 seniors to graduation last year, many of whom started for the Purple Devils. There are six seniors on this year's squad. Sewell said key players returning include Jaylen Byers, Hunter Day, LaDarius Spikes, Josh Phillips, Brody Bice, Elijah Ball, Nathaniel Kelly and Travis Schall.

Team strengths, according to Sewell, include more depth than in the past few years.

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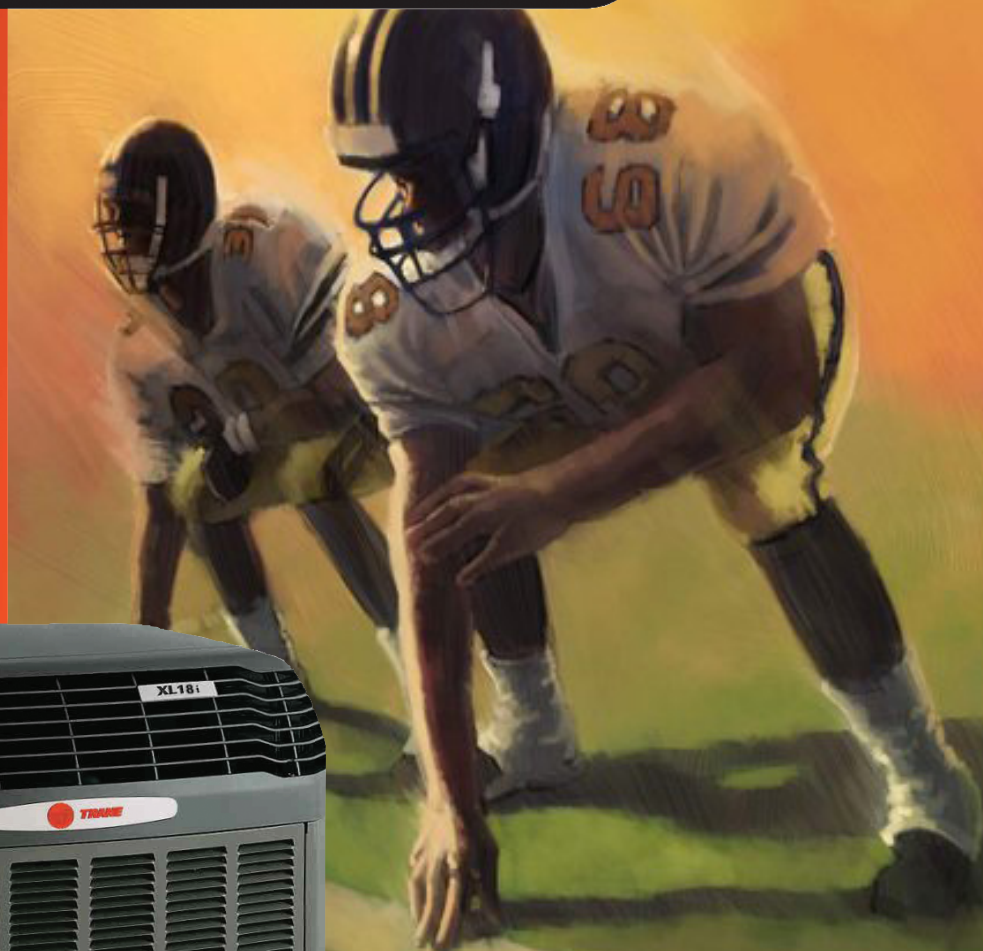


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“Especially at the offensive and defensive line areas,” he said. “Even though with our small numbers overall, we will be able to rest some guys throughout a game. That’s a key, because if

you can’t win at the line of scrimmage, you don’t have much of a chance to win a game.”

Sewell said the overall team weakness would be the numbers



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A concussion is an injury caused by a blow to the head in which the brain moves rapidly and may collide with the inside of the skull. Even a minor fall or collision may be of concern, so be alert to symptoms such as headaches, unsteadiness, confusion or other types of abnormal behavior. Any athlete with a suspected concussion:

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SPOTLIGHT



JALEN BYERS

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Scoring two touchdowns my 10th grade year in our homecoming game against Wadley.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan on getting a degree in Electrical Engineering at UAB.

What motivates you to work hard?

Just to get better. I try to get better every day.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just getting better and finishing out my senior year.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Hanging out with friends and playing on my PlayStation.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps me stay in shape and doing different things helps me as an athlete

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

Worst part is that it is really hot. The best part is that the season is about to start.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math, because it has always been kind of easy to me.

What are three things that you can't live without?

My cell phone, family/friends and my PlayStation.

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Ragland

HEAD COACH: Derrick Sewell (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Noah Hollingsworth, Adam Sanders, Micah Phillips

KEY RETURNERS: Jalen Byers, Hunter Day, Ladarious Spikes

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

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 314 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 282

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 vs. Ashville, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 at Westbrook Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 at Donoho, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 at TC Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at West End, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. Valley Head, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 at Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 vs. Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No. Name

1 Jalen Byers

2 Travis Schall

3 Matt Trammell

4 Nate Kelley

5 Jacob Kohler

6 Owen Schall

7 Josh Phillips

8 David Sanders

9 Josh Wilson

10 Brody Bice

11 Bailey Goodwin

12 Elijah Ball

13 Jaiden Cox

14 Adam Gullledge

18 Braxton Layton

19 Kaeden Cotton

21 Javaris Turner

23 LaDarius Spikes

24 Bailey Wyatt

27 Kentrell Turner

50 Jaxon Cox

51 Hunter Day

53 Matt Turbville

54 Andrew Bice

55 Ryan Bearden

56 Jeremy Cambron

57 Jakolbe Brewster

58 Kasey Walker

59 Hunter Evans

60 Landon McElroy

71 Chase Warren

72 Luke Poe

73 Richie Rivera

74 Grant Echols

75 Josh Kay

76 Kaden Bice

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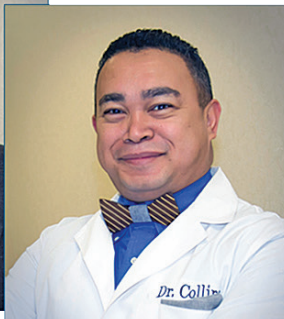
Pell City Panther's Seniors



