

# CITRONELLE

# Robinson ready for 'that great season'

by TOMMY HICKS  
tommyhicks@thecallnews.com

Jamarcus Robinson has always been a star in waiting for the Citronelle Wildcats. He has certainly had his moments with the team at a variety of positions. He has played quarterback, safety and linebacker and yes at times he's dabbled at other positions where his unquestioned athleticism could be called on for the benefit of the Wildcats.

And yet there have also been questions that have surrounded Robinson at times, not to mention a few doubts here and there.

As his senior season approaches, there is a belief the promise Robinson has displayed in the past will be realized. There is the belief he may finally be in the right position that takes the greatest advantage of his athletic abilities, and in turn will be of the greatest service to the Wildcats' team and to his own hopes of perhaps playing at the next level.

Everyone involved with the Citronelle program hopes this is the season for Robinson. And he holds the same wish.

"I hope we have a successful season, make a deep run in the playoffs and play together and bring the community together and show them what we're going to be — Wildcats," Robinson said when asked to describe his goals for the upcoming season, which begins Aug. 23 at home against Washington County High. "We want to play Wildcats football."

In many ways, hearing that from Robinson would probably be music to the ears of Wildcats head coach Jason Barnett. He said he has seen good things from Robinson in the summer and fall drills and he is anticipating good things from the senior.

One of the reasons for the up-tick in Robinson's improvement and overall approach could be traced to his position move. He'll still be considered a back-up quarterback, though his focus will be with the defense. And instead of playing linebacker as he did a year ago, and did well, he'll be at safety this season.

"Jamarcus is going to be a four-year starter for us," Barnett said. "Last year we moved him to inside linebacker because we needed the help inside, but this year's he's going back to safety, his natural position. Again, athletically for Jamarcus, the sky's the limit. He's a fast guy and he has a lot of twitch about him. He's a great tackler and he makes plays."

"With him, we're going to keep him at safety. We're going to try to lock him down and say, 'This is what you've got to do.' He was our backup quarterback last year at times, but we're trying to limit that and leave him at safety. Again, athletically he's as good as there is."

Barnett said Robinson has taken to the move well, but he has been more impressed with Robinson's approach to workouts and the team and his game, more impressed with the intangible improvements he has noticed, than the physical ones.

"He's starting to mature a little bit from a leadership standpoint," Barnett said. "He's in here every day; he missed the spring. ... But now he's back and he's been the Jamarcus that I remembered and that I have wanted since he was in the ninth or 10th grade. He's been a huge asset for us."

Maybe it's because this is his final go-round as a high school football player or that this is also the last chance to gain the attention of college scouts. Perhaps it's a combination of the two or just a welcomed change.

Regardless, Robinson appears ready for the season to get started and for his role with this year's team.

The fact he's playing for the Wildcats plays a role, too, he noted.

"It means everything to me to graduate where my daddy graduated and my mama, in the city that I grew up in and have been playing in since I was a little kid. It means a lot," Robinson said.

As for the move to safety, Robinson said he likes the new position.

