

2008 PIGSKIN PREVIEW



# MODEL

## Blue Devils don rebuilding hardhats

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There's a rebuilding effort going on at Model and head football coach Gordon Powers is right in the middle of it.

With the loss of last year's starting quarterback and key players on the defense, Powers might be moving people around throughout the early part of the season.

"Right now, we're concerned with depth," Powers said. "We've got some younger players who are going to be playing in a varsity role. We're concerned about keeping everybody healthy since we're not really deep in a lot of positions."

Even though the Blue Devils are without a proven quarterback, Powers has three choices for a replacement to Bear Crowder.

"We have three quarterbacks up for the job," Powers said. "All of them have got really good skills in throwing and in technique. Whoever it is that is the starting quarterback will need to grasp the offense and run it as a leader."

The three quarterbacks competing for the job are junior Ryan Leonard, sophomore Gabe Johnson and junior James Wells. Leonard served as Crowder's backup last season.

While the team might not have much depth in most positions, Model isn't lacking in the running game. There are six players who can be in the running back position and three players at fullback.

Seniors Blake Garab and Jamie Palmer will have most of the responsibility at the fullback position, while leading running back Desmond Brown returns for his junior year. Brown rushed for more than 400 yards in 2007.

The offensive line also shows promise for Model with a lot of experience, provided by seniors Josh Lambert, Zack Stone and Nic Kerns.

Powers said that while the offense hasn't gone under any drastic changes, there will be some differences from last year.



File photo / Rome News-Tribune

Junior Desmond Brown returns as Model's leading rusher from last season and one of several running backs the Blue Devils will be counting on this fall.

"We've tried to take what we did last year and mold it to our personnel," said Powers who sees six players return on offense from last season. "We've had to throw out some stuff we can't do and put emphasis on the stuff we can do."

On defense, Model lost its two leading tacklers in line-backer Cabe Carney and strong safety Ethan Roberson.

But there is good news for the Blue Devils. They return 14 lettermen on the defensive side of the ball and they return their entire defensive front — Kerns, Stone, Jamie Palmer and Zach Pilcher.

"We feel very good up front on defense," Powers said.

Kerns had 28 tackles for Model last season, including three for a loss and he also had one forced fumble.

With the experience of seniors Kerns, Stone and Palm-

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**Gordon Powers**  
 Model head coach

er on the offensive line comes a younger player, Pilcher, who proved last season he deserved to be among the more experience players.

Pilcher is the only player on the front who is not a senior, but he's performed well in Powers' eyes. Powers said he worked his way into a starting position last season during his freshman year.

The Blue Devils also return two linebackers — senior Tyler Kollman, one of their leading tacklers last season, and senior Blake Garab.

Wells also plays at corner-

back, and provided a strong presence on defense last season with 37 tackles and five interceptions.

The practices leading up to the season were meant to prepare the Blue Devils for the challenge that lied ahead of them. Powers put his team through what he called a "camp situation."

He put his team through rigorous and physical practices early, then moved on to polishing things up before the start of the season.

All that hard work will hopefully not be in vain for Model.

Powers has set high goals for his team this season, but he feels they are attainable.

"Always our No. 1 goal is the state playoffs," he said. "That's our No. 1 goal. Past that is winning the sub-region."

To get to that goal, the Blue Devils will need to improve on last year's 3-7 overall record, and their 2-4 record in 7-AA South region play.

"We've got a good chance to do that," Powers said. "Athletically, we've shown improvements in our speed and size. That's what we're counting on."

"We'll take it one game at a time and hope, with improvement, we'll have a better shot at competing for a region championship."

### 2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	Gordon Central
Sept. 5	Southeast Whitfield
Sept. 12	at Trion
Sept. 19	Armuchee
Sept. 26	at Adairsville
Oct. 4	Coosa (at Barron)
Oct. 10	Open
Oct. 17	at Temple
Oct. 24	at Rockmart
Oct. 31	Pepperell
Nov. 7	Region Playoff

