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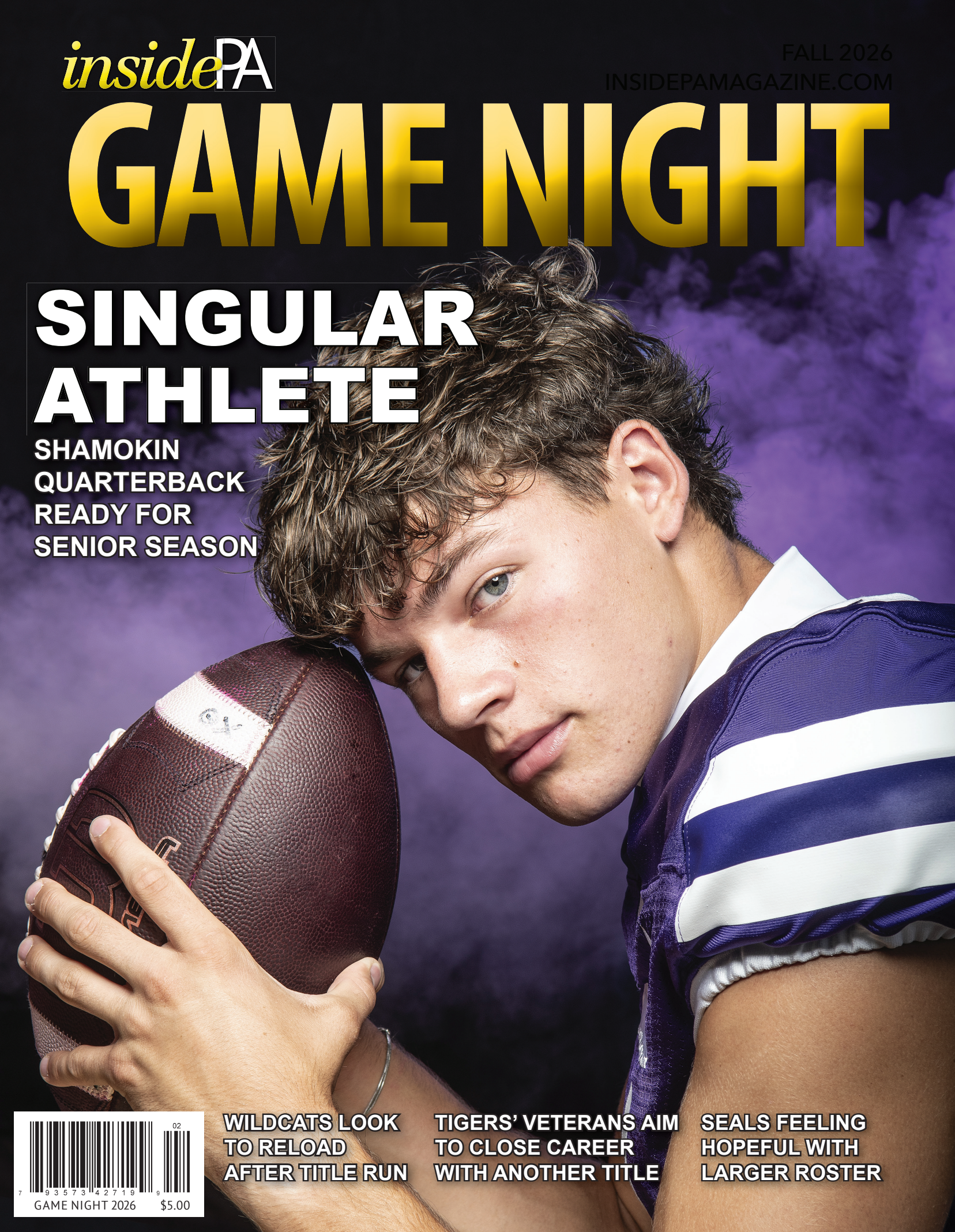

SINGULAR ATHLETE

SHAMOKIN QUARTERBACK READY FOR SENIOR SEASON

WILDCATS LOOK TO RELOAD AFTER TITLE RUN

TIGERS' VETERANS AIM TO CLOSE CAREER WITH ANOTHER TITLE

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FROM THE EDITOR

With the 2026 high school football season just days away, the new season represents a year of both change and continuity.

