

CITRONELLE

Courtland Snow loves football

There's just nothing like the 'adrenaline rush' of a Friday night contest

by TOMMY HICKS
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The start of Citronelle's 2019 football season can't get here fast enough for Courtland Snow. He has had Aug. 23 circled, and re-circled, on his calendar since the day the Wildcats' schedule was announced.

As far as Snow is concerned, you can have Mardi Gras or any other event or season; he'll take football season. Playing football for Citronelle is what makes everything else worthwhile. But the season-opener, well, that's like getting cake and ice cream too.

It has always been that way for Snow, but this season is even more special than any of the previous seasons. This is Snow's senior season and he wants this one to be the best yet. That's why he's ready to get things started, why he puts forth his best effort at every practice.

He's not a starter, at least not yet, but Snow still plays an impactful role with the Wildcats. He has been a consistent, dependable player at linebacker and he is expected to make contributions to that unit's success this season as the Wildcats chase the Class 5A, Region title, a spot in the state playoffs and, if all their goals are reached, something that would make the season as special as possible — a chance to play for the state title.

"Courtland is another one of those guys who is four years into the program and has never started," Citronelle head coach Jason Barnett said. "And

honestly, he probably won't start this year, though there's a chance. But he's one of those kids where, on some days, you look up and he's not there and you miss it because you're used to having him around.

"He's a special teams guy and he's going to be a back-up at outside linebacker and he's an important person because he's been here so long and you don't have to tell him to do something three times. You tell him once and he goes and does it. He's just one of those guys who is so vital to being in this program."

Barnett said Snow has grown up in the program and always wants what's best for the team and his teammates, at every turn.

"I remember him as a baby and now he's a senior," Barnett said. "He's going to be a backup outside linebacker and play on all the special teams. I'm anxious to see how he has improved."

The linebacker corps will play a huge role in the success of Citronelle's defense this season. There have been a few moves made in the offseason and the unit looks a bit different than it did just a year ago, but the expectations — the need for solid production — from the group remains the same.

Snow said he believes this will be a strong defensive team, from defensive front to the secondary, and those on defense feel they can play an important role in how the team fares this season. In truth, they want to be counted on to be the group that will lead the way toward a winning season that includes a spot in the playoffs.

"I believe this can be a shutout defense if we just put in the extra work every day and I think this will be our year," Snow said without hesitation.

As for personal goals, first on the list is to move up to the No. 1 defensive unit, a goal he said he hopes to achieve.

"I think this is my year," Snow said. "I think this is the year where I will finally start and where I'll get that opportunity."

Asked the difference in himself as a player when he joined the team as a freshman and now, Snow said, "Dedication and putting in work. You've got to be able and willing to put in the work."

Barnett said Snow has always been a player the coaching staff could count on to put in the work and has always been someone dedicated to the team and its goals.

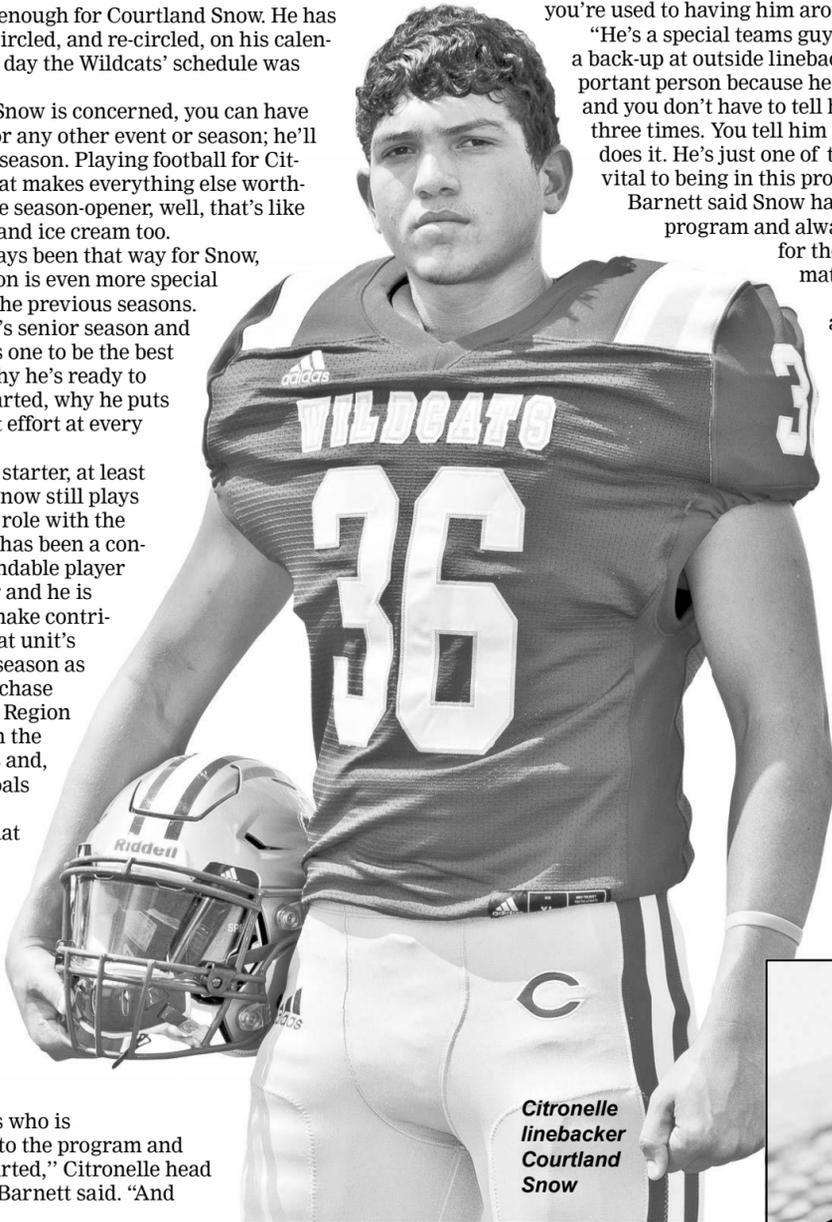
Snow said he began his career at outside linebacker and it has been a position that just seemed to fit for him. "That's where I started out at and I think that dedication has me in the right spot here now," he added.

As to what a solid season, a playoff season, would mean to the Citronelle players and the Citronelle community, Snow said it would be huge. His love for both the school and the community is a driving force behind his dedication to the football team.

"I love it, I just love it. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," Snow said. "This is the best program around in Mobile County and I believe this is the best place for me. ... I want our team to have a winning record and for there to be no injuries throughout the season and I just want to see us succeed."

It all begins this Friday night, and Courtland Snow can't wait.

"It's an adrenaline rush," he said of Friday nights during football season. "It's the most excitement you can feel. It's a great buzz and just the best time."



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