

# JACKSON ACADEMY EAGLE

## Robby Busby loves to hit and throw touchdowns

BY JIMMY BOONE  
Call News Correspondent

Robby Busby is going to be Robby Busby this year. Last year Busby was an all-state linebacker for the Jackson Academy Eagles as he had more than 140 tackles and was responsible for three forced fumbles and also recovered two fumbles.

This year Busby will also play quarterback as well as running back and H-back.

"I enjoy playing both ways," said Busby. "I really like to hit people, but also love to be a part of scoring touchdowns."

Busby actually began to play quarterback during the last three games of the season last year.

"I was the starting quarterback for the last few games of the year last year," said Busby. "Playing quarterback means passing. I had over 700 yards passing last year in the three games."

Busby says that playing defense is quite a bit like offense.

"You have to make a lot of decisions, and I always have to watch if the line does not get the tackle, and if they do not get it, I have to get it," said Busby. "But I love to blitz and get into the backfield and tackle the quarterback or the running back."

"It is a special feeling to know that you made them have to go longer for a first down."

Being a senior also means Busby is a team leader. He says a lot of younger players look up to him to help them know how to be better.

"I have to be a leader on offense and defense," said Busby. "I try to be a team leader by doing what I am supposed to do, and it all begins in the weight room and doing what I am supposed to do on the field."

While Busby expects to be throwing the ball a lot on offense, one of his most likely targets will be fellow senior Trey McKee at wide receiver.

McKee scored 14 touchdowns last year.

"I love to score," said McKee. "I get a thrill when I cross the goal line after catching a pass."

Like most of the players for Jackson Academy, McKee also plays defensive back, where he also puts his good hands to use.

Last year McKee had five interceptions, and returned three of them for touchdowns.

"When the game is real close, it really helps as you get a turnover and get some momentum going," said McKee. "It often leads to us getting down there for a score."

McKee says some of his interceptions are just a gut feeling of where the quarterback is going to throw the ball.

"I think I just get in the right spot to get an interception and make the right coverage, make a right read on the ball," said McKee.

"You cannot always see the quarterback very well, and you

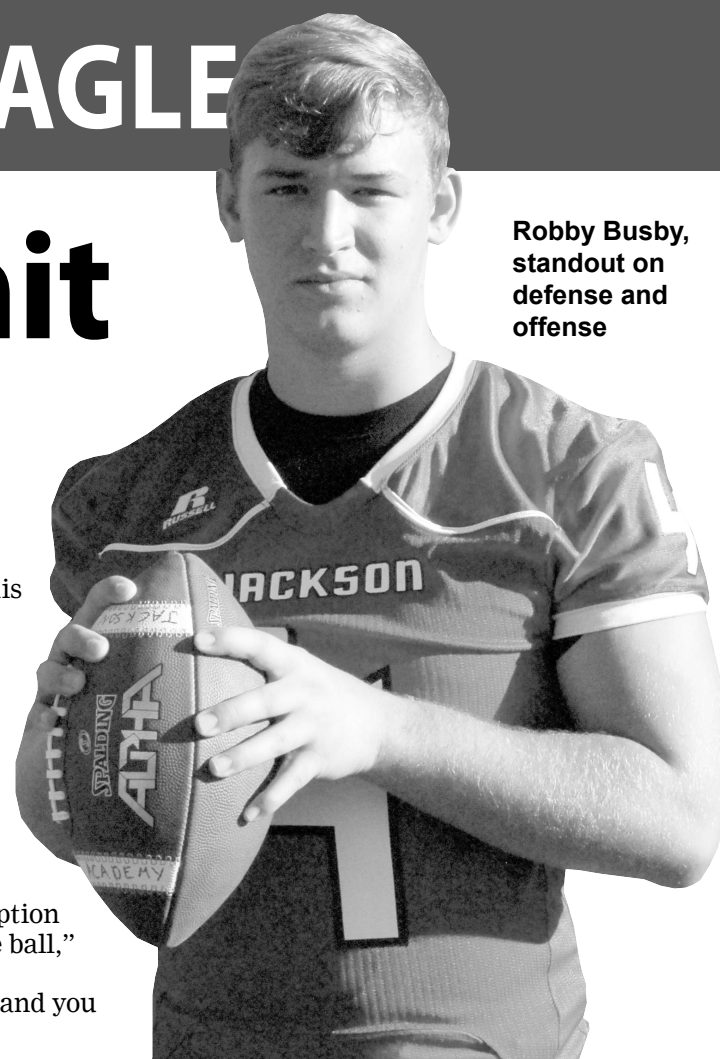
just have to guess where he is going to throw it. You just have to read the coverage and be in the right spot."

