

PIGSKIN

Preview

Lumberton

Fairmont

Purnell Swett

Scotland

Richmond

RED SPRINGS

ST. PAULS

SOUTH ROBESON

East
Bladen

West
Bladen

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO:

THE ROBESONIAN

RICHMOND COUNTY DAILY JOURNAL

BLADEN JOURNAL

LAURINBURG EXCHANGE



TOYOTA

Congratulations to
DEMETTRIS DRIGGERS,
he has been employed with
PETERSON TOYOTA for 8 months
and has been in the **TOP 3 SALES**
every month of his employment.



"I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE MY VISION OF NO DIVISION FOR MY COUNTY THIS IS AN ASSIGNMENT THAT GOD HAS CALLED ME FOR. I WILL BE HAVING A NO DIVISION MOVEMENT ON **OCTOBER 7TH & 8TH, 2016 @ 6:00 PM AT GREATER HOPE INTERNATIONAL.** THERE WILL BE GROUP LEADERS FROM NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA. THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL SPEAKER FROM OKLAHOMA. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MR. JOSHUA JONES FOR EVERYTHING. I AM A MEMBER OF GREATER HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH. WHERE I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EACH AND EVERYONE. MY GOAL IS TO BE ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY. GOD HAS A MIGHTY STRONG CALLING OVER MY LIFE."
- Demettris Driggers, 910-736-1690 CELL AND 910-738-5241 WORK

Consistency key for Red Devils

Red Springs' Cook depending on senior leadership

By Rodd Baxley
rbaxley@civitasmedia.com

RED SPRINGS — Consistency is the buzzword being thrown around by Ron Cook as he prepares for his third season as coach of the Red Springs football team.

After starting last season with a 6-0 mark, the Red Devils dropped four of their final six games to finish the season at 8-4, losing in the first round of the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs to Three Rivers Conference foe South Columbus.

The key to getting more of what the team had during the hot start and less of what it had toward the end of the year, Cook says, is senior leadership.

"It starts with our seniors," he said. "Nothing against the guys last year, but I think we have a better group this year because these guys have been with me for three seasons and two full offseasons, so they understand what we're trying to do to improve the culture and work ethic."

So far, Cook is seeing just that as the Red Devils prepare for their season opener at Sandhills on Friday night.

"The seniors are doing a good job of controlling the team and making it their own," Cook said. "That's how



Behind senior quarterback Todd Lockhart, the Red Devils are looking for more consistency this season. With a slew of seniors on both sides of the ball, leadership has been key for Red Springs heading into the new year.

Rodd Baxley | The Robesonian

I want it. I want it to be a senior-led team where the coaches are just managing. They're not there yet, but I'll let them know when they get close."

The group is led by captains Kenston Oxendine, Caleb Locklear, Marquis Ray, Todd Lockhart and Tony Colson.

Oxendine, a 6-foot-1, 285-pound defensive tackle, anchors what Cook believes is the team's best — and deepest — position group. Oxendine is joined on the defensive line by Ray, all-county per-

former Jerome Bass, Chad Overstreet, Shatiq Ferguson, Dante Floyd, Trinity Mack and Cameron Chavis.

"All those guys have done a tremendous job in the weight room this offseason," Cook said. "They are a lot stronger and explosive than what we've had. They'll be really hard for anyone to block one-on-one."

For Ray, the goal is simple: be known as the best defensive line in the conference.

"We don't want to give an inch," he said.

Oxendine added: "We want a tackle for loss

on every play and every tackle should have a defensive lineman in it."

Bass, the team's leader a season ago with nine tackles for loss, said he looks for each guy to "play their part and contribute to the team as much as they can."

"It's time to step up and go hard," he said. "We have to go hard every play."

While the defense looks to be the Red Devils' strength, the loss of offensive playmakers, Ron Alexander, DeOndre Hallman and Amire West has Cook looking

for some new faces to fit in around returning quarterback Lockhart.

Lockhart and all-purpose player Eric "Buddy" Graham return as all-conference performers from last season.

Cook is looking for Justin Locklear to replace Alexander in the backfield.

"Justin will be getting the majority of the carries, but Buddy (Eric Graham) will be a nice changeup," Cook said. "Justin is a small, shifty back. It'll be hard for teams to see him coming. I can't wait to see

him carrying the ball. It's a good combination to have out there."