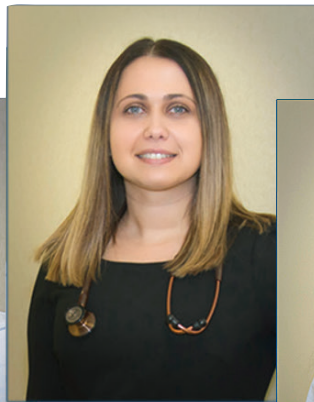
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game.

"We're just not very deep in some of our skill positions," he said. "But, that's how we focused our conditioning and weight program this summer to

compensate for those lack of numbers."

When discussing goals for the upcoming year, Sewell said number one would be, every Friday night, putting the best unit on the field and winning that

game.

"I know I am going to get everything our players have," he said. "That will be the standard. We talked in a meeting the next day after I was hired about setting a standard. We have a high standard with high lofty goals. We will work to get to them. Ragland is accustomed to winning football games. What we want to make sure we do is get to that place where we are winning championships – ultimately. They can't see that as some far-off dream. They've got to understand this is something we can do and that will set the tone for the way we work."

Ragland opens the season Friday at home against Class 4A and county foe Asheville. The Bulldogs won last year's game 33-32.

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Sylacauga AGGIES

CLASS 5A
REGION 5



By SHANE DUNAWAY

With 10 consecutive seasons without a losing record, Sylacauga High School's football program remains a staple of reliability for a proud Aggies fan base and a model for sustained success within Talladega County.

Aggies head coach Matt Griffith enters his 14th season with hopes to not only stay the course, but also progress deeper into the postseason in Class 5A.

"I think we've got one of the more consistent programs around, and we go 10 years without a losing season because of the kids at Sylacauga," he said. "They're very hard-working kids who care about (our program)."

The Aggies finished 8-3 in 2017 but suffered a 48-31 loss to Eufaula in the first round of the 5A playoffs.

Sylacauga's offense averaged 36.4 points per game, but quarterback Keaton Wilson and running backs Tashun Looney and Decarius Mickey – three players who



contributed the bulk of that production – were seniors.

“Keaton was the first kid we’ve ever had to rush for (more than) 1,000 and throw for (more than) 1,000 (yards),” Griffith said. “In school history, nobody has ever done that. Looney rushed for about 1,300, and Mickey, who was our A-slot back, rushed for 950, so it was very productive. We were an explosive offense.”

Daylon Keith will step in at quarterback for the departed

Wilson. Keith competed with Wilson for the job a year ago but settled in at Z-receiver, where he finished with more than 750 receiving yards.

“(Daylon) brings a lot to the table,” Griffith said. “He’s tremendously fast, he’s tremendously athletic and he throws a better football than people give him credit for.

“We get on him all the time, but he’s got a good ball, he throws well enough to open up the offense and keep it the

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way we want to. When we throw the ball successfully, we can run it the way we want to run it.”

Keith said he’s looking forward to continuing Sylacauga’s winning ways.

“I just want to help the team win,” he said. “I just want to keep the winning seasons going, get into the postseason, try to get out of the first round and keep on going deeper into the playoffs.”

Griffith said the Aggies boast a wealth of talent at their offensive skill positions.

“We think we’ve got some really good kids with Jordan Ridgeway, Journey Stockdale, Lew Dale, Malik Wyckoff and Quay Taylor,” Griffith said. “We’ve got a lot of skill kids that can take their place that we think with a better line up front that’s so much bigger, we can still be explosive.”

One of the areas of strength for the Aggies that Griffith observed during the offseason was the defensive line and middle linebacker spots.

“Our front four and our Mike linebacker, Chase Ivy, when we came out of spring training, that was a definite strength,” Griffith said. “Briarwood (Christian) was unable to run the football on us and had to throw it (in the spring jamboree).

“I wanted that to happen because I’ve got a sophomore and junior cornerback. Rusty Craft is a brand new safety, and I wanted them to get live reps (against a team) throwing the football.

“Our front four and our Mike is going to have to carry us as we jell offensively, but we’re excited about that. The past two years, we’ve really had to outscore our opponents, which puts a lot of pressure on our offense.

“It’ll be nice knowing the defense is much better now, and it allows us to take some chances offensively knowing that your defense can hold them.”

He added Sylacauga finds a way to seamlessly reload its roster by always having talent waiting in the wings.

“We’ve never lost ties with our junior high program,” Griffith said. “The varsity staff always runs spring training for the seventh and eighth grade. We do our 10 days with them, and our varsity football staff gets to know those kids.

“We have a very good junior high staff with Chad Wilkinson as the head coach. They run the same things we



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do on a smaller scale.”

Sylacauga moved from Region 4 to Region 5 along with Central Clay County. The two teams will compete against Center Point, Moody, Mortimer Jordan, Munford, Springville and St. Clair County.

Griffith said he was excited about the move to the northern bracket, but he added that change presents its own challenges.

“When you run into the north, you run into extremely well-coached football teams,” he said. “Maybe they’re not as

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athletic, but they're very well-coached and they know what they're doing. But it's different teams. We don't know a lot about these teams.

"Mortimer Jordan is a very good football ... Center Point will be very athletic. Munford's very athletic and a good team year-in and year-out with (head coach) Bill

(Smith).