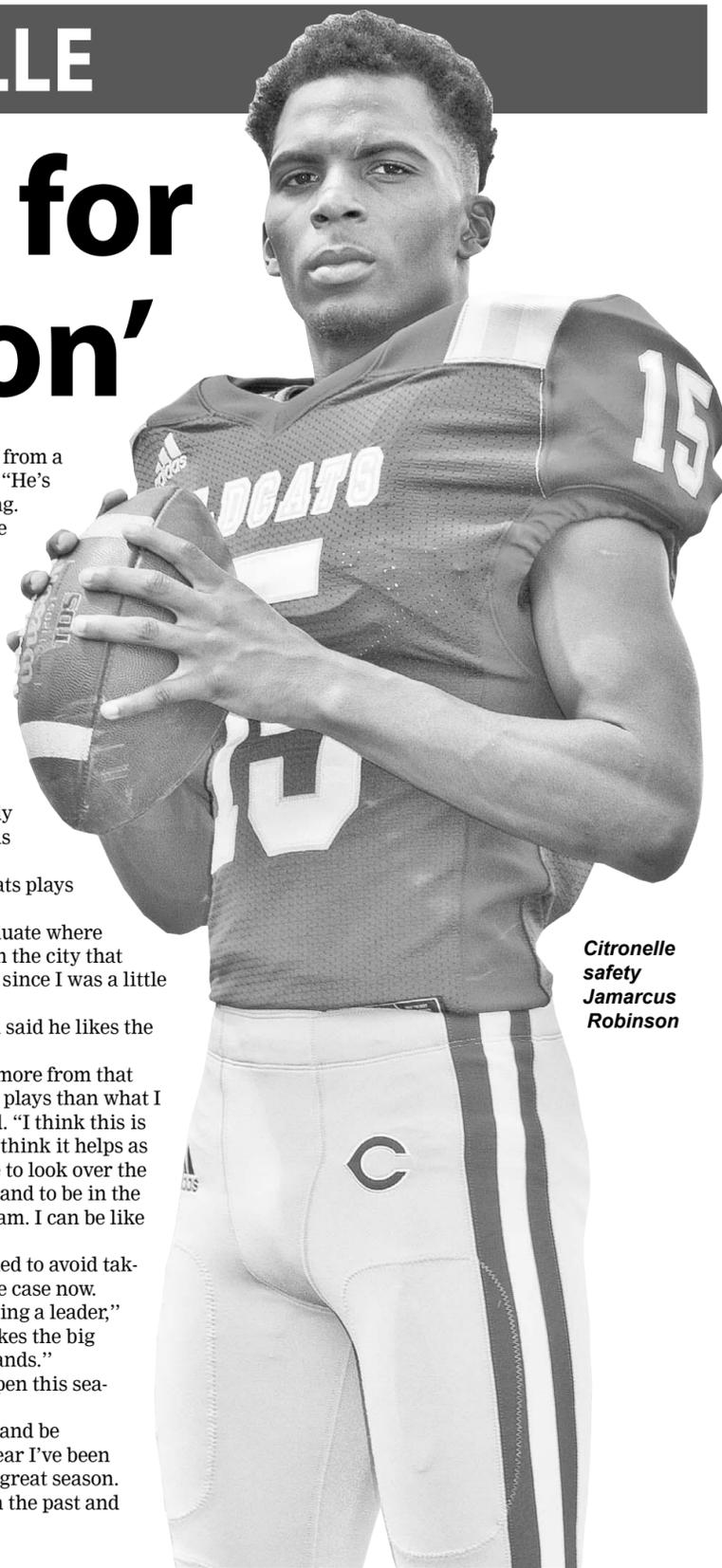
"I feel like I can read the ball a lot more from that position and I'll be able to make more plays than what I had been doing at linebacker," he said. "I think this is the best place for me right now. And I think it helps as far as leadership. It gives me a chance to look over the whole field and see what's happening and to be in the best position to make a play for my team. I can be like a third coach on the field."

In the past Robinson at times seemed to avoid taking on a leadership role. That's not the case now.

"I'm not going to shy away from being a leader," he said. "I want to be the guy who makes the big play. I want the big play to be in my hands."

And what would he like to see happen this season overall?

"I just want to have a great season and be productive," Robinson said. "Every year I've been doing good but I just haven't had that great season. I want to one-up whatever I've done in the past and show people what I'm about."



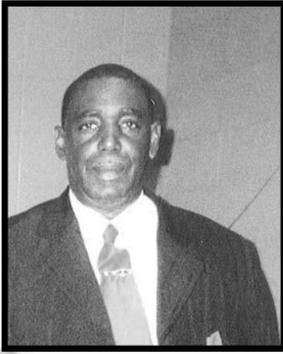
Citronelle safety Jamarcus Robinson

# City of Citronelle

Proudly Supporting Future Leaders of Our Community



*Jason Stringer,  
Mayor*



*David Ferrell,  
District 1*



*Connie Robinson,  
District 2*



*Loretta Presnell,  
District 3*



*Jeff Mason,  
District 4*



*Joe Beaty,  
District 5*