

Carl Albert

Titans under new management

Dunn takes over as head coach of his alma mater

By Jeff Harrison
mwcbeacon@yahoo.com

Pressure is nothing new for the Carl Albert football team.

The Titans have used it to build one of the most dominant programs in the state. And they'll feel it again this fall as they look to push their consecutive state title streak to six.

And they'll look to do it with a new coach in Mike Dunn.

He succeeds Mike Corley who stepped down after four seasons – all of which ended with a state championship. Corley is remaining on the staff as an assistant and strength and conditioning coach.

Dunn knows a thing or two about the legacy as a former player and coach. As a senior, he helped the Titans capture their fifth straight state championship. He later joined coach Gary Rose as an assistant coach before continuing his coaching career in Texas and Del City.

"There is pressure obviously with this job, but I know these kids, they get the same pressure, knowing that they want to continue the streak, Dunn said.

The Titans are still the team to beat in Class 5A even after graduating 22 seniors. Dunn said his players don't get wrapped up in preseason hype.

"There have been years when Carl Albert started out number one, just because of what they did the year before. And there are years Carl Albert has started out number one because they were obviously loaded. So you try to not worry about that, and make sure the kids know this year's team has to start over. It doesn't matter how many returning starters you have," Dunn said.

The coaching staff will remain the



Carl Albert coach Mike Dunn talks with his team during the Jenks Trojan Preview on Aug. 20. PHOTO BY STEPHEN TONEY

same with the addition of Dunn and a few others. John Herbert returns as defensive coordinator and Brandon Johnson will lead the offense. Shane Farley will oversee special teams.

"It's great to have that consistency," Dunn said. "That's how you build traditions and you build programs. One thing that hasn't changed about this program is the discipline and character piece has always been at the forefront."

Carl Albert opens the season with back-to-back games against Mid-Del rivals Midwest City (Sept. 3) and Del City (Sept. 10). The Titans have won three straight against the Bombers including a 41-26 victory last year.

They have had similar success against Del City in recent years. This year will be a little different with Dunn facing his former team. Robert Jones, who coached with Dunn for several years, is the new head coach at Del City.

"I'll have some mixed emotions for that game," Dunn said. "I had a great four years with those guys and I have a lot of respect for the administration over there. It's always a great atmosphere and will be a fun game."

The Titans will close out their non-district schedule with Shawnee on Sept. 17. The teams did not meet last year due to COVID.

Carl Albert figures to again be the favorite in District 5A-2. They open district play against Guymon on Sept. 24 followed by back-to-back road games at rivals Guthrie and Bishop McGuinness. The Bluejays always provide a challenge while the Titans have faced off with the Irish in four of the last five state championship games.

Carl Albert returns home Oct. 14 against Piedmont. The Wildcats were the last team to beat the Titans in district play and figure to be tough again.

"Carl Albert has a lot of rivalries but

CAHS Schedule

Sept. 3	at Midwest City
Sept. 10	Del City
Sept. 17	Shawnee
Sept. 24	Guymon
Oct. 1	at Guthrie
Oct. 8	at McGuinness
Oct. 14	Piedmont
Oct. 22	at Western Heights
Oct. 29	at Woodward
Nov. 5	Lawton Ike

this is a new one that we've circled," Dunn said.

They follow with road games against Western Heights and Woodward, before finishing the season at home against Lawton Eisenhower.