

2008 PIGSKIN PREVIEW



CEDARTOWN

Bulldogs keep working ethic

By Brad Easterwood
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CEDARTOWN — The Cedartown Bulldogs are in a position that they haven't been in for a while now.

They are entering into a season with a lot of expectations and a real chance of competing for the Region 6-AAA championship.

However, with the change of expectations comes the new challenge for head coach Mark Loudermilk and that is to keep his team focused and determined.

"We can't forget what took us from winless in 2006 to a five-win and playoff team in 2007 and that was hard work," said Loudermilk, the 2007 Rome News-Tribune Coach of the Year. "A perfect example came in our two biggest wins last year over Villa Rica and Cartersville."

"Both of those teams had better athletes than we did, but we wanted it more and worked harder to win."

"We can have a good season this year but we can't get relaxed or overly confident, we've got to continue to work hard and that means in the weight room, on the practice field and in meeting rooms. We've got to keep our blue-collar, hard-working attitude."

Loudermilk said he expects his team to do just that, but that he and his coaching staff will not let up on them in an effort to make sure this team builds off last year's state playoff berth.



Cedartown coach Mark Loudermilk and the Bulldogs reached the playoffs in 2007.

"We've just got to keep pushing and doing the little things right. We accomplished a lot of positive stuff last year, but we can't live off that," Loudermilk said. "If we continue to mature and work hard, we can accomplish even more things this season. But we've got to remember what got us to this position and that's hard work."

Defensively this year, Cedartown will be playing a "50' front."

"We think by moving to the '50' it will utilize our personnel better," Loudermilk said. "We have a good bunch of players to put on the defensive line. I feel good about that unit this year."

The defensive ends will be Demetrius Green, who made the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Top 150, along with Greg Davenport.

Anthony Crawford and Najee Hemphill will be the defensive tackles and Dylan Little is in line to start at nose guard.

"We've got some strong kids on the defensive line," Loudermilk said.

A group of players are still competing to see who emerges as the starting linebackers. Daniel Williams appears to have a hold on one spot, but Jamar Whatley, John Popham, Kimothy Jones and Dylan Simmons are battling it out for the other starting spot.

"I'm a little worried about our linebacking corps right now but it is only because they haven't gotten much varsity experience yet," Loudermilk said. "All of them are good athletes."

In the secondary, Tony Hutchins and Rodman Battle have been named the starting cornerbacks while Brooklyn Cotton will get playing time backing up both players.

Brandon Brown, another Atlanta Journal-Constitution Top 150 player, will play one of the

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Cedartown Bulldogs (from left) Brandon Brown, Anthony Crawford, Darius Green and Demetrius Green.

safety spots and Andrew Forrister is leading the way to start as the other safety.

Offensively, the Bulldogs will continue to run the triple-option offense.

"We lost a great player in (quarterback) Van Hunt to graduation but we've got all our other skill position players back," Loudermilk said.

Hayden Privett has taken the reigns as the new starting quarterback and Loudermilk had nothing but good things to say about the quick, athletic signal-caller.

"He's excellent at running the option," Loudermilk said. "We are still working with him in the passing game, but he will get better with time in that department. But as far as running the option, he's doing very well."

Loudermilk noted that Andrew Henderson, Chan Borders and Brown are backing Privett up this fall.

At fullback, or B-back as it is called in the triple-option offense, John Poulin appears to have a lock on the starting job. However, Whatley and Jones are putting pressure on him for playing time.

"We've got a good competition going at B-back," Loudermilk said. "I think Poulin will probably start but Whatley and Jones will get playing time."

At wingback, or A-back, Cedartown returns both its starters from last fall and those are the Green twins, Demetrius and Darius.

"Both of the Green twins are back as starters and I expect big things from them this year," Loudermilk said. "We've also let Brown get some snaps there and Whatley, Popham, Cotton and Battle could see time there spell-

ing the starters." The wideout positions seem to be a strong suit for Cedartown.

Justin Price, who starts on the basketball team, has also impressed Loudermilk in fall practice and should get playing time. Nick Calfee, Avery Privett and Devon Watkins are also competing for the coach's attention at wide-out.

In the trenches, Loudermilk says he has a good group of players.

"They've looked good," Loudermilk said. "They are ahead of where we were this time last year."

