

SATSUMA



Some of the leading players on the linebacking corps for Satsuma pose for a picture.

GATORS: Squad of about 50 players will have six returning starters on both sides

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son. “They don’t have a lot of game experience, but they are really fast on defense,” Nelson said.

But Nelson, himself once a quarterback, notes offense is his “calling card,” and he is hoping that side of the ball leads the team. With quarterback Karson Green coming back, the offense will start out with an experienced player set in a key position.

“He’s definitely not a dual-threat guy; he’s more capable of running, but he’s got a motto that he’d rather get back and throw and not get hit as much. He’s a mentally tough kid, really tough, and he’s a pleasure to coach,” Nelson said. “He wants to be pushed and he wants to be coached hard.”

Nelson said one part of the offense that

will have to be solidified before opening-night kickoff is to fill two vacancies on the offensive line. One of those vacancies is right tackle, which Nelson noted is key. “We don’t get to circle any games as guaranteed wins. We will have to go in and fight for every win. We don’t have any cakewalks,” Nelson said.

His Gators this season will number about 50 players total, with six returning starters each on offense and defense. “But we played a lot of kids. The group of receivers we have don’t have game experience, but they did get a lot of practice time and they did play a lot of JV games,” Nelson said.

Presenting his coaching style as consistent to his team is a responsibility Nelson said he knows he will have to maintain for

his players. “I have coached under guys that have been passive and I have coached under guys that have been aggressive,” Nelson said. “Whatever you think your calling card is, you stuck to it, and the kids will rally around it one way or another. If you don’t go for it on fourth down, or if you don’t go for two in overtime, I think the kids understand that rationale. But if you are aggressive and you go for it and don’t get it, the defensive guys will rally around it and say, ‘We’ve got to go out and hold coach here.’”

Of the two philosophies, Nelson said he definitely is more of the aggressive type. “It doesn’t allow these guys to be passive or scared, but it allows them to be free and play ball,” he said.


By the time the Gators get to play on

their home field on Sept. 13, they will already have three games in the books, including Week Zero road opponent Gulf Shores on Aug. 23, W.S. Neal in Brewton on Aug. 30 and Jackson on Sept. 6.

Vigor opens the home schedule on Sept. 13 with region opponent Wilcox Central and Pleasant Home coming in for a non-region game on Sept. 27.

The Oct. 4 game in Citronelle is one that many of the players have said is at the top of the teams’ radar. LeFlore visits Satsuma on Oct. 18, and on Oct. 25, the Gators travel to Faith Academy to finish the region schedule before a regular-season ending game with Bayside Academy Nov. 11.

What happens for the Gators beyond that, of course, will be set in the results that have come in by that time.



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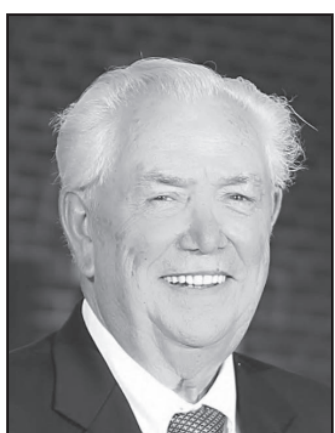


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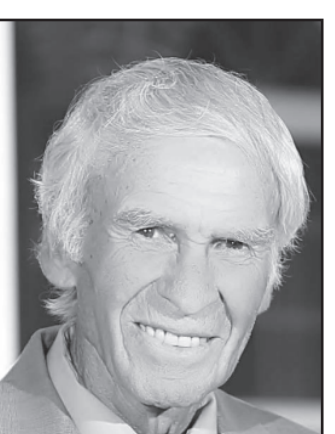
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Satsuma City Council