

2008 PIGSKIN PREVIEW



SONORAVILLE

Phoenix after R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By Rick Winters
Rome News-Tribune Sports Writer

SONORAVILLE — In the 2007 football season, Sonoraville High School was able to meet most of the goals set by head coach Chuck King.

Those goals were to stay competitive in the fourth quarter of games and to finally pull off the schools' first win on the gridiron.

This season King wants more than just the meager success of competition and wins. He wants respect.

"For all except maybe two games last year we stayed in the game," said King. "Now it is time to earn some respect. You can't just get respect in football, you have to take it and that is what we expect to do."

Looking to take respect for the first time will be a large senior class that is in its third year of competition at the varsity level.

"We have 16 seniors this year," added King. "They have worked hard and their expectations are great. They might not be the most talent bunch but they feel like they can play with anyone."

Leading the team this season will be three-year starting senior quarterback Y.J.

Glover. "Y.J. has really developed over the years," said King. "His speed has developed as well as his arm strength. All he needs to do is go out and have a couple of good games to start out with and his confidence will rise."

Protecting Glover will be what King considers one of the strengths of this year's team and that is the offensive line.

The O-line is also filled with many returning players that have grown bigger, stronger and wiser over the years.

Leading the position will be senior Tyler Thacker and junior Greg Mulkey. Thacker will play center and Mulkey will play left tackle.

"Tyler is a player that is worthy of some looks after high school (college ball)," said King. "Greg was probably our most consistent lineman over the last two years."

"He can run pretty well and is sharp mentally. He can help hold the line together and help the coaches make calls."

Other notable players on the O-line are Steven Chandler (Sr., guard), Ethan Wofford (Jr., guard) and Tyler Smith (Sr., right tackle).

"Stephen and Ethan have both gotten stronger," said King. "You will see Smith all over the field. He runs well and is the strongest guy in the weight program."

The Phoenix defensive line is not too shabby itself. Mulkey and Thacker will play both ways and will be joined by Isaiah Hatch (Sr.) and Corey Whitfield (Sr.).

Hatch broke into the lineup

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Sonoraville Phoenix (from left) Isaiah Hatch, Robby McAfee, Trent Payne and Tyler Thacker.

'Now it is time to earn some respect. You just can't get respect in football. You have to take it and that is what we expect to do.'

Chuck King
Sonoraville head coach

last year and about half way through the season began drawing double teams. Whitfield was ineligible last year as a transfer.

As far as other offensive and defensive threats, King stated that speed is a major difference between this year's team and previous years.

"It is all relative but when we first got here there was not a lot of speed to look at," said King. "Now we have speed in the backfield and speed on offense."

While talking about speed, King mentioned the following names: Robby McAfee (Sr.), Tevarious Washington (Sr.), Austin Williams (So.), Robert Morgan (Fr.), Shaqael McAfee (Sr.) and Zack Washington (So.).

Washington is a transfer from the powerhouse Dalton Catamounts and S. McAfee drew the highest praise from the coach as he was named the most athletic player on the team despite the fact that he is only a freshman.

"We have 10-15 freshmen this year," added King. "They are all good athletes, some will see playing time on Friday night."

As for the 2008 schedule, King believes that his four

non-region games are winnable.

"I don't think we should be classified as underdogs in our first few games," said King. "In fact, we should probably be even keel."

Of course, it won't be the four first games that will have Gordon County's attention. It probably won't even be the Calhoun game.

It will be a game that everyone wanted to see last year and they will finally get their chance with game number nine this season. The game is against cross-town county rival Gordon Central.

"I would love to get to that ninth game of the season against Gordon Central and have it mean something," said King. "But you can only play as hard as you can play, do things right and do what you have been coached to do, and the scoreboard should take care of itself."

As far as the Community Cup goes, "there is a cow bell in the mix of the local schools (Calhoun) and we would all like to catch it," said King. "We know what the community expectations are for each team and we would like to get in there and mess it up a little bit."

