

ALAH RED & GOLD SCRIMMAGE HELD FRIDAY



ALAH jr. varsity quarterback Cruz Hale, center, follows through on his release of a pass in the JV portion of the annual Red Gold scrimmage last Friday. On defense are #24 Brennon Hutson, #59 Jackson Lebeter and #62 Owen Hilton. Blocking for Cruz are #55 Braylan Martinez, #66 Josh Taylor and #57 Nick Hubster.



Knight sophomore #11 Cash Hale hauls in a pass from his twin brother Cruz in the Red Gold scrimmage on August 18. Cash would take the ball into the end zone for a touchdown.



#6 Marcus Otto, freshman quarterback for the Knights, gets ready for a snap from center in the JV portion of the Red Gold scrimmage on August 18. Offensive lineman are #63 Carson Augustine and #73 Nicholas Rafferty. #24 Brennon Hutson is the running back next to Marcus.

ALAH Football team aims to continue success

By **BLAKE FAITH**
Staff Writer

The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond football team looks to get to the playoffs for the third straight year. Head coach Alan Jefferson said that his team felt really good to get back in the swing of practice.

"Obviously yesterday was day one, and it didn't feel like day one because of the weather," Coach Jefferson said. "It was kind of nice to feel at the end of the day that they weren't exhausted, because you never want to just completely ruin their fatigue that first day. But, I felt like we retained a lot from the summer stuff. We lost a big senior class, but we also brought back a lot of experience. So, this is the same stuff they've been going through the past two, three seasons. Right now it's just about cleaning it up a little bit. It's not really about remembering stuff, just cleaning it up and getting ready for week one."

Part of that big senior loss was Quarterback and Running Back Kaden Feagin who will play for the University of Illinois this fall. Despite the losses, Coach Jefferson believes Jayce Parsons and Landon Waldrop will step into those shoes.

"Obviously that's going to be the big question is what we are going to do after losing Kaden," Coach Jefferson said. "We have kids that are stepping up in those roles and obviously Kaden has been a huge part of that the past few years, but Jayce Parsons and Landon Waldrop have not been slouches either the last two years. I'm really excited for them this year to be able to, to get even more touches

and more exposure and really I think their numbers are just gonna take off."

Coach Jefferson continued, "Defensively, I feel like that's honestly where we are kind of changing the most, I would say as far as turnover from our senior class. So we've got a brand new line backing core, but I think they're fast, they're athletic and they just get along really well. They're a team and that's what we need, especially on the defensive side so that there's no blame, it's a team unit. So, Maddix Stirrett and Colin Smith are going to step in at linebacker where we lost two very good inside players for us last year. And Easton Frederick and Nick Refferyy are gonna step up outside. Having a four senior position turnover there, a linebacker, it's tough, because that's one that's a position you need to be pretty solid at. But we're gonna have some guys step up and I'm excited."

Parsons is stepping into the starting quarterback position and one of the captains as a senior and has dreamed of this moment.

"This means everything to me, because I've been going to high school football games my whole life and looking up to these guys," Parsons said. "I've really been putting in this work since a little bit after last year ended, because I got hurt at the end of last year, so I was out for a little bit, but as soon as I was cleared to come back, I was making sure I was at everything, every time we were in the weight room, I was there coaching the guys up. I've been getting guys out running routes and doing drills since the spring when it got warm enough we could do it."

Parsons' team goal is to win the conference and individually wants to make it from All-Conference to All-State selection this year. Parsons wants his lasting mark to be that team moves in from the loss of Feagin and show that they're a good football program even without a player of his caliber.

Waldrop will play running back and be another co-captain and has taken in his senior role as continuing to work hard and that it is a lot to have on his back, "but if you're ready for the challenge it doesn't matter." Waldrop's team goal is to win the conference and individually pick up a lot of rushing yards for his team. Waldrop wants his lasting mark to be a player that never stopped working hard.

Nathan Tighe is the last co-captain who will play defensive tackle and offensive lineman.

"It's both an honor and a responsibility because I've been here for four years and I've seen how the team's developed and I feel like I've been trying to lead by example more for all of the younger kids and improve upon faults that I've seen throughout the past few years," Tighe said.

Tighe's team goal is to work together as a team and have more cohesion as a team. Individually he wants to do his job as effectively as he can and help his team succeed since this will be the last year he ever plays football. Tighe wants his lasting mark not to be how to play well, but how to be a good player and teammate that focuses on not the how to do things, but the why to do things.

Coach Jefferson and his
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The IHSA officials that worked the Red Gold scrimmage last Friday night talked to the players in the post game huddle. The Knights open their 2023 season at Argenta-Oreana on Friday, August 25. Their home opener will be on Friday, September 1 against the Villa Grove Blue Devils. Game time is at 7:00 p.m for varsity contests. All games this season will be Lincoln Prairie conference games with the addition of Sullivan and Nokomis to the conference.