

The Daily Home

# PREP FOOTBALL

## 2020

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# PREP FOOTBALL

## 2020

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### MISSING PHOTOS

Some photos not available  
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, some football team, band and cheerleader photos were not available for this magazine. They will be published in The Daily Home when they become available.

### ON THE COVER

Quarterback Devonta Carmicheal played a major role in leading B.B. Comer to the second round of the playoffs last season. This was the first time that the Tigers made it to the second round since 2000.

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# ALABAMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

## *Silent Warriors*

## ASD scrambling to find games after COVID-19 wipes out much of schedule

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
[lyoung@dailyhome.com](mailto:lyoung@dailyhome.com)

The uncertain times created by the COVID-19 pandemic have forced things to change in our everyday lives as well as in sports. Alabama School of the Deaf will be forced to adjust this fall. The Silent Warriors enter the season looking for opponents to fill out their schedule. ASD only has three games scheduled due to the pandemic, which forced other deaf schools to cancel football for 2020.

“Our first game is Sept. 25 against Gaylesville,” ASD head coach Paul Kulick said. “We will be going against Jacksonville Christian on Oct. 2. On Oct. 9-16, we have some availability if somebody is interested in playing us. Please reach out to us and let us know. Our final game is against Shoals Christian Academy on Oct. 30.

“All the deaf schools that we typically play against, Mississippi, Indiana, Tennessee and Model School for the Deaf, all had to cancel because of the current situation. Alabama has not let COVID put us back. We are going to go ahead and play this year. We are looking forward to an exciting year.”

With deaf schools shutting down fall sports, Kulick is grateful his team will get the opportunity to compete this fall.

“I am thrilled that we still have the ability to play,” Kulick said. “At ASD, we live for football; that is a priority for us. Keeping the kids safe is also a priority for us in football.”

Kulick won't be sure who he will have on the team until the students move back to campus Sept. 8. Kulick believes the Silent Warriors will have 25 underclassmen on the roster.

“They have been working diligently,” Kulick said. “They all played last year and they have all come back. We have eight coming back on the offensive side and seven on the



defensive side. They have the experience from last season and they are looking to carry through to this year. “

The Silent Warriors will have the tough task of competing against teams in the Alabama High School Athletic Association with limited practice time. ASD will get in 17 days of practice before hitting the road to take on a Gaylesville team that will be in midseason form.

Last season, the Silent Warriors fell to the Trojans 38-32 to close out 2019. ASD went 1-2 against AHSAA schools, with the lone win coming against Shoals Christian.

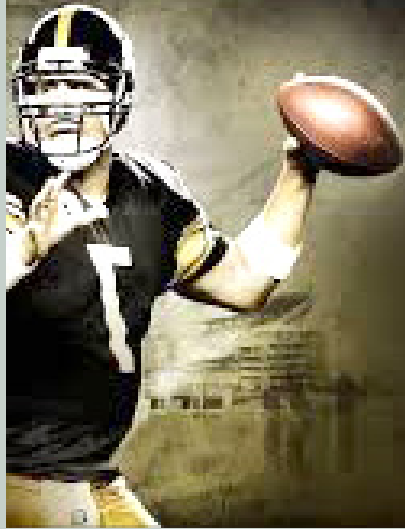
“With Gaylesville, that is usually our last game, but we asked them if they would mind pushing it up to first,” Kulick said. “Shoals Christian is usually our first game, but we are able to reach out to the school, and they were able to (move) our match against us.

That game (Gaylesville) is always a good game and a very challenging game. We are excited to have that game to open the year.”

Denijah Swain will be called upon to lead the Silent Warriors' double wing attack. Swain will replace Tanner Wood, who led ASD's high-scoring offense last season. ASD averaged 31 points per game in 2019.

“Denijah was looking at that position last year,” Kulick said. “He is ready to step into those shoes. It is a huge role as quarterback, but Denijah is ready to take the lead. He has done an awesome job leading, and all the players look up to Denijah.

“He is a hard worker in the weight room. Denijah has really been encouraging the kids. He is a great role model and leader. We are looking forward to Denijah having a great year at quarterback.”



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# ALABAMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF *Silent Warriors*



## PLAYER Q&A - CULLEN CROOK

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

We have been social distancing. We have been wearing masks. We are just trying to stay safe and play football.

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

Todd Gurley. He is my favorite player because he played for the University of Georgia. I am a huge fan of Georgia. I love watching him hurdle (defenders). Watching him helps me prepare for being a running back.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

We have lost four players, so before, we used to communicate with one another. This year, we have a much younger crowd, so work with communicating and sign language is a challenge, but we are working through that so we will be able to communicate with one another.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I am looking forward to being back. I am looking forward to working out, I am looking forward to the football program. This is my senior year, so this will be my final year of playing in high school.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I'll be going to JSU. I am going to major in criminal justice. My family has a history of being in law enforcement, so I want to become a policeman. If a deaf person is pulled over, I will be able to communicate with them as well.

### What motivates you to work hard?

I learned to work hard because in 2017. There was a senior that kept pushing us to work harder, make our goals and reach our goals. Coach Kulick also pushes us to get better and better. That has been the foundation for me to have a good work ethic for what I am doing today.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to us continuing to improve our offensive line. It is 100 percent possible. We need to build up a trust with one another and work with one another. We need to communicate and we will see great progress in that.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I am a math person. I have always done well and had high grades in math. That is one of the things that I really enjoy doing.

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

The best part is when we compete when it is the offensive line versus the defensive line, and we have that physical contact. The worst part is when we can't do the physical part during short scrimmages.

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

Water, food and sports.

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Alabama School for the Deaf

**Head Coach:** Paul Kulick  
(fourth season)

**Key Departures:** Tanner Wood,  
Cory McKinnie

**Key Returners:** Cullen Crook, Denijah Swain, Dallas McMullen- Schifferie

**Base Offense:** Double Wing/Spread

**Base Defense:** 4-4

## 2019 IN REVIEW

**Record:** 4-5

**Points scored:** 280

**Points allowed:** 315

## SCHEDULE

**Sept. 25** ..... at Gaylesville, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 2** .....vs. Jacksonville Chr.

**Oct. 9** ..... Open

**Oct. 16** ..... Open

**Oct. 23** ..... Open

**Oct. 30** .....at Shoals Christian





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# B.B. COMER *Tigers*



## Comer looking to take more big steps in Year three of Fossett era

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
[lyoung@dailyhome.com](mailto:lyoung@dailyhome.com)

After having one of its best seasons in over 20 years, B.B. Comer enters the 2020 campaign looking to take the next step.

Adam Fossett turned things around in his second season at the helm as the Tigers made a four-game improvement in the win column and made the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2000.

"The expectation is to always improve," Fossett said. "You always want to get better in what you are doing and continue to build.

"We are still in a building phase ... By Year 5, you want to be in a maintain phase. You want to maintain what you were doing for

the first three years. For us to be where we are going in Year 3, for us to have playoff experience going into Year 3, I think the sky could be the limit as far as our team goes.

"We will only be as successful as our leadership, we will only be as successful as our buy into the process."

What the future holds is something that concerns coaches and players this season.

Last March, the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out spring sports as well as in-person school. COVID-19 cases have continued to rise, but the AHSAA announced in late July fall sports will go on as planned and gave protocols that will have to be followed.

Fossett said his main priority right now to

make sure his players are safe.

"At the end of the day, with everything happening, you better follow these guidelines and you better go above and beyond to follow those guidelines," Fossett said. "As a coach and a father, whatever your personal views and opinions are on COVID-19, you got to heed the warning and try to follow those directions. If you don't follow and it ends up being a worse situation, then you are going to lose kids based on sickness, possibly coaches and other people.

"It is just a bigger picture ... My best interest is in the kids. I want the kids to be safe, (even) if that means sanitizing things twice a day. Everybody wants normal, but I don't



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# B.B. COMER *Tigers*



know if we will see normal. I don't know if we know what normal will be, so we have to move forward and do what we can with what we have."

The Tigers went 6-6 in 2019 and fell in the second round of the Class 3A playoffs to Geraldine. Comer came from behind on the road to defeat Fultondale 28-19 in a postseason opener. The Tigers went 5-1 on the road last season.

"That speaks volume to our kids buying in and their commitment," Fossett said. "We

only had five seniors, so we have a lot of kids coming back. We have a lot of experience coming back, but we have to fill the void of the ones we lost.

"Our big thing is staying the course and continuing to build a program. In doing that, the buy-in is there and the numbers are there. We will see what happens. It is such a different year all the way around. We don't know what tomorrow holds. We are preparing as if we are going to play."

The Tigers will have to try to build off their

success from last season in a new classification. Comer dropped from 3A to 2A. Fossett & Co. will see various styles of play in Region 4 with last season's 1A state champs, Lanett, along with Lafayette, Randolph County, Ranburne, Fayetteville, Vincent and Horseshoe Bend.

"We are going to have to prepare for a lot of stuff," Fossett said. "I think our schedule, the way it played out, is good. I like the way the draw is.

"We have to get through them one at a



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## PLAYER Q&A - KOREY ANDERSON

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

I just want to make sure that we are going to be good. It takes 11 players to win a game, not just one. We can sit back and talk about how bad we want (to win), but we have to actually get out there and fight for it. We have to put in the work now in the weight room and on the field. That's what is going to be important for us. That's going to determine how well we do this season.

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

I don't have a favorite football player, but I have a favorite team. I love the San Francisco 49ers because of Kyle Shanahan. Football can be broken down in many different ways. I think the way he breaks down the game is ridiculous. The fact that it can be broken like a chess match is the real beauty of football.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

Virtual isn't really my thing. I am going to go two days a week now. I take my education very seriously. I know that I will have a better understanding if I can go in there and get some lessons taught to me throughout the week.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

I want us to grow as a team and a family. We want to make sure that we are there to pick each other up when we are down. One thing I constantly repeat is we are family, we bend but we don't break. I repeat that when we run and when times get hard.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I want to attend college in state, but I wouldn't mind attending out of state. I know my mom wants to go wherever I go, so that is going to be an important decision. I want to go into physical training. That will keep me around sports because that is how much I love the game.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to a new beginning. We had this corona thing that has set us back. I want to see how we attack, not only as a football team, but as a school. With them giving us the option to go online, it means that they care about our well-being. They are not forcing us to do what we don't want to do. I want to see how we grow as a family and a school after that.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I enjoy playing video games like Madden and 2K.

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

The best part is getting back with everyone. It is like a family reunion. You have the crazy ones, the fun ones and the ones that talk too much sometimes. The worst part is the running.

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

My mom, video games and God. He has made a way for everything that I am doing.

time. Not just with the things going on, but region wins early are going to be important, they are going to be huge. Right out the gate, we get Lanett. We will be tested very early and we will see where we stand early with Lanett."

Comer will open the season Thursday, Aug. 27, against county foe Childersburg. It will mark the first time the teams have faced off since 2015. That season, Fossett led Childersburg to a 54-7 win over Comer. Fossett said he is excited about renewing the rivalry.

Comer will be trying to break a 15-game losing streak in the series. Comer last defeated Childersburg in 2000.

"Getting Childersburg back on the schedule is huge," Fossett said. "Most people in our community are excited, and you have one or two people (who are) like, 'Why would you do that?'"

"We are going to line up and play and get after it. It goes back to in-county rivalry, it goes back to good football on a Thursday night and opening the season up.

"On a personal level, I was at Childersburg for four years as a head coach. I had some great years there. I had some great athletes to help us be successful over there. Coaching staff wise, you look at their head coach, Johnny Johnson, (he) was with me on staff, he was the offensive coordinator. Renewing that rivalry will be fun. Him and I talk about it, we are friends, but once Thursday night gets here, I talk to him after the game, but during the game, we are going to war."

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# B.B. COMER *Tigers*

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** B.B. Comer  
**Head coach:** Adam Fossett (third year)  
**Key departures:** Brian Bradford, Julius McCain  
**Key returners:** Devonta Carmichael, Rapheale Johnson, James Carmichael  
**Base offense:** Multiple  
**Base defense:** Multiple

## 2019 IN REVIEW

**Record:** 6-6  
**Points Scored:** 348  
**Points Allowed:** 358

## SCHEDULE

Aug. 27 ..... vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 4 .....at Lanett, 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 11 ..... vs. LaFayette, 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 18 ..... at Ranburne, 7 p.m.  
 Sept. 25 ..... vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 1 .....at Horseshoe Bend, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 9 ..... vs. Fayetteville, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 16 ..... at Vincent, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 23 ..... vs. Randolph County, 7 p.m.  
 Oct. 29 ..... vs. Dadeville, 7 p.m.

## ROSTER

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. Dayleon Welch      | 50. Daniel Murphy       |
| 3. Rapheale Johnson   | 51. Eddie East          |
| 4. James Carmichael   | 52. Adam Odum           |
| 8. Devonta Carmichael | 53. Jai Gaddis          |
| 9. Cordez Harris      | 54. Hagan DeLee         |
| 10. Chris Garrett     | 55. Drew Hallmon        |
| 11. Layne Smedley     | 56. Brandon Blankenship |
| 12. Zack Murphy       | 57. Korey Anderson      |
| 13. Jason Swain       | 60. Chris Wilson        |
| 14. Chris Garrett     | 64. Terryon Pope        |
| 15. Gavin Vick        | 65. Zachariah Carpenter |
| 17. Raelon Sims       | 66. Luke Nicholson      |
| 19. Noah Wimmer       | 70. Clay Logan          |
| 20. John Murphy       | 72. Judson Murray       |
| 21. Jacob Price       | 73. Michael Kirksey     |
| 23. Kamore Harris     | 74. Nate Pierce         |
| 24. Tristan Garrett   | 75. Kaleb Hutchins      |
| 25. Richard Weed      | 76. Omari Wells         |
| 32. Jason Swain       | 77. Ean Denty           |
| 34. Clay Logan        |                         |



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# CHILDERSBURG *Tigers*



## Childersburg alum Johnny Johnson hopes to restore the pride in the school's football program.

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
[lyoung@dailyhome.com](mailto:lyoung@dailyhome.com)

After having three subpar seasons, Johnson was hired in March to change the culture and lead the Tigers back in the right direction.

"It is a big blessing and honor to be where you graduated from," Johnson said. "We are going to put the work in and lead in the right way. We have to get the community to buy in and the kids to buy. We are going to get the teachers on board with the things that we need. We are looking forward to a great year. I hope everything works out where we get to play so we can show the work that we have put in."

