

Rebels ...

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the offense.

The ‘X’ is a possession receiver, and senior Noah Parker (6-1, 150), in his third year, has been a consistent player in the program. The ‘H’ is off the ball and goes in motion, a spot suited for senior Kweli Purifoy (6-3, 185). Both players are good with the ball after catches.

Bryson Underwood (5-11, 162), a sophomore, will also see action at the ‘H’ spot.

Morgan Carpenter (5-11, 200), a sophomore, has the tight end skills for the ‘Y’ position. Carpenter is strong and a good blocker.

Senior Kevyn Alfter (6-0, 170) will take Mosley’s spot at the ‘Z’ receiver. It is the trigger position of the passing game, where Alfter can line up outside or in the slot and will be moved around.

Like Parker, Alfter has been in the program three years, and Palmer said he trusts both in their positions.

Line

The Rebels have plenty of senior experience and some good depth up front.

Pacey Gammons (6-3, 330), a senior, is a three-year starter and will handle the left tackle spot, while junior Nolan Gray (5-9, 265) is the left guard, where he has started since late in his freshman year.

Raxzey Campbell (6-1, 225), a senior, moves to the center spot this season.

A mainstay on the defensive line, he is athletic and can move well, giving the Rebels the ability to get more from that spot.

Michael Jenkins (6-0, 295), another senior, will handle the right guard spot.

“We’ve seen a complete transformation in him from three years ago — how he looks, how he acts, his work ethic,” Palmer said. “Just super proud of him for the progress he’s made.”

Freddie Martin (6-3, 300), the fourth senior of the bunch, will be in his second year as the starting right tackle.

“It’s a good group of guys,” Palmer said. “I think they can be the strength of the offense. We need them to be. We need them to be physical and be the best part of the offense.”

Sammy Gutknecht (5-10, 260), a junior, and senior Case Holcomb (5-10, 235) provide depth up front. Holcomb is someone who can play all five spots.

DEFENSE

Line

The Rebel defensive line should be the strength of the 2023 squad.

“I think right now our D-line depth is a big strength of ours,” Palmer said. “That and our ability to rotate people. You’re not always going to have that.”

The Rebs run an odd-man front, usually with three but sometimes walking up line-backers for a five front.

Gammons and Campbell are the ends up front, while junior twins Jamari Hammonds (6-1, 210) and Kamari Hammonds (6-1, 265) will share the starting nose guard spot.

The team’s depth is seen in Sammy Gutknecht and junior Kaden Wilbanks (5-10, 215) along with senior Gary Gutknecht (5-11, 330) and Martin.

Those numbers give OC flexibility in the ability to rest players who spent time on the field during a sustained offensive series.

Linebackers

The Rebels will play four linebackers, two inside and two outside.

The inside LBs are called Monster, the traditional Mike spot, and Warrior, historically known as the Will.

Logan Laird (5-10, 213), a senior, lines up at the Monster, backed up by junior Logan Thompson (5-10, 185) and sophomore Aiden Jackson (5-9, 150).

Landon Cranford (5-10, 180), a senior, starts at the Warrior with sophomore Derek Argo (5-10, 155) and senior Ben Pickard (5-11, 175).

Pickard’s main spot is at one of the two outside linebacker spots, known in OC terminology as Bandit (weak side) and Joker (strong side).

Pickard and junior Drake Little (5-6, 150) share time at the Bandit, followed by Argo.



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Palmer praised the work Little has made to crack the lineup.

“He plays with the best technique of any player we have,” Palmer said. “Without that, he wouldn’t be on the field. It just shows that you can be coachable, play with great technique and work hard to play.”

Little will also play on the strong side, along with Carpenter with Thompson able to back up there as well.

Secondary

The safeties, in Rebel-speak, are known as Snake and Hawk, the Snake being the free safety and the Hawk being the strong safety.

Underwood heads up the Hawk spot with Moore and junior Gunner Herron (5-5, 115) also set to get some snaps there.

Alfter and Parker will share time at the Snake spot.

Jalen Driver (5-8, 145), a junior, was an all-region cornerback last year and plays good coverage, while senior Eildrem Rollins (5-10, 140) will start at the

other corner spot.

Jaymir Harper (5-11, 140), a junior, is the super sub in the secondary, able to play every spot, while sophomore Harrison Hooper (5-6, 120) is a good tackler who will also get time in the defensive backfield.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Although Hector Corona has graduated, after scoring 49 points on 43 extra points and two field goals last year, the Rebels appear to be good at this spot.

Corona is actually back with the Rebels this year, helping coach the kickers.

OC has two with potential in sophomores Jeremy Jimenez (5-9, 130) and David Corona (5-7, 120), Hector’s cousin.

May will be in his third year as the Rebel punter.

Campbell backed up Hamilton last season and will take over the snapping duties.

Alfter will be the holder. Alfter and Parker will be the return men for punts, while Purifoy, Underwood, Moore and Alfter are all battling to be kick returns.



GOOD LUCK

to all our teams on a great season!



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an injury free season!



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