

# CITRONELLE

## First-year head coach Barnett excited about his staff

By WILLIE GRAY  
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With a new season set to start for the Citronelle Wildcats, there are a number of new faces that will be on the field, both on the playing roster and the coaching staff. Perhaps the biggest change to the coaching staff is Jason Barnett as the team's head coach. He is the third head coach the program has had in five years.

This is Barnett's first stint as a head job. He was named interim head coach and athletic director of the Wildcats a little more than a month ago and during that time he has had to not only prepare and build a team, but he said he has also developed a new coaching staff for the program.

"I am excited about the way things have come together. We have doubled the number of players that we had earlier this summer and expect to add more to the roster. I am just as excited about the coaches that we have working this season," Barnett said.

### Lots of experience

Barnett, 44, served as Citronelle's defensive coordinator the past three seasons. Prior to joining the Cats he spent two seasons at Baldwin County High. He has also coached seven seasons at Escambia Academy, four seasons at Escambia County (his alma mater) and two seasons at Monroe County.

One of the coaching slots he had to fill when he was put in charge of the program was the offensive coordinator. Barnett said he was fortunate to have a

guy on the staff who was ready to fill the slot in C.J. Herring.

"C.J. Herring is our offensive coordinator. I really don't know of anyone in this part of the country who has any more football knowledge than C.J.," Barnett said. "He is a true student of the game because he is always studying the game to learn more and to get better. On top of his knowledge of the game he is a local guy who grew up here and played here. He loves this school, community and coaching these kids. There is no doubt that he is an asset to our staff."

### 'Get things going'

"When I got the job here the first thing I did was to talk with C.J. and tell him he was going to be the offensive coordinator; there is no ifs, ands or buts about it; let's get things going, I have faith in him and he is going to learn and get better as he goes along."

The third member of the staff to return for this season is Jason Morgan, who Barnett has named as the defensive coordinator. Last year, Morgan coached the wide receivers but Barnett says his skill is with the defensive side of the ball.

"He is most familiar with defense and even played as a defensive back in college and after college he was a G.A. (graduate assistant) coach and his father was a high school coach, so he has been around the game all his life," Barnett said. "Coach Morgan is very knowledgeable of the game and I have confidence that he will do well as the D.C."

The new coaches who



Head coach Jason Barnett, center, poses with some members of the Citronelle coaching staff. From left are Derek Darnell, Jason Morgan, Roosevelt Moore, Barnett, C.J. Herring, Joey Quimby and David Gonder. Coaches not pictured are Greg West, Major Haley and Jeff Pippin.

will be joining the Wildcats this season include David Gonder, who will be with the linebackers.

"Coach Gonder is straight out of college and I think he brings a lot to the table," Barnett said.

### Former volunteer

Major Haley was on the staff last year as a volunteer coach. This year he will be the defensive line coach. Roosevelt Moore will be at Citronelle for the first time and will be the head basketball coach and for football he will coach both wide receivers and special teams. According to Barnett, Moore has coached at several smaller programs and is knowledgeable of the game.

Derek Darnell has also come to Citronelle this season and will be an assistant with baseball and football, where he will work with the running backs.

One of the coaches to be on the staff this season is no stranger to most Citronelle fans. Greg West, a former member of the Wildcat football team, will be a volunteer coach. He and Barnett will manage the quarterbacks.

"Greg is a former quarterback who has a gift for working with high school guys. He is very good and I am excited about having him on our staff," Barnett said.

Barnett will also be adding another volunteer to his staff.

"Joey Quimby is a guy I have worked with before and he is going to come in to help us with the offensive line and video," Barnett said.

Citronelle opens its season Aug. 24 at Washington County High and the Wildcats compete in tough Class 5A, Region 1.

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