

The Daily Home

PREP FOOTBALL 2017

ROSTERS

TEAM PREVIEWS

PLAYER PROFILES

SCHEDULES

**BAND &
CHEERLEADER
PHOTOS**

*Alabama School for the Deaf • B.B. Comer • Childersburg
Coosa Valley Academy • Fayetteville • Lincoln • Munford • Pell City
Ragland • Sylacauga • Talladega • TC Central • Victory Christian • Winterboro*



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6:30, Friday night.

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

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

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

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

Then the countdown begins.

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

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

Finally, it's time.

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

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

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

BUDDY

On the Cover: Fred Dickerson and Ashton Duncan will look to turn the Talladega High School football team back into contenders in 2017. Duncan and Dickerson played a vital role in leading Talladega's basketball team to the Final Four last season and they hope they can have the same type of success on the gridiron. Talladega looks to make the playoffs for the first time since 1995.

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ASD's new coaching staff has familiar faces



By SHANE DUNAWAY

A familiar face returns to the helm at Alabama School for the Deaf in 2017 as Paul Kulick begins his second tour of duty as head coach.

Kulick guided the Silent Warriors to a 47-46 record in his first stint from 2005-2014. He takes over for Herminio Gonzalez, who moved on to the California School for the Deaf during the offseason.

"I'm excited to be back as the head coach," Kulick said. "I wasn't resting or anything. I'm here to change the program around. We're going to make it the home of champions again."

"Herminio Gonzalez did an awesome job with our football program since I've been gone. Now that he's gone and I'm back, that's going to make everything easy for me to pick up where he left off. We're in top shape right now. I'm going to be working with these boys, and I think we've got a wonderful group of guys this year."

Cedric Tyson and Kevin Cronin return to ASD's staff as assistant coaches, along with a new addition, Walter Ripley, who went 75-58 as head coach of the Silent Warriors from 1990-2003.

"This is awesome to have all four of us together," Kulick said. "We're going to work great as a staff, and I think we're going to have a good year this year."

The Silent Warriors lost a trio of seniors from the 2016 team – offensive linemen Andrew

Underwood, Jasper Crosson and Joel-Anthony Farmer, but last season's quarterback, Ke'Trez Holman, returns, though Kulick hinted at some shuffling in the lineup.

"Ke'Trez is still playing for us," Kulick said. "As far as the other positions, I'll look it over. I haven't made a decision yet. We're starting our camp soon, so I'll be evaluating everybody and decide, after discussing with the assistants, what's the best place for them. Like Ke'Trez, he's a very skilled player. He can play two or three positions."

Kulick said the team will drop the double wing offense and transition to the I-formation for the Silent Warriors' base offense.

One of the largest athletes from ASD's squad in 2016, rising sophomore AJ Simmons, returns to the fold.

"We've still got him, and we're happy to have (AJ) on our team," Kulick said. "We've got several young guys that are very talented and very skilled. Of course, we have nine seniors this year on the team, but we have several young players also. I think putting them all together, we're going to have a good year."

With a wealth of experience on the coaching staff and a balanced mix of players, Kulick said expectations are high for ASD.

"I told them when I come back, I expect them to accept the challenge," he said. "I'm not going to baby them or anything. I expect a very good year. I expect hard work. I expect discipline. I'm going to be strict with them. This

group we have has a wonderful work ethic, and Cedric, our strength coach during the summer, had several guys coming to work out, so I was pleased to see these boys already taking the initiative this year."

Kulick said the team won't be playing any 8-man football games in 2017.

"We're going to do 11-on-11 for all of them, and I love to see that happening," he said. "This year, looking at the schedule, we've got three or four teams that are going to be pretty tough. I expect it to be good competition, and I don't expect them to go easy on us. Gaylesville is our last game (of the regular season). We've got Victory Christian – that's a tough team to face, (as well as) Waterloo and Jacksonville Christian."

Kulick said the shift away from 8-man competition wasn't driven by trying to get into region play.

"I don't think we're ready at this point to play in the regions," he said. "They love playing against the different deaf schools and the competition that offers. If we were to move into a region, that means, of course, we wouldn't be able to play against the other deaf schools and that would be a letdown for our boys."

Silent Warriors senior Payton Stults said he's looking forward to the upcoming season.

"I hope that we work as a team," he said. "I want to see everyone work hard in practice. I want our motto to be 'Unselfish' as a team."



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SPOTLIGHT



PAYTON STULTS

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

I really look up to Cam Newton. I look up to Cam because I like how skilled he is and I like the way he did his weight training during the summer. Also, I like the way he gets his team together. He really communicates with his team.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Against MSSD (Mississippi School for the Deaf), I was able to force, I think it was two or three fumbles in that game.

What motivates you to work hard?

People giving me their ideas. That really motivates me, just listening to other people's ideas.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

My team being successful this year and communicating together year-round. Like I said before, just trying to have the team be unselfish.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Basketball. I do enjoy listening to music on my iPod and working out. If I've got any free days, I go work out.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps me with my movement and my motion.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

Just feeling like I think we're going to be the state champs. That's motivating me. We're going to win this game. out in the sun. You've got to work on breathing correctly.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 at Waterloo, 7 p.m.

Sept. 1 vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 9 vs. Model School for the Deaf

Sept. 23 at Indiana School for the Deaf

Oct. 6 vs. Vina, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Brilliant

Oct. 21 at Florida School for the Deaf

Nov. 3 vs. Gaylesville

ROSTER

No. Name

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Michael Paige | 50 | Addison Taylor |
| 3 | Payton Stults | 51 | Joel Cruz Esponosa |
| 4 | Corey McKinnie | 52 | William Autery |
| 5 | Ketrez Holman | 55 | Angel Cisneros |
| 6 | Jacob Darada | 60 | Cullen Crook |
| 7 | Matthew Garrett | 62 | Zachary Beaver |
| 8 | Jaquan Rankins | 63 | Noah Stanford |
| 11 | Vitroni Williams | 64 | Matthew Gollotte |
| 18 | Jacquavius McCrae | 65 | David Palacios-Campos |
| 20 | Marc Williams | 70 | Quindaius Millhouse |
| 22 | Keith Williams | 72 | Dallas Schiefferle |
| | | 74 | Angelo Simmons |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Alabama School for the Deaf

HEAD COACH: Paul Kulick (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Andrew Underwood, Jaspen Crosson, Joel-Anthony Farmer

KEY RETURNERS: Ke'Trez Holman, AJ Simon, Payton Stults

BASE OFFENSE: I-formation

BASE DEFENSE: 4-4

2016 IN REVIEW: RECORD: 3-7

POINTS SCORED: 100

POINTS ALLOWED: 309

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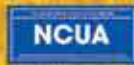
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B.B. Comer TIGERS

CLASS 3A
REGION 3

Battles' undermanned Tigers face tough battle



By LAVONTE YOUNG

B.B. Comer used the summer to improve and work on things they won't be able to do when the season starts. Limited numbers prohibit the Tigers from having their starting offensive unit against their starting defensive unit, so head coach Mike Battles Sr. arranged for his team to compete against other teams in 11-on-11 football. Battles believes his players benefited more from 11-on-11 match-ups than 7-on-7 camps.

"The summer for us has been a lot of work," he said. "We played a lot of 11-on-11 football. We don't do 7-on-7 football, but we do 11-on-11. That's team vs. team where we can get everybody up, because we need it. This past spring was the first spring since I have been here that we were able to have 11-on-11. In the past, we didn't have enough. This summer we continued doing that. We probably played five or six ball games. It helps us because we don't get a picture in practice unless we get other teams out there. It is good for the kids and we seem to get more stuff done."

Battles is a strong believer in teaching his players how to play multiple positions due to their small numbers. The Tigers only have 23 players going into the season, but Battles is confident his

players are prepared to step into another position if one of their teammates leaves the game.

"Our kids play both ways and they know more than one position," he said. "If you play defensive back, you can play both corners and safety. If you are an offensive lineman, you can play all five positions. We probably have more centers than any other school in the state of Alabama because every one of them have to learn how to snap. It is just a unique situation, it is coaching on Friday night. You have to put your game face on and do stuff for these kids. They are knowledgeable of the game. They have been exposed to a lot of football on Friday night. They have to go out there and get with the program or get embarrassed. We had an embarrassment when we went to Montgomery Academy and we are not going to forget it. They might as well get ready because we are going to be ready. That right there is going to happen."

Even though Comer has struggled the past few seasons, Battles is optimistic that the future is going to be bright for his program.

"Right now, we have four seniors and three of them have been with us for three years," he said. "The other one is new. We have 22 guys right now and one of them is hurt. We will



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have 22 of them out there and we will have 17 of them next year. We have some good young kids in our seventh- and eighth-grade group. We have a small ninth-grade group, but we got the athletes out of it that we need. That young bunch that is coming is good. We just have to hold the rope."

Justin Holmes has set lofty goals for the team for this upcoming season. The senior quarterback believes the hard work they've put in over the summer will help them get back to the postseason for the first time since 2013.

"I want to make it to the playoffs this year," he said. "(It's) been like four or five years since we have made it to the playoffs."

Senior Cody Ogle believes they have the talent to have their first winning season since 2001 when they finished the season 6-5.

"We have the talent to do it and we have the kids to do it. It is just the will," he said. "If everybody gets out there and works, we will have a good team."



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ROSTER

No. Name

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Tamar King | 25 | Caleb McCain |
| 2 | Jason McMillian | 32 | Adain Griffin |
| 3 | Justin Holmes | 51 | Jared Horton |
| 4 | Brian Bradford | 52 | Khale Norris |
| 6 | Key Hill | 53 | Terryon Pope |
| 8 | Rapheale Johnson | 54 | Deon Gaddis |
| 10 | Adam Odum | 56 | Lucas Bowden |
| 11 | Ward Rush | 66 | Davion Darden |
| 12 | Julius McCain | 70 | Alex Baird |
| 13 | Dayleon Welch | 73 | Zack Carpenter |
| 17 | Devin Edwards | 74 | Quon Brownfield |
| 20 | KJ Weed | 77 | Hunter Harris |
| 23 | Cody Ogle | 78 | Zack Mitchell |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: B.B. Comer

HEAD COACH: Mike Battles Sr. (third year)

KEY LOSSES: Houston Ford, Alvin Burton

KEY RETURNERS: Cody Ogle, Justin Holmes

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple **BASE DEFENSE:** Five-man front

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 1-9 **POINTS SCORED:** 142 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 385

SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 at Weaver, 7 p.m. Sept. 8 vs. Pike County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Montevallo, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 vs. Montgomery Academy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Talladega County Central, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 vs. Southside Selma, 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at Central Coosa, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 vs. Prattville Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 at Beulah, 7 p.m. Nov. 3 vs. Fayetteville, 7 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT



JUSTIN HOLMES

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

Tom Brady, because I grew up watching the Patriots with my brother. That is my brother's favorite team and he loves Tom Brady. My brother played quarterback since he was in 10th grade when he was Comer.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Probably our win last year (against Fayetteville). We had a long season, we came in 0-9 against Fayetteville. Like Coach Battles said, we could've laid down and just said forget it. But we fought through and ended up winning with the 15 players that we had.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to college. I want to try to play ball in college, baseball or football.

What motivates you to work hard?

My teammates and myself.

For one, you have to work hard for them; those are your teammates and they are ones you are going to be playing with on Friday night. Then you have to work hard for yourself because you have to make yourself better and be the best that you can be.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I want to win some games. I also want to work hard and everybody to work hard, so they can be the best that they can be.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to make music. I like to make rap music.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I think one sport benefits the other. Football get you in conditioning for baseball season.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

My first thought is I'm ready to play. Let's get out there.

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

The best part is being out there with your teammates. The worst part is conditioning.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

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Childersburg TIGERS

CLASS 4A
REGION 3

Childersburg believes it has what it takes to compete in Region 3



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Jonathan Beverly is looking to continue changing the culture of his football team going into his second season at the helm at Childersburg. Beverly used history to find his team's motto to usher in a new era of Childersburg football.

"Our thing this year is 'Burning the boat.' I spent a long time thinking on what was going to be our rallying cry this year," Beverly said. "So for us, I did a little history lesson on Hernan Cortes when he came over from Spain to conquer parts of the new world. When they got off their boat to go to conquer new land they set their boats on fire. The reason they did that was saying there is no going back to the way things used to be. Either you move forward or you don't, but we are not going back. That was the message to our team, we are not going back to how things used to be; we are

going to move forward. That has been our rallying cry and our guys have embraced it."



Like in Cortes, the Tigers will also try to conquer new land as they are set to play in their new on-campus stadium.

"It is a beautiful facility," he said. "We can't wait to step a foot in there and really get it going. The whole community is excited, obviously the school is excited. We gave our players a tour of the facility before everybody and the look on their faces ... I wish I would have taken a picture of it. They understand now that you have if not the best, one of the best facilities in the state in 4A. I will put it against a number of 5A and 6A programs. So you got great

facilities, great community support and our culture is turning. With that comes expectation, so they understand now more than ever it is time to carry yourself the right way and live up to those expectations."

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Childersburg went 3-7 in 2016, but finished the season on a high note as the Tigers won their last two games in impressive fashion, scoring 130 points in the final two games. In its final game at John Cox Stadium, Childersburg defeated Dadeville 48-46. In the final game of the season, Childersburg downed Central Coosa 82-64, helping set an AHSAA single-game record in the process. The two teams scored 72 points (including 44 by Childersburg) in the fourth quarter.

“Not only those two wins, but the manner that we won them,” Beverly said. “We defeated a really good Dadeville team in triple overtime and that carried over to the next week when we went back and forth with a really good Central Coosa team. It really carried over, it is one of those things that really helped us this offseason, because everybody had a good taste in their mouth. When we got back from the holidays, we still had that momentum. That helped us get through the days in the weight room that are not necessarily the easiest.”

The record-setting game was the first of the season for Jelan Kidd. Beverley described the senior as an X-factor. Kidd threw for 315 yards and five touchdowns in his first game back from a fractured collarbone. He also rushed for 145 yards and two scores.

