

BIG SHOES TO FILL

Issues concerning football team

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In past years, the Whitehouse football program has had a tremendous amount of success, such as becoming district champions and making the state playoffs. Many Whitehouse athletes have gone on to play for colleges, some even playing at Division I universities. This program has been the pride of the entire community and expectations for the season are always set high. Which begs the question: Can the present Whitehouse football team live up to the presumptions of the past?

"With hard work and dedication it's not terribly hard to meet the past teams' expectations," senior football player Cade Parrish said.

A problem the Whitehouse Wildcats will have to face is that talent on their team roster has graduated, leaving a void which demands other players to fill it.

"We can't replace past players," junior Braylon Shackelford said. "We play together as a team and as one."

After last season's mediocre performance, many spectators have their doubts of a recovery, especially after a 48-20 loss to Texas High in the season opener. However, the Wildcats were able to bounce back next week against Chapel Hill with a 51-21

win at Rose Stadium.

"We don't want an average season," Shackelford said. "We want a beyond average season. We want to go further than we've ever been. Our mentality is D.U.B. and win every day."

Also, Whitehouse is in one of the most competitive districts in Texas, which includes the Ennis, John Tyler, and Lufkin, schools all ranked within in the preseason top ten in Texas 5A football.

"We've got to go in thinking that we're the best and that we'll do whatever it takes to win," Parrish said. "We can't let the opponents scare us so we have to go into these games with a focused mind."

Because of these facts, some would say the Whitehouse football program is on the decline after one average season of five wins and losses.

"We know what we can achieve, and we know what our potential is," Shackelford said. "We just have to stay focused."

This season will be pivotal to the direction this program goes over the next five years; whether it be top-dog, bottom of the food chain, or the middle of the pack, only time will tell.

"We have to take this season one week at a time," Shackelford said. "But our goal is to win state."