

ST. PAUL’S

Reggie Bracy ready to ‘give it everything’

BY DARRON PATTERSON
Sports Correspondent

Football players are told from Day 1 to always be observant, keep your head on a swivel so you always see what’s coming at you.

But when you’re standing on the sidelines and not playing, being observant is just about the only thing you can do.

Ask Reginald Bracy. “Last year was a maturing year for me,” said St. Paul’s senior defensive back, affectionately known as Reggie to his teammates. “I sat out a lot of the year with an elbow injury, so I got to sit back and watch what I’m usually a part of. I got to watch my guys go after it.

“It was very humbling, because I wasn’t out there on the field and I couldn’t help them or be a part of the fun and action. It was just a learning year for me.”

Apparently, it was a learning experience for Iowa Hawkeyes head coach Kirk Ferentz, too. And he apparently saw enough of the hard hitting, 6-foot-1, 200-pound safety that Bracy was offered a full scholarship.

“I became a master of things I could do, like hyping my guys up or getting back into the playbook so I could do whatever I could to help us out,” he said of his time on the bench.

Bracy said it motivated him even further to get ready for 2019.

“The offseason has been great,” he said. “We’ve been working our tails off as a team. One of our goals is to not be out-worked, so during the offseason we go as hard as we can. We push each other to the limit, so this offseason we definitely grew as far as our level of intensity.”

Bracy, like St. Paul’s head coach Steve Mask and all of his Saints teammates, know that moving up in class from 5A to 6A as they did last season requires a different mindset if they want to compete with the Spanish Forts and Saralands of their region.

“You have fast guys in 5A, but you definitely have more of them in 6A,” he



Safety Reginald Bracy

said with a slight smile. “There are no plays off in 6A, so you just go out there and give it everything you’ve got on every play, all plays.

“Sometimes in 5A we’d make a good play, then come to the sideline and the coaches would pat us on the back. Now, after the play is over, we go to the sideline and the coaches are still coaching.

“So 6A is definitely a faster game, but at the same time we play at our pace to make other teams play uncomfortably.”

And just what does he want to accomplish individually this season?

“This last year I want to enjoy every moment,” he said. “This is the last year where football is not a job,” he added, obviously referring to the fact that playing in college is more business-like than the fun associated with high school ball.

“I’m just going to enjoy it with my teammates, and I feel like they’re going to push me to be ready.”

It’s a new day for Saints and QB Greene

BY DARRON PATTERSON
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What a difference a year makes. At least, that’s what St. Paul’s senior quarterback J Greene is hoping.

After transferring in from UMS-Wright and missing his entire sophomore year, Green was hobbled by a nagging ankle injury all last season, one suffered in a 17-7 win at Baldwin County in the third game.

The Saints were mediocre in a hard-fought 11-7 win over youthful Blount the following week and just OK offensively in a 21-0 victory over Region 1 bottom feeder Gulf Shores before being collectively outscored 57-0 in consecutive games against league bad boys Spanish Fort and Saraland.

They finished the year 7-4 and were ousted 38-20 at Opelika in the first round of the 6A playoffs.

But it’s a new day and Greene is ready to make amends.

“I think a year of experience brings a lot of confidence and obviously I feel like I’m more mechanically sound now,” said Greene, whose first name is simply the letter J. “That year of experience, especially in that tough a region is extremely valuable. The game has kind of slowed down and I’m picking up things a lot quicker in my pre-snap reads; they’ve progressed for sure.

“It’s something me and my offensive coordinator, coach (Shane) Sullivan, have worked on a lot. “I feel like I’m finally at a spot with my (passing motion) finish, with my back hip coming through (on the follow

through). That was a really big focal point in my offseason. I’m 100 percent healthy.”

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound Greene said there wasn’t just one moment last season when he felt like he’d turned the corner after having been off an entire season, but rather one game when he felt good about where he was going.



Quarterback J Greene

“As far as the second game, I was comfortable and I wasn’t as nervous,” he said of his performance in a 35-7 non-conference win over St. Stanislaus of Mississippi. “It wasn’t an ah-ha moment, but after that game I felt a lot more comfortable.

“I definitely think it was a process of picking things up, because the only true way to progress and to grow as a quarterback and a football player is to play,” he said.

Greene has spent much of his offseason working with renowned quarterback coaching guru David Morris at QB Country.

