



Right blend needed for Bulldogs success

Finding the right blend of players and putting them at the right spots is the thing right now for the Stratford Bulldogs.

That's the task of coach Michael Blackburn as he takes a core group of

players and continues to mix in others with experience as the Bulldogs look to rebound from a 4-6 mark last season.

The good thing is Blackburn has a solid number of players to work with in that preparation for the 2008 year.

"Our numbers are good. We have 34 on the roster, but we have some early injury problems that are a concern," Blackburn said.

"The guys have been working hard and have had a good attitude. With some of the injuries some of the guys are working at new positions and doing a really nice job."

The Bulldog

offense will attack from the multiple I formation with some spread shotgun mixed in to open things up.

A couple of key returners up front on both offense and defense will be seniors Caylon Sinnett (5 foot 11 inches, 300 pounds) and Ryan Gaines (6-1, 210).

There are some question marks in the backfield — at least for the season opener.

"Both of our 1,000 yard rushers from a year ago will at least be out the first ballgame," Blackburn said.

The Stratford coach is referring to senior Austin Black (5-8, 165) and sophomore Chase Chamberlain (5-8, 175).

The good news is senior T.J. Bratcher (5-10, 170) has "practiced really well" at the quarterback position, while sophomore Regand Ardery is set to be the starting tailback.

Sinnett and Gaines should be the anchors of the Bulldog defensive front based out of a 4-3 set. Junior Charles Hawkins (6-2, 255) also saw some time there a year ago.

Stratford's linebacker corp should be rock solid as experience returns there with Bratcher, Black and sophomores Nick Cosby (5-7, 180) and John Sinnett (5-9, 155). Black recorded three sacks last year.

The secondary also returns senior starters Adam Vanlandingham (5-10, 160) and Tony Ratto (5-9, 145), along with Ardery. Chamberlain and junior Dillon Ward (5-8, 155) will also get some time in the defensive backfield.

Junior Tyler Mills won't be eligible until after the seventh game but is expected to get plenty of playing time on both sides of the ball once he does get out there.

"We lost three starting offensive linemen with two of those also starting on the defensive side of the ball," Blackburn said.

"We have a group of guys competing for those spots that all have some experience."

When Blackburn looks at the Bulldogs' schedule he sees some teams that he doesn't

know that much about. He also sees other teams, more local teams, that he is familiar with — teams like Wayne, Wynnewood and Wewoka.

The Bulldog head coach considers Stroud and Dewar as the district favorites going into the season.

"We have got to get healthy and then stay healthy," he said.

"The new guys and the ones filling in new positions will need to step up early and come through for us."

— Barry Porterfield

Stratford Bulldogs

No.	Player	Pos.	Class	Ht.-Wt.
2	Adam Vanlandingham	Sr.	5-10, 160	WR-C
5	Chase Chamberlain	So.	5-8, 175	QB-S
9	Tyler Mills	Jr.	5-9, 150	QB-S
10	Alix Vanlandingham	Fr.	5-8, 155	QB-S
11	Dillon Ward	Jr.	5-8, 155	WR-S
19	Justin Smith	So.	5-5, 120	WR-C
20	Clay Rindal	So.	5-7, 145	WR-C
21	Regand Ardery	So.	5-5, 120	RB-S
22	John Sinnett	So.	5-9, 155	TE-LB
23	Jordan Alberson	So.	5-9, 135	WR-C
24	Austin Black	Sr.	5-8, 165	RB-LB
25	Zack Gates	Jr.	6-0, 165	TE-LB
33	Tony Ratto	Sr.	5-9, 145	WR-C
40	Tyler Gaines	Fr.	6-0, 160	TE-DE
44	Nick Cosby	So.	5-7, 180	FB-LB
45	Tyler Smith	So.	5-9, 140	TE-LB
50	Christian Colson	So.	5-8, 260	OL-DL
51	Steven Curry	Jr.	5-8, 200	OL-DL
52	Devaunté Barber	So.	5-7, 220	OL-DL
54	Ryan Gaines	Sr.	6-1, 210	OL-DE
55	Caylon Sinnett	Sr.	5-11, 300	OL-DL
57	Kyle Hinkle	Fr.	5-10, 220	OL-DL
61	Dalton King	Jr.	5-10, 170	OL-DL
62	Cody Watts	So.	5-7, 165	OL-DL
64	Charles Hawkins	Jr.	6-2, 255	OL-DL
67	Chris Keeling	Jr.	5-11, 220	OL-DL
70	Matthew Sinnett	Fr.	6-1, 220	OL-DL
72	Dakota Miller	So.	5-9, 165	OL-DL
75	Jacob Wade	So.	5-10, 235	OL-DL
77	Ryan Hood	Sr.	6-7, 285	OL-DL
80	Austin Brown	Sr.	5-9, 140	WR-C
81	Tyler Scoles	So.	5-10, 140	WR-C
88	T.J. Bratcher	Sr.	5-10, 170	TE-LB

Schedule

Sept. 5	Coalgate	Home
Sept. 12	Stroud	Home
Sept. 19	Dibble	Away
Sept. 26	Crescent	Away
Oct. 3	Wewoka	Home
Oct. 10	Wayne	Away
Oct. 16	Mounds	Home
Oct. 24	Dewar	Away
Oct. 31	Wynnewood	Home
Nov. 7	Konawa	Away

Last Year's Scores

Sept. 5	Coalgate	Home	Stratford 34, Wilson 13
Sept. 12	Stroud	Home	Maysville 20, Stratford 0
Sept. 19	Dibble	Away	Stratford 34, Dibble 14
Sept. 26	Crescent	Away	Minco 27, Stratford 14
Oct. 3	Wewoka	Home	Stratford 63, Konawa 49
Oct. 10	Wayne	Away	Velma-Alma 34, Stratford 0
Oct. 16	Mounds	Home	Wewoka 15, Stratford 14
Oct. 24	Dewar	Away	Rush Springs 49, Stratford 7
Oct. 31	Wynnewood	Home	Washington 39, Stratford 14
Nov. 7	Konawa	Away	Stratford 30, Wayne 21

Head coach: Michael Blackburn; Assistants: Paul Savage, James Martin, Robert Alberson, Shea Meyer, Burgess Navarro