

# Jackets ready to tackle challenges



The 2006 Rockmart Yellow Jackets Football Team

## Yellow Jackets 2006 Roster

No.	Name	Class	No.	Name	Class
1	De'Andre Blackmon	Sr.	44	Jesse Purser	So.
2	James Anderson	So.	45	Rusty Epperson	So.
3	Ray Rowland	Sr.	46	Eric Young	So.
4	Roger Glover	Sr.	47	Tyler Streetman	Jr.
5	Brandon Haywood	So.	48	Kaylor Head	Fr.
6	Tevin Clark	Fr.	50	Josh Duff	Sr.
7	Madison Moss	Sr.	51	Brandon Deems	Jr.
8	Devin Jones	So.	52	Dustin Rainey	Sr.
9	Corey Miller	So.	53	Brandon Barnette	Jr.
10	Dylan Payne	So.	54	Chase Hill	Jr.
11	Orion Rowland	Fr.	55	Daniel Wright	Sr.
12	Josh Willis	Jr.	56	Eric Elrod	Sr.
13	Monty Hames	So.	57	Aaron McCarthy	Sr.
14	Clint Summerville	So.	58	Chris Campbell	So.
15	Robert Stocks	Jr.	59	Chase Pinion	Sr.
16	Brashaun Knaff	Sr.	60	A.J. Brown	Fr.
17	Tadj Bradley	Sr.	61	Jesse Middlebrooks	Sr.
18	Tommy High	Sr.	62	Matt Robinson	Fr.
19	Jarrett Thompson	Jr.	63	Dustin Guzman	Sr.
20	T.J. Roberts	Sr.	64	Caleb Campbell	So.
21	Kristopher Barnette	Jr.	65	Ashmiee Kent	Sr.
22	Lamar Mitchell	Jr.	66	Greg Edwards	Jr.
23	Michael Ledbetter	So.	67	Cody Singleton	Fr.
24	Trey Smith	So.	68	Cody Rayburn	So.
25	Daniel Belman	So.	69	Josh Wilkes	Jr.
26	Tyler Fuqua	So.	70	Cody Pope	Jr.
28	Justin Stocks	So.	71	John Torline	So.
29	Jacob Rampley	So.	72	Adam Nalley	So.
30	Casey Blackmon	Fr.	73	Justin Lumpkin	So.
31	Kyle Trout	Sr.	74	Ethan McCarley	So.
32	Frankie Scott	Sr.	75	Jonathan Smith	Jr.
33	Josh Matthews	Jr.	76	Tyler Williams	So.
34	Clint Leatherwood	So.	77	Evan Reeves	So.
35	Devon Hall	Fr.	78	Cliff McClure	Jr.
36	Rodney Ramey	Sr.	79	Jesse Pope	Fr.
37	Corey Lipham	Fr.	80	Brad Brumbelow	Sr.
38	James Wilson	So.	85	Dylan Harp	So.
40	Shawn Cotton	So.	86	Gary Crane	So.
42	Lorenzo Johnson	Fr.	87	Terian Beavers	Fr.
			89	Matthew Hurley	So.

## Coach Duff enters fifth season as coach

By JEREMY STEWART  
Rockmart Sports Editor

This time a year ago, the Rockmart Yellow Jackets were eagerly awaiting the start of what they hoped would be a season of change.

By the end, confidence had been restored in the players and the community as the 2005 Jackets turned in a 7-3 regular season record in Region 6-AA, now 7-AA, and ended a 16-year long absence from the playoffs.

Now they are planning their follow-up and believe that they have the talent to see the postseason again and tackle a whole new set of challenges.

Dan Duff is entering his fifth season as Rockmart's head coach and has now seen a complete class of players start out as freshmen and reap the benefits of their hard work in their senior season.

Now, he has another large group of seniors brimming with experience that are looking forward to leaving their mark in their final year.

"We had good seniors last year who did a lot of things for us but we've got kids this year who have worked hard and can step right in," Duff said.

"Our kids are hungry. They made the state playoffs last year and there's a

sense of, 'Hey, we want to get back and we want to get further.'"

