

# Muldrow recognized for 1<sup>st</sup> game performance

*Washington-Broomfield, Martin, Speller also honored*

**By Dennis Brunson**

Bryson Muldrow put the special in special teams for the Lee Academy football team in its season-opening 35-13 victory over Thomas Sumter on Friday.

“It was pretty good for a first game,” Muldrow said of his team’s performance.

Muldrow returned two kickoffs for 108 yards, returned a punt for 21 yards and got off a 43-yard punt in the triumph for the Cavaliers, the defending SCISA Class A state champions.

For that, Muldrow was selected as the SAFE Special Teams Player of the Week for the Sumter Touchdown Club presented by FTC.

The other three selections for the Players of the Week were parts of something “special” as well. Lakewood High School strong safety Tyler Washington-Broomfield starred in the first victory for new Gators head coach Willie Offord to earn Defensive Player of the Week honors. Crestwood quarterback Javion Martin and offensive lineman Conner Speller were part of a prolific offensive game to earn Offensive Player of the Week and Lineman of the Week honors, respectively.

## **SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**BRYSON MULDROW**

**LEE ACADEMY**

**PUNTER/KICK RETURNER**

**SENIOR**

Lee head coach David Rankin said Muldrow is a nice option to have for all the Cavaliers do with special teams.

“Bryson’s been punting the ball real good,” Rankin said. “He does a great job in the return game. We’ve put a real emphasis on special teams. We’ve worked hard and it paid off. He didn’t return either of the kickoffs for touchdowns, but he got down to about the (TSA’s) 20-yard line both times. When you start at the other team’s 20, that makes a huge difference.”

Muldrow, a senior, said both of the kickoff returns came as the result of a designed play.

“When I get wide open holes, I hit them pretty hard,” he said. “The return was something we wanted to do. We tried to pin everybody back with our blocks to get me on the outside where I can score.”

As an inside linebacker, Muldrow also had six tackles, one tackle for loss and broke up a pass against TSA.

**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK**  
**TYLER WASHINGTON-BROOMFIELD**  
**LAKEWOOD**  
**STRONG SAFETY**  
**JUNIOR**

Washington-Broomfield returned an interception 25 yards for a touchdown, recovered a fumble and took it 65 yards for a score and racked up nine tackles in the Gator's 20-3 victory over Fox Creek.

After getting beat by Sumter 53-8 in their opening game, Washington-Broomfield said he and his teammates made strides against the Predators.

“I felt good; I felt like we were prepared,” Washington-Broomfield said. “It's a really big win. We looked at how the game was last week, saw the mistakes we made and fixed those. We'll look at the mistake we made in this game and fix those this week.”

Offord has an affinity of sorts for his 6-foot-4-inch, 190-pound junior strong safety. Offord was a standout safety at the University of South Carolina and played in the National Football League.

“We're very similar in stature and size,” the coach said. “Normally today you don't see safeties his size. He plays with physicality, and he's a very smart player, cerebral. He makes plays when you need them. On offense, he caught a (15-yard) pass for a first down to keep an important drive alive. He's also our long snapper. He's one of those kids you can plug into any position to help your football team.”

Washington-Broomfield said his teammates set him up for the touchdown returns.

“My teammate (defensive end Tyjalek Isaac) made a great play, making them fumble,” Washington-Broomfield said. “I was able to pick it up and take it back. On the interception, we got great pressure from the defensive line. I was watching the quarterback, able to see his eyes, and I made the play.”

**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK**  
**JAVION MARTIN**  
**CRESTWOOD**  
**QUARTERBACK**  
**SENIOR**

Martin completed 18 of 28 passes for 330 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for 45 yards and a score in the Knights' 62-60 loss to Gray Collegiate.

The contest was a back-and-forth offensive explosion between the Knights and the War Eagles, the No. 1 team in the High School Sports Report AA Sweet 16 poll. Martin said it was an exhausting game.

“It was a lot of hard work, a lot of energy put into the game,” Martin said. “We didn’t pull through like we wanted to. “It wasn’t bad; I thought I played pretty good. I just have to clean up some mistakes.”

One of the miscues was when he fumbled the football while trying to get in the end zone. He was credited with a touchdown run, but he said that wasn’t the case.

“I was about four or five yards short (of the end zone),” said the senior 4-year starter, who had the ball jarred loose before it sailed out of the end zone. “It should have been a touchback.”

Martin’s performance was nothing out of the ordinary, according to Crestwood head coach Roosevelt Nelson.

“It’s what you expect from someone in his fourth year as a starter,” Nelson said. “He’s doing his job. The one pick he threw he was just trying to squeeze it in there. From start to finish he played a great game.”

**LINEMAN OF THE WEEK**  
**CONNER SPELLER**  
**CRESTWOOD**  
**GUARD/CENTER**  
**SENIOR**

Speller graded out at 90 percent and had four knockdown blocks as the Knights rolled up 463 yards of total offense against Gray Collegiate.

“He had a lot of good, physical blocks,” Nelson said of Speller, who split time between guard and center against Gray and also sees time at tackle. “He did a great job protecting Javion. He did a good job on both sides (with run blocking as well). I’m proud of the way he played.”

Speller said his goal was to improve on his performance from the first game against Richland Northeast.

“I felt like I played pretty good,” Speller said. “I focused on to trying to improve from the first week. I had a grade of 78 against Richland Northeast. I could have done better.

“It was a crazy game,” Speller said of the Gray contest. “We pretty much spent the whole game trying to fight back from behind. It really had us tired.”

