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PREP FOOTBALL 2019

ROSTERS

TEAM PREVIEWS

PLAYER PROFILES

SCHEDULES

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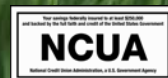
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Contents

ASD6

B.B. Comer 10

Childersburg 16

Fayetteville28

Lincoln34

Munford42

Pell City46

Ragland54

Sylacauga62

Talladega70

TC Central74

Victory Christian .80

Winterboro86

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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.

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BUDDY

On the cover: Lincoln quarterback Javion Surles is poised to have a huge senior season. Last season, Surles led the Golden Bears to 7-4 record and the Class 4A, Region 4 championship. Surles was named the Talladega County 4A-5A Offensive Player of the Year in 2018. Last season, he threw for 900 yards and nine touchdowns. He also made big plays with his legs as he rushed for 607 yards and 12 TDs. Lincoln opens the season on Aug. 30 against Southside.

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SOMETHING TO PROVE

Mason-Dixon champs ASD hope to improve on last year's success

By SHANE DUNAWAY

The Alabama School for the Deaf enjoyed a winning season in 2018 after rebounding from a 1-3 start.

By the end of the season, the Silent Warriors were 5-4 and Mason-Dixon Champions after a 42-8 victory over rival Florida School for the Deaf.

Cedric Tyson, offensive coordinator and linebackers coach at ASD, filled in for head coach Paul Kulick at the Talladega County Coaches Association Football Media Day and addressed the media about the upcoming season. Kulick missed the event due to an illness.

"We do want to continue to build on (last season)," Tyson said. "We lost (eight) seniors, so we have a lot of young men on the team. I think the most important thing for us is to build character as a team. I think it's very important for these young boys to know how to develop those leadership skills and become role models."

Tyson said the team is searching for replacements for its players in the trenches from a season ago, Angelo Simon and Zachary Beaver.

"Zachary Beaver, our best center that we've had, did a great job last year," he said. "Both of them (did great) on the line together ... Jacob Johnson, one of our guards, he was good at pulling."

Tyson said ASD will have "a lot of good running backs and receivers, so hopefully, we'll be able to move the ball a lot this fall."

The Silent Warriors incorporated several players from the Alabama School for the Blind onto their roster a season ago, most notably quarterback Tanner Wood, who will again be under center in his senior season providing the skills that helped ASD finish 4-1 in its last five games in 2018.

"(Tanner) has very good leadership skills," Tyson said. "The first few games, we struggled. Then, Tanner started playing quarterback for us. Everything changed overnight really. The boys have a lot of respect for him. He just kept everyone together, and he kept them playing hard as a team."

Tyson said he saw leadership in his quarterback as he helped other players understand the plays and where the weaknesses were in the defense.

"It was a very big thing for us," he said.

Tyson said ASD's double wing offense meshes well with Wood's abilities after he initially struggled with the snap in the shotgun formation.

"It worked out great for him," he said. "We had better ball control and he was able to communicate with the center. Our center this year is totally deaf, so it will be a lot easier to communicate with him that way, too."

Woods played wide receiver before

transitioning into the quarterback role and guiding the team to the Mason-Dixon Championship. He said it was a great experience to face both deaf schools and public schools.

"The fact of the matter is that sometimes we don't get respect from public schools until we have to play them," Wood said. "That's how the saying is — you don't get respect. Respect is earned. This year, we're going to have to earn a lot more respect from the football community because I know we're a little 1A school, but I think if we just put our hearts, our minds and our power into it, I think we can all accomplish something good."

Wood said it was humbling and encouraging to win the Mason-Dixon Championship.

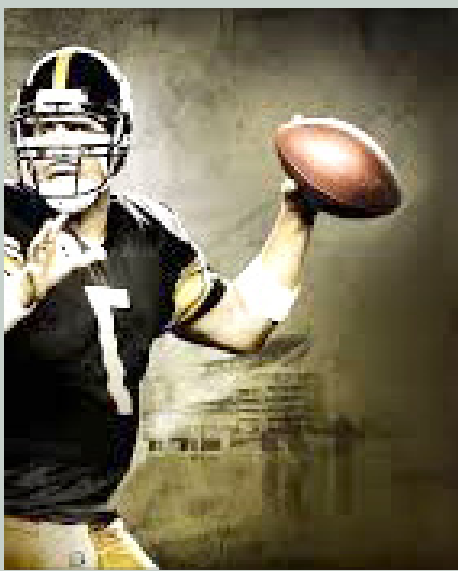
"... just because I have a disability doesn't mean I'm not a champion," he said. "It means I just have to work harder."

In the backfield, Wood will be joined by senior running back Cory McKinnie and junior running back Michael Paige. Tyson said those two would be the focal point of the running game.

"I'm sure there's more (who may carry the ball), but we'll find out this fall," he said.

On defense, junior middle linebacker Cullen Crook will lead a defensive that lost four linebackers from a year ago.

"At linebacker, he puts a lot of pressure on the offense and he does a great job leading, especially in the different game situations,"



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Tyson said. "He can stop the running plays. He's just fast all-around and can get through the offensive linemen to the quarterback."

Heading into the season, Wood said he hopes to see more motivation, leadership, heart and drive and that he'd like to "go out with a bang."

"With the older kids and the veterans who have stayed, I think we need to teach the younger kids who are moving up that it's about the team," he said. "I think the linemen, they need to know that the play doesn't happen unless they do their jobs. It all starts with them. It all starts on the snap. We all need to buckle up and get ready because we're going to have something to prove this year."

SPOTLIGHT



TANNER WOOD

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

He's not in the league anymore, but it's Tim Tebow. All-around, he's just a good guy. He carries himself with great morals and beliefs, and he's been through a lot. People have judged him for what he believes in, and I don't think people should do that. I think he's a great leader to me and I look up to him.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

When I came over to ASD, I hadn't played football in a few years, and I wasn't a starter. But when I came over here, I started and I just felt welcomed to the team. I felt loved and cared for. It felt like I was at another home basically.

What motivates you to work hard?
My family and friends. Just because

I've been told "No" a lot, like I can't do nothing because of my disability. I go out and prove people wrong because I don't think they should judge a book by its cover.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward most to the season for the brotherhood to come back, to be one big football family, have fun out there and win.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I wrestle at (Alabama School for the Blind). I'm a two-time state qualifier there. I like to hang out with my friends. I've been looking at colleges and going all over the world.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I learned this from my dad — football sets you up for life. It has helped me be mentally strong, and if I'm playing another sport like wrestling, when I'm down by a couple points, I can't let that get into my head, because if I do, I'm already beat. I try to figure out what I can do to be on top, to win.

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

The heat is the worst part, and the best part is just getting back with all your buddies and having a good time.

What's your favorite school subject?

This is going to sound crazy — it's math. I like math and science.

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

I can't live without my phone. I can't live without my family and friends. I can't live without my brotherhood.

ROSTER

Name

Michael Paige

Austin Brown

Kaleb Buck

Cullen Crook

Bogdan Dailey

Taylor Dubose

Austin Hayes

Cory McKinnie

Stacey Phillips

Luke Rains

Jaquan Rankins

Denijah Swain

Addison Taylor

Juan Vasquez

D'Andre Tillman

Tanner Wood

Josh Kelley

Dallas McMullen-Schifferle

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Alabama School for the Deaf

HEAD COACH: Paul Kulick (third year)

KEY LOSSES: Angelo Simon, Zachary Beaver, EJ Wilkins

KEY RETURNERS: Tanner Wood, Cullen Crook,
Michael Paige, Cory McKinnie

BASE OFFENSE: Double Wing/Spread **BASE DEFENSE:** 4-4

2018 IN REVIEW: RECORD: 5-4

POINTS SCORED: 248 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 259

SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 at Valley Head, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 at Jacksonville Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 vs. Shoals Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19 vs. Tennessee School for the Deaf, 7 p.m.

Sept. 28 at Indiana School for the Deaf, 2 p.m.

Oct. 5 vs. Model School for the Deaf, 2 p.m.

Oct. 10 at Louisiana School for the Deaf, 7 p.m.

Oct. 19 vs. Mississippi School for the Deaf, 2 p.m.

Oct. 26 at Florida School for the Deaf, 2 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Gaylesville, 7 p.m.

A photograph of a man and two young boys playing soccer on a grassy field. The man, wearing a light blue polo shirt and tan shorts, is in the center, leaning forward with his foot on a soccer ball. To his left, a boy in a colorful striped shirt and plaid shorts is watching. To his right, another boy in a white tank top and blue jeans is running. The background shows trees and a bright, sunny sky.

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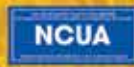
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B.B. Comer TIGERS

CLASS 3A
REGION 6



FOR THE LONG HAUL BB Comer taking next step in building program

By LAVONTE YOUNG

Adam Fossett and the B.B. Comer High School football team will look to take the next step in building a program. In his first season, Fossett changed the culture and made the weight room a priority. This season, Fossett hopes to see those changes reflected in the win column.

"There are such big steps," he said. "The first step last year was let's get numbers. We have to have guys, we have to have kids to play. The first step is getting numbers and getting the expectations in line. Year two, you are still building; you are still processing the build. We want to be competitive. We want to go out there and compete."

Fossett has been impressed with the work ethic and dedication he's seen in the 50 players in the program from seventh through 12th grade. He believes if all goes according to plan, the future is bright for Comer athletics.

"We are trying to build for the long haul," he said. "I always try to have a three-, four-, five-year plan. I have a vision of what Comer football should look like in five years. As I pace my vision, I see we are pretty well on track. If we stay on track where we need to be, year three, four and five look pretty good."

Competing will be a tough task for the Tigers in Class 3A, Region 3. Comer will face defending champs Piedmont, Saks, Randolph County, Weaver and Wellborn. The top three teams:

Piedmont, Saks and Randolph County combine for a 34-7 record. The top three teams made it to the third round or better.

"No matter how you slice it, dice it or look at it, our region is what it is," Fossett said. "You have to appreciate that and prepare for that mentality. I will never lie to my guys; I'll never sugarcoat it. I am upfront and honest with them. They know the region will be tough."

Even with a fuller roster, many of Fossett's players are younger, which means he'll have to play more players both ways. Saks and Piedmont won't have that problem.

"It is a numbers game," he said. "When you get to that situation, you run out of gas no matter what condition you are in. When you run out of gas, it is off to the races ... It is a matter of depth and getting those young guys where they can play."

If Fossett can get his underclassmen ready, it will give Comer a luxury it hasn't had in several seasons — depth.

"We have some ninth- and 10th-graders on the cusp of being able to start for us," he said. "I tell them all the time, guys show me that you can play. If you come in and play, we can start platooning guys. We can start changing some things up where the starters can get a break for a couple of plays."

The team comradery is strong. Fossett said this group gives him a different feeling than the ones he's had at previous schools.

"I have done this at a lot of different levels," he said. "I've had success at Winterboro and Childersburg. We had good

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teams there. I'm not claiming stake of winning 10 or 15 games this season, but it is a different feeling with our guys. It is a different mentality. On these guys' worst day, they are still fun to be around and it is not always like that in coaching."

One of the improvements Comer will have to make is on the offensive side of the ball. Last season, the Tigers averaged 11 points per game, which was helped greatly by two high-scoring games — 40 points against Glencoe and 30 against TC Central.

This season, Fossett hopes explosive junior running back Raphael Johnson can be the spark the offense so desperately needs.

"He knows that there will be a lot of weight on his shoulders coming into the season," Fossett said. "He will be our tailback and there will be a lot of workload for him. He has done a great job for us as far as the new role, learning the offense and getting us through spring. He rushed for a little less than 300 yards in the spring game. We have a lot of good things going for us as far as that goes. That's a testament of him buying into the program and buying into the weight program."



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ROSTER

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6	Rapheale Johnson	44	Dakota Watts
8	Devonta Carmichael	50	Daniel Murphy
9	Cortez Harris	51	Eddie East
11	Ward Rush	52	Austin Dobbs
12	Julius McCain	53	Chris Wilson
13	Chris Price	54	Hagan DeLee
14	Chris Garrett	56	Brandon Blankenship
16	Hayden Danford	57	Korey Anderson
17	Keon Driver	60	Omari Wells
18	Tayshawn Heard	64	Terryon Pope
19	Noah Wimmer	65	Zachariah Carpenter
20	John Murphy	66	JQwon Brownfield
21	Jacob Price	72	Judson Murray
22	Trent Roberson	74	Coby McCain
23	Kamore Harries	76	Angel Ruiz
24	Adam Odum	77	Ean Denty
25	James Carmichael		Riley Culver
27	Jesse Graham		Drew Hallman

SPOTLIGHT



RAPHEALE JOHNSON

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

Odell Beckham Jr. because he has an excitement about him on and off the field.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

It was on JV (junior varsity), we won the championship game.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to college and play football.

