

2008 PIGSKIN PREVIEW



CALHOUN

Jackets reload with new stars

By Rick Winters
Rome News-Tribune Sports Writer

CALHOUN — Calhoun will look to rebound from its second round loss in the 2007 state playoffs this season but will have to do it with some key components missing from the Yellow Jacket machine.

Gone is quarterback Tre Lamb and running back Adam Urbano, who combined for the majority of the Jackets' offense last year. Also gone is top defensive player Nick Davison and kicker Andy Elakman.

All four players are now in college and it brings to question, what does the future hold for the Calhoun football team now?

Well, one thing is for certain — Hal Lamb is still there. And if Lamb is there, then there is always a bright future.

The Jackets this year have replaced a team that relied heavily on its star players with what could be the most depth the team has ever experienced.

Calhoun has three promising quarterbacks this season with 2007 backup Michael Johnson leading the way.

"We have a battle going on at quarterback," said Lamb.

"Johnson is currently in the lead but we also have Landon Curtis and Blane Beaver. This is the most depth we have ever had at the quarterback position."

The team also has a lot of its offensive line back, with a surplus of backups, and Lamb even went as far to say that this year's offensive line was the best he has ever coached.

Returning up front are seniors Rhett Jackson, David Clemons, Justin Gron, Tyler Davidson, Duke Pierson and Cody Berry.

"This is a senior line and they provide a tremendous amount of leadership," added Lamb.

Filling in for Urbano this fall will be a string of four running backs. Dustin Christian, Kedron Aker and Kelby Holbrook will carry most of the load.

However, Daniel McArthur, who demonstrates his speed as a designated runner every year on the baseball team, will also get his share of carries.

The Jackets, not surprisingly, also carry a lot of depth at wide receiver: Deshawn Printup, McArthur, Chaz McCormick, Cody Ralston, Rhett McGowan, Da'Rick Rogers, Derek Ramsey and J.T. Palmer.

"We have a lot of kids at that position that can catch a football," said Lamb. "We feel very blessed in that position."

Defense is no exception to the excess of talent on the field for Calhoun.

The defensive line will be lead by returning seniors Eric McDaniels and Bryce Reed.

Ralston, Zach Bradley, James Hunt, Josh White, Cart-

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Calhoun Yellow Jackets (from left) David Clemons, Rhett Jackson, Eric McDaniels and Rhett McGowan.

'This is the toughest schedule we've had since I've been here.'

Hal Lamb
Calhoun head coach

er Harrison and Holbrook will fill the linebacker need.

McGowan and David Collins will play free safety and a host of kids will fill the outside linebacker position.

Adam Griffith has been assigned to fill the big shoes of Elakman and before him Scott Blair, both of whom are currently with Georgia Tech.

"We lost two good kickers in back-to-back years. Because of that our kicking game has taken a big hit," said Lamb. "Those two players were college kickers and though Griffith (Fr.) has been impressive so far he is not yet as good as those guys."

Lamb went on to say, that he believes Griffith has the ability to reach Blair and Elakman's level.

The Jackets will need their depth for the opening of their season, where they will face one of the toughest schedules in the first four weeks.

The teams they will play in those weeks were a combined 27-15 last year and three of the teams are in a higher class.

Dalton is AAAA, Ridgeland is AAA and Cartersville is AAA.

The Jackets drew a tough crossover game with Coosa on the fourth week.

"This is the toughest schedule since I have been here. We could go 0-3 to start the season and still be a pretty good team," said Lamb.

"Anytime you play teams like Dalton, Ridgeland and Cartersville, and then you throw in Coosa and a scrimmage with Rome... I don't know who scheduled this but they need their head examined."

The tough schedule came about first because Lamb could not find any opponents willing to play his team and second because he has always been of the mindset that those tough games early on can help a team as the season progresses.

After Coosa the Jackets have some interesting games to look forward to, most notably the in-county games with Sonoraville and Gordon Central.

Calhoun will also be battling with Adairsville for the Community Cup, a game which may have even bigger importance since its the last regular-season game and may determine either team's playoff future.

"I think the Cup is a pretty awesome idea and it gives us an extra incentive to win," said Lamb. "We have mentioned it a little bit to the kids and as the games grow near we will talk about it a little bit more."

"This will be a good thing for the community."