"Central Clay County stayed in (our region). They were one of the better teams in the region, plus (they) have a Hall of Fame coach in (Danny Horn). It's good football, but we're excited about playing."

Like many teams in The Daily Home's coverage

SPOTLIGHT

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

My favorite player is Cam Newton, (who) plays for the Carolina Panthers. I just love the way he works – his work ethic. He gets up every morning and works out. He's dedicated to the game, and I love the style he plays. I love his passion in putting God first. He just does everything under His will. That's why he's my favorite player.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My greatest moment at any level is probably in peewee league. We were against the Sylacauga Cardinal. I ran for five touchdowns and threw for two. That was a team win.

What are your post-high school plans?

I have no idea. I don't know.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Working hard and getting wins. The defense, I'm looking forward to the defense. I know we've got a pretty good defense, and they can probably stop any team. I don't see anybody

really scoring 21 on us for the whole season.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I'm looking forward to basketball and baseball season ... I took a year off from basketball, and they won a state championship. Baseball, we went to the third round of the playoffs. I'm looking forward to picking it up there.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The heat, the heat and the heat. In training, you know you've got to keep water in you and eat right so you'll prevent cramps.

What's your favorite school subject?

My favorite school subject would probably be English.

What are three things that you can't live without?

I can't live without God, my family and my friends.

What's a quote that you live by?

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



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area, Sylacauga opted not to implement instant replay technology. Griffith said the benefit of using funds to help the kids outweighs the benefit of the technology.

"Sylacauga's like everywhere else," he said. "We have kids that struggle to pay for certain things, and you don't want to deny a sport or football in general just because a kid can't afford something. I'd rather my budget go to kids than some technology because I get mad at an official."



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KEY FACTS

TEAM: Sylacauga

HEAD COACH: Matt Griffith (14th year)

KEY LOSSES: Keaton Wilson, Tashun Looney, Bailey Ward

KEY RETURNERS: Jordan Ridgeway, Daylon Keith, Austin Allen

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 8-3 **POINTS SCORED:** 400

POINTS ALLOWED: 310

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 vs. Leeds, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 at Chilton County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 vs. Springville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 at Moody, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 vs. Mortimer Jordan, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 vs. St. Clair County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 at Center Point, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 vs. Central Clay County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 at Munford, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No. Name

2 DeMarco Campbell
3 Daylon Keith
4 Lew Dale
5 Jordan Ridgeway
6 Malik Wyckoff
7 Kam Cook
8 Brady Davis
9 Tory Harris
10 M'Chal Holtzclaw
11 Journey Stockdale
12 Quay Taylor
13 Tyler Thompson
14 Keondre Pearson
15 Rusty Craft
16 J.D.DeLoach
17 Luke Vincent
18 Colton Hardiman
19 Chris Howard
20 Dontavious Ware

21 Lane Strickland
22 Timothy Stallworth
23 Canon Bryant
25 Cole Porch
26 Dax Flora
27 Malik Pope
29 Gabe Cox
32 Chris Mallory
33 Ben Thompson
35 Gabe Stadler
40 Mitchell Culver
45 Chase Ivey
50 Drew Hallmon
51 Austin Allen
52 Tyler Culpepper
53 Kelvin Jemison
54 Darrien McElrath
55 Zan Smith
56 Anthony Dixon
57 Peyton Bearden

58 Taylor Strickland
59 LaJordan Pearson
62 Hudson Hodges
64 Jacob Haynes
65 Dalton Giles
66 Tank Wright
67 Mason Myers
68 Schuyler Simmons
69 Clay Brazier
70 Christian Twyman
71 Luke Thompson
72 Benji Merkel
73 Graham Hughey
75 Ethan Johnson
76 Tanner Torgerson
77 Gage Hallman
78 Korey Sanders
79 Grey Griffith
87 Jeremiah Varner
89 Colin Yeager



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Talladega TIGERS

CLASS 4A
REGION 4



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Talladega High School football is coming off an historic 2017 season. The Tigers finished the season with a winning record and made it to the first round of the playoffs for the first time in 23 years.

In his second season at helm, Talladega head Ted Darby is still stressing to everyone who will listen that losing is not an option for the Tigers.

Darby's motto also translates to how the Tigers worked in the offseason to prepare for the season.

"We still don't know how to work," he said. "I told them that when the season was over that we were going to have a tremendous summer of work. We started off the spring with 61 kids and we are down to 39 kids now. I am just like the military, I don't need but a few good men ... I always have something that I put for our kids. Losing is not an option, that's how it is going to be as long as I'm at Talladega, but our first C words: we have to connect, commitment, and I tell them every day that we have to be consistent. Talladega has a long way to go, but we are getting

there step by step."

Darby also believes the message finally hit home with some of his players last season. After falling to No. 2 ranked Carroll, 12-6 in the first round of the Class 5A playoffs, Darby said he could tell they were hurt by losing the game.

"You come off the field and I see kids crying," Darby said. "I don't know if they cried over a football over the last 30 years there. When you put work, blood, sweat and tears in something,

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it is hard to give it up ... walking off the field, some of the guys told me that this won't happen again, 'we see what you were talking about now.' Their mindset changed. No one thought we should be there to start the season and these kids have learned what work is. The process started and it started during the season, because now losing is not an option. They don't want to give that up. They hate losing, and the work that they had to put in, like I told them, it is nothing free men in this world nothing. You have free lunch; it is not free. I am so proud of them because we are going to fight you every ball game. If you win a ball game against Talladega, you are going to earn it. That's what me and my coaches saw in the Carroll game. "

The Tigers will face different challenges this season.

