

Returning All Starting OL and QB: How Lexington is Building off 2025

There are five schools that are entering 2026 with a second year head coach. Only two won a playoff game in year one. Only one has a last name that is well known across the state. That would be Lexington and Coach Brett Mask. Lexington was 8-4 last season, finishing second in the region behind Red Bay. They would win their first round playoff game versus North Sand Mountain before falling to the 2A Champions Coosa Christian.

Lexington is in a unique spot. They return all five starting offensive linemen from last season plus sophomore quarterback Zane Kilburn, who started all 12 games last season. Kilburn threw and ran for 2,700+ yards last season and had 33 total touchdowns as a freshman. Zane said his offseason focus has been his footwork. They also return Sawyer Howard, who is now a senior running back. Coach Mask said, "I think it's a good continuation of what we had last season."

2025 Lexington averaged 38.9 points per game, and that was the highest scoring season for Lexington since 2022 when they averaged 39.3 points per game. That was also the last time Lexington advanced past the first round of the playoffs. "I give a lot of credit to our offensive coordinator Drew Davis (former all-state player from Red Bay). He had been a defensive guy for years. He took over offense at Colbert County his last year there; with me being a former offensive line coach, I can look up at different formations we are in. He is one of the best playcallers I've been around. I told the guys the other day I called plays for 10 years, and there's a reason I don't call plays anymore. He is better than me, being a former quarterback plus his defensive experience."

Lexington remained in 2A with the reclassification but will see some new opponents and some they have not seen in a few years. They have the traditional rivalry games with Lauderdale County (8/20 Thursday) and Rogers (10/30). The region features Colbert County, Falkville, JB Pennington, Phil Campbell, Tanner, and Winston County. The only holdovers from the last two seasons are Tanner and Winston County. Lexington has never met with JB Pennington, but has seen the others at least once in the last 10 seasons. The bye week for Lexington comes after the fifth game halfway through the season before a grueling stretch of Colbert County, Winston County, Tanner, Sheffield, and Rogers. The only home game is Tanner in that stretch. That will be four playoff teams from last season; the only non-playoff will be Sheffield. "I'm glad we got the bye week when we do. Hopefully get rested up. That is going to be a rough stretch. It's not optimal, but it's how the region was drawn. We tell the guys if you want to be a region champion you have to beat those teams and face adversity. You have to play well on the road. It's a tough second half, but we've been preparing since January." Coach Mask said about the back half of the schedule.

Lexington will expect to make the playoffs this season, and if they do, Coach Mask can make some history if they win a playoff game this season. He would be the first coach in program history to win a playoff game in his first two seasons. If they win two, he would be the first to take them to the quarterfinals since 2005.

Zack Pounders,

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