Known for spending additional time working on special teams and adding different elements to showcase in games, Cook looks for that group to take another step forward this season.

"We never overlook special teams," he said. "I think we've done a good job at working on the fundamentals, making sure guys know where they need to go."

2016 RED SPRINGS FOOTBALL ROSTER

1 Toddrick Lockhart (C) QB Sr.
2 Michael Govan WR, FS Sr.
4 Wade Monroe TE, OLB Sr.
5 Aaron Hunt MLB Sr.
7 Chad Overstreet DE, FB Sr.
8 Mickey Bell OLB So.
9 Eric Graham RB, CB Sr.
10 Nick Chavis WR Sr.
11 Justin Locklear RB Sr.
12 Coty Locklear QB, SS So.
13 Chris Sanderson OLB, TE Sr.

17 Tony Colson jr (C) CB, FS Sr.
19 Caleb Locklear (C) MLB, FB Sr.
20 Marquis Ray DE, RB Sr.
21 Dewand Mcrae OLB, QB Jr.
22 Dave'onta Wallace WR, CB Fr.
23 Nichorie West CB Jr.
24 Javon Simmons RB, MLB Jr.
42 Oliver Brooks FS, QB So.
50 Kenston Oxendine (C) DT Sr.
51 Dante Floyd G, DE Jr.
52 Trinity Mack DE, T So.

53 Cameron Chavis OG, DT Sr.
54 Shatiq Ferguson, DE, OL Jr.
55 Jerome Bass DE, OT Jr.
56 Stephen Morgan C, G Sr.
Brandon Roberson So.
Corey Newton Fr.
Denym McKeithan QB, CB Fr.
Dimitri Sinclair CB, WR Jr.
Jeremiah Ray FB, DT Fr.
Lee Mclean RB Fr.
Victor Aguilar Jr.

Currie Insurance
& Realty

Proud Supporter of

Go Red Devils!



115 W 3rd Ave, Red Springs, NC 28377
(910) 843-5150



GOOD LUCK

this Season!

2016-2017

MJ SOFFE
www.mjsoffe.com



Baker Chevrolet Inc

THE LAND OF THE RED DEVILS!



914 E 4th Ave, Red Springs, NC 28377
(910) 843-5168
Hours: Open today • 8:30AM-7PM

Red Devils' Graham putting in the work

Red Springs senior drawing interest from D-I schools

By **Rodd Baxley**
rbaxley@civitasmedia.com

RED SPRINGS — As Eric Graham prepares for his senior season with the Red Springs High School football team, he can't help but think about the positive changes he's made over the course of the past four seasons.

"In my freshman and sophomore years I wasn't giving it 100 percent," Graham said. "But the last two years, that's when I started going at it. My intensity and work ethic have changed and I've matured a lot."

The change has helped the 6-foot-2, 210-pound running back, receiver and cornerback generate a lot of attention from Division I colleges.

Graham said representatives from Clemson, Duke, East Carolina, N.C. State, UNC Charlotte and Wake Forest have expressed interest in adding him to their football programs.

"It's really a blessing because many people don't have this opportunity," he said. "For my senior year, I'm ready. This is what I do, and I have to be serious about it if I want to be the best."

Graham said East Carolina is the early favorite, but his primary focus is leaving a final mark with the Red Devils this season.

Graham, better known as "Buddy," is hoping his play and leadership will help the team improve on last season's



Red Springs' Eric Graham, better known as "Buddy," enters the season with high expectations as he looks to cap his senior season with quality play on the field and improvements in the classroom.

8-4 mark.

"We can't get comfortable," he said. "Practice is where it starts and we have to keep the intensity up every day we step on the field. It's getting closer and I need to keep going so I can get better."

An all-county and all-conference performer for the Red Devils, Graham plays as many as four positions during the course of practice

or a game, spending time at running back, receiver, cornerback and safety.

Red Springs coach Ron Cook sees it as an advantage for his squad and Graham as he prepares for the next level.

"It's a huge asset," Cook said. "He's doing a great job adjusting to what we're trying to do. He's staying focused and learning to make less and less mistakes. He

can tackle and he's still fairly new at corner, but he's gotten a lot better at understanding the coverages and moving. He's extremely versatile for us."

