

Prosperity and Progress

Eagles offense getting better day by day

By Jeff Harrison
Managing Editor

Del City's offense will look a little different this fall.

The Eagles are adapting to a new coach, new playbook and new quarterback this. Fortunately, they have a strong group of skill players and linemen to smooth the transition.

"Our job is to get acclimated and be as good as possible quickly," said coach Jake Corbin. "Our kids are up for it and they are responding to the challenge."

Corbin plans to run a spread offense and get the ball to his playmakers in space. He recently hired Jason Aubrey to serve as offensive coordinator. Aubrey is a former assistant coach at Tulsa Union, Broken Arrow and Bartlesville.

Senior Cecil Cole is among the top receivers in the state, while fellow seniors

Chase Holland and Dylan Clark will anchor what should be a strong offensive line.

The team does have big shoes to fill at quarterback after losing Terry Wilson to graduation. The standout quarterback is now playing at the University of Oregon. Junior Christian Hoover will step into the starting role.

"Christian is great young man and good athlete and any time you have a new quarterback in a system there is a learning curve," Corbin said. "We're patient and realistic with where we are and where we need to get."

Hoover will have plenty of weapons on offense. Cole, Isaac Beverly, Anthony Goodlow and Sheldon Trotter will form one of the top receiving corps in Class 5A. Last year, Cole had 33 catches for 694 yards and 8 touchdowns and won two state title in track. The senior has attracted attention from

college coaches with offers from Arkansas State, Central Arkansas, North Texas and Wyoming.

And look for the Eagles to run the ball more than in years past. The team has a steady group of backs who shared time last season. Dion Kirk, Tre Wright, Ochai Boykins and James Mukes will form the running platoon.

"They all run fast and hard and they are eager to fight for spots," said Holland about the running backs.

Holland also likes what he's seen from his fellow offensive linemen. He and Clark both started last year. Keilan Coleman, Hartley Kelton, Dayton Bush and Darren Rice will likely fill the remaining starting spots.



-File photo
Anthony Goodlow and Isaac Beverly wrap up a ball carrier.

Defense ready for a bigger role

By Jeff Harrison
Managing Editor

Defense wasn't Del City's strong suit last year. But it's looking that way this summer.

"Our defense is flying around, they're lining up correctly and they have great communication on the field," said coach Jake Corbin. "We've been stressing tackling this year and they're getting better at that."

Corbin says the Eagles will

rely on a conservative 3-4 base defense. Veteran coach John Emerson has been brought in to run the defense. Emerson previously coached at Norman and was a former assistant coach at Del City under coach Henry Manning in the 1990s.

"Our mantra is bend but don't break," Corbin said. "I want them to line up correctly and make other teams snap it again and again to try and beat us."

Del City returns a few defensive starters and many

contributors from last year. Linebacker Myles Alexander and defensive back Keilan Gordon will be back in the starting lineup, along with Devon Grindle, who missed all of last season with a broken leg.

Grindle will anchor the defensive front, along with Javell Bizzell and Michael Pope. Grindle was a key player as a sophomore and is looking to bounce back this year. Bizzell and Pope have great size and should slow the run and

put pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

Alexander is one of several talented linebackers. The seniors is a hard-hitter and has a nose for the football. He will be joined by Tre Wright, Tyus Messner, Dion Kirk, LeAndre Turner and Ochai Boykins.

The secondary should be steady as well. Isaac Beverly and Anthony Goodlow will start at safety, while Gordon, Cecil Cole and Sheldon Trotter will see time at corner back.