

PIGSKIN

Preview

Red Springs
South Robeson
St. Pauls

LUMBERTON

PURNELL SWETT

FAIRMONT

Scotland
Richmond
East
Blade
West
Blade

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO:

THE ROBESONIAN

RICHMOND COUNTY DAILY JOURNAL

BLADEN JOURNAL

LAURINBURG EXCHANGE

Proud Sponsor for **LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Home of the **PIRATES**

658 N Main St., Fair Bluff NC • (910) 649-7531

Ask for Jeff "The Ref"

Fair Bluff Ford 

www.fairblufford.com



The Grice is right at Lumberton

Pirates' QB aims for special season

By Rodd Baxley
rbaxley@civitasmedia.com

LUMBERTON — Braylan Grice hasn't always seen himself as a football player.

"When I was younger I really thought I was a basketball player," said Grice, Lumberton's sophomore quarterback.

But as an 8-year-old with the Lumberton Football Association, Grice's view started to shift.

"That's when people started telling me I was really good," he said. "Then I thought football might be my best sport."

After earning scholarship offers from UNC Charlotte and Appalachian State this summer, it's clear that Grice is starting to see his best route for playing college sports.

As a 14-year-old freshman, he burst onto the scene last season to lock up the starting quarterback job for the Pirates en route to earning all-Southeastern Conference honors and all-county honors.

In his rookie campaign, the dual-threat quarterback threw for



Rodd Baxley | The Robesonian

After receiving scholarship offers from UNC Charlotte and Appalachian State earlier this summer, Lumberton quarterback Braylan Grice enters his sophomore season with high expectations.

1,327 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also rushed for 449 yards and five scores.

Grice sees it as a positive step in what he ultimately wants to achieve: a college scholarship.

"It makes me want to play harder so I can get even more offers," he said. "I'm still learning."

Though Grice showed tremendous ability in his rookie season, Lumberton coach

Mike Setzer said he has no doubts that the quarterback can be even better this year.

"He's a year older (in age) and truly a year older on the field," Setzer said. "He's doing some things right now that are phenomenal. It's nice to have a guy like that at quarterback that you can depend on."

While he's drawn interest from Clemson, ECU, Florida, Georgia and

N.C. State, Grice said he still has plenty of room to improve.

"My decision making with knowing when to throw the ball and run (has improved), and my play-calling," he said. "I like rolling out, but I need to learn to stay in the pocket a little longer and feel things out more."

For Tyreik McCallum, a senior receiver for the Pirates, having Grice at

quarterback is a plus as he looks to cap his final season in style.

"I love Braylan," McCallum said. "To be that age, I've never had a quarterback that could throw it like him. Hopefully he can help us make it a little further (in the playoffs) than we did last year and keep pushing for more wins."

As for leading his teammates as a sophomore, Grice said he's

doing all he can to set the tone from the most important position on the field.

"I just want them to work hard in practice so we can transfer that to the games," he said. "It's about the competition. I like the competition and I like winning. That's what I enjoy the most."

Rodd Baxley can be reached at 910-416-5182. Follow him on Twitter @RoddBaxley.



2016 LUMBERTON FOOTBALL ROSTER

- 1 Braylan Grice QB So.
- 2 Montrez Howell RB Jr.
- 3 Brandon Norris WR, DB Sr.
- 4 Tyrese Gurley WR, DB Jr.
- 5 Carey Carter RB, DB Sr.
- 7 Devonta Mckoy LB, TE Jr.
- 8 Malik Cooper DB Jr.
- 9 Stephon Lloyd DB, WR Jr.
- 10 Tyreik McCallum DB, WR Sr.
- 11 Tae Tae Stephenson LB, FB Sr.
- 12 Jaylen Whitted RB, DB Jr.
- 14 Tyson Alford WR Jr.
- 15 Will Osman K Sr.
- 16 Deshaun McNeil WR, S Sr.
- 17 Kanyon Lambert LB, TE Sr.

- 18 Alexis Ard K Sr.
- 19 Josh Britt QB So.
- 20 Reashoid Pone RB, DB Jr.
- 21 Wanya Neal DB Jr.
- 22 Jameck Pendergrass RB, FS Jr.
- 23 Chris Thompson DE, FB Sr.
- 24 Sean Humphrey DB Jr.
- 26 Jeremiah Tyner DB Jr.
- 27 Brandon Pierce LB Jr.
- 28 Jordan Gibson DB Jr.
- 29 Daryen Priest DE Sr.
- 30 Breighlan Swindell LB Jr.
- 31 Garrett Dowless DB, WR Sr.
- 40 Aubrey Savannah DE, TE Sr.
- 44 Josiah Howard TE, DE Jr.

- 45 Matt Drawhorn FB, DT Sr.
- 53 Colby Bullard DL Sr.
- 57 Jordan Hair DE So.
- 58 Shadix Ralston DL, OL Sr.
- 59 Jacob Hunt C, LB Jr.
- 63 Tristan Sumpter OL Sr.
- 64 Logan Odom OL, DL Sr.
- 65 Junious Gilchrist DL Jr.
- 66 Connor Kinlaw OL Jr.
- 67 Rylan Hammonds OL Sr.
- 69 Vince Graham OL Jr.
- 70 Rodney Mccoy OL Sr.
- 71 Blake Musselwhite OL Sr.
- 73 Javon Rogers OL Jr.
- 80 Gervarios Wells WR Jr.

Diamond
-N-The
Rough

**CUSTOM SIGNS, WREATHS,
GIFTS AND MORE**

588 Bailey Road Suite H
Lumberton, NC 28358

**Samantha Spell
& Kimberly Dunn**

15% OFF
THE TOTAL PURCHASE
MUST BRING IN THIS AD

FIRST BANK

GO PIRATES!

LOCALFIRSTBANK.COM
LUMBERTON - 2801 N. ELM STREET 910-671-6691

Tyson's Diner

2303 N PINE STREET • 910-272-9696
NAT AND JEFF / NEW OWNER

LET'S GO PIRATES!

Pirates looking to build on playoff appearance

Lumberton's Setzer enters season with high expectations

By Rodd Baxley
rbaxley@civitasmedia.com

LUMBERTON — Heading into his third season as coach of the Lumberton High School football team, Mike Setzer wants his players to know that “they’re not as far away as they think they are” from being a special group.

Coming off their first playoff appearance since 2012, the Pirates enter the season looking to build on a 6-6 record that included a 3-2 mark in the Southeastern Conference. Lumberton was eliminated by Page in the first round of the NCHSAA 4AA state playoffs.

“If you go back and look at the Page game, we should have been up at halftime,” Setzer said. “And they went on to the (play in the state) championship. You just have to continue to believe and execute.”

The Pirates return 10 starters, including all-county and all-conference performers in sophomore quarterback Braylan Grice and senior all-purpose player Tyreik McCallum. Senior Aubrey Savannah anchors a strong defensive line and speedster Brandon Norris is expected to continue his role as a playmaker.

Unlike last season, Lumberton enters the year healthy as it prepares for its opener on Friday at home against Hunt.

“Last year we had some credit for being able to win some games,” Setzer said. “Now, it should be even more validation for the kids that you can get in the playoffs because you’ve already done it.”

The biggest void entering the season is left by Troy Mitchell, who led the Pirates’ offense last season with 1,501 rushing yards — second in the SEC behind Scotland standout Zamir White — and 17 touchdowns.

Setzer said junior Montrez Howell is



All-purpose player Tyreik McCallum leads a talented group of returners for the Pirates. McCallum was an all-conference and all-county performer last season as a junior. Rodd Baxley | The Robesonian

the favorite to replace Mitchell’s production in the backfield.

“Montrez had 1,800 yards for jayvee, so we look forward to a big year out of him,” he said. “Carey Carter is pushing him, so we look for production out of him as well.”

The weight room has also provided the Pirates another improvement heading into the season. In June, Lumberton traveled to Cary for a weightlifting meet, earning top honors for their efforts.

“The weight room has allowed us to come together as a staff and raise the bar for the kids,” Setzer said. “Those kids have earned their way, showing themselves off at that weight room competition this summer.”

“It not only shows how strong we are, but now it’s transferring to the field. It gives us confidence for what we lack in experience.”

Savannah said he looks to help set the tone for his teammates on the defensive side

of the ball.

“With Shadix Ralston and Colby Bullard, we’re the leaders on the defensive line,” he said. “We have to put last season behind us and keep working. I want to get back to the playoffs and have a winning season.”

The offensive line appears to be an area of needed growth, with the loss of Pete Townsend and Kion Smith — two Pirates who will be playing college football this fall.

