

Carl Albert

Titans retooling offense with strong ground game

By Jeff Harrison

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Carl Albert lost several offensive starters from a year ago.

But they held onto one big piece in senior running back Kentrell "Buddy" Bizzell. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound back will be the focal point of the Titans offense this fall. Bizzell rushed for over 1,000 yards the past two seasons along with 21 touchdowns in 2020.

Cody Longstreet and Chancy Lester will provide depth at running back.

For the first time since 2016, the Titans will have someone other than Ben Harris starting at quarterback. The top candidates are junior Reed DeQuasie, who moved in from Choctaw, and senior Braydon Armstrong who have split reps this spring and summer.

"They're both great athletes and they'll both get on the field somewhere whether at quarterback or somewhere else," Dunn said.

The Titans will have experience at receiver with Demorrion Brown and Xzavi-



Carl Albert's Reed DeQuasie (4) looks for running room during a scrimmage against Edmond Santa Fe on Aug. 20 at Jenks High School. PHOTO BY STEPHEN TONEY

er Thomas. Brown is a vertical threat who can stretch the field, while Thomas gives the Titans a big body on the outside.

"They both had 300 plus yards receiving last year and they're about to have a really good year," Dunn said.

Tashawn James, who started safety last year, and Aidan White will see more time at receiver this fall.

Charlie Fleming returns at tight end and can help on the offensive line.

"He's one of those guys that can be a

great tackle and can also be a great tight end," Dunn said. "He's a team first guy that will do whatever the team needs him to."

Mason Lantz will also help at tight end after playing some snaps last year.

"Mason is one of those guys who has waited his turn and he's had an unbelievable spring and summer," Dunn said.

Seniors Kolby Reser and Leterrill Cole will anchor the offensive line. Both saw action on the line last year.

"Reser has really stepped up as a leader this summer," Dunn said. "And I think Leterrill Cole is going to have a breakout year. He's had a great spring and summer and he's strong as an ox."

Caraun Howard is also expected to step into the lineup. The 6-foot-3, 315-pound senior has impressed coaches with his commitment in the weight room and offseason workouts.

"He's a guy that we're really counting on to step in and take advantage of this opportunity," Dunn said.

Dunn doesn't expect a lot of changes in the offensive gameplan from last year, but says they will adapt to their players' strengths. DeQuasie and Armstrong both have great speed and can throw on the run in rollouts and bootleg plays.

On special teams, the Titans will again rely on senior Jacob Eddy who has started since his freshman year. He is recovering from an injury he suffered in the soccer season.

DeQuasie or Bizzell will likely handle punting duties, giving the Titans a dual threat. Lantz will be the long snapper.

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Linebackers, secondary bring experience to CA defense

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Defense has always been a key part of Carl Albert's state championship teams.

And the Titans figure to have another good one this year with several returning starters in the secondary and some relentless pass rushers on the line.

"It's always nice to have a good back end of the defense and we definitely have that," said coach Mike Dunn. "We have a lot of experience in the secondary and linebacker which is going to be very helpful for our defensive line."

The Titans have several returning varsity players up front. Sunny Campbell at defensive tackle played quite a

bit last year. Troy "T.J." Lambert will also step in this year on the interior.

On the outside, they'll rely on Charles Fleming and Isaiah Reed. Fleming has good size at 6-foot-235 pounds and has improved his strength this offseason. Reed is a strong pass rusher.

"He [Reed]'s got a motor, he goes all the time and doesn't know how to go slow," Dunn said. "He's a guy that can really get after it and rush the passer."

Kentrell Bizzell will anchor the line backing corps. He racked up 82 tackles, two sacks and two forced fumbles last year as a junior.

Logan Brown, who joined the team in January, Xavier Robinson, RT Sherman will play at linebacker. Sherman also plays at running back.

"RT is a kid we're very excited about. He had a great spring and summer. And the little bit of 7 on 7 that we did, he just got better and better," Dunn said.

In the secondary, the Titans welcome back starters Tashawn James and Demorrion Brown. Xzavier Thomas will play at cornerback.

"I think our secondary is going to be a big strength for us," Dunn said. "We have really good athletes back there and guys that know their job, they're well coached, and they do what their coaches ask."

In the return game, the Titans have plenty of options with Brown, EJ Taylor, James and others.



Carl Albert's RT Sherman works on a defensive drill at practice earlier this year. He is expected to be a key contributor at linebackers this year. PHOTO BY JEFF HARRISON