

# MILTRY



The 2018 Millry High School Wildcats

Millry photos by Willie Gray/Washington County News

# Wildcats are ready to pounce

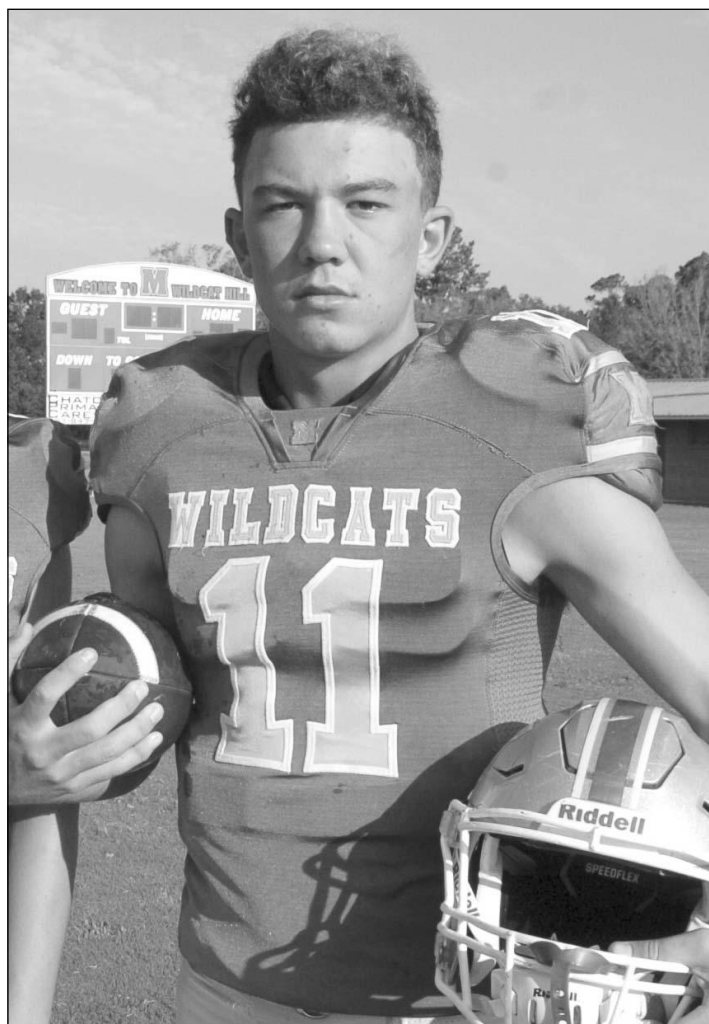
BY WILLIE GRAY  
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Growing pains may be subsiding for the Millry Wildcats as the young players who have been major contributors during the past couple of seasons are now older and wiser.

Wildcats head coach Greg Crager said his players and staff are focused on having a successful season and one of the reasons is the number of players who are returning, with experience as either starters or having played a significant role in the rotation.

"We are excited about this season and getting started. Our players and coaches are focused on having a good season and making the playoffs," Crager said. "Our guys have been in our program for a couple of years now and they understand it and have bought in. We (coaches) like what we are seeing."

The season schedule will look a little different for the Wildcats than it has during the past couple of seasons as the reclassification has moved two teams out and brought a new team into Class 1A, Region 1 with Millry. Both Linden and A.L. Johnson were removed from Region 1 while St. Luke's of Mobile has joined the region this season from Class 2A.



Millry quarterback Tate Warr

The moves have created a seven-team region and with the addition of St. Luke's the list of tough teams has increased. Crager said it's a situation of which his players have become accustomed.

"Region 1 has been tough year in and year out, so we are accustomed to playing tough teams. We lost Linden out of the region, they have been a good team for years and now we have St. Luke's in our region so it's not any

easier," Crager said. "What we have learned by playing really good teams is that it makes us better because we are better prepared to face the same level of competition in the playoffs."

Crager also points out that three of the teams in the region experienced success in the postseason in 2017.

"As I said before, our region has some tough teams. We have Sweet Water, which is the 2017 1A state champs; Marengo which was a semifinalist and then St. Luke's that was a quarterfinalist in 2A last year. We have to be ready to play week in and week out, but I think we will be ready," Crager said.

Millry's other region opponents include local rivals, Fruitdale and McIntosh, plus J.F. Shields of Monroe County. In addition to their six region opponents the Wildcats will face three other local rivals from 2A in Washington County, Leroy and Southern Choctaw. They will also face Elberta, which will field a team this

year for the first time.


The Wildcats will face Cottage Hill Christian on Aug. 23 for a preseason

game. Their first official game of the season will be against the Washington County Bulldogs on Aug. 30.

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— Millry coach Greg Crager

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