“Right now we have a lot of work to do with the line,” Setzer said. “It’s the most inexperienced part of our offense, but they’re

improving. That’s what happens when you lose two FCS kids. We may not have the size, but we’ll be faster. That’s a plus.”

But Setzer said having Grice at quarterback is a relief, allowing the staff to spend more time in improving other positions.

“Several of my colleagues are having quarterback issues,” he said. “You forget sometimes, but when you have quarterback issues it can turn into 10 other problems. Thankfully we haven’t had that problem.”

He’s also confident in the skill-position play-

ers, particularly McCallum.

“Tyreik is the best athlete that we’ll see,” Setzer said. “He’s a special kind of guy. With him and Brandon Norris, the numbers don’t lie. If you get the ball in their hands, good things happen.”

McCallum said he’s comfortable with providing that role for his team.

“As one of the seniors coming back, I’m trying to make it a good year and bring the intensity,” he said. “Coach has put me in that position to make plays for a reason because he knows my athleticism and ability

to move around on the field.”

Now that the team has had a taste of the playoffs, Setzer is hopeful the pieces will come together for the Pirates as the season progresses.

“It’s getting easier year by year for them to follow what you say,” he said. “We had to prove it to them, now we’re getting better. It makes us hungrier because we don’t just want to go to the playoffs, we want to win in the playoffs.”

Rodd Baxley can be reached at 910-416-5182. Follow him on Twitter @RoddBaxley.

2016 LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 19 — HUNT, 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 26 — PINE FOREST, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 — at South View, 7 p.m.
Sept. 9 — SEVENTY-FIRST, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 16 — at Overhills, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23 — at Triton, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 30 — OPEN
Oct. 7 — at Pinecrest, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14 — HOKE, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 21 — RICHMOND, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 — at Scotland, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 4 — PURNELL SWETT, 7:30 p.m.

Speech Solutions Inc.

Meeting the Speech and Language Needs of Our Community Since 2003

580 Farringdom Street
Lumberton, NC 28358
(910)671-9629 | (910)671-9630

Offices also in Whiteville, Laurinburg and Shallote, NC

Speech Solution, Inc. is proudly owned and operated by:
Allison Harrington, M. Ed., CCC-SLP

www.speechsolutionsinc.com

FAYETTEVILLE NEW CHAMPION!!!

Picking up where Money left off!!!
24 units for July

CONGRATS!!!
Anthony Lockett

Anthony.Lockett@drivetime.com
Help me help you reestablish your credit through buying a vehicle.

LET'S GO PIRATES!

LUMBERTON HIGH ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB AND THE LUMBERTON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE PIRATE ATHLETICS

Brown savors return to Pembroke

Coordinator brings winning pedigree to Swett

By Rodd Baxley
rbaxley@civitasmedia.com

PEMBROKE — Leaving Dillon High School wasn't an easy decision for Robbie Brown, but when he had the chance to return to Robeson County it became a little clearer for the seasoned coach.

Brown, a Rowland native and graduate from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, spent 29 years coaching with Jackie Hayes at the football powerhouse in South Carolina.

This season he returns to his old stomping grounds as the new offensive coordinator for Purnell Swett.

"It's really nostalgic in a way," Brown said. "The great is it's only a 25-minute drive from Dillon, and I have to go through Rowland, so it's like I'm commuting back and forth to college again. But it's familiar and that's helped me get adjusted quickly. That and the friendliness of everybody."

Brown comes to Pembroke fresh off contributing to the Wildcats' four straight state championships.

That winning pedigree caught the attention of senior McKinley Strickland, the Rams' top receiver entering the season.

"It's given us a lot of confidence because he's coming from a winning school and showing us



Robbie Brown, center, enters his first season as offensive coordinator at Purnell Swett. In the same role, Brown helped lead Dillon to four straight state championships.

Rodd Baxley | The Robesonian

the way to compete and play," Strickland said.

Head coach Jon Sherman is also excited to have Brown on staff, saying the addition has been "a breath of fresh air."

"The experience has been great," Sherman said. "I sleep a little easier, that's for sure. He knows what we want to do on offense, and he'll have our guys in the right position to make plays."

As he looks to help

the Rams become a more potent offensive unit, Brown said he likes the direction of the team under Sherman.

"Coach Sherman has planted the seeds to have a great program," Brown said. "He's bringing people in to help, which is another big thing. But the biggest thing he's done is he's got the kids bought in to what we're trying to do as a whole. I'm really looking forward to this season because I think

you'll see some positive differences."