For the next two seasons, Talladega will be in Class 4A. This is the first time since 1983 that the Tigers will compete in 4A. Talladega will compete in Region 4 against Leeds, Handley, Childersburg, Lincoln, Holtville and Elmore County. Darby considers this region to be one of the toughest in 4A.

"It is the SEC of 4A," Darby said. "Handley, two years ago they won it. Leeds has won it multiple times, so the last four or five years you have two teams that won the 4A state championship. I know things have changed, but Coach (Jonathan) Beverly does a great job at Childersburg. Lincoln, Coach (Matt) Zedaker does a great job. We have a tough 4A (region) and our kids know that. We have to come to play because everyone that we got is going to be a dog fight. This region is the SEC of 4A."

Some of the traditional rivalries that Talladega fans are accustomed to will not be on the schedule this season. The Talladega-Sylacauga rivalry ends this season. Sylacauga has a 54-40 record



against the Tigers.

"Coach Griffith is my friend, but it doesn't make sense," Darby said. "I want to play and it will be a good money game. It is just something for Coach Darby, in my mind, that we need to do for the program. I can't play them all."

The Tigers will have to replace several of their playmakers from last season, including quarterback Ashton Duncan who signed with Allen University in South Carolina and all-state receiver Fred Dickerson. Darby said he won't be able to replace any of his seniors, but he needs the returning players to step up.

Sophomore Nigel Scales will be the starting quarterback for the Tigers.

Scales was the starting quarterback last season against Alexandria, but he would suffer a season-ending injury early in the game.

"I have to prove people wrong because last year I got hurt, in the first game, so that is my first goal," Scales said. "My second goal is lead Talladega to the region championship. My third goal is a

10-0 record, and my final goal is a state championship."

Darby said that Scales has the ability to be a special player for the Tigers.

"He needs to be a playmaker," Darby said. "I played (the quarterback position) in college under Jimbo Fisher. He and I were like butting heads. This is the thing that the quarterback, the quarterback has to get the ball into the playmakers' hands. You've got to run the team; you have to be the head coach on the field. This kid is as smart a kid and one of the best kids that I ever coached. His mom and dad are

great, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. He is a 'yes sir, no sir' kid. He has all the qualities of being a great quarterback, and he has all the ability. He has to learn

the game and learn his reads. The sky's the limit."

JQ Wilson looks to step up and make plays for the Tigers on the perimeter.

Wilson who has game-changing speed at the receiver position looks to lead the Tigers back to postseason.

"It's my senior season and I am excited about it," Wilson said. "Our main goal is the playoffs, but we want to make it further this season. Our main goal is the championship."



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SPOTLIGHT



TRISTAN WELLS

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

I like former Alabama player Ruben Foster. I like his aggressiveness. NFL wise, Ray Lewis. I like the motivation that he teaches and his play.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Making the playoffs this past season. We have never done that and made history.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to college and get my degree in Computer Science.

What motivates you to work hard?

Making it again to the playoffs.

What are you looking forward to the most this

season?

Coming together with my team.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I play video games.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It keeps you in shape.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The best is the weight room and I don't see a bad of part of fall camp. All of it helps you get better.

What's your favorite school subject?

I like Math and Science.

What are three things that you can't live without?

My family, friends and knowledge.

ROSTER

No. Name

Justin Barclay

Brendon Bridges

Jackson Burel

Larry Calhoun

Mychal Cardwell

Kaderius Cook

JahQuan Cunningham

Isaiah Cunningham

Jermontez Cunningham

Chris Curry

LaBragg Curry

Calvin Davis

Onique Deer

Myterius Dickerson

John Ellis

Quavon Gooden

Makari Green

Laterrius Hawkins

Brandon Hering

Quin Lawson

Sedrixx Lawson

Michael McGregor

Quontavius McKenzie

Jonathan Miller

Raderius Montgomery

Nigel Scales

Deovanni Swain

Tajae Swain

Chaztin Tanner

Nicholas Warwick

Ahmad Watkins

Tristan Wells

Cedric White

Peter Whitworth

Tommy Wilcox

D'Corian Wilson

JeQuerius Wilson

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega

HEAD COACH: Ted Darby (second year)

KEY LOSSES: Ashton Duncan, Fred Dickerson, Jalen Green

KEY RETURNERS: Nigel Scales, Tristan Wells, JQ Wilson

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

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 6-5 **POINTS SCORED:** 225 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 277

SCHEDULE

Aug.24 vs. Alexandria, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 at Munford, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 at Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 vs. Elmore County, 7 p.m.

Sept.21 at Lincoln, 7 p.m.

Sept.28 vs. Midfield, 7 p.m.

Oct.5 vs. Leeds, 7 p.m.

Oct.19 at Holtville, 7 p.m.

Oct.26 vs. Handley, 7 p.m.

Nov.2 at Moody, 7 p.m.



Talladega County Central FIGHTING TIGERS

CLASS 1A
REGION 5



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Talladega County Central enters the 2018 season with a lot of hype after having a successful 2017 season.

Last fall, the Fighting Tigers made it to the second round of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 1A playoffs. Going into the season, TC Central head coach Chris Mahand said he knows the target on his team's back has gotten bigger.

"I don't know where the coaches are getting this from around the county and the region, but they are expecting us to be pretty good," Mahand said. "We are not going to sneak up on anyone. Like I tell the kids every week, they expect TC to have a good football team, so they are going to put their best foot forward. We have to play our best game if we are expected to win."

The Fighting Tigers finished 7-4 last fall and reached the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2008. TC Central lost several critical pieces from last season's team, but Mahand's expectations remain high.

"We are looking to improve every year," the coach said. "Last year, before we made it to the second round, I told them that we want to make it past the first round. We would always make it to the first round, and this past year, we made it to the second round and got beat by Maplesville.

