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Marshall lets his arm do all the talking



By Andy Johnston

Wednesday, August 26, 2009 12:00 AM

By **ANDY JOHNSTON**

Coaches Aid Georgia content coordinator

Nick Marshall doesn't say much, even when he's around folks he has known most of his life. Whether at school, on the football field, or on the basketball court, Marshall just doesn't have a lot to say.

"I took Nick and one of our best receivers to a camp (recently), and they didn't say 50 words to each other the whole trip," Wilcox County coach Mark Ledford said. "They just didn't talk. Nick is like that. About the most you ever get out of him is 'Yes, sir,' and 'No, sir.' "



Nick Marshall threw for 27 touchdowns and only five interceptions in 2008.

Marshall's quiet demeanor has translated into resounding results in the Patriots' explosive offense.

He threw for 2,300 yards, 27 touchdowns and five interceptions as a sophomore last season as Wilcox County went 12-1, losing to Lincoln County in Class A quarterfinals. It was his first year as the starting quarterback, but that didn't stop Marshall from throwing five touchdown passes to five different receivers one week and coming back the next week with six touchdown passes to six different receivers.

Marshall is one of eight starters returning from the top-scoring offense (36.7 points) in Class A last year.

"We're really blessed right now with athletes," Ledford said. "It started about five or six years ago. We had a bunch of young and athletic kids who were 2-8 in (2003 and '04), but by their senior year, they were 13-2 and playing for a state championship (in '07). We lost 17 seniors off that team, but we went 12-1 last year, and hopefully that will continue this year."

Ledford is searching for a replacement for running back Antonio Marshall, who rushed for 1,500 yards last year, and will rely on Nick Marshall and a group of "eight or 10" talented and fast receivers ranging in size from about 5-foot-6 to 6-7. Ledford said one of his five-receiver sets includes players between 6-3 and 6-7.

The tallest is Lonnie Outlaw, who scored 10 touchdowns on only 22 catches last year and is drawing praise from opposing coaches.

"I was unfortunate enough as an assistant coach at Coffee to go up against (former Georgia receiver) Fred Gibson," Pery coach Andy Scott told the *Macon Telegraph*. "Lonnie Outlaw makes Fred Gibson look like a girl. He's the most demoralizing player I have ever coached against. We triple-covered him, and he still caught everything."

Outlaw certainly isn't the only receiving threat.

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