

Learning curve ahead for offense

By **Kory Oswald**
Contributing Writer

The Longhorns' offensive line is perhaps the team's brightest — see largest and strongest — asset this season.

With some big bodies on the line, the team averages about 285 across the front, their opponents will have to earn every inch of play. The line will also provide room for the others to find their rhythm.

"When you're that strong up front," coach **Dave Martin** said. "It is going to provide a safety net early on."

That net will be helpful for the former state champs this season because the team has just three players returning on offense. With a young team comes new challenges but after the necessary tweaks, Martin is confident the team will adjust quickly and be as formidable as it was in the past. Especially after his players get some experience under the lights, he said.

"We've got some guys learning new positions and things like that but they're very capable," Martin said. "The dynamics some guys bring to our offense this year ... is going to keep us measurable to our numbers from the previous years. It's just going to take some game-time

experience to get those things on track."

Experience is necessary but it helps to have a large rallying point, which Jones has in senior **Kason Cathey**, a 6-foot-1, 215-pound starting tackle.

"He is going to be our leader," Martin said. "He has done an incredible job for us ... and he is going to do really well."

Three players have stepped up to fill the role left behind by former quarterback, **J.D. Head**, who moved to Texas. Senior **Jase Farmer**, junior **Daniel Jackson** and freshman **Carson May** are in line to lead the Longhorns from the snap and all three brings something unique to the position.

"They have a good foothold on our offensive," Martin said. "Each has something dynamic about them that we fill like we can definitely go win with."

The backfield will see seniors **Dylan Weiher** and **Blake Passarella** return as running backs and **Sam Blaine** at outside receiver.

Passarella rushed for 387 yards with 62 carries and three touchdowns his sophomore and junior years. While Weiher has 185 yards over his varsity career.

"It's just one of those things, having our offense gel and the kids get comfortable with the system," Martin said.



-Staff photo by Ryan Horton

Jones senior Blake Passarella ran for 387 yards and three touchdowns last year.

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