

CITRONELLE

Washington does it all

'Mr. Versatility' for Wildcats can make plays in any situation, all over the field

BY TOMMY HICKS
tommyhicks@thecallnews.com

What Citronelle fans should know from the beginning is that senior Brandon Washington will be wearing jersey No. 13. And no, he's not superstitious (obviously).

Perhaps what is most important about having this information is there is just one — only one — player who will be wearing jersey No. 13, though at times it will seem as though there are several guys sporting the jersey.

Unlike on college teams these days when an offensive and defensive player may share the same jersey number, that is not the case with the Wildcats, at least not this season. So when you see the Citronelle player wearing jersey No. 13 making a play, whether that play takes place on defense or offense, then the player who is making the play is Brandon Washington.

Feel free to shout out his name and congratulations for making the play.

There's a reason this distinction is important. Washington is going to be a player who could pop up in any number of positions, making almost any type of play for the Wildcats this season. He will not be limited to a single position on a single unit of the team, but instead will be used at several positions on offense, defense and special teams.

On offense he'll likely most regularly be found as a slot receiver or at running back, while on defense he could be used at linebacker or perhaps as a safety. On special teams, there's always the need for athletes who can make plays, and Washington certainly fits that bill. Which is why when he lists his positions on a roster it takes a little extra space, and then some.

His versatility is something head coach Jason Barnett and the Citronelle coaching staff hope to take advantage of all season long in an effort to place the best athletes on the team in the best positions that will be advantageous to the team.

"Brandon is another kid who has all the potential in the world and he's been a three-year starter for us and this (season) is coming up on four (seasons as a starter)," Barnett said. "He's one of those types who plays everywhere, too. He's going to be at safety, he's going to be at outside backer, he'll be in the slot, he'll be at running back; he's going to be just about everywhere."

And his versatility is not a one-way street in that it only pays dividends for the team. Barnett said he believes this could be a special season for Washington personally, one that could lead to him having an opportunity to continue his playing career beyond being a member of the Wildcats' team.

"He's one of those guys that has the potential to be an all-state player if he can put it all together," Barnett said, which in turn could translate to college scholarship offers. If, as Barnett said, Washington takes advantage of the situation and plays all-out this season regardless of his position.

Barnett admitted being a versatile player can be a blessing as well as a curse and he believes Washington understands that.

"It's good and it's bad at the same time," he said. "Because they're so good at doing so many things you kind of forget that they really should just be doing just (one thing). If there was the opportunity for him to just do one thing (play one position), there's no telling how good he could be."

"It's almost a necessity that he has to do so many things because there's not that person to step up and replace him in one of these positions. Unfortunately, that kind of limits him."

But Washington isn't complaining. In fact, he likes the jack-of-all-trades reputation he has established along the way and believes he can be more of an asset to the team in that role than if he was held to one position, or even two.

"Yes, I do see myself as an all-around player, to be honest," Washington said. "Wide receiver-slot receiver, that's my favorite position. I like it a lot. But I like playing the other positions too."

One of the reasons he prefers the receiver role is his belief that is where his best talents can be found.

"I believe I'm probably the best receiver on our team," Washington said. "Wherever you throw it I'll go get it."

Washington said he believes this year's Citronelle offense will be stronger and more overall effective than perhaps last season's offense.

"Since we've got a (new) young quarterback, once he learns how to process stuff during a game I think we're going to be pretty good," he said.

As for the other side of the ball, where he will also be spending some time, Washington said, "Our defense is going to be everything for us."

Wherever he is found on the field, Washington said he will be surrounded by those with whom he enjoys playing the game.

"I like Citronelle and I love being here," he said. "We're all close like brothers."



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

**Serving Mobile,
Washington and Clarke
counties since 1953.**

722 Shelton Beach Rd.,
Saraland, AL
251-675-4236

18475 S. Hwy. 45,
Citronelle, AL
251-866-3030



**Pest Control
and turf management**

**FOOTBALL FIELDS • TERMITE PREVENTION • EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE • CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS
• FREE HOME EVALUATIONS • FLEAS, TICKS, ANTS & LAWN INSECT CONTROL**