Graham said it's also important for him to show positive leadership in inspiring his teammates.

"I'm all about positive thoughts," he said. "We all go through that stage where we have to learn

and pick up on some stuff. I just tell them (my teammates) to keep going. I love seeing them grow."

Like his improved work ethic on the field, Graham has also learned to apply that same attitude to the classroom as he sets his sights on reaching his ultimate goal of suiting up for a Division I program on Saturdays.

"It starts in the

classroom," he said. "Then, I have to take care of business on the field. When it all comes together, I know it's going to click and I can make it somewhere."

"This is all I've ever wanted. Now that I have the opportunity, I'm taking advantage of it."

Rodd Baxley can be reached at 910-416-5182. Follow him on Twitter @RoddBaxley.

GOOD LUCK!



2016 RED SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 19 — at Sandhills, 7 p.m.
Aug. 26 — at Purnell Swett, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 — at Harrells Christian Academy, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 9 — OPEN
Sept. 16 — LAKEWOOD, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23 — ST. PAULS, 7 p.m.

Sept. 30 — at East Columbus, 7 p.m.
Oct. 7 — WHITEVILLE, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 — WEST COLUMBUS, 7 p.m.
Oct. 21 — at Fairmont, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 — at South Columbus, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 — SOUTH ROBESON, 7 p.m.

WEST POINT HOME
Bed & Bath Factory Outlet

LET'S GO RED DEVILS!

15% OFF
YOU ENTIRE PURCHASE
EXP 11/15/2016

3501 Lackey St. | Lumberton, NC | 910-671-4554
Store Hours: Mon-Sun: 9-6, Sun: 1-6 Check us out on facebook

FIRST BANK

BEST OF LUCK IN THE 2016-2017 SEASON

LOCALFIRSTBANK.COM

Since 1938

Bleeker AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Nakatoe Haywood
Senior Sale Professional | 910.483.5000
bleekerbuickgmc@bleeker.com

GO RED DEVILS!

Bulldogs moving forward into new era

New staff looks to put past behind at St. Pauls

By Jonathan Bym
jby@cvitasmedia.com

ST. PAULS — Along with trying to have his players buy in for a new coaching staff, St. Pauls football coach Ernest King is wanting the Bulldogs to leave everything from last season in the past.

“We’re trying to put the past behind us. What happened last year was last year and the biggest thing is discipline,” King said. “The kids are excited. They are excited with the new regime.”

St. Pauls went 3-8 last season and was riddled with injuries, and King is hoping that with a full offseason with the team that this season can be a turnaround for the program both on the field. Last season was the first season the Bulldogs missed the state playoffs since 2009.

“We had a good spring with the kids and then we turned around in the summer and they haven’t forgotten anything we’ve taught them,” he said. “We tell the guys the most important thing is to do the right things consistently.”

King posted a 21-15 record in three seasons with the Golden Bulls, taking his squads to the 4A state playoffs each year. He also has a history with Robeson County as a former assistant under Bill Dockery at Lumberton. He replaces Trey Sasser,



Christian Dunn, Elijah White and Tre King, facing left, make up St. Pauls’ three-man defensive front. The three seniors will lead the experienced defensive front seven this season.

Jonathan Bym | The Robesonian

who was 41-53 in eight seasons with the Bulldogs with two winning seasons.

The Bulldogs return all-county and all-conference offensive lineman Elijah White and linebacker Chris Ray from last season and will be two strong points on an experienced defensive front seven.

“Defensively we are ahead of schedule,” King said. “Our front three — Elijah white, Tre King and Christian Dunn, are really working hard.”

The three-senior defensive line will be backed by Chris and Dayshawn Ray for a defensive unit that has progressed faster than

the offense thus far this offseason.

With the experience up front, St. Pauls will look to get in-game experience for an inexperienced defensive backfield.

“Our secondary’s young,” King said. “What I mean by young is we’ve got seniors back there but they haven’t played much back there.”

Devante Hinson, King’s son, transferred to St. Pauls from Arkansas for his senior season and will look to add depth while the front seven will be looked upon to get pressure on offenses to help out the secondary that’s learning on the fly.