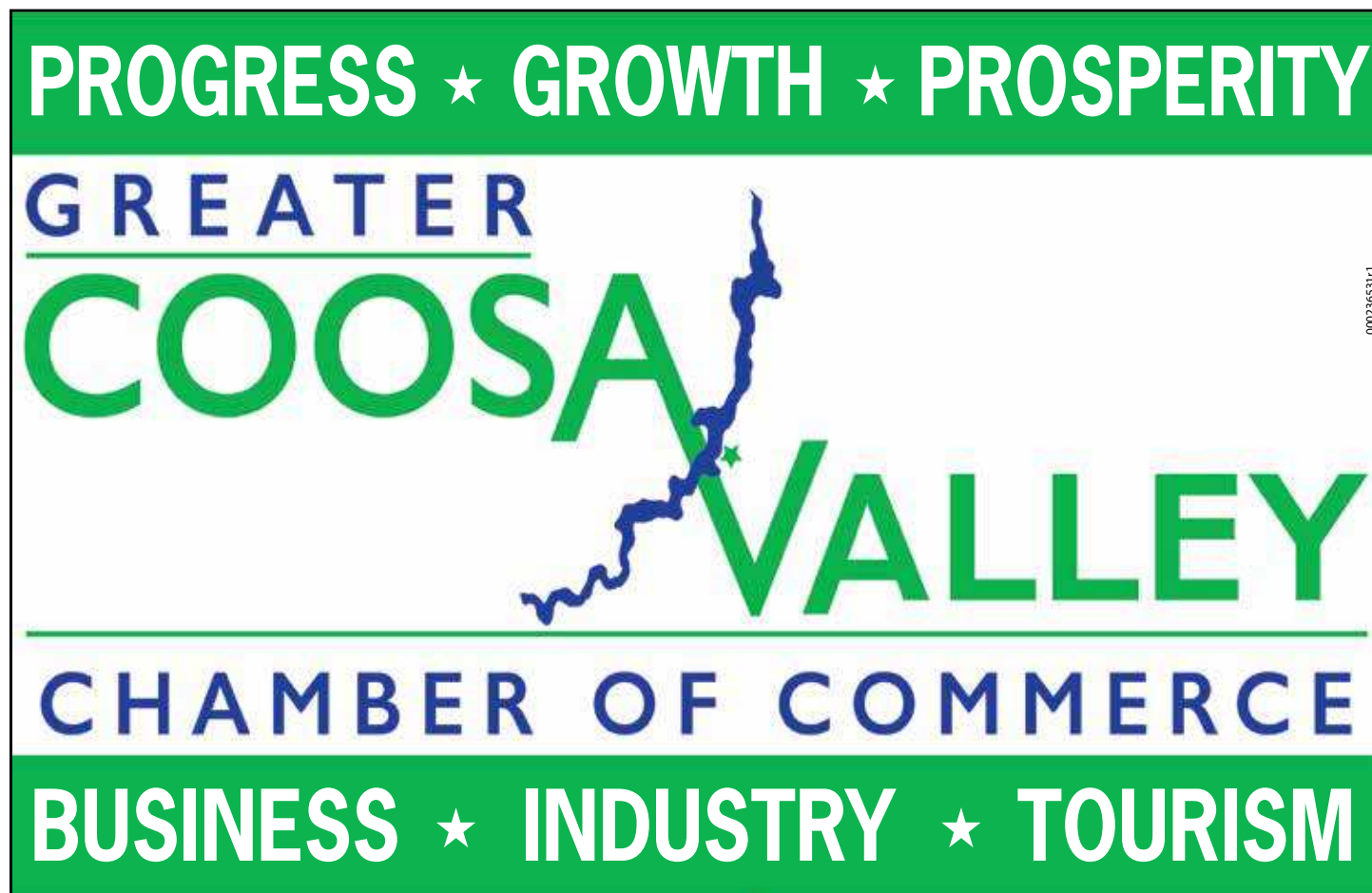
“I might wrap him in some bubble wrap before we get our first ball game to make sure,” Beverly said. “He is a phenomenal

football player and a great kid. He is a game changer. When the ball is in his hands, everybody holds their breath because you know something is coming. What impresses me the most about Jalen is that he just doesn’t turn it on Friday night. When we are out there, whether it is 7-on-7 or conditioning, he is going 100 percent all the time. What you get on Friday night you get on Tuesday.”

Going into this season, the Tigers have lofty goals. Making the postseason for the first time since 2014 is one goal, but their ultimate goal is to win the Class 4A, Area 9 championship, which is a feat that they haven’t achieved since 1995.

Beverley believes his team has what it takes to compete in the region, but he knows won’t be easy.

“We want to be playing football in late November; we want to be a playoff team,” he said. “We want to compete for a region championship and there is a lot that has to happen in order for that goal to be achieved, but that is our goal ... To be completely unbiased, I think we are on pace to be the best team in the region, but to be the best, you have to beat the best. We have to go out and beat Munford, we have to beat Handley, we have to beat Leeds, and we have to beat Tallassee. If we want to claim that top spot, we have to go through the guys who have done that before in order to take it.”





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SPOTLIGHT



JUSTIN TAYLOR

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

Dak Prescott. I saw how Dak came up and he was in the same situation I was as a young kid. I didn't have a father for different reasons. My father passed away when I was younger. Just the way he carries himself. The way he acts, he is so humble and that is really what I look at.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Coming back to Childersburg. Last season was great, but really in the spring game when I got a chance to strap up again. That is when it hit me. I was like, this where I need to be. Greatest football moment is when I hit TK Kenebrew on a 40-yard pass for a touchdown.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan to go to college and by the grace of God I can play football somewhere. I want to major in nursing.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Just come out and complete our goals and expectations. The goal is to make to the playoffs, but we want to go

1-0, 2-0, 3-0 and so on.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Being with my family. When I am not practicing, I am with my mom or my brother or my sisters. I love spending time with them.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

As a quarterback, people are like, why do you play soccer? They don't realize that soccer helps with your footwork. You can build arm talent, but if you don't have the footwork you can't build off of it. Soccer helps me with football.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

I told coach I was sitting on the lawn mower and I got chill bumps out of nowhere. I thought about running out the field house when we play Holtville in the new stadium. I told coach that it was going to be a rough one, because it is a new field house and the nerves are going to be running, but I will make it through it.

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

The best part is making the relationship with the other players. This team is the closest that I have ever been on. I don't know if there is a worst part. We work out hard and when you have your brothers working just as hard as you, you can see the goal start coming together.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

Coach Beverly made me realize whatever life throws at you, you can't back down from it.

ROSTER

No. Name

1 Jelan Kidd
2 TK Kenebrew
3 J'Koby Brown
4 Justin Taylor
5 Kylan Bennett
6 Daryl Bradford
7 Daniel Morris
8 Isaiah Jones
9 Kallen McCain
10 Kishawn McKinney
11 Dewayne Garrett
12 Austin Douglas
13 Jamarcus Tuck
14 Terry Thomas
15 Cameron Thrash
16 Zay Youngblood
19 Jadan Wheeler
20 Kamryn Vincent
21 William Foy
22 Colin Martin
23 Marquese Duncan
24 Ryan Logan
25 Braylyn Odum
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28 Jordan Banks
30 Taquon Wells
31 Keshun Wells
32 Christian Guerrero
33 Lamarr Duncan

34 Xzavion Garrett
35 Justin McKinney
36 Titus Garrett
37 Terrion Smith
38 Dakaveon Truss
40 Donald Boddy
41 Maurice Bennett
42 Javarious Wilson
44 Desmond Phillips
45 Austin Reason
50 Deangelo Morris
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55 Ryan Heath
56 Raymond Abrams
57 Dakota Owens
58 Brandon Sayers
59 Darrius Borden
60 Kishon Reynolds
61 Jimmie Garrett
62 Montrell Battle
63 Isaac McMillian
64 Isaiah Stamps
65 Marqualin Swain
70 Andrew Chatman
75 Jaylon Cook
76 Yancy Turner
79 Zac Penrod
81 Javarus Embery
85 Emmanuel P-Traylor

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Childersburg

HEAD COACH: Jonathan Beverly (second year)

KEY LOSSES: DK Mann, Syheem Young, Cory Dates

KEY RETURNERS: Jelan Kidd, Terry Thomas, Justin Taylor

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 249 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 444

SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 at Pell City, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 vs. Holtville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Tallassee, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 vs. Elmore County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Sylacauga, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Handley, 7 p.m.

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

Oct. 20 vs. Munford, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 at Dadeville, 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 vs. Central Coosa, 7 p.m.



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New coach brings new energy, outlook for Coosa Valley



By SHANE DUNAWAY

Coosa Valley Academy's football team hasn't been to the playoffs since 2013 and has only two wins to show for the past three seasons.

New Rebels head coach Dane Reece, the team's third coach since its last playoff appearance, looks to reverse the trend.

"The biggest thing I think we've done so far is boost morale -- positive attitudes, (being) uplifting and pushing the kids because there are great kids here," he said. "The biggest thing, and this is to these seniors, is you don't get another one. The way I've done this so far, and I know I'm new to it, but I'm taking it week-by-week. I can't look past Week 1. I've got to start with Week 1, and once Week 1 is over, I've got to start with Week 2."

"I've told these guys to play for each other. This is a bond that you can never really replace if you take the time to build the relationships with your teammates because

success breeds from within itself, and that's what we're trying to (accomplish) at Coosa Valley."

Reece said there's not really one philosophy in terms of the base formations; the team will run multiple formations on offense and defense in 2017.

"I'm learning these kids just as much as they're learning me," he said. "We're putting the pieces there to see what works best, but nothing's set in stone. For the defense, it's the same thing. They ran a 3-4 and a 4-3 last year, and that's what we're most comfortable in. That's probably what we'll stay with."

One of the main positives Reece said the Rebels have in their favor is senior leaders, including wide receiver Chase

Carlee, quarterback Mason Houston and left guard Austin Bynum, taking ownership of drills and setting the example.

"As long as we have a trust among us and we have faith in each other, it makes my job 10 times easier to know that they're doing what they're supposed to," Reece said. "Having seniors in that position, they know what they're



supposed to do, and they know what they're not supposed to do. It helps me focus on things we need to focus on."

The biggest challenge CVA faces is numbers.

"We're not a (Class) 5A school where you have four people per position," Reece said. "It's maybe one or two people at each position, and that has to last the entire season. Our biggest thing is getting these guys in shape and keeping them healthy."

Houston started at quarterback for the Rebels in 2016 and led the team to a 13-2 win over Macon East Academy that snapped a 22-game losing streak. CVA closed out the season with a 37-21 victory against Sumter Academy.

"It was a big step," he said. "I've been working hard ever since my freshman year and everybody else, we've worked our butts off every day. It was kind of tough having injuries holding us back and having a lot of things holding us back, but the win really helped us have a lot of confidence throughout the year. It really just gave us that momentum to help push us through."

Houston said the team has a different mentality than it did last season.

"Really, everybody's mindset is different," he said. "One of our sayings is, 'Mindset is everything,' in the weight room, on the field and even in the classroom ... Everybody came in and we've got some new kids this year. I've had a bunch of them talk to me and say they really believe in what we were doing."

"A lot of things have changed, and the people who have been here are even saying it's going to be a different year with the new coach coming in. He's got a lot of confidence in us, and he's definitely behind us (as well as) the assistant coaches. It's been really great having all these guys coming in and helping us."



Carlee said the pair of wins in 2016 serve as a motivator going into the 2017 season.

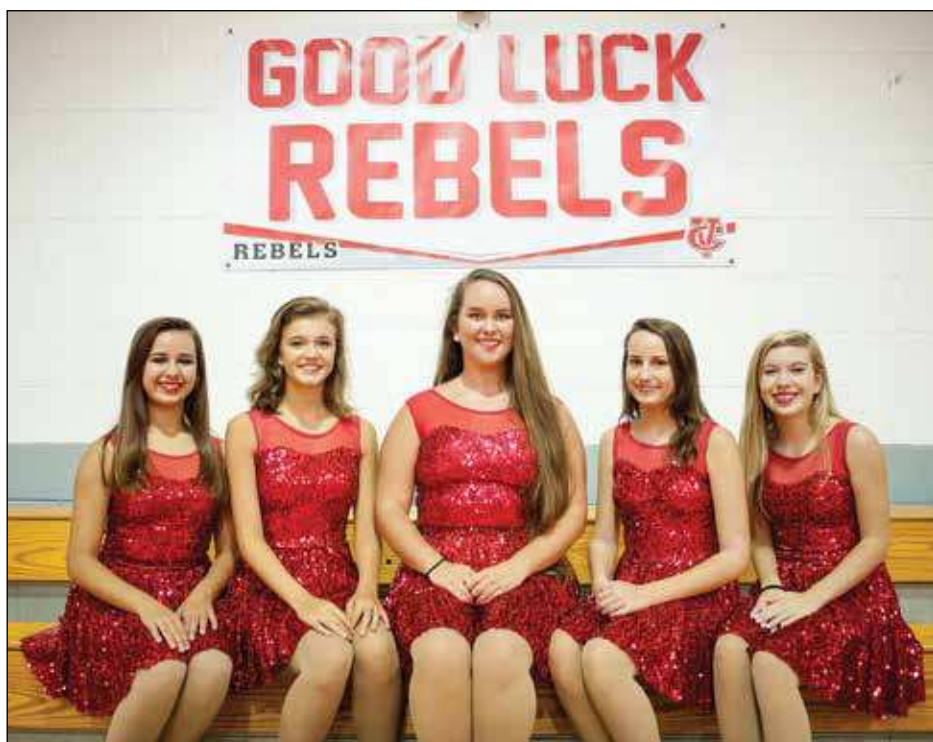
"When we got that first win, it tasted really good and it helped us fight even harder to not have the bad taste of a loss in our mouths anymore," he said. "To get two wins last year helped leading into this year because we don't want to have that bad taste in our mouths once, at all."

Bynum said having a younger coach

has helped raise morale.

"Our attitudes have changed," he said. "We're more together as a family, and we want to work harder. We're looking forward to winning this year."

"We can understand him more because he's closer to our generation. Our coach last year, he was really old school, and we couldn't relate to him or understand exactly what he was talking about ... but we can definitely relate to Coach Reece."



KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Coosa Valley Academy

HEAD COACH: Dane Reece (first year)

KEY LOSS: Tanner Temple

KEY RETURNERS: Mason Houston, Chase Carlee, Austin Bynum

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

206 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 2-8 **POINTS SCORED:** 128 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 388

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 at Chambers Academy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 1 vs. Lowndes Academy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Macon-East Academy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Lakeside, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Pickens Academy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 vs. Sparta Academy, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 vs. Kingwood Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 at Evangel Christian Academy, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20, vs. Cornerstone Christian, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No. Name

3 Mason Houston

4 Lew Dale

7 Christian Marler

10 Kaleb Allen

11 Jacob Brooks

13 Tripp Allen

14 Jacob Walton

15 Chase Carlee

18 Bailey DeShazo

21 Stone Dorrough

23 Major Ervin

42 Mack Palmour

50 Walker Whitten

52 Harley Gerald

56 Brandon Adams

60 Austin Bynum

62 Jacob Laddie

65 Drake Stiles

72 Logan Cairnes

76 Johnny Cates

84 Christian Rose



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SPOTLIGHT



CHASE CARLEE

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

Professional, it would definitely have to be Odell Beckham Jr. I've tried to style my game around him because he's got really, really quick feet and that's what I've been trying to work on. And his hands are just absolutely amazing. He makes some great plays, and I've been trying to be like him for the past two years.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

It would have to be last year against Macon East. We were up 13-2 with a minute left in the game, and they were on the 5-yard line. The quarterback threw a pass and I dove for the interception on the 1-yard line for us to seal the win.

What are your post-high school plans?

To play college football and that's why I've been going to minicamps the past couple summers and really been getting recruited. That's mostly it, playing college football.

What motivates you to work hard?