2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	at Dalton
Sept. 5	Ridgeland
Sept. 12	Cartersville
Sept. 19	Open
Sept. 26	Coosa
Oct. 3	at Gordon Central
Oct. 10	Chattooga
Oct. 17	Sonoraville
Oct. 24	at Dade County
Oct. 31	at Adairsville
Nov. 7	Region Playoff

2008 ROSTER

1	Ben Lamb	Fr.	52	Bryce Reed	Sr.
2	Landon Curtis	So.	53	Justin Harris	Sr.
3	J.T. Palmer	So.	54	Shun Kidd	Sr.
4	Deshawn Printup	Sr.	55	Zach Bradley	Jr.
5	Dustin Christian	So.	56	Chase Bradley	Jr.
6	Justin Lindsey	Sr.	57	Colton Greeson	Jr.
7	James Hunt	Sr.	58	Eric McDaniel	Sr.
8	Daniel McArthur	Sr.	59	Jacob King	So.
9	Rhett McGowan	Sr.	60	John Barton	Sr.
10	Kedron Aker	Jr.	61	Justin Gron	Sr.
11	Casey Edwards	Jr.	62	Matt Warren	Jr.
12	Derek Ramsey	Sr.	63	Gus Roberts	So.
13	Da'Rick Rogers	Jr.	64	Garrett Holland	Jr.
14	Blane Beaver	Jr.	65	Tucker Smith	Jr.
15	Taylor Meadows	Jr.	66	Tyler Cooper	So.
16	Josh White	Jr.	67	Austin Richardson	Jr.
17	Sam Maldonado	Jr.	68	Marcello Audino	Fr.
18	Michael Johnson	Jr.	69	Cody Berry	Sr.
19	Chaz McCormick	Sr.	70	David Garza	Sr.
20	Andrew Fielding	Sr.	71	Cody Silvers	Jr.
21	Carter Harrison	Jr.	72	Tyler King	Fr.
22	Brett Walraven	Jr.	73	Duke Pierson	Sr.
23	Mann Daniel	So.	74	Josh Fowler	Jr.
24	Alex Kirby	Fr.	75	Rhett Jackson	Sr.
25	Trent Frix	Fr.	76	Oscar Vallardares	So.
26	Austin Norrell	Fr.	77	Tyler Davidson	Sr.
27	Hunter Knight	Fr.	78	Slader Pierce	Jr.
28	Cameron Budzius	Jr.	79	David Clemons	Sr.
29	Josh Worley	So.	80	Josh Powell	Fr.
30	Jacob Young	So.	81	Clay Johnson	Fr.
31	Derrick Collins	So.	82	Logan Daniel	Fr.
32	Cody Ralston	Jr.	83	Garrison Pasley	So.
33	Aric Bunch	Jr.	84	Timmy Jones	So.
34	Kelby Holbrook	Jr.	85	Chance Beaver	So.
35	Blake Urbano	Fr.	87	Thomas Haynes	Fr.
36	Josh Schubert	Fr.	88	Swayze Johnson	So.
37	Ian Carmichael	So.	89	Kyle Harrison	So.
38	David Collins	Jr.	90	T.J. Jones	Fr.
39	Connor Stewart	Sr.	91	Alex Haynes	So.
40	Darius Washington	Fr.	93	Caden Parker	So.
41	Reed Allen	Fr.	94	Blake Miller	Fr.
42	Heath Everett	Fr.	95	Marcus Sides	Fr.
43	Garrett Saylor	Fr.	97	Kord Allen	Fr.
44	Ryan Marshall	Fr.	98	Tony Hernandez	Fr.
45	Erick Escobar	So.	99	Adam Griffith	Fr.
46	Jacob Fowler	Jr.			



CHATTOOGA

Tested Indians set for warpath

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SUMMERVILLE — The Chattooga Indians can take comfort in a lot of things this season with a team led by 36 juniors and seniors that have performed well in the past.

But head coach John Starr is looking to bring his team to a new level in his 12th season at the helm and is emphasizing improvement to his players.

"We're pretty fortunate to have a number of kids back on both sides of the ball," Starr said. "We're just hoping that the guys that started for us last year continue to improve."

Chattooga has been a contender in Region 7-AA for many seasons, going to the postseason six of the last eight years.

But their last five trips to the playoffs have ended after the first round, something that Starr hopes the leadership and experience that will be on the field this season can alleviate.

Many players return from last year's team but the Indians will be without top players David Moore, David Covington, Jack McCutchins and Cody Boyd.

However, Starr and his staff

are excited about not starting any sophomores this season after eight 10th-graders got considerable playing time a year ago.

But there are still many sophomores that will be called upon, especially to help the Indians out on the depth chart.

"Our biggest concern is going to be depth as much as anything," Starr said. "We've got some experience on both sides of the ball, we just can't afford to lose anybody."

Even with a lack of size and bodies factoring into the equation, Starr still doesn't see it softening their reputation.