Just one new coach takes over this fall and even he isn't a stranger. Shawn Sheptock, a former all-state player and state champion at Mount Carmel, assumes the mantle at Danville. Sheptock has been on the staff in Montour County for the past three seasons and a part of two teams that have won District 4 titles.

Jim Roth enters his 43rd season at Southern Columbia, coming off his PIAA-record 15th state title. Already the winningest coach in Pennsylvania history, Roth — at 521-74-2 in his career — enters the season second nationally in career wins among active coaches. Oh, and the Tigers return a boatload of skill players from a team that went 15-1 and won another 2A state crown.

After program-defining seasons, District 4 champions Mifflinburg and Line Mountain — who both won district titles for the first time in two decades in 2025 — look to reload following the departure of record-setting senior classes.

Speaking of record-setters, Shikellamy speedster Thomas Pollock enters his fourth and final season as the program's most prolific receiver. While the Braves will break in a new quarterback, Pollock — who already owns Shikellamy career marks for catches and yards — looks to put the numbers out of reach for years to come.

At Shamokin, senior star Logan Steele — already committed to Wake Forest — looks to cap his stellar career and the Indians' upward climb with a possible deep state playoff run after 25 wins and a pair of district titles in the past two years.

On the change front, the even year means reclassifications, both in district playoff alignment and where teams sit in their respective leagues. Some teams have moved up and down, while others have stayed put. The Heartland Athletic Conference will also be a bit different, with one tweak to the three-division league.

The season kicks off Friday, Aug. 28, representing the culmination of months of hard work by players, cheerleaders, band members and countless others, setting the stage for a return of Friday Night Lights.

Welcome back, football fans.



William Bowman, Editor

insidePA
GAME NIGHT

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Helmet logos throughout magazine are courtesy of easternpafootball.com.*

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SHAMOKIN QB LOGAN STEELE
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Shamokin quarterback Logan Steele
Robert Inglis/Inside PA

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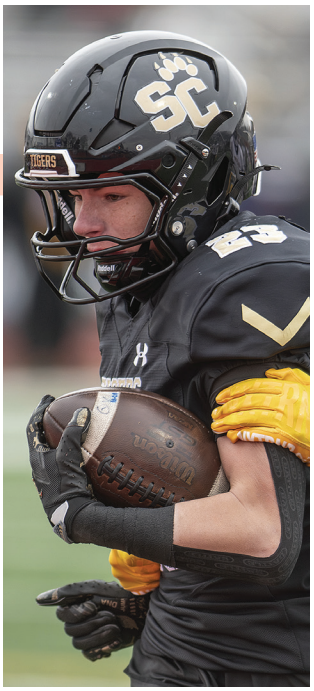
RB	Grady Garcia	Jr.	Southern Col.
RB	Denyn Beachel	Sr.	Warrior Run
RB	Jaylen Delaney	Sr.	Mount Carmel
WR	Jaylen Walker	Sr.	Lewisburg
WR	Thomas Pollock	Sr.	Shikellamy
TE	Jace Malakoski	Sr.	Southern Col.
OL	Jackson Albright	Sr.	Warrior Run
OL	Robert Whitmer	Sr.	Shamokin
OL	Garrett Williams	Sr.	Warrior Run
OL	Aidyn McHale	Sr.	Southern Col.
OL	Sam Hummer	Jr.	Danville
K	Jaden Boyer	Sr.	Mifflinburg





DEFENSE

DL	Chase Williams	Sr.	Southern Col.
DL	Max Karycki	Sr.	Mount Carmel
DL	Xavier Paul	Jr.	Shamokin
DL	Landon Tucker	Jr.	Mifflinburg
LB	Noah Ringes	Sr.	Shamokin
LB	Landon Moser	Sr.	Mifflinburg
LB	Jason Klokis	Jr.	Mount Carmel
LB	Willie Bender	Sr.	Shikellamy
DB	Colin Steinhart	Sr.	Shamokin
DB	Corbin Stahl	Sr.	Shikellamy
DB	Luke Malfara	Jr.	Line Mountain
DB	Ryan Bickert	Sr.	Shamokin
P	Liam Tomko	Jr.	Danville





Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Mount Carmel's Michael Kimsal tries to break through the Shamokin line on a carry during a game in Coal Township in 2025.