“It does (help) because when you turn around and get pressure on the quarterback and do things we like to do defensively,” King said. “It gives them guys (the secondary) a chance to get experience... and it doesn’t put a lot of pressure on them to make big plays.”

Noah Wheeler has taken on the role as starting quarterback with running back Chris Graham and wide receivers Michael Barnes and Dakota Oxendine leading an offense that has multiple weapons around the field. Wheeler makes the move from wide receiver to prove an athletic weapon to start the

offense for the Bulldogs.

“What we tell him is he’s one of best athletes and you’d got the ball in your hands to start every play. It starts with you,” King said. “He has really bought in and he’s improved throwing the ball from the first 7-on-7 to now and our receiving corps has got better as well.”

St. Pauls’ offense features several players making the move from different positions to the offensive side of the ball. Caleb Inman played running back and defensive back last season and will go to the slot receiver position, Graham is moving from seeing time in the secondary last year to

running back and Dijuan McNair flips across the ball from cornerback to wide receiver.

“There’s a lot of talent here,” King said. “Our biggest thing (on offense) is if you do what you’re supposed to do, we’re going to have success. They believe in that. If you mess up on a play, that play is over with, let’s go to the next one.”

The Bulldogs will open the season at home Friday against Grays Creek, before a trio of road games.

“We’re were we want to be, right now, before the first game.”

Jonathan Bym can be reached at 910-816-1977. Follow him on Twitter @Jonathan_Bym.

2016 ST. PAULS FOOTBALL ROSTER

2 Noah Wheeler WR, DB Jr.
4 Dijuan Mcnair WR Sr.
7 Dayshawn Ray DL, RB Sr.
9 Michael Barnes WR Sr.
11 Cameron Mckenna DL Sr.
20 Caleb Inman CB Jr.
21 Chris Graham RB Sr.
23 Chris Ray jr DE, OLB Sr.

36 Ahmaad McKoy OLB Sr.
42 Luis Hidalgo MLB Jr.
43 Manuel Rojas LB Jr.
50 Marquez Morrissey-coleman C, MLB Jr.
52 Elijah White G, T Sr.
54 Christian Dunn DE Sr.
55 Ernest King iii DE Sr.
56 Jaylyn Mcnair G Jr.

65 Bryclyn McMillan OL, DL Jr.
65 Bryclyn McMillian DE Jr.
70 Cagle Locklear OL Sr.
72 Anthony Smith G, DT Jr.
88 Johnny Scott TE, OLB Sr.
D.J. Henson FS, CB Sr.
Zondre Graham CB Sr.

ST PAULS DRUG STORE

GO BULLDOGS!

202 W. Broad St., St. Pauls, NC 28384 • 910-865-4134

GO BULLDOGS GO!

Nationwide
On Your Side

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS
FARM • BOAT • MOTORCYCLE • RENTERS

**205 W BLUE STREET
ST PAULS
910-865-4122**

**1575 N ROBERTS AVE
LUMBERTON
910-738-8531**

FIRST BANK

Go Bulldogs!

BUSINESS | PERSONAL | HOME WEALTH | INSURANCE

LOCALFIRSTBANK.COM
ST. PAULS | 301 W BROAD ST | 910-865-4113

Loans subject to credit approval. First Bank NMLS 474504. Equal Housing Lender | Member FDIC

White changing lanes for the Bulldogs

St. Pauls senior makes move to defensive line

By Jonathan Bym
jbym@civitasmedia.com

ST. PAULS — Before Ernest King and the new football coaching staff took over at St. Pauls High School during the offseason, Elijah White thought he would play mainly on the offensive line this fall.

White was all-county and all-conference performer in 2015 as an offensive lineman, who saw a few snaps on defense, but King's arrival signaled a switch to the other side of the ball.

"He wanted me more on defense," White said of King's plan for his position this fall. "I thought I was going to come in here and play offense like last year, but he wanted me to be on defense so I could help him and his son (Tre King) and Christian Dunn.

"I just wanted to do whatever is best for the team."

The move from playing mostly on the offensive side to a defensive lineman has been aided with having a defensive-minded coach like King and some prior experience as well.

"(Having King) has been a big key to the process, focusing on defenses more heavily so we can stop our opponents," White said. "The transition has been kind of easy because last year I played a mixture of both and in practice I'm getting a lot of reps."

