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Regardless of what plan of attack King has on offense or which skilled position is targeted on a given play, it is a given that none will be very successful without a strong effort from the big guys in the trenches. With just one returning starter on the offensive line unit, it would be reasonable to think the offensive line would be a huge concern for the Cats, but both King and Offensive Coordinator Rotch Dungan say otherwise.

“We’re coming along pretty good,” Dungan said. “We’ve got guys some big physical guys that due to their efforts in the offseason are finally as strong as the people they will be lining up against.”

“We have seven guys that we feel good about having in the rotation. They have a great rapport and communicate

very well with each other. I think we have a chance to be strong along our front line.”

King said that was evident in the scrimmage against Vancleave, when he said the offensive linemen’s physicality was starting to have an impact.

“We played two quarters, but our guys were really starting to wear down the other side and it was starting to pay off in the running game,” King said. “I think that would have been evident if we had played a full four quarters and hopefully we will see that as the season progresses.”

Leading the way on the offensive line will be seniors Eli Erkhart, Cam Dunnam and Noah Bradley. Erkhart is the lone returning starter in the group, but all three will see a lot of playing time this season.

Dungan said he will swap the lineup around from week to week, based on who the Cats are playing. Erkhart will play at center on most snaps, but will also get time at the right guard position. Bradley will start at right guard, but has the experience and the ability to play every spot along the line, which is a good luxury for Dungan to have at his disposal.

Dunnam is expected to see time at center and guard. Juniors Brandon Sumrall, who Dungan said came on really strong in the spring, and Mykal McLeod, who made the move from defense in the offseason, are projected as the starting left and right tackles. Caiden Keys looks set at left guard.

Sophomore tackle Matt McCoy will round out the rotation along the line.



Photo by Shelley Eubanks - Herald Contributor

Greene County Wildcats’ Offensive Coordinator and offensive line coach Rotch Dungan is shown talking to his O-Line unit during the Biloxi game. Dungan believes the Cats have the ability to wear down opposing defenses this year.

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## Pace of play important to GCHS offense



Photo by Shelley Eubanks - Herald Contributor

Greene County senior Anthony Calhoun (2) is shown preparing to block a Biloxi defender as Wildcat freshman K.J. Miller tries to find running room against the Indians. Getting back to the line of scrimmage and playing at a fast pace of play is an important part of the GCHS offensive attack.

### From Staff Reports

Having experience at quarterback and at key skilled positions will also be a big key in another area of focus for King’s offense – getting back to the line of scrimmage, running plays fast and keeping defenders on their heels. The Wildcats worked hard at that approach last year, but with a new 40-second play clock in effect, the Cats hope to move even faster this season.

The rule works like this – as soon as the whistle blows on one play, the clock restarts and offenses have 40 seconds to get off the next snap. If there is a clock stoppage for a penalty, the clock is reduced to just 25 seconds. That works fine from King’s perspective.

“We work on that a lot and feel like we can run plays as fast as the referees can get the ball spotted,” King said. “We want to get to the line of scrimmage and be ready to go.”

There were several points in the loss to Biloxi where King

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urged his team to work faster and it is a safe bet more time will be spent on getting that process perfected over the next several weeks.

“There were a couple of situations where our guys were gassed and we didn’t play at the pace I would like,” King said. “Some of that was to be expected because of field position and how that impacts the play calling, but we definitely like to play fast and will continue to work on that.”

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