What motivates you to work hard?

My coaches.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just to build as a team and get better.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to draw.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I run track. It keeps me in shape.

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

The best part is getting stronger, faster and better. The worst part is being sore.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math.

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

Family, wifi, clothes.

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: B.B. Comer

HEAD COACH: Adam Fossett (second year)

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

KEY LOSSES: Chad Harris, Jordan Worsley, Tamar King

KEY RETURNERS: Rapheale Johnson, Coby McCain

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 2-8 **POINTS SCORED:** 110 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 303

SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 at Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 vs. Saks, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 at Glencoe, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 vs. Randolph County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 at TC Central, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 vs. Walter Wellborn, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 at Pleasant Valley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. Piedmont, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 at Weaver, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Fayetteville, 7 p.m.



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Childersburg TIGERS

CLASS 4A
REGION 4



‘CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER’

Childersburg looking for redemption after disappointing 2018 finish

By SHANE DUNAWAY

Childersburg High School's football team will look to rebound from a 2018 campaign that saw the team lose five straight games after starting the season 3-2 in Class 4A, Region 4.

Tigers head coach Jonathan Beverly said the team's struggles down the stretch last season helped fuel the returning players during the offseason.

"The way last season ended was not what we wanted, but the positive in that is I saw us work harder this offseason, starting in January, than I have in any of the years I've been here," he said. "I couldn't be more pleased, not only with how our kids handled this offseason, but also how our coaching staff has come together and how we attack each day with intensity and focus."

Beverly hopes that intensity bleeds over into fall camp and translates into a successful season that leads to the playoff.

"We want to get back to the postseason," he said. "That's our on-the-field goal for sure is to get back to the postseason and find ourselves

playing football in November."

Beverly said one of the offseason goals was to build a family atmosphere inside the fieldhouse and he cited examples of how his players have succeeded at accomplishing the task.

"That's the first thing that pops into my mind when I think about our football team is the fact that I see a lot of guys who love each other and care about the guy next to them," he said. "I see that in the locker room. I see it in the weight room. I see it when we're conditioning ... We'll see guys who are maybe struggling to finish a sprint, and we'll see guys run out there, tag along beside them and help them finish."

The Tigers didn't have as much turnover entering 2019 camp as they did a season ago. Childersburg had to replace 21 seniors from the 2017 squad compared to just 10 from 2018.

"We're really fortunate in that we didn't lose a ton of starters," Beverly said. "We didn't lose a lot in productivity on either side of the ball ... it's a positive for us, because a lot of these guys are going to be in a position to be able to play."

While departed senior Austin Douglas won't be there to throw

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passes this season, one of his primary targets will take the reins on offense.

"Cameron Thrash is going to transition into the role of quarterback for us this year," Beverly said. "He's done a great job all offseason. He had a really good spring for us. He was actually voted as our offensive MVP last year at receiver, so we're really excited to be able to have him transition into the quarterback spot because now the ball has to

touch his hands every play."

Thrash will take the snaps from senior center Kishon Reynolds, a four-year starter at the position.

"I couldn't be more proud of the progress (Reynolds) has made from the time he was a freshman until now entering his senior year," Beverly said. "I used to tell him all the time as a freshman that he was going to be the best center in 4A football. I truly believed it then,

and I believe it now."

The Tigers return what Beverly described as a "nasty" defense.

"We're going to be athletic on that side of the ball again," he said. "We've got a lot of returning starters on that side of the ball. We feel really good about it. It's a strong unit for us."

Childersburg faced Helena in its spring game and lost 48-20 against a team with nearly double the roster size and as explosive on offense as some of its region opponents. Beverly said he believes that game will help them prepare for the challenges that come within the region.

"I took a page out of what I felt like was our basketball coaches' playbook," he said. "Coach (Johnny) Johnson and Coach (Gavin) King, our two basketball coaches at school, they've always stressed just playing great competition in not only the regular season, but in their summer practices and things like that. We went out and we wanted to find the toughest team we could find to play a spring football game against, and it turned out Helena, a 6A school in the Birmingham area, had an opening.



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"I thought it was great for our kids to see that level of competition because with our schedule, there's no off weeks. Not only is there no off week, we play a lot of offenses and a lot of quarterbacks that can throw the football well. I thought it was really good for our guys to see that."

Beverly said he expects to see more of an edge out of his team this season.

"I hate to use the term 'chip on your shoulder,' but I'd be lying if I didn't say you kind of feel that in the air," he said. "When you walk into the locker room or when you walk in the fieldhouse, there's just a sense of unfinished business. I don't know how that will quantify itself in wins and losses, but I do believe, honestly, that we will have a much more appealing product that's on the field on Friday nights."



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SPOTLIGHT



KISHON REYNOLDS

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

I would like to say Ray Lewis. He was a complete dog and that's how I like to see myself — as a dog on the field. Aggressive. Elusive. A leader on and off the field. That's a great man, a great father and someone I see myself being one day.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My greatest football moment was when we beat Handley my sophomore year. It was a dogfight. It was (13-6) going into the fourth quarter. It was fourth-and-1. We had ran a quarterback sneak. I was the center, of course. I told him to follow me. He followed me for the first down and off the quarterback sneak, we ended up scoring a 60-yard touchdown, which usually doesn't happen in an away game.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan on enrolling at Auburn University at Montgomery and majoring in finance.

What motivates you to work hard?

My father, my family,

everything. Mostly my father. My father keeps in my head everyday, "You have to be strong. You have to be a man. You have things you have to do on and off the field everywhere you go to keep up your image."

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward to winning, competing and having fun. It's my last season as a senior. We're trying to win. I'm looking forward to a championship and another playoff appearance.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to listen to a lot of podcasts, financial podcasts about real estate and stuff like that. I also like to play video games and to work. I like to train my dogs. I have two German shepherds and I like to work with them a lot.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps me stay fit and helps me stay focused so I don't have any distractions off the field. It constantly keeps me going somewhere, especially with baseball and basketball.

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

The best part of fall camp is just being back out there. You've trained all summer for that moment to be back out there with the pads on and being aggressive, physical and having fun. To me, there's really no worst part. It's all fun for me.

What's your favorite school subject?

My favorite school subject would probably be math — pre-cal.

What's a quote that you live by?

Live it up like it's your last.

ROSTER

No. Name

1 Terry Thomas
2 Javiun Jones
4 Cordell Speer
5 Marquese Duncan
6 Zay Youngblood
7 Connor Hebson
8 Lamarr Duncan
9 Phillip Tilley
10 Jay Twyman
11 Xzavion Garrett
15 Cameron Thrash
16 Zae Truss
18 Omari McClain
19 Javarus Embery
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28 Quintez Gilbert
29 Kelvin Duncan
30 Leyton Moeser
32 Caleb Lawson
50 Deangelo Morris
52 Isaac McMillian
53 Donquarious Garrett
55 Austin Luker
56 Austin Reason
57 Andrew Chatman
58 Isaiah Rodgers
59 Xander Bowling
60 Kishon Reynolds
62 Skylar Rice
65 Marquain Swain
71 Caleb Swain
72 Jack Sanders
75 Jaylon Cook
79 Zac Penrod
85 Kareon Lawson

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Childersburg

HEAD COACH: Jonathan Beverly (fourth year)

KEY LOSSES: Austin Douglas, William Foy, Christian Guerrero

KEY RETURNERS: Terry Thomas, Cameron Thrash, Zay Youngblood

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 159 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 227

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 at Shelby County, 7 p.m.

Aug. 30 vs. TC Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 at Talladega, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 vs. Holtville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 at Handley, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 at Sylacauga, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10 vs. Elmore County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 at Lincoln, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 vs. Leeds, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Anniston, 7 p.m.

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Coosa Valley Academy REBELS

AISA AA
REGION 1

CVA to compete in 8-man football this season

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The 2019 football season seemed to be in jeopardy for Coosa Valley Academy up just a couple of weeks before the first game.

The Rebels only have 11 players on the roster, which made it impossible for them to compete in the AISA this season.

On Aug. 9, Coosa Valley Academy's board of trustees decided to play 8-man football this fall.

Coosa Valley Academy Athletic Director Shawn Baker said this decision was best for the kids.

"What we decided due to the number of players that we had on the team, we decided that we are going to drop out a year and try to rebuild a little bit," he said. "Playing 8-man

gives us a chance to still have football. The school is excited about it. Everybody is on board with it. The guys are all behind it, and the coaches think that it will be best. It will give us a chance to rebuild, and we will eventually move back to 11-man football.

With the typical threat of injuries, this option gives the team the opportunity to keep the season going. "It gives the guys something that they can compete in and be proud of," he said.

The Rebels will play in the Alabama Christian school league, which features Evangel Christian, Ezekiel Academy and Lyman Ward Military Academy.

"We are still a member of AISA in basketball, baseball, volleyball and all of our other sports," Baker said.

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Interim head coach Jared Watson will lead the Rebels into 8-man football. He's has been an assistant at CVA for five years, and was named the interim coach on Aug. 5 after former coach Jeff Edwards decided to leave the program. Edwards, himself, was taking over for Jamie Scruggs, who finished 4-8 last season. Scruggs left CVA to become the offensive coordinator at Brookwood High School.

"Jared Watson is going to stay with us," Baker said. "He committed to stay with the boys. Travis Fields is going to be working with him. They have been working with the boys for a while now. They are going to get things going in a positive direction."

Watson played at Coosa Valley in 1984, when they won the state championship.

"He played at the University of Alabama," Baker said. "The guys have respect for him, and they really like him."

Baker hopes having success in 8-man football will help CVA get more football players to enroll into the school. He said this decision gives the school's three seniors a chance to enjoy their final season at CVA.

"We are glad to give our seniors something to look forward to this season," he said. "We are proud for them."

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Coosa Valley Academy

HEAD COACH: Jeff Edwards (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Tripp Allen, Camden Knight

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-8 **POINTS SCORED:** 168 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 351

ROSTER

Name

Matt Emlich

Walker Whitten

Nick Shepard

Sam Hendon

Cole Hapach

Bryson Wilson

Braydon Wilson

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Josh Allen

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SPOTLIGHT

WALKER WHITTEN

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

I look up to Ryan Shazier of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He is going through some back problems, but he is steadily getting better every day so he can hopefully come back next year. I follow him on social media and he is getting better. It is a big struggle for him, but he hasn't given up yet.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

It was my sophomore year and we were playing Kingwood. We were down by, like, 4 points in the last five seconds of the game. We threw a touchdown and we won.

What are your post-high school plans?

I'm not going to college. I plan on getting into a trade like electrical or welding. That will get me started really fast. I don't want to go to college for a degree that I am not going to use. I want to get started right away with something that will keep me above water.

What motivates you to work hard?

The team motivates me. If I show out and be immature, then they are going to be immature. If I tell them that we need to be more mature and we need to work hard, then they work harder. The harder they work, the harder I work. What I do reflects off them. They do what I do. If I work really hard, so will they.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just being out there. Being under those lights one more season is what I am looking forward to.

What are some of your interests outside of your

sport?

I like to work on cars with my family. I like to learn about them and how they work.

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

The worst thing about it is the numbers. We can't go out there and run an actual play and have a defense to work the play on. We have to imagine someone there and imagine what they are going to do. It is not the same as having someone out there. We don't have enough players to even be on offense. We have guys that are supposed to be receivers, but we have them on the line to stand there so we will have an idea. That's the worst part of it because we can't go over the whole defense or whole offense. While other people have worked on offense and defense this whole summer, it is Aug. 8 and we have barely done anything because of our numbers. We give our best when we are out there. The best part is looking around practice and being, like, these are the guys that have heart; these are guys that want to be out here. They haven't given up yet.

What's your favorite school subject?

History. I like to know what happened back then. I like to know what is the difference from then and now.

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

Family, football and phone.

What's a quote that you live by?

Deuteronomy 31:6. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." That's what I live by right there.