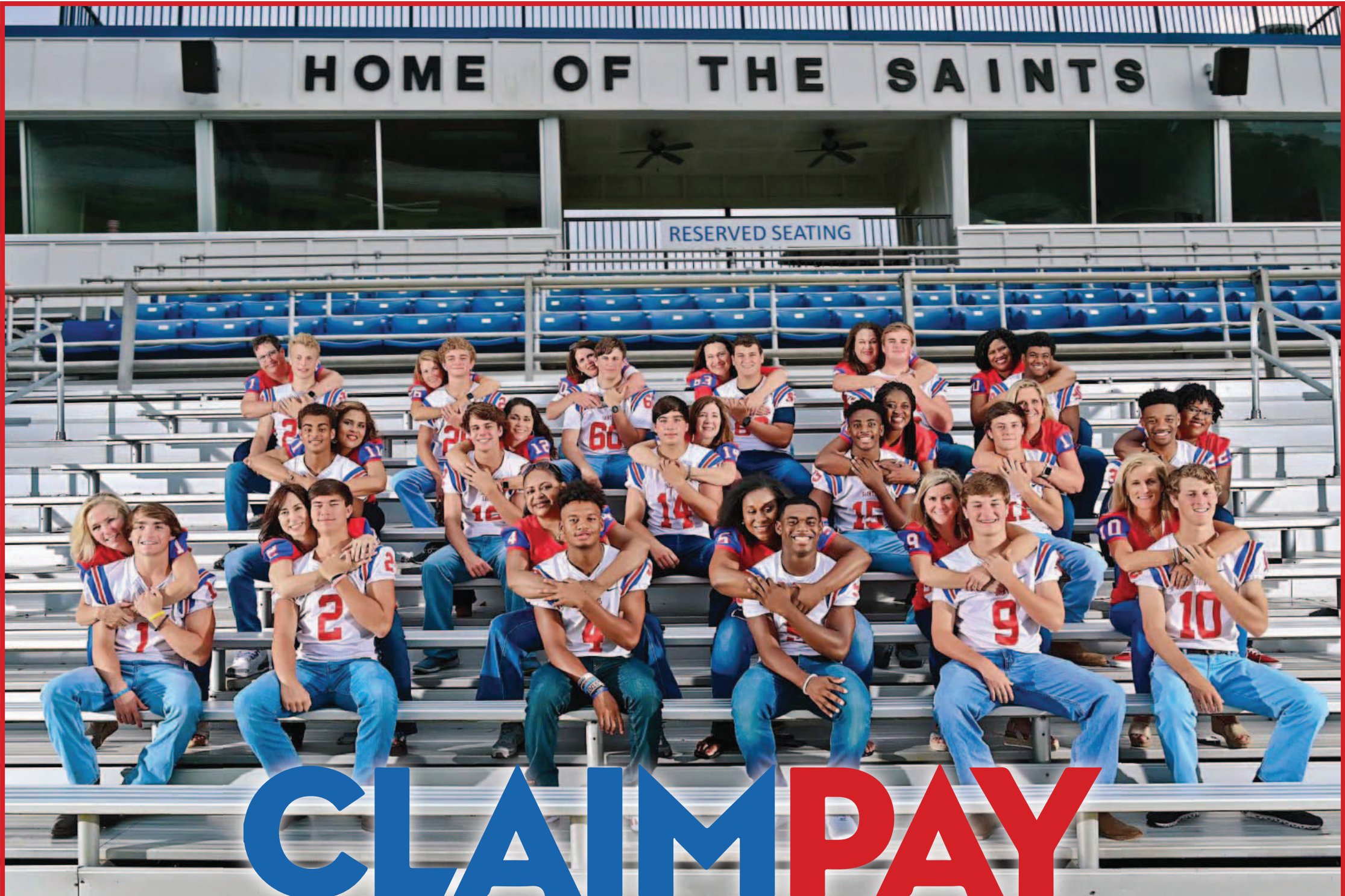
“I think he’s the best in the country,” he said of Morris.

“I’ve also been working out at D-1 (sports training facility) on my hip mobility, loosening my hips up. That helps a lot with throwing the ball and being able to run. And obviously, I’ve been in the weight room.”

Greene said he and the entire team have been feverishly working to have a great season.

But does he feel like he’s worked hard enough to gain their confidence that he can be the man?

“I think so,” he said.



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Claimpay, a Mobile based Physician Billing Company, would like to wish the St. Pauls Seniors and Moms Good Luck on the 2019 Season.

Go Saints!