

MARY G. MONTGOMERY



MGM receiver Josh Martin makes a catch for a two-point conversion during the Hurricane Coastal Clash 7-on-7 tournament hosted by Alma Bryant High.

Photo by John O'Dell/Call News

Lockett: Experience will boost MGM's defense this season

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Mary G. Montgomery's Brandon Lockett has seen his share of coaching changes during his playing days with the Vikings. That's why he's optimistic new head coach Stan McCain, who was the team's defensive coordinator last season, will be there for a while. McCain is the team's seventh head coach in the past 10 years.

"He's really amazing; you can tell that he loves us," Lockett said of McCain. "He's so nice to us. Everybody loves him. We all feel that he's going to be here for a long time. We all feel like we can walk up (to him) and have a conversation with him and he won't dog us out or anything."

Lockett said he feels McCain will bring some structure to a team that went 0-10 last year and saw the departure of head coach Chris Wilson after one season. He was asked what it would take for the Vikings to get over the hump and get back on the winning track.

"I think discipline, that's the one thing for sure," Lockett said. "We sometimes tend to play around when we don't need to. We need to get more serious, in the weight room especially, because we tend to talk a lot in there. It's mainly discipline. We pretty much need to get more serious."

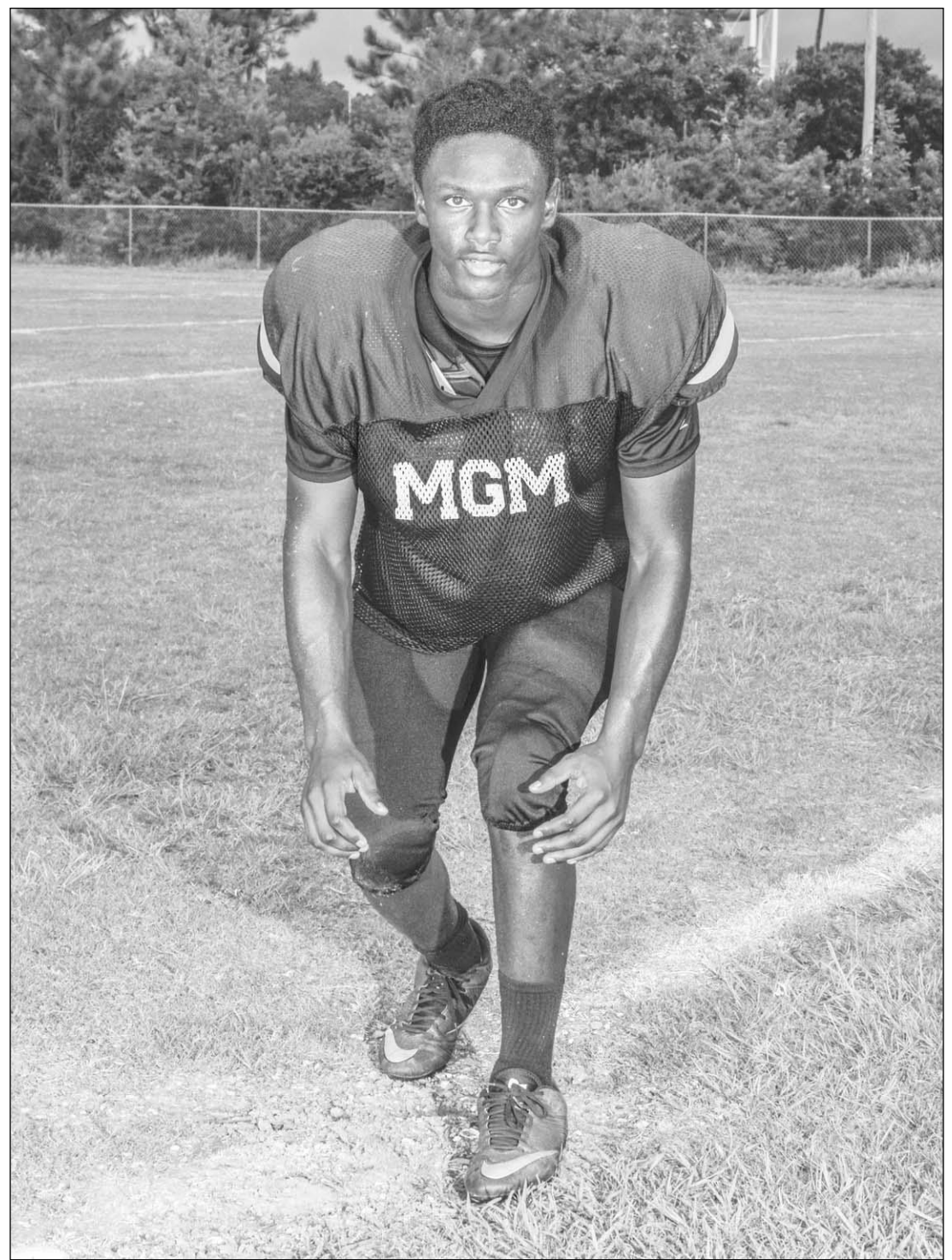
In 2017, the Vikings gave up a school-

record 441 points, including a school-record 66 against Auburn in Week 6. In fact, only twice during the regular season did MGM give up fewer than 40 points — 35 against UMS-Wright in the season opener and 34 in a homecoming loss to Baker.

Lockett said he feels that will change, especially with seven returning starters. "I think we're going to be amazing," he said. "Like coach McCain said, we have a lot of returning starters, so I think it's going to definitely help out with the experience we have now. I was one of those first people who did not have much playing time last year and it was my first time getting varsity experience, so definitely we all feel like we know the game speed, and I think we all are going to do pretty good."

During the spring, and especially during the summer, Lockett said there were some things he and others worked on to improve their performances. Individually, he worked on some things to elevate his game and avoid mistakes he was making last season. The team as a whole has taken that same approach.

"We definitely worked hard this off-season and we especially expect it to pay off this summer," he said. "For the defense, we worked on technique — that's one thing for sure that we definitely worked on. I worked on my footwork a lot, and my speed for sure."



Mary G. Montgomery's Brandon Lockett

Photo by John O'Dell/Call News

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