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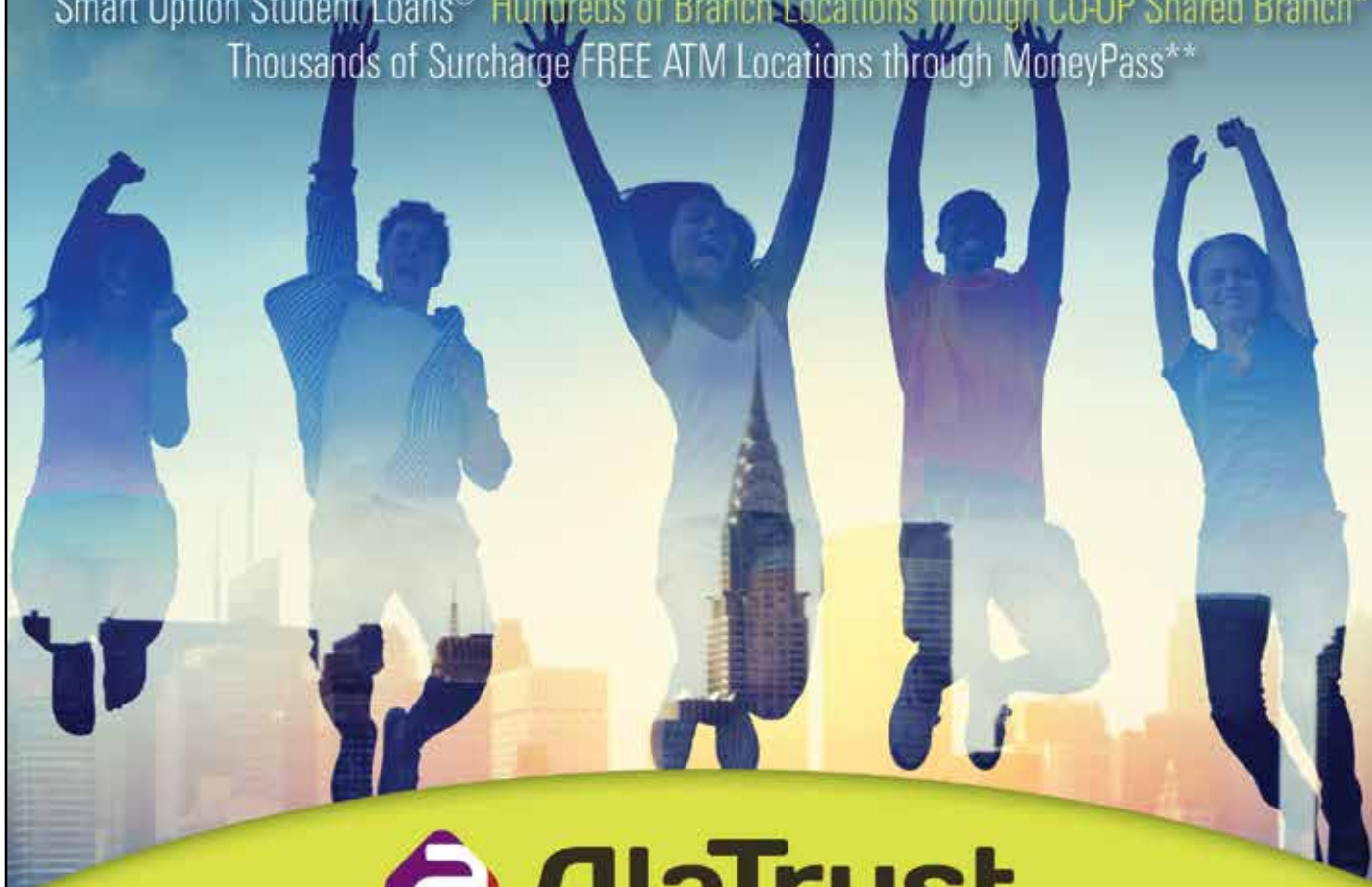
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Fayetteville WOLVES

CLASS 2A
REGION 4



‘WINNING IN LIFE’

Fayetteville vows to play hard in tough region

By LAVONTE YOUNG

Fayetteville head coach John Limbaugh had quite the summer. He was involved in an accident in which he was hit in the head by a 1,400-pound cow ... multiple times.

The veteran coach/pastor had to have plastic surgery after the swelling went down in his face. Limbaugh said the accident made him take his own advice.

“It taught me something that I have always known, I talked to these kids about and preached about for 33 years,” he said. “It taught me not to take one moment of any day for granted. Every second that I have with these young men are great times. It’s fun teaching these guys the game of football, but teaching them about life is a whole different thing. That’s what it’s all about. Winning championships is one thing; winning in life is a totally different thing. That’s what we want to teach at Fayetteville.”

Limbaugh said he has two great jobs. He said his two professions complement each other.

“Being a pastor and coach really goes hand-in-glove,” he said. “Being a pastor, we get to teach Christ. On the football field we can do the same thing, because he is a champion. Christ is a true champion. We can teach about him in all walks of life. That communication never stops whether you are at the church or the football field. He is what’s important.”

Last season, the Wolves finished with a 3-7 record and missed the postseason losing to Horseshoe Bend, 34-13. Limbaugh said defeating Horseshoe Bend to make the playoff is something the team should have accomplished

“We should’ve got it done,” he said. “We played a bad game against Horseshoe Bend. We didn’t play well, we didn’t tackle well. We played pretty good ball at the end of the season. I don’t know why it took so long but we are going to rectify the situation.”

Saying Fayetteville’s region schedule is tough is an understatement. The Wolves will take on defending 2A, Region 4 champions Reeltown, Thorsby and LaFayette. Even though it will



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be a tough task for the Wolves to win their second region crown since 2015, Limbaugh expects his players to compete every time they step on the field.

“I think we play in the hardest region in the state of Alabama,” he said. “That’s no excuse. You are going to see a Fayetteville team that plays hard. We have always played to the final second; this is a fighting team ... We learned a lot about ourselves towards the end of last year, in the spring and through the summer. One thing that I have learned is being an overcomer. Maybe some of that will come off on our team, too. Overcoming whatever life throws at you, whether it is a tough team you are playing or a tough deal. You just have to be able to overcome it.”

Falling short of making the postseason is something that has motivated the Wolves during the offseason.

“Mainly make it to the playoffs,” Brady Ritchey said. “I think that is our main goal. “Since I have

been here, I don’t think we have made it to the playoffs yet. I think the main goal is for us to push each other, scratch, claw and do what we can to get there.”

One thing that the Wolves will have to improve on from last season is their offense. In 2018, Fayetteville averaged 10 points per game. The Wolves are a run-first team, but Limbaugh expects quarterback Blake Machen to get the job done when he’s

forced to put the ball in the air.

“One thing I like about Blake at the QB position is his toughness,” Limbaugh said. “He is a competitor. He won’t brag on himself because that is not how he was brought up. He is going to do a great job. We have a lot of kids that are going to step up — some new kids, new names that are going to step up and do great things for us. I am very excited about it.”

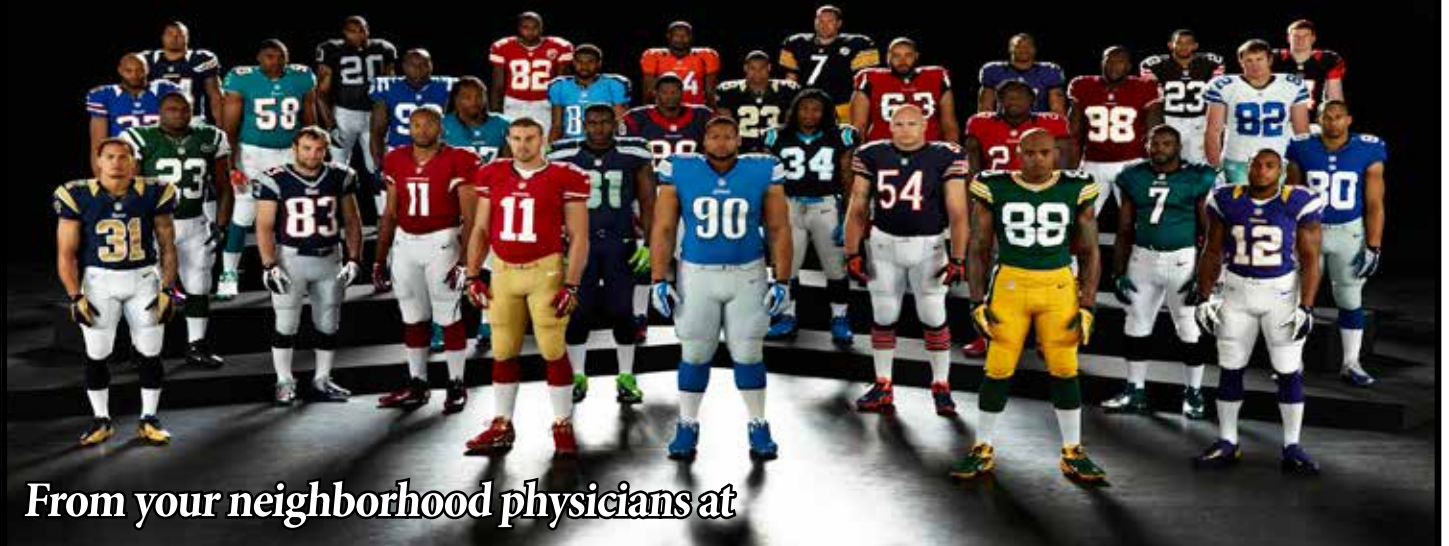
Limbaugh wants his team to have the same approach regardless of how they are playing. The veteran coach said his team should just worry about the opponent they facing each game.

“Learn that every game matters,” he said. “It could be a non-region opponent that might help you get into the playoffs the way things shake out sometimes. It is cliché, I know, but to take it one game at a time. Don’t look ahead. Our next focus right now is Woodland, we will move on after that. We have to take things one game at a time.

Limbaugh said the team is going to play to God’s glory.

“We are going to give this year to him,” he said. “We are going to do things the right way all the way through this year. We are going to hold each other accountable and be disciplined. If we are accountable and disciplined, I think the wins will take care of themselves.”

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SPOTLIGHT



BLAKE MACHEN

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

Tom Brady, because he is a great father to his children. He has never given up. He is 41 and he just won the Super Bowl. He has great tenacity. He refuses to lose.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

This past season we were playing Vincent and we were on a really long losing streak. We were down 15-0. We came back and scored 15 points to tie the game going into halftime. We scored three or four touchdowns after coming out from halftime to beat them 35-21.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan on going to play college football somewhere, and I am going to try to go to culinary school.

What motivates you to work hard?

These past two seasons have been rough. I just push myself

in the weight room to make myself get better on the field.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to having a winning season with my brothers. I am looking forward to going to the playoffs and see if we can make a playoff run.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to play video games.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I play basketball and I am playing baseball this season, too. Basketball helps me to stay in shape and get my endurance up.

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

The best part is preparing for the season and getting the whole team to have that championship mentality. The worst part is the heat and being out there to 6:30 or 7 each night.

What's your favorite school subject?

History — I love learning about the past.

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

Video games, my phone, and food.

What's a quote that you live by?

Working hard every day, pushing yourself to the limit, having a championship mentality.

ROSTER

No Name

1	Levi Phillips	38	Camden Keeton
2	Pacey Deloach	51	Austin Jones
3	Casen Bryant	52	Aidan Hill
4	Zander Liner	54	Dakota Ogle
5	Hunter Hill	55	Lane Darden
6	Cayden Roland	56	Blake Ritchey
9	Chance Owens	61	Will Darden
11	Cason Gardner	64	Trevor Deloach
12	Blake Machen	66	Tanner Harry
13	Luke White	72	Connor Nelson
14	Tyler Hill	78	Ethan Presley
18	Jacob Vice	82	Jacob Kornegay
21	Marlon Cook	83	Billy Helm
25	Dustin Wilson	85	Stephen Barrett
26	Seth Limbaugh	88	Brady Holmes
33	Brady Ritchey		Candence Barret
34	Chandler Earley		
35	Payne Cardwell		

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Fayetteville

HEAD COACH: John Limbaugh (eighth year)

KEY LOSSES: Jon Dalton Pate, Zach Roberts

KEY RETURNERS: Blake Machen, Blake Ritchey, Brady Ritchey

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 107 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 294

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 vs. Woodland, 7 p.m.	Oct. 4 vs. LaFayette, 7 p.m.
Aug. 30 at. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.	Oct. 10 vs. Thorsby, 7 p.m.
Sept. 6 at Reeltown, 7 p.m.	Oct. 18 at Horseshoe Bend, 7 p.m.
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GOLDEN BEARS

CLASS 4A
REGION 4



FINISH STRONG

Lincoln hopes to fix 2018's fourth-quarter woes

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The final play of the 2018 season has haunted Lincoln High School's football team the entire offseason. The

Golden Bears were about to go from worst to first in the region in 2018, but fell in the first round of the Class 4A playoffs to Alabama Christian on the final play off the game. Lincoln head coach Matt Zedaker said his team will

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have to find a way to close out the fourth quarter.

