

Choctaw

Unfinished business

Yellowjackets working for gold after runner-up finish

By Ryan Horton

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Choctaw High School football will look familiar this season.

Last year the Choctaw squad, consisting primarily of sophomores, rolled to a state runner-up finish.

After capturing the silver ball, the Yellowjackets believe they've put in the work required for a hardware upgrade come December.

"We're looking really good. Everybody's just buzzing and anxious to get started. Everybody has bought in and been putting in work this summer. Obviously, we were a young team last year and now we have a year under our belt," said junior quarterback Steele Wasel. "It's a different energy, and we don't really have those nerves.

Everyone's just focused on that state ring, and we just need to be four points better. I think we've done that over the offseason."

Last season a district changeup sent Choctaw to battle the east as a new member of District 6A-II-2.

The young squad eagerly accepted the challenge, and their only district loss was to the state champion Bixby team. This year Choctaw will host Booker T. Washington, Bixby and Putnam City West. Away games include Ponca City, Muskogee, Sand Springs and Bartlesville.

Before beginning district play, the Jackets will test themselves with some challenging in-state scrimmages and non-district games against out-of-state opponents.

"This is just kind of how the schedule fell. We wanted to have 10 games, and ended

up getting teams from four states. I think it's a cool opportunity for our kids. Obviously, you want to win games and help kids, but I think a big part of helping these kids is just providing a great high school experience. I feel like we're able to do that," said head coach Jake Corbin. "How cool would it be to be in a high school program that gets to play teams from Virginia, Arkansas, Texas and state champions? You want to measure yourself against the best, and I think that gets our kids and fans excited."

Corbin believes the 2021 Yellowjacket schedule is the best lineup in the state.

"Obviously, we want Choctaw fans out here, but if you're a fan of football or high school sports in general this is the place to be. Our home slate of Choctaw football is Beacon Hill, Virginia; Springdale, Arkansas;



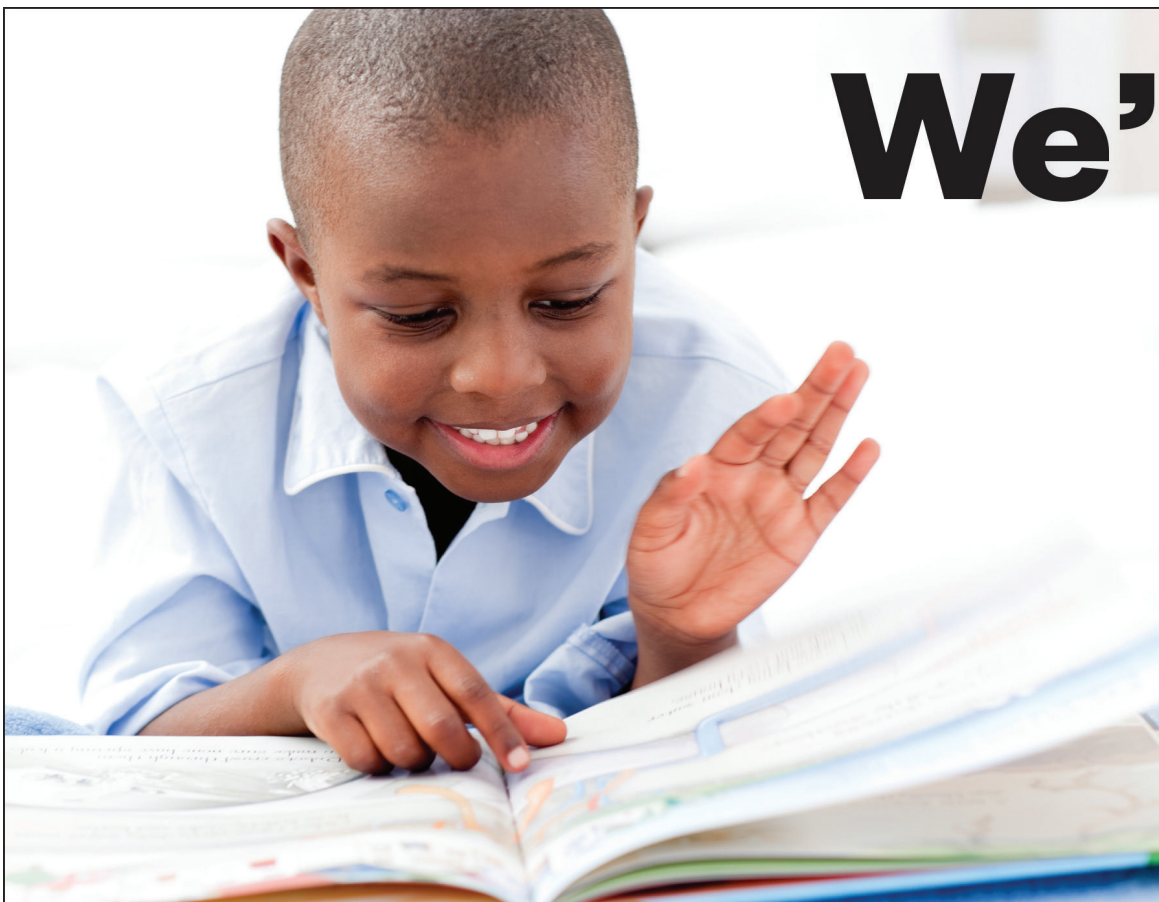
Jake Corbin guided Choctaw to a state runner-up finish last year in Class 6A-II.

PHOTO BY RYAN HORTON

Bixby, Booker T. and PC West. I don't know that there's a cooler home schedule in the state of Oklahoma for people to come get their money's worth at Bill Jensen Field," said Corbin.

"Hopefully, we'll be attracting some football fans to Choctaw and bringing in some

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