What motivates me is to see myself improve to where I can tell if, from yesterday, I've gotten better and if I haven't, that makes me work double-time today and just keep going every day to try and make myself better.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Getting a win, actually, if that happens once, or it happens 10 times and all through the playoffs all the way to state. Just getting the win and sharing that win with my brothers and everybody on this team. That's what I look forward to the most.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Mostly just fishing, hunting and hanging out with friends -- stuff like that.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps with certain situations. Like in basketball, being able to jump, you have to use that in football. In baseball, using your core throughout everything, you need that in football. With soccer, your feet. Everything's about your feet, and that helps a lot.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

My first thought is I hope the other players' mommas aren't looking whenever we're out there, because they're about to get destroyed.



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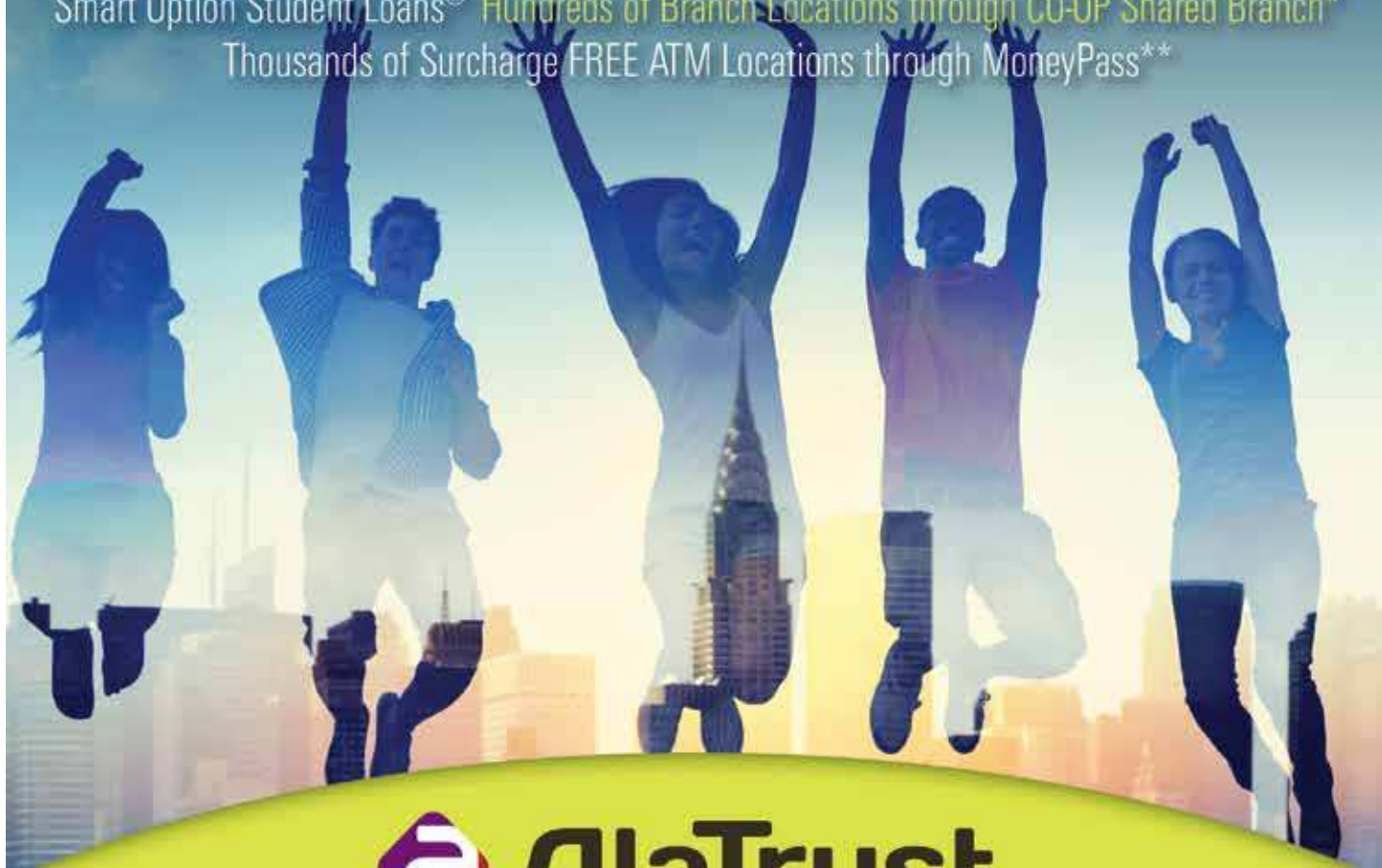
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Fayetteville WOLVES

CLASS 2A
REGION 5

Wolves have high expectations for 2017 season



By SHANE DUNAWAY

Two seasons ago, Fayetteville captured the first region title in school history while a part of Class 2A, Region 4.

Wolves head coach John Limbaugh said the team's 2016 debut in Region 5 did not go according to plan, but he has high expectations for 2017.

"Every time we starting doing well, they move our region," he said. "Now we're in there with some really good football teams in Lanett, Lafayette, Reeltown, those kind of (teams)."

"We got an education last year in Region 5. A lot of people say, 'Well, you're fighting for the third or fourth spot, aren't you?'

No, we're fighting for first place. That's that we're fighting for, so we're not going to think that way. We want to be very successful."

He added he didn't view last season as a 3-7 type of year despite what the record shows.

"It was our first year in this new (region), and it is the toughest 2A region in the state of Alabama from top to bottom. It's like the SEC West ... We played against 16 D1 players. It was a





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tough year. We know what to expect and we're ready to get after it this year."

Limbaugh said his team has had a great summer, and Fayetteville plans to throw the ball more than in his previous five seasons. With interchangeable offensive weapons Sam Manning, Bailey DeLoach and Payton McKee now departed, Limbaugh said sophomore quarterback Blake Machen will forge ahead with a new group of receivers leading the way.

"He's doing a good job," Limbaugh said. "He's learning his reads and progressions ... I'm real pleased with him. He's a smart kid. He's a physical kid. We're looking for some good things out of him. Receivers, we've got some good ones, most notably Cody (Pate) and his brother, Dalton Pate. (They) both catch the ball really well."

While Limbaugh seemed upbeat about how well the passing attack is evolving, he added the Wolves won't shy away from the ground game.

"We're a running team first," he said. "We realize that. We know that's who we are, so we're going to try and stick with that."

Limbaugh said the Wolves will miss players like DeLoach, who provided Fayetteville fans with a mountain of memories in his various roles on the team.

"You don't replace a Bailey DeLoach," Limbaugh said. "He's a great player and a good person. What you do is you move guys like (Cody Pate) and (Cole Terrell), and you let them move your

team.

"These are great leaders right here. Bailey was a good leader, but these are great leaders, too. Every year, I'll lose seniors. Every coach in America does ... It's just next man up is what it is."

Cody Pate, who'll serve as the team's starting running back and play linebacker, said he learned plenty from backs like Dustin Ingram, Darious Cook and McKee who preceded him in recent years

"When I was a younger guy, I just watched them and tried to do as they do," Pate said. "I'm here now as the starting running back, so I guess I'm doing pretty good now."

Limbaugh raved about Pate's work ethic dating all the way back to when he was on the scout team in eighth grade.

"I've never seen a player hit as hard as he does," Limbaugh said. "He will hit your hiney and he'll do exactly what is asked of him. He always give you 110 percent. That's what I love about him, and he's going to set his own records and do his own thing at Fayetteville. He's going to do a great job at running back for us."

Limbaugh added several of his offensive players will be needed on the defensive side as well.

"We've got a lot of kids who'll have to go two ways," Limbaugh said. "That's why we condition them the way we do during the summer months. ... We have a couple of spots to fill and we'll take our lumps until those guys get the experience they need.

There's nothing like game speed for that. You've got to be in a game to get those kind of reps."

Limbaugh said he foresees a better record within the region as the Wolves look to bounce back from some of the close losses, particularly a 7-0 defeat at Horseshoe Bend that, had the game gone in Fayetteville's favor, would've resulted in a playoff berth.

"We actually won that game, but that's a whole another story," he said. "But that teaches us a lot about who we are and how we handle that situation. I think we handled it pretty well as a team. The team knew what they accomplished and what they did. The scoreboard may not have reflected that. That was (a chance at) the playoffs for us, but that's a whole different story. I won't go there."

Fayetteville was ruled to have been stopped short of the end zone on controversial play in the loss to Horseshoe Bend.

"Do I want 3-7 again? No, of course not. Not out of these guys," Limbaugh said. "We're going to work our butts off to get a much better record. Our goal is 10-0 and the playoffs. That's the goal. We've set our team goals, we've already talked about them and things like that ... I believe those close games made us hungry. I believe our players are hungry for wins, and that's what we look forward to this year."

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SPOTLIGHT



CODY PATE

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

I'd probably say Christian McCaffrey because me and him have the same ability. I feel like I'm the same as him, not running-wise. He's just a good player and a good role model to look up to.

What motivates you to work hard?

When people doubt me.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

A winning season. We came off a bad season last year, and I don't want to replay that same season. I want to be able to have a season that everybody will remember.

How does playing multiple sports help you in

football?

I feel playing football gets me aggressive for baseball, and baseball gets me hand-eye coordination for football.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

It gives me chills. I'm just ready to play and ready for kickoff.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

I guess just leadership. As a younger guy, I've looked up to other leaders, and I just try to be them and try to get everybody on mine and Cole (Terrell's) side so they can be the same as us, just try to get everybody ready for the season.

ROSTER

No Name

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Levi Phillips | 38 | Joey Machen |
| 2 | David McCurley | 41 | Stephen McCain |
| 3 | Daurian Cook | 44 | Dakota Lyner |
| 4 | Luke White | 51 | Ethan Usrey |
| 5 | Grant White | 52 | Aidan Hill |
| 7 | Jon Dalton Pate | 54 | Austin Jones |
| 9 | Anthony Haisten | 55 | Jake Guy |
| 10 | Chandler Earley | 56 | Blake Ritchey |
| 11 | Cason Gardner | 60 | Connor Hendrick |
| 12 | Tyler Allen | 61 | Zach Bonnell |
| 13 | Blake Machen | 62 | Skyler Blount |
| 14 | Tyler Hill | 64 | Trevor DeLoach |
| 15 | Caleb Kelley | 65 | Rhett Hayes |
| 21 | Brett Grimes | 66 | Tanner Harry |
| 22 | Dylan Green | 76 | Cole Terrell |
| 26 | Lucas Byrd | 78 | A.J. Jacks |
| 27 | Cody Pate | 82 | Ian Tucker |
| 32 | Dustin Wilson | 82 | Kolter Usrey |
| 33 | Brady Ritchey | 83 | Deaven Parks |
| 34 | Hunter Hill | 88 | Zachary Roberts |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Fayetteville

HEAD COACH: John Limbaugh (sixth year)

KEY LOSSES: Bailey DeLoach, Payton McKee, Sam Manning

KEY RETURNERS: Cody Pate, Blake Machen, Cody Terrell

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

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 257 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 292

SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 vs. Central Coosa, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 vs. Ranburne, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 vs. LaFayette, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Vincent, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Lanett, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Woodland, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 vs. Horseshoe Bend, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 at Reeltown, 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 at B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.



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GOLDEN BEARS

CLASS 5A
REGION 4



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Matt Zedaker enters his first season as Lincoln's head football coach with expectations to lead the program to new heights. He served as assistant coach and defensive coordinator for 17 seasons at Sylacauga where they are looking to go their 10th straight year without a losing season. Zedaker hopes to bring that model of consistency

with him to Lincoln.

"Our goal is to climb that mountain and to be the best team in the county," he said. "There are some tremendous teams in this county. With the support that we have, that is one of our goals and it is going well so far."

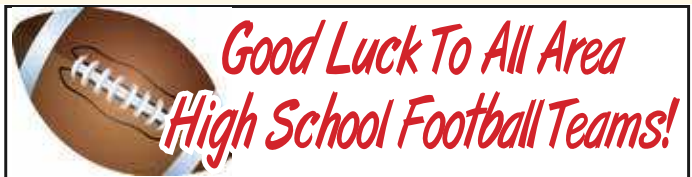
For Zedaker and the Golden Bears to accomplish that goal this season, they will have to get through the daunting task of competing in Class 5A, Region 4, which includes

several top teams in the state, including defending state champs Beaugard.

Zedaker said his team embraces the challenge.



“(Our) expectations are limitless,” he said. “The sky is the limit. Obviously, we play in the toughest region in the state. We have the defending state champs Beaugard in there, a



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are full, but we are excited about the direction we are going and what we are going to do. We are looking forward.”

Zedaker said there will be some slight similarities scheme-wise in Sylacauga and Lincoln on both sides of the ball, but especially on the defensive side since he was the defensive coordinator for the Aggies.

“You will see a few similarities in what we are doing,”

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he said.” Obviously, what Coach (Matt) Griffin does at Sylacauga, he has done all of his life. There may be some similarities, but our offensive staff has worked extremely hard. We are going to ride (Montrell Johnson’s) legs and we will depend on (Eddie Leonard) to stop people.”

Lincoln has plans to use Johnson in several ways on the offensive side of the ball. Last season, he recorded 1,972 all-purpose yards and 11 touchdowns.

“In the summer, we have been working on trying to get stronger and faster — get everybody on the same page,” Johnson said. “We are trying to help the younger guys develop leadership so when we leave they will know how to lead the team next year. Really we want to take it slow and focus on one game at a time.”

Going into the season, Zedaker feels like the strength of the team is the athletes they have at their skill positions. He feels like they have several players who have the potential to make game-changing plays on the

outside.

“This is probably the fastest team that I have been around in a long time,” he said. “We have twos and threes just about at every position that can compete. Our ones are good, but when we go to twos and threes, it doesn’t drop off much at all. We are going to try to get the ball in space a little bit and let them be athletes with the ball in their hands. That is probably our strength offensively. Defensively, I like the linebackers. Eddie (Leonard) is a tremendous one; we have Jarrod McBurnett who is at our other linebacker and probably Garrett Vic. We have some others that are going to play in there. Our secondary, when we flipped that over, are tremendously athletic as well. They break on the ball well; they have tremendous speed on the back side. Those two are our strengths.”

One of the challenges Zedaker has had is trying to change the culture and the mentality of his team. During

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SPOTLIGHT



MONTRELL JOHNSON

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

Bo Jackson because his work ethic. I like the way he ran, he was big, fast and strong. He is one of the best of all time.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I'll have to say my first year playing. I broke all the record, in the little league that I was playing in, my first carry was a touchdown. I had 27 touchdowns in seven games.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to college and play ball.

What motivates you to work hard?

Watching Ray Lewis and watching his speeches.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I am looking forward to beating Munford and Talladega.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I don't like to do much outside of sports. I just like to be with my family.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps you stay in shape. Baseball helps you with your hand-eye coordination.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

We have to win this game. We have to come out strong and hard.

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

The best part is how we all come together. The worst part is the conditioning.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

Leadership will take you a long way and you have to work.