“That’s been our calling card this offseason,” Zedaker said. “Knowing that we want to take that next step. We want to defend the region title. Trying to win the region title

again is going to be very difficult. There are a lot of very good teams in that region. They’ve got to come through us first, and then take that next step. When you are a one seed playing a four seed in the playoffs, you need to try to win

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that game. That's what we have been talking about and what we have been working towards."

One of the main factors in their early postseason exit was the quarterback play for the Golden Bears. Lincoln played without standout signal caller Javion Surles who tore his ACL in the regular season finale.

Zedaker refers to his quarterback as Cyborg after he recovered from his injury in just three months. The third-year coach said he expects big things from Surles this season.

"He is an unbelievable athlete, unbelievable genetically obviously with the way he recovers," Zedaker said. "He is back full speed. I held him out of contact in the spring game. Javion has had an excellent summer for us in 7-on-7 and just in our regular camp. I have a lot of expectations for him... (I expect him to) double his numbers from last year. Continue to improve on his accolades, be the leader on offense and be the captain, leader in the locker, lead by example and go do what he does."

Lincoln also returns several key playmakers on the defensive side of the ball. All-State safety Cam Reynolds and Division I prospects Steven White and Tre Garrett return to lead what Zedaker describes as a "nasty" defense. Lincoln held its opponents to 18 points or fewer in six games in 2018.

"We get to the ball," Zedaker said. "Coach (Skylar) Mansfield, our defensive coordinator, does a tremendous job with effort, with pursuit, with just the nastiness we want to bring. We want to be known as one of the hardest hitting teams in the county, and Coach Mansfield preaches that all the time. We are a very fast defense. We are going to put our athletes out there on the field. We are

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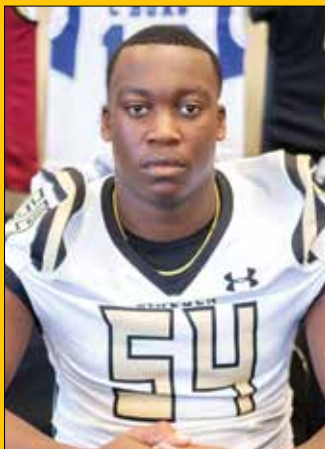
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SPOTLIGHT



STEVEN WHITE

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

Aaron Donald, because of how explosive he is off the ball, how fast he can get past a defender. I saw on ESPN that his time getting off blocks was an average of 2.7 seconds.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My favorite moment would have to be when I was in little league when I played running back and I scored my first touchdown. I did a nice spin move on the dude, which made him fall and I ran it into the endzone.

What motivates you to work hard?

The thing that motivates me is that it's my last year (of high school) for anything. There's no next year to get better. I have to leave it all on the field and (basketball) court because once it's over, it's over; you can't get this feeling back.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking to stay healthy for the whole season. Last season, I had an injury that I carried with me throughout the season and had to sit out the Munford game.

I ended up needing surgery for it so the plan for this year is to try to be injury-free.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to go volunteer. I try to help out in the community as much as I can — if it's working little league sports to high school. We have a Christian program for our church, we'll make book bags with school supplies and give it to the kids that are in need of it.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

The two other sports that I play are basketball and track. Basketball helps me stay in shape for football. Track is mainly the same things, even though I throw the shot put and discus. I still do a couple of drills with the sprinters.

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

The best part of fall camp is learning that I can tweak my techniques. The worst thing would be that I end up getting shin splints from it but still tough it out.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math has been my favorite subject since I was young. I used to love doing the work they sent home for math. I'll have it done so quick. It is like I click to everything that they taught.

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

I wouldn't be able to live without food, water and my phone.

What's a quote that you live by?

Philippians 4:13. 'I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me.' That motivates me to do the best that I can do and to not be afraid because I got God behind me in my footsteps.

ROSTER

No Name

1	Cam Reynolds	33	Nick Munroe
2	Tre Garrett	34	Kendrick Truss
3	Kye Patterson	36	Austin Phillips
4	Keyshon Townsend	37	Gavin Hobbs
5	Davidson Malone	38	Hunter Johnson
6	Javion Surles	41	Jayllon George
7	Anthony Gallimore	43	JD Davis
8	Jeremy Lane	44	Alex Luker
9	Brian Garrett	45	Zack Gable
10	Jack Poarch	46	Lavont Finley
11	Quintin Cotton	50	Javon Ward
12	Chorion Kelley	51	Zavion MccLuney
13	Zay Griffin	52	Isaac Britt
14	Tae Elston	53	Zion MccLuney
15	Zac Wren	54	Steven White
16	Hayden Phillips	55	Kevon Moore
17	Luke Collier	56	LeBreyton Looney
18	Dazhone Finely	57	Jaden Wilson
19	Isaiah Ashley	58	Trey Scott
20	Peyton Miller	59	Marquist Scott
21	David Jacobs	60	Chris Thompson
22	Nick Robinson	61	Malakai Straw
23	Cornelius Glass	62	Kaden McKenzie
24	Tre Wilson	63	Marcus Sego
25	Austin Creamer	64	Skyler Jones
26	Steve Hines	65	Brodie Williams
27	Korry Davis	68	Aaron Woodard
28	Brayden Watson	69	Julian Sanchez
29	Tre Hines	70	Michael Jacobs
30	Tristian Payton	72	Bailey Butler
32	Gavin Gaddis	75	Dez Bradford

going to get on the field and get to the ball.”

After having success season, Zedaker knows that his team will have a target on their backs this season.

“We kind of snuck up on some folks,” he said. “Going from the hunter to the hunted now. That’s kind of been our mantra this year. To make sure that we are outworking everybody else because we know we are going to get everyone’s best game.”

Lincoln’s success has also created a buzz in the community.

“The community is extremely excited,” Zedaker said. “Lincoln is a very rich athletic community. They are very proud of their football teams. They are very proud of all of their teams. There’s been really good football at Lincoln. Our job is to make that good football consistent year in and year out.”

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Lincoln

HEAD COACH: Matt Zedaker (third year)

KEY LOSSES: Dalton Gowers, Jarrod McBurnett, Nick Pope

KEY RETURNERS: Javion Surles, Cam Reynolds, Steven White, Tre Garrett

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 7-4 **POINTS SCORED:** 286 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 209

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 at Southside-Gadsden, 7 p.m.

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

Sept. 13 vs. Leeds, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 at Talladega, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 at Munford, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 vs. Holtville, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 at Handley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 at Elmore County, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Montevallo, 7 p.m.

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Munford LIONS

CLASS 5A
REGION 5



SETTING A HIGH STANDARD

First-year coach Easley 'blessed' to be at Munford

By LAVONTE YOUNG

The Michael Easley era is officially under way at Munford. Easley takes over for Bill Smith who left the Lions after four seasons to take over at Fayette County.

Easley takes over a Munford program that has been successful over the past six years before having an adversity-filled season in 2018. Easley didn't have a second thought about taking the Munford job and said he thought it was the perfect fit.

"Before last year, they have been to the semifinals twice in the six years previous to that," he said. "We played them in high school and played them in my earlier years at Saks. It is just a good program. I am very fortunate and very blessed for my first head job to be as good as Munford. There are some really good coaches that have to take really bad jobs as their first head job. I am very fortunate and very blessed."

Going into the season Easley doesn't have any hard set goals when it comes to the number of wins. The first-year coach said his goal is for his players to be able to leave his program and be successful members of society.

"At the end of the day, our sole focus is not winning games," he said. "I talked to them on day one. We are going to set a standard on how we expect our young men to act in the hallways, grades in the classroom. We set a pretty high standard. I told them from day one that I am not going to apologize for setting a high standard. We want to set the culture. We want young men to meet that standard every day. I told them I am a lot more about what kind of

husband, father, and employee you are going to be one day than football player. To me that's where success comes from."

Easley brings his high-powered offensive attack from Saks to Munford. Last season, Saks scored 451 points in 13 games. The Wildcats scored more than 450 points in six of the seven seasons Easley was the offensive coordinator, including a 511-point season in 2014 and 595-point season in 2013.

Easley would be elated if the success that he had at Saks translated into the same results at Munford, but he said he knows there are several factors that will determine those results.

"... every year is different, every school is different, every schedule is different," he said. "If we averaged 40 a game, I wouldn't complain, but, like I said, every team is different."

The Lions will depend on second-year quarterback Jay Tuck to have a huge season. Tuck had a solid season in 2018, but with the offense that Easley brings to Munford, look for Tuck's production to increase.

"Jay Tuck is one of those guys that you could fit in any offense that we had any year at Saks because of his skill set," Easley said. "At the quarterback position, he will run the ball some."

Munford will also depend on three-star prospect Justin Sistrunk on both sides of the ball. Sistrunk is the leader of the Lions defense at the linebacker position. Easley will have to manage Sistrunk's snaps so he can be productive late in games.

"The thing about Justin, he is athletic enough to get

out of the box, get outside and on the perimeter,” Easley said. He is going to be on the field for us offensively, but he is going to be one of our better defensive players. He is big enough and strong enough to run in between the tackles; he is athletic enough to catch the ball on the perimeter. To be honest with you, you may see him all over the field from sideline to sideline.”

Sistrunk will split carries with several backs, including TJ Johnson. Easley said Johnson, who has never played on offense, is Munford's best pure athlete.

“He has never played running back before; he is still learning,” Easley said. “He played defense the first three years. I don't think he knew how to take a handoff on the first day of spring practice.”

Nothing will be given to the Lions this season. Munford has non-region games against Oxford, Lincoln and Talladega, which will help them prepare for a grueling region schedule that includes Mortimer Jordan, who lost in the semifinals last season, and defending 5A champion Central Clay County.

“I joked with people that I moved out of what everyone would agree the toughest region in 3A to the toughest region in 5A,” Easley said. “Clay Central, who won the state championship, had three or four losses last year. They beat Mortimer Jordan for only their second loss (in the semifinals). Up to that point, they won 10 straight. They get knocked out the semis after beating Clay Central in the regular season. The region is brutal.”

Pointing to perennial powerhouse Center Point, Sylacauga and St. Clair County, Easley said: “It is a very tough region.”



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SPOTLIGHT

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

Kiko Alonso. I like him because he plays linebacker like me. Not to many people know him; he is a sleeper.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Winning the region championship my 10th-grade year. We had a really good team and it was a lot of fun.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to college and

play some football. I want to go to school to be an athletic trainer.

What motivates you to work hard?

I just want to be successful; that's my greatest motivation.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward to the new coach and new team pretty much. Everybody is playing on both sides of the ball, so it is going to be a fun year.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I love to workout. Working out is a passion of mine.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It kept me in shape year-round.

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

The best part is I love football and hitting people. Worst part is being sore.

What's your favorite school subject?

Science/Health. I like learning about what you should eat and taking care of your body.

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

Phone, football and family

What's a quote that you live by?



LANCE SMITH

Always work hard. Try your best. Outwork anybody you are playing against.

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Munford

HEAD COACH: Michael Easley (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Kyle Ross, Cam Lemons, Pernell Mitchell

KEY RETURNERS: Justin Sistrunk, Jay Tuck, LJ Flint

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 189 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 276

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 at Oxford, 7 p.m.

Aug. 30 at Talladega, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 vs. Central Clay County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 at Center Point, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 at Springville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 vs. Lincoln, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 vs. Moody, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 at Mortimer Jordan, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. St. Clair County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 at Sylacauga, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No Name

1 Dre Simmons	27 Riley Brown
2 Dreke Dorman	28 Langdon Sanderson
3 TJ Johnson	29 Cole Roberts
4 Tadarrious Parker	30 Payton Gaither
5 Ontarious Toyer	31 Javion White
6 Kamron Sandlin	32 Corbin Smith
7 Justin Sistrunk	33 Ron Ervin
8 Ja'Isiam Tuck	35 Landry Bradford
9 LJ Flint	38 Daygun Lathem
10 Rashard Russell	40 Terence Reynolds
11 Sylvester Smith	42 Kelby Tucker
12 Caleb Cotton	44 Cameron Wallace
13 Andrew Williams	50 Tymon Johnson
14 Lance Smith	52 Jon Paul Wesley
15 Avontae Heard	53 Aiden Marquardt
16 Demetrius Norwood	54 Kole Edwards
17 Cameron Strickland	55 Kobe Threatt
18 Jayce Harris	56 Cole Burgdoerfer
19 Garrett Sprayberry	57 Daniel Beckman
20 Jaquan Anderson	58 Khalil Smith
21 Caderio Holland	60 Keyshawn Castleberry
23 Jayden Turner	65 Daniel Champion
24 Jacoby Young	71 Kyler Gibson
25 Jacob Champion	73 Macon Griffin
26 Spencer Yates	75 Vonquel Chapman
	79 Jayden Tucker

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Pell City PANTHERS

CLASS 6A
REGION 6



JUICED RIVALRY

Pell City coach just wants to ‘beat Oxford’

By SHANE DUNAWAY

Pell City High School's football team got its first taste of action in a talent-packed Class 6A, Region 6 in 2018.

