

# Fresh look for Titan defense

Carl Albert replacing entire defense from 2017 state championship team

By **Jeff Harrison**  
Managing Editor

Carl Albert has several returning players from last year's state championship team. But none of them were on defense.

Coach **Mike Corley** says they have several of talented young players that will need to step in on defense.

"We have five returning starters on offense and zero on defense," Corley said. "This is the point where we need that next group to step up and be Titans. It's a process we've been working on every day since we walked off the field at Yukon last year after the state championship."

Senior **Dadrion Taylor** said the defense is rapidly improving.

"Our offense is on point and our defense is getting better every day," he said. "And we're getting more confident."

The defensive line has some promising players. **Jacob Gentry**, a likely starter on the offensive line, will help on the interior. **Ethan Ridenour, Zac Worth, Adrian Williams** and **Alphonse Joseph** have looked good at defensive end.

Corley has been impressed by the play of his new linebackers. **Reise Collier** started a few games last year before missing time due to injury. The junior is the team's top returning tackler with 65 stops in 2017, including 15 in a win over Ardmore. **David Peters** saw some varsity snaps last year and will likely start at the Mike backer. **Nathan Moody, Ezra Gustafson** will also see time at linebacker.



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

**Linebacker Reise Collier (9) is the top returning tackler for Carl Albert this season.**

"We have a chance to be solid at linebacker with several good kids," Corley said.

Graduation took a heavy toll on the Titans outstanding secondary from last year. Gone are **Jason Taylor**, who is playing at Oklahoma State, **Trajan Lands, Jaedon Pool, Diego Richards** and **Zane Alexander**.

**Montrell Britt** is the favorite at strong safety. **Javion Hunt, Jonathan Mosley** and **DeJuana McArthur** are competing at free safety. And **Carter LaValley** and **Cobe Crews** are vying for the other weak side spot.

**Chris Veals, Rico Windham, Jayveion Traylor, Dadrion Taylor, Khaleel McGee** and **Anthony Davis** will help at corner back.

The Titans will have several options for punt and kick returns.



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

**Adrian Williams (Right) is expected to be one of the Titans top defenders this fall.**

Veal, Davis, Dadrion Taylor and McArthur are the likely candidates.



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

**Carl Albert's Rico Windham makes a leaping grab during practice.**

## Titans

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Midwest City on Aug. 31. The Bombers have never lost in the series, winning most recently in 2014 and 2015. Carl Albert will head to Del City on Sept. 7 and host Shawnee, which moved to Class 6A-II, on Sept. 14.

"All of our non-district games are against Class 6A-II schools," Corley said. "We replaced Lawton with Midwest City which is a great team. And we're excited to play the Mid-Del schools."

District play will begin with a long drive to Guymon on Sept. 21. The Titans will have home games against Piedmont, Woodward and Lawton Eisenhower. They travel to Northwest Classen, Guthrie and Bishop McGuiness in the final game of the regular season.

"We want to beat Guthrie, make the playoffs and win a gold ball again," said senior tight end **Zac Worth**.