

Reedy LIONS

For the second time since Reedy first opened its doors in 2015, the Lions went undefeated in district play, and that's in addition to winning 12 games and going three rounds deep in the Class 5A Division I playoffs.

Head coach Chad Cole said a big reason behind the team's success was because he had a "bunch of hard-working kids" that "looked out for each other" and preached a team concept. He has noticed a similar vibe among this year's group of Lions.

Reedy lost several key players to graduation



PLAYER to watch

KAHLIL SMITH LINEBACKER

The leadership and skill set of Smith has been compared to Will Harbour. Harbour, a captain of the Naval Academy's football team, was one of the cornerstones in the first few seasons in the history of the Lions football team. Smith finished with more than 60 tackles and three tackles for loss last season, three sacks and eight quarterback hurries. He is the younger brother of 2022 Reedy graduate Kaleb Smith.

and most of its returning experience will be on defense.

The heart and soul of the Lions' defense is senior "Mike" linebacker Kahlil Smith. Cole put Smith in the same category as

2020 Reedy alum Will Harbour, a team captain for the Naval Academy football team. Junior Luca Akirtava will be counted on to bring pressure for a Lions defense that averaged more than three sacks per game last season. Cole said that Smith and senior Andrew Sanchez work well together for the linebacker position.

Seniors Justus Henry and Christopher Bush, who played tight end last year, will bring the pressure at defensive end.

Reedy has a secondary with a lot of speed. Junior safeties Cade Hebel and Cooper Clabo will guard the middle of the field, while senior Seth Johnson will line up at cornerback. Junior cornerback Josiah



PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY THORN

Fuksa will continue the family's legacy at Reedy. He will take over the primary duties from senior Devin Hardy. Hardy has been moved to running back.

Offensively, the Lions had to replace its top skill players but Cole is confident that their backups will be ready to carry the torch.

Junior Jake Ferner and senior Braden Hernandez are battling it out to earn the starting quarterback

job. Senior Connor McGrath, who was the Lions' No. 4 pass-catcher last year behind Kaleb Smith, Dennis Moody and AJ Jayroe, will be the top target in the passing game. Memorial transfer Braylon Evans, a junior, is expected to also be a factor.

Reedy welcomes back Tennessee commit Max Anderson, Furman pledge Noah Akinsola, Gavin Heberle and Jacob Shilson on the offensive line.

Varsity SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	Azle	Toyota Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 1	Denison	Munson Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Lone Star	Toyota Stadium	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Wakeland	Ford Center at The Star	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Liberty	Ford Center at The Star	7 p.m.
*Sept. 29	Centennial	Kuykendall Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Lebanon Trail	Kuykendall Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Sherman	Kuykendall Stadium	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Frisco	Ford Center at The Star	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Heritage	Toyota Stadium	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	BYE		

*Homecoming

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