2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	at Heritage, Catoosa
Sept. 5	Jackson County
Sept. 12	at Southeast Whit field
Sept. 19	Temple
Sept. 26	Open
Oct. 3	Chattooga
Oct. 10	at Dade County
Oct. 17	at Calhoun
Oct. 24	Adairsville
Oct. 31	Gordon Central
Nov. 7	Region Playoff

2008 ROSTER

1	Tevarious Washington	Sr.	50	Tyler Smith	Sr.
2	Austin Williams	So.	51	Tyler Thacker	Sr.
3	Dalton Smith	Jr.	52	Cody Priest	Sr.
4	Shaqael McAfee	Fr.	53	Chris Angel	Jr.
5	Jacob Tow	So.	54	Bryce Dunn	So.
7	Tyler Brookshire	So.	55	Logan Masley	So.
8	Robert McAfee	Sr.	56	Aaron Hatch	Jr.
9	Gage Ferguson	So.	57	Noah Henson	Fr.
10	Ethan McCarley	Sr.	58	Alan Lumpkin	So.
11	Hosea Barnes	So.	61	Dakota Dendy	Fr.
12	Trent Payne	Sr.	62	Cody Self	So.
13	Y.J. Glover	Sr.	63	Jordan Ford	Fr.
14	Ryan Bess	Jr.	64	Andrew Coker	So.
15	Bly Jordan	Fr.	65	Tyler Smith	So.
16	Barak Ferguson	Fr.	66	Caleb Talley	So.
17	Caleb Hefner	So.	68	Travis Fitzwater	So.
18	Wade Stephenson	Jr.	69	Levi Storm	So.
20	Zach Washington	So.	70	Logan McDaniel	Jr.
22	Allen Smeed	Jr.	71	Benjamin Northrupp	So.
23	Shane Bridges	Jr.	72	Daniel Smallwood	Sr.
24	Brian Mobley	Fr.	73	Matt Flippen	Jr.
25	Paul McKnight	Fr.	74	James Rhinehart	So.
27	Logan French	Fr.	75	Matt Gilbert	So.
28	Shamarie McAfee	So.	76	Ethan Wofford	Jr.
30	Vincent Gross	Jr.	77	Greg Mulkey	Jr.
31	Chris Colburn	Jr.	78	Steven Chandler	Sr.
32	Robert Morgan	Fr.	80	Nathan Brooks	Sr.
33	Mike Hart	So.	81	Kenny Brooks	Sr.
34	Jake Benton	Sr.	82	Jacob Whitemore	Fr.
35	Alex Detlefsen	So.	84	Mitchell Turner	So.
36	Zane Holder	So.	86	Taylor Sims	Sr.
38	Tanner Harmon	Fr.	89	Jonathan Walraven	So.
41	Landon Ralston	Jr.	90	Morgan White	So.
42	Andrew Bingiel	So.	92	Josh Bowling	Fr.
45	Jacob Cook	Jr.	98	Corey Whitfield	Sr.
			99	Isaiah Hatch	Sr.



TRION

'Dogs building to regain form

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SONORAVILLE — The Trion Bulldogs have gone through a remodeling in the off-season.

Rebuilding Sam R. McCain Stadium from the ground up is only the superficial symbol of what the Region 6-A program hopes to do in 2008.

Since their run to the state semifinals in 2003, Trion has had some setbacks that include not winning a region game since 2004 and going 2-8 last season.

David Humphreys, the former Rome High head coach that started the Wolves on their run to six straight Region 7-AAAA titles in the early part of the decade, begins his first season of Class A ball with a new staff, a new plan and a new outlook.

"We're going to be a team that is a work in progress," Humphreys said. "Our guys, physically, have done about everything we've asked them to do. Mentally, is where

we're behind right now and we understand that."

Humphreys brought with him a distinct coaching staff that includes a number of familiar names to Northwest Georgia football fans, including defensive coordinator Scott Chandler and special teams coordinator Jon Lovin-good.

The Bulldogs will have a different look on the field with a triple option offense put in place and a more pressuring defensive scheme.

"There are a lot of question marks right now," Humphreys said.

"And the big question mark is, we feel like we've identified our players but where they all fit, in accordance with everybody else and what we can ask them to do, is what we're still having to get worked out."

Starting quarterback Daniel Prince will be back behind center for his senior year after he won the job last year when he threw for 659 yards and four touchdowns.

Also helping to provide experience on Trion's offense is running back Ryan Wilson and wide receiver Ethan Robinson.

Wilson, a junior, was the team's leading scorer and rusher a year ago with 42 points and 725 yards rushing.