Brown also had high praise for the pieces he'll be working with in his first season leading the offense.

"I've compared them to where I came from (in Dillon)," he said. "There are a couple of exceptional players in Dillon, and if you take those guys off the field, I really don't see that much of a difference — and that's a good thing. "There are playmak-

ers here. Offensively, we're looking forward to scoring some points and keeping the pressure off that defense a little bit."

Despite a quarterback battle between Desmond Davis and Luke Oxendine leading into the season, Brown is confident both will continue to grow.

"They're learning," he said. "They're getting better, but they know they have some work to do."

As Brown and the

Rams prepare for the season opener at Pine Forest, it's clear he's happy to be on board.

"It's been great because there have been several people that have helped me out," he said. "The coaching staff has made me feel at home and the players have been a joy. I know I'm home now."

Rodd Baxley can be reached at 910-416-5182. Follow him on Twitter @RoddBaxley.

2016 PURNELL SWETT FOOTBALL ROSTER

Azua, Brayan 20 K
Brayboy, Chandler 4 WR
Brooks, Nate 18 OLB
Bullard, Ian 44 DL/OL
Chavis, Nolan 52 DL
Clark, Kenon 31 TE/DL
Davis, Desmond 7 QB
Desse, Jamison 78 DL
Dial, Cyran 6 DB/WR
Gordon, Trequan 54 OL
Holloway, Damion 9 LB/RB
Hunt, Cameron 57 OL
Hunt, Jacob 41 TE

Hunt, Jarret 28 RB
Jacobs, Stacy 85 TE
Jeffery, Kendrick 89 WR
Jones, Tim 80 WR
King, Dantae 66 OL
Locklear, Breck 70 OL
Locklear, Dakota (Froggy) 42 DL/RB
Locklear, Jake 56 DL
Locklear, Jonathan LB/RB
Locklear, Josh 63 OL
Locklear, Kaelan 60 DL
Locklear, Kalan 51 DL
Locklear, Millard 43 ILB

Locklear, Stephen 59 ILB
Locklear, Tristian 19 SS
Loclear, Jonah 81 WR
lowery, Blake 24 FS
Lowery, Chason 76 OL
Lowry, Dylan 50 ILB
McCrimmon, Richie 15 ILB
McDaniel, Kamari 11 DB
McNeil, Kalan 13 DB
Morrison, Lakedron 5 WR
Oxendine, Cameron 32 ILB/RB
Oxendine, Ethan 99 DL
Oxendine, Jarrett 35 OLB

Oxendine, Jessup 3 DB
Oxendine, Luke 12 QB
Oxendine, Paul 93 DL
Oxendine, Tim 71 DL
Pankey, Deandre 27 RB
Ransom, Zach 36 LB/RB
Stanton, Zidarrell 55 OLB
Strickland, Brent 34 SS
Strickland, McKinley 1 WR
Thompson, Al'Drique 10 RB/DB
Townsend, Desahwn 98 FS
Urban, Prentice 2 DB
Wilkins, Tyler 90 DL

Our Mobile Banking Puts Your Bank In The Palm Of Your Hand!

MEMBER FDIC LENDER

24 Hours A Day!

LUMBEE GUARANTY BANK

www.lumbeeguarantybank.com

Monika's Beyond the Garden

306 Normal Street
Pembroke, NC 28372
910-521-0360

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

Owner: Monika Kinlaw
Monikasbeyond1@bellsouth.net

DANIEL LOCKLEAR
Attorney-at-Law

*Cursed be anyone who perverts justice...
Deut. 27:19*

TRAFFIC
DWI
CRIMINAL
REAL ESTATE

118 W. 3RD STREET
PEMBROKE, NC 28372
910-802-0810

CONTACTUS@THELOCKLEARFIRM.COM
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Rams on the 'right path'



Rodd Baxley | The Robesonian

Dantae King, right, anchors Purnell Swett's offensive line heading into the season. King was an all-county performer for the Rams during his junior campaign.

Sherman said both will see time during the season because of their overall talent.

"It's going to be a hard decision," he said. "Either way, whoever doesn't start will play. Both have the talent to play at other positions."

McKinley Strickland leads a young receiving corps, along with sophomore Chandler Brayboy, who has caught Sherman's eye with his speed.