Panthers head coach Wayne Lee said his team is looking to build on a season where it bookended two pairs of victories

around a six-game losing streak, with five of those games against region opponents. The Panthers finished fifth in the region last season.

"I think the big difference this year is everybody — me included, the players included — we kind of know more about what we're stepping into," he said. "We knew the region last

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year and what it was about, but now after being in it a year, you really understand what it's about.

"Working towards that, I think we'll be a lot better off this year than we were last year."

The Panthers lost 12 seniors from the 2018 squad, but they will have continuity at the quarterback position with senior Mitch Gossett.

"(Gossett) has a year under his belt and should feel more relaxed," Lee said. "We're expecting good things out of him this year."

Joining him in leadership roles on the team will be offensive lineman John David Freeman and linebacker Brett Staples.

"Both of them (Freeman and Staples) will be three-year starters this year, and a three-year starter in 6A, it takes a pretty special kid to do that," Lee said. "Brett being a linebacker, he's kind of the quarterback on the defensive side of the ball and has been since he's been playing."

Freeman returns at a position group Lee said is a definite strength for the Panthers.

"We've got five guys returning on the offensive line," he said. "That ought to be a strength for us. We've got receivers coming back. Our quarterback is coming back."

"Defensively, the back seven have all got experience, but we've got to get better up front. On special teams, our kicker and punter are back, so we've got some guys in place. We've got

some young kids who we got some good film on in the spring game."

Lee said his team needs to become more consistent this season.

"Last year, our first game and our last game were probably our two best games," he said. "Now we've got to get 2 through 9 going in (that direction)."

Freeman said he sees the improvement in mentality among his teammates going into the season.

"I think everybody's starting to work together as a team instead of being an individual player," he said.

Staples added that the team has emphasized giving maximum effort during offseason workouts.


"We've been working really hard during the summer and doing a lot of conditioning," he said. "I think it's going to be a lot better this year than last year."


Lee said he didn't want to discuss the specifics of the looming Week 3 matchup between Pell City and Oxford, which hired former Panthers head coach Keith Etheredge in May, but Lee acknowledged those developments give the rivalry a bit more juice.

He did touch on the challenges that come with facing his region opponents.


"There's no question you had the two best teams in 6A in that region with Clay-Chalkville and Pinson Valley, and

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Oxford, who very well could have been the third-best team ... We're one game out of a playoff spot. This year, we've got to find a way to get that playoff spot. We know a little more about it and what we've got to do."

As daunting a task as it may be to carve through a tough schedule, Lee reiterated making the playoffs is part of the

goals for this season.

"Every year, you want to get to the playoffs," he said. "Once you get to the playoffs, you never know and you see what can happen from there. For us, we want to beat Oxford. Bottom line, we want to beat Oxford."



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YOUR LOCAL LAKE EXPERT

SPOTLIGHT

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

My favorite football player is Ben Boulware from the Clemson Tigers. He's just a hard-nosed, blue-collar linebacker.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I was honored, back in my sophomore year, to receive a Class 6A first-team all-state (selection).

What are your post-high school plans?

I'm hoping to get a college football scholarship anywhere. I just want to go play college football somewhere.

What motivates you to work hard?

The players around me motivate me to work hard and just to be the best I can.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Playing all these really good teams in our region and just showing them what we can do.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I'm an outdoors guy, so I like



BRETT STAPLES

fishing and hunting.

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

The best part about fall camp is getting out there and just hitting people — I like. The worst part is having to wait until that Friday night to get here.

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

My parents, football and my teammates.

ROSTER

No Name

- 1 Kelton Seals
- 2 Kentrell Borden
- 3 Clay Hardie
- 4 Mitchell Gossett
- 5 Trey Evans
- 6 Bryan Keller
- 7 Conner McCombs
- 8 Clayton Rich
- 9 Cade Golden
- 10 Harrison Faughsnaugh
- 11 Bryson Clough
- 12 Ian Crow
- 13 Jaden Coleman
- 15 Carson Walker
- 16 Erwin Thomas
- 17 Jarod Posey
- 18 Collin Smith
- 19 Ben Smith
- 20 Isiah Bedford
- 21 David Keith
- 22 Trace Elrod
- 23 Matt Frey
- 24 Tre Bagwell
- 25 Brett Staples
- 26 Dylan Thomas
- 27 Cody Hannah
- 28 Kylan Sanders
- 30 Isiah Jefferson
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- 32 Noah Doss
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- 40 Isiah Bossie
- 41 Darion Posey
- 42 Brandon Jaks
- 44 Drew Scisson
- 45 Aries Thompkins
- 46 Ethan Jett
- 48 Tanner Clowdus
- 51 Riley Surles
- 52 Adam Lee
- 55 Tyrone Bush
- 56 Luke Hall
- 57 Byron Moon
- 58 Austin Bowman
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- 80 Tyler Boyd
- 83 Lundun DeLoach
- 84 Ryan Dimas
- 85 Seth Searcy
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- 93 Jalyn Gilbert

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Pell City

HEAD COACH: Wayne Lee (second year)

KEY LOSSES: Darrius Garrett, Avery Weiss, Collier Slovensky

KEY RETURNERS: Mitchell Gossett, Brett Staples, John David Freeman

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 146 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 284

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 at Fort Payne, 7 p.m.

Aug. 30 at Calera, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 vs. Oxford, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 at Gardendale, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19 at Huffman, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 vs. Etowah, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 at Clay-Chalkville, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. Pinson Valley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 vs. Shades Valley, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Chelsea, 7 p.m.

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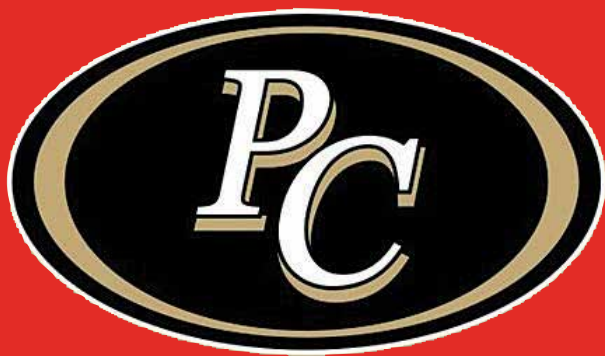
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Ragland PURPLE DEVILS

CLASS 1A
REGION 5



‘POUND THE ROCK’

Ragland plans to bring aggression, physicality

By GARY HANNER

Derrick Sewell is starting his second season as head football coach of the Ragland Purple Devils. After an inaugural season of 4-6 and missing the state playoffs, Sewell said he is excited about having seven returning starters on the offensive side of the football. And those returning starters could help get Ragland back to postseason play.

Offensively

This year, Sewell said the offense could operate more out of a shotgun look.

“But, we will try to move the ball down the field by running,” he said. “If we have to throw it, we will. I feel like we are very good up front with our offensive line. Some of our newcomers are explosive. We may not spread it out offensively as much as people would like to see it, but we will pound the rock and see what happens.”

Last year was a season of streaks for Ragland. They started the

season 0-4, won the next four games and lost the final two. They finished 2-4 in region play.

Key players returning

Sewell said key players returning include senior quarterback/linebacker Elijah Ball; senior running back/linebacker Brody Bice; senior wide receiver/cornerback Nathaniel Kelley; senior linebacker David Sanders; senior tight end Kaeden Cotton; senior defensive tackle Matthew Turbville; senior offensive lineman Kaden Bice; junior offensive lineman/defensive tackle Jakolbe Brewster; junior offensive lineman Ryan Bearden; and junior defensive end Josh Phillips.

Class 1A, Region 5

The Purple Devils are in the same region with Appalachian, Donoho, Spring Garden, Talladega County Central, Victory Christian and Winterboro.

Sewell said the region is tough, with three of the four teams



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advancing to the state playoffs last year and winning in round one.

"I believe the team to beat is the defending region champs in Spring Garden," he said. They finished 11-2 last year and went 2-1 in the state playoffs. We lost to them late, losing a close one, 29-26. Week in and week out in our region, everyone is tough. You can't have an off night, and it is a grind every Friday. If you look over somebody, that's when it is going to slip up and get you."

Gaining interest

Being in a small 1A school, it can be a challenge getting enough kids interested in playing football.

"I spend a lot of time recruiting the hallways," Sewell said. "Recruit the weight room for those guys who play other sports. You have to at our level. We're going to always average anywhere from 25 up to about 33 players. I rely heavily on our seniors because they are our leaders. But I rely on the entire team letting them know they all have friends who may want to come out and play football."

Keys to success

Sewell knows he has to get off to a faster start than last year's 0-4 start.

"We broke in a lot of younger guys last year," he said. "They may have been juniors, but the three years prior, we had so many senior-loaded classes who carried the load. It took a few games for our guys to adjust last year. It's never easy when you're asking new guys to start out with 4A Ashville and 2A Westbrook. But, by the time we got to midseason, things were rolling."

Sewell said he just wants to make sure they are ahead of the game

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SPOTLIGHT



MATT TURBVILLE

Who is your favorite football player, college or professional, and why?

Travis Kelce, tight end with the Kansas City Chiefs. He is very athletic and has a cool sense of style. I attempt to model after him.

What is your greatest football moment at any level?

Last year's game against Victory Christian. I had 15 tackles and three sacks. It was just a very fun day. I did not worry about messing up or anything. It was just me out there playing football, the game I love.

What are your post-high school plans?

That is up for debate as of

right now. I will probably end up going to college somewhere.

What motivates you to work hard?

Knowing there is somebody out there working as hard as I am, it is my goal to prove that I am ready to take on whoever that is.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just to be out there on the field with my brothers. I've been cooped up by myself.

What are some of your interests outside of football?

A little bit of basketball, but I am just really into sports.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It just keeps me in shape. I play on both sides of the football, so running in basketball helps, and throwing in track & field helps my arm strength.

What is the best and worst of fall camp?

Being out in the heat is no fun at all.

What is your favorite subject in school?

History.

What are three things you can't live without?

My cell phone, my parents and my wallet.

What's a quote that you live by?

Fear is an interest paid on a debt that you may not owe.

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Ragland

HEAD COACH: Derrick Sewell (second year)

KEY LOSSES: Jalen Byers, Travis Schall, Hunter Day

KEY RETURNERS: Brody Bice, Elijah Ball, Matt Tubberville

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 263 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 196

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 at Ashville, 7 p.m.

Aug. 30 vs. Westbrook Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 vs. TC Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 at Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 vs. West End, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 at Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 at Valley Head, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24 at Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No. Name

1 Jordan Turner	18 Jacob Kohler
2 Montana Campbell	19 Kaeden Cotton
3 Matthew Tramell	21 Javaris Turner
4 Nathaniel Kelley	23 Gavin Ward
5 Kentrell Tucker	27 Logan Buckner
6 Owen Schall	50 Jaxon Cox
7 Josh Phillips	52 Bailey Goodwin
8 David Sanders	53 Matthew Turbville
9 Trevin Williams	55 Ryan Bearden
10 Brody Bice	57 Jakolbe Brewster
11 Braxton Layton	59 Will Clark
12 Elijah Ball	71 Josh Kay
13 Jaiden Cox	76 Kaden Bice



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when the season starts.

"I feel like we have the right guys back at the right spots," he said.

Second season

Now that the initial head coaching

season is over, Sewell said the one thing he will change headed into his second season, is to enjoy it more.

"Slow down and enjoy the process," he said. "Enjoy this opportunity because it is

huge. I want to enjoy it and not allow it to pass me by."

Goal

Sewell said the goal is to go 10-0 during the regular season.

"Then, from there, we start the second season in the state playoffs," he said. "Our fans have high expectations of our kids going out in each game and being prepared mentally and physically. Fans know we have a hard work ethic, so they can expect a lot of aggression and a lot of physicality. That is something we are always going to bring because those are things we can control. Fans need to expect that we will be as prepared as we can be come that first week of the season."