### 2008 ROSTER

1	Kyle Thomas	So.
3	Chris Hill	Fr.
4	James Wells	Jr.
5	Desmond Brown	Jr.
6	Gabe Johnson	So.
7	Dustin Fincher	Fr.
9	Jamie Palmer	Sr.
10	Reece Bryant	So.
11	Asa Dockery	Sr.
12	Jordan Gossett	Fr.
13	Ryan Leonard	Jr.
14	Brandon Nickerson	Jr.
15	Brad Nickerson	Jr.
17	Brett McStotts	Jr.
18	Colby Thomas	So.
19	Micah Hankins	Fr.
20	Joel Poulicek	Jr.
21	Westin Tate	So.
22	Blake Garab	Sr.
23	Drew Carroll	Sr.
24	Zack Baker	So.
25	Steven Bohannon	So.
27	Keegan Green	Fr.
30	Branton Treglow	Jr.
31	Zack Turner	Fr.
32	Chris Nix	Sr.
34	Joseph Brooks	Jr.
35	Tyler Wood	So.
42	Randell Cooper	Jr.
50	Josh Lambert	Sr.
51	Jackson Bishop	Fr.
53	Remington Williams	Fr.
54	Kevin Hall	Jr.
55	Joseph Pearson	Fr.
56	Ken Woods	Fr.
57	Josh Comer	So.
58	Lane Morris	So.
59	Dillon Messer	So.
60	Zack Stone	Sr.
66	Joey Combs	So.
67	Robert Barrett	So.
68	Nic Kerns	Sr.
70	Tyler Kollman	Sr.
74	Jay Champion	Jr.
76	Andrew Ayers	Jr.
82	Paul Clark	So.
83	Houston Pope	Jr.
84	Josh Haywood	Fr.
85	Tyler Tolbert	Fr.
87	Zach Pilcher	So.
89	Wade Douglas	Jr.

### PLAYERS TO WATCH



Model Blue Devils (from left) Blake Garab, Nic Kerns, Ryan Leonard and James Wells.

## ALL-TIME STATE PREP SINGLE SEASON TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Name	School	Yr.	TDs	G	Name	School	Yr.	TDs	G
1. Darius Walker	Buford	2003	46	15	11. Debrale Smiley	Thom. Cent.	2007	36	14
2. Herschel Walker	Johnson	1979	45	15	11. Tys. Browning	Oconee Co.	1999	36	15
2. Charles Grant	Miller Co.	1997	45	13	13. Robert Toomer	Worth Co.	1991	35	14
4. Jessie Miller	Wash. Co.	1997	42	15	13. Bran. Walker	Forest Park	1995	35	14
5. Rod Perrymond	Dunwoody	1993	40	15	13. Elijah Clark	Hawkinsville	2002	35	14
6. Michael Cooper	Screven	2001	38	13	16. Michael Terry	Americus	2002	34	14
6. Michael Hicks	R.E. Lee	1991	38	14	16. Monte Williams	Commerce	1998	34	12
6. Amel Jackson	Marietta	1991	38	14	16. Don Calloway	Miller Co.	1999	34	14
6. Cedric Jones	Lowndes	1980	38	15	16. Greg Cooper	Wash. Co.	1996	34	15
10. Brett Millican	Parkview	1995	37	15	16. Earn. Palmer	Brunswick	1999	34	15
11. Alfred Rawls	Wilcox Co.	1985	36	13	16. C. Smith	Brookwood	2005	34	15
					16. Je. Austin	McIntosh Co.	2000	34	14

## ALL-TIME STATE PREP SINGLE SEASON RECEIVING LEADERS

Name	School	Yr.	TDs	G	Name	School	Yr.	TDs	G
1. John Harris	Americus	2000	1,581	15	14. John Wilson	Americus	1996	1,257	15
2. Stan Rome	Valdosta	1971	1,573	13	15. Mike Kemp	Tall. Falls	1967	1,254	10
3. Jus. Williams	Charlton Co.	2005	1,436	15	16. Ad. Cockfield	Dougherty	1998	1,247	15
4. Jermain Allen	Americus	2002	1,430	14	17. Juan Daniels	Norcross	1991	1,237	13
5. Eric Worell	Landmark	2003	1,379	13	18. Jermain Allen	Americus	2003	1,231	12
6. Dentris Mathis	Dooly Co.	2002	1,359	15	19. Ozzie Miller	N. Clayton	1988	1,223	10
7. John Harris	Americus	2001	1,358	15	20. Chris Richards	Cherokee	1999	1,220	10
8. John Harris	Americus	2000	1,341	10	21. Myron Pace	Cedartown	1990	1,190	10
9. Kerry Wright	Tri-Cities	1998	1,341	10	22. Ryan Sawyer	Pope	1998	1,180	11
10. Cole Egan	Westmin.	1978	1,339	15	23. Jon. Walker	Newnan	2005	1,171	11
11. La. Williams	Monroe	2005	1,297	11	24. St. Davenport	SW DeKalb	1984	1,149	14
12. Kip Ruark	C. Gwinnett	1980	1,270	14	25. Kelvin Kight	Lithonia	1998	1,147	10
13. Fred Gibson	Ware Co.	1999	1,260	11	26. Reggie Brown	Carrollton	1997	1,143	15

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