Johnson has brought his blue collar mentality to all the teams he has coached at Childersburg. Johnson had a successful stint as the girls basketball coach and serves as the boys head basketball coach.

Johnson hopes the same approach he used in basketball will lead to the same success on the gridiron.

"My thing with my guys is to work hard and give 100 percent every day," he said. "Come to work every day. Do the little things; I preach the little things. If you do the little things, success will come."

"The classroom comes first, the classroom always comes first. The whole group that we have, even the young guys, are buying in and working hard."

Senior Zay Youngblood said he sees the hard work the team is putting in at practice paying off.

"Practice can be a bit difficult," Youngblood said. "It is working because we are getting bigger, stronger and faster. You can see a bunch of improvement all over the field from the seniors all the way down to the freshmen."

"We have leaders stepping up. We have

guys who are learning and growing from freshmen to guys that have been playing four years. We have a lot of new guys, and they are all showing improvement. Coach is tough on us at practice, and it is a long day, but it is worth it."

Johnson plans to bring a fast and physical brand of football on offense and defense this season.

"The defense is going to be physical, our offense is going to be physical," Johnson said. "We want to improve on special teams from last year. We want to cut down on fumbling the football."

"On the field, we are going to be fundamentally sound, we are going to try to do the things that we do best. Defensively, we are going to play fast, we are going to hit you. When you get finished playing, you are going to know that you played the Childersburg Tigers."

Not having spring practice hurt Johnson

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# CHILDERSBURG *Tigers*

& Co. when it comes to selecting a quarterback.

The battle between senior Lamar Duncan and junior Cannon Johnson really began to heat up when the Tigers took to the field to start fall practice July 27. Coach Johnson said both sign callers bring something unique to the battle.

“We have a great quarterback battle with Lamar Duncan and Cannon Johnson,” the coach said. “They push each other every day. We are waiting for someone to stand out.

“Lamar brings a different game with his speed and his ability to throw the ball well. Cannon, coming from playing baseball, has great arm strength. It is a great battle for us, and we are going to wait until the last minute to see who wins out.”

If one of the quarterbacks get in trouble, they will have the luxury of turning around and handing the ball off to standout running back Xzavion Garrett.

Last season, Garrett rushed for over 1,000 yards while splitting carries. During the offseason, Garrett worked hard in the weight room to get stronger while maintaining his speed. Garrett has set lofty goals for himself.

“This year, I have a personal goal of 2,000 yards and 40 touchdowns,” he said. “I just want to help my team get to the playoffs and do my part.”

The Tigers will have to be clicking in all phases if they are going to compete in Class 3A. Childersburg will compete in a loaded Region 4 with No. 4 Catholic Montgomery, No. 7 Pike County, No. 9 Reelton, Dadeville, Trinity and Beulah.

“It is a tough region,” Johnson said. “I feel if we put something together, we will have the opportunity to be in the playoffs. We moved down (in classification), but it is still going to be a tough region to compete in.”

Outside of the region, Johnson and the Tigers will take on Sylacauga, B.B. Comer and Fayetteville. It has been five seasons since the Tigers have opened the season against Comer. This will be the first matchup between Childersburg and Fayetteville.

Childersburg opens the season Aug. 27 at B.B. Comer.



## GO CHILDERSBURG TIGERS!!!



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# CHILDERSBURG *Tigers*

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Childersburg  
**Head Coach:** Johnny Miller (first year)  
**Key departures:** Terry Thomas, Cameron Thrash, Kishon Reynolds  
**Key returners:** Xzavion Garrett, Lamar Duncan  
**Base offense:** Multiple  
**Base defense:** Multiple

**2019 in review**  
**Record:** 3-7  
**Points Scored:** 184  
**Points Allowed:** 287

## PLAYER Q&A - ZAY YOUNGBLOOD

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

We just want to keep the same mentality that we have had since the virus has been going on. We keep precautions in order; we have our priorities set. We want to keep others clean and protected from the virus. With all that in place, we just keep our mindset on creating a winning culture.

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

Cam Newton, but I don't know if I can cheer for the Patriots this year. I can cheer for Cam, but not the Patriots.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I know it is going to be hard to keep socially distant from our peers, but it is my last year to be in a class with them. I am excited to see them.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

I want to win games and create culture. We have a lot of young guys, so I want to build a culture that they can remember, hold on to and pass it on to their freshmen.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I had an 18-tackle game against Sylacauga my sophomore year.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to college. I have (to study) eight years to be an orthopedic surgeon

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to the region games and trying to make the playoffs. I am most looking forward to building a relationship with my teammates and letting them have something that they can hold on to.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like music, politics and medicine. I am a nerd. Music-wise, I listen to everything but country.

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

The best part is getting stronger. I like to see my teammates getting stronger. The worst part is being out there in that 95 degree heat.

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

Music, my PS4 and sports.

## ROSTER

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2. Canaan Johnson      | 28. Mark Morris       |
| 3. Dylan Owens         | 30. Leyton Moeser     |
| 4. Hunter Hill         | 32. Blake Loggins     |
| 5. Kevin Duncan        | 34. Karean Lawson     |
| 6. Zay Youngblood      | 35. Zach Cleveland    |
| 7. Conner Hebson       | 45. Tate Crumpton     |
| 8. Lamarr Duncan       | 50. James Barnett     |
| 9. Phillip Tilley      | 51. Javian Richardson |
| 10. Jay Tywman         | 52. Zane Penrod       |
| 11. Xzavious Garrett   | 54. Rodrick Barber    |
| 12. Seth Garrett       | 55. Austin Luker      |
| 14. Dakaveon Truss     | 56. Austin Reason     |
| 15. Javiun Jones       | 60. Jordan Fomby      |
| 16. Za'quarious Truss  | 62. Skylar Rice       |
| 18. Omari McClain      | 63. Jordan Sander     |
| 19. RJ Swain           | 66. Braxton Lightsey  |
| 20. Chris Swain        | 67. Andarius Woody    |
| 21. Elijah Swain       | 70. Jack Sanders      |
| 22. James Brasher      | 71. Caleb Swain       |
| 23. Elijah Sims        | 76. Braiden Thornton  |
| 24. Kane Smith         | 77. Ben Wilhite       |
| 25. Dontavious Pointer | 78. James Barnett     |
| 26. Christian Blair    |                       |

## SCHEDULE

- Aug. 27** ..... at B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 4** ..... at Reeltown, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 11** ..... vs. Goshen, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 18** ..... at Dadeville, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 25** ..... vs. Sylacauga, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 1** ..... at Beulah, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 9** ..... vs. Montgomery Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 16** ..... vs. Pike County, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 23** ..... vs. Trinity Presbyterian, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 30** ..... at Fayetteville, 7 p.m.



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0027737R1

# COOSA VALLEY ACADEMY *Rebels*



## Coosa Valley Academy is making a return to 11-man football this fall

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
lyoung@dailyhome.com

Last season, the Rebels played eight-man football due to low numbers. First-year head coach RL Langston said it's going to be a process to make sure the Rebels are not in this position in the future.

"Our problem right now, and we are getting better at it, is numbers," Langston said. "If you don't have the numbers, football is a tough game to play.

"Our long-term goal is to have a process in place to bring younger

kids in and build a program that lasts instead of trying to build a team every year. We have to do something that is substantial, is going to last and is good for the school."

Langston wouldn't say how many players the Rebels currently have.

On Aug. 10, CVA made the decision to return to 11-man football. Senior Logan Cairnes was elated about the decision.

"I am ready to play, I am excited," Cairnes said. "I took last season off. I played my

10th-grade year when we made the playoffs. I didn't play last year because it was eight-man. I am ready to play this year."

CVA conducted both morning and afternoon workouts this summer, but a couple of players were not able to participate. Therefore, Langston is not including them in the team's current head count, which is one reason he's reluctant to reveal a roster size right now.

"A lot of times in the private system, kids are not going to come to voluntary workouts," he said. "I had three calls (recently) asking when football



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starts.”

The Alabama Independent School Association announced in July the

football season will start on time, and teams will have to follow safety

protocols. Langston believes the COVID-19 pandemic has played a role in CVA's low numbers.

“I think people still have fear,” he said. “That child is God’s precious gift that He gives to all of us. You want to protect them. I think

being in the private system, mommas protect them even greater. I think we have that problem.”

The last time the Rebels took part in 11-man competition, they

struggled. CVA went 4-8 in 2018. One of Langston’s goals is to change the culture of the

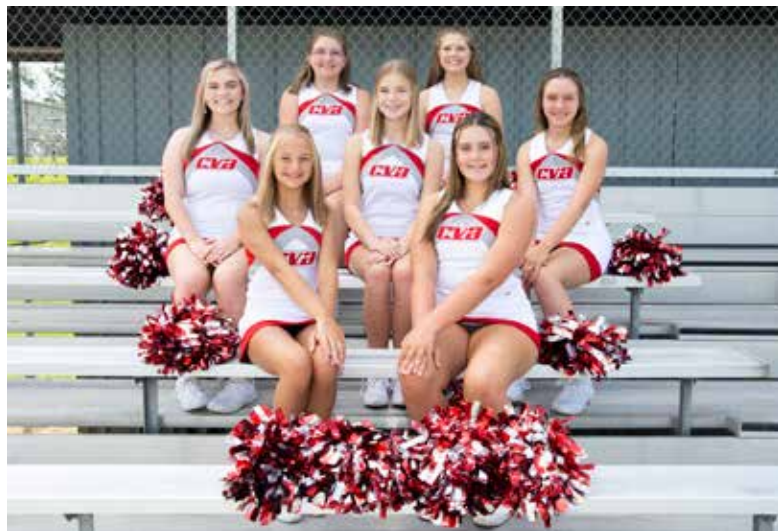
football program at CVA.

“Our goal is a stepping-stone,” he said. “We want to accomplish something and be successful this year to build on what we can do next year.

“I don’t think we can go out there and go through the motions. We

have been working hard. We have to change the mindset, and it is not just here. It is a societal thing. Kids are going to do what they have to and not what they need to. It is the same with voluntary workouts -- they are not going to show up until they have to. They are always behind and they don’t understand that.”

Langston and the Rebels are set to open the season Aug. 21 at Hooper Academy.



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## PLAYER Q&A - LOGAN CAIRNES



### How do you approach the upcoming season?

I am approaching the same as always. It is just football.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

My sophomore year it was rough, it was really hard. It was a lot of weight lifting. This year, we are focused on stamina because we are going to have to keep up since we don't know how many players we have on the team.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I prefer being in school because I get to see all of my friends. With virtual, I did not like being at home all day.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

Get as many wins as possible and to keep the team going for next year.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Making the playoffs my sophomore year.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I plan on going to Troy to study business

### What motivates you to work hard?

Self-improvement, I just want to get better. I hate not being able to do something

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to getting the most wins possible.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I work and spend time with my family.

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

The best part is playing the sport, I love football. The conditioning is the worst part.

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

God, family and friends



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# GOOSA VALLEY ACADEMY

## Rebels

### KEY FACTS

**Team:** Coosa Valley Academy  
**Head coach:** RL Langston (first year)  
**Key losses:**  
**Key returners:**  
**Base offense:** Multiple  
**Base defense:** Multiple

### 2019 in review

**Record:** Did not play football in 2019  
**Points Scored:** N/A  
**Points Allowed:** N/A

### SCHEDULE

**Aug. 21** .....at Hooper Academy, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 28** .....at Pickens Academy, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 4** .....vs. Crenshaw Christian, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 11** .....at Lakeside, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 25** .....vs. Jackson Academy, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 2** .....vs. Cornerstone Christian, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 9** .....at Abbeville Christian, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 16** .....vs. Lowndes Academy, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 30** .....vs. Sparta Academy, 7 p.m.

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# FAYETTEVILLE Wolves



## Fayetteville coach hopes challenges posed by pandemic will sharpen his team

By LAVONTE YOUNG  
lyoung@dailyhome.com

Fayetteville head coach John Limbaugh hopes the uncertainty of everything going on with the COVID-19 pandemic will help his team deal with situations on the gridiron this fall.

"The summer has been different to say the least," Limbaugh said. "We have never been (in a situation like) what we are going through.

"The thing about being a football player is dealing with adversity. Our kids are learning how to do that. I think COVID could be the catalyst of our kids turning that corner (and) beating a team like Luverne that we played in the playoffs last year (a 54-7 loss) and being better than 6-5.

"Through adversity, you rise to the occasion many times. There are changes in a football game, a change of possession and big play, things like that happen. When things like that happen, what are we going to do with it? I think we are going to be better because of it."

The Wolves went 6-5 last season and made the Class 2A playoffs for the first time since 2015.

Limbaugh, who is entering his ninth season at the helm, wants his team to build off

the success it had a year ago, but he wants to build his players into good young men.

"We want to win football games and become better people," Limbaugh said. "We want to be the person that our God, families, coaches and administration want to have us to be. All this summer we have been preaching 'we are not me.' We believe in that; it is on the back of our T-shirts. It is about this whole team and this team becoming the very best that it can."

With the uncertainty of how long the season will last, Limbaugh has pushed up some of the late-season festivities to earlier in the campaign to make sure his seniors will have a chance to experience them.

"Like I said before, we are not going to make predictions, but we are going to plan for everything," he said. "We are going to plan for the playoffs. With COVID being here, I am going to do senior night early this year. Our first game is going to be senior night just to make sure we get that in.

"We are going to plan purposely and fearfully. We are going to become all that we can become as individuals, as a team and as a school."

For Limbaugh and the coaching staff, the player safety is their No.1 priority. Limbaugh said it was difficult at first to keep the players socially distanced, but that is something the

players have worked on because they want to have the opportunity to play football this season.

"They didn't give me a manual for COVID when I became a coach," Limbaugh said. "This is the first time that we have faced anything like this.

"In the weight room, our kids are really good about wearing their masks all of the time. Outside, things are a little different. I have to remind myself to keep them apart. We are all learning, growing and getting better from this. We are going to be socially distancing as a football program and as a school. We are learning how to get better every day."

Besides trying to prevent players and coaches from contracting COVID-19, the Wolves will have a tough challenge on the field. Class 2A, Region 4 has some of the top teams in the state, including last season's 1A champion, Lanett, an always-talented Lafayette team, as well as B.B. Comer and Randolph County, along with Vincent.

"It is the SEC West, it is tough," Limbaugh said. "I am excited to have Comer in our region, and we got Randolph County coming in. We got rid of Reeltown, but we still got Lanett and Lafayette. We got some tough teams. We are going to hit this thing hard; every game is important to us. The most impor-

tant game on my mind is (the season opener Aug. 21 at) Woodland and giving Woodland everything (we have) to give them.”