"Coming into the summer we were looking young, but I've seen a lot of promise from those guys," Strickland said. "It's not just about one person though. You need all 11 guys on the field competing if you want to win."

Youth is consistent across the board on defense as well for the Rams, but Sherman named Zidarrel Stanton, Ritchie McCrimmon and Jessup Oxendine as a few players to look out for this season on that side of the ball.

"We're young, but I think people will be surprised," he said. "We're deep at every spot. I really have faith in what we can do on defense."

The goal, Sherman says, is "consistent smoothness" on offense and a fast, physical approach on defense.

"We've been preaching a physical, attacking play," he said. "We're going all out. Right or wrong, I want them to play fast and physical. On offense, we don't want to be choppy like last year."

"As a team, no matter what the score is, we want to fight and respond."

The Rams open the season on Friday at Pine Forest.

Rodd Baxley can be reached at 910-416-5182. Follow him on Twitter @RoddBaxley.

Swett's Sherman seeing positive changes in 2nd season

By Rodd Baxley
rbaxley@civitasmedia.com

PEMBROKE — As a rising senior leader for the Purnell Swett High School football team, Dantae King's message for his fellow Rams is one of belief.

"We have to believe that we can beat anyone," said King, an all-county performer who anchors the Rams' offensive line. "What we do as players reflects on the coaches and the team. We have to come out with energy and set the tone."

Coming off a 2-9 season in his first season with the Rams, Purnell Swett coach Jon Sherman believes the team is in a better position heading into his second year at the helm.

"The first year was a lot of growing pains," Sherman said. "It can be cliché because a lot of coaches say that, but I

can be honest with you in saying it feels like the team is on the right path.

"I feel like we're on a better page than we were last year and I'm a better coach than I was last year. I'm excited to see what we're going to do."

Having King as the leader of the offensive line, Sherman looks at that group as the team's driving force.

"I call him (Dantae) the silent assassin," he said. "When he talks you know something is going on. He sets the tone a lot. We have young guys at quarterback and receiver, so the true mouthpiece has been the offensive line. They're ready. I'm excited about that."

The addition of some high-profile coaches has also helped Sherman get some traction heading into the season. Robbie Brown and Trey Sasser are two notable

additions to the coaching staff, with Brown coming to the program as the new offensive coordinator after serving the same position for powerhouse Dillon and Sasser joining the Rams as an offensive line coach after serving as head coach at St. Pauls.

"My weakness as a coach is trusting the staff," Sherman said. "Last year I was kind of micro-managing. I feel

like I don't have to do that this year because I know stuff will get done. All of those guys (the coaches) have been great."

King also acknowledged the difference additional coaches have made this offseason.

"With some new coaches, it's helping us prepare more for games and scrimmages," he said. "Coach Sasser has brought a lot of experi-

ence to the offensive line and is coaching us up to get better."

While the offensive line appears to be set for the Rams, the starting quarterback job is still up for grabs as juniors Desmond Davis and Luke Oxendine battle it out. Davis saw time starting at varsity last season, while Oxendine was the jayvee quarterback, but also saw time as a backup for the varsity.

2016 PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 19 — at Pine Forest, 7 p.m.
Aug. 26 — RED SPRINGS, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 — SOUTH ROBESON, 7 p.m.
Sept. 9 — at Westover, 7 p.m.
Sept. 16 — JACK BRITT, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 23 — at New Hanover, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 30 — OPEN
Oct. 7 — at Scotland, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14 — RICHMOND, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 21 — PINECREST, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 — at Hoke, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 4 — at Lumberton, 7:30 p.m.

PEMBROKE HARDWARE & BUILDING SUPPLY



7331 NC HWY 711
PEMBROKE, NC 28372
910-521-3406

HAVE A
GREAT
SEASON!

Howington
OFFICE PRODUCTS LLC
Pembroke, NC

Toll Free (855) 489-1489

Cell (910)374-4684
Ph. (910) 775-9023
Fax (910)775-9044

P.O. Box 3666
116 W. 3rd St.
Pembroke, NC 28372

Spencer Howington



theo's
- Gourmet Deli -

Theo's Gourmet Deli brings a fresh new food concept to the Pembroke area featuring Locklear Wines and Moore Brothers beef in their menu creations. Featured theme days such as cooking classes, wine paired private chef catering services, wine tastings Caribbean night. You can also join us for a party tour bus ride to your next game or trip with finger foods and momosas to your event then finish with a tailgate buffet at the game.
www.theosgourmetdeli.com

Award winning celebrity Chef Theo's gourmet products will also be available for purchase at the deli.

