CHICKASAW



The 2018 Chickasaw High School Chieftains

Photo courtesy of Chickasaw schools

Chieftains get strong with new coach

BY LEEQUINTON BLACKMON Sports Correspondent

When former Jackson defensive coordinator Jason Rowell took the podium for his first media day as Chickasaw's new head coach, it was with an all-business, no-nonsense approach.

Since the establishment of their football program, the Chieftains haven't exactly had an easy road to travel, but Rowell is already working on changing that with a simple, yet (he hopes) effective team philosophy.

"If things don't get better, you make them better," Rowell said. "We're working on making things better at Chickasaw and we're becoming a stronger team because of it."

Rowell has only been with the team six months, but his team philosophy is already starting to pay off in major ways. "We've transitioned from a weight room that was on the gym stage to a 1,200-square foot weight room with fresh paint," Rowell said. "We've got our own mottos up and rubber flooring, and it just feels like a football program now."

Those might seem like subtle additions to most schools, but to the Chieftains, those additions seem to be just what they needed to pump some life into their young program.

"We've had 26 workouts and we

haven't had a guy that's missed a workout yet," he said. "That speaks to the character of the young men on this team and how excited they are to move forward and make this a respected football program in our area."

When Chickasaw made the move from Class 1A to Class 2A, Region 1, they quickly realized one of their biggest

See CHIEFTAINS, 3C





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