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Campbell, Etowah have 1-0 mentality

By Jack Martin MDJ Sports Correspondent
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Campbell's Nick Buggs (3) gains yards for the Spartans Friday night against South Forsyth. PHOTO BY LAURA MOON.

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Etowah and Campbell both have the goal of going 1-0 this week heading into their game



The Spartans (2-0) look to continue their dominance, as they travel to face an Eagles team (1-1) hoping to stop Campbell's momentum.

Etowah coach Brett Vavra and Spartans coach Jeff Phillips both said they want their players to focus on one week at a time.

Vavra said this is part of the message he gives the team everyday.

"Focus on us, get better at the things we can control and go 1-0 every single day," he said.

Phillips said going 1-0 is an expectation each week, no matter how they get it done.

"The expectation stays the same," he said. "It is to go 1-0 this week and win this Friday night game to get another one on the board."

The Eagles are fresh off of a loss against Vavra's former team in Sprayberry.

Zeke Douglass threw for 159 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a third to put Etowah in front early in the fourth quarter, but the Yellow Jackets scored 21 unanswered points to pull away late.

Vavra said the Eagles have to improve their red zone offense, and get off to better starts.

“We’ve started slowly three weeks in a row now,” he said, including the preseason scrimmage. “We lost by 18 points last week, but we had two touchdowns called back and two missed field goals. No moral victories, but if we get the ball in the end zone like we can and make field goals we probably win that game.”

Despite the Spartans strong start, Phillips said he believes there are still areas the team can work on.

Davin Lemire threw for 236 yards and two touchdowns, both to Nick Buggs to help pace Campbell’s win over South Forsyth. Buggs finished with six receptions for 152 yards and added a third touchdown on the ground.

“Everyone up front has to play better,” he said. “We have a standard that we are trying to uphold. I’m looking forward to the defense having a better game this Friday.”

The week-by-week improvements are part of the reason why Campbell has started 2-0.

Phillips said he attributes it to the players buy-in.

“They are playing fast, and anytime you can get kids to play fast, make plays, create turnovers and explosive plays, that is usually a great recipe for us to be successful,” he said.



Phillips said the way Etowah plays will force the Spartans to execute well on both sides of the ball.

“Offensively they do a lot of things,” he said. “They try to get the ball out and they have a lot of formations, so we have to be disciplined there. Defensively they show man coverage, and they bring pressure.”

Vavra said Campbell is very athletic, so the team will have to play aggressively in close space to limit the Spartans’ offense.

“They are a real challenge, and their offense will be too,” he said. “I think we need to defend space. We have to close space on their players as much as possible and take away space by alignment.”