"This year, we want to go past the second round. We want to improve every year. Even though we lost a lot of our offense with Kylan (Cross) and Darrell (Maple), I think these guys are going to step up on offense and defense. I don't think we are going to miss too much of a step."

Mahand will have to replace a dynamic playmaker in Cross, who recorded 1,883 yards and 30 touchdowns on 115 carries last season, but the coach is confident his running backs will have a productive season.

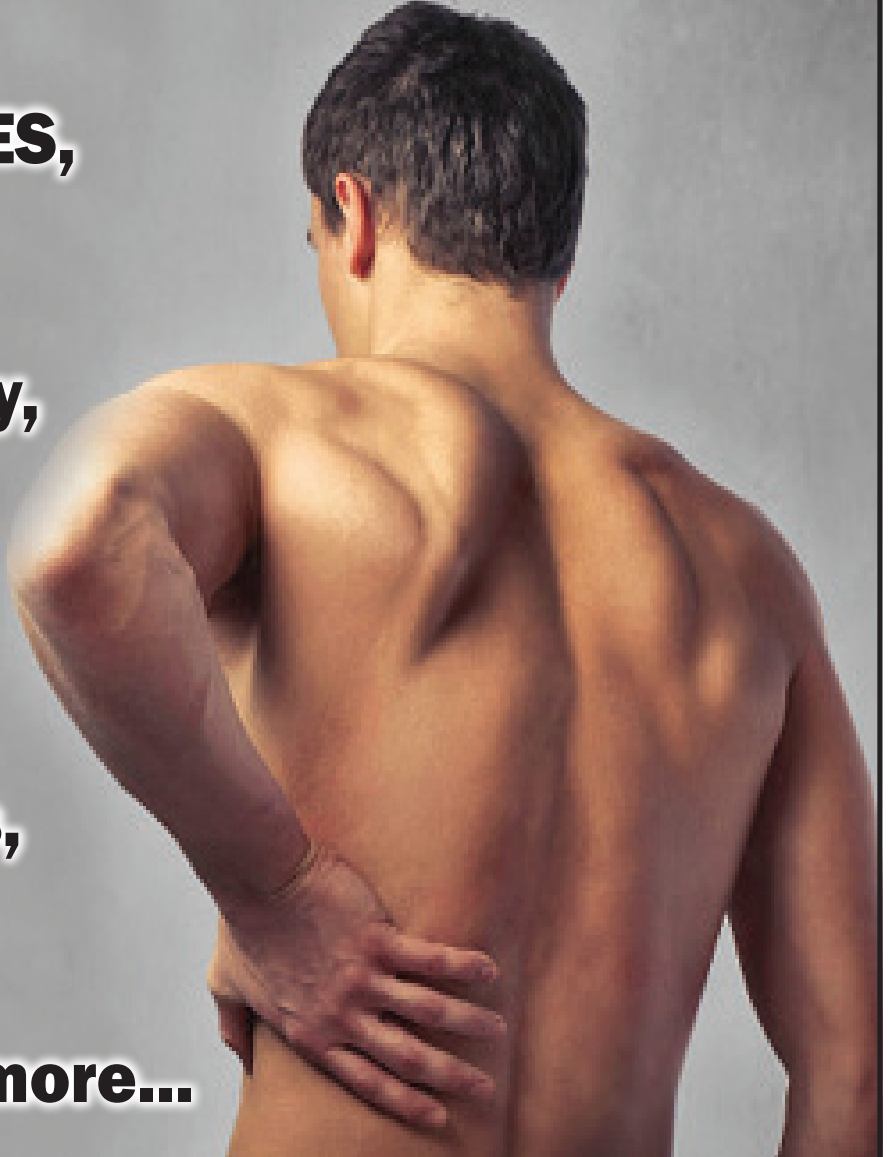
"You can't lose that caliber kid and not think that it's not going to make a difference, but I think these two guys (Jaylon Swain and Jayden Jones) will have the ability to step up like I need them to offensively," Mahand said. "As long as they can do what they are told, I don't think we will miss a beat as a team."

TC Central will also have to replace Maple at the quarterback position.

Maple was the signal-caller for the Fighting Tigers the past three seasons. TC Central will turn to sophomore JaKorrian Davis as its starting quarterback. Mahand thinks Davis has the potential to be special.

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"He is an extremely good athlete, but he is going to be a little green because this is his first year playing quarterback," Mahand said. "He is athletic and he is going to be able to get the job done for us."

"Darrell was a sophomore when I first came, so it is good to have a quarterback that young that you can develop. ... JD is probably (6-foot-1), 185 pounds right now. He is a little bit bigger but the same athlete as Darrell. I expect some big things from him once he grows into the position."

This season, TC Central will also see a change in its region as the Fighting Tigers moved back to the north in 1A, Region 5. The Fighting Tigers will continue to play Winterboro, Ragland, Appalachian, Victory Christian and Donoho in the region, but perennial power Wadley was replaced with Spring Garden.

Mahand said the region didn't get any easier with Wadley's exit.

"We still have to play Spring Garden, who replaces Wadley, which had a lot of seniors this past year," Mahand said. "Spring Garden had a very young team, a very competitive team, and they are always going to be strong, disciplined and a very sound football team. It wasn't much of a tradeoff between Spring Garden and Wadley. Spring Garden always puts a good product of football on the field."

Being on top of the region in November is one of the goals for TC Central. In order to do that, the Fighting Tigers will have to get off to a fast start. In previous years, the Fighting Tigers played their best football in the second half of the season in must-win games to make the playoffs. Mahand said they can't afford to wait like that this season.

"We definitely have to get off to a fast start," he said. "We did have a much better first half this past year, and we have to keep that going."



