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Kickoff '24: Jarrard prepared for bigger and better things

By Liam Dreesen MDJ Sports Writer
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North Cobb Christian's Teddy Jarrard hopes to build on a successful freshman season. The sophomore quarterback has already begun to earn Power 4 offers.

Anthony Stalcup

Before the 2023-2024 season, North Cobb Christian was searching for its starting quarterback.

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The Eagles quickly found their answer in then-freshman Teddy Jarrard, who finished the season second in the county with 2,065 passing yards, while also throwing for 18 touchdowns and completing over 50% of his passes.

For his efforts he received first team offensive honors for Region 6AA.

Jarrard's freshman season garnered attention from colleges, with him receiving his first Power 4 offer from Wisconsin on June 1. He's also received offers from Georgia State, South Florida and Virginia Tech.

"It's amazing," Jarrard said. "It's honestly a whole different lifestyle. It's a lot of pressure, but at the same time it's a blessing."

The 6-foot-3 quarterback helped the Eagles to a 9-3 record and a region championship last season which coach Matt Jones said was a surprising result for a team starting 15 freshmen.

Jarrard said assistant coach Gary Varner was key for his success as a freshman because the coach took him under his wing and taught him a lot about the game.

Jones said Jarrard's mental ability to process the game allowed him to thrive in the system right away.

“He can throw the football really well and run, but his biggest strength is seeing the field and being able to process and get us in the right plays,” Jones said.

He trusted Jarrard enough to allow the freshman to call a lot of the Eagles’ plays at the line of scrimmage, which is rare for a player so young and inexperienced. That trust paid off with the Eagles offense scoring 24 points per game.

Jarrard and the Eagles hope to carry the momentum from last season into this year after their young players gained valuable experience.

“Having a quarterback back is big time,” Jones said. “This will be the first year we’ll ever have a quarterback returning, and so for us to (be able to) run the same schemes and the same plays is tremendous.”

Jarrard said he has been working on his poise and footwork in the pocket at college camps in an effort to improve on his performance from last year.

He has set his goals on throwing for 3,000 yards on the way to a second consecutive region championship.

Jarrard has attended college camps at both Georgia and Alabama this summer and thus had the opportunity to learn from some of the best college coaches in the country.

“His leadership, drive and work ethic are key, so everybody else is going to follow him even though he’s a sophomore,” Jones said. “In large part, he’s the leader of the team. So he’s going to determine our success in so many ways.”

Jarrard said the key for him and the team to build on last year’s success is to keep working hard and getting to know each other better. He wants to develop an off-field rapport with his teammates that will give them an advantage on gamedays.

“The chemistry is the biggest part too, because it’s a team effort,” he said. “You’ve always got to do everything as a team. I feel like the more we bond, the more we’ll win.”

The sophomore quarterback is not just playing for himself and his team, though. Jarrard will wear No. 2 next season in honor of his younger cousin who unfortunately passed away at an early age.

“Honestly, it’s an honor,” he said. “Being able to wear it and just playing for him. It’s something I can wear and know what I’m doing it for.”



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