

Gleason.
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“We will use a lot of motion and a lot of misdirection. I probably should have never gotten away from it. But it is like everything else — you kind of get tired of doing the same thing over and over.”

The Bulldogs not only have Dawson, who is a gifted athlete, they also have sophomore running backs Jamison Lifsey and Dalton Lovell, along with talented freshmen receivers Carson Tidwell and Isaac Denton.

Lifsey is the more experienced of the four as he started a few games as a freshman. The Bulldogs have Peyton Stigall, a junior, playing football for the first time.

“We started playing Jamison a lot toward the end of the last year,” Lampkins said. “We are going to have two new wide receivers who are first-year guys. Peyton Stigall is 6-4 and we just have to get him to learn to go up and get the ball.

Then we have Carson Tidwell, who is a really, really athletic and good size freshman. He does not look like a freshman. He has a junior body on him. He is a soccer player with great feet and good hands. We are looking for good things from him.”

Gleason did not score a lot of points last year as it put 17.2 points per game. The Bulldogs can score more than that this season if the sophomores and freshmen play to their potential. They will also need to keep turnovers down to a minimum and not get intimidated by the more experienced, bigger and athletic teams in the region.

Lampkins has all of the confidence in the world in his players, especially his quarterback.

“I will take my freshman over anybody in the county,” he said. “That’s just being honest. I like



him because he is humble and a great kid.”

DEFENSE

The Bulldogs struggled defensively last year, giving up a total of 385 points for a 38.5 point per game average. That may not happen this season as Lampkins hopes it can get after people.

“We are going to try to be more aggressive defensively,” the head coach said. “That is something we have been lacking and we have not been real disciplined. We are really focusing on being more disciplined and aggressive.

“We have Dalton Lovell this year to add to our defense. He is a real aggressive pass defender, a real quick kid we have not had. He will show up on defense on the

stat sheet for us.”

Lovell will be in the secondary as a safety, along with Crochet and Tidwell as the cornerbacks. Arnold will line up at several positions, such as safety, cornerback and linebacker.

Gleason will not be in the 3-4 defense like most of the teams it will play. Lampkins simply does not have the personnel to play that style of defense.

“We will be a multiple-four defense this year,” he said. “We would like to be a 3-4, but we don’t have the bodies up front. We are going to be small, gapping and trying to be quick off the ball up front. We want to do some things to counter our lack of size.”

Jones, O’Callaghan, Young and

Hodges could be the front four. Young and Hodges can also play linebacker, which Lampkins has always relied on with past teams. Lifsey and Anderson are the other linebackers for the Bulldogs.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Tidwell will be handling all of the kicking assignments for the Bulldogs. He may not be used as much for extra points as the head coach likes to go for the two-point conversion, but that may have been by necessity as Gleason played from behind quite often the last few seasons.

Arnold is the most logical choice to have running back kicks because of his speed. The Bulldogs have other players with good hands and quickness who can also

return kicks. Tidwell would be an option due to his combination of size and speed.

Lifsey has the motor to be a good kick return player and Crochet is another gifted athlete who could get the job done, although Lampkins may not want to risk injury to his quarterback returning kicks.

Gleason will kick off the season against Fulton County at home, then it plays Fulton City at home with an open date in Week 3. The first five games on the schedule are all non-region games.

The remaining five are against league opponents, beginning with Lake County at home on Oct. 5 and ending on the road at South Fulton on Oct. 26.



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