

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Bulldogs ready to rebound this fall

Roberts says a bigger roster should help against the kinds of injuries that struck last year

BY TOMMY HICKS
tommyhicks@thecallnews.com

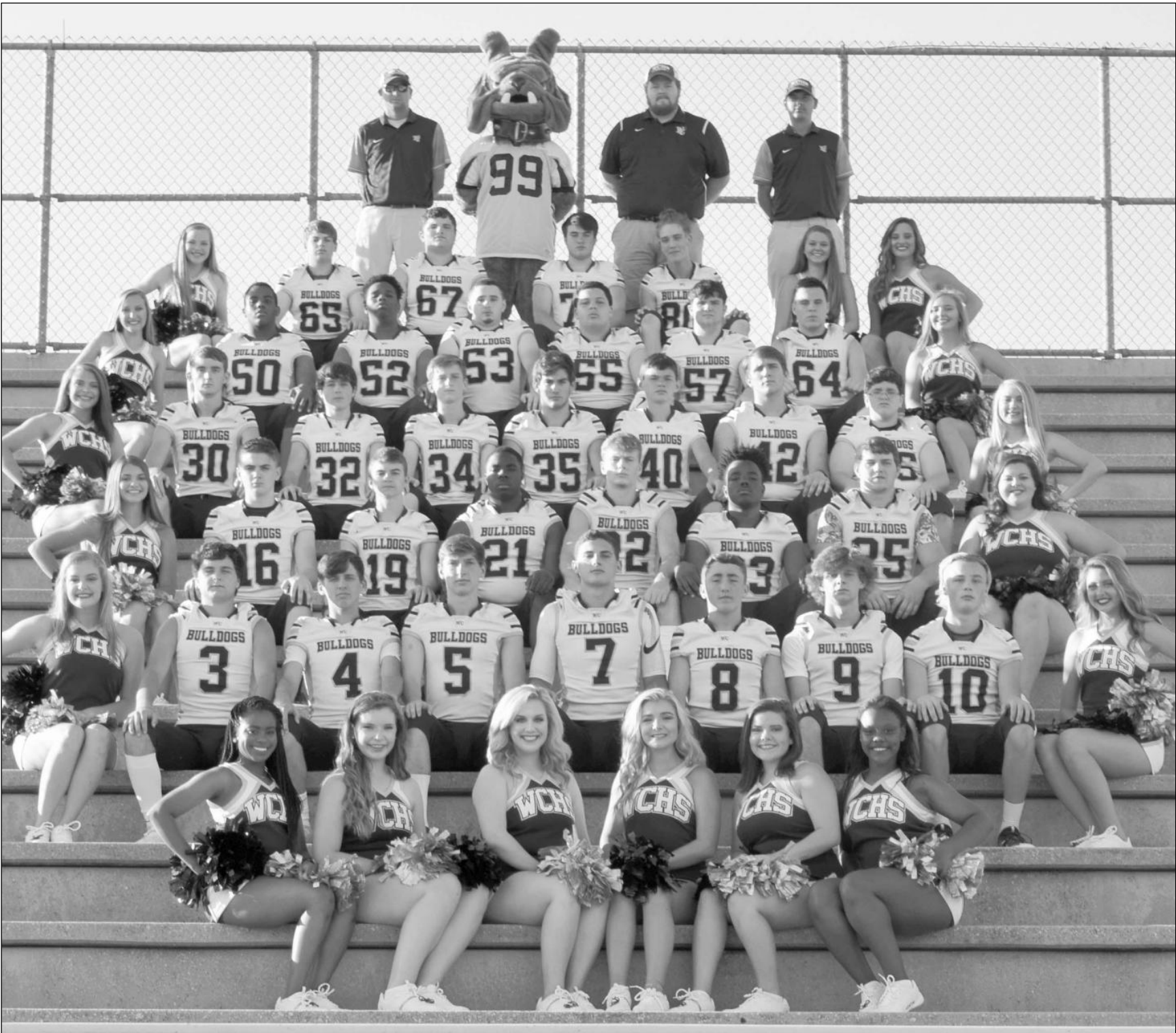
There will be some changes this season for the Washington County Bulldogs; some subtle, some more obvious. But the biggest change that Devin Roberts, heading into his second season as Washington County's head coach, is looking for is winning results.

The Bulldogs posted an uncharacteristic 3-7 record a year ago, the first time in 12 seasons they had failed to reach the state playoffs. There were a few factors involved in the season. Injuries, especially early injuries, played a key role, as a lost player at WCHS usually counts as two lost players because most play both offense and defense. A smaller roster can also be factored in, especially considering the injuries, and there's also the fact a coaching change and hire wasn't made until well into the summer after previous head coach Al Earnest left coaching to take a position with the Mobile County Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

While the 2017 season is in the past, Roberts said he and his players learned a few lessons from it and they hope to implement some changes that will enable the Bulldogs to get back to their winning ways — and the playoffs.

"They're fine," Roberts said of the WCHS players following last season's disappointment. "To me, this is the biggest answer to that question: we dressed out 22 kids in the last game against Citronelle last season. We had 27 to start the season, a lot of injuries and a lot of guys playing both ways. Now, we've had 35 at almost every (summer) workout. The kids have come out and they have high expectations and I do and that's just the way it is. We expect to go out and play hard and compete every game."

But even with the improved numbers and high expectations, Roberts knows injuries have to be held to a minimum.



See **WCHS**, 58C

The 2018 Washington County High School Bulldogs

WCHS photos by William Gray/Washington County News

150
140
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

Ramey's

Chatom, AL
(251) 847-2470


We have everything you need for tailgate parties!

Hot bar meals available for breakfast, lunch and dinner.


Be sure to try our Ribs, Boston Butts and Rotisserie Chicken.

Good Luck Teams!

100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0



Go Bulldogs!



Chatom Motor Company

16835 Jordan St. • Chatom • 251-847-2211 or 1-800-510-1520
www.ChatomMotorCompany.com