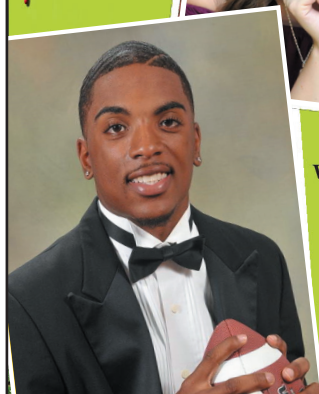
"We open with Childersburg, and that is going to be a big game for us. It is a big county rival. Appalachian and Ragland come to us, then we've got Winterboro, so we don't catch any

breaks.

"It is extremely important for us to have a fast start this year. ... As far as working out, the kids have put in the work to be successful early in the year. With the number of kids we have working out, the numbers have been outstanding. Hopefully, that will continue to benefit us."

TC Central opens the season Aug. 30 against Childersburg at Alumni Stadium in Howell's Cove.

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SPOTLIGHT



JAYLON SWAIN

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

Ray Lewis was my favorite. I like the way that he prepared for games and the way he worked out. He wasn't the fastest or the strongest, but he played smart and he played hard. I believe that's what made him my favorite. When I came up, I always played hard, but sometimes it might not have been smart, so I learned to play smarter. ... When I did that, injuries stopped happening.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Three years ago when we played Spring Garden at the house. I had 10 tackles that game and we ended up winning that game by double-digits.

What are your post-high school plans?

I am just trying to get an offer right now. I have a couple schools looking at me, so I am going to keep going out there and play hard each and every night. I am not sure what school I am going to go to, but by the end of November, I believe I will know where I will be going.

What motivates you to work hard?

Me just wanting it. In a (Class) 1A school, you don't have all of those five stars, and

you go to the camps and see these people who are ranked. Nobody is paying attention to you because of where you are coming from. I want to exceed where they're at right now as far as being looked at. If I am about to play a four-star, I want them to show me that they are a four-star. I am trying to compete each and every night.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Trying to win some ball games and staying healthy. The team is different this year, but I believe that we are more disciplined than we have been in the past. We have more guys buying into what we are doing now. We are not as athletic, but I believe we listen more than we have in the past.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I play the drum for church and I like to read.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It keeps you in shape and competitive. It keeps you out of trouble, too.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The sun is the worst part. It's pretty hot out there. The best part is being out there with my teammates and competing with each other.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math, I like numbers and I like money. You have to know how to count.

What are three things that you can't live without?

Both of my parents. I really don't have a third one.

What's a quote that you live by?

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

ROSTER

No. Name

3	Jakendrick Tuck	44	Ralph Gilbert
4	Jaylon Swain	50	Ta'Jayvion Ragland
6	Jakorrian Davis	51	Paris Stockdale
7	Lachaunt Prince	52	Antonio McKenzie
8	Da'Travian Tuck	54	Ta'Quarri Herring
9	Blesstin Gamble	55	Syncere Brown
10	Devin Dates	58	Karon Phillips
12	La'kendrick Tuck	60	Kentavius McKenzie
14	Jafrondric Davis	61	Jamier Duncan
21	Jayden Jones	63	Judson Harmon
33	Cameron Swain	70	Kavon Moten
		72	Braxton Harmon

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega County Central

HEAD COACH: Chris Mahand (fifth year)

KEY LOSSES: Kylan Cross, Darrell Maple, Mikell Armbruster

KEY RETURNERS: Jaylon Swain, Jayden Jones

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

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 7-4 **POINTS SCORED:** 274 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 236

SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 vs. Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 vs. Ragland, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 at Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 vs. Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 at Donoho, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 at Loachapoka, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 at Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 at Coosa Central, 7 p.m.

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By SHANE DUNAWAY

Victory Christian fell a few plays short of securing a playoff berth in 2017 in Mike Holliday's first season as head coach.

Going into his second year, Holliday sees plenty of opportunity and ability on his squad.

"We definitely want to get to the playoffs," Holliday said. "There's no question about that. We were so close last year to getting to the playoffs. We figured it up and we were probably four plays from being 8-2. I mean, we were right on the edge.

"We've got to get over that hump, we've got to get out of mediocrity and get into something that's better than mediocre."

Holliday said his team has been focusing on the mental aspect of the game going into the 2018 season in hopes of avoiding a letdown.

"We've always been physically fit and physically ready to play," he said. "We've got to be mentally ready to play and we've got to not make mistakes.

"If we do that, we play for one another and we play for Jesus -- which is the main reason we play anyway -- if we do that, we trust our teammates and we don't play for ourselves, there's no telling what we can do."

The Lions' offseason losses were big in terms of talent but not in numbers.

"We've got a great group coming back," Holliday said. "We lost six seniors, and all of them were contributors. We had a couple

guys who had played all four years, and those will be hard to replace. You can't replace them. You've just got to move forward and get other guys to do their thing in their spot.

"For that reason, I think we've got a great team coming back. This team is jelling together and learning a lot. This team is mentally tough. They're going to be mentally ready. I think we've always been physical, but we're going to be mentally ready this time."

Of the six players who've moved on, the void left by departed quarterback Harrison Cheatwood could, perhaps, be the most difficult to fill.

"Harrison was in here for four years for us and started for four years for us," Holliday said. "He put up some great numbers. He's a good leader, and I think he'll do well over at (Jacksonville State)"

Holliday said Abe Sargent, who backed up Cheatwood in 2017, will take over this season.

"Abe's going to be our starter," Holliday said. "He's a totally different quarterback. He's not going to try to be Harrison, and we don't want him trying to be Harrison. We want him to be Abe, and that's what he's going to do. He's going to be the quarterback Abe can be."

On the defensive side, senior linebacker Ashton Love will slide into the role previously held by Brodie Holliday.

