

# Jones defense will be key in 2018

Coach Martin says veteran defense will take pressure off young offense

By Kory Oswald  
Contributing Writer

With the defense comprised mostly of senior athletes that have been starting since their sophomore year the experience, muscle and talent that permeates the Longhorns' D will allow the rest of the team the time and space it needs to up their game, coach **Dave Martin** said.

"This is a very strong point for us," he said. "Defensively we feel like we can really be solid to give that offense some time to gel."

Senior **Dylan Weiher** will lead

the team at inside linebacker along with other starters from the state championship team, including **Oakley Tubbs, Sam Blaine** and **Jase Farmer, Jaaren Isaacs** and **Parker Case**.

The confidence of the defense is backed by the teams' record, but it is bolstered by the athletes' hard work ethic and community support, Blaine said.

"We see it in practice, we're all confident," he said. "As long as we play like we've been playing and keep our momentum going, we shouldn't have any trouble."

Blaine, a 6-foot-2, 195-pounder



-Staff photo by Ryan Horton

**Inside linebacker Dylan Weiher will be one of the Longhorns top defensive players.**

who plays offense and defense, has 133 tackles and eight sacks in 43 games played during his

football career.

"I know that wherever coach Martin puts me, he trusts me there," Blaine said. "He knows I will get the job done and I'm comfortable wherever he puts me on the field."

Weiher, at 6-foot and 195-pounds, also plays running back on offense, has 186 tackles with 92 assists and five sacks in 37 games. Combined with the rest of the team's experience, Martin expects the offense to hold strong.

"Our senior class is going to be able to lead us," Martin said. "We are going to be able to rely on those guys to guide the young guys ... along the way because they've got a ton of experience."



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