Limbaugh has two non-region games that have personal meaning to him on the schedule this season. The Wolves will host Victory Christian on Sept. 25. Limbaugh was able to get the best of his former head coach Bruce Breland’s Victory Christian team last season 20-6. The Wolves will host Childersburg to close the regular season on Oct. 30. Limbaugh spent six seasons as an assistant coach at Childersburg.

“I love Coach Breland to death, and to play him is always an honor,” Limbaugh said. “We brought Childersburg in as our last game of the season. (New Tigers head coach) Johnny Johnson was a great choice for that job, and he is going to do a great job there. It is going to be a tough game for us. We wanted to keep things close to home, and our kids are excited about playing Childersburg.”

The Wolves will depend on Pacey DeLoach to lead their offense. Last season, DeLoach split time at quarterback with Blake Machen. Limbaugh said he wants DeLoach to be comfortable on the field so that he can play up to his full potential.



“One thing that Pacey has is intelligence. He is athletic, and I am very excited to head out with him,” Limbaugh said. “I kid a lot about having another DeLoach, but DeLoaches from our community can all play sports. They are quite amazing.”

“(What) I want to see out of him is intel-

ligence, being able to read, see what’s before him and take advantage of what’s out there offensively. Take advantage of what is out there and go get it. Don’t be so afraid to make a mistake. I’m going to give him that freedom to go get it.”

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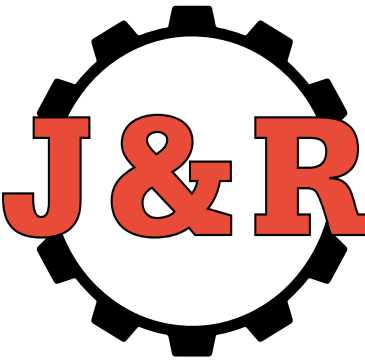
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## PLAYER Q&A - BRADY RITCHEY

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

It is summed up in one word: perseverance. As a team, we need to persevere, we need to stay healthy. I think that the most important part of the season is staying healthy.

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

Tom Brady. He has had a lot of challenges in his career, and no matter what challenge he is faced with, he bounces back from it. He gives his all every snap and every play.

### How have workouts been different this year than in the past?

As a team, you are supposed to be as one. It is hard to do that with the distancing and staying away from each other. You can't get all up on someone if they need that coaching. You can still do it, but from a distance. You can do everything you want as long as you follow the guidelines that we have to face.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I like to be in a classroom. It is more hands on. I like to be in that atmosphere because you really learn better in an atmosphere where you are challenged. At home, I am not getting that challenge that much.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

Last year, we wanted to make the playoffs, and we did that. This year, we want to go further than that.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

In seventh grade when I was playing Hewitt-Trussville, we won the championship. There is no feeling like winning a championship. It was straight excitement and pure joy. It is one of the best feelings in the world.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I haven't really decided yet, but what is on top of my list right now is the military. I feel like that is one of the best things for me. It will open me up to being pushed. It will fundamentally grow me as an individual and as a man.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just getting on the field. It is not guaranteed yet. I hope to the Lord that we get to step on the field and play football.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

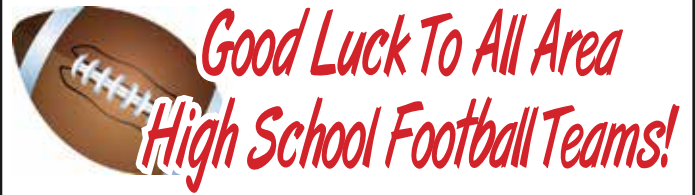
I love to sing.

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

The best part is coming together as a team. The worst part this year is striving and working hard even though the season is not guaranteed. That's the hardest part for me this year.

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

My mother, the Lord and food.



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# FAYETTEVILLE

## Wolves

### SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	.....	at Woodland, 7 p.m.
Sept. 4	.....	vs. Horseshoe Bend, 7 p.m.
Sept. 11	.....	at Lanett, 7 p.m.
Sept. 18	.....	at Vincent, 7 p.m.
Sept. 25	.....	vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.
Oct. 2	.....	vs. Randolph County, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9	.....	at B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.
Oct. 16	.....	at LaFayette, 7 p.m.
Oct. 23	.....	vs. Ranburne, 7 p.m.
Oct. 30	.....	vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.

### ROSTER

1. Levi Phillips	51. Austin Jones
2. Pacey DeLoach	52. Payton Craft
3. Casen Bryant	54. Dakota Ogle
4. Zander Liner	55. Ethan Presley
5. Brady Holmes	56. Blake Ritchey
7. Cole Hardy	60. Slade Adair
9. Chance Owens	61. Kaz Duke
10. Ashton Donahoo	64. Lane Darden
11. Hunter Hammonds	65. Hunter Roberson
12. Zeke DeLoach	66. Will Darden
13. Luke White	72. Connor Nelson
14. Cadence Barrett	75. Connor Rogers
18. Jacob Vice	76. Ashton Williams
25. Evan Baker	78. Travis Nix
26. Seth Limbaugh	82. Reed Wallis
33. Brady Ritchey	83. Jay Talford
34. Atticus Jacks	85. Stephen Barrett
35. Billy Helm	88. Tsali Brooks
38. Cam Keeton	99. Eric Phillips
44. Josh Liner	

### KEY FACTS

**Team:** Fayetteville  
**Head coach:** John Limbaugh (ninth year)  
**Key departures:** Blake Machen, Casen Gardner, Trevor DeLoach  
**Key returners:** Blake Ritchey, Brady Ritchey, Pacey DeLoach  
**Base offense:** Multiple  
**Base defense:** Multiple

### 2019 IN REVIEW

**Record:** 6-5  
**Points Scored:** 261  
**Points Allowed:** 341

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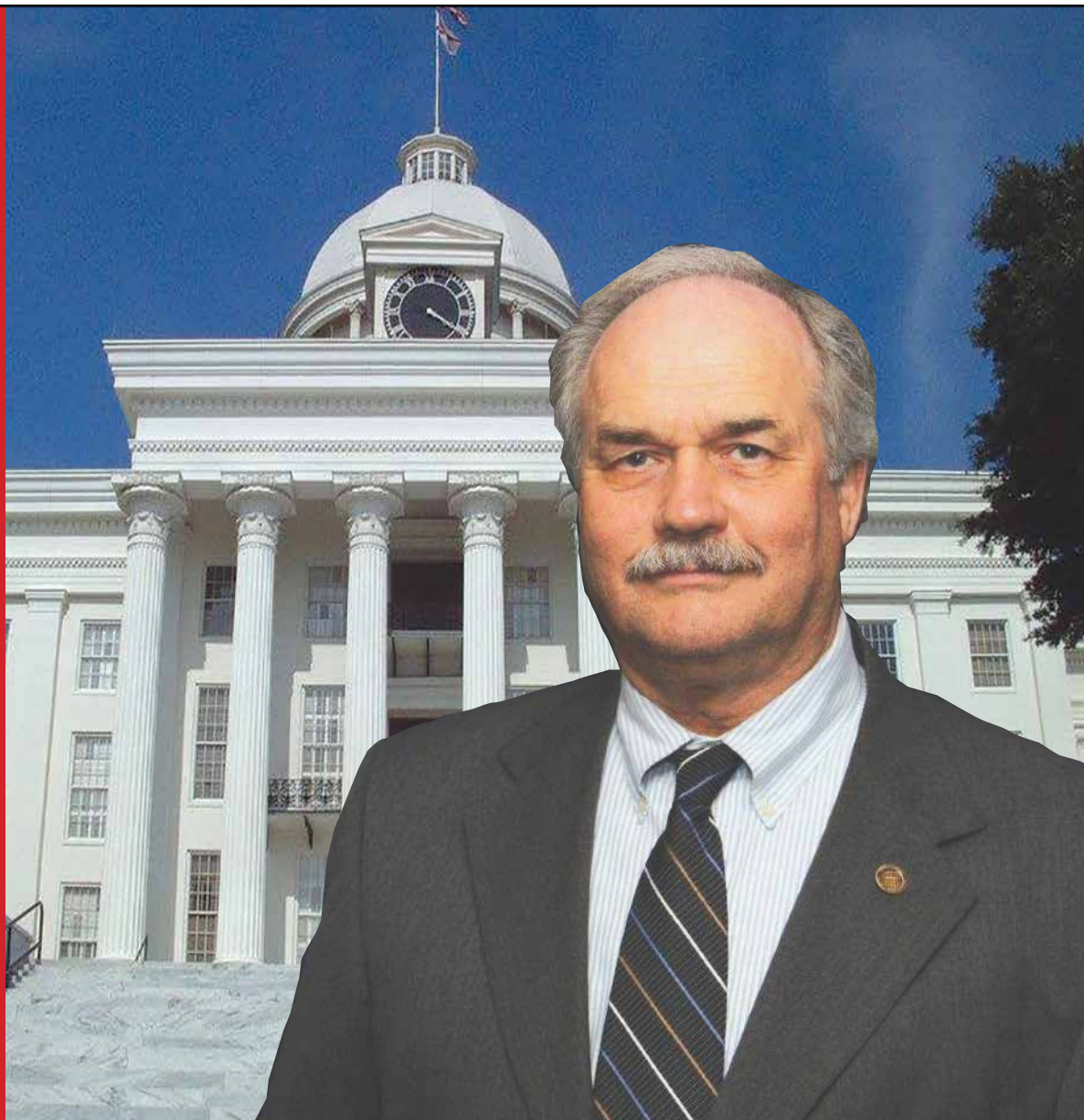
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0002778051

# LINCOLN Golden Bears



## The sense of urgency has been heightened at Lincoln.

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
[lyoung@dailyhome.com](mailto:lyoung@dailyhome.com)

Keeping the players as safe as possible has been the top priority for the Golden Bears throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Last spring, athletics were canceled in March due to the pandemic. In July, the AHSAA announced fall sports will start on time, but Lincoln head coach Matt Zedaker knows that at any time, the season can be canceled.

"We are approaching each day as a precious gift from the Lord," Zedaker said. "We talk everyday (about) we are not certain what tomorrow is going to bring, so today we need to make sure we do everything possible to fulfill this day and make it the best day it can be."

"The guys saw their buddies lose their senior season in the spring. Collectively as a senior class, they have decided to approach every day like this is the last day to put football pads on for their high school career."

Zedaker's first three seasons with the Golden Bears have been a success. After a 2-8 season in Year 1, Lincoln went 7-4 and 9-3 while winning region championships and making the postseason in Years 2 & 3.

For 2020, Zedaker enters the first season of another three-year plan.

The coach said he wants to build off the previous seasons while moving to a new classification, from 4A to 5A. Lincoln will compete in Region 6 with Alexandria, Center Point, Corner, Hayden, Leeds, Moody and St. Clair County.

"The next step in this growth process is another three-year plan," Zedaker said. "We have the taste of championships in our mouth. We have won two region championships. That has been our mantra this summer, we don't fall off because we are in 5A. Our goals stay the same. We want to win our region every year and see how deep we can go into the playoffs."

The Golden Bears lost a lot of key pieces of last season's team, including two-time 4A-5A Talladega County Player of the Year Javion Surles. In 2019, Surles, who signed with UVA-Wise, threw for 1,746 yards and 25 touchdowns. He also rushed for 860 yards and nine TDs.

This season, Lincoln will turn to Jack Poarch to lead its new offensive attack. Poarch has been the backup quarterback the last two years.

"He has done an unbelievable job of transforming his body and getting ready to be the leader of our offense," Zedaker said. "Obviously, he won't have the escape ability of Javion and the creativity to be able to make people miss."

"What Jack brings, what may be different, is that he is a pocket passer. He is very intelligent as far as reads go, getting the ball to the second and third receiver. A lot of our passing game has evolved this offseason. We put a lot more RPO (run-pass option) packages in."

"We are excited for Jack to be the next man up at the quarterback position. We feel like he is going to do really well. It will be a little different looking offense based on his gifts."

The Golden Bears return several talented skill players, including receiver Brian Garrett. Last season, Garrett earned second-team all-state honors and was the go-to receiver for the Golden Bears. The junior made 39 receptions for 1,023 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"Brian and Jack have been working a lot during the offseason," Zedaker said. "They would sneak out and work together, of course, socially distanced, while we were in

quarantine. They developed that chemistry, as well as JD (Davis), he has been working with Jack all summer.

"It definitely helps that we have an all-state guy coming back. He has a lot of goals that he set for himself this season, like becoming first team instead of second team."

The Golden Bears also got a boost in their running game with the addition of former Sylacauga head coach Matt Griffith to the staff.

Griffith had a 1,000-yard rusher every season at Sylacauga, including two a year ago. Griffith won over 100 games in his 15 seasons with the Aggies. Griffith will coach running backs and help with special teams for the Golden Bears

"I don't think it is a secret that Coach Griffith is one of my best friends," Zedaker said. "We are very close and we worked together for a long time. The relationship professional and personally developed with each other is something we will carry throughout our lifetime.

"He brings a wealth of football knowledge, a wealth of administrative type knowledge. Every aspect that you can think of as a football coach, he brings to the table."

Davis is ready to have a bigger role for the Golden Bears in 2020. The receiver/ strong safety was a playmaker in all three aspects of the game in his first season with Lincoln. The do-all playmaker especially shined on defense as he came up with some key interceptions last season. Davis enters the season with an offer from Samford.

"JD had a punt return, a kickoff return, a rushing touchdown and receiving touchdown," Zedaker said. "Any way you can score a touchdown, JD had it last year.

"JD came to us last year trying to fit in, and it took him a minute to get caught up on how we did things. As soon as he got caught up, he was a tremendous athlete. We used him on both sides of the ball a lot of times out of necessity due to injuries. At the end of the year, he wasn't coming off the field."




Last season, the strength of the Golden Bears was their defensive front. Lincoln's nasty front was disruptive and dominated several games. Lincoln held six of its 219 opponents to 13 points or less.

"We have to replace seven starters on defense," Zedaker said. "Our entire defensive line were seniors. We have a lot of young defensive linemen that are coming back.

"Coach (Blair) Mayfield is our defensive


line coach. He does a tremendous job. ... This year, you will see our front be a lot more of a movement type front. We are going to get them to go to the place that they can get until we can get them playing good technique."

Lincoln opens the season Aug. 21 against Southside.



