



Photo by Randy Whitley / Herald Contributor

GCHS senior quarterback Jacob Mitchell is shown running for a long touchdown in the Wildcats' pre-season scrimmage with Vanclave on Aug. 16. Mitchell, who is listed as 6-2, 215 pounds and is garnering attention from collegiate coaches for his passing and running abilities, is one of several returning starters on the Wildcats' offense this season.

# Cats hope experience at key spots, infusion of new talent pushes offense to new heights

*Top producers return for senior laden Wildcats this season*

By **RUSSELL TURNER**  
Herald Staff

The Wildcats lost a lot of offensive production from last year's senior class, including an 1,100-yard rusher who accounted for 19 touchdowns and two of the team's top receiving targets.

But, the cupboard was not left bare for Head Coach Mike King, as he has an experienced quarterback, several key receivers and a couple of running backs he has confidence in returning this season. Leading the way is senior quarterback Jacob Mitchell.

A promising receiver when he arrived at Greene County, Mitchell quickly moved to fill a void as King's signal caller. His athleticism wasn't in question, neither was Mitchell's arm strength, but making the move to quarterback was a big challenge. It turns out, Mitchell was a natural fit as the Cats' playcaller and led his team to nine wins and put up some solid stats, all while learning on the go. His improvement throughout the season was clear and as his confidence rose, so did the production. He finished his junior campaign with 26 total touchdowns and almost 2,700 all-purpose yards. He completed 67 percent of 340 total passing attempts for 2,514 yards and 22 touchdowns, compared to six interceptions. He also rushed for 177 yards and four TDs.

"Jacob had a really good junior season," King said. "But, his improvement in the

offseason is what is really encouraging."

"His reads and footwork have come a long way and he is bigger and stronger because of how hard he worked in the offseason. But more importantly, he has grown tremendously in his overall understanding of what we are trying to do in our offense and why."

King wasn't the only one to notice either. So did collegiate coaches as Mitchell excelled in 7-on-7 competitions over the summer and spent a lot of time on the road visiting numerous schools, even a few Ivy League institutions.

While Mitchell's stock as a passer has been on the climb, so has his potential as a running threat. Coming in at 6-2 and 215 pounds, Mitchell can be a load to bring down. That trait has shown itself already this year, which is a good thing for a Wildcat offense that desperately needs to be stronger rushing the football.

"What we have hung our hat on over the past couple of seasons is giving our opponents multiple things to prepare for" King said. "But, we weren't as balanced as we needed to be down the stretch and that showed in

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