

FAITH ACADEMY RAMS

Experience matters

Veterans plan to bring winning spirit to football team

by MARK R. KENT
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MOBILE — While there are plenty of quotes around that say “youth is served” and “a little child shall lead them,” it is a known principle that high school football teams hoping to win a fair number of games need to have solid senior numbers.

Coming off a 3-7 season and the sudden departure of their head coach, the Faith Academy Rams can at least count on the school’s elder statesmen for the leadership necessary to perhaps go bravely where no Ram has ever gone before — in this case, the AH-SAA’s Class 5A football playoffs.

Braxton Bell will answer the bell this season as the Rams’ quarterback. When he’s back in the pocket, he knows he can depend on wide receiver Parker Mills to find a way to get open. And when he’s on the sidelines waiting for Faith to get the ball back, he knows he can depend on free safety Austin Elliott to come up with a big play.

Bell and Mills know a thing or two about playoffs and winning, as both are part of coach Matt Seymour’s baseball team that made it to Montgomery and the state 5A finals two straight years. Even though the baseball Rams came up a game short against Russellville each time, the spirit of winning stays in the soul for both.

Elliott, who concentrates on football,

has enough friends in the many successful programs Faith fields so he as well knows what it takes to be a winner.

Bell and Elliott have aspirations to become engineers. Elliott said he already has a number of collegiate scholarship offers based on his classroom work. Bell is also weighing college, both from the academic side and from the possibility of

a baseball scholarship offer.

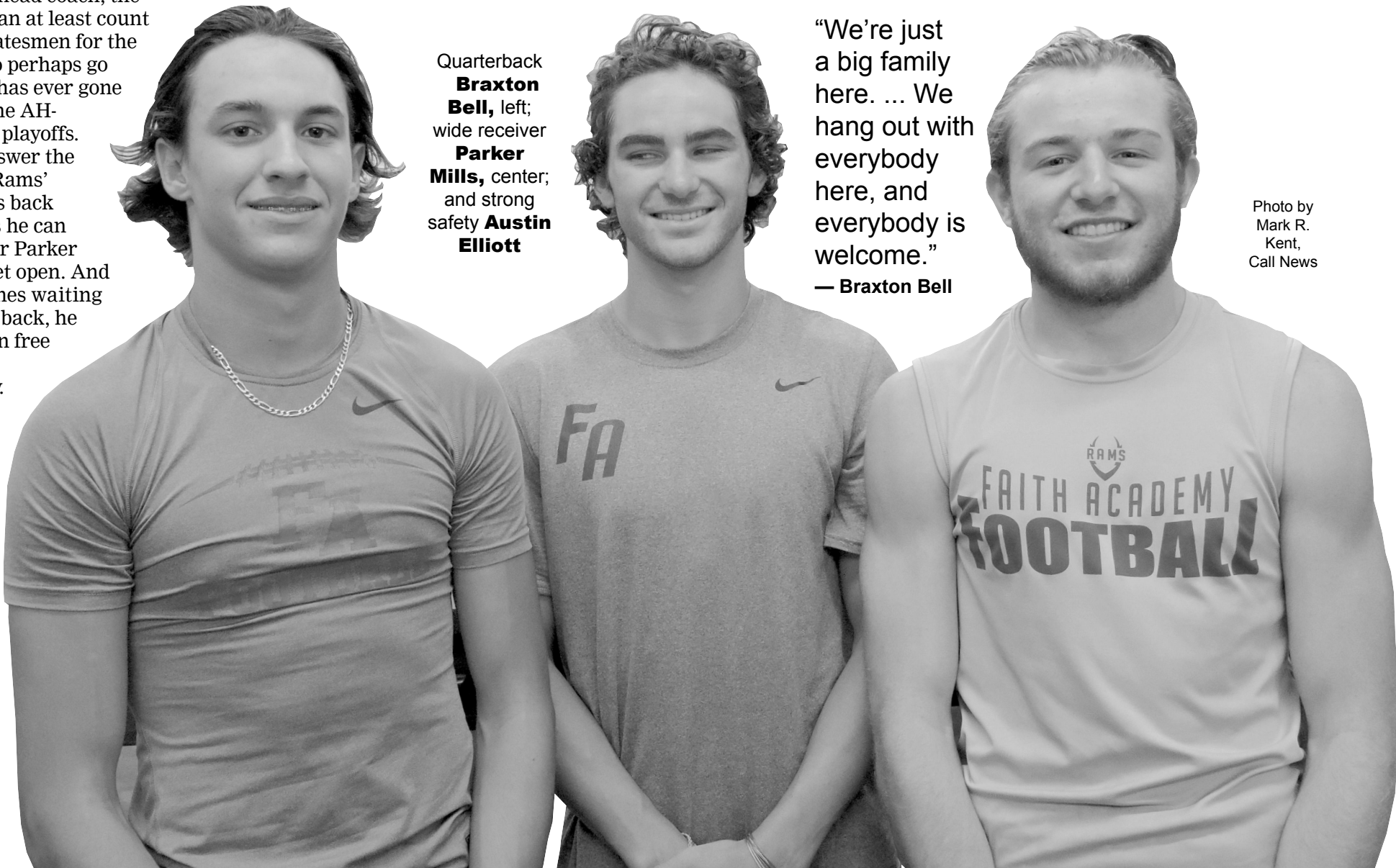
Mills is still working on his college plans, but rest assured, he says he is going to be in a classroom somewhere, taking courses this time a year from now.

All three seniors sat down for a roundtable question and answer session.

Q: How have the practices been so far this summer?

Bell: We come in every morning, and we get a quick workout. It seems like it keeps getting longer and longer every morning, and then we go out and throw, and we do 11-on-11s and 7-on-7s. It’s been really tough and really hot, but it’s been fun.

See **SENIORS**, 15C



Quarterback **Braxton Bell**, left; wide receiver **Parker Mills**, center; and strong safety **Austin Elliott**

“We’re just a big family here. ... We hang out with everybody here, and everybody is welcome.”
— Braxton Bell

Photo by Mark R. Kent, Call News

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