



-File photo

Carl Albert senior Dadrion "Rabbit" Taylor (16) is expected to be one of the top running backs in the state this year after running for 1,900 yards and 22 touchdowns in 2017.

State champs reload for 2018

By Jeff Harrison
Managing Editor

Carl Albert knows a lot about winning football state championships.

And what it takes to get there.

The Titans are coming off their second consecutive Class 5A state championship and 13th in school history. After losing a large and talented group of seniors, coach **Mike Corley** is looking to the next group of players to take on new roles.

"Those seniors were a very talented group

that won two state championships in football, one in basketball and two in track," Corley said. "But every year it's a new group. We have some good key players back, but we have a lot of young new faces that need to step up."

The Titan program has developed consistent winners through strong coaching and mentorship by players. Corley says many of the younger players have seen what it takes to win and will follow the example set by past classes.

"These guys know that it takes hard work and dedication," Corley said. "Just because you're from Carl Albert doesn't mean you're guaranteed anything. They know they need to work for it and they've had a good summer."

The summer workouts have focused on conditioning and strength training as well as mental preparations. Corley said they have worked with players on patience and how to handle adversity. "Being so successful in sports, they have not had

a lot of adversity," Corley said. "We've preached how to respond to adversity in football and in life."

Despite the heavy losses, Carl Albert is expected to be a contender again in 5A. Bishop McGuinness, who lost to Carl Albert in the last two state title games, will be tough to beat along with Ardmore, Bishop Kelly and Lawton MacArthur.

The Titans will have another tough non-district slate this year, including Mid-Del rivalry games. Carl Albert will host

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CAHS Schedule

Aug. 31	Midwest City
Sept. 7	at Del City
Sept. 14	Shawnee
Sept. 21	at Guymon
Sept. 28	Piedmont*
Oct. 5	at NW Classen
Oct. 12	at Guthrie
Oct. 18	Woodward
Oct. 26	Lawton Ike**
Nov. 2	McGuinness
* Homecoming, **Senior Night	