

SOUTH SALEM SAXONS



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

Despite going 2-7 last season, the Saxons believe they can contend for a playoff spot in 2019 after adding some much-needed depth to their roster.

South hopes growing pains will pay off in 2019

By **MATT RAWLINGS**
Of the Keizertimes

Injuries plagued any chance the 2018 South Salem football squad had of reaching the postseason as the Saxons finished the year with a 2-7 record.

But after many players experienced some growing pains last season, South Salem enters 2019 with 47 players on their varsity roster, which will greatly help the depth problems that they suffered last year.

“Last year, we just got beat up with the injury bug. We were struggling in just pure numbers, especially up front on both sides of the ball, so I think that piece is going to help us a lot this year,” said South Salem head coach Scott Dufault. “We had a great summer. Our kids showed up, worked out and committed themselves. Those two things I think are going to help us deal with the issues we had last year.”

Dufault also believes that

the hardships of last season have better prepared his players for this year.

“The chemistry has been good pretty good so far. We got a lot of kids back who played a lot last year and got through the fire,” he said.

Where the Saxons really suffered in 2018 was on the offensive line, especially after Ashton Adams — who now plays for Utah State University — was injured late in the season.

But this season, Dufault expects the O-line to be one of the strengths of the squad.

Brothers Sangato and Samiu Letisi, as well as Adrian Montiel-Gomez and Noe Ramirez-Perez are expected to be the anchors of the offensive line after starting every game for the South Salem last year.

“Those four guys give us great experience up front, which is a big deal for our offense,” Dufault said. “They took their lumps last year, but this year I think they will be

pretty good.”

While the Saxons are the only team in the Mountain Valley Conference without a returning all-league player, they do bring back one of their best offensive weapons in senior Ryan Rickman.

“We got a lot of kids back who played a lot last year and got through the fire.”

— Scott Dufault
South Salem head coach

Rickman got the bulk of the workload last season at running back, but Dufault plans to use him in more of a hybrid role in 2019 to find more creative ways to get him the ball.

Junior running back Tony



South Salem roster

#	PLAYER NAME	POS.	YR.	HT.	WT.	#	PLAYER NAME	POS.	YR.	HT.	WT.
1	Tiwfaluk Umulap	WR/DB	12	6-1	165	28	Gavin Schweer	RB/DB	12	5-8	160
2	Zach Case	QB/DB	11	5-7	140	31	Conner Robustelli	RB/LB	12	5-9	180
3	Mikah Posey	WR/DB	11	5-9	160	32	Jace Bolante	RB/DB	11	5-8	150
4	Reign Bryant	RB/DB	12	5-9	170	33	Will Cordero	TE/DL	12	6-1	180
5	Zach Webster	WR/DB	12	5-11	170	34	Ryan Rickman	TE/LB	12	6-1	220
6	Peyton Kreitzer	TE/LB	12	6-2	215	38	Cody Hale	TE/DL	11	6-1	200
7	Griffin Gardner	QB/DB	10	6-0	160	50	Sangato Letisi	OL/DL	12	5-11	230
8	Khafonee Rosokow	WR/DB	11	5-10	160	51	Parker Johnson	OL/LB	12	6-3	210
9	Spencer Elliott	WR/DB	11	6-2	180	52	Samiu Letisi	OL/DL	11	6-2	260
10	Gabe Johnson	WR/DB	11	6-2	180	53	JP Emery	OL/DL	11	6-0	180
11	Nick Vandehey	WR/DB	11	6-2	175	54	Adrian Montiel-Gomez	OL/DL	11	5-11	230
12	Jack Malloy	WR/DB	11	5-9	160	55	Ricky Cruz	OL/DL	11	6-2	200
13	Marco Garcia	WR/DB	11	6-0	160	56	Matt Deglow	OL/DL	11	6-0	230
14	Drew Gertenrich	QB/DB	11	6-3	180	57	Tyler Wall	OL/DL	11	5-10	230
16	Jayven Carter	WR/DB	12	5-9	160	58	Dustin Kunze	OL/LB	11	6-1	195
17	Jackson Scott	QB/DB	12	5-9	170	66	Jordan Johnson	OL/DL	12	5-10	180
18	Steven Gonzalez	WR/DB	12	5-7	150	68	Nick Brown	OL/DL	12	6-1	220
19	Sam Torres	WR/DB	11	6-1	165	72	Ben Richards	OL/DL	12	6-2	210
20	Garrett Cox	WR/DB	12	5-8	160	74	Ed Thompson	OL/DL	11	6-1	240
21	Corbin Farmer	RB/DB	11	5-7	150	75	Noe Ramirez-Perez	OL/DL	12	5-9	225
22	Tony Rodriguez	RB/LB	11	5-9	180	76	Joe Wozniak	OL/DL	12	6-0	230
24	Garrett Wozniak	RB/DL	11	5-9	180	78	Sam Hofer	OL/DL	11	6-1	260
26	Gabe Tadeo	WR/DB	11	5-8	145	79	Julian Ortiz	OL/DL	12	5-10	260
27	Thomas Calletano Gonzalez	RB/LB	11	5-9	180						

BECAUSE EXPERIENCE MATTERS

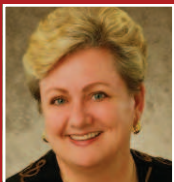


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