



WATCH LIST



FREDDIE MARTIN
6-3 • 300 • OL/DL



KEVYN ALFTER
6-0 • 170 • WR/DB



KWELI PURIFOY
6-3 • 185 • WR/DB



PACEY GAMMONS
6-3 • 230 • OL/DL



HAMILTON MAY
5-10 • 165 • QB/DB



Hamilton May is now in charge of Obion County Central's fast-moving, high-scoring offense.

Rebels looking to take big step in building a winning program

By KEVIN WEAKS
Sports Editor

Justin Palmer's master plan is to build a football program at Obion County Central.

This season will put his skills to the test.

The Rebels come into the 2023 season following big graduation losses from the year before.

Central graduated its top running back, top passer, top receiver, top scorer and top two tacklers.

Programs, he pointed out, can absorb those losses and continue to win games.

"The difference in a team versus a program is you just keep going when you lose all those things," Palmer said. "It just continues on. That's the goal.

"We'll see if that's the direction we're heading — if we're becoming a program versus just being a team from year to year. Three years into it, I hope that's what we're becoming. We'll find out."

Palmer enters his third season at OC fresh off a 2022 campaign where the Rebels posted a 6-6 overall record and beat Melrose at Memphis in the first round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Central had some playmakers everywhere who led to that success.

Johnny Light ran for 1,936 yards and 21 touchdowns, scoring 126 points, Ben Sharp threw for 1,154 yards and seven TDs, and Jamaad Mosley pulled down

55 catches for 838 yards and eight scores.

Meanwhile, Drake Hamilton had 60 tackles, and Colten Rudd had 53 stops to lead the Central defense.

"We won't replace those guys completely, but we have some guys in those positions that maybe are a little better than those guys at certain things," Palmer said.

For the Rebel head coach, that shows a flexibility that he believes his system has.

"Will our offense look the same as it did with Johnny? No. Will we run some of the same plays? Yes, but we've tweaked some of those plays to fit the players we have now. Maybe we'll ask the quarterback to do a little more. We counted on Jamaad a lot in the passing game. I'm a big believer in getting your best players the ball in whatever way you can. If everybody's a little more equal as receivers, then more guys get the ball. Maybe that makes us a little tougher to defend.

"Defense is a little different because it's all about teaching them the right way of getting in a stance, getting lined up and being good tacklers. It doesn't matter who you graduate or who you have. If you don't do those three things, I don't care if you're running a 9-1-1 defense, you're not going to be very good. That really never changes in any good football team."

OFFENSE
Quarterback

Hamilton May (5-10, 165), a senior, has the skills and leadership qualities to be a standout at that position.

"He's been one of our best players since I've been here," Palmer said. "It doesn't matter what position he's played. He's one of the best people we have in this program. I love coaching him. A coach couldn't pick a better guy to be the quarterback and leader of this team, honestly, just because he has the respect of everybody. I think he's going to do a great job and have a great year for us."

In limited action last season, May completed 17-of-21 passes for 99 yards and three scores.

Junior Logan Thompson (5-10, 185) is listed as the back-up.

Running backs

Tucker Moore (5-11, 165), a sophomore, steps up to the starting spot in the backfield.

Not as big but maybe more elusive than Light, Moore will be more diverse in his role as he will be utilized in the passing game as well as being the primary ball-carrier.

Receivers

Palmer calls his receiver positions 'X,' 'Y,' 'Z' and 'H' and each spot has a specific role in

(See Page 5, Col. 1)

THE BLITZ
THE PROGRAM

COACH: Justin Palmer
CAREER: 47-42 (8 Years)
RECORD AT OC: 10-12 (3rd Season)
STADIUM: Rebel Field
REGION: 7-4A
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 6-6
PLAYOFF BERTHS: 12
ALL-TIME PLAYOFF RECORD: 4-12

2022 RESULTS

OPPONENT	SCORE
Gibson County	W 56-19
Lake County	L 30-38
• North Side	W 24-0
at McKenzie	L 14-49
• at Crockett County	W 28-14
at Chester County	W 37-29
• South Gibson	L 21-42
Milan	L 6-28
at Dresden	W 42-21
• Haywood	L 13-48
CLASS 4A STATE PLAYOFFS	
at Melrose	W 42-32
at Milan	L 28-38

2022 STAT LEADERS

RUSHING		Att.	Yds.	TD
Johnny Light		308	1,936	21
Ben Sharp		69	207	5
Hamilton May		34	147	1

PASSING		Att.-Com.	Yds.	TD
Ben Sharp		76-140	1,154	7
Tanner Richmond		22-39	412	7
Hamilton May		17-21	99	3

RECEIVING		Att.	Yds.	TD
Jamaad Mosley		66	838	8
Kevyn Alfter		17	352	4
Drake Hamilton		16	269	4

SCORING		TD/2Pt	PAT/FG	Tot.
Johnny Light		21/0	0/0	126
Hector Corona		0/0	43/2	49
Jamaad Mosley		8/0	0/0	48

TACKLES		Total	TFL	Sack
Drake Hamilton		60	0	1
Colten Rudd		53	1	0
Hamilton May		50	1	0
Ben Pickard		47	4	0
Raxzey Campbell		30	0	0

Returning players in italics

2022 TEAM TOTALS

	OC	OPP.
Points	341	358
Total Yards	4,059	3,947
Per Game	338.3	328.9
Rushing	2,394	2,560
Per Game	199.5	213.3
Passing	1,665	1,387
Per Game	138.8	115.6
1st Downs	197	189
Fum./Lost	22/9	22/10

2023 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: OBION COUNTY CENTRAL SCHEDULE									
AUG. 18	AUG. 25	SEPT. 1	SEPT. 8	SEPT. 15	SEPT. 22	SEPT. 29	OCT. 6	OCT. 20	OCT. 27
LAKE COUNTY Away	WESTVIEW Away	NORTH SIDE Home	FULTON CO., KY Home	HAYWOOD Home	DRESDEN Away	CROCKETT CO. Away	FAYETTE-WARE Home	DYER CO. Away	CRAIGMONT Home

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