ROSTER

No Name

- 1 Shamar Hampton
- 2 Tre Garrett
- 3 Joc Howard
- 4 Montrell Johnson
- 5 Ezlyzh Carter
- 6 Quin Carter
- 7 Jakalen Allen
- 8 Marquis Arnold
- 9 PJ Gaddis
- 10 Eddie Leonard
- 11 Jordan Gaston
- 12 Garrett Vick
- 13 Jeremy Lane
- 14 Earl Wells
- 15 Jarrod McBurnett
- 16 Javion Surlus
- 17 Nick Pope
- 18 Dazhone Finely
- 21 Melvin Pearson
- 22 Zay Ragland

- 23 Keyshon Townsend
- 24 Terence MccLuney
- 25 DeAndre Smith
- 26 Steve Hines
- 28 Tre Howard
- 30 Tre Wilson
- 34 Kendrick Truss
- 50 Javon Ward
- 51 Dalton Gowers
- 52 Rell Howard
- 53 Zion Mccluney
- 54 Steven White
- 55 Isaac Britt
- 58 Kevon Moore
- 59 Tyler Parker
- 60 Deon Jackson
- 67 Shaun Davis
- 71 Ethan Turner
- 72 Chris Abercrombie
- 75 Desmonf Bradford
- 83 Brian Garrett

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the summer, he and the Golden Bears coaching staff have used different tactics to build team morale.

"We took them to a 7-on-7 camp and none of them have been before," Zedaker said. We went down and threw with Anniston. We did some team building stuff; we took them bowling one day. It is giving them different experiences that they may not have had in the past along with that learning football and learning how to be a classy program. We always talk about not embarrassing your last name, our community and our school. That mindset and teaching them a different work ethic."

Zedaker said those have been some of the challenges, but the outlook is good.

"Lincoln is a great place, a great community, the facilities are phenomenal," he said. "Everything is in place at Lincoln High School to be a successful program."

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Lincoln

HEAD COACH: Matt Zedaker (first year)

KEY LOSSES: LJ Carmichael, Weston Perry, Donte' Rivers

KEY RETURNERS: Montrell Johnson, Quin Carter, Eddie Leonard

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

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-8 **POINTS SCORED:** 221 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 394

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 at Leeds, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Munford, 7 p.m.

Sept. 1 vs. St. Clair County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Central Clay County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 vs. Sylacauga, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. Cleburne County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Talladega, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26 at Beauregard, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 vs. Valley, 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 vs. Hayden, 7 p.m.



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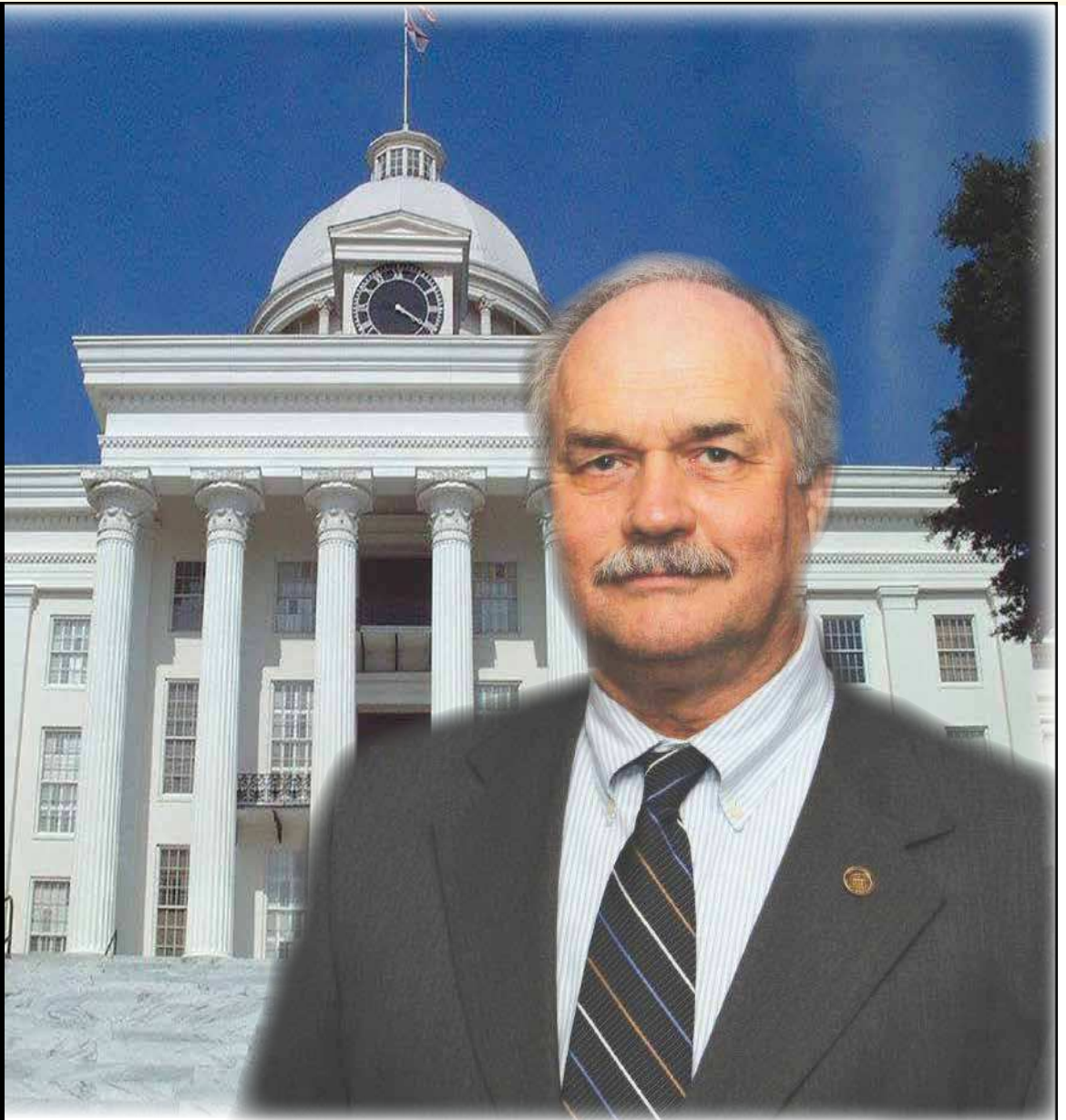
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Munford LIONS

CLASS 4A
REGION 3

Munford counting on youth to replace key departures



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Munford head coach Bill Smith ultimately would like to see his team hoist up the Class 4A state championship trophy this season, but he wasn't ready to say it was one of their goals going into the 2017 season.

Last season, Smith made the Lions championship aspirations known in the preseason, but Munford fell short of accomplishing that goal as they finished the season with a 6-5 record and fell to Bibb County, 41-34 in overtime in the first round of the playoffs.

"I made a mistake last year. I was asked about our team goals and the first thing I said was to win a state championship," he said. "I won't say that is our principal goal. As a head football coach, my role is to make sure that I get these guys to play up to their highest potential and that we reach our highest potential as individuals and as a team. We have a good group of older players mixed in with a lot of younger guys this year. We feel good about the season. Our expectations are high but our goal is to be the best Munford team that we can possibly be. If we do that we will have a chance for an excellent season."

Munford enters the season with several new faces in key positions. With graduation and dismissals, the Lions will have to replace all of their statistical leaders on offense as well as their leading tackler on defense. Smith said he will have to depend on

underclassmen more this season.

"We are going to have numerous 10th-graders starting this year," he said. "I heard an adage for every 10th-grader that you start, you can expect one loss. So if you start five 10th-graders, you can expect to be 5-5 at best. Hopefully, I have enough leadership and veterans with this senior bunch that hopefully we can usher in slowly and softly our 10th-graders."

One of the players the Lions will have to replace is Avery Harris at the quarterback position. In two seasons, Harris has 5,705 passing yards, 1,419 rushing yards and 76 touchdowns.

Tanner Reeves will take over as the Lions' starting quarterback this season. Smith said he has been pleased with what he has seen from Reeves during the off-season.

"He started once for us last year, but it was really unfair throwing him in the fire against a really good Cordova team. Really proud of the way he played in the spring game. We played our starters for three quarters against Pell City, and he threw for over 200 yards. He did a great job of not just managing the game, but making plays."

Even though the Lions lost a lot of talent, they still return several players with game changing ability like Zay Britt. The MaxPreps Freshman All-American recorded 1,797 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. He had 32 receptions for 477 yards and four TDs. He rushed for 298 yards and four scores on 23 carries. Britt was also a weapon for Munford on specials teams.



He recorded 649 yards on 23 kickoff returns and he had 19 punt returns for 373 yards and two touchdowns.

"He had (10) touchdowns last year as a freshman," Smith said. "Coach (Darrell) LeBeaux and I tried to bring him into a bigger role as the season went on. He scored our first touchdown of the year with a punt return against Clay County. He had a really good freshman year. He had a really good off-season; he has done real well at some camps. He ran a 4.41 40-yard dash at Alabama and he ran a 4.4 something at UAB. They wouldn't tell us exactly what it was. He has had a really good summer; he is going to have an expanded role. He is much like Keith Mixon that I had a Shades Valley. I am hoping for him to be that type of player."

Munford has one of the toughest schedules in Class 4A for the second season in a row. The Lions are in the same region as defending 4A champions Handley and perennial powerhouse Leeds. Munford will also have to face Tallassee and Dadeville.

Smith believes the early-season schedule will serve as gauge to see how good of a team they are or potentially can be this season.

"We have some question marks," he said. "We will find out early in our non-region games with 5A Clay Central, who Munford has never beat. We want to play well in our first game on the road at Central Clay County. Then we have 5A Lincoln and we have to go to Cordova for our other non-region game. We really feel like our region in 4A is the SEC West of 4A football. For the last three years, the state champion has come out of our region with Handley and Leeds. We have a tough schedule."



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KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Munford

HEAD COACH: Bill Smith (third year)

KEY LOSSES: Avery Harris, Jakari Robinson, Jimbo Stone

KEY RETURNERS: Tanner Reeves, Zay Britt, Marshall Clark

BASE OFFENSE: Spread base **BASE DEFENSE:** 3-3

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 6-5 **POINTS SCORED:** 338 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 246

SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Aug. 25 at Central Clay County, 7 p.m. | Oct. 6 at Elmore County, 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 8 vs. Dadeville, 7 p.m. | Oct. 13 vs. Handley, 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 15 at Holtville, 7 p.m. | Oct. 20 at Childersburg, 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 22 vs. Tallassee, 7 p.m. | Oct. 27 at Leeds, 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 29 vs. Lincoln, 7 p.m. | Nov. 3 at Cordova, 7 p.m. |

ROSTER

No Name

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Zay Britt | 38 Avontae Heard |
| 3 Noah Champion | 40 Cole Burgdoefer |
| 4 Ty Kite | 43 Ontarious Toyer |
| 5 Cameron Lemons | 44 Dre Simmons |
| 6 Rodarius Dorman | 45 Rodney Groce |
| 7 Pernell Mitchell | 48 Andrew Williams |
| 8 Chase Gaither | 50 Dylan Campbell |
| 9 Marshall Clark | 52 Michael Armstrong |
| 10 Tanner Reeves | 53 Cole Harry |
| 11 Chance Gaither | 55 Jeffery Threatt |
| 12 Etan Swinford | 56 Datavious Curry |
| 13 My'Khal Thompson | 58 Brody Bussie |
| 14 Ethan Leahey | 60 Parker Molden |
| 15 Christian O'neal-Ousley | 64 Kole Edwards |
| 16 Payton Sanders | 65 Tymon Johnson |
| 17 Rodricous Dorman | 66 Madden Smith |
| 18 Justin Sistrunk | 67 Cyrus Powell |
| 19 Jakobee Threatt | 68 Terence Reynolds |
| 20 Lawson Molden | 69 Austin Davis |
| 20 Warren Britt | 70 Trevon McClendon |
| 21 Kyle Ross | 71 Logan Turner |
| 21 Carson Tyree | 72 Luke Gaither |
| 22 Taariq Johnson | 72 Alex Peterson |
| 24 Lance Smith | 74 Payton Graben |
| 27 Ja'Isam Tuck | 75 Jacob Smith |
| 28 J. Flint | 77 Caron McGuire |
| 28 Damon Casey | 79 Melvin Braxton |
| 30 Peyton Gaither | 80 Rashard Russell |
| 32 Carson Smith | 82 Jacob Tyree |
| 33 Austin Harry | 85 Josh Capers |
| 34 Draven Campbell | 87 Caleb Cotton |
| 36 Hudson Turner | Nick Ball |

SPOTLIGHT



TANNER REEVES

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

LaDainian Tomlinson, because he is an explosive player, he plays with a lot of heart and energy. He is also a Christian and he is not afraid to show it. That is one of the biggest things especially with the role that he has in the world. People look up to him and he wants to share his faith. That is one of the most important things to me.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Probably the Andalusia game (in quarterfinals of the playoffs in 2015). I strive to win and I finally got to be in that position to be the one to help out my team. That was great for me and our team at the same time.

What motivates you to work hard?

My team. I see them work hard and this year, as the quarterback, a lot of it is on me. I touch the ball every play, so if I'm not prepared, then we are not ready to play. That motivates me this

year, plus last year's playoff loss. We fell short of our expectations.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to sing, I am not a good singer, but I like to sing. Sports is my life, but I really like spending time with my family. I am not sure how much time I have with everybody, so I am trying to spend time with them.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It teaches me how to be a better leader. It makes me more versatile. It helps me get quicker and stronger. It teaches me how to go through adversity.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

The main focus is making us better men, good fathers, better Christians, not just football players. Life is not just about the game of football, it is about can you be a better person once you get past high school and college.

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Pell City PANTHERS

CLASS 6A
REGION 7

Pell City looking to capitalize on opportunities this year



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Last season, the Pell City Panthers finished with a 6-5 record and made it to the first round of the Class 6A playoffs. Head coach Etheredge believes there are a lot of positives the Panthers can build on in his second year at the helm.

"We are just trying to build on what we did in year one," he said. "I'm still loving the leadership here, we have great kids and the school system is led by some great guys that want to do it the right way. We just have to grow the program. We are going to be young this year. We are trying to build on what we did last year. We want


to win region games and make it to the playoffs, then you never know what can happen after that."

The Panthers enter the 2017 season with high expectations. Etheredge said he would like for his team to host a first round playoff game this season, which hasn't happened since 2012 when they hosted Austin.

"We want to try to get first and second in the region," Etheredge said. "Last year, we made the playoffs. We let a chance to get a first round playoff game at home slip away from us toward the end of the year, but we had done enough to get ourselves in. We really want to push to get that first round playoff game here where you have a chance to advance."

The Panthers enter the season having to replace 25 seniors from last year's team. Pell City will have several underclassmen at key positions, including quarterback. Sophomore Jackson Burkhalter will start under center, and Etheredge is elated to have the 6-foot-5, 195-pound signal caller for the next three seasons.

"Jackson is one of those kids that has a



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lot of upside,” Etheridge said. “He has a strong arm and he is just a good kid. He is a student of the game and he is a young guy, so he is going to make mistakes, so you just have to let him make mistakes and learn from those mistakes. He is a guy that is going to have three years which is awesome. When I was at Leeds we had Tadarryl Marshall who started for four years. By the time he was a junior, he’d already played in 28 games. Then he won back-to-back championships his junior and senior year, so you had a veteran after your sophomore year. You can’t really replace that experience with a young guy coming in and get that experience that will be here for a while.”

The blueprint for Etheridge’s success over the years has been to have a strong running attack and a stifling defensive unit. With a lack of size upfront and a quarterback who’s capable of making big plays with his arm, Pell City’s offensive attack may be significantly different from a season ago.

“We have to find some guys that can stretch the defense and Brock Shaffer helps there,” Etheridge said. “Aaron and Andrew Crow has done a great job this summer in passing. Gatlin Roberson, Casey Smith is a kid that will be a senior and he will be a real focal point. He has a lot of speed and he does a great job on the speed sweeps. I think he had

three touchdowns in our first game last year. It helps us tremendously. I am more of a smash-mouth type guy, but I am going to adjust to what we have. We have a guy that is 6-foot-5 that can sit back there, throw it and make good decisions; you may see us throw it 30-40 times a game.”

Finishing games and converting on the big plays are two areas where Etheridge wants his team to improve from last season. Pell City lost four games last season by six points or fewer.

“I want us to improve on when we have a chance to make big plays to make them,” he said. “We missed a lot of opportunities last year. We had ourselves in good situations and we didn’t make plays in certain games ... We just have to learn how to make those plays. We have to learn to make the ones that count and when it gets tight we have to play loose. Last year, I think when the game got tight, we tighten up and some of the kids were waiting for something bad to happen instead of expecting something good to happen and making something good to happen. The difference between Leeds and here is that these guys where we waiting for something bad to happen. The kids at Leeds had a lot of confidence and went into every game expecting to win.”



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ROSTER

No Name

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Christian Burkhalter | 43 | Matt Frye |
| 2 | Brock Shafer | 44 | Jackson Sweatt |
| 4 | Malik Posey | 45 | Aries Woolsey |
| 5 | Cody Eades | 46 | Ethan Jett |
| 6 | Tre Evans | 47 | Carson Walker |
| 7 | Gatlin Roberson | 49 | Clayton Rich |
| 9 | Maleek Robinson | 50 | Justin Thomas |
| 10 | Desmond Wilson | 51 | Joey Horton |
| 11 | Jake Hall | 52 | Adam Lee |
| 12 | Bryant Freeman | 53 | Tanner Clowdus |
| 13 | Clayton Hildebrant | 54 | Tyler Locklar |
| 12 | Mitchell Gossett | 56 | Avery Weiss |
| 15 | Sergio Alvarez | 57 | Justin Oakes |
| 16 | Jackson Burkhalter | 58 | Simon Adkins |
| 17 | Jarod Posey | 60 | Jonah Ledlow |
| 18 | Braden Crow | 61 | Mathew Tyrville |
| 19 | Tillman Patterson | 63 | JD Freeman |
| 20 | Casey Smith | 64 | Colivin Foster |
| 21 | Kelton Seals | 66 | Ryan Aldridge |
| 22 | Darius Garrett | 67 | Christian Henderson |
| 23 | Clay Hardie | 70 | Cam McGowin |
| 24 | Ethan Bynum | 71 | Mathew Weems |
| 25 | Brett Staples | 72 | Andrew Smith |
| 26 | Dylan Thomas | 73 | Logan Hope |
| 27 | Cade Golden | 74 | Will Pittman |
| 28 | Anthony Emerick | 75 | Jordan Burgos |
| 29 | Connor McCombs | 76 | Dylan Reeves |
| 32 | Noah Doss | 77 | Tyler Norman |
| 33 | Corbin Deason | 78 | Lucas Childre |
| 34 | Collier Slovensky | 81 | Andrew Crow |
| 35 | Austin Gollott | 82 | Aaron Crow |
| 36 | Andrew Williams | 83 | Cordell O'Neal |
| 37 | Broc Purdon | 84 | Ian Crowe |
| 39 | Andres Sanchez | 85 | Alion Hogan |
| 40 | Ty Goodwin | 88 | Noah Parker |
| 41 | Christian Whaley | 90 | Cole Crumpton |
| 42 | Camden Etheredge | 92 | Jacob Fomby |

SPOTLIGHT

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

As far as college player, Tim Tebow is my favorite. He is a guy that I would like to be like. He is a Christian; he is a leader on and off the field. He is like a role model. Pro it is a mix between Tom Brady and Cam (Newton). I love Cam's body and the things that he can do are cool. Also his leadership. Tom just because how smart he is and he is 40 years old in the league.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

I am going to have to kick it back to the old days. In Mobile, park ball is a huge thing. My favorite is winning the Youth Bowl. I was about 10 or 11. It was really fun.

What are your post-high school plans?

I would love to do football, but if that doesn't work I would want to go into business. I have done business kind of things so I like that.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Winning and having fun.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I play piano, hang out with friends and fishing.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

I play basketball. Really just competing in everything, wanting to win and wanting to take a team



JACKSON BURKHALTER

all the way.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

My first thoughts before I go on the field, I always say this little thing to myself. Lord help me prevail. It is a thing that I say to myself. It like saying Lord let your will be done.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

He is a guy that will always be there for you and he will go out of his way for you. He is a hard worker. you say he is a coach how does he do that? He loves the guys on the team and he looks out for them.

So I have learned not to have the "all about me" attitude from him.

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Pell City

HEAD COACH: Keith Etheredge (second year)

KEY LOSSES: Chris Lynch, Kent Foster, Tyler Estell

KEY RETURNERS: Malik Posey, Darius Garrett, Avery Weiss

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

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 6-5 **POINTS SCORED:** 300 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 241

SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 vs. Gardendale, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Southside Gadsden, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Brewer, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Anniston, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 vs. Cullman, 7 p.m.

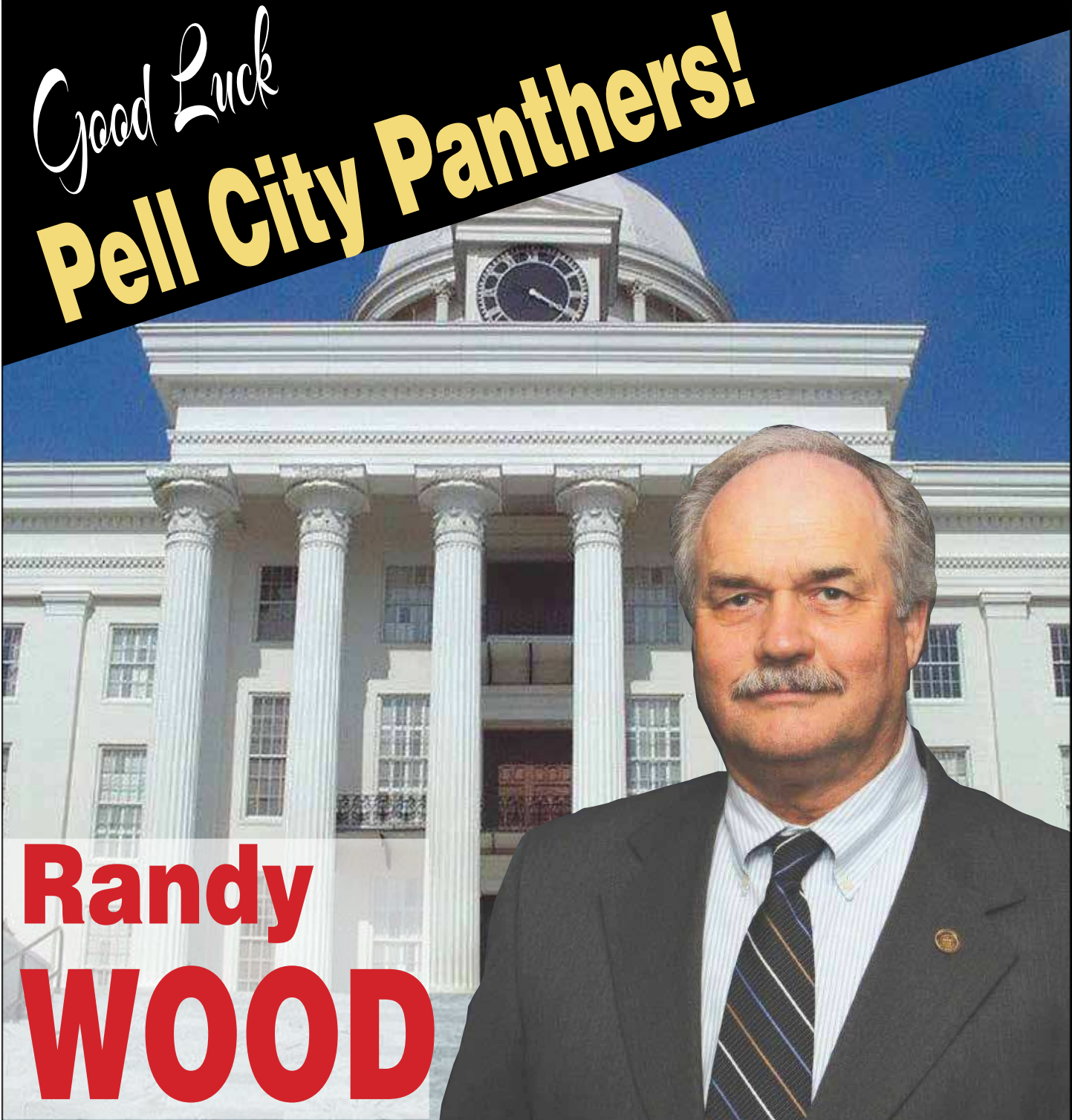
Oct. 13 vs. Albertville, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 at Oxford, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 vs. Fort Payne, 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 vs. Helena, 7 p.m.

Good Luck
Pell City Panthers!

A portrait of Randy Wood, a man with a mustache wearing a dark suit, light blue striped shirt, and a dark tie with diagonal stripes. He is standing in front of the Alabama State Capitol building, which features a large dome and classical columns. The background is a clear blue sky.

**Randy
WOOD**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 36**



Ragland PURPLE DEVILS

CLASS 1A
REGION 4

Ragland hopes to finish season with deep playoff run



By GARY HANNER

In his first year as head coach at Ragland last year, Brian Allred led the Purple Devils to an overall record of 7-4 and a trip to the first round of the state playoffs.

Allred said getting to the first round of the playoffs was a goal, but now he wants to take the Purple Devils a few steps further – deeper into the playoffs.

“The season did not end the way we wanted it to,” he said. “We had a huge lead against Notasulga, and held a 29-8 halftime lead. But we lost the game late as the Blue Devils scored with 28 seconds remaining in the game to make the final score 37-36. We let it slip away because we got too comfortable at halftime.”

Last year, Ragland had the comfort of playing its first five games at home, but found Joan Ford Stadium not so friendly as the Purple Devils were 2-3 the first half of the

season.

Ragland could have been called road warriors last year as they did not lose a single game on the road, but only played four road games. Ragland went 5-0 the last half of the regular season to finish second in Class 1A, Region 4 behind Wadley.

Ragland lost eight seniors from last year’s squad, including key players Jadon Killings, John Brewer and Jeremy Burnham.

Allred said key players returning include running back Adam Sanders, quarterback Noah Hollingsworth, and linebacker/fullback Coby Fuller.

“All three of those guys had a great spring/summer,” he said. “They are all big, strong guys and I expect great things out of all three of them.”

Other players Allred mentioned were offensive linemen Keith Darden and Jacob Phillips, along with wide receiver



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Braxton Thomas.

"Just about every kid we have has to play both ways," he said. "We want to make sure we are balancing this out doing the right thing with them in the weight room and conditioning. That is something we face as an uphill battle within our first two games as we face 3A Ohatchee and 4A Ashville. They both just have so many more kids than we have."

Allred did say that playing those two larger teams should prepare them when they open up region play.

"We lost those two games last year, but they did help us a lot during our region schedule," he said. "We were in

both games against Ohatchee and Ashville last year, but their depth took over in the second half as we wore down."

Allred said the teams to beat in their region are Wadley and Talladega County Central.

Keys to a successful season, according to Allred, would be staying healthy.

"We lost our tight end Jadon Ball," he said. "He got hurt in a summer basketball game and tore his ACL. With so many of our kids having to play both ways, staying healthy is definitely the key to a successful season."

Ragland opens the season on the road Aug. 25 at Ohatchee.

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SPOTLIGHT

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

Earl Campbell, who played for the Houston Oilers. I liked his style and he was a very humble guy.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Scoring a touchdown against Notasulga last year during the state playoffs.

What are your post-high school plans?

I hope to earn a football scholarship and play at the collegiate level, and get my education degree.

What motivates you to work hard?

My family and teammates.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Playing with my teammates and finishing out my high school career.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Hunting and fishing, and just hanging out with my friends.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It keeps me in condition.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?



ADAM SANDERS

Playing with my teammates, and I want to play the entire game and beat Ohatchee.

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

The best part of fall camp is being with all my teammates. There's nothing really bad about this year's fall camp because it is my senior season.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

Coach Allred talks to us about becoming a leader and having discipline. He wants us to work hard and finish what we have started.

ROSTER

No. Name

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jalen Byers | 23 LaDarius Spikes |
| 2 Noah Hollingsworth | 24 Bailey Wyatt |
| 3 Braxton Thomas | 27 Evan Buckner |
| 4 Adam Sanders | 33 Logan Buckner |
| 5 Ian Phillips | 37 Jadon Ball |
| 6 Micah Phillips | 50 Jaxon Cox |
| 7 Josh Phillips | 51 Keith Darden |
| 8 David Sanders | 55 Ryan Bearden |
| 9 Coby Fuller | 56 Seth Welborn |
| 10 Brody Bice | 57 Jakolbe Brewster |
| 11 Bailey Goodwin | 59 Jeremy Cambron |
| 12 Elijah Ball | 65 Jacob Phillips |
| 14 Nate Kelley | 68 Bryan Goodwin |
| 18 Hunter Day | 76 Kaden Bice |
| 19 Kaeden Cotton | 79 Austin Pritchett |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Ragland

HEAD COACH: Brian Alred (second year)

KEY LOSSES: Stoney Merritt, Jadon Killings, Matthew Thornburg

KEY RETURNERS: Adam Sanders, Noah Hollingsworth, Coby Fuller

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2015 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 7-4 **POINTS SCORED:** 361 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 283

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 at Ohatchee, 7 p.m.

Sept. 1 at Ashville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Talladega Co. Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Coosa Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Wadley, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 vs. Tarrant, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 vs. Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 at Donoho, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 vs. Appalachian, 7 p.m.

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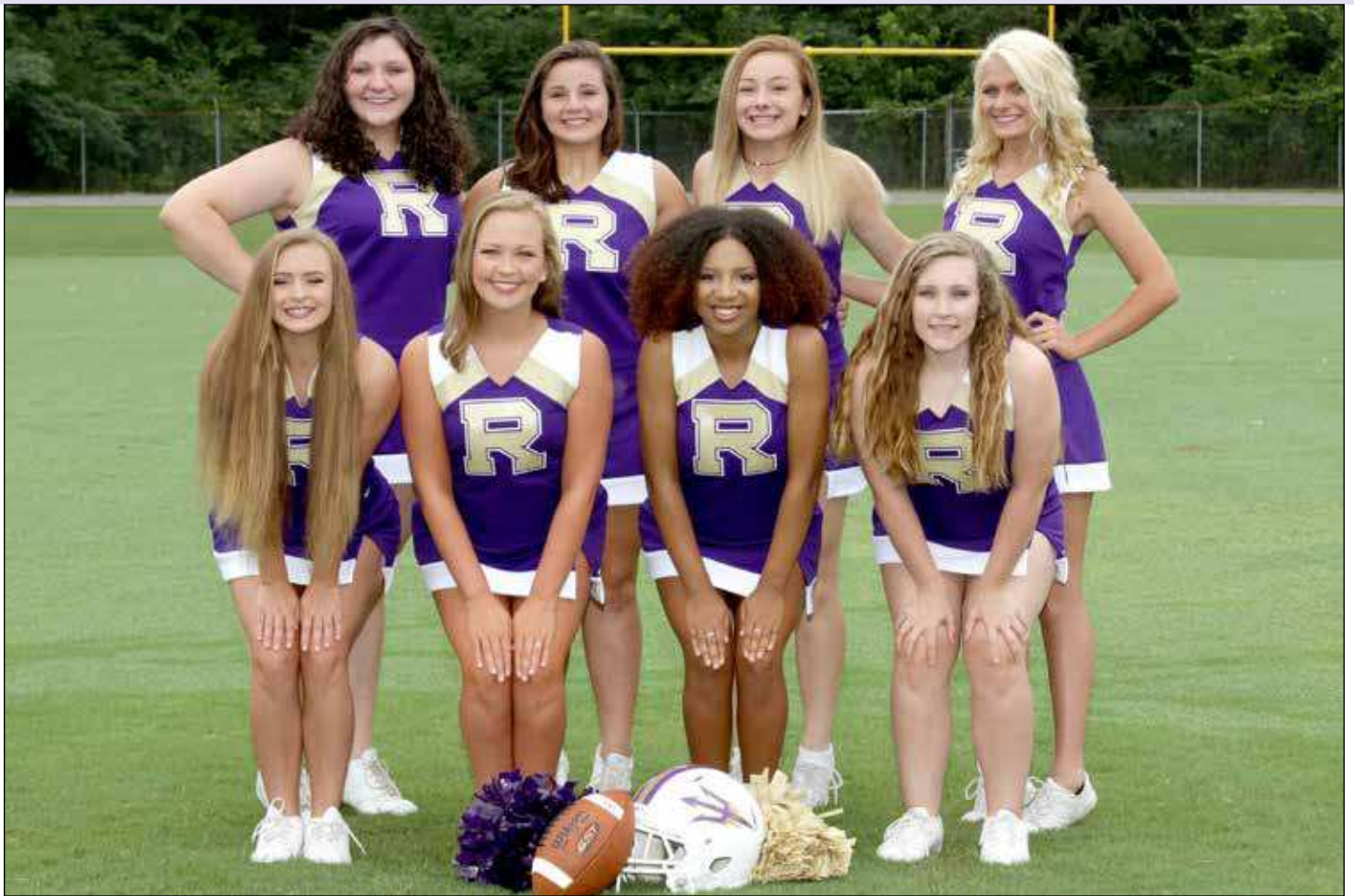
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Sylacauga AGGIES

CLASS 5A
REGION 4

Aggies look for 10th straight winning season



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Sylacauga will enter the 2017 season with several new faces, but with the same expectations.

Aggies head coach Matt Griffith will have to replace the most successful senior class of his tenure, a group that included all-state running back Alex Thomason.

Griffith said there is much at stake going into this season.

“Can the program, after losing so much on offense and defense, continue to play at a high level?” Griffith asked. “I think we can, but the kids have to step up and take pride in that.

“This year, can we go a decade without a losing season? I have preached that to the kids. ... If you are Hoover and all of those schools, that is no big deal, but for the average school, that is impressive. There is a lot to look forward to this year.”



Sylacauga has been the model of consistency for much of Griffith's 12 years at the helm. The Aggies have won seven or eight games and made the playoffs in seven of those seasons.

Even though this is will be a fairly new Sylacauga team, Griffith's expectations remain the same.

"We have the same goals and expectations every year," Griffith said. "We expect to have a winning season, we expect to make the playoffs. If you can make the playoffs, anything can happen after you are in the playoffs. It is one-and-done. You have to start winning.

"Our goal is to get out of the first round. We would



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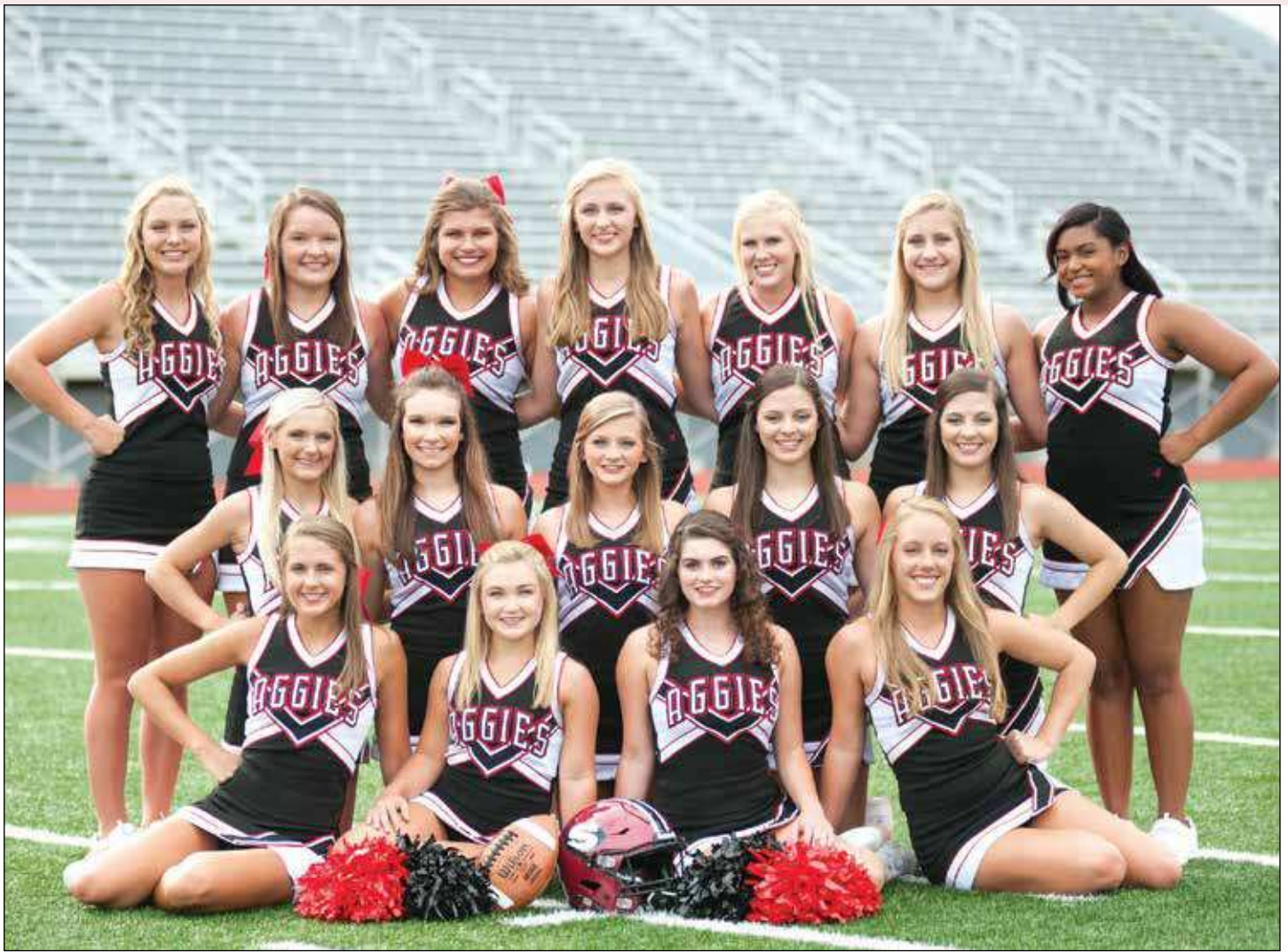
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love to host a playoff game. Down the line, you want to win a region championship, you want to talk about a state championship, but if you don't have a winning season and you don't make the playoffs, those things don't happen anyway. You have to put expectations there that can be reachable, then once you get in the playoffs,

you never know what can happen."

Sylacauga will have the tough task of replacing Thomason. He rushed for 2,002 yards and 26 touchdowns last season. For his career, Thomason totaled 4,882 yards and 69 touchdowns.

The Aggies, however, have confidence in Tashun

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Looney. In his lone start last season, Looney put on a show as he rushed for 280 yards and five touchdowns against Calera.

“Do you ever replace an Alex Thomason?” Griffith said. “Alex was phenomenal. He had a three-year career, really four, because he played halfway through his freshman year. Tashun Looney was our A-back, and when Alex hurt his ankle going into game 10, we put Tashun at B-back, and he rushed for (nearly) 300 yards.

“Tashun is a different type of back, he is a smaller back. He is quicker and faster. We are going to get the football to the outside a little bit more because we’re smaller and faster.



We are not as big upfront as we have been.”

The Aggies will also have a new signal-caller in Keaton Wilson, who takes over for Jackson Walker.

Griffith is elated about what Wilson adds to the Aggies’ offense.

“We hired Matt Collier (as an assistant coach). He was the quarterback back in 2009-2010 right after Keaton’s brother finished and went to Samford. Matt threw for 1,700 yards and rushed for 800. That is really where we want to go with what we are doing instead of a quarterback that rushes for 1,000

and throws for 500,” Griffith said. “We would rather throw for 1,500 to 1,800 and rush for 600. I think Keaton

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brings that to the table because of his arm strength, but ... if you don't have anybody to throw to or you can't protect the quarterback, it is hard to throw.

"We have some good receivers now. We are going

to be an option team. We are always going to run the football, but with Keaton at quarterback, it gives us the ability to throw the ball when we want to so we can back some folks off and open up some holes."

SPOTLIGHT

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

My favorite football player would have to be Jalen Hurts. I just like his game. I try to study as much as I can and watch videos. I just like his technique.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

It would probably have to be our spring game this year against Briarwood. I had been struggling the whole game, then I came out on the next possession and just I saw the hole open up for an 80-yard run for a touchdown. That was probably my greatest moment ever.

What motivates you to work hard?

Just seeing my mom and my dad happy. Just getting out the house, making plans for myself and just going far in the future.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Me and my brothers want to win the region champions. We all

know that it starts with game one. We have to come out Aug. 25 and get the job done.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps me a lot, because it helps me stay in shape. Basketball is a different type of shape. If you play as many as you can, you will be a great player.

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

The best part is getting out there on those Thursday nights getting ready for the game on Friday. The worst part is just trying to make it through the whole week running all those gassers.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

He has helped me become a real leader. I have all those other guys that are going to be looking up to me. He wants me to step up and be a leader for the guys under me.



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Wilson said he is excited about the upcoming season. The senior said he has received a lot of advice from his brother and former Sylacauga standout Kelsey Pope.

"It is hard to fill his shoes coming off the legacy that he has at Sylacauga and at Samford," Wilson said. "He gives me a lot of advice. He told me to do what I do best and don't worry about what others say. He told me to just to take my time. He told me that I would be good and to make my senior year the best that I can. Don't have any regrets and do what I do."

The Aggies not only lost a talented senior class, they also lost their defensive coordinator, Matt Zedaker, who was hired as Lincoln's new head coach. Zedaker spent 12 years with Griffith, including six as defensive coordinator.

Griffith was proud to see Zedaker become a head

coach and believes his former assistant will have success at Lincoln.

"We are so excited for him," Griffith said. "We talk probably two or three times a week. What was exciting was that they came over for a 7-on-7. It was exciting to see Lincoln to do the warm-ups that he has been taught. It was like watching two mirrored images of two programs together."

"As an older coach, you got a guy on your staff that goes to take a job, it is a pride thing there. I want him and we at Sylacauga want him to do well, because he is us. ... We think we have a good solid program that has been winning for a long time. We think that will help Lincoln. He is an up-and-coming guy. That was a great hire by Lincoln High School."

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KEY FACTS

TEAM: Sylacauga

HEAD COACH: Matt Griffith (13th year)

KEY LOSSES: Alex Thomason, Derrick Carter, Jackson Walker

KEY RETURNERS: Tashun Looney, Keaton Wilson, Bailey Ward

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: Multiple

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 8-3 **POINTS SCORED:** 393

POINTS ALLOWED: 286

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 at Chilton County, 7 p.m.

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

Sept. 8 at Lincoln, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 vs. Beauregard, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 vs. Childersburg, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Talladega, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Valley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 at Central Clay County, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 vs. Cleburne County, 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 at Calera, 7 p.m.

ROSTER

No. Name

2 Bailey Ward
3 Rod Milliner
4 Dailon Keith
5 Jordan Ridgeway
6 Tashun Looney
7 Keaton Wilson
8 Brady Davis
9 Marco Campbell
10 Mich'L Holtzclaw
12 M. Taylor
13 Tyler Thompson
14 Tommy Gaddis
15 Rusty Craft
16 J.D. DeLoach
18 Philemon Jones
19 Riley Keith
20 Conner Machen
21 Lane Strickland

23 Keunddra Pearson
24 Malik Wykoff
25 Zed Marrs
27 Kam Cook
29 Vontae Graham
30 Timothy Stallworth
31 Dacarius Mickey
32 Chris Mallory
33 Gabe Cox
34 Tory Harris
40 Colton Hardiman
44 Devonta Green
45 Chase Ivey
50 Peyton Bearden
51 Austin Allen
52 Cori Hodges
53 Kelvin Jemison
54 Darrien McElrath
55 Zan Smith

56 Nick Price
57 Luke Hunnicutt
58 Taylor Strickland
59 Cody Hamm
60 Tyler Jacobs
62 Q McMillian
63 Braden Trucks
64 Tyler Culpepper
65 Dalton Giles
66 Justyn Vincent
67 Ladarruis Cook
71 Anthony Dixon
73 Graham Hughey
75 Jamie Clary
76 La Jordan Pearson
77 Gage Hallman
87 Justin Lackey
89 Collin Yeager
90 Christian Jones



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Talladega TIGERS

CLASS 5A
REGION 4

Darby brings new energy, new attitude to Tigers



By SHANE DUNAWAY

Talladega closed the door on the Robert Herring era following a 3-7 campaign in Class 5A, Region 4 last season.

The Tigers now have Ted Darby, who served as the team's defensive coordinator in 2016, leading the charge and striving to change the culture of a program that hasn't produced a winning season since 1994.

"We've got to get unity, discipline, teamwork -- that's what we're looking to do -- and play hard for four quarters," he said. "We had a good spring and we've had a good offseason of work. I've got a good bunch of kids. Our numbers are up. We're at about 51 players (including 35 players in 10th-12th grade) ... I told my kids our motto is, 'Losing is not an option.'"

Entering the 2017 season with 51 players more than doubles the amount of players Talladega had entering the 2016 season -- 23.

