

# McINTOSH



Photos by Mike Kittrell/Call News

**“I love these kids and I want them to start believing in themselves and understanding that they’re just as talented as anybody else.”**

— McIntosh head coach Renard Davis

## Davis: Demons have the talent to be winners

BY LEEQUINTON BLACKMON  
Sports Correspondent

Renard Davis is just a few weeks into his second stint as the head football coach at McIntosh and he is already showing signs of optimism for the upcoming season.

Davis, who said he felt a need to step up and coach the Demons’ struggling program, said the support he and the program have received is a big reason he’s so optimistic about the Demons’ chance for a successful season.

“The main thing is that everybody is starting to believe,” Davis said. “I think they believe I can stick my finger in the ground and turn the world around, and that kind of support means a lot to me.”

McIntosh has only won one game in each of its past four seasons and many people outside of the program have suggested a lack of talent is the reason for the disappointing results. However, that’s not Davis’ assessment of the Demons’ football woes.

“McIntosh is not really noted for a lot of football, so to speak,” Davis said. “Everybody knows that, but you can’t let that fool you because the talent is definitely there. I think that we have just as much talent as any other team in our region. Most of our problems are not about the physical aspect of the game. I think it’s more about the mental aspect.”

“In my opinion, our biggest objective right now is about getting these kids to think positively and start believing in themselves. That’s why I accepted the job as head football coach. I love these kids and I want them to start believing in themselves and understanding that they’re just as talented as anybody else.”

One of the ways Davis plans to get McIntosh’s players to buy into this new positive approach is to get them to understand how important a strong start is to the season.

During Davis’ first stint as head coach from 2010-12, McIntosh made the playoffs each of those years, primarily because of the Demons’ ability to start strong. However strong starts haven’t

been something the Demons have been known for since 2012, and most recently Davis said he thinks that has hurt their chances to get things going in the right direction.

“We’ve got to have a good start to this season,” Davis said. “We don’t want to go out there and have that 45-to-nothing type of loss to start the season because that’s going to hurt the confidence of the team, and confidence is so important when you’re trying to build young men.”

“Our schedule for the initial start of the season is hopefully going to allow us to start a little bit better this year than we’ve done in past years. With those first two games of the season against J.U. Blacksher and Fruitdale, I think that’s really going to set the tone for how the rest of our season is going to go.”

As far as things on the field will go, Davis doesn’t have plans to make any drastic changes just yet. The veteran coach says he plans to build off what the 25-man roster already does well and he’s going to let time decide if changes need to be made.

“I think they really want to try the spread offense or something in that nature,” Davis said. “That’s what they’ve been running and they’re used to it. I told them I’m not really a fan of the spread, but I told them if you can sell it to me and it works, then I’ll buy it. If not, then we definitely have to make some changes.”

“We’ve got a few weeks to get prepared and try to figure out what we do, but it doesn’t make any sense to start the season running a system that’s not working for us. We’ve got the athletes and the talent to make it work, so we’re going to see what happens.”

The last time Davis spent a full season as the Demons’ head coach they capped off an eight-win season with a trip to the state semifinals.

As strange as it may sound considering McIntosh’s recent history of losing, Davis believes the Demons have what it takes this year to accomplish that same goal, if not indeed have a more successful season.



T.J. Jackson  
Quarterback



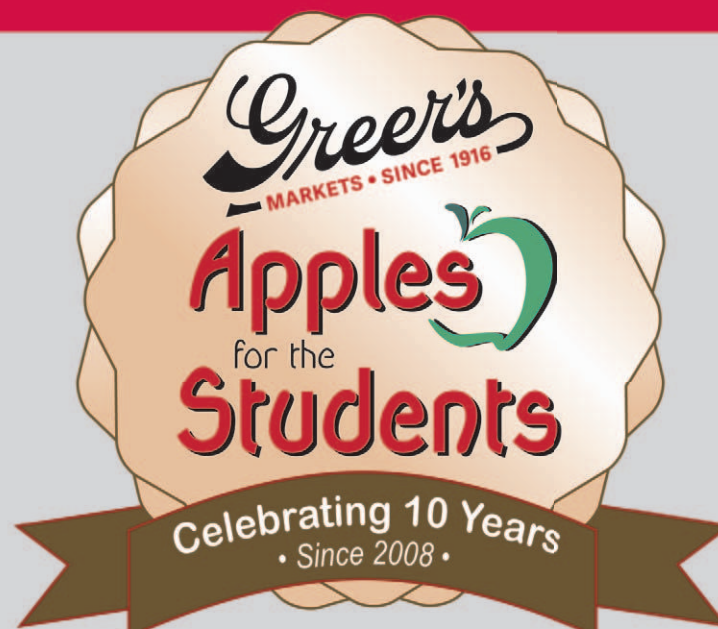
Bernard Dickson  
Wide receiver

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