

Return to normalcy

Midwest City looking to reestablish toughness on offense

By **Jeff Harrison**
Managing Editor

Offense has been an Achilles heel for Midwest City in recent years.

While the Bombers have shown flashes of brilliance with the football in their hands, those highlights have largely been clouded by inconsistency. But with several key returners and a new offensive coordinator, they are hoping to make offensive woes a thing of the past.

Coach Darrell Hall said the key is establishing toughness both at the line and at the point of attack.

"If defenses stack the box, we're going to throw it and we have the ability to throw it and make good reads," Hall said. "And if we can spread teams out, we'd like to run it as much as possible."

Sophomore Preston Colbert will step into the starting quarterback spot after playing sparingly as a freshman. Colbert is a strong passer who can also beat defenders with his feet. This offseason he's improved his decision making and built a rapport with his receivers.

Semaj Donner should also see snaps this year. Donner, who



-File photo

Jacob Reed will see playing time at running back and linebacker this season.

missed much of the offseason with a shoulder injury, is a speedy runner out of the backfield. He and Colbert spelled starter Brendan Brown last year.

The Bombers will be deep at receiver. Seniors Shelby Washington, RJ Walker, Arlenza Whittenberg, and juniors DeClaudio Irvin and Juwan Walker should all see time at receiver. Irvin led the team in receiving last year with 30 catches. The team will also have a new weapon in the middle of the field with tight end Tyree Young. Hall hopes to get the

6-foot-1 junior involved in their team's passing game.

"We had some good tight ends a few years ago and we underutilized them," Hall said. "We want to get him (Young) the ball in the middle of the field."

The backfield will also feature a few familiar faces. Junior Astin Anderson led the team in rushing last season with 647 yards. Jacob Reed and Adam Smith will also see time at tailback. Carvelle Jamison and Demontre Gatewood will play

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cornerback, the Bombers will rely on Arlenza Whittenberg, Juwan Walker, DeClaudio Irvin and RJ Walker.

"We have so much experience in our secondary and they gained a lot more this summer with the seven-on-seven tournaments and work we did," said coach Darrell Hall.

The Bombers have big shoes to fill on the defensive line with the loss of Worenn Davis. The recent grad recorded 11 sacks and 82 tackles last season. Jamil Hayes-Robins, Donovan Mills and Centrell Lane will see time at defensive tackle. Nose guard Markus Herd will anchor the middle of the line.

Midwest City should have two solid defensive ends in senior Carvelle Jamison and junior Jalen Redmond. Jamison recorded 46 tackles and three sacks as a junior. Redmond, a standout basketball player, is a newcomer to the football team but is expected to have an immediate impact on defense. The 6-foot-3, 220 pounder received a Division I offer (Memphis) before playing a varsity snap.

"Jalen Redmond will wreak havoc on defense," Hall said. "He's going to create some matchup problems and teams will have to gameplan for him."

The linebacking corps will be led by senior Demontre Gatewood and junior Jacob Reed. In 2016, Reed had 82 tackles and 5 sacks. Gatewood added 51 stops and two sacks.

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