Ragland will open the season on the road at Ashville.

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Sylacauga AGGIES

CLASS 5A
REGION 5



MOVING ON

Sylacauga leaving disappointing season-enders in the past

By SHANE DUNAWAY

For Sylacauga High School's football program going into the 2019 season, the focus will be maintaining its spot as the most consistent football program in The Daily Home's coverage area.

The Aggies have finished with seven or more wins in the past 11 seasons, but two of the past three seasons have ended in heartbreaking first-round losses in Class 5A. In 2016, Sylacauga's potential game-winning 45-yard field goal attempt was ruled "no good" by officials in a 35-34 loss to Calera,

and a season ago, some down and distance confusion in the waning minutes against Jasper killed what would have been a game-tying touchdown drive for Sylacauga in the red zone. The Vikings added another touchdown to defeat the Aggies, 34-20.

Sylacauga head coach Matt Griffith said his team needs to let go of the past in order to move forward this season.

"Those (games) are tough, but we don't dwell on those things," he said. "Once those games are over, you move on to the next season. We understand that certain things happen, and you just kind of learn from your mistakes ...



"We've got a good football team coming back this year. Most of our kids are back, and they realize we have just been so close for so many years in those tight, first-round games. Every once in a while, a third or fourth (seed) gets out of the first round, but most of the time, you need to be your one or two (seed) in the region so you can make a run."

Griffith said he believes Region 5 is one of the toughest regions in 5A and that all four playoff seeds in the region are capable of advancing to the second round because each team

has been battle-tested.

"You're facing Clay Central, a good football team and primarily a good football school," he said. "They don't make any bones about it. They don't really worry about winning in basketball or baseball or anything else. Mortimer Jordan is always in the third or fourth round of the playoffs. They're a very good school.

"Then, you've got Center Point that moved down from 6A that may be the most athletic team in the entire region, and they



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just had a D1 quarterback move in from Fultondale. Here's the thing — to be good, you've got to play great competition. We're looking forward to it. We think we've got a team that matches up in our region really well."

The Aggies will have a different quarterback open the season for the fourth consecutive year. Senior JD DeLoach will fill the role previously held by Daylon Keith, one of Sylacauga's 15 seniors from a season ago.

"(JD) is a program player," Griffith said. "He's been with us since the seventh grade running the same system. He has very good feet and made tremendous improvements throwing the football ... We've (gone) to Spain Park. We've (gone) to Clay-Chalkville. We've (gone) to 7-on-

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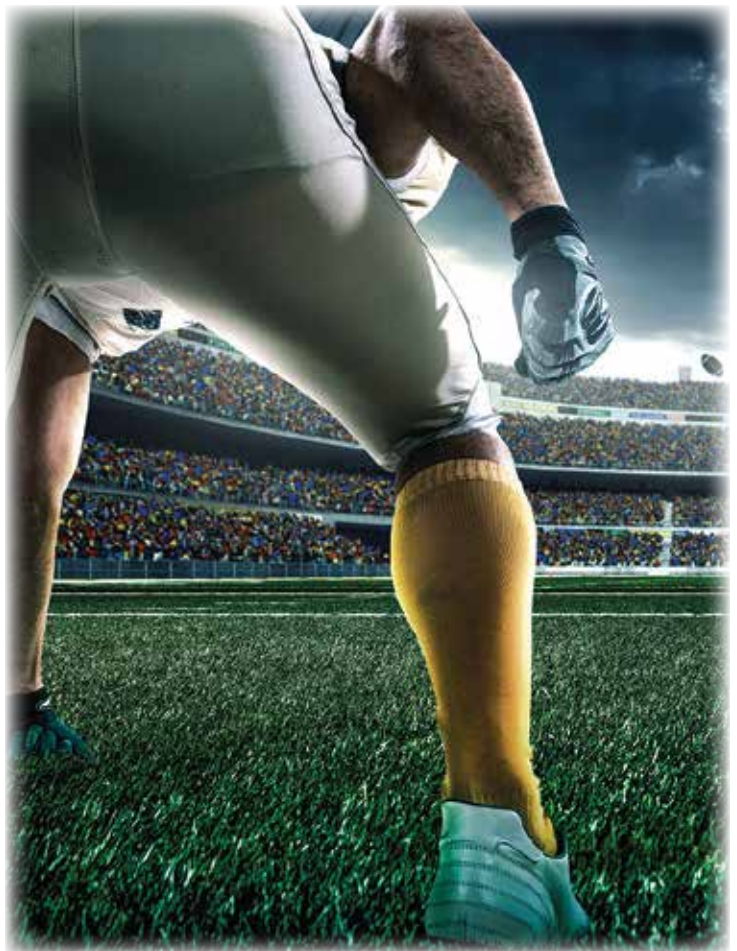
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SPOTLIGHT

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

Probably Drew Brees. He's a little undersized, and I'm a New Orleans Saints fan. A lot of my family is from Louisiana. I like him a lot.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Probably last year in the Jasper game, even though we lost. Just being able to step in whenever I needed to and complete a pass, and give Daylon a rest.

What are your post-high school plans?

I don't even know where I'm going to go to college, but I'm probably going to go and try to become an engineer.

What motivates you to

work hard?

All my players. I don't want to let anybody down. I want to try to be the best quarterback on the field every single game and be the best I can be for my team.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Probably just playing. It's my first year starting, and I'm ready to start and become a leader on this team.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to hunt a lot, fish, shoot skeet and hang out with my friends.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

Well, I play soccer and I was all-county in soccer this year. It really helps out

with my quickness and my endurance. You can really tell, especially in the spring, right when we get done with soccer and start football, that I'm a step ahead of everybody conditioning-wise.

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

There's no bad part of fall camp. It's all fun. If you really like playing football, then you'll love it every single day going out and playing.

What's your favorite school subject?

Probably math. I like math because it's kind of a challenge, and I like a little bit of a challenge.

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

Food, I like to eat a lot. Sleep, I sleep a ton. And probably my family and all



JD DELOACH

my friends.

What's a quote that you live by?

If you're not first, you're last.

7s and faced 6As and 7As all summer long to show what competition is going to be.

"We're very excited. JD brings a lot to the table because he knows the offense so well. He's very intelligent and he's had a great summer."

DeLoach said he's looking forward to the opportunity to keep Sylacauga's streak of seven or more wins in a season going.

"I think that's really what I'm looking forward to the most and playing with all these guys beside me, our two running backs and all our receivers," he said. "You keep on winning, get out of the first round, play one game at a time and make some noise."

The first-year starter at quarterback will have plenty of help in the backfield. Sylacauga returns running backs Jordan Ridgeway, Journey Stockdale and Malik

Pope. Pope, a sophomore who played mostly on defense until late in 2018, showed immense talent on the offensive side of the ball.

"We brought Malik on really slowly, and I did that on the advice of two or three coaches that had tremendous players in the past," Griffith said. "Golinsky Smith

was one of the greatest running backs to ever come out of Sylacauga. John Blackmon coached him. (Blackmon) said, 'Hey, bring that guy (Pope) along slowly. Golinsky wasn't ready as a ninth-grader. You might ruin him.'"

Griffith said he followed that advice and played Pope at strong safety, but a

tough late-season game forced him to pull the trigger on playing Pope at running back.

"We got in a Munford game that was a dogfight," he said. "It was a very close game. We're walking off at halftime, and I remember telling the staff. I said, 'I want him in. It's time ...' It made a tremendous difference. Then, he just ran wild against Jasper. On a dry field, he would have had 300 yards rushing. I think he had 250 that night, and with Ridgeway already being as good as he is, we're looking forward to these two running backs."

Griffith added that he is aware of the strengths and weaknesses when it comes to depth and some of that may sort itself out in fall camp.

"We've got some linemen who are very big up front and we've got some depth there," he said. "We think our depth at running back is very good with the two that I mentioned, plus Journey Stockdale got a lot of reps there ... We're a little thin in the secondary, a little thin at tight end and a little thin at wide receiver, but kids have to step up, and instead of getting all worked up that they're not the starter, they've got to realize that they're going to get some playing time because these guys are going to get tired."

Best Of Luck To All Our Teams!

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KEY FACTS

TEAM: Sylacauga

HEAD COACH: Matt Griffith (15th year)

KEY LOSSES: Daylon Keith, Rusty Craft, Demarco Campbell

KEY RETURNERS: : Jordan Ridgeway, Maleek Pope, JD DeLoach

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 7-4 **POINTS SCORED:** 277 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 224

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 at Leeds, 7 p.m.

Aug. 30 vs. Chilton County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 at Springville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 vs. Moody, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 at Mortimer Jordan, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 at St. Clair County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 vs. Center Point, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 at Central Clay County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 vs. Munford, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No. Name

2 Chris Howard	44 Darrien McElrath
3 Maleek Pope	45 Chase Ivey
4 Dontavious Ware	50 Drew Hallmon
5 Jordan Ridgeway	51 Maji Patterson
6 Malik Wyckoff	52 Tyler Culpepper
7 Timonhly Stallworth	54 Schuyler Simmons
8 Cole Porch	54 Hudson Hodges
9 Tory Harris	55 Luke Thompson
10 M'Chal Holtzclaw	57 Peyton Bearden
11 Journey Stockdale	58 Taylor Strickland
12 Colin Yeager	59 LaJordan Pearson
13 Jeremiah Varner	60 Harley St John
14 Keondre Pearson	61 Steven Peppers
15 Ben Thompson	62 Tank Wright
16 JD DeLoach	63 Tanner Torgerson
17 Luke Vincent	64 Jacob Haynes
18 Colton Hardiman	65 Dalton Giles
19 Caleb Burns	69 Clay Brazier
20 Camden Faircloth	70 Christian Twyman
21 Riley Basinger	72 Benji Merkel
22 Quincey Simmons	73 Ethan Holmes
23 Canon Bryant	75 Wayne Willard
24 Dorian Jackson	76 Connor Spivey
25 Jaquan Hayes	77 Gage Hallman
26 Dax Flora	78 Korey Sanders
27 Jalen Rowe	79 Grey Griffith
28 Alex Roberson	82 Ray Thomas
29 Gabe Cox	85 Connor Bailey
30 Jeremy Odem	86 Aaron Roland
32 Chris Walker	87 Kaden Foreman
33 Ethan Johnson	Omar Kendrick
34 Kryan Hughes	Jalen Walker



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Talladega TIGERS

CLASS 4A
REGION 4



MORE FOCUSED, MORE DETERMINED

Felder hopes to build on what Darby started at Talladega

Since taking the job last month, head coach Shannon Felder has consistently said it is all about results and not excuses.

Felder has the tough task of taking over a Talladega team that doesn't want to go back to losing. He knows it's vital for the team to have success early in the 2019 season.

"It is important that we get off to a good start for the players, coaches and community," he said. "If we get off to that good start, it is only going to build the confidence in the guys to buy into what we are doing, continue to work hard and stay focused on taking that next step."

Former coach Ted Darby changed the culture at Talladega in his two seasons at the helm.

Darby led the Tigers to the playoffs in consecutive seasons, a feat that hadn't happened since 1994-95.

Darby's motto was "Losing is not an option." Even though

Darby is no longer with the team, the mentality remains.

"You still have to have the same mindset," senior D'Corian Wilson said. "It doesn't matter what is going on on the outside. We are still going to be the only ones playing on Friday nights. It doesn't matter what is going on with the coaching staff, we have to focus on what we have to do so we can get it done."

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The players appreciate what Darby was able to do for them during his tenure, but now they are ready to move on and focus on playing for Felder.

"I feel like the situation with Coach Darby has to be in our rearview," Scales said. "We have to keep going with Coach Felder. Our determination level has gone up to another level. Everybody is hungry in the weight room. We are working very well in the weight room. We are working very well on the practice field. We are ready for this thing to get going. We are going to be alright."

Even though Felder only took the job in July, he is adamant about putting his offensive and defensive system in place.

"We are putting our system in," he said. "We are translating their terminology to our terminology. It is going to be a process but it is necessary to put our system in because trying to learn their system at some point is going to end up hurting us. We are teaching those things to the guys and we are going to move at a pace at whatever they allow. We will probably be putting in stuff as the season goes on."

Wilson said it is going to be vital for the team to pay attention to what the coaches are teaching because they have a short time to learn the new system.

"We just need to lock in and focus every day that we go to practice," he said. "Every day, we need to focus on learning the new system so that we will be ready for the first game."