"(Brodie) suffered some injuries the (past) couple years that slowed him down a little bit, but he's still going to be hard to replace," Holliday said. "We've got a good linebacker right here in



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Ashton, who I think is going to be a great replacement for him.

"He's going to play in the middle just like Brodie did when he replaced a great middle linebacker in Kyle Roberson, who had a great career here. We're going to continue (our) long line of middle linebackers who can do the job."

Love said the difference is noticeable in where the Lions were at the end of 2017 and now.

"I think we've improved a ton," he said. "I think we've got some of the best coaches at the (Class) 1A level. They've spent countless hours just teaching us to be better men for God and teaching us to be better football players (by) getting our minds right and getting our bodies right -- out here in the weight room working every day. I think we're going to be much better."

Not much changed with realignment for Victory Christian. The team, alongside all but one of its 1A, Region 4 foes, shifted to Region 5 and picked up Spring Garden, which replaces perennial powerhouse Wadley.

"Spring Garden has always had a good team," Holliday said. "They've always had a good reputation and always had a good, sound team. I think we match up with them well."

"Wadley didn't lose a region game in all four years they were in our region ... That tells you the region will be a little bit easier, I believe, with Wadley gone. ... I think Spring Garden will be a challenge for us, but I think it works well for us and makes it better for us in the region."

Holliday added even though the region may have opened up a little bit, he's not taking any opponents lightly.

"Winterboro and TC (Central) are always physical and always have athletes,"

he said. "Donoho I know has got great numbers. They've got a lot of guys out. The school itself, I think they're one of the largest 1As. I think they're on the cusp of becoming 2A in the last count, so that'll be a challenge."

"Appalachian has got a new coach, so I don't know how they're going to respond to that. They always have athletes and they always have big boys up there in Appalachian ... Ragland is always tough. Always has been."



ASHTON LOVE

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

Probably Derrick Henry because of just the way he carries himself and his work ethic. I watch videos of him working out on Instagram. He's so physical as a runner, and mainly, the way

he talks about God is just really impressive.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Back in ninth grade in junior high, we used to do the hook-and-ladder. They'd throw it to my best buddy, Aaron, on a slant, and he'd turn around and throw it back to me on a hook-and-ladder, and I'd run for the touchdown.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to play college football somewhere. I'm looking at surrounding schools for something like that, and I'm thinking about going into sports medicine.

What motivates you to work hard?

SPOTLIGHT

Mainly just helping those guys. They're relying on me. These coaches, they're depending on me, and I just want to make them proud.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward to the memories I'm going to make. When I'm 80 years old, I'm going to think back on this and remember these guys. I won't forget one of them.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to play basketball. I play basketball here, too. Working out is a fun thing for me to do. It's a stress-reliever.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I think it makes me a little more versatile. Basketball helps with my coordination and things like that. I stay in shape with track.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

The best part is when you finally get to put the pads on and start hitting. The worst part is probably heat and cramps.

What's your favorite school subject?

Probably history.

What are three things that you can't live without?

Football, family and friends.

What's a quote that you live by?

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

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ROSTER

No. Name

1 Lee Yeager	23 Noah Holladay
2 Pate Cheatwood	24 Juan Talley
3 Miles Martin	35 Ashton Love
4 Aaron Jernigan	54 PJ Holma
5 David Key	60 Billy Davenport
7 Abraham Sargent	73 Cage Jackson
9 Riley Meadows	74 Nathan Bean
10 Ty Chasteen	75 Creed Cline
11 Justice Hurley	76 Griffin Waldrop
12 Isaac Warren	77 Griffin Staples
15 Brantley Bonner	

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Victory Christian

HEAD COACH: Mike Holliday (second year)

KEY LOSSES: Harrison Cheatwood, Brodie Holliday, Michael

KEY RETURNERS: Abe Sargent, Ashton Love, Griffin Staples

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** 3-5/Multiple

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-5 **POINTS SCORED:** 319 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 317

SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 at Fayetteville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 vs. Gaylesville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 at Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 at Ragland, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 vs. Coosa Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 at Donoho, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 vs. Talladega Co. Central, 7 p.m.

Nov. 2 at Sumiton Christian, 7 p.m.

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Winterboro BULLDOGS

CLASS 1A
REGION 5



By SHANE DUNAWAY

Winterboro High School's football team reached the opening round of the Class 1A playoff the past two seasons.

Bulldogs head coach Alan Beckett and his team enters the 2018 season with a chance to accomplish a feat that hasn't been achieved in the program's history – three straight seasons with a playoff appearance. To do that, Winterboro must remain competitive as all but one team, Wadley, within Region 4 moved to Region 5.

"Spring Garden just wins – (they're) very, very good," Beckett said. "Talladega County Central is Talladega County Central – always good. Victory (Christian) is solid. Ragland is very committed to football (and) will be good again. Coach (Mark) Sanders will have Donoho in the mix. They were hard to stop last season. It should be interesting to see how it plays out"

Beckett said his team is ready to get back at it after giving the team a little break during the summer.

"I just felt through the years that we hit a wall when we hit a certain point of the season, so we took a lot of June off to let players focus on other sports. We had some voluntary lifts, and

a lot of guys did lift. We came in at the end of June and started (our summer program) and then went into July. Really, the last three weeks, we've hit it heavy (starting) the week after the (Fourth of July)."

Winterboro returns six starters on offense and defense, but the Bulldogs lost several key players, including running back Nyjavion Brown, cornerback Cam Borden, offensive tackle RJ Burns, quarterback Omar Dobbins and running back Kaleb Hale. A pair of offensive linemen, left tackle John Costner and left guard Ricky Chappell, are recovering from a meniscus tear and broken ankle, respectively.

