

SATSUMA

‘Chip on our shoulders’

Douville says Gators have something to prove, and they have the feisty attitude to do it



Kyle Douville is expected to be a leader in the defensive backfield for the Satsuma Gators this fall.

By MARK R. KENT
mkent@thecallnews.com

SATSUMA — Kyle Douville says his fellow Satsuma Gators are a special group that is learning to play the game with an attitude that will bring them plenty of victories.

“We might not be the biggest, but we’ve got some dogs,” Douville said. “We’ve got people flying around hitting people, ready to go, and we have people being scrappy on offense and defense trying to win.”

He said the 2018 team had “some great athletes, but we didn’t know what we were going up against in 5A. But we know now what we’re up against, we know how to compete. We fixed our offense and defense just to learn to play against it,” Douville said.

As a defensive secondary man, Douville gets plenty of opportunity in practice to hone his passing game skills against the arm of quarterback Karson Green. Sometimes, those lessons don’t go his way, Douville said.

“He’ll play mind games with you,” Douville said. “He’ll get you looking at him and then he’ll throw right over the top of you. You’ve got to watch him; he’s sneaky.”

Douville is appreciative of all the attributes Green brings to the field. “He’s a leader, either vocally or through his actions. You never see him pouting or whining, and whenever someone else does, he picks them up, either by getting on their tail or actually uplifting him,” he said.

When asked if there is one game on the schedule he has circled, Douville said, “Very definite-

ly Citronelle.” The Wildcats won a 34-31 double-overtime victory in Satsuma last year that helped get Citronelle into the playoffs and led to the Gators eventually being left out. This year’s rematch will be in Citronelle.

“We definitely have a chip on our shoulders right now,” Douville said. “We’re ready to play, especially what coach said about the last four games.”

The team chemistry is good, Douville said, because so many players on the team have played together since they were young. “The chemistry is there. It’s not that we doubt each other; we’re there to compete together.”


As a safety, he likes head coach Ray Nelson’s aggressive style of play. “The back three (on defense) are aggressive. We leave ourselves open to reads, but they’re there to fly around and hit people,” Douville said.

As for his future, both in sports and education, Douville said he is banking on his skills at a different sport — baseball — to get him onto a college campus.

“I am hoping to play baseball at Coastal (Alabama Community College) in Brewton and pursue a major in electrical engineering,” Douville said.

On the baseball diamond, Douville is primarily a shortstop though he sometimes plays second base. But from time to time he gets his reps on the pitcher’s mound as well.

As for his Major League favorite, Douville said, “I look up to Mike Trout. He’s humble, but he knows his abilities and he knows what he can do.”



Good luck to the 2019 Gators!
May you have a memorable season.

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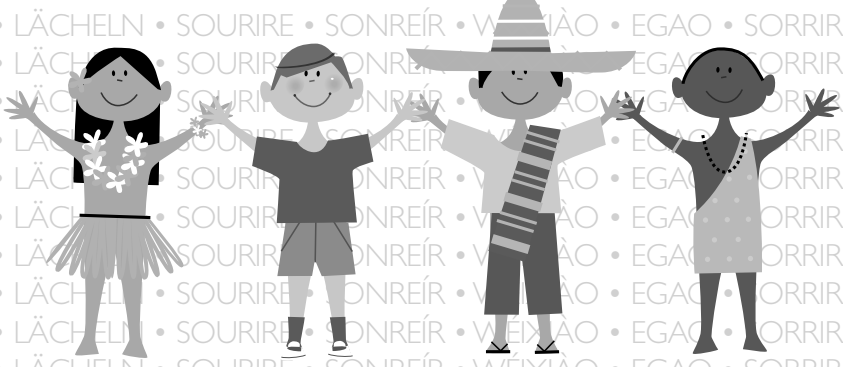


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