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## PLAYER Q&A - BRIAN GARRETT

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

We are doing really good right now in fall practice. We have a new offense this season. Junior Jack Poarch is coming in as our quarterback. With him, we are going to be doing a lot of run-pass options. We will have a lot of competition this year, so we will have to be ready to play.

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

Amari Cooper. That has been my favorite football player for the longest. He has been my idol since I was coming up. When he came to Alabama, he was a beast, and since he has been in Dallas, he has become more of a beast. I just like his work ethic and his play.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

We had to space each other out and social distance. Everybody was in different types of groups, so we had to be cautious not to merge into another group. We had to sanitize every time we touched the weights. We are just hoping to stay safe.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I am ready to go back to school because online was too much. When you are at home, you don't feel like doing nothing, so being at school is way better.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

We are trying to win another region championship and go to the playoffs again. Hopefully, make first-team all-state and try to get my first offer soon. That's been a goal of mine for the longest. I am going out there with a chip on my shoulder and playing every game like it is my last.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

The catch to seal our comeback win against Handley last season. My teammates trust me to make big plays in tough situations like that.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I want to play either college football or college basketball. I am going to choose to give me a better offer.

### What motivates you to work hard?

My coaches and teammates get me to work hard every day. In fall camp, I always run full speed. I try to do my best on every play. I do it for my grandmother who just passed.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just being on the field again. I just miss the atmosphere of Friday nights and just having a good time with my brothers.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to play video games a lot. I am a social guy, I like to talk. I am just a cool guy to be around.

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

Conditioning is the worst part. Being around my teammates is the best part.

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

God, my family and sports.

### Do you have a quote that you live by?

Always trust God.

## SCHEDULE

Aug. 21	.....vs. Southside	7 p.m.
Aug. 28	.....vs. Sylacauga,	7 p.m.
Sept. 4	.....at Leeds,	7 p.m.
Sept. 11	.....vs. Center Point,	7 p.m.
Sept. 18	.....vs. St. Clair County,	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	.....at Munford,	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	.....at Corner,	7 p.m.
Oct. 9	.....vs. Alexandria,	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	.....at Hayden,	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	.....at Moody,	7 p.m.

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| 2. Tristian Payton  | 35. Hunter Dulaney   |
| 3. Chorion Kelley   | 36. Austin Cook      |
| 4. Hayden Phillips  | 37. Trip Ward        |
| 5. JD Davis         | 38. Hunter Johnson   |
| 6. Korry Davis      | 39. Monty Weed       |
| 7. Cornelius Glass  | 40. Landon Waller    |
| 8. Isaiah Ashley    | 41. Darion Jones     |
| 9. Brian Garrett    | 43. Camare Hampton   |
| 10. Jack Poarch     | 45. Dayton Hardy     |
| 11. Zack Gable      | 46. Brady Robinson   |
| 12. Gavin Hobbs     | 50. Braxton Harmon   |
| 13. David Jacobs    | 52. Michael Parker   |
| 14. Tae Elston      | 53. Zavion McCluney  |
| 15. Zac Wren        | 54. Taylor Lovell    |
| 16. Brayden Wilson  | 55. Kevin Cole       |
| 17. Luke Collier    | 56. LeBreylon Looney |
| 19. Noah Payton     | 57. Jaden Wilson     |
| 20. Peyton Miller   | 58. Trey Scott       |
| 21. Caleb Bluhm     | 60. Chris Thompson   |
| 22. Ty Harry        | 61. Malakai Scott    |
| 23. Jayden Harris   | 63. Marcus Segó      |
| 24. Tre Harris      | 64. Marquiest Scott  |
| 25. Josh Spratling  | 66. Jaden Kendrick   |
| 27. Jaylon George   | 68. Aaron Woodard    |
| 28. Caden Newell    | 69. Kam Collins      |
| 29. Tre Hines       | 72. Bailey Butler    |
| 30. Jacob Sheffield | 73. Matthew Davis    |
| 31. Nick Gallimore  | 74. Dylan Richards   |
| 32. Gavin Gaddis    | 75. Dalton Perley    |
| 33. Nick Munroe     |                      |

# KEY FACTS

**Team:** Lincoln  
**Head Coach:** Matt Zedaker (fourth year)  
**Key departures:** Steven White, Javion Surles, Cam Reynolds, Keyshon Townsend  
**Key returners:** Brian Garrett, JD Davis, Tre Hines, Chorion Kelley  
**Base offense:** Multiple  
**Base defense:** Multiple  
**2019 in review**  
**Record:** 9-3  
**Points scored:** 366  
**Points allowed:** 257



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# MUNFORD *Lions*



## Munford looking to break 2-year playoff drought

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
[lyoung@daillyhome.com](mailto:lyoung@daillyhome.com)

Munford enters the 2020 season looking to snap a two-year streak of not making the playoffs.

The Lions spent the last two seasons in Class 5A, and they missed the postseason by a game in both 2018 and '19. For 2020, Munford moves down to 4A, where they had success before moving up two years ago.

"We want to make the playoffs," head coach Michael Easley said. "I want the kids to have the mentality to do whatever it takes to get to the playoffs."

"Last year, we went 5-5 and basically missed the playoffs on a 54-yard field goal (against Sylacauga). I told the kids, it is our job to find a way to win those games, whether it was that one or another. We want to have the mentality of we don't want to leave it to anyone else. We want to do our job and do what it takes to win games. That is the men-

talinity that I want our players to always have."

This season will be like no other.

The uncertainty of if or how many games teams will play hangs around every day. Easley said he wants to win games, but he will be just as satisfied if his seniors get a chance to play football this season.

"The crazy thing about this year is there is a lot of things as coaches that we are not going to be able to control," Easley said. "There is going to be a lot of stuff that affects wins and losses that we have no say so over."

"The biggest thing I want from this season is for these guys that are seniors to get to have their senior year. The results are almost irrelevant, even though at the end of the day, that is what we go on the field for. I just want these seniors to have their senior season."

The Lions have several intriguing matchups on the schedule. Munford will compete in Region 4 against several neighboring communities such as Anniston, Jacksonville, White Plains, Handley, Cherokee County and

Cleburne County.

Easley said he likes the idea of his players getting to compete against youngsters from nearby communities they already know.

"We have a lot more local teams," Easley said. "We don't have to travel an hour and a half to play a region game, which is nice. I am excited about that."

The Lions have three regional opponents that are ranked in the ASWA preseason poll. The 2019 4A runner-up, Jacksonville, is ranked No. 5, and Anniston comes in at No. 10. Cherokee County also received votes.

Easley believes there will be a good football team left home for the postseason in this tough region.

"We start off with Coach (Larry) Strain and Handley. He is one of the best coaches in Alabama," Easley said. "Jacksonville was in the state championship game last season, and Anniston was in the semifinals. They had strong seasons last year and they brought some kids back."



“From what I hear, Cherokee County has a lot coming back. They are going to be well-coached, and it is going to be a tough game. Then you have Cleburne County, and there is a ton of tradition there. I know the way those guys are coached and I know the way that they were raised. They are going to be hard-nosed and bring it every single game.

“White Plains, he (Chandler Tyree) is in his

second year as well. They have a good skill group from what I have seen, probably that they have had in a while. It is going to be a super competitive region.”

The Lions return quarterback Jay Tuck.

The rising senior had a stellar junior season for Munford, making plays with his throwing arm and legs. Easley expects Tuck to have a big year in 2020.

“I kind of say we go as he goes,” Easley said. “He is our guy at quarterback. He is a very talented player. He kind of reminds me of my guy from 2013, Tre Smith, who is playing for the Philadelphia Eagles now. He has the same skill, he has an explosive arm. The ball really pops out of his arm.

“If I wanted to run him 25 times a game, he would be a 2,000-yard rusher. He is an all-



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# MUNFORD Lions

around complete quarterback for us. I think he is going to be playing on the next level next year. I think he is going to have a big senior year."

Munford will have to replace several key pieces on defense, including linebacker Justin Sistrunk

This season, the Lions will depend more on their defensive front to make plays.

Easley believes the depth Munford created last season on the defensive line will be key to its success this season.

"Upfront, we are going to lean on some guys on the D-line," Easley said. "Terrance Reynolds is a guy that can play all three spots for us, even (defensive end) or nose (guard). He is incredibly strong. He squatted 525 (pounds) when we maxed out on March 2. He is a really strong individual.

"Another guy that we are going to lean on more is Landon Bradford. He is moving down from linebacker to defensive line. He made a big jump in the weight room. I think he is going to have a good year for us.

"We have a ton of guys that played on the defensive line like Tyler Gibson, and Cole Edwards. We have a ton of guys that got reps on the defensive line last year that rotated in. That is going to have to continue.

"This is going to be the year when depth is critical. You can't play 60 snaps on offense and defense. They sat out three months and they are not physically ready. I told the guys that we are going to play as many as we can, especially early in the year."

Munford opens the season Aug. 21 against Talladega.



## PLAYER Q&A - PEYTON GAITHER

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

We brought back some players on defense, and I think we are going to be really strong. I think we have learned the defense. We have changed from a 4-3 to a 3-3 stack last year. I think our second year in that defense is going to be a whole lot better.

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

Mac Wilson from Alabama. He is the reason why I wear No. 30. He is very versatile and he comes with that heat every time.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

You don't get to bond with your team as much in the weight room. We have been split up. It has been hard wearing a mask. We have been trying to stay as clean as possible so we won't catch anything.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I like being in school. I like seeing my friends. I like communicating with people.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

I want us to get to the playoffs; that's my main goal. I would like to put up a lot of tackles.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I applied for a job at the Anniston Army Depot for co-op, so I am going to try to stick with that after high school.

### What motivates you to work hard?

That is how I was raised. You have to earn everything you get.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

The chemistry that we have. I think we are going to be able to fly around on offense and defense. I think we are going to be able to win a lot of games.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to raccoon hunt. My dad did when he was younger. We have a pretty decent dog, and it is pretty fun.

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

The best part is when you get in pads and you get to hit as hard as possible. The worst part is waiting to get hit.

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

Chicken, football and my momma.

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## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Munford  
**Head Coach:** Michael Easley (second year)  
**Key departures:** Justin Sistrunk, LJ Flint  
**Key returners:** Jay Tuck, TD Parker, Kole Edwards  
**Base offense:** Multiple  
**Base defense:** Multiple

**2019 in review**

**Record:** 5-5  
**Points scored:** 231  
**Points allowed:** 224

## SCHEDULE

**Aug. 21** ..... vs. Talladega, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 28** ..... vs. Fultondale, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 4** ..... at Handley, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 11** ..... vs. Cleburne County, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 18** ..... at Jacksonville  
**Sept. 25** ..... vs. Lincoln, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 1** ..... vs. Cherokee County, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 9** ..... at Anniston, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 16** ..... vs. White Plains, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 29** ..... at Ohatchee, 7 p.m.



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| 2. Jayce Harris       | 35. Tyler Harmon     |
| 3. Jacoby Harris      | 37. Kannon McGougin  |
| 4. TD Parker          | 42. Kelby Tucker     |
| 5. Garrett Sprayberry | 44. Cam Wallace      |
| 6. Riley Brown        | 50. Tymon Johnson    |
| 7. Terrance Reynolds  | 51. Tucker Thrasher  |
| 8. Jay Tuck           | 52. JP Wesley        |
| 9. Javion White       | 54. Kole Edwards     |
| 10. Rashard Russell   | 55. Brayden Poore    |
| 11. Sylvester Smith   | 56. David Pettus     |
| 12. Caleb Cotton      | 57. Daniel Beckman   |
| 13. Ron Ervin         | 58. Khalil Smith     |
| 14. Landry Bradford   | 59. Koree Threatt    |
| 15. Cam Strickland    | 60. Marc Jennings    |
| 16. Connor Morgan     | 65. Zach Garrett     |
| 18. Tyler George      | 70. Vonquel Chapman  |
| 21. Caderio Holland   | 71. Kyle Gibson      |
| 23. George Foshee     | 72. Edward Turner    |
| 24. Jaiden Turner     | 73. Macon Griffin    |
| 26. Spencer Yates     | 75. Logan Smith      |
| 28. Langdon Sanderson | 76. Manny Strickland |
| 30. Peyton Gaither    | 77. Warren Smith     |
| 32. Corbin Smith      | 79. Jayden Tucker    |

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**- Lou Holtz**

# PELL CITY *Pantheres*

HOME OF THE PANTHERS



## Special teams could be key in Pell City's quest for improvement

BY JIMMY CREED  
Special to The Daily Home

If the Pell City Panthers rebound in 2020 from a tough 2-8 finish last season, it may be in large part because they get some really special play from their special teams.

That's the assessment of third-year head coach Wayne Lee, who has placed extra emphasis on the "other" part of the game as his Panthers prepare for their Aug. 28 season opener at Leeds.

"We always talk about it, but sometimes we don't do a real good job of coaching it, and it's real close to being a third of the game," Lee said. "This year, we've got some returners who can help us and some kickers who can help us, so we really want to pick up the pace there."

Lee is particularly excited about the kick returning duo of junior Kentrell Borden and senior Carson Walker, two starting receivers who will handle kickoff and punt return duties. Both players will be on the field for kickoff returns, and Borden will be the No. 1

punt returner.

"They are both pretty fast, and we feel like we will have some chances to break some plays with those guys returning the ball," Lee said.

Lee is also excited about a three-way battle among Gannon Osborne, Jake Blackstone and Sailor Richard for the various kicking positions. All are experienced soccer players who have come out for the football team for the first time.

"A lot of times, you're hoping to find just one kicking prospect, and we've got three," Lee said. "We're probably going to use them all in some different ways, and that's really exciting, too."

Walker will also handle the punting duties, and senior Matt Frey will figure in the kickoff return rotation as well.

"If you can flip the field in a close game or get a return that gives you a shorter field, that enhances your chances of scoring," Lee said. "If you can kick the ball in the end zone consistently, the chances of them driving 80 yards gives the advantage to the defense.

So it's an opportunity we hope to be able to take advantage of to help us win some more ballgames this year."

Wins were hard to come by last season, but it wasn't from lack of execution, Lee said. In fact, he had his coaching staff review the film from all 10 games last year, and that review convinced them their players did a lot of things right in 2019 and, there is plenty to build on in 2020.

"We realized that some of the stuff we did well you couldn't tell in the game against some of the people we played," Lee said. "We might not have run as fast or been as flashy as some of our opponents, but our kids were doing the right things. But one of our major downfalls last year was giving up too many big plays."