Robinson leads a senior-heavy group that the Bulldogs have at wideout with Kyle

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Trion Bulldogs (from left) Rankin Bryan, Daniel Prince, Kencade Sumner and Ryan Wilson.

Millican and Trace Bethune coming back.

Tanner Heyer is a sophomore receiver and defensive back that stands at 6-foot-4 and won the team's IronDog title in the off-season.

"I think before it's over he could be real special," Humphreys said.

Senior Kencade Sumner will be the other halfback while Hayden Suits will be in the mix.

With only 56 total players, Trion will have many kids playing on both sides of the ball, giving their crop of five solid running backs something to be thankful for.

"I think calling guys starters is going to be kind of tongue-and-cheek because the rotation is going to be weekly depending on what our needs are defensively," Humphreys said.

Sophomore Lamar Lashley will get some playing time and Glenn Emery returns as an all-around weapon for the Bulldogs as a punter, running back and corner.

Returning center Zach Wallace is recovering from a broken ankle he sustained in the spring but should provide a solid core along with guards Zach Roden and Colt Moore.

"Probably our big concern,

like any team, is our offensive line," Humphreys said. "This being a new scheme and new coaches, they're being asked to do stuff that they've never been asked to do."

Jeremy Knowles and Ethan Sweet are back for their senior season at the tackle positions and Ramsey Thomas and Jared Holt will hold down the tight end spot.

Humphreys said the defense has been a revolving door of players as they deal with different schemes and situations.

Rankin Bryan, who played at quarterback some last year as a sophomore, will be in at safety as will Sumner while Heyer, Millican and Emery fill out the corners.

The Bulldogs have a list of linebackers for their three spots that include Roden, Nick Coker, Austin McGraw and Justin Baker.

The front line will include some fresh faces compared to the offensive front with Holt, Cassidy Houser, Jake White, David Matthews and Jon Reynolds coming on to provide pressure.

"We talk about everything being extreme," Humphreys said. "We have to work extremely hard — we couldn't just work hard — and we've done that."

2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	at Armuchee
Sept. 5	LaFayette
Sept. 12	Model
Sept. 19	at Gordon Central
Sept. 26	Mt. Zion, Carroll
Oct. 3	at Gordon Lee
Oct. 10	Open
Oct. 17	Bowdon
Oct. 24	at Walker
Oct. 31	Bremen
Nov. 7	at Darlington

2008 ROSTER

2	Glenn Emery	Jr.
3	Trace Bethune	Sr.
4	Hayden Tucker	So.
5	Daniel Prince	Sr.
6	Kencade Sumner	Sr.
7	Rankin Bryan	Jr.
8	Hayden Suits	Sr.
9	Cody Simpson	So.
10	Maverik Powell	Fr.
11	Kyle Millican	Sr.
12	Craig Caron	Jr.
14	Ethan Robinson	Sr.
15	Tony Floyd	So.
16	Vinicio Perez	Sr.
17	Tanner Heyer	So.
18	Hunter Reeves	Sr.
20	Ryan Wilson	So.
21	Ramsey Thomas	Sr.
22	Blake Bethune	Fr.
24	Travis Sweet	So.
25	Austin McGraw	So.
26	Shaun Mostiller	Fr.
27	Dylan Gary	So.
29	Devan Bruce	Fr.
30	Josh Smith	Fr.
32	Lamar Lashley	So.
33	Ashton Chandler	Fr.
35	Cole Sumner	Fr.
44	Nick Coker	So.
50	Zach Roden	Sr.
51	Zack Wallace	Sr.
52	Seth Gillum	So.
53	Jacob Smith	Jr.
54	Austyn Todd	Fr.
55	Dexter Blackmon	Sr.
56	Colt Moore	So.
57	Dewayne Daggett	So.
58	Brandon Wilson	Sr.
60	Trevor Hobbs	So.
61	Ethan Sweet	Sr.
62	Carter Logan	Fr.
63	Trevor Flanagan	Fr.
64	Cassidy Houser	Jr.
65	Jeremy Knowles	Sr.
66	Jake White	Sr.
68	Chais Helms	So.
75	Austin Greene	Fr.
76	David Matthews	Jr.
77	Jon Reynolds	Jr.
81	Jared Holt	Jr.
82	Taylor Elrod	Jr.
83	Eric Dover	Fr.
88	A.J. Eirick	Fr.
89	Josh Suggs	Fr.

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