



# THE TEAM

*Head Coach  
Cory Baker*

No. Name

- 1 Jalyn Emory
- 3 Esosa Igbini
- 4 Omarion Bitting
- 10 Nathaniel Graddy
- 11 Deonse Davis
- 12 Corique Smith
- 14 Jajuan Rhodes
- 15 Michael Griffin
- 20 Xavier Henr
- 22 Chase Rorie
- 23 Lee Kpogb
- 24 Sebastian Perez

*Athletic Director  
Linwood Jearld*

**Principal**



*Parkland Mustangs*

## Focus and dedication are key for Parkland

TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
THE CHRONICLE

"They are willing to work hard and they are willing to listen. They try and come out and do the things we do in practice. It's resulted in two wins so far but we know we have to continue to get better," said head coach Cory Baker of his teams performance in their opening two games.

The Mustangs have started this season off on a good note with wins against Dudley and Salem Baptist. Baker stated that they have a week off until their next game and during that time he wanted to work on fundamentals. He says he wants his guys to come in focused everyday ready to compete with one another to prepare them for the Lash-Chronicle tournament this weekend.

"On my JV team I was 23-0 when I played at Reynolds. I don't expect for my team to accomplish that but with my core of sophomores I'm sure we will be well above .500," said Baker of his expectations for the season.

Coach Baker said with the group of athletes he has at his disposal it fits right into his offensive philosophy of pushing the tempo.

"We want to get the rebound and push it. We want to score in five or six seconds," Baker continued. "We are trying to push the ball every chance that we get and if we have to slow it down for some reason I believe we have the tools to make that work as well."

This is Baker's first season as the head coach of the Mustangs and he says he just wants his team to have a winning record at

the end of the season. He says he doesn't want to overwhelm his team to early but knows he has some returning leaders to lean on when the going gets tough.

Sophomore guard Nathaniel Graddy will be one of Bakers' go to guys. Baker says with his silky smooth game he will be a tough player to defend. Point guard Esosa Igbini is a smart and heady guard that can stretch the defense by shooting the three ball on a consistent basis. Baker also said he just received two players from the varsity football team that will add some tenacity and toughness to his team.

Baker says he was with North Forsyth for the previous 5 years and looks to make an imprint at Parkland.