

MARY G. MONTGOMERY

Lewis likes Viking brotherhood

Senior linebacker says MGM squad has worked hard and 'we're just ready to go'

BY ARTHUR L. MACK
alouismack@aol.com

Senior linebacker Paul Lewis knows he's in a unique situation at Mary G. Montgomery. Lewis, who was used in a variety of ways on Chickasaw's football team prior to transferring to MGM, has high hopes for the Vikings this season.

Unlike at Chickasaw, where he played on both sides of the ball, he will play inside and outside linebacker for the Vikings.

After arriving at MGM from Chickasaw in the middle of the season last year, Lewis said from his observations it was the team's relative inexperience that prevented it from making any headway.

"As far as I know, it wasn't attitude, but it was a young team," he said. "They didn't have that much experience, versus this year. It's a team that's grown together and shown what they can do now."

"We just learned more stuff about coming together. We needed a better brotherhood and we learned better techniques. We also have some new coaches that make us work hard, and so we're just ready to go."

That brought the conversation to new head coach Stan McCain. Lewis said under McCain's leadership the team is more motivated.

"He's a good talker," said Lewis. "He knows how to lead and he's been there (as a head coach). He knows how to get there and if we follow him, we'll be the next ones there."

That was evident during

spring training, as McCain stamped his brand of leadership on the team.

"Spring training was hard and long," Lewis said. "He made us work to our best potential and we're getting better and getting ready for the season. We learned new techniques, techniques that were better than last year. We're just getting better, that's all there is to it."

As for the summer, Lewis said it was a continuation of the work done during the spring, fostering a special bond.

"It was a grind," he said. "We worked on the weight room, we painted it and we all worked together to become one team and one unit."

Lewis said the stark differences in classifications was really the only difference between Chickasaw and Mary G. Montgomery.

"The only biggest difference was size, really," he said. "They're high school kids, we're high school kids, so it's not really any difference other than that. It wasn't really anything to get used to; we're all the same age."

Lewis said he hopes he can do his part to help get the Vikings back on the winning track.

"I'm hoping for a championship, and that's what everybody on the team is hoping for," he said. "Personally, I just want the team to be like a brotherhood, to stay connected even after the senior class leaves — to start a legacy and leave something here."



Mary G. Montgomery senior linebacker Paul Lewis

Photo by John O'Dell/Call News

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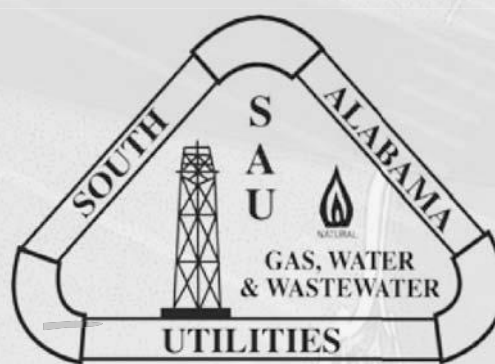
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