"Our coaches have really been preaching to the kids that when they have a chance to make a play, they have to make the play. If they've got a chance to catch a ball, they've got to catch it. If they've got a chance to make a tackle, they've got to make it if we are going to win ballgames this season."



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That chance for introspection and reflection, for that deep dive back into last season's action, has been one of the positives of the prolonged layoff brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for Pell City.

Even though his team was unable to gather and work out in its usual offseason fashion, there was still work that could be done to improve, and the results really hit home with Lee and his staff.

"We were a little nervous about not having any 7-on-7 camps, but it's really been good," Lee said. "We've actually been able to spend more time working on us and fixing what we need to fix instead of trying to go and win a 7-on-7 game. That's good practice. But it's not the same as Friday night, and that's really what we need to be getting ready for."

The Panthers return six offensive starters and only three on defense, but there is still excitement across the board about the squads that will take the field on both sides of the ball this season, starting with a big, strong defensive front.

Anchoring the unit in the 3-4 scheme will be 310-pound nose tackle Jalen Gilbert, and he will be joined by 290-pound DeDrick Scott, 250-pound Brilliance Swift, whom Lee calls "the strongest player I have ever coached," Ben Smith, Jameson Wood and Tyler McFadden.

At linebacker, Frey and Drew Sisson will hold down the inside spots, while two of the Panthers' better athletes, Brain Keller and Bryson Clough, will man the outside spots.

The depth at the position will come in the form of several younger players, but Lee is happy to have it.

In the secondary, Walker and Harrison Fausnaugh are returning starters at cornerback, and back deep at the safety spots the Panthers will rely on sophomores Jayden Coleman and Carlos Herring. Borden will play a lot in the secondary in obvious passing situations as well.

"Most of the time, if I knew I was starting two sophomores at safety, I'd be like, 'Oh my goodness!'" Lee said. "But these are really smart kids that have put in the time watching film and learning what we are trying to do, and I'm really looking forward to some big things out of those guys."

On offense, the Panthers will have a new quarterback in 5-10, 175-pound junior Baylor Smith, who comes with something Lee particularly likes in his signal caller — strong decision-making skills.

"A smart kid at quarterback is a plus, and I just really like the ability Baylor has as a decision maker," Lee said.

Running back is the deepest position the Panthers have going into the 2020 season, with returning starter and senior David Keith (5-9, 190) atop the depth chart in Pell City's one-back offensive scheme. Frey will play there, as will Keller and Markeis Bradford, and Panther fans should expect to see all four of them get carries on Friday night.

Up front, where only 6-3, 235-pound senior tackle Ryan Aldridge is a returning

starter, there is some uncertainty, and the Panthers will bring Gilbert and Scott over from the defensive line to start on offense as well. Rounding out the unit will be Byron Moon and Lane Burns.

Still, with a combination of experienced starters, some talented younger players and newcomers added to the mix -- and those "special" special teams -- Lee believes this Panthers team will certainly improve on last year's mark.

"We have really worked on eliminating mistakes because I believe we are going to be in a lot of close football games this year, and if we can eliminate the mistakes and the turnovers, we will improve," Lee said. "That's what we plan on doing for sure."

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# PELL CITY Pantheres

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Pell City

**Head coach:** Wayne Lee (third year)

**Key departures:** Mitchell Gossett, Clayton Rich, Brett Staples

**Key returners:** David Keith, Kentrell Borden, Jalen Gilbert

**Base offense:** Multiple

**Base defense:** Multiple

**2019 in review**

**Record:** 2-8

**Points scored:** 128

**Points allowed:** 303

## ROSTER

1. Bryson Clough
2. Kentrell Borden
3. Bryan Keller
4. Baylor Smith
5. Carlos Herring
6. Kylan Sanders
7. David Keith
8. Michael Snow
9. Jaden Coleman
10. Harrison Faughsnaugh
11. Matt Frey
12. Brody Eades
13. Saylor Richardson
14. Colin Smith
15. Carson Walker
16. Irwin Thomas
17. Monquez Sanders
18. Caleb Groce
19. Taro Shelton
20. Landen Strong
21. Jake Blackstone
22. Hunter Otwell
23. Alex Manning
24. Quinton Hicks
25. Daiden Williams
26. Markise Bedford
27. Casey Sims
28. Ardaus Burton
29. LJ Berry
30. Drew Scisson
33. Trace Elrod
34. Brillance Swift
35. Zander Lackey
37. Isiah Bossie
39. Hayden Bein
40. Skyler Bright
42. Brandon Jacks
44. Collin Wansart
50. Lance Sanderson
51. Riley Surles
52. Jalyn Gilbert
53. Hunter Hahn
54. Ayden Davis
56. Luke Hall
57. Byron Moon
58. Conner Johnson
60. Caden Aldridge
61. Grayson Hollis
62. Lance Burns
63. AJ Wells
64. Matthew Swain
65. Channing Peoples
66. Jameson Woods
72. Bishop Lathon
75. Ryan Aldridge
76. Dedrick Scott
77. Omarcus Forman
79. Gage Andrews
80. Ben Smith
81. Ashton Harvell
82. Trey Pack
83. Ryan Dimas
84. Devin Bush
88. Gannon Osborne
90. Tyler Stovall-McFadden
93. Tyrone Bush



## PLAYER Q&A - DAVID KEITH

**Do you approach this season differently since you know it can be taken away from you at any time?**

I have more sense of urgency. I want to go somewhere and make a name for myself.

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

Saquan Barkley, because he has the drive to get better every day.

**What do you want to accomplish this season?**

I want to help the team get to the playoffs.

**What's the biggest difference between this summer and previous ones?**

Last summer, it was hot and we had to work. This summer, we had a setback with COVID-19, so we are working harder because we have a shorter time.

**What is your greatest football moment, at any level?**

Probably the last game of last season when I went for a 60-yard touchdown.

**What are your post-high school plans?**

I want to go to the next level and play football.

**What are you looking forward to the most this season?**

I am looking forward to having a winning record and a chance to get in the playoffs.

**What are some of your interests outside of your sport?**

I play basketball and I like to work out.

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

The heat is the worst part. Being with the team again and getting closer is the best part.

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

Water, a roof over my head and God.

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# PELL CITY *Pantheres*

## SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	.....at Leeds, 7 p.m.
Sept. 4	.....at Southside, 7 p.m.
Sept. 11	.....at Talladega, 7 p.m.
Sept. 18	.....vs. Oxford, 7 p.m.
Sept. 25	.....at Calera, 7 p.m.
Oct. 2	.....at Arab, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9	.....at Springville, 7 p.m.
Oct. 16	.....vs. Fort Payne, 7 p.m.
Oct. 23	.....vs. Scottsboro, 7 p.m.
Oct. 30	.....vs. Mae Jemison, 7 p.m.

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# RAGLAND Purple Devils



## Ragland coach Derrick Sewell hopes third year is the charm

BY GARY HANNER  
Special to The Daily Home

Derrick Sewell is beginning his third year as head football coach at Ragland.

After going 4-6 in 2018 and 2-8 last year, Sewell is hoping Year 3 will be the charm in getting the Purple Devils back in the state playoffs.

Sewell, 33, attended Fort Payne High School and then went to college at Kentucky Wesleyan. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and then went through the fifth-year program at Jacksonville State University to earn his master's degree in 2012.

Before becoming head coach, he spent the previous two years as defensive coordinator at Ragland under previous Purple Devils head coach Brian Alred.

### COVID-19

Sewell said the coronavirus has definitely forced the Purple Devils to be more aware of surfaces, how close they are to each other

and, basically, just the way they try to do things.

"It was a big shot to us not to have spring practice," Sewell said. "We were not going to do spring the traditional way to begin with. We were not going to play a spring game simply due to the fact that we are very young.

"We were going to take 10 days and just work on ourselves. It hurt, and we are trying to play catchup on that right now."

Sewell said the biggest thing right now is the fear the virus has brought.

"We have some parents who do not feel comfortable sending their kids to practice, and I understand that," Sewell said. "I'm probably not as cautious in my daily life as I should be.

"We make sure no one gets in the weight room without first going through to be checked at our screening station set up in the front portion of the school. I make each player sanitize their hands in front of me. They get their temperature checked, and I ask them questions. If they can't answer 'no' to all of the questions, they are sent home

and can't come back until they are symptom-free. Even if it's just allergies, or a sore throat, they are sent home.

"The hardest thing is keeping the players spaced out enough in the weight room where they do not need to keep their masks on while they are working out."

Sewell said when everyone is finished for the day, he comes back in with a backpack sprayer to clean and fog everything.

"There are habits we will continue to implement even when this pandemic is gone," he said. "It's the unknown right now with a possible update or guideline the next day. For a small school like us, it's tough because resources are not overflowing. I realized early in the summer that these kids had done nothing for three months. The first thing I needed to do was get them back in shape."

### Class 1A, Region 5

The Purple Devils are in Class 1A, Region 5 with Donoho, Talladega County Central, Victory Christian, Wadley, Winterboro and





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Woodland.

According to Sewell, Winterboro is the team to beat in the region based on the players it has returning.

"They are the team we are all tracking down," he said.

**Players lost from last year**

Ragland lost 10 players from 2019 to graduation. Sewell noted the seniors led the way last year, but there were some situations and injuries they had to deal with.

"LaDarius Spikes was our leading rusher his junior year, but he transferred out before the season and went to Louisiana," Sewell said. "Brody Bice played both ways, and we lost him for the season in Week 2 due to an injury."

Sewell said the Purple Devils also lost their quarterback to injury in Week 2, and he was unable to play for three weeks.

"It forced us to play a younger guy, but it was a good thing as Owen Schall was able to learn on the fly," Sewell said. "It was better for him."

Sewell added Ragland also had a player who was its second-leading tackler the year before who decided not to play in 2019.

"If it could have gone wrong last year, it did," he said. "Now, we are a very young team and babies again. We have only six seniors this year, which means we will play a lot of young kids. You may see some freshmen on the field and maybe an eighth-grader or two."

**Key players returning**

Sewell mentioned Josh Phillips, Schall, Jakobbe Brewster and Jaxon Cox.

"We also have some new faces I believe will help us along the way," Sewell said.

**Team strengths**

Speed on the perimeter was the first thing Sewell said when discussing team strengths.

"We're not going to be very big up front, but I think we have some fast kids who can help us out defensively along the edge," Sewell said.

**Team weaknesses**

Youth and lack of depth is what Sewell described as team weaknesses for 2020.

"The desire to play football seems to be down a little bit everywhere," he said. "But when it goes down in a community like this and a school this size, it really reflects. Instead of getting off the bus with 35 freshmen to seniors, we will dress that number seventh grade to seniors. Our numbers are down and our society is changing. At one time, football built up small communities, but it is not that way anymore."

**Team goals**

Sewell said his team needs to get into the playoffs.

"Certainly, we would love to go 10-0," he said, "run the table and make it to the state championship game. But for us, our goals are to give ourselves a chance to win every Friday night and compete every week.

"Last year, I felt that at times, we were testing the water. If we didn't like how it felt, it affected our overall competitive nature.

"I want us to compete all four quarters and give ourselves a chance each week. Then, hopefully, get into the playoffs. I want this for our seniors. They have been with me for a long time. They have worked hard, and I would like to send them out that way."

The season starts Friday, Aug. 21, at Joan Ford Stadium against Valley Head. The teams have met five previous times, with Ragland winning four of the five, including last year's 26-14 victory.

**SCHEDULE**

- Aug. 21** .....vs. Valley Head, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 28** ..... at Gaylesville, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 4** ..... at Winterboro, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 11** .....vs. Woodland, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 25** ..... vs. Gaston, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 2** .....at Donoho, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 9** .....vs. Wadley, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 16** ..... at TC Central, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 23** .....vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 30** ..... at Asbury, 7 p.m.



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## PLAYER Q&A - JAKOLBE BREWSTER

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

I am super excited. This is my senior season, and I really hope that we can play.

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

My favorite pro player is Lamar Jackson. He is just a cool guy. I love watching him.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

Well, our workouts started at home. We have to wear masks, we have to wipe everything down every single time we get done with it. It takes a lot longer to work out.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

We want to have an undefeated season and make it to the playoffs.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I hit a guy from TCC pretty hard last season.

### What are your post-high school plans?

Go to JSU and major in computer science.

### What motivates you to work hard?

This year, I am motivated to work hard because this is my senior year. I want to go out and have fun.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Competing with my teammates, family and coach.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to fish.

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

The worst part is conditioning. The best part is just being out there on the field.

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

My mom, phone and my game.



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# RAGLAND Purple Devils

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Ragland

**Head coach:** Derrick Sewell (third year)

**Key departures:** Brody Bice, Elijah Ball, Matt Tubberville

**Key returners:** Jakolbe Brewster, Owen Schall

**Base offense:** Multiple

**Base defense:** Multiple

**2019 in review**

**Record:** 2-8

**Points Scored:** 140

**Points Allowed:** 309

## ROSTER

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jordan Turner      | 21. Javaris Turner   |
| 2. Calvin Lawler      | 23. Gavin Ward       |
| 3. Matthew Trammell   | 24. Johnathan Thomas |
| 4. Kentrell Turner    | 51. Davian Turner    |
| 5. Ethan Courtney     | 52. Bradly Dill      |
| 6. Owen Schall        | 53. Will Clark       |
| 7. Joshua Phillips    | 54. Brandon Hill     |
| 8. Michael Robertson  | 55. Andrew Bice      |
| 10. La'Darius Rembert | 56. Skyler Barber    |
| 11. Jaxon Phillips    | 57. Jakolbe Brewster |
| 12. Brett Sisson      | 59. Corben Mowery    |
| 13. Jaiden Cox        | 60. Tacorion Soles   |
| 14. Cade Mickler      | 70. Cash Robinson    |
| 18. Shawn Kohler      | 71. Joshua Kay       |
| 19. Jagger Cox        | 72. Kanyon Cox       |
| 20. Jacob Kennedy     |                      |



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# SYLACAUGA *Aggies*



## Zow era begins at Sylacauga with players eager to buy in

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
lyoung@dailyhome.com

The Andrew Zow era is officially underway at Sylacauga.

With spring football getting canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Zow didn't get a chance to interact with his team until workouts resumed in June. In the three months they have been together, Zow has been impressed with what he has seen from the Aggies.

"They are committed to what we are trying to do," Zow said. "I think the overall leadership has been great. They are willing to do whatever we ask them to do. That's the biggest thing.

"Over the summer, we have really got a chance to know each other and what we are

looking for. Hats off to them for buying into what we are selling and going all out. I can't say enough (about) what they have done this summer to get prepared for this season."

