

Jones

Longhorns '0' ready to roll in 2021

By John Martin
Staff Writer

The Jones Longhorns averaged 35 points per game a year ago and Coach Dave Martin expects that could even go higher in the upcoming campaign.

"We are returning 4 of 5 offensive linemen from a year ago, so it gives us a great confidence that the big boys up front will be able to pave the way for our success," Martin said.

And with the best quarterback in the state returning to guide that offensive, the Longhorns may well exceed that 35 points per game average.

Carson May, who will be toiling in the Big 10 for the Iowa Hawkeyes next year, weighs in at 215 pounds on his 6-5 frame and his cannon of an arm for his third year at the Longhorn helm.

And two of his favorite targets will be returning to catch the bullets he will be firing. 6-2 senior Cadyn Karl caught 58 passes for 768 yards and 10 touchdowns and fellow senior Emmett Murphy was on the receiving end of 31 passes and added four touchdowns.

Sophomore Xavier Zachery lines up in the backfield but pulled down 9 passes for



Senior quarterback Carson May throws a pass during a practice. PHOTO BY RYAN HORTON
53 yards and three touchdowns and added three more TDs rushing on 274 yards rushing, an average of 5 yards per carry.

In all, May completed 220 passes in 366 attempts for just over 3,000 yards for 26 touchdowns and only five interceptions. And he drove defenses crazy with both his planned and unplanned scrambles that netted 650 more yards on 129 carries and 14 touchdowns.

His QB rating was a lofty 104.5.

May's stats could have been even higher had he not sat out at least the final quarter in over than half of the Longhorns' victories.

Example: The Jones Boys went 2-up in the Hogback Rivalry, defeating the Luther Lions, 40-16, in a non-district contest early in the season, then rolled into the second round of the Class 2A playoffs and drubbed the Lions again, this time by a 50-20 count as May had nearly 300 yards passing and added a pair of TDs on the ground in less than three quarters of action.

Prior to the showdown with Millwood, the Longhorns posted a 46-6 win over Star-Spencer to open district play, a 44-13 triumph over Crossings Christian and the alleged showdown with Kellyville that turned into a 48-8 romp for May and Co.

Jones fans well remember that trip to Kellyville, which after years of struggling, finally had put together a scoring machine that was undefeated while racking up 70 and sometimes 80 points per game and had a packed house awaiting the Longhorns.

The Ponies had even put up 48 in a narrow 56-48 loss to undefeated Millwood the previous week.

But they had not encountered the likes of Tj Thomson, Kameron Estrada, linebacker Deluxe Will Irvine and current Longhorn standouts Braiden Martin,

Kameron Sweat, Carter Cranford and soph sensation Mason Weiher.

With the defense giving him the ball consistently, May lit it up and the Longhorns headed to halftime with the overflow crowd staring in disbelief at a 46-0 deficit. Corbin Cox added one more insult just before the halftime buzzer sounded, sacking the Kellyville QB in the end zone for a safety and a 48-0 advantage at intermission.

When Meeker pulled out of the district finale, two things resulted: 1. Martin scrambled and found a replacement in 5A Guthrie and the Longhorns posted a 32-26 victory; 2. More drastic was a COVID-induced ruling by the OSSAA that used number of wins as the basis for determining district standings.

Since Prague and Meeker opted out, the Longhorns finished 4-1 in district while Chandler played a full schedule and finished 5-2, thus grabbing the No. 2 and home field advantage from the Longhorns.

No problem with easy wins over Chisholm and Luther before ending the run against Washington in the semifinals.

But they will get another chance this year.

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Irvine provides spark for Jones defense

By John Martin
Staff Writer

While Carson May and his offensive mates were ringing up the points for the Jones Longhorns a year ago, Will Irvine was filling the same role for the Longhorn "D".

Now they are both seniors and ready to resume their leadership roles as the Longhorns seek to regain the District 2A-2 champion relinquished to Millwood in the COVID-plagued 2020 campaign.

Irvine, the 6-1,190 pound linebacker, racked up 92 tackles, including three sacks, 11 tackles for loss and four fum-

ble recoveries a year ago. For the third straight year, Irvine will use his size, speed and nose for the ball to wreak havoc on opponents. Plus he will have seven returning starters alongside him to carry out the Longhorn game plan.

"He is the anchor of our linebacker crew and will have lots of experience up front and also in the secondary to surround him. Tj Thomson and Kameron Estrada have been dominating forces for our D-Line and should be even better this year with another year of experience under their belt," Martin said.

The experience in the secondary comes from an exceptionally talented

group that includes Braiden Martin, Kameron Sweat, Carter Cranford and Mason Weiher.

The Longhorns gave up an average of 16 points per game, which is not an accurate picture since reserves played the last quarter or more in six of the 12 games in a 9-3 season.

While Irvine was leading the way with 92 tackles, Thomson racked up 59 tackles, five sacks and 15 tackles for loss while Martin registered 59 tackles, four of them for loss and 3 sacks.

In his sophomore campaign, Estrada had 12 tackles for loss among his total of 48 and led the way in the Sack Parade

for the Longhorns with 8.

A pair of talented sophomores, 275-pound nose guard Raymond Correa and two-way ace Mason Weiher in the secondary, will be adding their names to the Tackle Honor Roll.

The versatile Sweat led the Longhorns in interceptions with four while Karl picked off two, while Martin and Weiher also etched their names on that list.

And while the Longhorns are famous for their speed, Martin can call up some beef if the occasion demands as well headed by 6-4, 330 pound senior