

# McINTOSH DEMONS

## Demons plan for 'big step'



The 2017 McIntosh High School Demons

McIntosh photos by Jason Boothe/Washington County News

### *Gates hopes McIntosh can compete for region*

By TOMMY HICKS  
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It hasn't been the best of times for McIntosh football in recent seasons, including last year's 1-9 season under first-year head coach Jerimie Gates.

But that's in the past, said Gates, who said he expects the Demons to be a competitive team this year, perhaps more competitive than others might expect.

"A lot of the guys have been showing up for workouts and they have been working hard all summer," Gates said of the 2017 Demons. "We hope that we can compete in the region and possibly make the playoffs."

"I know that's a big step from last year, but this coaching staff, this is our second year for all the coaches here and I think maybe the guys are figuring out what we want from

them and we can compete."

McIntosh opened last season against Class 5A Citronelle, losing 71-0, then defeated J.F. Shields 58-0 before losing to Linden 69-0, the start of a seven-game losing streak to end the season.

So what's the difference between this year's team and last season's?

"Mostly, with us being new coaches (last year) some of the guys were used to getting away with some

things that we wouldn't let them get away with," Gates said. "Now most of the guys are on board and putting forth the effort to be a better team."

"I don't know about the past. I know the year before I got here it was pretty bad and last year it was rough too, but I think we're working harder and I'm hoping we won't get embarrassed like we have in

See **DEMONS**, 34C



Jerimie Gates

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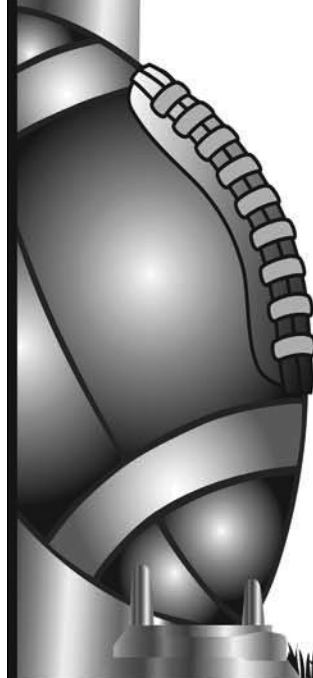
Norman Howard

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