

https://www.mdjonline.com/cobb_football_friday/the-butler-did-it-on-mustangs-defense/article_d91f27aa-1376-4bea-9fe6-433cff82f32e.html

The Butler did it on Mustangs' defense

By Jack Martin MDJ Sports Correspondent
Oct 16, 2025



Kamari Butler
Special

 Gift this article




Limited time

\$59 \$19 initial payment.¹

Lease to own today.
Offer ends 6/14/26

Apply now

¹Offer valid 5/18/26-6/14/26. Application must be completed, approved, and used within the promotional time period. Use your lease approval on qualifying purchases in-store at Best Buy[®] or on BestBuy.com[®]. Remaining lease payments will be determined upon item selection. Initial payment (plus tax) is charged at lease signing. Reduced initial payment promotion may lower the total cost. After the promotional time period, the \$59 standard initial payment applies to all lease initiations. Additional limitations may apply. Subject to change without notice. The advertised service is a lease to own purchase option. Terms and conditions apply.



Sophomore linebacker Kamari Butler has emerged as a force.

Mustangs' coach Caleb Carmean said Butler has been with Kennesaw Mountain since middle school.

“He came up through our program,” Carmean said. “He’s always been a defensive guy for us. He played a little bit as a freshman last year, and was actually second on the team in sacks last year. This year we’ve made the move to put him at inside linebacker, and he’s really taken hold of that spot from a leadership perspective as well as affecting the offense.”

The switch to inside linebacker seems to be helping Butler, as he has logged 10 tackles for loss, four sacks and a team-leading 105 tackles. He will be somebody East Paulding has to game plan for when the Mustangs (2-5, 1-3) travel to Dallas for the Region 5AAAAA matchup on Friday.

Carmean said Butler feels more comfortable in his role this year.

“From a leadership perspective, you know he’s young and he’s really taken ownership of the defense,” Carmean said.

Carmean said Butler’s jump from his freshman year to now has been huge, and noted that he has offers from UAB, USF and Kennesaw State.



“He’s done a great job adding weight, handling the position change and all that type of stuff,” Carmean said. “I attribute all of it to his mentality. His drive and his want to be great is what sets him apart from everybody else because he is willing to do whatever it takes.”

Butler’s mentality is embedded in his character. Carmean said Butler is a great, high-character kid.

“He’s an extremely hard worker,” Carmean said. “He works at his craft on the field, works in the weightroom and works in the classroom. Anything you ask that kid to do, he’ll give you everything he has. It makes it really fun to coach (him).”

Carmean said Butler makes an impact on the team both on and off the field.

“On the field he does a good job of getting us in the right calls, moving all the people around and all that,” Carmean said. “Off the field I think that leadership style translates. He is a lead-by-example type of guy, and other people gravitate towards him because they want to be a part of it.”

East Paulding is led by sophomore quarterback Bode Spence, who has logged 1,390 yards, 17 touchdowns and a 65.9 completion percentage this season.



Carmean said the Raiders (4-3, 2-2) are relentless and perform well in all three phases of the game.

“They make sure you are lined up properly, and that you play with great energy and effort for four quarters because they’re not going to stop,” Carmean said. “They’re going to keep showing up every play, and they have some great skill players. We have to do a good job of our alignment, our assignment and know what to do and where to be at.”

