

# MARY G. MONTGOMERY VIKINGS

## Senior Mills anchors MGM's O-line

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Senior offensive lineman Michael Mills is going to be relied on a whole lot during Mary G. Montgomery's 2017 season.

Mills, you see, is the only returning starter on the offensive line, and he is going to not only provide leadership for the rest of the offensive line — regardless of who the other starters are — but also provide protection for new starting quarterback Jacoby Daniel.

Head coach Chris Wilson said he felt during the spring that Mills would be one of the leaders on offense, particularly the offensive line, which has potential, but is young.

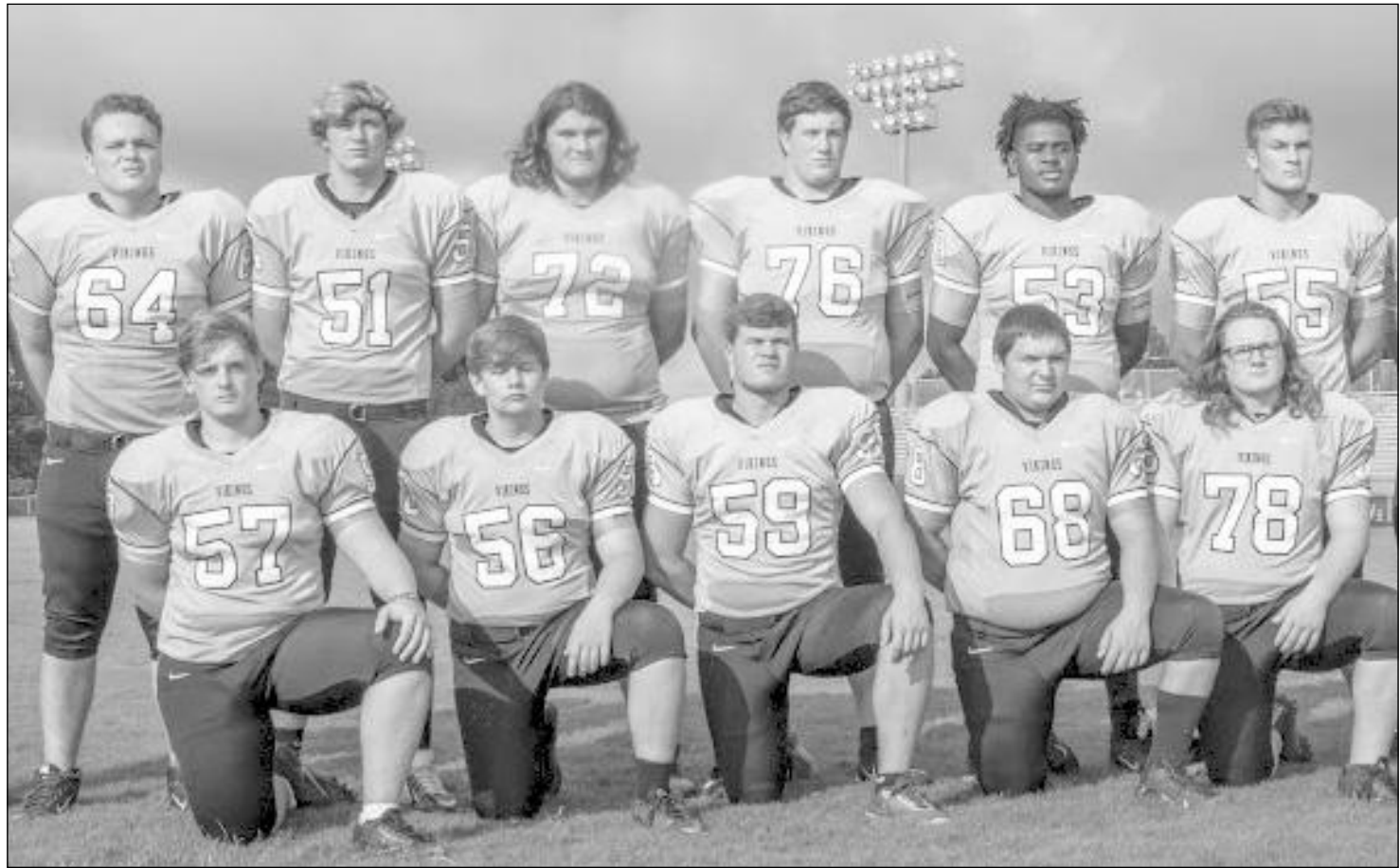
"Michael has done a really good job for us," Wilson said. "Here, we have a strong offensive line, and we've got guys playing in the I-formation and running play-action passes."

Mills said even though most of the offensive line candidates are young, they have the capability to play well, especially with the running game, which will likely have Josh Martin as the featured back.

"As far as potential, as far as the young guys, I know they can step it up and they can play when they need to play," Mills said.

Mills said like previous coach Brian Seymore, who resigned to take the head coaching position at Demopolis, Wilson knows football and football personnel very well. When Wilson came to MGM, one of the first things he did was encourage the Viking players not to dwell on Seymore's departure, but to focus on the upcoming season.

"I think he's a great coach, and he's a great leader," Mills said of Wilson. "When he came in, he kind of



Some of the offensive linemen for Mary G. Montgomery.

said, "All right, coach Seymore is out, but you got to focus on next season. It was tough, but coach Wilson came in and it was all right. I was ready to go for the next season."

With Wilson having to rebuild the offensive line, it was important that younger players buy into the program, and quickly. Mills said over time, the younger offensive line candidates became more aware of their

roles on the team and what they had to do in order to earn starting positions.

"There's been a brotherhood," he said. "I've been playing offensive line, and I've started for the last two years. I've been trying to show (the younger linemen) what they needed to do, like come together and how to do it, and I feel like they've competed really well. They've been trying to fight for those spots, and I was helping out with that."



MGM coaches, from left, Marcus Douglas, Nick Roberson, Stan McCain, head coach Chris Wilson, John Kubik, Marcus Johnson and Austin Barbour.

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