

Midwest City defense puts best foot forward

By Jeff Harrison
Managing Editor

High school quarterbacks may breathe easier without **Jalen Redmond** on the field. The standout defensive end racked up 19 ½ sacks last year at Midwest City and will be playing college ball for the University of Oklahoma.

But overlooking the Bomber defense this year would be a mistake.

Midwest City returns several starters at all three levels of their defense.

The defense will put its best foot forward with a solid defensive front. Seniors **Elijah Manuel** and **Kaptyn Berry** are returning starters who will anchor the unit. The 6-foot-5, 290-pound Manuel has an offer from the University of Memphis with many sure to follow. Junior

nose guard **Kaleb Morgan** has been impressive this offseason. **Melik Ward** and **Jaden DeShazo** will also help on the defensive line.

"You can't replace someone like Jalen Redmond, but we do have some really good guys on the defensive line," said coach **Darrell Hall**.

Chris Youngblood and **Jacobi Johnson** will return at outside linebacker. Youngblood is the top returning tackler after recording 69 tackles and 6 ½ sacks last year as a junior. Johnson, who also plays basketball, had 58 tackles last year.

"They really solidify the edge for us," Hall said of his linebackers.

The Bombers still need to fill the inside linebacker spots. **Ty'Khyree Jackson**, **Arthur Broiles**, **Kristawan Friday** and **LeJaylan Long-Jackson** are battling for the spots.

The secondary is also in good



-File photo

Elijah Manuel will anchor a strong defensive line for the Midwest City Bombers.

shape with seniors **Tramon Jackson** and **Kyle Lindsay** leading the way. Jackson led the team with 5 interceptions last year and should be a top cornerback as a senior. Lindsay returns at safety after missing all of

last season with an injury.

Senior **Brendon Smith** and junior **Devon Tipton** are the likely candidates for the other corner position. Senior **Doryian Royal** should help at the other safety spot.

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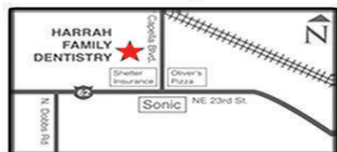
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