Adam Moore will be the starting center, letterman Dadrian Collier returns at right guard and returning starter Cody Bailey is back at left guard. Rudy Alford and C.J. Landers are in a battle for the starting right tackle position, and Little appears to have a hold on the left tackle spot though Davenport could see time there.

"I came into this year wanting us to have 22 starters, 11 each on offense and defense," Loudermilk said. "We've gotten close to that. We've got 18 starters."

"We do have some guys who will start on one side of the ball and be the backup and get playing time on the other, but for the most part we've got some depth and can't get guys this year unlike last season."

In the kicking game, Salvador Cruz and Rury Torres are competing for playing time.

Poulin is returning as punter.

"As long as we don't develop that me attitude we can have a good season," Loudermilk said.

2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	at Rockmart
Sept. 5	Pepperell
Sept. 12	Coosa
Sept. 19	at Chattooga
Sept. 26	Ridgeland
Oct. 3	Open
Oct. 10	Central, Carroll
Oct. 17	at Haralson County
Oct. 24	at Cartersville
Oct. 31	Carrollton
Nov. 7	Region Playoff

2008 ROSTER

2	Devin Watkins	So.
3	Najawon Stallworth	Fr.
4	Demetrius Green	Sr.
5	Brandon Brown	Sr.
7	Mark Harris	Fr.
8	Tony Hutchins	Sr.
9	Chan Borders	Fr.
10	Zach Chubb	Fr.
11	Darius Green	Sr.
12	Tyler Rhodes	Fr.
13	John Poulin	Jr.
15	Andrew Henderson	So.
16	Salvador Cruz	Jr.
18	Hayden Privett	Jr.
19	Nick Calfee	Sr.
20	D.K. Washington	Fr.
21	Marquis Thomas	Fr.
22	Brooklyn Cotton	So.
23	Justin Price	Sr.
24	Andrew Arenciba	Fr.
25	Demonta Boone	Jr.
28	John Popham	Sr.
29	Andrew Forrester	Jr.
30	Avery Privett	So.
32	Kimothy Jones	So.
34	Jamar Whatley	Sr.
36	Anthony Crawford	Sr.
37	Rodman Battle	So.
42	Xavier Pace	Fr.
50	Lance Ellison	Fr.
51	Aaron Wade	Fr.
52	Greg Davenport	Sr.
53	Jordan Keene	Jr.
54	Najee Hemphill	Sr.
55	Cody Bailey	Sr.
56	Rudy Alford	So.
57	Dylan Simmons	Fr.
58	Dylan Little	Sr.
59	Daniel Williams	Jr.
60	Kevin Lara	Jr.
63	Sean Borders	Fr.
64	Brett Cochran	Fr.
65	Brett Haney	So.
66	C.J. Landers	Jr.
67	Seth Spann	Fr.
69	Dadrian Collier	Sr.
72	Ryan Gokey	Sr.
74	Adam Moore	So.
75	Travis Darden	So.
77	Kyle Roggow	Fr.
81	Rury Torres	Jr.
83	Andrew Holman	Sr.



ADAIRSVILLE

Tigers take on West Coast look

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ADAIRSVILLE — Grant DeBruin has moved on, but that doesn't mean the Adairsville football team has abandoned its passing attack.

Rather, the Tigers have just altered it.

With the nimble and speedy Tyre Brown set to be the signal caller, the Tigers have adopted a scaled-down version of the West Coast offense, and they will put an emphasis on short passes.

It will be a much different look for the Adairsville squad, which relied heavily on the deep ball during the past three years with DeBruin at quarterback.

"We're trying to do things that allow us to take advantage of Tyre's athleticism," said second-year head coach Mark Arthur of the Tigers, who went 7-3 last season and narrowly missed the playoffs. "We want to (run an offense) that fits into what Tyre does best, and best fits his style."



Adairsville head coach Mark Arthur's Tigers have the tools and talent to be a contender.

Brown will be surrounded by a gifted cast of pass-catchers, including wide receiver Vic Beasley, tight end Catlin Alford and running back Niagel Curtis.

All three will be among the primary targets for Brown, who has impressed the Adairsville coaching staff in the past few months.

"We've been very pleased with what we've seen from Tyre in the preseason," said Arthur of Brown, who started all 10 games at cornerback last season and will play that position again this year. "And it's nice to know that he'll have (Beasley) and (Alford) to help him be successful."

