

Mt. Tabor's Furr poised for title

Mt. Tabor is one win away from a state 4A championship. The Spartans have really turned up the pace since the halfway point in the season. A number of players have played a part in the turnaround.

My man, Hunter Furr is definitely one of the Spartans that have shifted into another gear to help Mt. Tabor go on the run they've enjoyed — heading into this weekend's state championship game at BB&T Stadium. I called Hunter up on Monday to get his thoughts on the way things have progressed for the team. I also wanted to see what was going through his mind leading up to the big game. To be honest with you, he seemed normal. He didn't seem too excited, surprised or anything. He just seemed like Hunter.

We also talked about his doubters, future colleges, Bryce Sherman and his younger brother (Lawson Furr). Take a look at what else Hunter and I talked about during our second one-on-one interview.

Also, check out Furr and the rest of the Spartans on Saturday at 3 p.m. as they play for a 4-A State Championship here in Winston-Salem.

Anthony: Hunter, what's going on big dog?

Hunter: Nothing much. How are you doing?

Anthony: I can't complain. But you're the man right now. You are literally the big man on campus. Kind of tell me how you're feeling right now.

Hunter: I feel good. We got a big win on Friday. I had a great game. I've had a couple good games. Everything has been going great for me.

Anthony: What are you all doing to get ready for the state championship game? This is new to all the players.

Hunter: Yeah. I'm just relaxing with the team. The practices aren't hard. We're all pretty much just taking this all in.

Anthony: Has it hit you all that you'll be playing for a state title this weekend?

Hunter: (Laughs.) Me and a couple teammates were sitting around talking today. We were sitting around before practice, saying, "Dang, we're playing for a state championship." That would be a dream come true.

Anthony: How worried were you all when you found out that two of your teammates weren't going to get to play last week?

Hunter: We were a little worried, obviously. I mean, it was Ed Gainey, who's going to the Shrine Bowl. But we realized that we had to move on because we didn't have them. That's pretty much it. We overcame adversity.

Anthony: Did you think this was even possible at the start of the year? Be realistic with me.

Hunter: Uh, yeah. We said this was going to be a championship season at the beginning of the year. We all had some doubts in the middle of the season. We continued to believe in ourselves, and say



Hunter Furr

Mt. Tabor junior running back Hunter Furr hopes to help the Spartans make a charge at state title.

Photo by Tom Houghtaling

that we could still win. We could still win. Now it's a reality.

Anthony: Did you feel any pressure?

Hunter: Not really. But I like to have all of the pressure on me. I thrive in those conditions. That's when I step up my game and play the best.

Anthony: Did you initially think that you might've come back too early from your injury?

Hunter: I thought that I might've come back two or three weeks too early at first. That had my game off a little at the start of the year. I wasn't in rhythm. I'd say that I finally found my rhythm within the last eight or nine weeks.

Anthony: Do you think you've silenced the critics?

Hunter: I think so. I think that I've silenced the haters out there.

Anthony: You and I both know that you were receiving attention before you got to Mt. Tabor. I mean, you were being invited on the sidelines of ACC games. But how much has stock risen since this season?

Hunter: Right now I have offers from Wake Forest and North Carolina. A couple other schools told me that they're interested in offering

me. I definitely think that I'm going to end up in the ACC or SEC one day.

Anthony: (Smiles.) Do you know how big you'll be if you put in another good game this weekend?

Hunter: I know. I think

ing on this great, white athlete to take charge. And, you seem to carry the symptoms of being that guy.

Hunter: I know. (Laughs.) I see what you're saying. But I really try not to pay attention to all of that.



that will definitely lock up some SEC offers — which is the best football conference in America.

Anthony: No doubt. (Smiles.) I think you've already made up your mind as far as which school you're going to.

Hunter: Actually, no. I am pretty much wide open right now. A lot of people have told me that I've made up my mind to go to Wake Forest. I definitely like Wake Forest, but I'm going to keep looking around.

Anthony: Hey, I don't know how you'll take this but some people have been wait-

(Both laugh.)

Anthony: OK. Bryce (Sherman) told me that he talked to you yesterday. What did you two talk about?

Hunter: Yeah. We talked about his leg. We talked about how disappointing it was for the two fastest guys in the county, Bryce and me, not getting to run against each other. We were looking forward to battling each other the whole outdoor season.

Anthony: Yeah. I haven't even thought about that. That is unfortunate.

Hunter: I know.

Anthony: What is it like for you in the hallways?

Hunter: It's pretty awesome. People say stuff to me like, "Good game on Friday. You're a superstar. You're my hero." And, stuff like that. But I just fit in with the other students. I try not to act like I'm any different. I try to act like a normal student during the day.

Anthony: You're like a character out of a movie or something. (Both laugh.) You're this handsome guy that does amazing things on the field. And, you're respected by all athletes. Black athletes respect you as much as white athletes. (Smiles) I don't think anyone could write a better script.

Hunter: (Laughs.) Thank you very much. I just try to be normal. Even on the football field, I just hand the ball to the refs when I score. I try not to be the cocky guy.

Anthony: Do you feel like some people think you're cocky?

Hunter: I definitely think so, especially a lot of people at my old school (FCD). A lot of people think that I left because I didn't think the program over there was good enough. That's not true. I did what I thought was best for me. The football program at Forsyth is great. I thought that coming here would better pre-

pare me for the next level.

Anthony: Who are some of the tougher guys you faced this year?

Hunter: Andrew Bodenheimer was a great player at West Forsyth. And, James Booker at Atkins was a great athlete. Jeremy Peterson (Reynolds) gave us the most problems, individually. He's so quick. They even put me at safety because they thought I was the only person that could catch him.

Anthony: That's interesting. Do you think you might play some defense in college?

Hunter: I think so. A lot of people have told me that I have a pro-style build for a safety. I'm 6-2, 210 pounds. Clemson is looking at me at safety.

Anthony: Which team is going to win the college national championship?

Hunter: LSU. I love Jacob Hester. That's who I model my game after. I was a little disappointed that West Virginia didn't make it. They had it locked up and then choked. This has been one of the craziest seasons in college football.

Anthony: Yeah. I know. OK. What do you listen to before games?

Hunter: I crank that Lil' Wayne before games.

Anthony: What's your show to watch?

Hunter: SportsCenter.

Anthony: Where's your favorite spot to eat?

Hunter: Arigato's.

Anthony: OK. Let's finish with free association.

Hunter: OK.

Anthony: Uh, Bryce Sherman.

Hunter: Speedster.

Anthony: Best athlete in Winston.

Hunter: Hunter Furr.

Anthony: (Giggles.) Mt. Tabor football.

Hunter: A dynasty.

Anthony: Rusty LaRue.

Hunter: Smartest coach in Forsyth County.

Anthony: Coach Barry Stewart (Mt. Tabor head coach)

Hunter: Best coach in Forsyth County.

Anthony: Lawson Furr.

(All-County JV wide out)

Hunter: My little brother. Next Division I kicker out of Winston-Salem.

Anthony: OK. Um, 4A State Champs.

Hunter: Mt. Tabor Spartans.

Anthony: That's what's up. Good luck with that.

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