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offensive line coach Brad Lomax to see how she could help.

"I approached coach Lomax and I told him I didn't feel like I could be part of the team because I wasn't as big or strong or a person made for football but I wanted to help out as much as I could," White said. "I want to be close to a player but not actually play the game."

A new position was created for White—team manager.

"She loves the game," MHS head coach Jeff Auvinen said. "Brad Emmert and Brad Lomax talked to her and they want to run practice really fast, play after play after play, so they need someone to help spot the ball and help film when we need it. She jumped at it right away. It would be great if she could be a four-year manager for us because I think that could be very helpful."

White is just happy to be on the field.

"It really means a lot to me to be out here and help out with the community, especially going to McNary and being a Celtic, it means a lot to me, because my dad went here and grew up here," she said. "It's pretty great."

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we literally beat them on a long bomb to my son on the last play of the game as the whistle blew. That's why I care enough that I leave my law office everyday at 1:45 all fall to do this. I love kids this age. What I look forward to is continuing what I think we did a good job of starting last year which is making Whiteaker football a priority socially in the community so that kids look forward to being involved and that's only good for those kids and for McNary when they

get there, if they already feel like they're engaged in the process."

One way Larimer gets his eighth graders ready for high school football is running the same plays as McNary.

"Every play that I run is a McNary play," Larimer said. "Every piece of terminology is McNary terminology. I told [McNary head] coach [Jeff] Auvinen I want to run your plays so my kids can learn them before they get to high school and he gave me everything. Every time they learn a new play I get an email with a link. Jeff has been incredibly good to me since I've taken over at Whiteaker."

The middle school football season is scheduled to begin Sept. 14.



Whiteaker eighth graders practice on the offensive line during an early workout.

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley