

2008 PIGSKIN PREVIEW



# ARMUCHEE

## Indians shifting to different options

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Armuchee High has taken an "out with the old, in with the new" approach for the upcoming football season.

The Indians have a new offense, new goals and a new outlook, and head coach John Mullinax is hoping the changes will pay off.

"We've got new ideas and a new approach," Mullinax said. "Hopefully we'll get better every week."

The most noticeable change will be seen when the Indians take to the field on offense. Mullinax and the rest of the coaching staff threw out the team's usual Wing-T offense in favor of the triple option.

The new offense will allow the Indians to utilize important players on the team.

"I think there are three main things to make the triple option work," Mullinax said. "The offensive line are the guys that get the work done, the quarterback to make the reads on the triple option ... and the fullback."

Senior Richard Sims, sophomore Michael Velasquez and senior David Velasquez are the three fullbacks that will be relied on the most in the triple option.

Mullinax called them the strongest players on the team. They'll need that strength when the season begins Friday when the Indians host Trion.

"We're going to need them," Mullinax said.

Mullinax will rely on one of two quarterbacks to get the ball into the hands of the fullbacks.

Junior T.C. Boyd and senior Dalton Earwood will split time in the backfield. Mullinax has designated them both as first stringers.

The most important aspect of the triple option according to Mullinax is the offensive line.

"On the offensive line, we've got to find 10 guys that can play and interchange in and out," he said. "We don't have a lot of experience up there, but we have a lot of heart."

"They play with a lot of heart, guts and determina-

tion. They're the key."

While Mullinax hopes the new offense will bring immediate success for the Indians, who finished 3-7 last season, he says the triple option will be used at Armuchee for a long time.

"We're not a big team," Mullinax said. "We felt this suited the talent of the football team. It suited the Armuchee football team more than anything."

"With this offense, every week," he said, "the timing and the speed are going to get better and better because they'll be more familiar with it."

"By this time next year, they'll know it inside and out. It'll be here from now on."

Other important players on Armuchee's offense will be Kyle Davis, a three-year starter at wingback who stands at 6-foot-4 and weighs 240 pounds, and Davante Hudson, a junior wingback whose speed will be valuable to the Indians.

Hudson ran for 696 yards in 2007, while scoring five touchdowns on 85 attempts.

Davis rushed for 248 yards last season and one touchdown on 47 carries. He also caught 17 passes for 307 yards and five touchdowns, and had 48 tackles on defense.

An attitude change is also among the new things at Armuchee.

In previous years, Mullinax said he and his team focused too much on individuals. That won't be the case this season.

"The last half of the season, I feel like we took a step backward," said Mullinax, who is hoping to lead his team to their first winning season since 1999. "We didn't play as a team. That is priority No. 1."

### PLAYERS TO WATCH



Armuchee Indians (from left) T.C. Boyd, Kyle Davis, Dalton Earwood and Jake Schmidt.



File photo / Rome News-Tribune

Running back Davante Hudson gives the Armuchee Indians' new offensive look a speed threat for the new season.

"In the past, we put people on pedestals. This year, our whole team is going to be leaders. We want to talk about the Armuchee football team, rather than individual players."

One way they're going to focus on a team effort is by choosing different team captains every week. The choosing of the captains won't be based on class, size, or popularity.

"We'll pick them after practice," Mullinax said. "Whoever practiced best or whoever has the best attitude. We'll put those four guys on the field on Friday night. That ought to make them feel good."

Though a lot is new for Armuchee, some things haven't changed. The team will still use its 3-5-3 defense.

Leading tackler junior Jake Schmidt has been taking it easy on the practice field after recently undergoing shoulder surgery, but will be ready soon to participate fully.

Schmidt had more than 100 tackles in his freshman and sophomore years and led the team both seasons. He had 116 total tackles in his sophomore year, with five for a loss, two forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and one interception.

Mullinax said the defense hinges on the strength of the three inside linebackers, junior Jason Vasser, Schmidt and Davis.

Offenses and defenses aside, what it all comes down to is the Armuchee football team working as a single unit and enjoying the season.

"The bottom line is we're looking forward to it," Mullinax said. "We want to win as a team and lose as a team."

### 2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	Trion
Sept. 5	North Paulding
Sept. 12	at Dade County
Sept. 19	at Model
Sept. 26	at Chattooga
Oct. 3	Pepperell
Oct. 10	Open
Oct. 17	Coosa
Oct. 24	Temple
Oct. 31	at Rockmart
Nov. 7	Region Playoff

### 2008 ROSTER

1	Xavier Lawrence	So.
2	Jake Grogan	Jr.
3	Marcel Hudson	Fr.
5	Kyle Davis	Sr.
7	Dalton Earwood	Sr.
9	Zack Payne	Fr.
10	T.C. Boyd	Jr.
11	Hayden Vaughn	Fr.
12	Mark Watkins	So.
13	Richard Sims	Sr.
14	John Evans	Sr.
15	John Slinkard	Sr.
16	Ben Coleman	Fr.
18	Brandon Osborn	Fr.
19	Blake Poole	So.
20	Tommy Harris	Jr.
21	Avery Anderson	Fr.
22	Davante Hudson	Jr.
23	Jake Nix	So.
24	Trey Pledger	Fr.
25	Steven Ruching	Jr.
28	Dennis Noles	Jr.
30	Michael Velasquez	So.
31	David Velasquez	Sr.
33	Zach Beck	Fr.
36	Zach Lansdell	So.
41	Judd Baker	Jr.
48	Jake Schmidt	Jr.
50	Cody Bradshaw	Sr.
51	Taylor Tucker	Jr.
52	Ben Brooks	Jr.
53	Nick Hawkins	Sr.
54	Brock Wilson	So.
55	Jason Vasser	Jr.
56	Hayden Sizemore	Fr.
57	Caleb Binkley	Fr.
58	Derek Sizemore	Sr.
59	Nakota Self	So.
60	Brandon Niederhuth	So.
61	Hong Wang	Jr.
62	Cole Autrey	So.
63	Jordan Abney	So.
64	Dakota Miller	Fr.
65	Tevin Fain	Jr.
66	Lloyd Daniel	Jr.
67	Jake Lewis	So.
68	Ben McWhorter	Fr.
70	Mason Minshew	So.
72	Brett Stephens	Fr.
74	Jordan Everett	Fr.
75	Brandon Ernessy	Fr.
76	Cody Hill	Sr.
77	L.A. Dunaway	So.
78	Dalton Hightower	Fr.
79	Carsten Boehm	Fr.
81	Alex Rogers	Fr.
84	Parker Moore	Sr.

## GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL RECORDS

**Yards Rushing, Single Game**  
476 — Don Calloway, Miller County vs. Lanier Co., Sept. 3, 1999 (15 carries)

**Yards Rushing, Single Season**  
3,172 — Daccus Turman, Washington-Wilkes (2000)

**Yards Rushing, Career**  
8,844 — Monte Williams, Commerce (1997-2000)

**Carries, Single Game**  
54 — Brian Smith, Pepperell vs. Villa Rica, Nov. 18, 1994

**Carries, Single Season**  
390 — Daccus Turman, Washington-Wilkes (2000)

**Carries, Career**  
1,222 — Robert Toomer, Worth County (1988-91)

**Rushing Touchdowns, Single Game**  
8 — Don Calloway, Miller County vs. Lanier Co., Sept. 3, 1999 (15 carries)

**Rushing Touchdowns, Single Season**  
46 — Darius Walker, Buford (2003)

**Rushing Touchdowns, Career**  
111 — Matt Dunham, Pacelli (2001-04)

**Passing Yards, Single Game**  
524 — Ron Hinson, Lamar County vs. Troup, Nov. 11, 1977

**Passing Yards, Single Season**  
3,710 — Jeremy Privett, Charlton County (2003)

**Passing Yards, Career**  
9,062 — Zach Standford, Metter (2001-04)

**Passing Touchdowns, Single Season**  
47 — Jeremy Privett, Charlton County (2003)

**Passing Touchdowns, Career**  
92 — Jeremy Privett, Charlton County (2000-2003) and Cedric Johnson, Americus-Sumter (2001-2004)

**Receiving Yards, Single Season**  
1,581 — John Harris, Americus (2000)

**Receiving Yards, Career**  
4,343 — Jermain Allen, Americus (2000-2003)

**Receiving Touchdowns, Single Season**  
24 — Chris Slaughter, Peach County (2005)

**Receiving Touchdowns, Career**  
57 — Jermain Allen, Americus (2000-2003)

**Receptions, Single Season**  
96 — Raymond Thomas, Crisp County (2001)

**Receptions, Career**  
209 — Stan Rome, Valdosta (1970-73)

**Most Consecutive Extra Points**  
134 — Kim Braswell, Avondale (1965-68)

**Longest Field Goal**  
67 yards — Rusty Curry, Duluth vs. Norcross, Sept. 3, 1999

**Most Field Goals, Single Game**  
5 — Jeremy Hayes, Cedartown vs. Carrollton, Nov. 1, 1991

**Most Field Goals, Single Season**  
19 — Chris Ray, Lovejoy (1997)

**Most Field Goals, Career**  
33 — Chris Gardocki, Redan (1985-87)

**Most 50-Yard Field Goals, Single Game**  
2 — Chris Robbins, Union County vs. Dawson County, Nov. 3, 1989 (50 and 52 yards); Vance Taylor, Southeast Bulloch vs. East Laurens, Nov. 7, 2003 (50 and 52 yards)

**Most 50-Yard Field Goals, Single Season**  
4 — Scot Simons, LaGrange (1992); Brett Kirouac, Duluth (1998)

**Most 50-Yard Field Goals, Career**  
4 — Scot Simons, LaGrange (1990-92); Brett Kirouac, Duluth (1996-98); Chris Gardocki, Redan (1985-87); Dax Langley, Her-

itage (1991-93)

**Highest Punting Average, Single Season (Minimum 25 punts)**  
54.2 yards — Rodney Williams, Southwest DeKalb (1993)

**Most Touchdowns, Single Season**  
46 — Darius Walker, Buford (2003)

**Most Touchdowns, Career**  
105 — Robert Toomer, Worth County (1988-91)

**Pass Interceptions, Single Game**  
5 — Mike Cox, Stephens County vs. Seneca, S.C., Sept. 24, 1971; Marty Carter, LaGrange vs. Walton, Dec. 5, 1986; Ricky Poss, Henry County vs. Sandy Creek, Oct. 30, 1992; Jon Mitchell, Trion vs. Adairsville, 1996

**Most Consecutive Wins (No Ties)**  
47 — Buford (2001-2004)

**Most Consecutive Losses (No Ties)**  
82 — Glascock County (1990-99) (Streak broken Oct. 1, 1999 with 12-6 win over Cross Creek)

**Most Shutouts, Single Season**  
13 — Americus (1975) (finished season 14-0)

**Most Consecutive Shutouts, Single Season**  
11 — Americus (1975) (finished season 14-0); West Rome (1985) (finished season 15-0)

**Points Scored, Regular Season**  
534 — Southeast Bulloch (1972) (finished season 10-0)

**Points Scored, Full Season**  
654\* — Miller County (1997) (finished season 12-1)

\*=scored 511 points in regular season

**Most Consecutive State Championships**  
4 — West Rome (1982-85)

Saturday-Sunday Sept. 13-14

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