Having the mindset of an offensive lineman is something White feels helps him on the opposite side of the ball.

"It helps a lot," he said



Elijah White, center, is making the move from the offensive line to the defensive line with Tre King, left, and Christian Dunn.

Jonathan Bym | The Robesonian

of having experience on the offensive line. "Being on the defensive line helps out a lot too."

With Tre King and Dunn alongside him, White feels the senior-laden defensive line has a

chance to make its mark in the Three Rivers Conference this season.

"I think we can be one of the best defensive lines in the county," White said, "as far as stopping the run and we're pretty

quick off the ball on pass rushes."

With an inexperienced secondary, White knows that there is a little more responsibility for the defensive line, but their mission is clear to him

and his other two teammates lining up beside him.

"We're going to have to help them out more and we know that," White said. "We say it every day in practice and we

know it's our job to get pressure back there on the quarterback to make their job easier."

Jonathan Bym can be reached at 910-816-1977. Follow him on Twitter @Jonathan_Bym.



2016 ST. PAULS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 19 — GRAYS CREEK, 7 p.m.
Aug. 26 — at Douglas Byrd, 7 p.m.
Sept. 2 — at East Bladen, 7 p.m.
Sept. 9 — WEST BLADEN, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23 — at Red Springs, 7 p.m.
Sept. 30 — at South Robeson, 7 p.m.

Oct. 7 — EAST COLUMBUS, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 — at Whiteville, 7 p.m.
Oct. 21 — SOUTH COLUMBUS, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28 — at West Columbus, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 — FAIRMONT, 7 p.m.



McNeill  Mackie
Funeral Home

LET'S GO BULLDOGS!!



319 W. BROAD STREET ST. PAULS, NC 28384
910-865-4105
FAX: 910-865-4303

Mad Ellie's
Unique Finds

GO BULLDOGS



Terri Williams Jacobs • owner
218 W BROAD ST, SAINT PAULS, NC 28384
910-865-2189 & 910-583-9807

Support Your Team!

AND OUR 2016-2017 STUDENT ATHLETES

THE
ROBESONIAN

Mustangs with a new look

Players change positions, South Robeson sees effort

By Jonathan Bym
jbym@civitasmedia.com

ROWLAND — Effort is something that South Robeson football coach Clay Jernigan knows his team brings to the table going into the 2016 season.

The Mustangs hold the longest active streak in Robeson County for consecutive state playoff appearances and will feature one of Robeson County's top athletes leading the offense at quarterback after making the move from running back. All of these things bring excitement for South Robeson's third-year coach.

"I've got a positive outlook from the way things are going," Jernigan said. "I cannot complain about their effort out on the field."

After a 2-10 record last season that included a first-round appearance in the NCHSAA 1AA state playoffs, the Mustangs are leaning on the leadership of not only the small senior class, but any players that are stepping up throughout the summer and pre-season practices.

"They don't consider senior, junior, freshman or sophomore," Jernigan said about leadership. "If one boy is running hard, they see that and want to go with him."

Returning all-county running back turned quarterback Darrius Brown is one player that Jernigan has seen lead as a junior with experience beyond the class listed by his name on the roster.

"With Darrius at quarterback, and he's started two years, basically in realistic high school football and he's played varsity two years, as a junior he's a senior," Jernigan said.

Now getting the starting nod under center, Brown brings his experience as well as his elusive and quick running style that helped him earn first-team all-conference honors last fall as a sophomore. He was



South Robeson senior linebacker Emmanuel Thompson, right, hits the sled during practice. Thompson leads a linebacker corps that heads the Mustangs' defensive unit.

Jonathan Bym | The Robesonian

the Mustangs' leading rusher a year ago.

The offense as a whole will benefit from the move of Brown taking over as quarterback and will be hard to stop with an extra running threat in the backfield, according to Jernigan.

"I think we're going to be smarter," he said. "I think with Darrius at quarterback, we're going to do some things that people haven't seen me do."

"I've looked up and listen to some people talk and add a few things to it to make Darrius a third weapon. We're going to make them think more than just a handoff and three yards and a cloud of dust."

