

Sports

Jenny Adams and Keme Sandlin, editors

Can the Whirlies 'run and shoot'?

by Keme Sandlin

Does this year's varsity football team have as much potential as previous teams? The Whirlies have proven in only a few consecutive home games they just might. Despite last year's loss of twenty-eight seniors and two returning starters, head coach Jeff Smouse says, "Yes."

Senior Captain Tre Morgan, who plays offensive and defensive tackle, describes his emotions about the team thus far. "Nobody is really worried about us because we lost so many seniors," says Morgan, "but that makes it that much easier for us to sneak up on them."

The attention to last year's team was on the defense; however, this year's focus will be solely towards the offense. Accommodations for losing last year's defensive slice were made in this year's offense; mainly because of the small, speedy receivers and the tall linemen, the team did away with the huddling and the three-point stances. Instead, the team is all spread out this year with a 'run and shoot' offense. At first a bit skeptical about the new offense, most players like it enough to believe in its effectiveness now that they have seen what it does to a

defense.

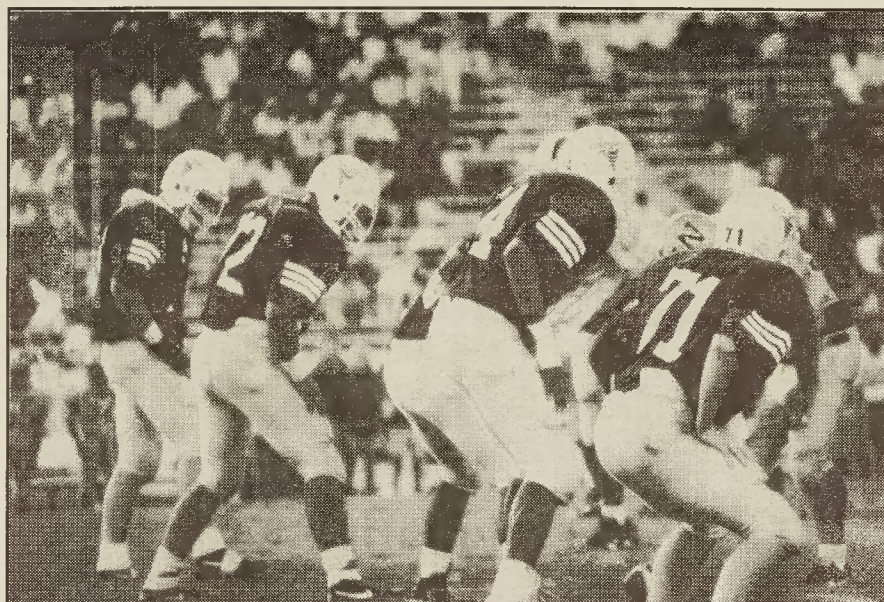
"The new offense is very effective against slower and weaker teams," commented senior offensive lineman Jason Sewell in a recent interview.

Looking at upcoming games and the rest of the season, there's always room for improvement for this year's Whirlie team. "Everybody needs to improve," says Smouse. Senior Captain Chris Walker, who plays center and defensive tackle, along with Morgan feels that the team needs to mature.

Teamwork this year should be at an all-time high considering the inexperience. "We are a much better team this year. We don't have any superstars, so it's easier to work together as a team," says Morgan.

So, if you haven't been out to a game yet this year and you are a prospective spectator of this year's Whirlie team, now is the time to make your move. "...I think we're doing a good job considering the young team," says Walker, "the team shows leadership."

Now it's your turn out there to get into the action of this year's Whirlie team. Decide for yourself if the Whirlies can 'run and shoot' their way to victory.



Offensive line prepares for a play.

Webb photo

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