

# CITRONELLE

## Cats' defense builds to reload

BY WILLIE GRAY

williegray@thecallnews.com

The coach who has been in charge of the Citronelle defense for the past three seasons is now in charge of the entire program. Jason Barnett, was named the interim head coach in July and with that he has assigned the defensive coordinator duties to Jason Morgan.

Does that mean Barnett is walking away from the defense he has been responsible for during the last three years? He says no.

"I'm a defensive guy, but as the head coach I have to have an eye everywhere and be able to jump in wherever I am needed," Barnett said. "Coach Morgan is a good coach and I have confidence in him being able to handle the job as the defensive coordinator. Coach Morgan is a defensive-minded coach. He was a defensive back in college and he grew up as the son of a high school coach, so he has been around football all of his life and does a good job for us."

According to Barnett, he and Morgan have agreed to continue playing a base 4-3 defense which they have used for the past few seasons. Barnett also adds that his style of 4-3, used by the Wildcats, has been modified over the years with adjustments that allow better execution by the personnel that is available.

### Must replace stars

Replacing key defensive players is a chore for any school but for Citronelle it might be a bit more difficult than for most. With a change in player personnel, coupled with a change in the coaching staff, the Wildcats seem to be pulling the answers together.

Barnett was asked how do he plans to fill the defensive void left with the graduation of Jonathan Orso and Mickey Reed. Barnett said he has made the adjustments that will plug in the next defensive leaders for the Wildcats.

"Jonathan and Mickey were two special guys that we enjoyed having on our team, but like all high school players you know graduation is coming and you better prepare for that," Barnett said. "From the time I came here as the defensive coordinator three years ago I have been trying to build a depth program which will allow us to fill in

after key players graduate. Good programs don't rebuild every year, they reload and that is where we want to be. Are we to the reloading point right now? No, but we have a plan to get there."

One of the players Barnett has tapped as having the potential to play at the same level as his top defenders of 2017 is a newcomer to the program, Hunter Howard, a 6-foot-3, 260-pound senior.

"Hunter Howard is a great kid in more ways than one. The first day of spring training he showed up and he can play," Barnett said. "Is he as good as those guys from last season? Not yet, but he has all the same abilities those guys did and he is working hard to learn the system and I think he can get the job done."

Others who Barnett says will see time at defensive end will be Broderius Frink, Tyler Jennings, Logan Wainwright, Jonathan Worles and Coby Reed.

"These are guys we have confidence in getting the job done for us and in an effort of creating depth, we will rotate when we need to," Barnett said.

"Worrells is a sophomore

but he is going to be a player because he has size and speed. Right now, Reed is a little lighter than we might normally want a defensive end to be but we think he will be able to use his speed to make up for what he is giving up in size."

Other defensive positions will be filled with both returning starters and newcomers. Returning starters for the Wildcat defense will include senior Aaron Belt, Aaron Peoples and junior Jamarcus Robinson. All three are expected to see time on both sides of the ball, but Barnett says all three are impact players as defensive players.

"All three of these guys are players and without a doubt they will play a role in our success this year. All three have caught the eye of col-

lege recruiters and they deserve the attention they get, they are good and we expect them to get better," Barnett said.

Belt (6-2, 215) transferred to Citronelle for the 2017 season. According to Barnett, Belt will be at outside linebacker. Peoples (6-1, 165) spent most of his time as a receiver during the 2017 season but this year Barnett says he will also see time as a safety on defense.

"Both of the Aarons are good kids and born leaders. This is the first time Peoples has been on defense but after we allowed him to try it in the spring I saw something in him that defensive back comes natural to him. He might only weigh 165 pounds but he will hit you with the power of a 265-pounder," Barnett said.

Robinson, who sat out in the spring, is a 6-2, 210-pound junior seen by many as an overall athlete with the ability to play multiple positions. Because of his athletic ability and size, Barnett says he has caught the attention of college scouts of Division 1 programs, including the University of Alabama.

"He is as good of a cornerback as there is and he is still young and learning, but he has natural talent," Barnett said. "He has grown a couple inches since last year and has gotten stronger. He has a bright future in athletics because he is a standout at baseball as well as football."

### Linebacker leaders

Another starter from the 2017 season who also sat out spring training was Carson Jarvis. He reconnected with his team after Barnett got the job as coach and is expected to return to the quarterback position, but will also see time as an outside linebacker.

Joining Jarvis at linebacker will be a host of players including seniors Joe Jeffrey Hutcherson, Justin Johnston and Casten Reed.

The defensive line will be one of the biggest the Wildcats have had in a few years and one Barnett said will have both speed and strength. In addition to the defensive ends, some of which will also move to a down position when needed, others expected to help include Tyler Jennings, Derek James, Dawson Stringer and Harold Rucker.


"Again, I say that we have a good group of guys on our defensive front," Barnett said. "We have a group that will average 250 pounds with a couple being a little bigger. I think we will be able to hold our own up front, but time will tell if that holds to be true or not."

Three other defenders who Barnett says have shown the ability to play in the rotation this year include Daniel Manley, BJ Jones and Dorian Weaver.



Citronelle's defense will shoulder the responsibility of stopping some of the best teams in 5A competition, including LeFlore, Vigor and Jackson, which all are in Region 1 with the Wildcats. They will open the season Aug. 24 against Washington County.



Jamarcus Robinson, junior cornerback



## Walt Massey


# TRUCK HEADQUARTERS

**2018 SIERRA 1500 4WD CREW CAB SLT**

\$8,495

**TOTAL DISCOUNT**  
OFF MSRP OF \$52,815

- \$3237 GMC Consumer Offer
- \$1056 GM Financial
- \$4202 Dealer Discount



---

**2018 SILVERADO 1500 4WD CREW CAB Z71**

FIND NEW ROADS

\$7,843

**TOTAL DISCOUNT**  
OFF MSRP OF \$48,875

- \$3022 Chevrolet Consumer Offer
- \$977 GM Financial Cash
- \$3844 Dealer Discount



OIL CHANGE, TIRE ROTATION & MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

\$39.95

MUST PRESENT COUPON PRIOR TO SERVICE WRITE-UP.  
Plus tax. Excludes diesel. See dealer for details. Expires 9/30/18.

FRONT END ALIGNMENT

\$79.95

MUST PRESENT COUPON PRIOR TO SERVICE WRITE-UP.  
Plus tax. Excludes diesel. See dealer for details. Expires 9/30/18.

11241 Old 63 South, Lucedale, MS, 601-947-3001

With approved credit for qualified buyers. Prices plus tax, title, tag and doc. Inventory changes daily. Listed vehicles represent in-stock inventory at time of ad design. We reserve the right to correct and/or clarify any mistakes due to photography or typography. Offers subject to change. Must finance with GM Financial. See dealer for details.



WaltMassey.com



## Walt Massey







NEW MODELS.  
NEW EXCITEMENT!

SUMMER  
CLEARANCE EVENT

**2018 RAM 1500 Quad Cab 4x2**

\$11,194

**TOTAL SAVINGS**  
OFF MSRP \$34,450

- \$3250 Southwest Retail Consumer Cash
- \$500 CCAP Retail Bonus Cash
- \$1250 Non-Prime Retail Bonus Cash
- \$500 Chrysler Capital Bonus Cash
- \$1000 Ram Bonus Cash Coupons
- \$250 Southwest Bonus Cash
- \$2000 Retail Bonus Cash
- \$2444 Dealer Discount



---

**2019 Jeep Cherokee LATITUDE**

\$20,809

MSRP \$26,565  
**YOU SAVE \$5,756!**

- \$3000 Retail Consumer Cash
- \$1250 Non Prime Bonus Cash
- \$500 Chrysler Capital Bonus Cash
- \$1006 Dealer Discount



OIL & FILTER CHANGE

\$19.95

MUST PRESENT COUPON PRIOR TO SERVICE WRITE-UP.  
Plus tax. Excludes diesel. See dealer for details. Expires 9/30/18.

BRAKE PADS (FRONT OR REAR)

\$175.00

PADS AND MACHINE ROTORS. MUST PRESENT COUPON PRIOR TO SERVICE WRITE-UP.  
Plus tax. Excludes Hellcat and diesel. See dealer for details. Expires 9/30/18.

148 Ventura Dr., Lucedale, MS, 601-495-5337

With approved credit for qualified buyers. Prices plus tax, title, tag and doc. Inventory changes daily. Listed vehicles represent in-stock inventory at time of ad design. We reserve the right to correct and/or clarify any mistakes due to photography or typography. Offers subject to change. Must finance with GM Financial. See dealer for details.



WaltMasseyCDJR.com