

CITRONELLE WILDCATS

'Tremendous athlete' Robinson may be QB

But if he's not, he'll be a key player somewhere

BY TOMMY HICKS
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Jamarcus Robinson knows one thing for sure: He's going to be on the field when he and his Citronelle Wildcats open the 2017 season at home against Class 6A opponent B.C. Rain. He's just not sure what position the public address announcer will use when introducing him in pregame ceremonies.

That distinction, as the season approached, had not yet been made by Wildcats' head coach Rusty Funk, though Funk was 100 percent certain Robinson will contribute to the team's efforts this season on the field, especially on offense.

Robinson finds himself looking at a starting position as one of Citronelle's cornerbacks in an experienced and talented secondary and he is also in a tight battle with Carson Jarvis to claim the starting quarterback position. Should he not win that battle it doesn't mean Robinson won't be on the field when the offense has the ball. In fact, he'll likely be starting at wide receiver or running back should that be the case.

To be sure, Johnson is going to get plenty of playing time.

"Jamarcus is probably the best athlete at the school as a sophomore," Funk said. "He's a tremendous athlete. He can play pretty much any position on the football field. He's a tremendous baseball player and he's a tremendous basketball player. He's just a phenomenal athlete and he loves to compete at every level he can."

"No matter what, if he doesn't win the quarterback spot he's still going to be on the field folks. He'll either be at wide receiver or running back on offense and he's a starting cornerback too. He started the last third of the season last year as a true freshman in the secondary. He's an athlete."

As for his roles with the team, Robinson said he

is happy to get a chance to play a lot of different roles, anything that helps him get on the field and contribute in some way. He said he has enjoyed the competition at quarterback with Jarvis and he likes the direction the defensive unit is establishing, especially in the secondary where so many good players are located.

"It's going to be really important to find a way for us to keep things going and go deeper in the playoffs," Robinson said, alluding to last season's 6-5 Citronelle team that placed fourth in the tough Class 5A, Region 1 race, earning the final spot from the region in the 5A state playoffs. It was Citronelle's first playoff appearance since the 2008 season.

"We need to find the best candidate for the job (at quarterback)," he added. "(The competition) has been all right, it's been good. We bring out each other's weaknesses and our high points."

Regardless of who is running the show, Robinson said there won't be a lot of difference in how the Wildcats' conduct their attack. With the success they enjoyed a year ago, it makes sense to stick with what has worked, and for the most part that will be the case this season, though there will be a couple of new wrinkles here and there based on which player is taking snaps from center.

"We're not going to be really different," Robinson said. "At the quarterback position we should be dynamic, whether throwing the ball or rushing. I'm more of a rushing quarterback and bring a more rushing presence and I can open up the field that way. But I can throw it too."



"At the quarterback position we should be dynamic."

— Jamarcus Robinson, who is competing for QB role with Carson Jarvis

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