

MARTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL



Focusing on Teamwork and Growing This Season

BY JASMINE WILLIAMS
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The Martin Middle School Chargers are coming back after a difficult season last year, ready to work hard and have a great season, while also continue to learn how to better work together as a team.

Head Coach Kyle Pack said the team has come back this summer after a tough year, with Pack being out for almost half of the season due to COVID and a much younger and inexperienced team. The Chargers have not shown any effects from last season, starting their practices with good numbers and enthusiasm. Pack noted, "They are showing no signs of slowing down."

This enthusiasm is working for the team's advantage as well, stated Pack, who said this year the team is very fast and their speed will be something other teams need to look out for during games. They have been a very coachable team and have an incredible work ethic. The hard work is starting to pay off. The Chargers played against Dyersburg in a 7-on-7 match up, which saw the defense especially looking very well. A scrimmage against McKenzie also showed that this team is putting in the hard work in order to have a good season.

Defensively, Poston Essary

is a, "Big hustle player who is looking very good this season." Essary will be seen on the field as a defensive end and center for the offensive side.

Pack also noted Miles Brown and Asa Barnes are both younger players who have really impressed during practices and will continue to shine this season. Donteze Joy is a linebacker and Christopher Damron is an outside linebacker. Both were noted for their excellent skills during practices.

On the offensive side, there are many of the same names, with Donteze Joy as someone who Pack notes is very explosive and they expected big things out of him. Christopher Damron will be leading the offense as a first-time quarterback and is doing well in that position.

Miles Brown and Asa Barnes were named as players who will be very important to the team this year, especially for the offense. Ashton Morgan is another who is working very well and the coach is happy with what he is showing right now.

The team had just begun to work on special teams at the time of the interview, but Pack notes they practice different elements of their special teams every practice.

The coaches were looking at Alex Evans to kick off, with Thomas Myers also playing that position some this season. Evans

will also share punting with Ashton Morgan this year.

Kyle Pack noted the team overall is much younger and this is leading to not all the players being as experienced in their positions as they will be in another year or so. Poston Essary is one of the few returning starters. Pack said the team is much younger, which resulted in about half of the starting line up being newer and only one returning starter for the offense. The team has many seventh graders this year, which will make the team younger, but full of players ready to learn more.

A younger team is not the only thing that is a weakness this year; with so many newer players, it has the team chemistry not as good as it needs to be. Many of the players are still getting to know each other due to not playing before. Pack noted that this was a struggle for the team as of the interview, but that he expected this for a younger team and sees improvement in the team chemistry every practice.

Miles Brown is a player helping to keep the team flowing better. A player who is not very vocal, Brown has been leading the team by example this season. He is noted to be working hard as he can and leading younger teammates on how to work hard and practice better.

Pack said working together and being physical are part of the team's philosophy.

"They have enough talent and speed to win games and they have the drive to be physical. We tell them to have no plays off, to play the next play and go out there with a mean attitude and play their best," Pack said.

Pack is looking forward to beginning the season against Paris Inman. The team also wants to win against Milan, after losing to them last year. Pack also noted



Martin Middle School Cheerleaders front Row (Left to Right) Bella Barner, Josie Allen, Bentley White, Payton Leverette, Kloe Thompson, Olivia Martin, and Alyssa Cathey. Middle Row (Left to Right) Madison McIver, Mari Frances Taylor, Libby Adkins, Amelia Pritchett, Maleigha Hernandez, Ella Pinkston, Lilly Wilson, and Lydia Moore. Back Row (Left to Right) Raven Canada, Anaya Patel, Kelsey Skelton, Auerora Quinn, Macy Norton, Keeley Southerland, and Avery McMinn.

that he has not been able to beat Dyersburg since he began coaching and hopes that this year will be the year the Chargers take home the win.

The coaching staff has seen only one change with assistant coach Drew Stigall leaving Martin to coach at Ripley.

That resulted in former long-time principal of Martin Middle School, Nathaniel Holmes, joining the coaching staff. Pack said Holmes has been phenomenal with the team this year and he is very excited for this addition to the staff.

The Martin Middle School Charger football team travels to Alamo Thursday, August 26 to face the Crockett County Cavaliers. Kick off is at 6:30 p.m.



Coaching Staff: Kyle Pack, Aaron Knott, Avery Orr, Nathaniel Holmes, and Kenneth Irvine.

MARTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position
1	Ja'Shun Ward	WR/DB
3	Miles Brown	WR/DB
4	Ashton Morgan	WR/DB
5	Kevin Cates	WR/DB
7	Christopher Damron	WR/LB
8	Jeremiah Dysart	
10	Thomas Myers	QB/DB
12	Caleb Campbell	WR/DB
19	Mixon McDaniel	WR/DB
20	Donteze Joy	RB/DL
	Briar Neville	WR/DB
24	Asa Barnes	RB/DB
25	Skylar Freeman	RB/DB
26	Tyler Dunphy	WR/DB
28	Ashton Morgan	WR/DB
38	Nathan Parker	Mgr.
40	Finn Snider	RB/LB
44	Alex Belew	Mgr.
50	Myles McEwan	Mgr.
52	Karson Lifsey	OL/DL
54	Carter Peevyhouse	OL/DL
57	Jamaal Barnett	OL/DL
58	Brayden Papich	OL/DL
59	Connor Jones	OL/DL
60	Adon Rushing	OL/DL
61	Cade Totten	OL/DL
65	Poston Essary	OL/DL
66	Maddox Scoggins	OL/DL
67	Isaiah Leslie	OL/DL
68	Harry Freeman	OL/DL
72	Aidan Hill	OL/DL
73	Josh Frensley	OL/DL
76	Brycen Dickson	OL/DL
77	Alex Evans	OL/DL
78	Noah Stooksberry	OL/DL
84	Jaylen Tisdale	WR/LB

Coaching Staff: Kyle Pack, Aaron Knott, Avery Orr, Nathaniel Holmes, Kenneth Irvine
Managers: Myles McKeuen, Alex Belew, Nathan Parker

MARTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Aug. 12	Milan (JV)	Milan
Aug. 19	Huntington (JV)	Martin
Aug. 26	Crockett Co.	Crockett Co.
Sep. 2	Dyersburg (JV)	Dyersburg
Sep. 9	Dresden	Martin
Sep. 16	Henderson	North Lexington
Sep. 23	Paris Inman	Martin
Sep. 30	Henry Co. (JV)	Henry Co.
Oct. 12	TMSSAA Playoffs Rd. 1	
Oct. 19	TMSSAA Playoffs RD. 2	
Oct. 23	TMSSAA Championship	

All games are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

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