



Back to School

special edition



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'City
of
Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



Portland attorney Ernie Warren will review wrongful convictions and prison sentences as head of a new Justice Integrity Unit in the Multnomah County District Attorney's office.

Warren Hired for Justice Integrity

DA creates unit to review past convictions

A long time criminal defense attorney and racial justice advocate from Portland's Black community will review wrongful convictions and review prison sentences as head of a new Justice Integrity Unit in the Multnomah County District Attorney's office.

District Attorney Mike Schmidt last week announced his hiring of Ernest "Ernie" Warren, founder of first Black-owned defense law firm in Oregon and a passionate civil and criminal defense attorney of more than 30 years.

Warren, a seasoned and passionate civil rights leader, who ran unsuccessfully for Multnomah County Circuit Judge in 2020, will now lead a newly funded program similar to integrity units being formed by progressive prosecutors across the county, Schmidt said.

The new unit comes after Schmidt successfully lobbied the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 819, which allows a district attorney and a person convicted of



PHOTO BY CLIFF PFENNING/FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Long-time winning football coach and youth leader Anthony Stoudamire (center) is back as coach of the Jefferson High School football team, flanked by two of the team's pivotal players awaiting Friday's home opener, Demos quarterback Dondrae Fair (left) and senior defensive safety Trejon Williams.

Jefferson Football Back to Business

Title-winning coach returns to program

BY CLIFF PFENNING
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As the joys of unmasked athletics began for high school students across Oregon in mid-August, Jefferson senior Dondrae Fair looked forward to the fall season for all the normal reasons team sports are important to young adults.

"We're going to be a good team because we've got a great bond amongst the players," Fair said. "There's a good group of seniors on the team. We've all grown up in the program together and been able to hang out during the summer. That's really going to help us play better as a team."

"I'm really excited about playing again."

Fair, like all other high school athletes in Oregon, endured a year of hybrid education, and the constant possibility of not being able to play at all until several months into the school year. The five-week-long football season started in mid-February with only two weeks to prepare for the first game. Ev-

eryone needed to wear a mask, even on the field during games. There were no playoffs.

"We had a season, but we didn't have much time to prepare and it was tough with not being around each others during the day because we weren't in school," Fair said. "It really wasn't much of a season, so it feels like we've had two years off."

Fair, who plays quarterback, is in his third year with the varsity team - with a new head coach each year. The Demos' coach this fall, though, is Anthony Stoudamire, who led the program from 2006-11 and to the state title game in 2009. He's been working as offensive coordinator at Roosevelt the past four years.

"He's brought exactly what the program needed - discipline," Fair said. "He's holding everyone accountable for what they need to do to be a better player, and that's really helpful for us being a good team."

"It's not like we didn't have discipline last season," said senior Trejon Williams,

who leads the defense at safety. "But there wasn't much chance to get things together once there was a season, and it was heavy on us to be a team."

Jefferson finished 2-3 with all of its games being played during what is traditionally basketball season, and under a first-year coach.

"It was a good season, but it was weird," Williams said.

Jefferson plays its home opener Friday at 7 p.m. against Lakeridge.

Stoudamire returned to the Jefferson campus in July after Houston Lillard, older brother of Trail Blazers star Damian, resigned and returned to self-employment in Oakland, Calif., with Team Lillard Football/HL5 Sports.

A graduate of Washington High in 1972, Stoudamire played at Portland State in '73-'75, and found his way to the Jefferson program in 1978. He served as an assistant for 19 years, and also started a youth program in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4