"Our personnel dictates some of what we do, but at the end of the day, we still want to be able to run the football," Starr said. "That's kind of been our trademark and it's what we pride ourselves on."

Heading up the group that will work to continue that tradition is four-year starter Charlie Starr who ran for 526 yards and six touchdowns as a junior in 2007.

The Indians' leading rusher, Seniorise Perry, is back for his junior year after breaking out for 990 yards and nine touchdowns last season while Fabian Brown will look to take a few handoffs as well.

Chattooga will have an experienced quarterback in junior Jared Nelson after he took over for McCutchins partway through 2007 when the senior was utilized elsewhere on the field.

"(Nelson) started several games for us last year and really has shown some improvement over time and we're hoping that he'll really put

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Chattooga Indians (from left) Ryan Hamilton, Jared Nelson, Seniorise Perry and Charlie Starr.

'At the end of the day, we still want to be able to run the football.'

John Starr
Chattooga head coach

together a good year for us," Starr said.

He'll split time with fellow junior Rashad Ramsey behind center as the Indians continue their two-quarterback offense.

Senior wide receiver Nic Perry returns to a group that, while not the core of Chattooga's offense, will be utilized.

"We do feel like we have a couple of guys that can go down the field, if we need them to, and make some plays for us," Starr said.

Much of the offensive line will look familiar to Indian fans as new right tackle Bradley Black joins Jacob Dotson, Tyler Buice, Ryan Hamilton, who is now at center, and Jordan Brady, who is now at right guard.

Chattooga has a different situation on the defensive front as they will play several kids but will have Deshaun Williams back and a crop of newcomers like junior Taylor Hunter.

Spencer London and Dante Stewart return at defensive end and Starr hopes they continue making progress after a productive off-season.

Hamilton will start again at inside linebacker after posting 74 tackles and three sacks

as a junior. Filling in at outside linebacker is Seniorise Perry, who had 42 tackles and three interceptions, and Tracy McCutchins.

The Indians' secondary has a strong group of returners with Ramsey at one corner spot and Olajuwon Blair, who started a few games last season, at the other.

Nic Perry is set to be the free safety and is a senior that Starr thinks can make even more of an impact this season.

Bernardo Mosqueda will begin his second year as the Indians' placekicker and will handle all kickoffs, extra points and field goals.

"That's big for us having a guy that can knock one through," Starr said.

Seniorise Perry returns as the punter after winning out the duties from Mosqueda last season.

"This time last year, we were trying to figure out who could do what," Starr said. "Going into the season this year, we have an idea of where they are and their expectations are a little different."

With a region playoff system now in play and many teams retaining a number of their skill players, Starr says that this will be an interesting year but his players are ready.

"I think they understand where we are and where we're wanting to get to as well as anybody," Starr said of his players. "They've had a lot of focus coming into this year."

2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	Darlington
Sept. 5	at Allatoona
Sept. 12	Open
Sept. 19	Cedartown
Sept. 26	Armuchee
Oct. 3	at Sonoraville
Oct. 10	at Calhoun
Oct. 17	Adairsville
Oct. 24	at Gordon Central
Oct. 31	Dade County
Nov. 7	Region Playoff

2008 ROSTER

1	Alex Wilson
2	Rashad Ramsey
3	Charlie Starr
4	Lance Buice
5	Jared Nelson
6	Bernardo Mosqueda
7	Nate Schuster
8	Kyle Timmons
12	Josh Whitaker
13	Tracy McCutchins
14	Jesse Williams
15	Jeffery Smith
16	TJ Rutledge
17	Dominic Weems
19	Ricardo Price
20	Fabian Brown
21	D.J. Lavarious
24	Trent Elsberry
25	Olajuwon Blair
26	Chris King
27	Brandon Siffles
28	Bradley Black
29	Nic Perry
30	Aquil Hall
31	Collin Cooper
32	Seniorise Perry
33	Imani Christopher
34	Dante Stewart
37	Cody Siffles
41	Knico Pickett
42	Spencer London
44	Dedrick Martin
45	Tevin Smith
50	Ryan Hamilton
51	Jordan Brady
52	Ethan Herod
53	Chris Wilson
55	Braden Black
56	Harley Elliot
57	Tyler Buice
58	Tyler Hardin
59	Luke Brantley
60	Devin Curtis
62	Russell Smith
63	Josh Wilcox
64	Tyler Wilson
70	Jacob Dotson
71	Michael Parker
73	Luke Blackwell
74	Deshaun Williams
76	Mason Gilreath
77	Tyler Barr
78	Taylor Hunter
79	John Whitaker
81	Taylor Avant
86	Josh Farmer
89	Alex North