

JAKE KNOX SIGNS TO CONTINUE EDUCATION AND FOOTBALL CAREER AT BETHEL UNIVERSITY



Above: Jake Knox with his parents, Beth and Jim. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Jake Knox is a young man of few words.

But that's okay – no one needs him to be making speeches right now. As long as he can keep tackling opponents on a football field, or clearing the path for his own running back teammate, Bethel University in McKenzie is ready to help him continue his education.

Knox, Crockett County's "quiet killer" (as assistant coach Josh Holt calls him), will be keeping his football dreams alive after having a signing ceremony Wednesday in the CCHS Little Theater.

He'll transition from being a Cavalier to a Wildcat – which should be no problem for Knox, because anyone who's seen him play would already describe him as such.

"This is a great opportunity for Jake, and no one deserves it more," said Cav head coach Kevin Ward before Knox's ceremony. "Jake is just a tremendous young man who did everything his coaches asked of him, in a variety of roles. Most folks think of him as a linebacker – and he's a good one – but he also has played tight end, blocking back, defensive end, and even offensive line one year when we needed him to.

"He's 'Mr. Utility,' because he can do it all, and that's what makes him so valuable," Ward continued. "And when you combine that with the work ethic he has, his 'yes sir / no sir' respectfulness, and his mental toughness, Bethel's getting a tremendous asset to its program."

Ward said that even though Knox is normally quiet, he has the leadership skills necessary to get others to follow.

"Jake is never going to be the guy who jumps up to volunteer for public speaking," Ward smiled, "but he called all our defensive sets from his linebacker position. Maybe he's more comfortable hiding under that helmet, but he had no trouble earning the respect of his teammates."

Ward believes Knox will have the opportunity to step right in and play at Bethel, especially once the Wildcat coaching staff spends some time in Knox's company.

"He has spent a lot of time here at Crockett County playing at positions in which people could call him 'undersized,' and he's never seen it as an obstacle," Ward said. "And once they see how hard he'll hit you, they quit talking about it. So I think Bethel is a perfect place for him to go. We've had some players go there before and have a good experience. Bethel's program has been very solid for the last eight to ten years, so I think he's going into a good situation."

Jake's dad Jim says that his son visited bigger campuses, but decided "that's just not him. He's never been comfortable in big crowds. But he visited Bethel and absolutely loved it."

Wednesday's signing ceremony included segments with Ward, Holt, Jack Burgess, and Will Rigby, all of whom praised Knox as one of the shining lights of the Crockett program.



Above: Jake Knox in his linebacker post. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jake Knox (35) on the tackle. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Jake Knox hammers this Lexington back. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The Knox family at Wednesday's signing ceremony. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The Knox family with Crockett's coaches. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: The Knox family with Jake's Cavalier teammates. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jake Knox pops a South Side back. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jake Knox stops North Side. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Making another North Side tackle. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Jake Knox during a timeout. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: The Cavalier wildcat is now an official Wildcat. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Knox made an interception against Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Ready for action. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Knox prevents a Fayette-Ware score. (Photo by Ron Barry)

