

Spotlight: Drayton Calhoun

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Courtesy: Karen Winston

Tucker running back Drayton Calhoun also will start at cornerback this year.

By Scott Smith

Tucker's wing-T offense isn't flashy or fancy. But with the talent in its backfield, it doesn't have to be.

"Some people ask me why we don't throw the ball more, but with the guys we have in the backfield, we don't have to," Tucker head coach Franklin Stephens said.

Tucker running back Drayton Calhoun helps comprise one of the best running tandems in the state. Along with Jonathan Davis, the pair combined for more than 2,000 yards rushing last year with 24 touchdowns.

"Drayton is a kid that has tremendous speed," Stephens said. "He's a threat to score any time he touches the ball."

As a junior, Calhoun touched the ball 121 times out of the backfield and gained 1,042 yards with a dozen scores in helping the Tigers reach the Class AAAA semifinals and a 13-1 record.

He will get even more chances to touch the ball in his senior year. Along with his duties at running back, he will be spending some time on defense at cornerback.

"They've been working me real hard at corner," Calhoun said. "I've been conditioning more because I will have to play both ways."

The added experience from playing both offense and defense could pay off in a big way for Calhoun. He has already committed to LSU, who recruited him as an athlete. With no position set for him, his time on defense could help solidify his collegiate role.

"When I went down there, it felt like it was the best place for me," Calhoun said of LSU. "I'm graduating in December so I had to get my decision in. It also has helped keep the (recruiting) chaos down."

This season will be the third year Calhoun, at 5-11 and 175 pounds, has started. His time of 4.42 seconds in the 40 yard dash also will help him when he gets to the next level.

"Last year, he was more of a role player but this year he has become more of a leader," Stephens said. "In the past he led by example but now he has become more vocal."