Brown's move to quarterback comes after last year's starter, 6-foot-3 255-pound sophomore Cameron Worrells, making the move to tight end to provide help blocking for the wing-T offense as well as a big target in passing situation. Worrells joins sophomore receiver

Tyreek Baker and backs Jaruias Davis and Tyric Hunt as other weapons to add to the Mustangs' offensive attack.

"Honestly, I just done think we're going to have just one person (as a threat)," Jernigan said. "It makes the offense a whole lot better."

On the other side of the ball, the strength lies with the linebackers starting with senior Emmanuel Thompson who is a vocal leader for the team.

"I think our inside linebackers with

Emmanuel Thompson and Kendrick Hunt are stepping up," Jernigan said. "They're picking up formations and bringing leadership."

Brown and Davis will see time in the defensive backfield as well and Jernigan said the defensive front's size depends on the development of his younger players working up to the season.

"We're big but we're young," Jernigan said.

Confidence is something that Jernigan feels his team needs a

boost of and a win in the season opener at home on Friday against West Bladen could do a lot for team morale this season.

"If we can win that first ballgame, our confidence level will jump so high that it will be unreal here," Jernigan said. "That's all we're lacking is confidence."

Working with a full coaching staff for the first time in his three years with the program, Jernigan said the solidarity of having coaches that are walking the

halls with the students and there consistently at practice is a positive boost for the team in regards to learning the game.

"Right know, we are a lot more knowledgeable than we were the last two years," he said. "The biggest help is we've got a full staff at school here. That's a big difference because the kids can see the coaches everyday at school."

Jonathan Bym can be reached at 910-816-1977. Follow him on Twitter @Jonathan_Bym.

2016 SOUTH ROBESON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 19 — WEST BLADEN, 7 p.m.
Aug. 26 — at Trask, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 — at Purnell Swett, 7 p.m.
Sept. 16 — LAKE VIEW, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23 — FAIRMONT, 7 p.m.
Sept. 30 — ST. PAULS, 7 p.m.

Oct. 7 — SOUTH COLUMBUS, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 — EAST COLUMBUS, 7 p.m.
Oct. 21 — at West Columbus, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28 — at Whiteville, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 — at Red Springs, 7 p.m.

Looking for a New Car?

Look no further...
We have a large selection of
New & Used Cars

Contact
Melissa Hunt, Sales Associate
910-733-2492 | huntmelissa2@aol.com
"Let me, help you find the car of your dreams"

PETERSON
TOYOTA CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE
4395 Fayetteville Rd | Lumberton
910.738.5241

Nationwide
On Your Side[®]

Sherry R. Cupstid
Ransom Agency
Nationwide Insurance

112 West 3rd St.
Pembroke, NC 28372
910-521-8621

117 West 3rd St.
Red Springs NC 28377
910-843-4911

AND OUR 2016-2017 STUDENT ATHLETES

THE
ROBESONIAN

Brown takes the reigns at South Robeson

All-county running back moves to QB for Mustangs

By Jonathan Bym
jby@civitasmedia.com

ROWLAND — Darius Brown is going back to the position he played and grew to love in middle school as he transitions from running back to quarterback.

The move takes South Robeson's all-county and all-conference running back, who also led the team in rushing last year, under center starting the play with the ball every time. Brown sees a lot of potential for the offense with him in his new position.

"The offense is capable of a lot of things," Brown said. "With me having the ball and me depending on the offensive line and the backfield, it doesn't have to be me all the time. I can depend on them."

Cameron Werrell was the starter at quarterback for most of last season and wanted to make the move to tight end this season. With an opening at quarterback, South Robeson coach Clay Jernigan saw a possibility of enhancing the wing-t offense with a lightning-quick running back taking the snaps.

Brown and Jernigan have seen players develop in the backfield this offseason that helps make the move easier on the team and leave the Mustangs with multiple threats out to run with.

"This means that the team is stepping up and I can depend on the backfield now," Brown said. "It's a lot of weapons and tricks going out there this year."

Learning to play a new position can be seen as a tough move, but Brown said his familiar-



Darius Brown rolls out during practice. Brown takes over at quarterback this season for the Mustangs after leading the team in rushing last season.

Jonathan Bym | The Robesonian

ity at quarterback has made the move easy and Jernigan said the offense is easy to move players around in.

"It's not going to be a hard transition for the running backs to go to

quarterback because they'll still know the plays and all they've got to work on is the footwork and the handing off," Jernigan said.