Scales had a stellar sophomore season for the Tigers as he threw for 1,685 yards and 20 touchdowns. He believes the offense has the potential of being good in Felder's spread attack.

"I think the offensive scheme that we have right now is going to be great," he said. "As far as for me, my receiving core: (D'Corian), Michael (Mcgregor), Isaiah Cunningham and John Ellis. We have a lot of talent on the outside and a lot of take as far as backs, so we are going to be great. The o-line is coming together so we should be really hard to stop this year."

Felder didn't go as far as Scales when speaking on the offense, but he has been impressed with what he has seen so far.

"We have some good skill players coming back," he said.

"We have a line that's inexperienced. That's an area where we have to make some improvements. I love this team. I told the guys that we work hard and that is certainly contributed to Coach Darby. He did a wonderful job of changing the mindset and when you change the mindset of players, they are more willing to work hard because they have seen the results. As they have seen the results it has made them hungrier. These guys are pretty mature so the changes that they have been through, they need to be commended on how they handled it."

Last season, Talladega finished 5-6 and fell to Headland in the first round of the Class 4A playoffs.

In his first meeting with the team, Felder made it clear to the players what they were going to have to do to build off the success from the past two seasons.

"These guys have made the playoffs two years in a row," he said. "I asked them, 'Are you satisfied with what you have done? You had a good season last year; you won five games (and) you made the playoffs. Do we want to be the team that

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wins five games again this year and make the playoffs, or do we want to be hungrier this year? If that's what we want to do, we have to work harder than we did last year. We have to be

more focused than we were last year and be more determined to take that next step.”





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SPOTLIGHT



PETER WHITWORTH

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

Jason Kelsey, he is the center on Philadelphia Eagles. I like the way he plays. He plays nasty, he is a great football player.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My whole 10th-grade year was really exciting. It was the first year that I got to start and play a lot of games and we made the playoffs that year.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan on attending college somewhere.

What motivates you to work hard?

My dad and granddad, they push me hard every day. They always want me to work harder.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward to playing with our new coach. He is a great guy.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I really like to lift weights and I am a lifeguard.

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

I love going full pads and the worst part is the running.

What's your favorite school subject?

History

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

God, family, and friends.

What's a quote that you live by?

Philippines 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

ROSTER

Name

Antonio Dobbins

Christopher Burney

D'Corian Wilson

De'Javion Spratling

Devante Twymon

Isaiah Cunningham

Jackson Burel

Jamari Dye

Jeremiah Washington

Jeremy Arnold

John Ellis

Jonathan Miller

Justin Barclay

Keontae Funderburg

LaBragg Curry

LaMonte' Tucker

Larry Calhoun

Michael McGregor

Nigel Scales

Onique Deer

Peter Whitworth

Qua'von Gooden

Quontavius McKenzie

Re'Derius Montgomery

Shawn Humphrey

Tajae Swain

William Curry

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega

HEAD COACH: Shannon Felder (first year)

KEY LOSSES: JQ Wilson, Tristan Wells

KEY RETURNERS: Nigel Scales, Michael McGregor, D'Corian Wilson

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 275 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 227

SCHEDULE

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

Sept. 6 vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 at Elmore County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 vs. Lincoln, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 at Midfield, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 at Leeds, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. Holtville, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 at Handley, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Moody, 7 p.m.



Talladega County Central FIGHTING TIGERS

CLASS 1A
REGION 5



QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

TC Fighting Tigers have big expectations for small roster

By LAVONTE YOUNG

TC Central head coach Chris Mahand hopes that quality over quantity will be the case for his football team this upcoming season. The Fighting Tigers will have low numbers this fall as Mahand expects to only dress 22-23 players. Even though they have low depth, the Fighting Tigers head coach expects his team to compete.

"They're going to be low, but we never had big numbers at TC," he said.

"We are not going to use that as an excuse. You can only put eleven out there. As a coaching staff, we have to make sure that our kids are in shape and ready to compete. Like I tell them all the time, we are not the Fighting Kitty Cats, we are the Fighting Tigers."

TC lost nine players from last season's team that finished with a 4-6 record and fell in the first round of the AHSAA Class 1A playoffs to Falkville. TC will be young at several skill positions this season.

Senior running back Blesstin Gamble will carry the load offensively.

"Blesstin Gamble ran the ball well for us last year," Mahand said. "He is going to be our primary running back this year. I expect a lot out of him. He should be able to stay fresh. At TC with 22 players, I still have three or four skill guys that won't be playing both ways. We are still going to have some talent. This is TC; we keep some talent. We just have to get it developed and ready to play. Some of the talent is going to be

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young and some of the younger kids that we weren't expecting to play will have to step up and play."

One of the positions of need for TC will be at quarterback. Last season's signal-caller, JD Davis, transferred to Lincoln during the off-season. Going into fall camp, Mahand said he had several different players vying for the spot.

"I have a couple of guys that's trying to step up and get it done," Mahand said. "I have a couple of guys that have the athleticism that JD Davis had. For me to sit here and tell you to lose your starting quarterback and one of the best athletes on the team (doesn't hurt), that won't be truthful."

But Mahand emphasized that football is a team sport.

"Even though he left and he was one of our better athletes,

he wasn't our only athlete and he wasn't the team," Mahand said. "I am not the team; these guys are not the team. That's the point of having a team."

Even though TC will have several new faces on the field, the expectations remain the same.

"Our goals are always to win the region, first of all, have a successful season, and definitely try to win the state championship," Mahand said. "I am not going to tell my kids what they can't do. I need to get out of the game, or any coach needs to get out of the game if you are going to tell your kids that. I am coaching my kids to win the state championship, and that's what they are playing for."

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SPOTLIGHT



TAQUARRI HERRING

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

Ruben Foster. He is dedicated and he gets his job done.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Making it to the second round of the playoffs in 2017.

What are your post-high school plans?

Continuing my football

career in college.

What motivates you to work hard?

My nephew and my family.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward to the team being dedicated and winning games.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I played basketball and it helps me with my stamina.

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

The hustle is the best part and the worst part is players giving up.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math

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

Love, support, and family

What's a quote that you live by?

Work hard, play hard.

ROSTER

No. Name

1 Jaidin Walker
3 Javari Mckenize
6 Jakendrick Tuck
7 LaChaunt Prince
8 Da'Travian Tuck
9 Blesstin Gamble
11 Patrick Dosius
12 Jhovi Cole
14 Logan Buhdette
18 Javion Curtis
20 KJ Isom

22 Cameron Swain
25 Logan Haney
31 Ricky Gooden
50 Trey Ragland
52 Devontay Swain
54 Taqarri Herring
55 Karon Phillips
61 Jamier Duncan
63 JaMarcus Hall
70 Kavon Moten
75 La'Corrian Calhoun
78 Torri Lee

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega County Central

HEAD COACH: Chris Mahand (sixth year)

KEY LOSSES: Jaylon Swain, Jayden Jones, JD Davis

KEY RETURNERS: Karon Phillips, Taquarri Phillips

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 210 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 261

SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 at Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 at Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 at Ragland, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 vs. B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 at Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10 vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. Loachapoka, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

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

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RECLAIMING THE MAGIC

Victory Christian hoping to find success of three years ago

By SHANE DUNAWAY

Victory Christian veers toward the 2019 campaign trying to find the magic from three seasons ago when they were contenders in Class 1A.

The Lions enter the upcoming season with a new head coach, Bruce Breland.

Breland previously served as offensive coordinator under recently-resigned head coach Mike Holliday.

Breland has held head coaching jobs at Coosa Valley Academy, Bessemer Academy, Fultondale, Shelby County, Woodlawn and Alma Bryant. He has compiled an 88-109 record in his 19 years leading football programs.

"I think it's great," Breland said. "My last stop, I had 105

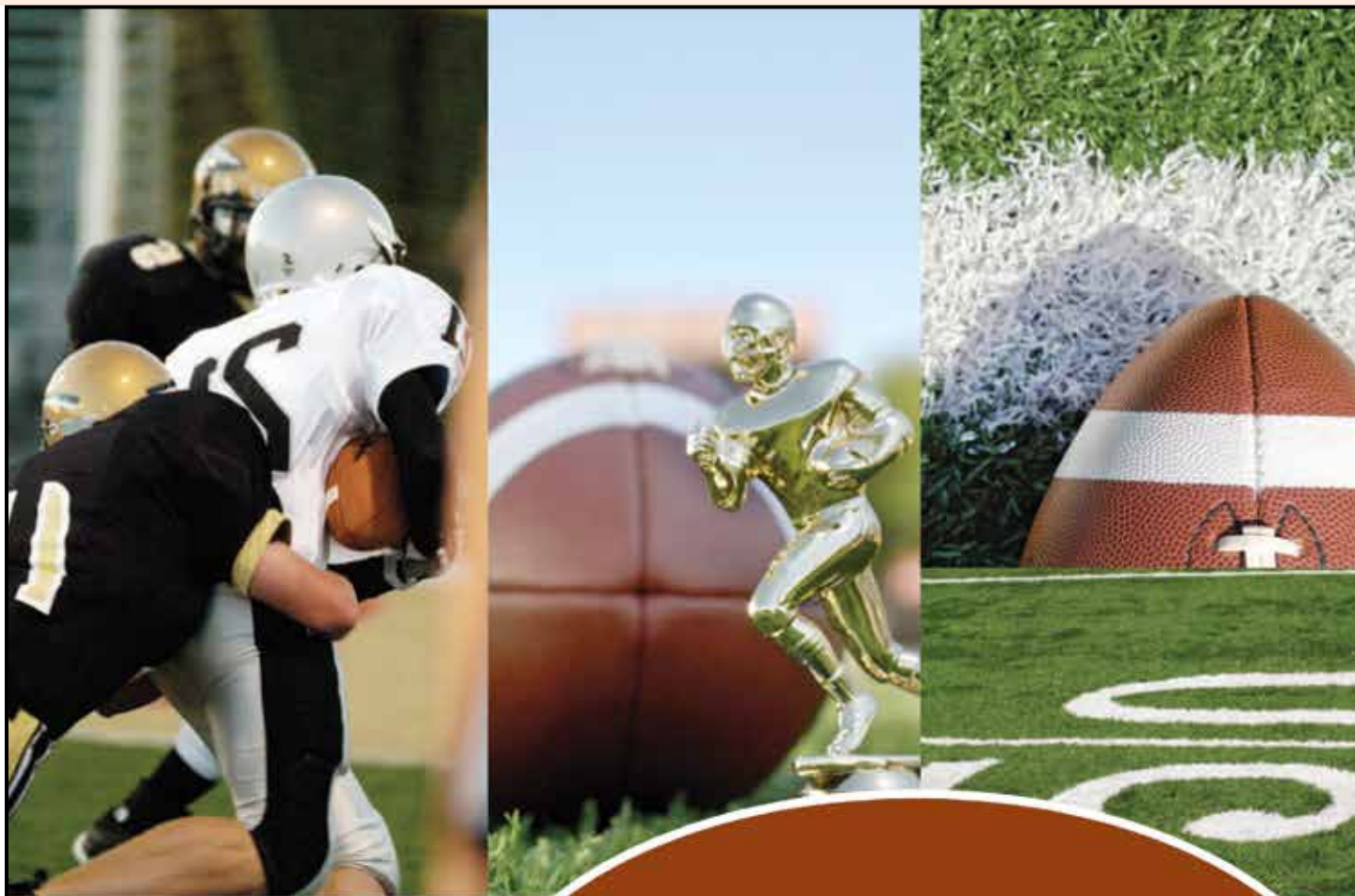
players. Now, I have 25 players.

"The thing that I'm excited about with them is they are all great young men character-wise at a great school. They support us very well, and I couldn't be any happier where I am ... Being able to come back and coach again is just a blessing to me."

Victory Christian will open the season at home against Fayetteville on Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. Breland said it would be great to open the season with a victory.

"I think it would be a huge feather (in our cap) with Fayetteville being a 2A school," he said. "When we go into that game, we're not looking at them as being anything above where we are. We're ready to play at that level ... I think it would show our guys their hard work is worthy."

The Lions lost just seven seniors from the 2018 squad. One of



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those vacancies includes the quarterback position, but Breland said he'll roll with freshman quarterback Dalton Lewellyn to replace last season's starter Abe Sargent.

"(Lewellyn) is an outstanding ballplayer," he said. "We have complete confidence in him. He's a great athlete. He's got a good arm, really good feet and a great head on his shoulders. We're not expecting to miss a beat with him in there."

Running back/safety Lee Yeager and offensive/defensive lineman PJ Holman return as two key leaders for the Lions.

