

MARY G. MONTGOMERY



Mary G. Montgomery wide receiver Akelan Bush

SPEED THRILLS

Fleet receiver Bush says the Vikings could have ‘breakout season’

By ARTHUR L. MACK
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Akelan Bush is a track guy, being a very important part of a resurgent Mary G. Montgomery track and field team that won the Mobile County Championships this past spring.

So, it comes as no surprise Bush hopes to use his speed at wide receiver and try to put some spark in the Vikings’ offense, which at times during the 2018 season had some bright spots but also had a tendency to go flat at the wrong time in crucial Class 7A, Region 1 games. That was especially true against Murphy and McGill-Toolen. The Vikings lost those games by scores of 36-30 and 17-10 in overtime.

Bush said he is confident this year things could be different.

“We were that close to beating McGill and Murphy,” he said. “We just have to get over the hill. This could be a breakout season for us. I think we’ll reach our goals and win more.”

Bush is not exactly the biggest guy on the team at 5-foot-9 and 150 pounds. Despite the lack of size, he has a lot of speed. He said there will be more overall speed on offense.

“We’re going to be pretty fast,” Bush said. “We have a couple of pretty fast backs in the backfield. They’re small guys, but they’re shifty and they can get to the outside and down the sideline.”

As such, during practice when Bush goes against guys like Christopher (CJ) Wallace, the Vikings’ cornerback who is also one of Bush’s

teammates on the track team, it’s a sure bet there will be a lot of competition to prove who is the better man.

“CJ and I have been going at it at practice and it’s going to translate on the field,” Bush said.

“Most of our guys (at wide receiver) look like him,” said MGM coach Stan McCain of Bush. “But they can run and Akelan made a pretty good play in our spring game (against Greene County, Miss.) on a deep ball. So we’re going to probably try to get the deep ball to him in the near future.”

Bush said he has had plenty of opportunities to work out with Max Parden, the frontrunner for the quarterbacking position.

“We work out every other weekend with timing and all that,” Bush said. “We’ve got a real good connection and a real good bond. I think Max will be good (as the starter). He’s just got to calm down a little bit and make the reads of the defense.”

Bush said his team’s defense has been strong during the spring and summer. As a result, it gives him and his offensive teammates even more incentive to improve.

“They dominate every day,” he said. “They make us work hard and get better.”

Bush said his first year under McCain has been very promising.

“He’s really tried to turn the program around,” Bush said. “He’s done some good things for us and getting us headed in the right direction.”

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