Beasley, a junior, has already made some remarkable catches in his career, and is primed to become a go-to receiver. Possessing tremendous leaping abilities, Beasley is a danger to any opposing defense.

"He's really starting to come into his own," said Arthur. "He's definitely a kid who can make a play for us."

Curtis is likewise a big playmaker for the Tigers. The junior rushed for almost 850 yards last year and will likely put up even bigger numbers this season.

"He's getting better as he goes along," said Arthur. "As a young back, he had a tendency to give up on a play before it developed. Now he does a better job of waiting for the holes to open."

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Adairsville Tigers (from left) Catlin Alford, Vic Beasley, Tyre Brown and Niagel Curtis.

In addition to Curtis, the Tigers will also be counting on tailbacks Chris Cowart and Kaleb Harp.

"Chris is not a break-away guy, but he sees the holes well," said Arthur, "and Kaleb is a big, physical back that runs hard between the tackles."

Dylon Holtman and Kenly Rogers will handle the full-back duties. They will be used primarily as blockers, although Arthur said, "we don't mind handing the ball to either one of them. They are both productive backs."

The Tigers are plenty deep at wide receiver, with Beasley, Cymon Farmer and Ethan Perry.

"Cymon has great hands and runs good routes," said Arthur, "and Ethan is a guy who has just caught everything thrown to him during the preseason. He wasn't used on offense at all last season, but he has shown he is ready for that now."

Up front, Adairsville will be anchored by Dylan Rogers at center. He will be joined by a bulky group that includes Khalis McConnell (left tackle), Casey Starcher (left guard) and Tevin Pullum (right guard). Malcolm Creamer and Jake Parker will play-toon at right tackle.

All the members of that group played varsity minutes last season, but Arthur said the Tigers need "to develop more depth" on the O-line.

As for the defensive line, the Tigers have two of the most menacing players in the region: McConnell and Alford.

"Those are our two most dominating players on that side of the ball," said Arthur.

Alford, a workhorse in the weight room, looks to be on the path toward a college career. Arthur said no Adairsville player has been able to contain him during the preseason.

"He disrupts practice because we can't run any plays in his direction," said Arthur, smiling. "He just blows up every play we try to run."

Will Mansfield, who is back from a knee injury, is expected to see time on the defensive line, along with Dylan Rogers, Parker and Beasley.

The linebacking core will feature Holtman, a returning starter, along with Kenly Rogers, Harp and Pullum.

In the secondary, the Tigers will have Perry (another returning starter) at one corner, with Brown and Curtis sharing time at the other corner. The safeties will be Cowart, Farmer and Eli Nations. (Na-

2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	at Woodland
Sept. 5	at West Forsyth
Sept. 12	Ringgold
Sept. 19	Open
Sept. 26	Model
Oct. 3	Dade County
Oct. 10	Gordon Central
Oct. 17	at Chattooga
Oct. 24	at Sonorville
Oct. 31	Calhoun
Nov. 7	Region Playoff

2008 ROSTER

1	Tyré Brown	Jr.
2	Eli Nations	Jr.
3	Vic Beasley	Jr.
4	Cymon Farmer	Sr.
5	Niagel Curtis	Jr.
6	Brandon Cochran	So.
7	Jeremiah Smith	So.
11	Caleb Harp	Sr.
12	Tripp Abernathy	Jr.
14	Landon Brady	Jr.
17	William Younie	Sr.
19	Kenly Rogers	Sr.
20	Ethan Perry	Jr.
21	Chris Cowart	Sr.
30	Mason Gladney	Sr.
31	Josh Davis	Jr.
34	Dylan Holtman	Sr.
37	Jordan Brock	Jr.
48	Aaron Hooks	So.
50	Dylan Rogers	Jr.
51	Tevon Pullum	Jr.
54	Khalis McConnell	Sr.
57	Drake Collum	Jr.
63	Will Mansfield	Sr.
64	Andrew Litton	Jr.
68	Jake Parker	Sr.
71	Dallas Creamer	Jr.
73	Casee Starcher	Sr.
74	Malcom Creamer	Sr.
75	Rick Temples	So.
77	Colby Carter	Jr.
87	Catlin Alford	Jr.

tions is also the backup quarterback). The Tigers' kicking game is a work in progress, as the team looks for a replacement for former kicker/punter Sam Ryan, who is now playing soccer at Southern Poly.