"Whether we're in the weight room, whether we're in school or we're at Shop 'N' Snack, these two guys right here is what Victory Christian is all about," Breland said. "We expect them to shoulder (the) load, and they do it with the leadership they bring."

Breland said he considers running back, the offensive line, defensive ends and linebackers as positions of strength going into the season.

"Offensively, we'll continue what we do

because I've been offensive coordinator," he said. "Defensively, we went to the 4-2-5 last year, which is what we'll be running this year. We will try to make it a little more unpredictable, be a defense that forces the action a little more and not allow the offense to dictate to us what it wants to do."

Yeager said he's excited about the upcoming season.

"I love the guys I play with," he said. "There's no other line I'd rather be running behind and no other players I'd rather be on the field with."

Victory Christian put together one of its best seasons in 2015 and won its first home playoff game in school history (a 33-19 victory over Woodville in the first round of the 1A playoffs).

For the past three seasons, the Lions



LEE YEAGER

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

(It was) probably a few years back, but (Vinnie) Sunseri for Alabama. He's just a guy I saw on the field who really had a heart for the game. He just drove and just really worked hard to better his

team and better himself.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Probably my eighth-grade year when I was playing on the JV team. We beat Donoho for the first time, so that was probably the best one.

What are your post-high school plans?

Hopefully to play collegiate baseball or football. From there, just letting the Lord carry me to where He wants me to go.

What motivates you to work hard?

Probably the fact when I'm on that field, my friends and my teammates depend on me. When you're talking about giving God the glory, you want it to be good.

SPOTLIGHT

You want it to be something to really tell a story about and really glorify His name, so just the opportunity to do that really wants to make you do better and better.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I really just want to make memories with all my teammates one last year and really do good. I hope we make it to the playoffs. I plan for all of us to work hard and get to it. It'll be my first playoff appearance. That's my goal.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

The conditioning part is definitely a big part of that. When you're playing baseball, football, whatever it is and you're constantly working, you're always

staying in good conditioning. It makes each sport easier when it comes to that aspect.

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

The best part is getting excited for the season coming up. The worst part is probably the heat.

What's your favorite school subject?

My favorite subject would probably be history. I love learning more about what all happened before I was here.

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

Baseball, football and definitely the Lord. When you're on fire for the Lord, everything just seems to be working for you.

have been on the cusp of a playoff berth, but a 5-13 record in region play during that span has kept an otherwise competitive program on the fringe.

"The players are working hard, and they want it," Breland said. "They want the very best for Victory Christian and themselves, and they are striving very hard to be an elite team and be one of those playoff teams."

Breland said the late-season scramble to claim one of four region playoff spots can be challenging.

"The region is a tough region for sure, and depth towards the end of the year is critical," he said. "So is staying injury-free ... Some injuries are unavoidable, and you just try to stay above that, and hopefully this year, we will because we don't have a lot of depth. We do have a lot of passion, and these boys are working hard getting ready to play."

He added his goal is to build a true program where year-in and year-out, the team is more competitive and not having to rely on "the good group" of players to rise through the system.

"That's what we're striving for is to be able to build that program, starting with the younger guys," he said. "I think it starts in the weight room and it starts at the junior high level.

"We're going to get there ... Everyone wants it now, but that's unrealistic. We want it as fast as possible."

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ROSTER

No. Name

	48 Cameron Cheatwood
1 Lee Yeager	54 PJ Holman
2 Pate Cheatwood	60 Billy Davenport
3 Miles Martin	62 Ayden Rogers
5 Dalton Lewellyn	64 Wrian Peoples
7 Nathan Lee	65 Dalton Rogers
9 Riley Meadows	73 Craig Peterson
10 Ty Chasteen	74 Nathan Bean
11 Juan Talley	75 Creed Cline
12 Isaac Warren	76 Christian Clolinger
15 Brantley Bonner	77 Justice Hurley
23 David Key	78 Josh Clough
24 Alvin Wong	82 Caleb Clolinger

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Victory Christian

HEAD COACH: Bruce Breland (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Abe Sargent, Ashton Love, Griffin Staples

KEY RETURNERS: Lee Yeager, Pate Cheatwood, PJ Holman

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

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 152 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 234

SCHEDULE

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

Sept. 6 at Gaylesville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 vs. Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 vs. Ragland, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 at Coosa Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 at Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11 at Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 at Talladega County Central, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Sumiton Christian, 7 p.m.

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Winterboro BULLDOGS

CLASS 1A
REGION 5



THE BATTLE WITHIN

Winterboro hoping for fast start to 2019 season

By SHANE DUNAWAY

Winterboro High School's football team experienced its most successful campaign under head coach Alan Beckett in 2018 and continued the program's upward trend.

The Bulldogs will look to build off a season that saw them finish third in Class 1A, Region 5 and pick up a first-round playoff win over R.A. Hubbard before falling to South Lamar in the second round.

While the region is a challenge, Beckett said his team must focus inward in order to move further in 2019.

"I think all our battles are within us," he said. "We try to win on the daily, not finger-point and just be together from a leadership end of things ... I don't want us to be our own worst enemy is kind of what I'm getting at because we do have talent. We just have to stay healthy, bring it on the daily, handle adversity and all those good old coaching sayings. They all definitely apply to us."

The Bulldogs lost 12 seniors from a 2018 class that included starting quarterback Shaun Vincent, who also started at

linebacker with senior Luke Wheeler.

"That was a good senior class — a good, close-knit, positive group," Beckett said. "Jake Travis will come in and work where Luke Wheeler was at linebacker. Luke played a lot of snaps for us.

"Our backfield will look a little different. We'll be able to get into more of a heavy set and we'll be able to spread it out. Cam Pointer is out (here for us). He's a really good basketball player we've seen for the past several years. We've been trying to get him out and all his buddies have wanted him to play. He's had a great summer for us. Whether that translates, we'll see."

Winterboro will have a somewhat new signal-caller in senior Isaiah Holland. Last season, Holland served as a quarterback in goal-line packages and contributed on defense for the Bulldogs.

"(Holland's) our guy at quarterback," Beckett said. "He's a runner as well as a thrower. He plays defensively and is one of our leaders. We're working a lot on the leadership end, and we're looking for big things ... We're trying to get him to be 'Mr. Even Steven' because he is a competitor, and I want his body language to stay really good."

Running back/linebacker Marquez Curry also returns for the Bulldogs after missing his junior year due to two injuries to the same knee.

Beckett said Curry displayed leadership by remaining with the team on the sideline and in practice except for when he had to work on his rehabilitation, but now that he's healthy, he's itching to get on the field.

"(Curry's) a real physical, hard-nosed, inside-the-box kind of player," Beckett said. "We've done a lot of 7-on-7, which is kind of tough on him because he's ready to get out of the cage and play some real football. We look forward to what he does."

On the offensive line, senior center Cade Sanders returns to anchor a position group that lost just one starter, Demondre Robinson, from the 2018 team.

"We had an injury to center a couple years ago, and (Cade), as a ninth- and 10th-grader, kind of got thrown into the fire," Beckett said. "It's been a trial by fire, but he's gotten better every year. Obviously, when you get that high a volume of snaps, you're going to get better."

"Last year was Cade's best year, and he's gotten stronger. He's gotten really serious about it and has spent a lot of extra time on his own in the weight room."



Beckett said he'd like to see his team start faster this season. The Bulldogs went 3-3 through the first six games of 2018 before mounting a four-game winning streak that ended in the playoffs.

"Part of it, we were trying to figure out

who was what because it was an entirely different skilled team from the year before," he said. "You kind of start over, and we were still learning who we were. We changed some things offensively as the year went on, and I thought that was beneficial to us."



SPOTLIGHT



ISAIAH HOLLAND

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

I don't really have a favorite college player, but in the NFL, my favorite player is Cam Newton. He can throw on the run. He's very tough and physical.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I scored my first touchdown when I was at White Plains against Wellborn.

What are your post-high school plans?

I intend to get a scholarship at Auburn or Alabama A&M and major in electrical engineering.

What motivates you to work hard?

Seeing my father, how he works hard. And my team,

how they need me.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

My math work and my schoolwork, really.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

Athleticism. Basketball works for footwork and all types of stuff.

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

The best part is you can see how your team is. I really don't see a bad part in the fall.

What's your favorite school subject?

Math

What's a quote that you live by?

Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today.

ROSTER

No. Name

1	Cameron Pointer	21	Cal'von Thomas
2	Isaiah Holland	24	Colby Thorton
3	Marquez Curry	25	Brayden Waites
4	Brody Hamm	30	Isiah Jefferson
5	Kameron Edwards	33	Brayden Waites
6	Dayeon Duncan	52	William McKenzie
9	Jake Travis	55	Jay Garrett
10	Tavion Barclay	58	Brandon Dandridge
11	Cade Wilson	62	KeShawn Williamson
12	Marshall Horn	70	Cade Sanders
13	Jonathon Headen	72	Eric Hale
14	Devin Noble	73	Darius Middlebrooks
15	Dontrell Duncan	76	Kyler Griffen
20	Xzavier Stamps	77	Dawson Moseley
		79	Devin Phillips

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Winterboro

HEAD COACH: Alan Beckett (seventh year)

KEY LOSSES: Shaun Vincent, Luke Wheeler, Demondre Robinson

KEY RETURNERS: Isaiah Holland, Marquez Curry, Cade Sanders

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: 3-4/Multiple

2018 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 7-4 **POINTS SCORED:** 273 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 241

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 at Central Coosa, 7 p.m.

Aug. 30 vs. B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 vs. Spring Garden, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 at Donoho, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 at Talladega Co. Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 vs. Vincent, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

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

Oct. 18 at Ragland, 7 p.m.



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BB Comer



Childersburg

"They're going to be low, but we never had big numbers at TC. We are not going to use that as an excuse. You can only put eleven out there. As a coaching staff, we have to make sure that our kids are in shape and ready to compete. Like I tell them all the time, we are not the Fighting Kitty Cats, we are the Fighting Tigers." – TC Central head coach Chris Mahand



Lincoln



Pell City

"That's the first thing that pops into my mind when I think about our football team is the fact that I see a lot of guys who love each other and care about the guy next to them. I see that in the locker room. I see it in the weight room. I see it when we're conditioning ... We'll see guys who are maybe struggling to finish a sprint, and we'll see guys run out there, tag along beside them and help them finish."—Childersburg head coach Jonathan Beverly

"We've got a good football team coming back this year. Most of our kids are back, and they realize we have just been so close for so many years in those tight, first-round games. Every once in a while, a third or fourth (seed) gets out of the first round, but most of the time, you need to be your one or two (seed) in the region so you can make a run."—Sylacauga head coach Matt Griffith



Sylacauga



Childersburg



Talladega

"Last year, our first game and our last game were probably our two best games. Now we've got to get 2 through 9 going in (that direction)."- Pell City head coach Wayne Lee



BB Comer



Lincoln

"We are trying to build for the long haul. I always try to have a three-, four-, five-year plan. I have a vision of what Comer football should look like in five years. As I pace my vision, I see we are pretty well on track. If we stay on track where we need to be, year three, four and five look pretty good."—B.B. Comer head coach Adam Fossett



Munford

Being a pastor and coach really goes hand-in-glove. Being a pastor, we get to teach Christ. On the football field we can do the same thing, because he is a champion. Christ is a true champion. We can teach about him in all walks of life. That communication never stops whether you are at the church or the football field. He is what's important."—
Fayetteville head coach John Limbaugh

"That's the first thing that pops into my mind when I think about our football team is the fact that I see a lot of guys who love each other and care about the guy next to them. I see that in the locker room. I see it in the weight room. I see it when we're conditioning ... We'll see guys who are maybe struggling to finish a sprint, and we'll see guys run out there, tag along beside them and help them finish."—Childersburg head coach Jonathan Beverly



Pell City



Talladega



Munford

"We broke in a lot of younger guys last year. They may have been juniors, but the three years prior, we had so many senior-loaded classes who carried the load. It took a few games for our guys to adjust last year. It's never easy when you're asking new guys to start out with 4A Ashville and 2A Westbrook. But, by the time we got to midseason, things were rolling."—Ragland head coach David Swell

"I think all our battles are within us. We try to win on the daily, not finger-point and just be together from a leadership end of things ... I don't want us to be our own worst enemy is kind of what I'm getting at because we do have talent. We just have to stay healthy, bring it on the daily, handle adversity and all those good old coaching sayings. They all definitely apply to us."—Winterboro head coach Alan Beckett



Childersburg



Sylacauga



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