

# Expectations high for Bombers

## Midwest City returns several starters from state semifinalist squad

BY JEFF HARRISON

Managing Editor

Graduation took a toll on the Midwest City football team. The Bombers lost several key players on both sides of the ball including **Jalen Redmond, Juwan Walker, DeClaudio Irvin, T'Aces Vick, Morgan Moore** and more.

But high expectations never graduate at Midwest City.

With one of the top quarterbacks in the state, experienced offensive and defensive lines and up and coming talent, the Bombers plan to be in the thick of the Class 6A-II race again this fall.

"I'm really excited about this season. We have a really good group that's worked hard this offseason and summer," coach **Darrell Hall** said.

The Bombers are coming off one of their most successful seasons in recent memory. They went undefeated in district play and advanced to the state semifinals. Their season came to an end with a narrow loss to Bixby in the semifinals. It was the first time the Bombers advanced past the first round since 2013, the year before OSSAA split Class 6A.

"The biggest difference in the Bixby game was that their guys had been there before," Hall said. "And I think that makes our guys more hungry because they know how close they were to winning."

Senior quarterback **Preston Colbert** will lead the offense following a breakout junior campaign. The Bombers will also return four starters on the offensive line with **Omar Estupinan, Issiah Marshall, Jaden Warren** and **Anthony Wright**.

Defensively, the Bombers will be strong with **Elijah Manuel**



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

**Seniors Issiah Marshall (72) and Billy Cooks III (20) will play major roles in the Bombers offense this season.**

anchoring the line and linebackers **Chris Youngblood** and **Jacobi Johnson** and **Tramon Jackson** in the secondary.

Midwest City will also have continuity among the coaching staff. Both top assistants **Paul Hix**, offensive coordinator, and **Dawayne Hudson**, defensive coordinator, will return along with familiar schemes.

The Bombers will have another tough non-district slate, with all three games on the road. They open the season Aug. 24 on the road against Bentonville, the Class 7A state runner-up in Arkansas last year.

Midwest City will take on two-time defending 5A state champion Carl Albert on Aug. 31, and wrap up non-

district play Sept. 7 at Muskogee.

Things won't get any easier in district play. After a bye week, the Bombers host Lawton Sept. 21 and travel to Stillwater the following week. They will have home dates with Putnam City (Oct. 5), Deer Creek (Oct. 12) and Putnam City West (Nov. 2). Their other road schedule includes Del City (Oct. 19) and Choctaw (Oct. 26).

Defending state champion Tulsa Booker T. Washington is the preseason favorite in Class 6A-II. The Trojans are loaded with Division I talent including safety Daxton Hill, a five-star prospect. Hall believes Midwest City, Lawton, Stillwater and Bixby should be contenders.

### MCHS Schedule

Aug. 25	at Bentonville
Aug. 31	at Carl Albert
Sept. 7	at Muskogee
Sept. 21	Lawton
Sept. 28	at Stillwater
Oct. 5	Putnam City
Oct. 12	Deer Creek*
Oct. 18	at Del City
Oct. 26	at Choctaw
Nov. 2	Putnam West**
* Homecoming, **Senior Night	