Coming Soon
To Pembroke

306 B Normal Street Pembroke, NC

Fairmont looking to take next step

Playoff run drives Tornadoes into new season

By Jonathan Bym
jby@citivasmedia.com

FAIRMONT — Coming off one of the most successful seasons in program history last fall, the prosperity from last year is nothing the Fairmont football team is taking for granted.

Instead, the Golden Tornadoes are using the 11-3 mark and an appearance in the third round of the state playoffs from last season as a newfound benchmark to reach in 2016.

“I think there is a little more excitement that they believe,” Fairmont coach Mark Heil said. “I think they say now ‘we’ve got a good program’ and we’ve got a lot of people that have come off that team. I’m hoping that their goals are higher than it was a year ago.”

Heil is now embarking on his second season at Fairmont and has several athletes on both sides of the ball including most of the weapons from last year’s offense that produced some of the highest numbers in the state. Leading the crew on offense is two-time Robeson County Heisman Julius Caulder at quarterback who wants to replicate last year’s success this fall.

“It makes us a lot hungrier because last year was our first time going (to the third round),” Caulder said. “I think us getting a new coach and the way he did things, that made us have that run. We’ve had him for a year so we know what he’s about and I think we can go even deeper this year.”

With the strength on offense, Heil is looking to fill the shoes of eight seniors on defense from last year, including Robeson County Defensive Player of the Year DeAngelo McMillian. Defensive backs Derrick Arnette and Malik Arnette are the two returners on defense and despite the new faces that are filling the positions, Heil sees how



Fairmont quarterback Julius Caulder, right, passes during practice as head coach Mark Heil looks on. Caulder tossed for nearly 3,700 yards last season as a junior and leads a high-powered offense that returns a lot of weapons.

Jonathan Bym | The Robesonian

speed can play a factor on defense.

“(The defense) is very inexperienced, obviously, but there’s some potential,” Heil said. “We’re very inexperienced at linebackers, but what we do like is they can run. Our defensive line will not be real big, but we’ve got some (defensive) ends that can run.”

Senior Jahmon Sinclair is a quick defensive end that Heil sees making an impact at more than just the line of scrimmage with their speed.

Secondary depth has been a concern this summer for the Golden Tornadoes and has led receivers Jarique Moore, Jordan Waters, Sidney McKeithan and Xavier Covington along with Caulder to practice in the secondary and could see time there this fall.

The entrance of Heil as head coach in summer 2015 also brought in a new mentality to the team, one that lines up with the mind-

set of the veteran coach. Now with one season of adjusting under his belt, he feels that Fairmont is starting to pick up on the defensive mindset that he wants to it to have.

“We’ve got some potential, it’s going to take some time,” he said. “Our first two scrimmages we may look a little raw. We looked a little raw last year, but the defense started to come around because it’s just not been a defensive minded school.

“The kids didn’t want

to play defense here a year a half ago, they just wanted to go out there and catch touchdown passes and score 500 points. Defense wasn’t emphasized. I’m a defensive-minded coach so it’s emphasized and we want to hit people and that’s been the nice change from 14 months ago.”

While the defense molds into Heil’s vision for the unit, the offense seems to have not missed a beat from the end of the season.

“I think the offense is going to pick up where

it left off, I hope so,” Heil said. “It’s just getting that offensive line clicking together as a unit.”

Austin White, Nick Hunt and Trevon Ross will anchor the line that lost three starters from last season while the threats on the outside and in the backfield return for Fairmont.

Along with Caulder are Moore and Waters, a surplus of slot pass catchers and leading rusher Halijah McLean from last season’s squad that averaged 40 points per game.

“That’s everything a quarterback can want,” Caulder said. “I’ve got big time Jarique Moore, he’s special, and Waters, he’s something too. There’s some guys stepping up into Isaac’s (Howard) role and they might be just as good as he is or even better. I’m blessed to have them all back and the offensive line.”

Fairmont opens the season at home on Friday against Westover.

Jonathan Bym can be reached at 910-816-1977. Follow him on Twitter @Jonathan_Bym.

2016 FAIRMONT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 19 — WESTOVER, 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 26 — CAROLINA FOREST, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 — at Ashley, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 16 — at South Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23 — at South Robeson, 7 p.m.
Sept. 30 — WHITEVILLE, 7 p.m.

