



Photos by Craig T. Greenlee

In his only high school season in which he played defense, Blair (18 in red) recorded 16 sacks.



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Blair (18) rushes the quarterback during the East-West All-Star Game.

Outlook is very promising for former Mount Tabor standout Blair at S.C. State

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Jementre' Blair's stellar senior season at Mount Tabor proved that being a defensive lineman is his true calling. Blair played on the offensive line in two-time All-Central Piedmont tackle.

Entering his senior season, given the chance to play defense was an all-league pick who finishes, which included 23 stops for

"When I got the green light ed," said Blair. "For me, it's more have to hold anything back. I the opportunity and show what I

As a defensive lineman, Blair benefited from his experience playing on the other side of the ball. He figured out how to take full advantage of his speed and quickness.

"I felt like I had an advantage (on defense)," said Blair, who signed with South Carolina State earlier this year. "For me, instincts are key. I'm usually in the right place at the right time. I can read the opposing lineman's footwork and use that to help me win those one-on-one match-ups."

When Blair started out in high school, he weighed 260 pounds. But over the last three years, he shed 30 pounds, which greatly enhanced his foot-speed (runs 4.62 seconds in the 40-yard dash) and lateral quickness. During that time, he played a lot of pick-up basketball, which he credits with aiding his agility and footwork.

Yet, there's more to Blair's game than speed and quickness. His weight room numbers are far from shabby. Here are some of his max totals: bench press, 365 pounds; squat lift, 520 pounds; power and clean, 315 pounds. The combination of speed, quickness and strength make him a top-flight college prospect.

At 230 pounds, Blair isn't the biggest of defensive linemen at the college level. So, it comes as no surprise that he'll probably end up playing outside linebacker, which will showcase his physical tools as a dominant pass rusher who's also fast enough to provide solo pass coverage on tight ends and running backs.

Blair's college career at South Carolina State will get a delayed start. In the fourth quarter of the East-West All-Star Football Game played three weeks ago, he dislocated his right shoulder and had surgery two days later.

With the injury, Blair will be sidelined for three months. As a result, he'll sit out this season in order to be fully healed and ready to go for 2016.

Blair confessed that it will feel strange to have to sit and watch as he recuperates. "This will be the first time in about 10 years that I won't be taking part in a pre-season practice," said Blair, who will double major in Business Administration and Computer Science. "I'll be OK. When next season comes around, I'll be good to go."



Blair

Because of team needs, Blair his first three years, and was a Conference pick at offensive

Blair, 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, was sive end, and he flourished. He ished with 16 sacks and 87 tack- lost yardage.

to play defense, I was so excit- fun because I don't feel like I was able to take advantage of could do."

benefited from his experience

WSSU FOOTBALL

Punter William Johnson selected to InstantScouting 2015 Division-2 preseason All-America Team

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University junior kicker/punter William Johnson has been selected to the InstantScouting 2015 Division-2 Preseason All-American Team.

InstantScouting is a Canadian-based independent global scouting service that is committed to helping aspiring athletes at the collegiate and free agent level showcase their abilities to all professional football teams in North America and Europe.

InstantScouting offers coaches and professional scouts the opportunity to view some of the best football talent from around the world from their computers.

InstantScouting has selected its first All-America & All-Canadian team and currently selects teams in FCS, Division 2, Division 3, NAIA and CIS. They are the



Johnson

only teams chosen exclusively by the scouts who work to create professional football opportunities for athletes.

William Johnson (Jr, 5-11, 175, High Point, NC / HP Central) was also voted to the 2015 Preseason All-CIAA Team as a punter.

Johnson averaged 39.4 yards per punt (second

in the CIAA). Johnson also connected on three of five field goal attempts from 40-49 yards. He will be counted on heavily in 2015 to take on the fulltime duties of all kicking portions for the Rams.

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