Talladega will begin its 2017 season against Alexandria, a team the Tigers haven't faced since a 20-12 victory on Oct. 12, 1962. The Tigers were slated to play Oxford as part of Herring's home-and-home arrangement with his brother, Ryan Herring, but Darby said it made sense to book a new opponent.

"I'm not scared to play anybody, but there's some things

you're dumb to do and smart to do," he said. "Now, the reason I'm playing Coach (Frank) Tucker and Alexandria ... year-in and year-out, they're always a top-notch program in 5A. That's what I've told the kids. That's where I want to be.

"Why would you want to play somebody in 6A or 7A? My kids are not up for hire ... I looked at Alexandria. I wanted a challenge and I wanted somebody that's in 5A that's in the top of 5A. That way my kids can see where they're at."

Darby said he's been impressed by the efforts of a pair of Tigers, senior Ron Dothard and junior Tristan Wells. Both accompanied Darby to the 2017 Talladega County Coaches Association Football Media Day at Talladega Superspeedway on

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"Ron is a hard worker in the weight room," Darby said. "He's going to be an offensive lineman, and he's going to play defensive line with me. This kid, you'd have to kill him to stop him. I love his work ethic. He's hard-nosed and loves the weight room, both of these kids do ...

"I've watched when we lift weights early in the morning. We go until about 11:30 or (noon) and we start at about 7:30. We go every day. I've watched these kids. They've never missed and they're always on time. They're always finishing first, and I wanted to bring them to media day because these are the kind of football players I want."

He added Wells has a noticeably-high intensity level, and both players represent the attributes the first-year head coach seeks for his team.

"He'd (flip) a semi-truck over, and he loves to hit," Darby said. "He's going to be my Sam (linebacker). These two kids -- that's what I want to take and model rest of my kids (after) -- that'll hit, go strong and go hard every play. They're football players. That's all I can say about them right now, and they're good kids (with) good morals and ethics. 'Yes sir, no sir' kids, that's what we're going to have."

Darby said he wasn't looking back at 2016, a season in which the Tigers were a handful of plays from reaching the playoffs.

"Here's what I tell my kids," he said. "'If ifs and buts were candy and nuts, we'd all have a Merry Christmas.' Here's the thing. We should have won two or three more of those. We've gotta say if, but what we didn't do is the work ethic and (stay) hungry. I'm not here promising a win, but I can tell you what our team is going to be

is disciplined. We are hungry. You have to play with a little (chip) on your shoulder, and that's what we're going to do."

In regards to senior quarterback Ashton Duncan and wide receiver Fred



Dickerson, Darby said the duo has done well during the summer.

"They are keys to our offense," he said. "We've got several other kids, too, that we're going to have to get the ball in their hands, too, a little bit. We've got some players, and that's our jobs as coaches. We've got find out how to be able to get (the ball) to them in the right situation with the right plays, and we'll be OK."

Darby said his team must do things the right way to truly push the program forward.

"I'm never going to promise (anything)," he said. "We're sitting in the hardest 5A region. You've got Lincoln, Cleburne County, Beauregard with the running back (La'Damian Webb) coming back, (Central Clay County) ... we've got some great football teams in our region. But what we're going to do is give them everything we've got."

He added he didn't want to give anything away as far as what offenses and defenses he planned to run.

"I'm going to let Aug. 25 be the surprise (as far as) what we're going to do," Darby said. "I can tell this -- we're going to be spread (on offense), and we're going to run multiple fronts defensively. I'm aggressive defensively, but it'll be something that hasn't been done in Talladega in a long time. That's what we're going to do We're going to be different."

Darby took his squad to Fort McClellan for a team-building exercise that he said would bring the group closer together than they were when they arrived.



Dothard said before the trip it was an important marker in the Tigers' journey to the regular season.

"We needed to come closer together as a team because we've got a couple of pieces that we need to come together with," he said. "I'm sure at the end of the camp, we'll be stronger. In my years at Talladega, we haven't done anything like this.

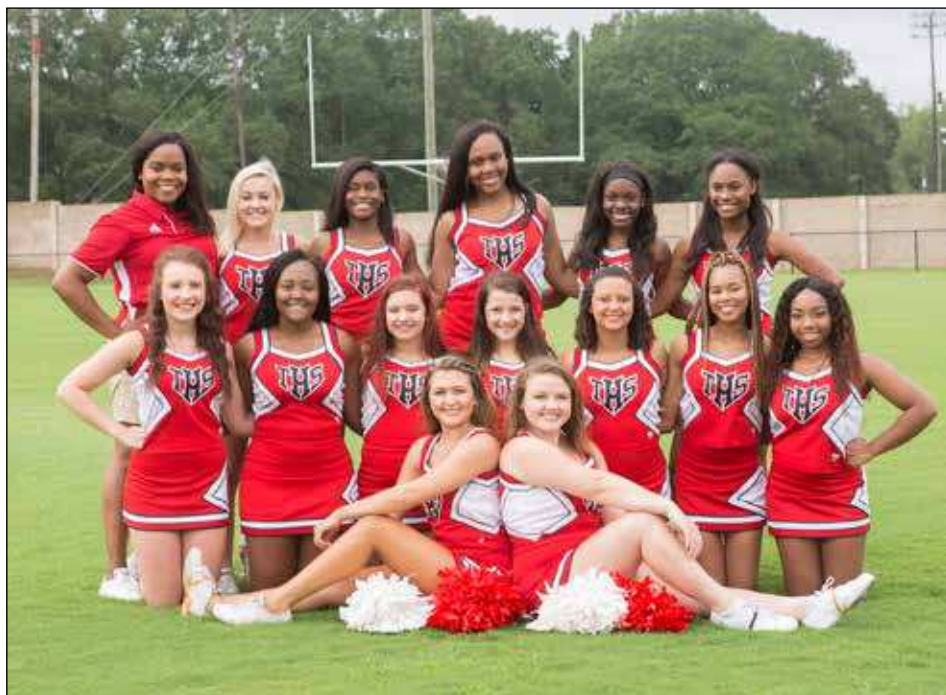
"Like the new coaches, we haven't had coaches that cared as much as these coaches now -- and I'm not just saying that just for the media. We haven't had coaches like Coach Darby and all the other coaches. We haven't had a superintendent that really cared, came to our practices and told us keys how to get off the (offense's blocks).

"I play defensive line, and (Superintendent Terry Roller) shows us keys to what we can do to make the tackle,

swim moves and things like that."

He added the time invested by Roller inspired him to work even harder and set an example to leave behind for the players behind him to follow.

"I'm just trying to leave a print on Talladega to let them know that this is not the same Talladega," Dothard said. "This is a different Talladega."



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SPOTLIGHT



RON DOTHARD

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

When Auburn played Alabama back a couple years ago when Chris Davis ran the touchdown back from the 10-yard line and scored the game-winning touchdown. That gave me hope, so that let us know that Talladega could do anything. If Auburn can come back and get the victory, then anything's possible as long as you have faith and don't give up.

What motivates you to work hard?

What motivates me to work hard is all the negativity in my life. That just dedicates me to go harder every day, nonstop, 24/7.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

I'm looking forward most to making it to the playoffs because Talladega has never made it to the playoffs before, and we will do it this year. No

excuses.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to work and help my mom because she has a disability, so I help her as much as I can and help others if needed and encourage others.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

It's just the thrill. The thrill, you can't put it in words. It just puts you in the moment. You're just ready to go there and knock heads out of the way.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

He instilled in us that losing is not an option. We have to work hard in everything we do. Nothing will ever be given to us, so we have to work in everything we do. No excuses.

ROSTER

No. Name

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Jer'montez Cunningham | 23 | Christopher Burney |
| 3 | Martavious Redwine | 24 | JeQuerius Wilson |
| 4 | Chaztin Tanner | 25 | D'Corian Wilson |
| 5 | Dylan Bradford | 27 | Keyshawn Swain |
| 6 | Jeromy Brand | 33 | D.J. Phillips |
| 7 | Tristan Wells | 35 | Caleb Perkins |
| 9 | D'montae Holtzclaw | 42 | Ja'Kiem Jenkins |
| 10 | Ashton Duncan | 43 | Peter Whitworth |
| 11 | Fred Dickerson | 52 | Ron Dothard |
| 12 | Jalen Green | 54 | Quindarius Lawson |
| 13 | Chris Curry | 55 | Nicholas Warwick |
| 14 | Jakeiveous Patterson | 56 | Cameron Whatley |
| 15 | Deovanni Swain | 57 | Wy'darrius Montgomery |
| 16 | Lawrence McGraw | 58 | Jonathan Adams |
| 17 | Jose Mendez | 60 | Tyler McCluney |
| 19 | Luis Hernandez | 63 | Tommy Wilson |
| 21 | Joshua Wood | 66 | Jaymon Gaddis |
| 22 | Cedric White | 72 | Ethan Randall |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega

HEAD COACH: Ted Darby (first year)

KEY LOSSES: Jae-Lyn Russ, Jamonte Twymon, Robert Houston

KEY RETURNERS: Ashton Duncan, Fred Dickerson, Tristan Wells

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

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 3-7 **POINTS SCORED:** 178 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 258

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 vs. Alexandria, 7 p.m.

Sept. 1 vs. Talladega Co. Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Cleburne County, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 vs. Lincoln, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Beauregard, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 vs. Walter Wellborn, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 vs. Sylacauga, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 at Valley, 7 p.m.

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

Nov. 2 at Winterboro, 7 p.m.



Talladega County Central FIGHTING TIGERS

CLASS 1A
REGION 4

TC Central wants better start to season, improved playoff showing



By LAVONTE YOUNG

Talladega County Central head coach Chris Mahand believes his team has not reached its potential the last two seasons.

Two years ago, TC Central went 6-4 but lost to Spring Garden in the first round of the playoffs.

Last season, the Fighting Tigers finished 4-7 and lost in the first round of the playoffs to eventual state champion Maplesville. Mahand didn't take the loss lightly, and he worked throughout the offseason to find ways for his team to improve.

"I talked to a lot of small school coaches, a lot of coaches at predominantly black schools, because we deal with the same issues a lot of times, so (there were) some ideas that I got from them to help

this season along as well as organization-wise to keep the guys in a routine to make



it consistent for them," Mahand said.

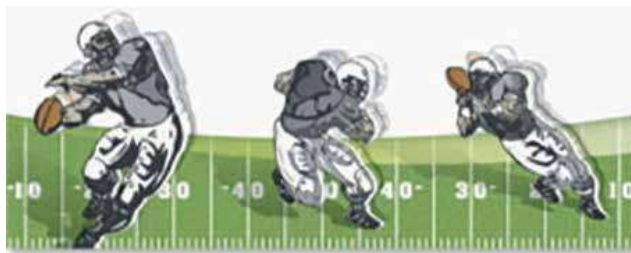
"There are a couple of different things we are going to do practice-wise. When you play a team like Maplesville, you are

going to have to be ready to play. Maybe it is me, but I don't think we are going to play many teams that are going to be as talented as us, so I have to figure out what the problem is. What do we have to do to have the type of season that we need to have, because it is not talent.

"It is my job as the head coach to figure it out. We are going to be a team to reckon with as long as my team comes to play. I think they are going to come to play."

For the past two years, the Fighting Tigers have struggled in the first half of the campaign. TC Central has a 2-6 record in the first half of the previous two seasons, which includes four losses to region opponents. Mahand hopes that by intensifying the team's strength and conditioning program in the summer, it will help the Fighting Tigers to be better

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prepared to open the season.

"We've got to get our motor started earlier this season," Mahand said. "Hopefully, the extra work that we put in this summer will help get our motor started a little bit earlier. Being a (Class) 1A program, we have to be in better shape. We have a lot of guys going both ways.

"Starting out with 5A Talladega that will more than likely have more numbers than you, that could be detrimental to what we are trying to do. We have to take more of an active role in getting the kids ready to play in this summer heat. We definitely have to get in shape so we can perform like we want to this summer."

When Mahand talks about goals for his team, he's not afraid to aim high.

"Like anyone, we want to win the state championship," Mahand said. "I don't know of a coach that's not going to say they

don't want to win a state championship. We are going to take it one step at a time. We would definitely like to win the region.

"If we win the region, we would put ourselves in good position. We would play at home (in the first round of the playoffs) and we haven't played at home in a while. We have made it to the first round, now it is time to make it past that. ...

"The fans expect more out of us, the kids expect more of their coaches and we expect more out of the kids. We want to make it to the playoffs like everybody and get out of the first round. I expect us to compete for the region this year. Our main goal is to win the region."

If TC is going to come close to reaching its goals, the Fighting Tigers will need a huge season from Kylen Cross. Mahand believes his senior running back/linebacker has the potential to be dominant on both sides of the ball this season.

"With Kylen there is no secret -- as Kylen goes, the team goes," Mahand said. "He understands that. I don't let him get the big head about it, but he has been real good about it. If Kylen makes up his mind that he doesn't want to be stopped offensively and defensively, it is going to be hard to stop him.

"I think he is getting to that point, he understands the leadership and importance that he brings to the team. He doesn't let it go to his head, and I have been real impressed with that. He is real competitive, and that can be a problem sometimes, but I don't mind him being competitive. He is just trying to help the team win and do the best he can."

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SPOTLIGHT



KYLEN CROSS

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

Mark Ingram, because he is an explosive back and powerful when he was in college.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My favorite moment was when me and Mikell Armbruster got in the backfield together and we almost hit each other.

What are your post-high school plans?

I want to go to school and extend my education.

What motivates you to work hard?

My family and my mom. I just want to make my family proud.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

Looking forward to bettering myself as a player, getting in shape and having a perfect season.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

Just chilling and staying out of trouble. I go to church.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helps me stay in shape and active. I don't like to sit on my tail all day.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

It is a good feeling, football season is finally here. It is just a great feeling.

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

The conditioning is the worst part. The best part is just being around the team.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

Be accountable. Always be responsible.

ROSTER

No. Name

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Ricky Duncan | 25 | Lalendrick Tuck |
| 3 | Kentrell Duncan | 50 | Kentavious McKenzie |
| 4 | Jaylon Smith | 52 | Mikell Armbruster |
| 6 | Jaylon Dykes | 54 | Paris Stockdale |
| 7 | JaKorrian Davis | 55 | Micah Embry |
| 9 | Jayden Jones | 57 | Taqaurri Herring |
| 10 | Devin Dates | 58 | Devilyn Keller |
| 12 | Datravian Tuck | 63 | Judson Harmon |
| 14 | Jafrondic Davis | 70 | Kavon Moaten |
| 15 | Nidell Burrell | 72 | Melvin Harris |
| 18 | Cameron Swin | 73 | Braxton Harmon |
| 22 | Kylen Cross | 99 | Darrell Maple |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Talladega County Central

HEAD COACH: Chris Mahand (fourth year)

KEY LOSSES: Kristopher Embry, Devon Wilson

KEY RETURNERS: Kylen Cross, Darrell Maple

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

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 4-6 **POINTS SCORED:** 262 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 266

SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 at Talladega, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 vs. Ragland, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Wadley, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 vs. B.B. Comer, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 vs Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 at Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Nov. 2 at Tarrant, 7 p.m.