"I've got to do it for my team to make my

team better," Brown said.

Being a quarterback comes with new responsibilities when it comes to leadership and Brown knows what that calls for on every play.

"I want to be a leader, a big leader," Brown said. "Everybody is going to look up to me on the field."

"I have to improve my attitude because when I would have a bad play,

I'd get down. And this year, I can't let my team see me down."

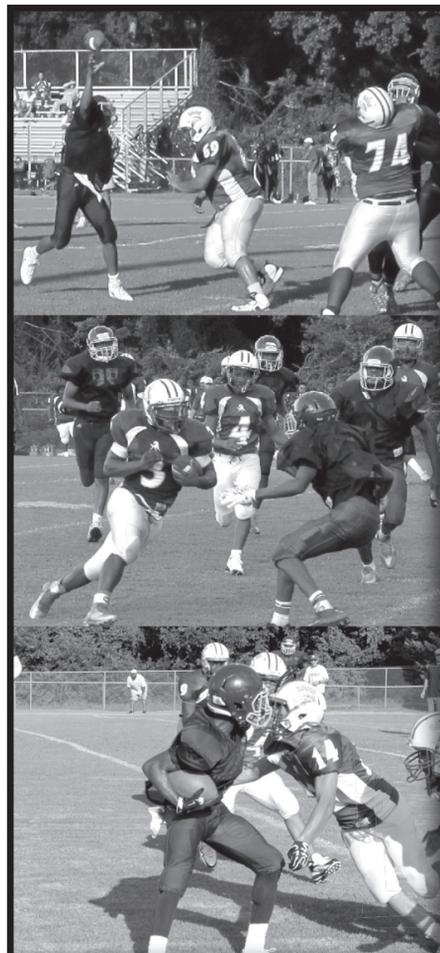
Jonathan Bym can be reached at 910-816-1977. Follow him on Twitter @Jonathan_Bym.

2016 SOUTH ROBESON FOOTBALL ROSTER

2 Fabian Hunt QB, WR, CB Sr.
4 Izean Bethea RB, CB Jr.
5 Darius Brown QB, RB, CB Jr.
7 Darius Wright FB, CB Jr.
12 Cameron Werrell QB So.
17 Marquise Evans RB, CB Sr.

22 Tyric Hunt RB, OLB Sr.
24 Jaruais Davis RB, WR, CB Jr.
28 Tyric Hunt FB, OLB Sr.
33 Joshua Locklear FS, WR, CB Jr.
35 Skyler Lowery FB, MLB Sr.
53 Michael Miles DE, G Sr.

55 Emanuel Thompson OLB, G, MLB Sr.
57 Braylon Hunt C, DE Jr.
60 Jamie Hunt DE Jr.
64 Christian Owens C, G, DT Sr.
73 Gabriel Miller DE Sr.
88 Zion Davis WR, CB Jr.

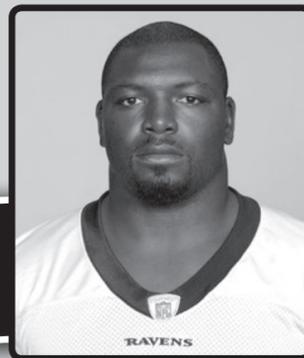


GOOD LUCK, MIGHTY MUSTANGS!



Best wishes for a successful year to the
**South Robeson High School
Football Team!**

**We're looking forward to
another exciting season!**



-Vonta Leach



“A burden has been lifted.”

When the results came back — it was stage-two cancer. My cousin came to me and said, “I’ll be there with you. We’ll go through it together.” And she was the one who drove me to Gibson for my chemo and radiation treatments. If Gibson wasn’t here in Lumberton, she wouldn’t have been able to do that.

After the first treatment, I lost my hair, and I felt really rough — really rotten. But, I was like, “No. Cancer, you got to go!” At Gibson, they gave me comfort. I felt at home — at peace.

And now, it’s gone. Like a burden has been lifted, and I feel great.

Joan Dukes — Lymphoma Survivor



Lumberton | 910.671.5730

A MEDICAL ONCOLOGY AFFILIATE
OF DUKE MEDICINE



Watch my story at iwonagainstcancer.com