

MILLRY WILDCATS

Millry's Holston ready for hunting

Linebacker has opponents in his crosshairs

BY DARRON PATTERSON
Call News Correspondent

Linebackers are a different breed. Everybody knows that.

And, in a way, they almost have to be a little odd because they're the enforcers, that second line of defense to clean up anything that gets past the D-Line, and before trouble makes its way into the secondary.

That said, it's not unusual for linebackers to study endless amounts of video on their opponents, or use any other high-tech tool that gets them ready to play.

So what does Millry senior linebacker Mason Holston use to get ready to go on Friday night?

"Coon hunting," he said, with no hint of a laugh or quiver in his voice whatsoever.

Say what?

"Yeah, I'm a big coon hunter and playing linebacker is a lot like wading through the bushes or brush ... like getting through blockers ... to get to that coon, man.

"Yep, I use the same ideas I use when I'm coon hunting to get to running backs."

Opponents of the Wildcats, you are now duly warned that the 6-foot-2, 225-pound Holston will see nothing but big black eyes and brown fur all over you every Friday night this season as he looks to cap off his high school career with a bang.

"I want a good senior year," he said. "So, I've got to make sure I do everything right."

And what would constitute a good season in his mind?

"Beating Chatom and getting a playoff win."

Ahhh. There's that "C word" (Chatom) again that Holston and every other Wildcat has been thinking about for almost 365 days since they were shut out, 35-0, by their county rivals.

That was early in the season, and the Cats didn't end it any better, bowing out of the Class 1A playoffs with a 28-6 first-round loss at Georgiana.

"We want to get off to a fast start and just get better as the season goes on," said Holston of the plan for 2017.

"We know what we have to do."

Kind of like knowing what to do when you're coon hunting, huh, Mason?

"Exactly."



Millry senior linebacker Mason Holston

Family is inspiration for star running back Mitchell

He says he must do even more than last year to boost Cats

BY DARRON PATTERSON
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There is no doubt when Emmanuel Mitchell's family gets together for Sunday dinner or just kicking it as a group, you'll always find him there, too.

And it's all because the Millry junior running back has a simple philosophy about his life.

"My family is my inspiration," said the soft-spoken Mitchell, who'll shoulder the load at running back for the Wildcats this year.

"All of them, my entire family, plays a big role in my life and inspire almost everything I do."

One of the things the 6-foot, 195-pound Mitchell does, and does well, is run the football with the best of running backs in the area.

Last year he accounted for more than 800 yards on the ground, while scoring seven touchdowns and was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise difficult 4-7 season.

He and his teammates have worked their tails off this summer to be sure they don't repeat last year's mistakes.

"We're all committed to doing everything we can to be better. I need to give 100 percent and

just do whatever I can to help this team.

"I like scoring touchdowns, but I know I've got to do even more," said Mitchell, who'll also see time at linebacker defensively.

Despite last year's disappointing season, Mitchell and his Wildcats teammates know they did some good things to build on.

He says they all to a man feel they can get better, something they must do, especially when it comes to the one team they don't want to fall flat against again.

"Chatom," he said with emphasis about Millry's main rival, who embarrassed them, 35-0, last season.

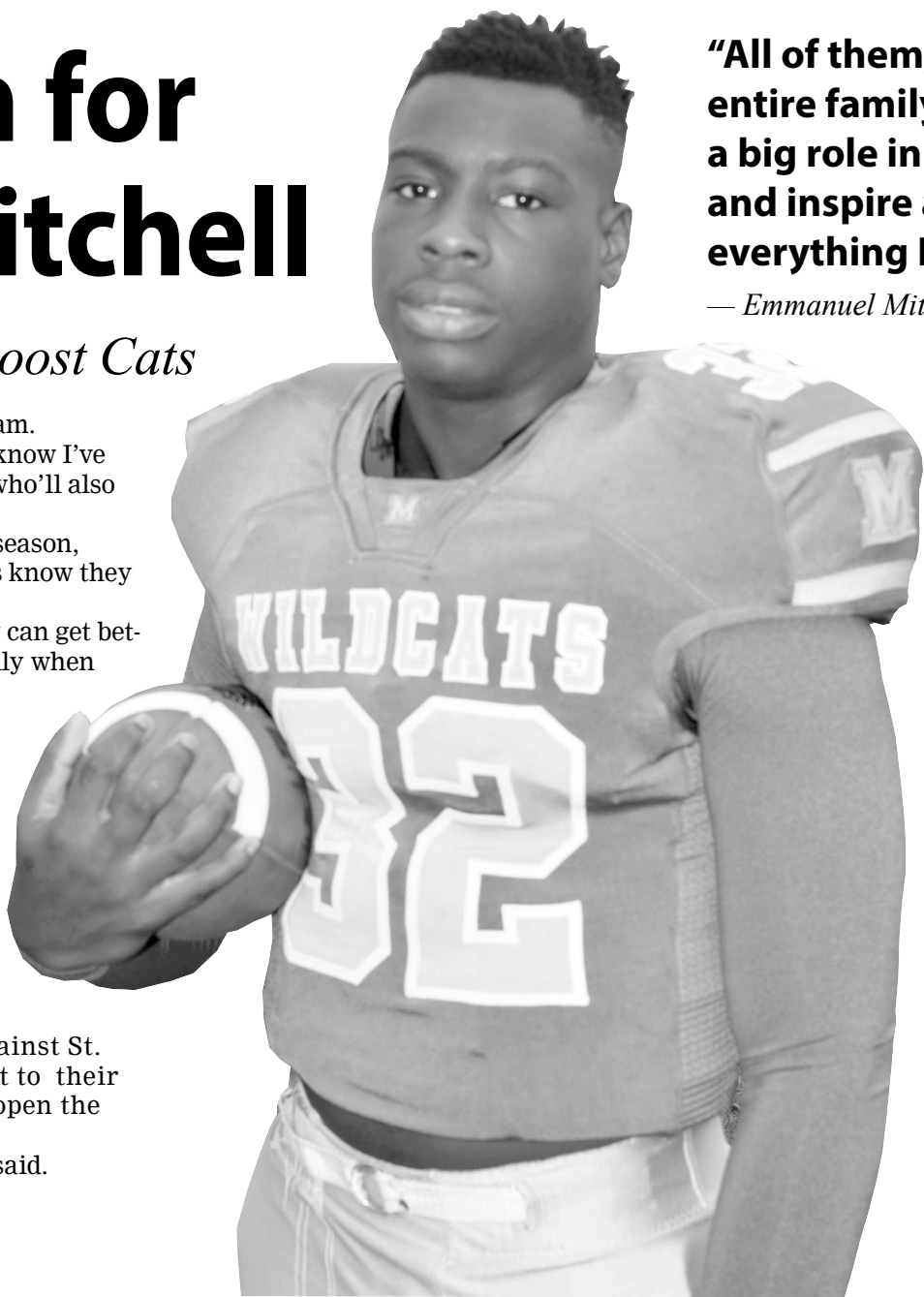
"Last year they had two backs that ran wild against us and we've just got to be better.

"We have to be."

Mitchell and Millry won't have to wait long to know if they've improved, because just a week after an Aug. 25 warm-up against St. Luke's, they hit the road for a visit to their Washington County neighbors to open the real season.

"We're looking forward to it," he said.

"We all are."



"All of them, my entire family, plays a big role in my life and inspire almost everything I do."

— Emmanuel Mitchell

Good luck with the coming season, prep teams!

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