Sylacauga was one of the schools in Talladega County that has had to deal with a player having COVID-19. Zow and the coaching staff have been committed to doing whatever it takes to keep the players safe throughout the summer. The Aggies first-year coach has also come up with a way to keep his players socially distant when they take a break at practice.

"It is a different vibe right now as far as what we are having to go through," Zow said. "It has been tough with the restrictions that we do have.

"Everyone is issued a chair for their locker, and we have spread out all over the field

from one end to another. Sophomores and freshmen on one side, and junior and seniors on the other. It has been things like that logistically, trying to maneuver and still coach football and doing the things you still love to do. But you are being more careful because of the situation that we are in now."

On the field, one unit that has really impressed Zow is the offensive line. Sylacauga returned several key pieces from last season's line that produced a pair of 1,000-yard rushers.

"They are athletic, they run, they are willing to do whatever we ask them to do, if it is scheme or conditioning," Zow said. "We go as they go whether it is the run game or the passing game. I celebrate these guys as much in our meetings because of what Coach (Jeff) Spears have done over the years with them



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and what we are looking to do this year with those guys.

“I am very impressed and very excited to see what these guys can do once the season starts. I have already challenged them and I am looking forward to them meeting that challenge.”

Sylacauga will depend heavily on junior running Maleek Pope. Last season, Pope made several big plays for the Aggies while sharing carries with Jordan Ridgeway. With Pope being the main back this season, he is poised to have a huge season. Zow compared Pope’s abilities to a former Alabama legend.

“When I was the quarterback at Alabama, I had a guy named Shaun Alexander that was the running back,” Zow said. “Anytime that I got in trouble, they were like, ‘Give the ball to Shaun.’ I can remember not even going through reads, I just had to give the ball to Shaun. It could be a bad read, but it was still give the ball to Shaun.”

“When we get into situations where it might not look as good, I think Pope will be the guy that could bail us out at times. To have an athlete like that surrounded by linemen that want him to do well, I think it is going to be refreshing to see that commitment from the line and him to put the team on their back and carry us at time.”

“I know as a quarterback myself that some nights are just not your night, so you have to go back to your bread and butter. We are going to run the ball because we have backs that can do it. I am looking for Maleek and the other guys to step up when we need them.”

The Aggies open the season with three tough games. Sylacauga starts at home against Leeds on Aug. 21. Then the Aggies will travel to Lincoln before hosting defending Class 5A champion Central Clay County. Zow is looking forward to the challenge.

“That first game out the gate with a new coach, a home game, it has to be a game where you bring it all,” he said. “Our guys have to approach every game for what it is. Our guys know Leeds is going to be one of those tough games where you just have to battle through and, hopefully, do the things we need to do to be successful.”

“Then you run into Lincoln, who is full of athletes and former coaches that know (our) kids. Our guys are going to be pumped up, hopefully, for those games. Then we play Central Clay County after that. All of them are big, but I think everyone has their mind set on certain games. I think each individual player and coach will decide how they feel about those games. For me, we have to play them all and play them all for four quarters.”

## SCHEDULE

<b>Aug. 21</b> .....	vs. Leeds, 7 p.m.
<b>Aug. 28</b> .....	at Lincoln, 7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 4</b> .....	vs. Central Clay County, 7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 11</b> .....	at Tallassee, 7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 25</b> .....	at Childersburg, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 2</b> .....	vs. Elmore County, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 9</b> .....	at Beaugard, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 16</b> .....	vs. Talladega, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 23</b> .....	at Holtville, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 30</b> .....	vs. Ben Russell, 7 p.m.

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## PLAYER Q&A - CHRISTIAN TWYMON

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

It is different. I am trying to step up more as a leader, take control of the team. I am trying to learn the new offense and defense.

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

Derrick Brown of the Carolina Panthers. He is a big guy, and I consider myself a big guy.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

They are not that much different. We have to wear a mask, which is hard to do. If we are 6 feet apart, he (coach Andrew Zow) lets us pull it down.

### How do you handle the uncertainty of the upcoming season?

We lost a big part of the team last year, including the O-line. We want to prove a lot of people wrong. We lost a big class. People don't think we are going to be as good as we have been. I believe we can be just as good if not better than we have been in the past.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I am looking forward to going back to school because sitting at the house gets boring.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Last season, when we defeated Center Point. They were ranked No. 6 in (Class) 5A.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go play college football.

### What motivates you to work hard?

I want the younger guys to be just as good as the older guys are.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just having fun. If you are having fun, you can do anything.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Playing the game. I play Madden and Fort Nite. I will play anything.

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

The worst part this year is COVID-19. The best part is that you get to learn something new.

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

My parents, money, my phone.

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Sylacauga

**Head Coach:** Andrew Zow (1st year)

**Key departures:** Jordan Ridgeway, Cole Poarch, JD DeLoach

**Key returners:** Maleek Pope, Christian Twymon, Dontavius Ware, Tanner Togerson

**Base offense:** Spread

**Base defense:** Multiple

### 2019 in review

**Record:** 8-3

**Points scored:** 313

**Points allowed:** 186

## ROSTER

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Brayson Edwards     | 32. Blaise Rogers    |
| 2. Caleb Burns         | 33. Ethan Johnston   |
| 3. Maleek Pope         | 40. Lucas Harmon     |
| 4. Dontavius Ware      | 44. Caden Machen     |
| 5. Dax Flora           | 46. Logan Basinger   |
| 6. Jeremy Odem         | 50. Logan Corbit     |
| 7. Aaron Roland        | 51. Maji Patterson   |
| 8. J-Quon Brownfield   | 52. Omarion Stamps   |
| 9. Tavaris Lauderdale  | 53. Landon Burns     |
| 10. Chris Walker       | 54. Zi Mcelrath      |
| 11. Riley Basinger     | 55. Luke Thompson    |
| 12. Jamari Jefferies   | 56. Hudson Hodges    |
| 13. Antoinne Borden    | 57. William Combs    |
| 14. Jeremiah Varner    | 59. James Wright     |
| 15. Antonio Haigler    | 60. Dalton Miley     |
| 16. Nickalous Bryant   | 61. Sheridan Clark   |
| 17. Luke Vincent       | 62. Chris West       |
| 18. Quintaivius Swain  | 63. Tanner Torgerson |
| 19. Camden Faircloth   | 64. Jacob Haynes     |
| 20. Connor Twymon      | 65. Jonas Scofield   |
| 21. Austin Harmon      | 68. Brody Davenport  |
| 22. Kyran Hughes       | 70. Christian Twymon |
| 23. Jaquan Hayes       | 72. Myles McCullough |
| 24. Braden Large       | 73. Ethan Holmes     |
| 25. Javon Doster       | 74. Jaden Bryant     |
| 26. Kevonta Williams   | 75. Wayne Willard    |
| 27. Caleb Storey       | 76. Jamar Walls      |
| 28. Jakarri Cottingham | 78. Korey Sanders    |
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# TALLADEGA *Tigers*



## Talladega had a historic 2019 season under head coach Shannon Felder.

BY LAVONTE YOUNG  
lyoung@dailyhome.com

Felder, who was hired in late July, led the Tigers to the second round of the Class 4A playoffs. A 20-18 win at Montevallo was the first postseason win for Talladega in team history.

This season, Felder and the Tigers are looking to build off that success and continue to make history.

"We are supposed to come out and play better ball than we did last year," Felder said. "We got a lot of kids that have worked hard all summer long. The goal for us last year was to make the playoffs and try to win a game in the playoffs. This year, our goal is to reach for the stars and see where we can go. We have worked hard and we have high expectations."

The Tigers went 6-5 in 2019 and reached the postseason for the third straight year. The Tigers hosted a home playoff game in the second round against UMS-Wright, falling 31-6.

"When we played the game against Montevallo, I felt like the guys had something to

prove," Felder said. "You could tell by the way that they practiced that week and the way they were focused going into the game ... We played well, like I expected us to, because we practiced well."

"I think this year's team is more focused than we were last year. I think this year's team is more determined than we were last year. I feel as a team that we have a better sense of direction of what we want to do, where we want to go and what it takes to get to that level. I am happy with what we have done to this point, but we still have a long way to go."

Taking the next step will be difficult for the Tigers because they moved up to 5A. Talladega will compete in Region 4 with defending state champion Central Clay County, Sylacauga, Beauregard, Tallassee, Holtville and Elmore County.

Felder, who thought the Tigers were going to stay in 4A before realignment was released, was not thrilled about moving up.

"I wasn't jumping for joy, but it is what it is," Felder said. "When we found out that

we were going to be playing 5A football, we realized that we had to continue to step up, move forward and accept the challenge that we have been given. I think that our players have prepared themselves to compete in 5A."

Numbers may play a factor in Talladega's success in 5A. Talladega will be without several players from last season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We respect the parents' decision (not allow their kids to play)," Felder said. "We haven't tried to convince any players (whose) parents don't want them to play. That is a personal decision, and we respect it. Just like we respect the parents who are allowing their kids to play."

"We are doing everything we can to keep the kids safe. The kids and the coaches are working daily to make sure we keep everything clean and sanitized. We probably have seven or eight coming back from last season, and the rest are new faces. It is going to be a big challenge for us."

Even though the Tigers will be left with voids to fill, they do return several core



players, including quarterback Nigel Scales. The rising senior threw for 1,151 yards and 16 touchdowns last season. Scales hopes he leads the Tigers to a deep postseason run.

"First and foremost, I want to accomplish our team goal, which is winning the first game and taking it one game at a time," Scales said. "As far as long-term goals, I want us to be better than we were last year.

"We want to build off what we did last year. We had an all right season. We want to build off the first playoff win in school history and keep on going. Instead of being the first win, we want to make it the second win, the third win, fourth win, maybe even the fifth win and win the championship."

Scales enters the season with additional motivation.

In July, the 5-foot-10 signal caller felt he was the best quarterback at the Developing

Great Athletes Camp in Brentwood, Tennessee, but that honor was given to a 6-foot-5 prospect who just received an offer from Kentucky.

"I am definitely playing with a chip on my shoulder this year," Scales said. "I have been working harder than I ever have before. The camp really showed me where I need to be. I am not where I need to be, but I am going to be there.

"I felt I was the best at that camp and I need to show that I am the best in the state and the nation. I am going to show that this year."

One of the players Scales will depend on most this season is Michael McGregor Jr.

The rising senior receiver/strong safety made a name for himself after having a stellar 2019 campaign that resulted in him receiving an offer from Jacksonville State and drawing interest from other schools.

"Mike did himself some justice with the type of year that he had last season," Felder said. "Mike is on a lot of people's radars this year, but he is not satisfied.

"He is going to continue to work hard and continue to improve. Mike has a lot of confidence in himself and his ability as well. We are looking for big things from him and our other kids as well."

Felder said his players' ambitions go hand in hand with their team goals.

"We need team goals, but I want (players) to have individual goals as well," he said. "We got guys on our team that I know are working hard and determined to be noticed. They are determined to get a scholarship.

"I told our guys that there are more coaches watching in the playoffs than in the regular season. Our goal is to go to the playoffs, win games and give kids a chance to get scholarships."



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## PLAYER Q&A - NIGEL SCALES

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

I am approaching it hard. I took advantage of this corona break and made a change in the offseason. I trained harder than I ever have and I am coming hard this season.

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

Lamar Jackson. He reminds me of myself. I think I like the way he is elusive on the field and how he makes plays on his feet. He reminds me of me. He is somebody that I want to be.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

We have to take precautions. We have been going hard. We have pretty much been doing what we have been doing. Nothing is really different than the precautions we have to take.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I would rather be in the building. I would rather be around everybody in the school. The corona is going to be here, but I would rather be around my peers at school.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

We have to win the first game. That will set the whole season. Then we will take it on to the second game. The more wins we get, the more confidence we will get. We hope to go deep in the playoffs this season. We hope to succeed.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Winning the first round of the playoffs last season against Montevallo (20-18 for the first playoff win in program history). We made history. That has been our thing since coming up from middle school, we wanted to make history. For our names to be in the history book is a big moment.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to college. I want to go to Auburn. I want to major in kinesiology and play football.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

The season itself. All summer we were worried if we were going to have a season because of corona. Since it was announced that we were going to have a season, we are ready for it to come.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like music. I can't sing, I just like listening to it.

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

The best part is we are getting close to the first game. (There) is not really a worst part.

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

God, I can't do nothing without Him. Sports and my phone.

### Do you have a quote that you live by?

Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in this world. (1 John 4:4).

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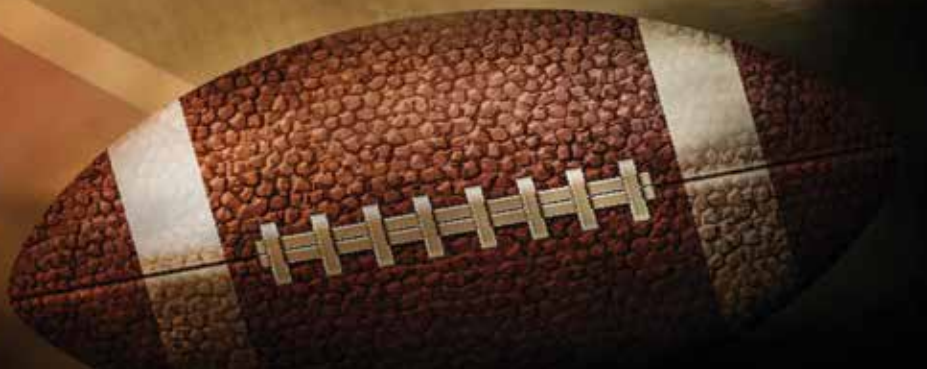
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# TALLADEGA *Tigers*

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Talladega

**Head coach:** Shannon Felder (second year)

**Key departures:** D'Corian Wilson,  
YD Montgomery

**Key returners:** Nigel Scales,  
Michael McGregor, John Ellis

**Base offense:** Spread

**Base defense:** Multiple

### 2019 in review

**Record:** 6-5

**Points scored:** 269

**Points allowed:** 266

## Schedule

**Aug. 21** ..... at Munford, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 28** ..... at Saks, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 4** ..... at Beauregard, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 11** ..... vs. Pell City, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 18** ..... vs. Holtville, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 2** ..... at Central Clay County, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 9** ..... vs. Tallassee, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 16** ..... at Sylacauga, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 23** ..... at Elmore County, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 30** ..... vs. Shelby County, 7 p.m.

