

ready to lead as a starting back once again with an extra year of experience heading into his final season as a Rebel.

Another returning talent who is being recruited by Division-1 colleges is place kicker and punter, Jackson Smith.

He has outperformed several other top kicking prospects across the nation and will be a reliable talent each game night for the Rebels this season.

Not only will it be a tough task to rebuild offensively, but it will be equally difficult to replicate the defensive success that the 2019 Rebels had, losing much of that production as well.

The Rebels defense was well feared after obtaining four shut out games and five more games allowing only one touchdown.

The top four leaders in tackles for the Rebels have graduated--Ezarius Roller, Wilson Kelly, Hayden Bottoms and Andrew Sacco. While that is a lot to lose, it is also reassuring that right behind them is McDaniel, now senior Clark Coleman and class of 2023 standout Tommy Ziesmer.

Ziesmer is listed at number six on Bluegrassrivals.com preseason defensive lineman rankings and is the only sophomore to make the top 20. Ziesmer has received a lot of interests from Division-1 programs and has received an offer from the University of Kentucky.

He will build on the hype surrounding him in the next two

years, and as for 2020, looks to continue his stellar play.

As for the coverage team, the Rebels will have to make up for the loss of their top three defensive backs. Similar to the receiving situation, Smith and Colwick were lockdown defenders, having a combined nine interceptions. Seven for Smith and two for Colwick. The secondary will feature McDaniel, Lanter and junior Cash Logan.

Logan performed well in 2019, with one interception and two fumble recoveries.

It is undeniable that the Rebels have rebuilt well within their program.

Haddix said it's about the opportunities being open and the players stepping into open roles that will make the difference this season.

"We talk about opportunities all the time. We did lose some really good football players off last year's team. Now we have some guys with opportunities to be the top play makers and lead our team," he said.

The talent is all across the board, the biggest fear for the Rebels is one they've done their best to handle, but is one that can't be stopped with a simple game plan. That being COVID-19 and the fear of a canceled or postponed season due to a potential outbreak.

The Rebels, as well as all fall sports programs, are extremely thankful for the opportunity to play this season and hope that

they will be allowed to finish their season.

It has been a challenge that these coaches have had to deal with. Trying to adapt to these regulations and safety protocols is not easy, but worth it in the end.

When asked about the pandemic, Haddix said, "I think everyone has had challenges and all teams and staff are facing the same challenges. There's been a limited amount of time to get prepared."

Whether the season runs it's full course is a question that nobody can truly know as of now.

But what is for sure, is that the Rebels are more than ready to start the 2020 season off strong. Their first game will be a match up against the Mercer County Titans, Friday, Sept. 11.

The Titans are led by Head Coach David Buchanan, who has steadily improved the Titans since taking over.

"Mercer County will be well coached and prepared for us. It will be a very good game and it will come down to who wins the turnover battle and who is in the best shape," said Haddix.

It will give the opportunity to both teams to prove themselves right out of the gate.

Everything is finally falling in order, the Rebels and Coach Haddix are ready to start their first season together with an eye on a state title.

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23 Will Alexander	So.	70 Evan Girdler	So.
54 Landon Lyons	Fr.	55 Nathaniel Rush	Jr.
88 Trent Blakemore	So.	13 Eli Glasscock	Sr.
75 Zach Mason	Jr.	8 Luke Sheperton	Sr.
10 Avery Bodner	Fr.	58 Austin Gorley	Fr.
20 Will McDaniel	Sr.	3 Cole Sims	So.
69 Paul Brown	Sr.	19 Matthew Guerrant	Fr.
30 Christian McGlone	So.	33 Lance Slone	Fr.
18 Cooper Brummett	So.	66 Andrew Hardwick	So.
51 Matthew McHolan	Sr.	27 Jackson Smith	Jr.
28 Coleman Clark	Sr.	87 Mac Hazlett	Fr.
34 Andrew McHollon	So.	53 Collin Stacy	Jr.
62 Noah Clem	So.	68 Jacob Heist	Sr.
89 Parker Merrick	So.	16 Bryson Stevenson	Fr.
14 Ayden Collins	Jr.	57 Jake Hester	Sr.
61 Daulton Peetz	Jr.	15 Keenan Stewart	Fr.
60 Will Crawford	So.	40 Caleb Holderman	Sr.
31 Cas Phillips	Sr.	29 Dalton Stone	Jr.
44 Jayce Crowe	So.	49 Wyatt Jackson	Jr.
4 John Rahbany	So.	35 Jakei Tarter	Jr.
72 Caleb Edmiston	Sr.	12 Hayden Kelly	Jr.
41 Baylee Reynolds	Jr.	84 Joseph Taylor	So.
22 Grant Frisby	Fr.	6 Cole Lanter	Jr.
45 Zayne Reynolds	Fr.	7 Collin Tiller	Jr.
85 Wesley Gaddis	So.	2 Trey Lanter	Fr.
74 Samuel Runyon	Jr.	76 Jon Turpin	So.
9 Jagger Gillis	Sr.	5 Cash Logan	Jr.
80 Benjamin Rush	Sr.	36 Tommy Ziesmer	So.

## SENIORS

Will McDaniel, Paul Brown, Matthew McHolan, Coleman Clark, Cas Phillips, Caleb Edmiston, Jagger Gillis, Benjamin Rush, Eli Glasscock, Luke Sheperton, Jacob Heist, Jake Hester, Caleb Holderman



## COACHES

Head Coach Justin C Haddix, Assistant Coach Jeremy Brummett, Assistant Coach Travis Burns, Assistant Coach Kaden Gervacio, Assistant Coach Jeff Hester, Assistant Coach Travis Leffew, Assistant Coach Deon McPherson, Assistant Coach Tyler Ray, Assistant Coach Todd Tiller, Video Crew Damian Laymon

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- Haddix