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RANDLEMAN - Losing the starting quarterback and the biggest threat on offense could mean disaster for a high school football team. Throw in a new coach, a shortened season and extreme rules, restrictions and regulations because of the pandemic and those factors certainly don't add up to success.

But somehow, the Randleman High School football team has not only managed to meet all these challenges, but excel on the football field as the Tigers will take a perfect 3-0 record into Friday night's home game with High Point Andrews.

Led by first-year head coach Shane Timmons, a quarterback who threw just 35 passes a year ago and a defense that recorded a season-opening shutout and allowed just six points in another game, the Tigers seem to have started where they left off last season when they finished 13-1 in advancing to the state 2-A semifinals.

"The biggest challenge was showing these kids the state of the union was still strong," said Timmons, who started at RHS as a custodian and a substitute teacher in 2008 and remained at RHS as a coach and teacher until 2017 when he left for one year at Oak Grove before returning to the Tigers. "They have a group of men who are dedicated to them. We started June 16 and consistently worked up until Christmas when we saw light and then we never really stepped off the gas. We always talk about our standards."

That would be hard work, competition and brotherhood. The Tigers have certainly shown all three so far.

Timmons said despite some losses on personnel, he saw a lot of players who cared.

"We lost some talent, but we have some good all-around football players," Timmons said. "We have guys who have played multiple positions. You certainly don't want it (the program) to fall off the cliff. You are going to get players in cycles and lose players in cycles. I met with every player as a group and individually and let them know I had their back."



Tigers coach Shane Timmons. Photo by PJ Ward-Brown Photography.



*Senior quarterback Harrison Moffitt.
Photo by PJ Ward-Brown Photography.*

Harrison Moffitt, the Tigers' senior quarterback, was the backup last year. He completed 21 of 35 passes for 449 yards and he threw seven touchdown passes to just one interception as a junior. He also rushed for 123 yards, meaning he was the player with the most yards returning for this season.

He, along with a talented offensive line and strong running game have given the Tigers' fans plenty to cheer about.

The Tigers opened this season with a 49-0 whitewash of Wheatmore. It was the varsity debut of sophomore running back Amarion Moton, who rushed for 72 yards on five carries with three touchdowns.

Moton's strong running (176 yards and the game-winning score), a long interception return for a touchdown from Tyson Kight and 159 yards rushing and two scores from Moffitt sparked the Tigers' 28-21 win over Providence

Grove in Week 2 and RHS had no trouble whatsoever in a 56-6 win over Jordan-Matthews last week. In that contest, Moffitt passed for 135 yards and two touchdowns and added 48 yards and two rushing scores.

Moffitt and Moton have certainly been hard to stop on the ground.

"He was a kid who was physically large as a freshman, a baby face and he was a freshman," Timmons said of the 6-foot-1, 260-pound Moton. "This year, the extended offseason really helped him and some other players develop into varsity bodies. We gave him the rock at Wheatmore and never looked back."

Timmons also pointed to his staff, which is loaded with experience.

"You talk about pressure, when you have that much football knowledge in the room, you have to have a plan these guys can get behind," Timmons said. "And we added some young coaches who are very high energy and they have been tremendous."

Timmons stressed the importance of having a mission statement and holding everyone to high standards as keys to continuing a stellar program.

For the Tigers, so far so good.



*Tigers running back Amarion Moton.
Photo by PJ Ward-Brown Photography.*