



Westview Chargers



5 TO WATCH



Cai Ingram Jr.
OL/DL



J.T. Carver
So. • KICKER



Marquis Taylor
So. • RB/CB



Jonathan Davidson
So. • WR/LB



Ty Simpson
Fr. • QB



Charger running back Marquis Taylor gains yardage on a run against Lake County during the first scrimmage of the preseason.

Chargers seek playoff spot in 2018; Head coach believes Chargers region contenders with new-look offense

By Randy Cavin
Sports Editor

Where there is will, there is hope. Westview and its fans appear to have both for this new high school football season. The tools and pieces are in place for the Chargers to return to the playoffs for the first time in four years. Westview's offense should be more explosive and the defense is expected to be solid.

Westview has a talented sophomore running back in Marquis Taylor and it will have its first true quarterback in several years, as the Chargers will look to freshman Ty Simpson and his strong arm to lead them.

This year's biggest strength could be in the trenches for the Chargers. Both lines will be stacked with juniors, which bodes well for Westview the next two seasons.

The Chargers will be able to do a lot of things offensively this season. Taylor is someone who can take the ball to the end zone on any down with his speed, keen eyesight and quick feet. He and Simpson will complement each other quite well.

Taylor gave the fans and coaching staff a glimpse of what he is capable of midway through last season when he rushed for 190 yards in the second half of the game against Camden. Opposing teams will not be able to ignore Westview's running game, which will open up the passing game for Simpson and his receivers.

Westview did not used to be a team that played its freshmen. It liked to have them learn on the

sideline from the older players. Sometimes a team has to play some freshmen when they possess the ability to be game-changers.

"The last few years we have played more freshmen than we wanted to," head coach Trey Cantrell said. "Even the last few years Coach [Don] Coady was here we had to play more sophomores than we were accustomed to. It is part of the shrinking enrollment and playing in our region. You go through so many players when you play Covington, Milan, Dyersburg and those types of teams back-to-back."

Westview should be in better shape this year as it has more talented upperclassmen than the last three years. The Chargers have senior Seth Mitchell, who is vying for the starting quarterback job. Mitchell has a good arm and reads the defensive coverage well.

However, at 6-foot, 244 pounds, he will more of a valuable asset at fullback. Mitchell is a stud at fullback, which makes him the go-to-guy in short-yardage situations. He averaged 5.4 yards per carry last season. He will also be valuable as an extra pass and run blocker.

"Seth is a bruiser," Cantrell said. "He can knock your head off if he wants to."

Some of the other upperclassmen the head coach will have out on the field will be seniors Cameron Couch, Drew Bell, Brock Stevens, Peyton Williams, Cole Hazlewood and Angel Barr.

One thing Westview is looking for is to get in the playoffs. Covington is hands-down favorite to finish first, while Milan is a good

bet take second in the region.

The Chargers are looking more and more like the No. 3 team and could sneak their way into the second spot. It all depends upon how well the Bulldogs respond to a new head coach and also how well South Gibson and Bolivar play this year.

Right now the No. 3 spot is looking like a battle between the Chargers, Hornets and Tigers, although the Tigers got hit hard at graduation. McNairy Central is the sleeper as it showed some improvement last year.

OFFENSE

Cantrell is licking his chops at the prospect of opening up the offense when the season begins Aug. 17 against Dresden with Simpson throwing the ball and Taylor running with it.

"We have had people at the quarterback position that could do certain things," Cantrell said. "We haven't been able to push the ball down the field like we wanted to. We have experienced a lot of eight-to-10 men boxes in the past and it is hard to run the ball on that. We have a really, really talented running back and if we are able to throw the ball at all, then we are going to be able to do a lot more things."

"We can be diversified in our offensive attack. That is what you want. You want to keep everybody on their toes and you want to be able to go vertically when you want to and be able to take a check-down when you want to."

Protecting Simpson and opening running lanes for Taylor

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RED ZONE

THE PROGRAM

REGION: 7-3A
LAST YEAR: 4-6
COACH: Trey Cantrell
CAREER: 4-16 (3rd Year)
RECORD AT WHS: 4-16
ALL-TIME PLAYOFF BERTHS: 22
PLAYOFF RECORD: 17-19

2018 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
A. 17	Dresden (at UTM)
A. 23	East Hickman
A. 31	*@Milan
S. 7	MLK Prep
S. 14	*South Gibson
S. 21	Obion County
S. 28	*Covington
O. 5	@Camden
O. 12	Open
O. 19	*@Bolivar
O. 26	*@McNairy

2017 RESULTS

Opponent	Score
Dresden	L 28-21
at East Hickman	W 41-14
*Milan	L 40-0
MLK Prep	W 52-6
*at So. Gibson	L 26-10
at Obion Co.	L 47-10
*at Covington	L 45-0
Camden	W 24-22
*Bolivar	L 47-20
*McNairy	W 17-10

2017 TOTALS

Points Scored	195
Average/Game	19.5
Points Allowed	285
Average/Game	28.5



Head Coach Trey Cantrell