

Throughout the 2013-14 school year we will get to know local student athletes better through question and answer sessions. Today we talk to West Washington junior quarterback Cody Maudlin. All Maudlin has done as the Senator starter is guide his team to 10 wins and county and sectional championships.

Maudlin and his West Washington teammates just need a win over Salem to claim back-to-back titles.

The following are questions provided to Maudlin, who is the son of Scott and Debbie Maudlin, and his answers.

You got significant time under center last year, how does that help you as you prepare to lead the Senators this fall? Having the privilege to start last year helped give me experience playing at the varsity level and to better understand what is expected of me and the leadership role that I play on this team.

When you look back at last year and compare your game now, what is the area you feel you've improved the most? With the help of my coaches I feel like I'm stronger, faster and fundamentally a better football player than I was a year ago.

What are some individual goals you have set for yourself this season? What must you do to reach these goals? I would like to first minimize the errors I make on the field. I would like to then help lead the team to a county championship, Sectional championship and then on to the state championship game. I need to lead by example to show that with determination and hard work these goals are obtainable by our coaches and team.

Last year you guys win the sectional championship and really stayed with Linton for a while, do you feel like coming off that kind of success you and the team have stayed hungry in the off-season? With the determination of our coaching staff and our senior class we are hungry to take this program to a higher level than we did a year ago.

Have you talked about goals as a group? Is it a goal for the Senators to get another Sectional title? Yes, Coach Bowsman tells us repeatedly that our expectations as a team are high, and another Sectional would be great, but we would like to go farther than we did last year.

Do you have a favorite moment that happened on the football field? Winning the sectional championship last season. Getting to experience that game with my older brother Jared who was a senior and all the emotions that came with it, was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. I can still see Coach Bowsman standing in front of us at half-time with all the seniors by our side asking us, "is we wanted this t be their last time ever to set foot on a football field." That was a half-time speech I will never forget and the emotions of the team that came with it.

When you are not playing football, what do you like to do? In my free time I like to play basketball, go fishing, wade rivers, hang out with my friends, work with my 4-H calf and help by dad on the farm.

Have you thought about what you want to do after high school? Do you hope to play college football? I would like to pursue a career as an optometrist. As far as college football goes, I will wait and see what happens. I do love the game of football.

Finish this sentence for me, "This will be a great year for the Senators if . . .". We as a team work hard and achieve all of our goals.

Photo provided by Beth Nicholson.