## ROSTER

3. Nigel Scales
4. Malik Williams
5. Jay Spratling
6. Larry Calhoun
7. Kenny Jackson
9. Takarius Turner
11. Isiah Cunningham
12. Michael McGregor
14. John Ellis
15. Tay'shaune Phillips
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# TALLADEGA COUNTY CENTRAL

## *Fighting Tigers*



## Numbers have been an issue for Talladega County Central High School's football team for the last few seasons.

By LAVONTE YOUNG  
lyoung@dailyhome.com

Numbers have been an issue for Talladega County Central for the last few seasons.

This season will not be any different. In June, Chris Mahand had 19 kids coming to workouts, and he expected to have at least 25 players on the team. But with COVID-19 cases increasing, parents have decided not to allow their children to play.

TC Central is entering the season with only 16 players. Mahand hopes he can get some of the kids who are not playing to participate this season.

The veteran coach, who has been at TC Central for 10 seasons, has a motto about the limited numbers.

"It is a little bit harder this year with what

we have going on with COVID-19, but we have always lived by the motto at TC because (of limited roster size)," Mahand said. "The value of our football team is not measured by members, but by true young men ... What I mean by that is give me young men that really want to be out there. They are going to be there on time, they are going to be dedicated in the weight room and they are going to be at practice when I need them to be. That is far greater than guys that don't want to be out there. Our numbers might not be great, but I have young men out there that want to be out there."

Low numbers may not benefit the Fighting Tigers on the field, but they did help this summer during workouts.

"The limited numbers with the COVID situation, for a lack of a better word, has

been a blessing," Mahand said. "We have three coaches on staff and we check (the players') temperature two or three times a day to make sure that they don't have a temperature.

"We wash down every piece of equipment. We sanitize the helmets, the weight room and the locker room. We have a new field house. We spread the kids out to make sure that they are not on top of each other. I guess with this situation, the low numbers give us the opportunity to do the best we can to keep the kids safe."

The Fighting Tigers went 0-10 last season. It was the first time TC Central had gone winless since 1991. Mahand said he knew the Fighting Tigers were going to struggle at some point due to having a feeder program discontinued five years ago.

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## PLAYER Q&A - KAVON MOTEN

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

We are going hard in practice every day. I feel like we have a chance of winning this season. We have a hard-working team.

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

My favorite NFL player has to be Lawrence Taylor. I like his aggression and I like that he is not afraid to take risks.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

We have fewer players than we had last year, and that has made us work harder.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I am excited about going to school being that it is my senior year. I like to see my friends.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

I hope to accomplish getting Coach (Mahand) to the playoffs.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I scored a touchdown against Donoho last year. It was supposed to be a quarterback sweep, but he fumbled at the 5-yard line. I picked the ball up and ran it in.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I would like to go to college and continue to play ball.

### What motivates you to work hard?

My mom is a huge football fan, and she wants me to do it. She is my biggest motivation.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to being out there for my last ride.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like hanging out with friends.

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

I don't like that we have to wait to play the games because I am so eager to play right now. I like everything about fall camp. I like practicing and getting everything right. I like the conditioning sometimes.

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

Football, family and God

# TALLADEGA COUNTY CENTRAL *Fighting Tigers*

Even though TC has struggled, the future isn't bleak. Mahand has been pleased with his younger class.

"It has hurt us tremendously," Mahand. "I knew that this time was coming. One thing about TC, we are always going to have enough athletes to make the playoffs, whether it is one round or whatever. It has been difficult to do that without the feeder program.

"The last three years, we got our feeder program back. We had 15 seventh-graders last year. A lot of them are not playing this year because of the situation. We have 12 sixth-graders going to the seventh grade. I'm not sure how many of those are going to play yet. I am pleased with my eighth-graders and I am pleased with seventh-graders this year."

Senior Kavon Moten said this season's team will not have another season like last season.

"We are going hard in practice every day," Moten said. "I feel like we have a chance of winning this season. We have a hard-working team."

TC Central will compete in Class 1A, Region 5, which features Wadley, Winterboro, Victory Christian, Donoho, Ragland and Woodland. Wadley takes the place of defending region champion Spring Garden.

Mahand said his team is going to have to be ready to play every week in this region.

"We have played Wadley in the past, and they always put a good football team on the field," Mahand said. "They are going to be disciplined, structured and hard-nosed kids. I talked to the coach down (there), and like every 1A, they are struggling with numbers, but that doesn't change the fact that Wadley always has and always will be a good football team.

"That's not to take any shots at any other football team in this region. I said it once and I said it 1,000 times, no team goes to practice in this heat, 95 degrees and sometimes 100-degree days, to lose a football game.

"We don't do it, no team does it. Every team that we face week in and week out, regardless of if it is 10 weeks, five weeks or two weeks, they are going to practice to win a football game."

TC opens the season Aug. 28 against Autugaville.



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## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Talladega County Central  
**Head coach:** Chris Mahand (10th year)  
**Key departures:** Karon Phillips,  
Taquarri Phillips  
**Key returners:** Kavon Moten  
**Base offense:** Multiple  
**Base defense:** Multiple

### 2019 in review

**Record:** 0-10  
**Points scored:** 84  
**Points allowed:** 402

## SCHEDULE

**Aug. 28** .....at Autaugaville, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 4** .....vs. Wadley, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 11** .....vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 25** ..... vs. Loachapoka, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 1** ..... at Winterboro, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 9** ..... at Woodland, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 16** ..... vs. Ragland, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 23** ..... at Donoho, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 30** ..... vs. Central Coosa, 7 p.m.

## ROSTER

3. Kanard Jemison
7. Shamar Swain
8. Jaidin Walker
10. Jakobe Swain
14. Jamieon Garrett
12. Mitsumari Brandley
50. Cornelious Paige
52. Lodan Haney
54. TyQuarious Harris
55. Eric Goodrich
58. Ricky Gooden-Swain
61. Jamier Duncan
63. Jamarcus Hall
70. Kavon Moten



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# VICTORY CHRISTIAN *Lions*



## Victory Christian returns plenty of experience for another playoff run

BY GARY HANNER  
Special to The Daily Home

After advancing to the first round of the state playoffs last year, the Victory Christian Lions are looking to advance deeper into the postseason in 2020 under second-year head coach Bruce Breland.

Breland likes his chances of going back to the playoffs after losing only seven seniors from 2019.

"Many of the players who saw action last year are returning this year," Breland said. "The seven seniors are going to be hard to replace, but we have several guys with a lot of playing time from last year."

### COVID-19

Breland said the virus has made himself and his coaching staff become more creative. "That's not necessarily a bad thing be-

cause you can find new ways to do things," Breland said. "We are doing some things that I've never done in 39 years. It forces us to go another route. We have made a lot of progress on the things we did."

Breland said the lack of contact, competition on the field and spring training, etc., weighs heavier on the minds of the players than it does the coaches.

"It was more monotonous to them," Breland said. "The coaches have a little more anxiety, I guess. We've had to rethink some things on how to change some techniques."

### Key players returning

Breland said even though the Lions lost seven seniors, he is excited about the experience many returning players have.

"Except for one player, our entire offensive line is back," he said. "Our players are a lot stronger, smarter and aggressive. Last year, we struggled the first half of the season."

According to Breland, key players returning include Dalton Lewellyn.

"Dalton did a great job at quarterback last year as a freshman," Breland said. "We're expecting a lot from him this year."

Other players Breland named were Billy Davenport, Creed Cline, Miles Martin, Justice Hurley, Isaac Warren, Cam Cheatwood and Riley Meadows.

### Class 1A, Region 5

The Lions are in Class 1A, Region 5 along with Donoho, Ragland, Talladega County Central, Wadley, Winterboro and Woodland.

Breland said Woodland could be the team to beat in region play.

"Winterboro has some coaching changes, and they could start off slow," he said. "I definitely would like to catch them early." (Victory will host Winterboro in Week 8 of the season).



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### Team strengths

Breland said one thing is the leadership of the players. "Toward the end of the year last year, we became a pretty good football team," he said. "I think they felt like the lack of leadership during the first half of the season cost them a better seeding once we made it to the playoffs. We should have started the season off better."

According to Breland, the linemen are veterans and a good group of kids.

"Another team strength is the work ethic in the weight room," he said. "That's a tribute to the coaches, who are doing an outstanding job in the weight room. Our players have really bought in."

### Successful season

Breland said success depends on the production the Lions get from the running back spot. He said the linebackers are also critical.

"Our linebackers have to step up and play like veterans," Breland said. "They are experienced players, but they are not experienced linebackers."

### Goals for the season

Breland said the goals are the same this year as last year - make it to the state playoffs.

"This year, they want more," he said. "They were not satisfied losing in the first round of the playoffs (31-14 to Pickens County). They want to advance deeper into the playoffs and make some noise."

Victory Christian opens the season Friday, Aug. 21, at home against Sumiton Christian.



## PLAYER Q&A - CREED CLINE

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

I'm going in knowing that this is my last year, so I feel like I have to work extra hard to be a good leader this year. Everybody is uncertain, and if I am uncertain and I am supposed to be a leader, how is that going to look to the younger guys?

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

Tom Brady. I am a big Tom Brady fan. I also like Christian McCaffrey, too.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

The passion for sure. We have had guys dreading in the past years going to (practice). This year, everybody is looking forward to it, and they are passionate.

### What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Going to the playoffs last year as a team was our greatest football moment.

### What are your post-high school plans?

Go to college and get a business degree. I am not sure what I want to do yet, but that is my goal.

### What motivates you to work hard?

My teammates. I know if I work hard, it will help the team.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I play the guitar and I like to hang out with my friends

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

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**TC Central Fighting Tigers**



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## ROSTER

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1. Jacob Hadaway
2. Rylan Fomby
3. Miles Martin
4. Ryan Harris
5. Dalton Lewelleyn
7. Caleb Clolinger
9. Riley Meadows
10. Jakob Tucker
11. Asa Warren
12. Issac Warren
15. Noah Baker
23. Brayden Holiday
24. Walker Caldwell
35. Reed Martin
36. Dalton Rodgers
48. Cameron Cheatwood
50. Cayde Hollis
54. Dylan Hollis
55. Drew Nibblet
60. Billy Davenport
62. Ayden Roger
65. Connor Denson
73. William Wilson-Hueter
74. Nathan Bean
75. Creed Cline
76. Christian Clolinger
77. Justice Hurley

## SCHEDULE

---

- Aug. 21** ..... at Sumiton Christian, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 28** .... at vs. Horseshoe Bend, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 4** .....vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 11** ..... at Wadley, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 18** ..... at TC Central, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 25** .....at Fayetteville, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 2** .....at Ider, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 9** ..... vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 16** ..... vs. Woodland, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 23** .....at Ragland, 7 p.m.

