

CITRONELLE

Jarvis eager to lead Wildcats

Fast and athletic quarterback could also be key player at wide receiver and linebacker

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When Citronelle takes the field for its first game of the season Aug. 24 at Washington County, Carson Jarvis is likely to be the starting quarterback. That's the plan at least. Of course, he could be a starter at wide receiver, or linebacker, or both. Or he could be used as an H-back or, heck, any number of positions.

The one guarantee is, if he's healthy, he's going to be on the field somewhere. And that wasn't a guarantee in the spring. In fact, it appeared at one time Jarvis wouldn't be playing any position for the Wildcats this season.

But he's back, and he's ready to help Citronelle have a solid season, hopefully a season that sees the team return to the Class 5A state playoffs.

"I'm glad to be back," Jarvis said. "I expect to be a leader for this team and to move on and make the team better. Obviously as a senior, this is my last ride, so I want to help make things better."

Jarvis was with the Wildcats last season and was a key contributor, but after a short stint of participation with the team in spring drills he decided to step away and was not expecting to return for his senior year.

"I just didn't like the former coach, so I couldn't play for him," Jarvis explained, referring to former head coach Rusty Funk. "I came out the first day (of spring practice) but I didn't come out anymore. Then I came back (in the summer)." Jarvis returned for summer workouts when Jason Barnett was named the team's interim head coach after Funk was removed as head coach.

Now that he's back, he's ready to do whatever the team needs him to do.

"I think I can lead the team, and that's what I'm going to do," Jarvis said. "I'm going to lead the team 100 percent and hopefully everybody else will give 100 percent too and we'll have a good season. If we do what we can do, we'll be OK. We don't have a lot of players (on the roster) but we have been working together."

Barnett said Jarvis' return is a plus for the Wildcats. "Carson missed the spring with us. He didn't know if he wanted to play football anymore," Barnett said. "He didn't come out in the spring but after the coaching change, that following Monday afternoon he was here, wanting to play football again."

"Not everybody gets along. I think a fresh face and a fresh new start (was what he needed). He's been a great team player to this point, and quarterbacks are a little different; they march to their own drum. But he's fallen in line and doing what we have asked of him. He's got some make-up stuff to do to get back in great graces - not just good graces, but great graces - and he's getting there."

The expectation for this season is to use Jarvis at quarterback, but also Jamarcus Robinson will get some playing

time there as well as perhaps Justin Johnston. The aim is to keep all options open and perhaps keep the opposing defense guessing as to what — and who — is coming at it next. But if he's not at quarterback, it's for sure Jarvis will be somewhere in the offensive lineup. And on defense too.

"Carson is going to be at quarterback," Barnett said. "We don't know how much and who exactly yet, but Carson is definitely in the mix to play quarterback. And if he's not at quarterback he's going to play somewhere on offense for us because he's too good of a player not to be playing something for us. Defense is the same way. He's probably going to be playing outside backer; he may be that other backer opposite of Joeffrey (Hutcherson). If we can get somebody to play that Mike position, Carson will probably be one of those outside backers and Joeffrey the other one."

Playing more than one position is something that appeals to Jarvis.

"We can throw out a different scheme every game," he said of the versatility and possible lineup changes that can be employed by Citronelle. "I could be at quarterback or Jamarcus could be at quarterback, and I'll be a linebacker half the game. Change things up."

"I like playing different positions. Quarterback ain't the only thing that I can do. I'm a pretty good linebacker and wide receiver. I like quarterback best because he's the leader of the team."

Quarterback may also be Jarvis' best position of all the ones he can and will likely play this season.

"Carson's got a big arm, and believe it or not, Carson is a fast kid, running-wise," Barnett said. "Carson is a fast kid. You don't realize it until you see him out

there. We clocked him in the 40 and he was our fastest 40 time. And I thought, 'What in the world did I just see?' And we told him to do it again and he did it again. We thought, wow, that's crazy."

And there's more.

"He's a competitor. That's one thing I'll give him. Carson will stick his nose in there. He's not afraid of contact, he's not afraid of having the ball in his hands," Barnett said.

"He's going to be a leader, he just has to figure out how to be a leader."

For sure, Jarvis seems ready to take on the task.

"I'm excited and ready to get started," he said.



"Quarterback ain't the only thing that I can do."
— Carson Jarvis

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