"There's some holes to fill," Beckett said. "Skill-wise, our personality will be a little bit different ... It is a little bit different look. We'll try to stretch the field a little bit throwing vertically, and we're going to try to pound the football."

The Bulldogs have a three-way battle at quarterback with a pair of seniors, Luke Wheeler and Shaun Vincent, contending against junior Isaiah Scott.

"It's still an ongoing battle, and we want to get it resolved as soon as we get into fall camp," Beckett said. "Both Luke and Shawn have taken snaps. Isaiah Scott has exuded a lot

of confidence in his teammates with some of the things he does, and the good thing – if he were to win that job ... Isaiah wouldn't play any other position, and these guys can play a lot of positions. Shawn can be a running back and receiver. Luke could play tight end and wide receiver. Really, he could play any wide receiver position. If that were to work out, it might be better for the team."

Senior running back Camden Knight returns from a torn ACL to give the Bulldogs ground game some added juice. He said he's been putting in the work to recover from an injury that typically takes as long as a year to fully recover.

"I worked hard after my surgery," Knight said. "I was in the weight room as much as I could be. I got to come back and actually play baseball in four and a half months ... Not many people get cleared until six months. It's going to be hard to replace Nyjay and Kaleb, but I'm going to work hard and I'm going to be a leader for Winterboro High School this season."

Winterboro also picked up some leadership on the coaching staff by adding former Pisgah head coach Anthony Jacks as a defensive coordinator. Jacks also served as head coach at B.B. Comer from 2010 to 2014.

"Coach Jacks, I thought that was a huge move," Beckett said. "Coaching has been a struggle at our place just having the people because we're a high-academic school. We have a lot of guys who are definitely academic ... It doesn't get any better than him. He's got a lot of experience."

If the Bulldogs reach the postseason for a third consecutive year, they'll have a bit of a wait. Winterboro's final game of the



regular season will be at home against Ragland on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m., giving the Bulldogs two full weeks off before preparations for a first-round playoff matchup.

"There are several reasons for that," Beckett said. "Over the last several seasons, we've hit a wall around Week 7 or 8, and we've really pushed and pushed ... Some of the people who were calling to play were 5A and 1A. It's not that we're ducking people, but you sit there and look at somebody that has won 14 of their last 17 games and they're in 5A. What do we get out of that? I don't think that's a competitive battle. We didn't find the right fit

was what it boiled down to."

Beckett said the break could be advantageous, especially if the team is on the mend.

"I think so because we were banged up when we went to the playoffs last year," he said. "We were really banged up, and you go play that Week 10 and beat yourself up. We played Talladega, which meant a lot to the community. It was emotional. Our guys got excited and got banged up. I think it would be a really good thing for us if we were to make the playoffs."

SPOTLIGHT



CAMDEN KNIGHT

Who's your favorite football player (college or professional), and why?

My favorite football player would probably be Mark Ingram. He was really stout in high school and college football. I looked up to him a lot ... He's who made me want to be a running back.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I was in middle school, I think, for Coosa Valley Academy. I was playing for the varsity as an eighth-grader. My team was down. I was running the ball, and I scored to win the game for a varsity team that had been 0-21 through two years.

What are your post-high school plans?

I'm probably going to go into the Marines and try to fight for my country.

What motivates you to work hard?

My dad. He does a lot for me and he makes me want to work hard. He's the one that's got me in my football career today.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking for a winning season. Our team, we work hard and we're a family. We want to succeed, and we want to play well together.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to hunt, I like to build old motors and I like to fish.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps me to stay in shape. It keeps me on my toes and keeps me competitive. It helps me to keep moving so I don't get lazy on myself.

What's the best and worst part of fall camp?

I'd have to say the 100-degree practices. That's usually a killer for me, but it all makes up on Friday night.

What's your favorite school subject?

Probably history.

What are three things that you can't live without?

My family, football and probably fishing.

What's a quote that you live by?

"If you're gonna be dumb, you've gotta be tough."

ROSTER

No. Name

1 Nyles Ashley
2 David Cook
3 Cor'Darrius Swain
4 Brody Hamm
5 Isaiah Scott
6 Luke Wheeler
7 Philemon Jones
8 Deven Calhoun
9 Daeyon Duncan
10 Shaun Vincent
11 Jake Travis
12 Calvin Thomas
15 Anthony Curry
20 Xzavier Stamps

21 Camden Knight
22 Marquez Curry
23 Ike McKenzie
30 Isiah Jefferson
55 Jay Garrett
58 Brandon Dandridge
60 Darius Middlebrooks
64 Devin Phillips
64 Demondre Robinson
67 Keshawn Williamson
70 Cade Sanders
74 Chase Roddam
75 Dawson Moseley
76 Ricky Chappell
76 John Costner

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Winterboro

HEAD COACH: Alan Beckett (sixth year)

KEY LOSSES: Nyjavion Brown, Cam Borden, RJ Burns

KEY RETURNERS: Camden Knight, Luke Wheeler, Shaun Vincent

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: 3-4/Multiple

2017 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 217 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 321

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 vs. Central Coosa, 7 p.m.

Aug. 31 at B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 at Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14 vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 vs. Talladega Co. Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at Vincent, 7 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 at Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 vs. Ragland, 7 p.m.

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"These guys are hungry. These guys want it, and I'm proud to be their football coach and proud of the way they're leading." -- Fayetteville coach John Limbaugh



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"We want to be physical on both sides of the football. We want to be a punishing front on both sides of the football. Offense and defensive line play will be big for us." -- Childersburg coach Jonathan Beverly

"What we want to make sure we do is get to that place where we are winning championships – ultimately. They can't see that as some far-off dream. They've got to understand this is something we can do and that will set the tone for the way we work." -- Ragland coach Derrick Sewell



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