## KEY FACTS

---

**Team:** Victory Christian

**Head Coach:** Bruce Breland (second year)

**Key departures:** Lee Yeager,  
Pate Cheatwood

**Key returners:** Creed Cline,  
Nathan Bean

**Base offense:** Multiple

**Base defense:** 4-2-5

**2019 in review**

**Record:** 6-5

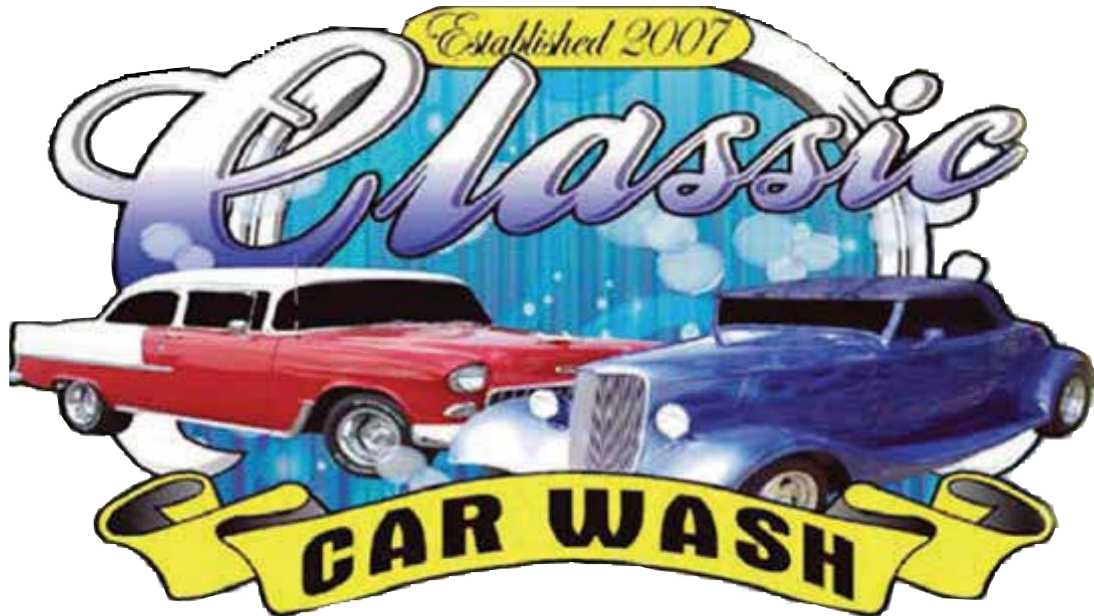
**Points scored:** 268

**Points allowed:** 273





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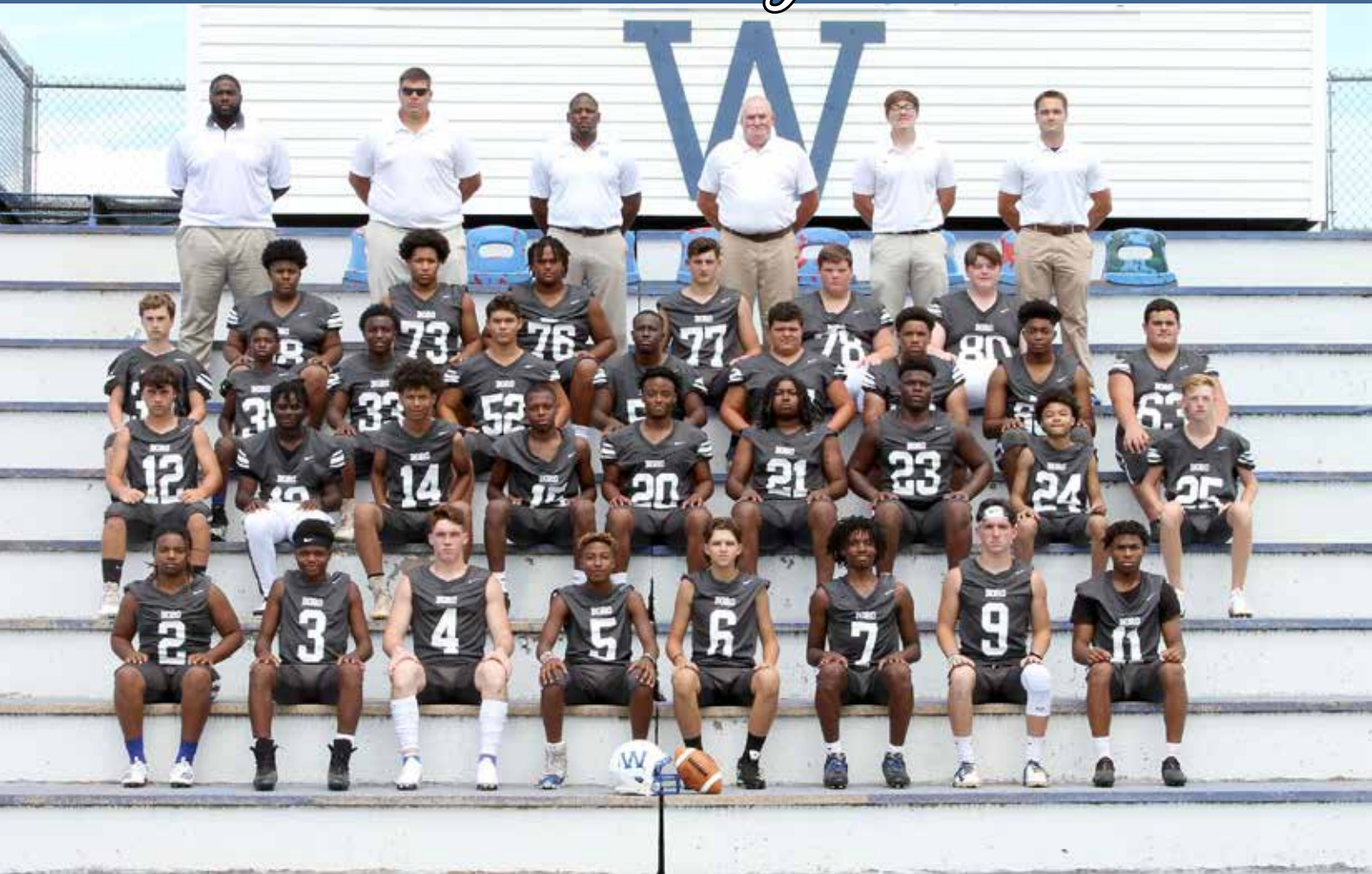
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# WINTERBORO *Bulldogs*



## New Winterboro coach pleased with leadership from senior class

By LAVONTE YOUNG  
lyoung@dailyhome.com

The Skylar Mansfield era is officially under way at Winterboro.

The longtime Lincoln assistant coach has high expectations for his first season at the helm for the Bulldogs.

“No. 1, develop the character of these young men,” Mansfield said. “Obviously, you want to win games, but our approach is going to be to have success developing the young men and show them how to work. Once we do that, winning will take care of itself.”

Mansfield takes the place of Alan Beckett, who had a successful seven-year run in Alpine. Beckett led the Bulldogs to a school-record 34 wins. He also led them to three consecutive playoffs appearances.

Last season, Winterboro went 6-3 but failed to make it to the playoffs.

The Bulldogs will have to replace several key pieces off last season’s team, including quarterback Isaiah Holland. Mansfield said the rising seniors on this season’s team have really taken the next-man-up attitude.

“What I am seeing is a senior class that has taken leadership,” Mansfield said. “They are

pushing the young class that is coming up to be players. When I got here, on Day One, they were focused on who should be where and how we want to do it.

“They are focused, they know what they want and they have a vision. The only thing that I am trying to do is stir the ship so they have a way on how to do it and be successful.”

The Bulldogs will turn to Jake Travis to take over at quarterback. Mansfield has been pleased with what he has seen from Travis. “He has worked his tail off in the weight room as far as lifting weight, conditioning as well as on the field drill,” Mansfield said. “He



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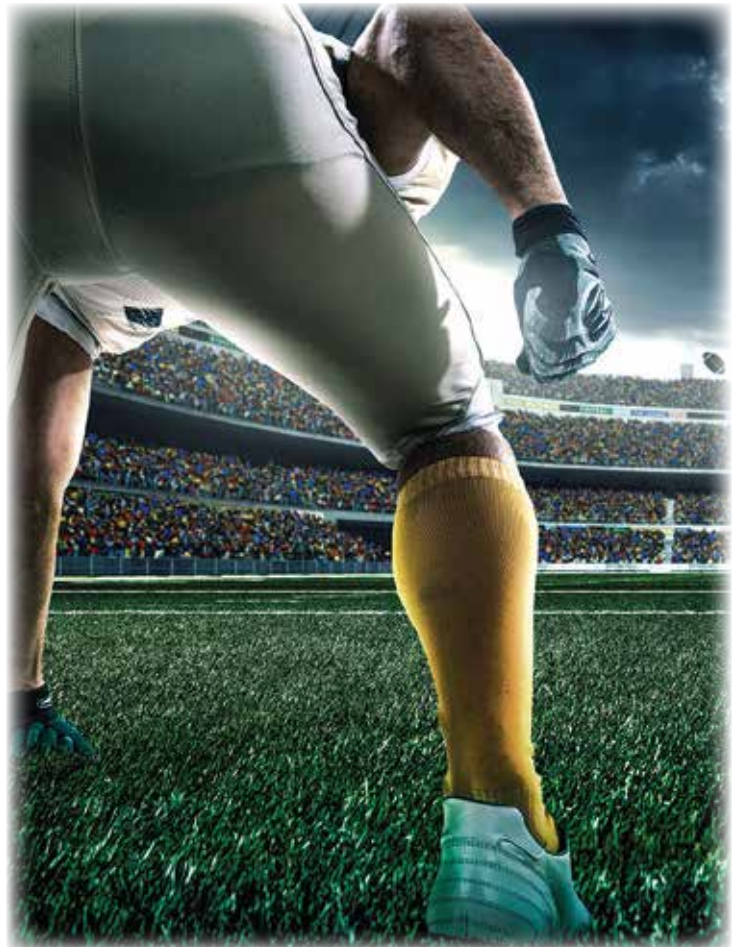
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has been a guy that is leading not only by example, but he is vocal. He is focused and he is pushing everyone.”

Mansfield has also been impressed by several other players. “Brody Hamm is focused and pushing everybody,” Mansfield said. “(Jay) James is a special individual. His strength, his speed and his mindset is on another level. Also our center, Dalton Mosley, and Darius Middlebrook. Those are kids that are leading by example. They are silent leaders, but everybody follows what they are doing. Those are the special kinds of kids that are falling into roles that they didn’t have last year that are really going to make an impact on the success of this team.

“Luke Miller has me scratching my head, like, ‘Where was this kid.’ He is about 6-feet, lean and I think he is at the top of his class. He is probably pound-for-pound the strongest kid. He is also probably the most in-shape kid that we have. He is going to be special.”

Mansfield, who was the defensive coordinator at Lincoln the last two seasons, doesn’t plan to install a new defense for 2020 at Winterboro. Last fall, the Bulldogs allowed 21 points per game. Mansfield feels they can improve on what they did in 2019.

“We are trying to develop intelligent kids on defense,” Mansfield said. “From a scheme standpoint, we are going to try to keep the scheme from last year. We just want the kids to be able to play fast.

“If we came in with limitations of how we can practice with COVID, I will prefer to take our offense and develop our offense because we have a new OC (offensive coordinator). What I want them (the defense) to understand is you don’t have to be as talented, you just have to out think people, outwork people and be at the right place at the right time. We just have to be in shape and make tackles.

“I feel if we keep the scheme the same the kids can play fast and we can beat some people off being comfortable in our roles.”

That defense will have to be stout against some traditionally tough programs in Class 1A, Region 5: Wadley, Ragland, Donoho and Talladega County Central.

“We are fortunate to be in the region that we are in,” he said. “I think



we have the caliber athlete to match up with any team that we play. I am very excited to be where we are.

“I am also excited to be in this role and in this region with the athletes that we have coming up. I think every game is winnable. We have to approach every game with a level head and knowing that we are well-prepared to play anybody on any given night.

“Will there be challenges? No doubt ... All the programs that we are going to be competing against have a history of being really good programs.”

Winterboro kicks off the season on Aug. 21 against Vincent.

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## PLAYER Q&A - BRODY HAMM

### How do you approach the upcoming season?

It has been crazy with this pandemic going on. With a new coach, you come in and don't know what to expect. When we got Coach (Skylar) Mansfield, things turned for the better. What he has done for the program and the school is amazing. What he has done for us in the weight room, what he has done with the spirit pack is amazing. He is getting us new helmets and jerseys. He is a great guy, and I can't say enough good things about him.

### How have workouts been different than in the past?

The pandemic, you can't do as much as you want to do. We didn't have 7-on-7s or any kind of competition this summer.

### After being out of school for months, are you excited about going back?

I am very excited about our new school. We got it last year and we were only in it for a couple of months. I am ready to get in there and make it a home. It is not quite a home feeling like the old school.

### What do you want to accomplish this season?

I want to be 10 times better this year. I have been in the weight room with my teammates every day. I want to work on my craft and get better. Goals wise, I want to win a ring. We are going to take it one game at a time.

### What are your post-high school plans?

I want to get a scholarship for football.

### What motivates you to work hard?

My teammates and just seeing them work. Also, seeing how Coach Mansfield works. He stays after it. He makes sure the weight room and locker room is put up. Seeing him work makes me want to work and makes me want to get better.

### What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to playing with my teammates.

### What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Hanging with friends.

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

The best part is getting better day in and day out. The worst part is that it gets real hot out there.

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

Music, gym, family and friends.

### Do you have a quote that you live by?

I can do all things through Christ.

## KEY FACTS

**Team:** Winterboro

**Head coach:** Skylar Mansfield (first year)

**Key departures:** Isaiah Holland, Marquez Curry, Cade Sanders

**Key returners:** Brody Hamm,

**Base offense:** Multiple

**Base defense:** Multiple

### 2019 in review

**Record:** 6-3

**Points scored:** 307

**Points allowed:** 194

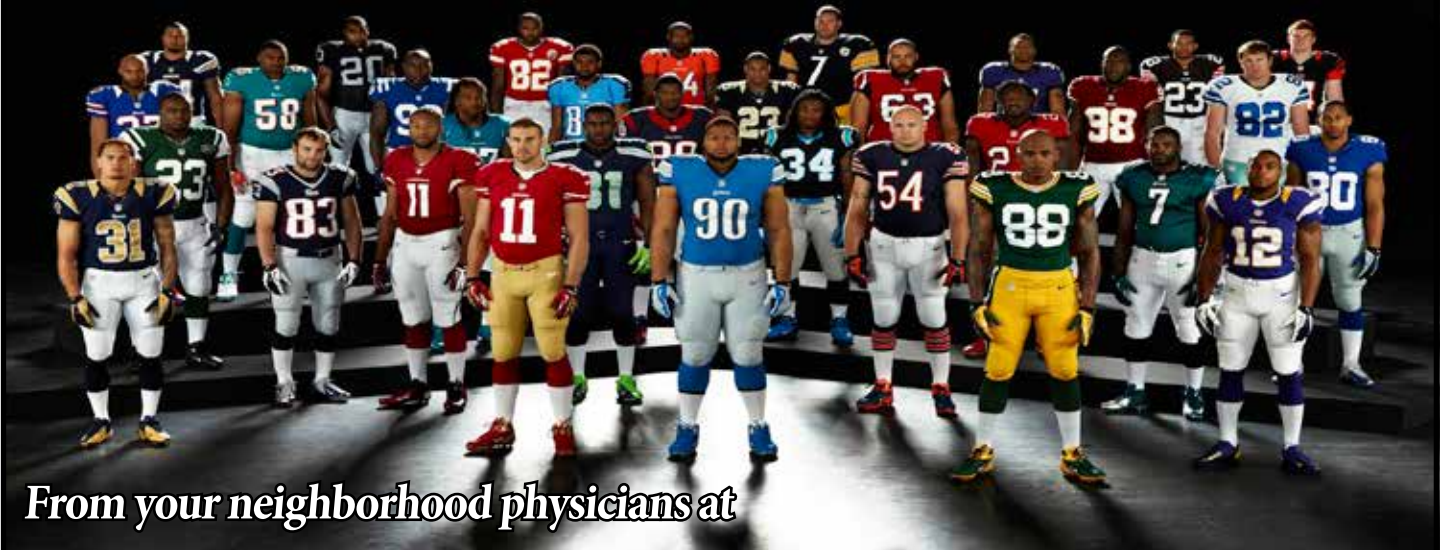
## SCHEDULE

<b>Aug. 20</b> .....	at Vincent, 7 p.m.
<b>Aug. 28</b> .....	vs. Notasulga, 7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 4</b> .....	vs. Ragland, 7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 11</b> .....	vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 18</b> .....	at Wadley, 7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 25</b> .....	at B.B.Comer, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 1</b> .....	vs. TC Central, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 9</b> .....	at Victory Christian, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 23</b> .....	at Woodland, 7 p.m.
<b>Oct. 30</b> .....	vs. Berry, 7 p.m.

## ROSTER

1. Luke Miller	24. Jordan Williams
2. Dequarious Truss	25. Mason Peoples
3. Jaidon Swain	30. Bryan Waites
4. Brody Hamm	31. Jalarian Garrett
5. Brandon Hunter	33. Devin Jones
6. Hunter Willis	52. Kaden Reed
7. Chance Dandridge	57. Caiden Hickman
9. Jake Travis	60. Keshawn Williamson
10. Tavion Barclay	63. Payton Hutton
11. Troy McKinney	68. Kyler Griffin
12. Brayden Waities	73. Darius Middlebrook
13. Jonathan Headen	75. Matthew Haynes
14. Devin Noble	76. Eric Hale
15. Tyrek Hampton	77. Dawson Mosley
20. Xzavier Stamps	78. Ky'Tyler Keith
23. Jashaslin James	

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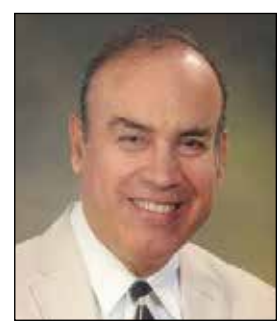
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