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Victory Christian's new head coach plans for Lions to get better, better



By SHANE DUNAWAY

Victory Christian failed to make the playoffs in 2016, a year after making the playoffs and winning the first home playoff game in school history.

With Mark Sanders out as head coach and Mike Holliday taking the reigns, the Lions appear poised to make a comeback in 2017.

"I think we were on the right track the whole time," he said. "I'm not going to speak anything negative about anything in the past because we don't look back, we look forward. We're going to work to what we do and what we do best ... We're on the right track, and we're going to continue to excel and get better and better."

Holliday said the Lions need to start the season off with a victory against Sumiton Christian, a team that throttled Victory Christian, 55-28, in the 2016 season opener.

"It's not a region game, but it's important for us to go out and set the tone for what we're going to do," he said. "They jumped on us last year and surprised us ... They had a good team. They ended up, I believe, in the second or third round of the playoffs."

The Lions also cross paths with their former coach in a Class 1A, Region 4 battle with Donoho.

"We always look forward to playing Donoho regardless, and that's not going to be any different," Holliday said. "We're going to (approach) it the same way. It's a rival game. We always love to play them. It's going to be exciting. I think the fans are going to enjoy it, and I think the players are going to enjoy it."

Victory Christian senior quarterback Harrison Cheatwood



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didn't seem fazed at the prospect of seeing Sanders on the opposite sideline.

"He's not strapping up, so I'm not too worried about it," Cheatwood said. "I mean, I'm just going to go out there and I'm going to play. Of course, it's in the back of your mind, but I'm not dwelling on it. It's going to be fun just because it's Donoho, so it's not really a concern. He did good things here, but I'm not concerned about it."

With perennial powerhouse Wadley ruling the roost in the region, Victory Christian typically finds itself in a scramble with Ragland, Winterboro and Talladega County Central to determine the pecking order. The Lions finished fifth in the region at 5-5.

"Normally, it'll come down to us getting a win against one of those three teams in order to make the playoffs, but we're looking forward to that, every single Friday night going out and playing (with) the best absolute effort (we can). I believe if the guys do that, and we do that every week, the sky's the limit for us. Wadley is obviously the cream of the crop. They haven't lost a region game yet (in our region)."

Holliday said the Lions will run multiple defenses in 2017.

"We work out of the 3-5," he said. "I think we can do a lot of stuff out of it. We might come out in a four- or five-man front. We can do just about anything with our defense."

While he wouldn't unveil any specific wrinkles, Holliday said the offense has been tweaked during the offseason.

"It's going to be a little different than what you've seen in the

past," he said. "I'm not going to elaborate much on it, but it's going to be a little different. We definitely plan to be physical. We're not a big team, and athletically, we're probably middle-of-the-road, but what we've got everybody else doesn't have as far as attitude, effort and the want-to to play."

Among the 13 seniors the Lions lost from the 2016 is wide receiver David Smith and tight end Ethan Carlisle.

"Every senior we lose is vital to us," Holliday said. "There's not a senior that comes out of this place that doesn't contribute in some way or another, so all those guys are equally important. We're obviously going to miss the production. Harrison, I'm sure, is going to miss the receiver targets we had, but we've got some guys coming on, some guys who can catch the football. I think after we get them settled down after the first couple games, we'll be able to put up yardage passing just as we have always."

Cheatwood said the team's attention to detail has improved as the Lions look to get back to the playoffs.

"We're working hard in here," he said. "Some of the guys (and I) have talked about it, and our goal is try to win one game per week. That's our main goal, just take it one game at a time. We're just thinking about Sumiton right now, but we're working to give the glory to God. That's what we're striving to do. I think we're just about all on the same page, so if we all come together, I think we'll be good."



SPOTLIGHT



BRODIE HOLLIDAY

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

J.J. Watt because he's just a beast. He's dominating on the field and he's a good man, respectable.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

Probably the pick I had against Ragland my sophomore year that helped put the game away.

What are your post-high school plans?

To go to college. If I play college football, that's great, but if I don't, I'm going to minor in business and major in maybe sports medicine or something of that sort.

What are you looking forward to

the most this season?

Making the most of it and not having any regrets about not playing my hardest or playing every game, every day, giving everything I have.

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

The worst part is probably the heat. The best part is the excitement that you get to start the season off and what you do there prepares you for the games that are ahead.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

Being good Godly men, being good Godly parents, functioning in society and not being hooligans. Being good Christian leaders in whatever we do.

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ROSTER

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| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Lee Yeager | 24 Daniel Slatsky |
| 2 Harrison Cheatwood | 35 Ashton Love |
| 3 Pate Cheatwood | 48 Juan Talley |
| 4 Aaron Jernigan | 54 P.J. Holman |
| 5 Michael Venkler | 60 Sam Mrashvoskey |
| 7 Abraham Sargent | 62 Brodie Holliday |
| 9 Chase Staples | 73 Cage Jackson |
| 10 Ty Chasteen | 76 Connor Stanley |
| 11 Cody Callahan | 74 Nathan Bean |
| 12 Isaac Warren | 75 Creed Cline |
| 15 Brantley Bonner | 77 Griffin Staples |
| 23 Tanner Aldridge | |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Victory Christian

HEAD COACH: Mike Holliday (first year)

KEY LOSSES: David Smith, Ethan Carlisle, Wyatt Coss

KEY RETURNERS: Harrison Cheatwood, Brodie Holliday

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

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 5-5 **POINTS SCORED:** 302 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 329

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 at Sumiton Christian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 1 at Alabama School

for the Deaf, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Donoho, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 vs. Talladega Co. Central, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 vs. Coosa Christian, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Ragland, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 vs. Wadley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 vs. Winterboro, 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 vs. Vincent, 7 p.m.

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Winterboro BULLDOGS

CLASS 1A
REGION 4

Winterboro looking to improve on improvement in 2017



By SHANE DUNAWAY

For four years, Winterboro head football coach Alan Beckett has invested his efforts in building up the Bulldogs program.

Gradual improvements from zero wins, to four wins, to back-to-back six-win seasons, with the latter bringing Winterboro its first playoff berth since 2012, create increased expectations for Beckett's squad.

"In the beginning, we were trying to learn how to care," Beckett said. "Then, we had to learn how to get competitive when we get into games. Now, let's get into adversity. We talked adversity endlessly, whether it's tied, (we're) behind or things don't go right, in the beginning, we'd shut down. We've gotten to where we've come (back) from being down 17-0 and people don't realize how big a goal that is for us just to continue to keep playing in 7-0s and being behind."

Beckett said now the challenge is finding a way to win against a solid slate of opponents in Class 1A, Region 4.

"You look at Wadley that went (9-0) in the regular season and Ragland is coming back with high numbers and working really hard, a playoff Top 10 kind of team," he said. "(Talladega County Central) I think has three or four guys that's as good as (anybody) in our region. Then, you've got Victory Christian with a quarterback that I think is the best -- as far as throwing quarterback, pocket quarterback -- in 1A.

"It's a tough region, so you've got to find a way week-by-week to get fired up, really understand that team and stay with the plan. It's a competitive league, and you've got to look at it again as a marathon and not a sprint."

With busy spring schedules for several of his athletes, Beckett said getting ready for summer was a bit hectic.

"We gave them the first part of the summer off and let the guys focus on other sports in June because I think you can hit a wall later in the year," he said. "It's been a good turnout. I've only had a couple guys I've had to chase, and that's a good thing. They've wanted to be there. We're ready to go."

"I think it was our best winter workout we've had by far, and I just don't throw that around loosely," Beckett said. "That was one of the things I got excited about ... But we're starting to win a lot in the weight room, so I'm proud of that. That's a good sign, and it just takes us to the next step."

Twymon's replacement for 2017 will be one of his former targets, Omar Dobbins, who'll make the transition from wide receiver to quarterback. So far, Beckett said the move has bode well for the Bulldogs, who plan to capitalize on Dobbins' ability to extend plays and break big runs.

"He had a really good spring game," Beckett said. "He had two touchdowns, one of them was a long run and he handled what we're doing really well. He's always (asking), 'How can I get better?' I would look up even during baseball games and I



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SPOTLIGHT

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

My favorite NFL player is Cam Robinson because I play left tackle in high school and he taught me a lot of things. Right now, I'm moved to right tackle, and when he was at his combine, he told the scouts and stuff he'd be willing to play any position that'd help the team be successful, and that kind of helped me.

What is your greatest football moment, at any level?

My favorite football moment was when I first started playing on varsity. I made my first tackle against Childersburg, and the whole team was looking at me. I kind of got happy about that.

What are your post-high school plans?

I plan to play college ball at anywhere that offers me, but my main thing is to get my degree. At the end of the day, I want to get a degree, be successful and I want to manage in sports management so I can be successful and help my family in every way that I can.

What are you looking forward to the most this season?

We want to win as many region games as we can, and I want to also go to the playoffs. I want to go out of my senior year with a bang, have a nice season and be successful.

What are some of your interests outside of your sport?

I like to work out. I like to fish and wash cars and stuff. I like to be with my family a lot.

How does playing multiple sports help you in football?

It helped me conditioning-wise because in basketball, you



RJ BURNS

have to run. We do that in the summer also. Also, in track, I do the shot put, but I also have to stay conditioned. That's what the coaches want us to do so we can stay conditioned for the spring game and stay in shape.

What's your first thought when you get ready to run through the banner for the first time?

My first thought this year is going to be this is my last year, so I want to go out there with pride and be the first one to run out there.

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

I think the worst part is running and getting back in shape because in the summertime, we run, but we don't run as much ... The best part is just being able to bond with my team and going into practice.

What values has your coach worked to instill in you and your teammates?

Basically how to become a young man and how to care, but most of all, we want to win. You want to do everything it takes to win, succeed at the next level and be a young man.

ROSTER

No. Name

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Cam Borden | 25 | Zay Bunt |
| 2 | David Cook | 30 | Dawson Mosley |
| 4 | Isaiah Scott | 33 | Desmond Battle |
| 6 | Luke Wheeler | 51 | Justus Garrett |
| 7 | Omar Dobbins | 54 | Desmick Walker |
| 9 | Nyjavion Brown | 55 | John Costner |
| 10 | Shaun Vincent | 57 | Brody Hamm |
| 11 | Jake Travis | 58 | Chase Rhoddam |
| 14 | Clay Twymon | 61 | Myles Machen |
| 15 | Centorre Smoot | 64 | Khalil Keith |
| 20 | Jadion Swain | 68 | Tim Johnson |
| 21 | Cordarius Swain | 73 | RJ Burns |
| 22 | Anthony Curry | 77 | Ty Swain |
| 23 | Isaiah McKenzie | 75 | Jason Geise |
| 24 | Kaleb Hale | 88 | David Cook |

KEY FACTS

OVERVIEW

TEAM: Winterboro

HEAD COACH: Alan Beckett (fifth year)

KEY LOSSES: Khalil Keith, Clay Twymon, Marcus McMeans

KEY RETURNERS: Kaleb Hale, Omar Dobbins, RJ Burns

BASE OFFENSE: Multiple

BASE DEFENSE: 3-4/Multiple

2016 IN REVIEW

RECORD: 6-5 **POINTS SCORED:** 246 **POINTS ALLOWED:** 330

SCHEDULE

Aug. 25 vs. Keith, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Isabella, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 vs. Donoho, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 vs. Appalachian, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29 vs. Fayetteville, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Talladega Co. Central, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 at Ragland, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 vs. Wadley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 at Victory Christian, 7 p.m.

Nov. 2 vs. Talladega, 7 p.m.

Good Luck All Area Football Teams!
Wishing you all a winning season!



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would see him staying.

"I saw one night, I looked around and his mother had the car lights on so he could see. He was out there going through drills, running stadiums and doing different things."

Brody Hamm and Nyjavion Brown both are in play to slide into the middle linebacker spot McMeans held on defense.

"Hamm is a younger guy, but he's got a chance to be a really good one," Beckett said. "Brown has always been an outside guy. We're making those guys more of A to C guys, who are inside pluggers and having other guys play space."

The Bulldogs also bring back RJ Burns, who'll likely step into Keith's slot at right tackle.

"He's going on his third year as a starter on the offensive line," Beckett said. "He's going to play even more defensively. He wanted to be a defensive guy first from Day One, but now he'll get that time to start on both sides ... I'm hoping for RJ to have a big year. He's bigger, he's put on weight, he's eating right and he's in the best condition he's ever been in. We're looking forward to his year."

Burns, who filled in for Jason Geise at left tackle for the Bulldogs in 2016, said he learned a lot from Geise and Keith.

"When (Jason) got hurt, he was still there every day, so that kind of motivated me to be there every day when I got hurt," Burns said. "I learned a lot from Khalil because he had a good pass rushing set. I learned that from him because he was the best at it. I feel like I've got to be a leader this year because we've got a lot of young guys on the team, so I feel like they've got to look up to me if they've got a question on a play. I feel like I'll be there to help guide them."

Dobbins said he's looking forward to the opportunity to lead Winterboro to even greater heights.

"I feel like we have something to prove," he said. "We're a very overlooked football team as far as talent. Everyone that beat us last year, I want to go back and beat them. I just want the chance to win."



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Munford



Pell City



Talladega

The main focus is making us better men, good fathers, better Christians, not just football players. Life is not just about the game of football, it is about can you be a better person once you get past high school and college. -- Tanner Reeves, Munford



Winterboro



Talladega

We had an embarrassment when we went to Montgomery Academy and we are not going to forget it. They might as well get ready because we are going to be ready. That right there is going to happen. -- B.B. Comer coach Mike Battles Sr.



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Munford

Giving glory to Him and being an example to all the people that come out here and watch the games. That's what we do. -- Brodie Holli-day, Victory Christian

It is a good feeling, football season is finally here. It is just a great feeling. -- TCC's Kylan Cross



Lincoln



Pell City

My first thought is I hope the other players' mommas aren't looking whenever we're out there, because they're about to get destroyed. -- Chase Carlee, CVA

Our expectations are high but our goal is to be the best Munford team that we can possibly be. If we do that we will have a chance for an excellent season. -- Munford coach Bill Smith



Talladega



Winterboro

Maybe it is me, but I don't think we are going to play many teams that are going to be as talented as us, so I have to figure out what the problem is. What do we have to do to have the type of season that we need to have, because it is not talent. -- TCC coach Chris Mahand



Sylacauga



Childersburg

"We're a very overlooked football team as far as talent. Everyone that beat us last year, I want to go back and beat them." -- Omar Dobbins, Winterboro QB

"I want to see everyone work hard in practice. I want our motto to be 'Unselfish' as a team." -- Payton Stults, ASD

"The biggest thing, and this is to these seniors, is you don't get another one." -- Dane Reece, CVA

"To get two wins last year helped leading into this year because we don't want to have that bad taste in our mouths once, at all." -- Chase Carlee, CVA



Lincoln



Winterboro

"It's just the thrill. The thrill, you can't put it in words. It just puts you in the moment. You're just ready to go there and knock heads out of the way." -- Ron Dorthard, Talladega

"Some of the guys (and I) have talked about it, and our goal is try to win one game per week." -- Harrison Cheatwood, Victory Christian



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