

Jr. Vikings eager for upcoming season

BY AMBER ADAMS

The Jr. Vikings, though small in quantity, are intense in quality. Many will play both sides of the ball this season so conditioning is vital.

Last year proved to be a tough season for the Jr. Vikes, however this year brings them a seasoned coaching unit and with that brings a season of growth.

Darren Stevens, Harold Miller and Anthony Ballard took charge of the Jr. Vikes as well as the high school Vikings. Stevens is the head coach of the Jr. high while Ballard is the head coach of the high school, but serves as an assistant coach to the Jr. high team as well. Coach Miller is the assistant coach as well as the offensive and defensive coordinator for both teams.

Stevens has a strong foundation when it comes to football and also serves as an algebra teacher at Humboldt Jr./Sr. High School.

"The hope for this set up is to bring these young men a program that offers

cohesiveness and stability," Stevens stated. "This kind of coaching set up provides them the same coaching staff, locker room and even some plays. So if someone needs help, the support is there for them to develop through their school years."

This year's Jr. Vikings bring an array of promising talent including 8th graders Isaiah Agnew and Braxton Johnson who will be toting the pigskin as running backs. Jaquari McCurry will be running the offense as quarterback for the Jr. Vikes. Isaiah Agnew and Braxton Johnson will be the backup quarterbacks.

The Jr. Vikes dominate the defensive and offensive line with athleticism and size.

"These young men on the line are very encouraging," Stevens said. "They want to be better and I see them getting better with every practice. Their dedication is unwavering and that is what we ask for."

"Our goal for this team is to develop

these guys skills and techniques," coach Miller added. "We want them to strive to be the best of the best and if we can do that now, by the time we have them in high school they will dominate the field."

The Jr. Vikings will begin their season August 16 welcoming Henderson North to Jr. Viking territory. Henderson North is new to the schedule line up, so this will be an intriguing game to see played out.

"We will prepare our boys to play their best and prepare them to face a strong unified team," Stevens noted.

August 23 the Jr. Vikings head to Trinity Christian Academy to face the Lions. Trinity will bring a strong offense to the line but the Jr. Vikes also have a strong defense. If the Jr. Vikes can hold off the Lions, then a Humboldt victory could sure be in the forecast.

The Gibson County Jr. Pioneers are also new to the Jr. Vikings' schedule this year. They will make a trip to Humboldt to face off with the Jr. Vikings on August 30.

The following week Halls will also be making a road trip to Viking nation.

On September 18, the Jr. Vikings will head to Liberty High School to face Rose Hill whom they defeated last year. They will have to stay on their toes, but with great focus, they should come back with the win.

September 28 brings the Jr. Vikes to Trenton to play the Bears. This will be tougher competition but if anyone can calm the Bears, it's the Jr. Vikes.

The last regular season game will take place back in Viking territory against newcomer Jackson Christian School on October 2.

All games will begin at 6:30 p.m. this year and the Vikings invite the community to attend and to cheer them on.

Coach Stevens and Coach Ballard agree that their coaching philosophy for the Jr. Vikings this year is simple; discipline is necessary and so is having fun. If those two components are in place then the numbers will take care of themselves.



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