The duo is optimistic about the success they expect this year.

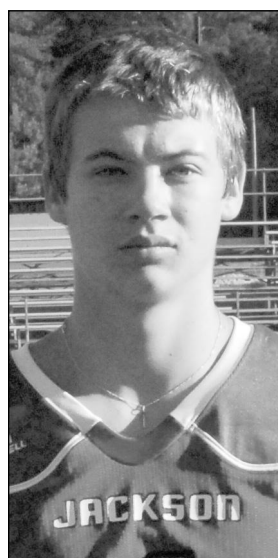
"I believe we are going to be lot better than last year," said Busby. "We have most of our skill guys coming back."

How far can the Eagles go?

"I think we really have a chance at state," said Busby. "Of course everybody says that every year, but we are looking at having a really good team."



Robby Busby, standout on defense and offense



Trey McKee

## 3,000 yards, and still going Forward

BY JIMMY BOONE  
Call News Correspondent

Alvin Forward is expected to take on a huge load for Jackson Academy this year as he comes back for his senior year.

In fact, you might say when he gets the ball, there is only one direction to go, and that is forward.

Forward plays wide receiver on offense and last year had more than 3,000 all-purpose offensive yards.

"I hope to have even more yards this year," said Forward. "I love to play offense because I get to score touchdowns."

Forward is quick to say there is more to his position than just catching the ball.

"As a receiver, if I am not catching passes, I am blocking and doing what I can to help so we can score," said Forward. "I try to be unselfish, because it is helping the team that is important and I love to see us score whether it is me or someone else on the team."

Forward said he started playing football when he was in the fifth grade and has been hooked ever since then.

When he is not on the football field, Forward loves to help his grandpa.

"I enjoy helping my grandpa out, he makes dollhouses, bird houses, and a lot of other woodworks," said Forward. "I like to help him build things."

Forward is also building on the football field.

"Working out and running in the summer is not a lot of fun, but it helps to build me into a better player," said Forward. "I try to help motivate the team in practice and in games."

Forward is also building for his own future.

He hopes this is not the end of his playing career.

"Hopefully I can keep playing ball in college," said Forward. "I have gotten a lot of interest from a college, so I hope to get a scholarship."

Last year the team was 6-5, and lost in triple overtime to Lakeview in the first round of the Class AA playoffs.

"We had a very good team last year, but this year we are going to try and win state," said Forward. "We have been working hard every day this summer to get ready for the season."

Like most players for the Eagles, Forward has to play both offense and defense.

On defense he plays safety and cornerback.

Last year, the defense gave up an average of 28 points per game.

"We know if we are going to be successful this year we have to play all four quarters," said Forward. "Our defense is going to have to tighten up this year."

Playing the entire game with little rest is difficult, but for Forward it is part of the challenge. He says it is part of the reason he has been working out so hard all summer long.

"It's hard to have to play both ways, but I am used to it," said Forward. "I have been doing that as long as I have played."

Jackson Academy will open the season with Crenshaw and then face South Choctaw.

Last year the Eagles defeated Crenshaw 46-13 but lost to South Choctaw 45-21.

"Last year we came out slow against South Choctaw, and they came out hot," said Forward. "We plan to be better prepared for them this year."

The Eagles made it to the Class AA playoffs but lost 42-35 to Lakeside in triple overtime.

"We hope to play a lot longer than we did last year," said Forward. "We just want to play hard and win."

The Eagles' Alvin Forward



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