The Jackets will play 21 seniors this season and 15 juniors, all of which have seen a fair amount of playing time.

But Duff is hoping that some of the 32 sophomores on the team will be able to step in when called upon in order to give the team the depth that he would like.

"Speed is our strength right now but we have as much size as we've ever had as well," he said. "I'm excited about the possibilities that we have. We've got a lot of kids out there with a lot of enthusiasm."

Last season, standout LaTrenton Peek became the key weapon for Rockmart, tallying over 1,600 yards and 22 touchdowns while averaging 145 yards a game his senior year.

With Peek gone, the Jackets are set to find other means of getting points on the board and are prepared to try different techniques on the field.

"I think we're going to be a more balanced team than we've been in the past," Duff said. "Our running game is going to be as strong as it was last year but our passing game is going to be much stronger."

Madison Moss heads into the season as one of the few returning starting quarter-

backs in the region after finishing his junior year with 620 yards passing. He is beginning his third season as the Jackets' No. 1 signal caller.

"What that allows you to do is to check plays a lot and he'll be given a lot more freedom to check us into good plays," Duff said. "And he's got the experience to know how to do that and when to do that so that's going to be good for us."

Proven back-up QB De'Andre Blackmon will also be back for his senior but will see more time at wide receiver and in the secondary.

The player that Duff is most looking forward to see tested behind center is sophomore Brandon Haywood who comes with an impressive reputation from his time on the junior varsity squad.

"We've got three kids who could go in there and start for us right now," Duff said. "We're fortunate with the kind of depth we have in that spot."

At running back, the Jackets will see seniors Roger Glover and T.J. Roberts carry the ball as well as junior Tadj Bradley.

"Tadj is going to be a lot like LaTrenton," Duff said. "He's got the speed and he's got the strength so we're solid there."

Rockmart's greatest depth is at the line of scrimmage as returning starters like center Josh Duff, Dustin Rainey, Eric Elrod and Ashmiee Kent make up a fast front assault.

"Our linemen are going to be strong and they're going to be in shape," Duff said. "Both front lines are going to be crucial to our season."

On defense, Roberts will be primed to continue his performance at linebacker after leading the team in tackles for the last two seasons.

"T.J. is just an annihilator," Duff said. "He is a difference-maker for both sides of the ball. Our defense will be strong and he's going to be a big part of that."

Other contributors to the Jackets defense include Glover, who had 30 tackles last season as part of the secondary, and Daniel Wright, who will finish his career on the line.

Senior place kicker Brad Brumbelow has been Rockmart's kicker since he was a freshman and will be a constant for the Jackets' kicking game as well as seeing time as a receiver and defensive back.

Junior Josh Matthews comes on to replace punter Blake Matthews on the special teams and Aaron McCarthy will be utilized as well.

With the sub-division in Region 7-AA, Rockmart will take advantage of not having an all-region schedule and be able to play cross-county rival Cedartown.

It will be the first time in seven years that the two squads will meet in the regular season.

"I think, in football, playing a rival is part of the game," Duff said. "That's

fun to be able to do and both sides will enjoy that.

"I know that when I was at West Rome and we played East Rome it was just one of the greatest games of the year."

Of course, with the sub-regions, split into North and South, playoff spots are given out equally, with the top two teams in each sub-

region heading into the postseason.

"There's going to be some good football teams left at home and we don't want to be one of those," Duff said. "But we'll just have to deal with that. The only thing we can do is just go out there every Friday night and win. It's in our hands."

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### On the cover:

Cedartown High School Head Coach Mark Loudermilk, left, and Rockmart High School Head Coach Dan Duff, right, are featured on this year's cover of the Polk County Pigskin Preview.

Loudermilk is flanked by five of the Cedartown's top players. They are, left to right: Brandon Green, Van Hunt, Justin Gibson, Sam Tomlinson and Antuavios "Tway" Robinson.

The top five Rockmart players are shown to the right of Duff. They are, left to right, Tadj Bradley, T.J. Roberts, Roger Glover, Madison Moss and De'Andre Blackmon.

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