Oct. 7 — at West Columbus, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 — at South Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 21 — RED SPRINGS, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 — EAST COLUMBUS, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 4 — at St. Pauls, 7 p.m.

The Depot
Hot Dog Shop
910-668-5111

Serving Pembroke and surrounding areas Old fashion.

Like us on **facebook**

All beef steam hotdogs & buns

FIRST BANK

Ready to make your move?
Start with the right mortgage.

Whether this is your first time shopping for a home or you’re looking for great rates on refinancing, a First Bank mortgage expert can help you sort through the loan options available to find the best fit for your situation and needs.

FEATURING
ADJUSTABLE- OR FIXED-RATE LOANS
FHA, RURAL HOUSING AND VA LOANS
CONSTRUCTION-TO-PERMANENT DWELLING LOANS
JUMBO LOANS

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
LOCALFIRSTBANK.COM/MORTGAGE
FAIRMONT 910-628-4311 | PEMBROKE 910-521-9776
LUMBERTON 910-671-6691 | ST. PAULS 910-865-4113

Loans subject to credit approval. First Bank NMLS #10281. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.

SHEAR

Quest
Embark on the Journey

910-628-8005
Pool Table Cable TV

Monday 12pm - 5pm
Tuesday - Friday 8am - 6pm
Saturday 8am - 4pm

227 S. Main St. • Fairmont, NC

Provided Styles: Regular, Tapers, Designer Cuts, Color & Much More!

FREE **WiFi**

Golden Tornadoes looking for Moore

Fairmont WR hopes to build off junior season

By Jonathan Bym
jbyrn@civitasmedia.com

FAIRMONT — Jarique Moore has had a busy offseason.

The Fairmont senior wide receiver caught the attention of several college coaches and scouts at combines after his standout junior season that included him racking up 1,621 receiving yards and 17 touchdowns.

“I knew that one day I would get something like that (scholarship offers), but not everything all at one time,” Moore said. “I’m just staying humble and waiting my time for everything else to come in and fall in the right place. I’m just going to stay patient right now.”

With visits to several colleges this summer, Moore received scholarship offers from Old Dominion University, Charleston Southern University and UNC Charlotte. On top of the college visits with the Fairmont coaching staff, he also attended the USA Football national combine with several teammates and the Blue Grey super regional combine at the Bon Secours Washington Redskins training center in



Jarique Moore received a lot of attention at camps and college visits this summer and it's resulted in the senior wide receiver working harder to strive for more on the football field.

Rodd Baxley | The Robesonian

Richmond, Va.

At the two combines Moore picked up high accolades by being named the top wide receiver at the USA Football combine and the offensive MVP at the Blue Grey, catching the attention of some former NFL players that were there working the combine.

“Of all the kids out there, the coaches picked me as the

best receiver there and they taught me a lot at the camp,” Moore said of the USA Football combine.

Coming back to workouts and practices this summer after the trips and visits, Moore has increased his drive and his understanding of the game.

“It hypes me up a lot and it makes my IQ higher and I know how to maneuver through

more zones and man-to-man pressures and how to run my routes crisps. I feel like I’m better,” Moore said. “It makes me want to work even harder because I like the success so I want to see how far I can go. I keep pushing myself harder every day.”

Now going into his senior season, Fairmont coach Mark Heil said there is at least one more recognition the athletic

wide out should garner.

“Jarique Moore, if he doesn’t make the Shrine Bowl then something is wrong,” he said. “That kid is a Shrine Bowl player. His attitude, his practice ethics, his effort has come up so much in the last year. I call him a freak.

“He’s an amazing athlete and he’s getting the mental part of it right.”

While everything is still setting in for Moore,

he is humble in preparing for this his final season on the gridiron.

“It was a reality check. I know I got a gift from God that I’ve just got to keep on playing,” he said. “I thank God everyday for giving me this gift so I can make things happen.”

Jonathan Bym can be reached at 910-816-1977. Follow him on Twitter @Jonathan_Bym.



2016 FAIRMONT FOOTBALL ROSTER

- 1 Julius Caulder QB, SS Sr.
- 2 Tyrent Alford WR, CB Sr.
- 3 Derrick Arnette WR, SS Jr.
- 4 Jarique Moore WR, C Sr.
- 5 Jordan Waters WR, FS So.
- 6 Raekwon Brown MLB, HB Jr.
- 7 Jahmon Sinclair DE, OLB Sr.
- 8 Sidney Mckeithan TE, LB Jr.
- 10 Jordan Burch Jr.
- 11 Jacob Maynor Jr.
- 12 Brent McDonald WR, DB Jr.
- 14 Chad Carter Sr.
- 18 Aron Greene Fr.

- 21 Quamek Townsend WR, DB So.
- 22 Halijah Mclean RB, LB Sr.
- 23 Nafountay Cromartie RB, DB So.
- 24 Malik Arnette RB, CB Jr.
- 32 Charles Eury RB, CB Sr.
- 34 Johnanthan Greene So.
- 43 Domonique Southern Jr.
- 44 William Sampson Sr.
- 54 Tayvon Powell Jr.
- 55 Jayden Freeman OL, DL So.
- 56 Caleb Hunt MLB, OL Jr.
- 61 Dustin Miller OL, DL So.
- 65 Austin White C, DL Sr.

- 68 Nick Hunt OL, DL Jr.
- 70 Trevon Ross G, DT Sr.
- 71 Dylan Jacobs OL, DL Jr.
- 72 Nigel Watkins So.
- 75 Scott Hardin OL, DL Sr.
- 80 Mason Locklear WR, DB So.
- 81 Jayvon Morris WR, DB So.
- 82 Xavier Covington WR, DB So.
- 84 Shanquise Wright Sr.
- Demani Jones Fr.
- Lucas Andrews Sr.

Car Wash
Fairmont, NC
910.736.0768

\$200 Down

DECKS - \$98³⁶/month

Garages • Decks • Barns

We have the storage you NEED!

STOP FOR A WASH!

CAR WASH
DONALD TOWNSEND
WASHING • WAXING • SHAMPOOING
910.736.0768

ROBESON INSURANCE AGENCY

405-07 SOUTH MAIN STREET
FAIRMONT, NC
910-628-8311

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

Town of Fairmont

wishes you a great season!

421 S. Main St.
Fairmont, NC 28340
910-628-9766
Office Hours
8:00-12:30 & 1:30-5:00
www.Fairmontnc.com

Your good health starts here, at home.

No matter where you live in Robeson County or the surrounding area there's a Southeastern Health clinic near you.

Dr. Arthur J. Robinson Medical Clinic
800 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Lumberton
(910) 738-3957

Lumberton Medical Clinic
395 W. 27th St., Lumberton
(910) 739-7551

Southeastern Health Center Clarkton
9948 North WR Latham St., Clarkton
(910) 647-1503

Southeastern Medical Clinic Bladenboro
302 S. Main St., Bladenboro
(910) 863-2400

Southeastern Medical Clinic Fairmont
101 N. Walnut St., Fairmont
(910) 628-0655

Southeastern Medical Clinic Gray's Creek
1249 Chicken Foot Rd., Hope Mills
(910) 423-1278

Southeastern Medical Clinic N. Lumberton
725 Oakridge Blvd., Suite B2, Lumberton
(910) 671-0052

Southeastern Medical Clinic Maxton
22401 Andrew Jackson Hwy., Maxton
(910) 844-2004

Southeastern Medical Clinic Red Springs
302 Mt. Tabor Rd., Red Springs
(910) 843-9991

Southeastern Medical Clinic Rowland
102 N. Bond St., Rowland
(910) 422-3350

Southeastern Medical Clinic St. Pauls
128 E. Broad St., St. Pauls
(910) 865-5955

Southeastern Medical Clinic White Lake
1921 White Lake Dr., Elizabethtown
(910) 862-6491

Southeastern Medical Specialists
4384 Fayetteville Rd., Lumberton
(910) 738-1141

Most Southeastern Health Primary Care clinics are accepting new patients.

For walk-in and urgent care services, visit:

The Clinic at Lumberton Drug
4307 Fayetteville Rd., Lumberton
(910) 671-5270

The Clinic at Walmart
5070 Fayetteville Rd., Lumberton
(910) 739-0133

Southeastern Health Mall Clinic
2934 North Elm St., Suite B, Lumberton
(910) 272-1175

Southeastern Urgent Care Pembroke
923 West 3rd St., Pembroke
(910) 521-0564



SOUTHEASTERN HEALTH

Better Health—Starting With You

(910) 671-5000 | 300 West 27th St. | Lumberton | www.southeasternhealth.org