CAN'T-MISS GAMES

Story by Todd Hummel

As the first year of the new classifications arrives, looking ahead is more challenging. Can't really rely on last year's schedules and switch home and away, this season.

There are a lot of interesting new matchups. Southern Columbia and Williams Valley face off in Week 2, while Line Mountain heads to Glendale, a Class A school in District 6, part of back-to-back weeks with western Pa. teams for the Eagles. Northern Bedford, out of District 5, comes to town in Week 3.

Let's take a look at some of the games to watch in this regular season:

AUG. 28

Lewisburg at Danville

The Green Dragons have opened the past few years with Line Mountain, but now it's a Heartland Athletic Conference crossover. The train derailed last year in Montour County, but there's a new engineer this season in Danville. Shawn Sheptock, brother of Bloomsburg University coach Frank Sheptock, takes over the Ironmen, and we should see a different brand of football. Carter Raup and Landon Kehoe won't be around to bail out the Ironmen, but a reorganization will do wonders for Danville. Jaylen Walker will be one of the best pass receivers in the area. A good early test for both programs.

Shikellamy at Mifflinburg

Year two of Mike Hoover will be a lot of Thomas Pollock — not clear quite yet who will be getting him the ball — and the Braves feel they're a darkhorse in Class 4A and HAC-I. The Wildcats are coming off one of the best seasons in school history and their first outright District 4 football title. There is still plenty of talent, but the big-play flair and clutchness that Chad Martin and Landen Murray and the crew showed last season, that's where the learning curve comes in. The young Wildcats will have a lot to prove early on.

Schuylkill Haven at Mount Carmel

The Red Tornadoes struggled with their run defense last season, and what a way to open the season with a visit from Colton Reber and the Hurricanes. All Reber did in his junior season was run for 2,875 yards and 38 touchdowns. He finished the season with 47 total touchdowns. Mount Carmel has as good a chance as anybody in a wide-open District 4 Class 3A race. There are some holes, but plenty of young offensive talent in the eastern end of Northumberland County.

SEPT. 4

Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech at Midd-West

The Rams are a good matchup for the Mustangs, and it's a good chance for a victory. Midd-West will have to stop Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech's passing game, which must replace junior Myles Koser who transfered back home to Danville.

Selinsgrove at Mifflinburg

Not the gauntlet the Seals have faced the past two seasons, but this will be a real test for a Selinsgrove team looking to take a



Brant Bowman/Inside PA

Selinsgrove's Peter Scorsone intercepts a pass in front of Danville receiver Jagger Simpson in Selinsgrove in 2025.

step forward after struggling with injuries and a tough schedule. The early-season Wildcats will be perfect for Selinsgrove — talented enough to be a challenge — and still young enough to possibly be ripe for an upset. The Seals could use a win to forget a one-win season.

SEPT. 5

Southern Columbia at Williams Valley

One of the most underrated places to watch a football game, the Vikings' home stadium will be a tough place to visit for the Tigers. This is one of those games that's been expected in the PIAA playoffs, but hasn't quite happened. Williams Valley had as much controversy off the field last season as success on the field (12-2). Junior Fletcher Thompson is going to be a tough stop for a revamped Tigers defensive front. Southern Columbia's offensive line will get another test after Wyomissing in the opener.

SEPT. 11

Shikellamy at Shamokin

Jersey Shore will certainly have something to say, but a possible District 4 Class 4A championship preview for later in the season. The Braves have to avoid the slow starts that have plagued them in this game, and if anybody has the speed to at least hang with the Indians, it's Shikellamy.

Montoursville at Southern Columbia

This is one of the games that decided the HAC-II title last season and this shouldn't be any different. The Warriors might be missing more than the graduated Christian Banks in their backfield if wrestling needs take Hunter Harvey off the football field. The passing game should still be pretty good for Montoursville. Will it be enough to knock off the Tigers? The skill positions are deep for Southern Columbia this season, but can it revamp the defensive line?

SEPT. 12

Hughesville at Lewisburg

This Heartland III matchup could go a long way in determining if either is a contender this season. Both teams have plenty of returning talent, and an early-season league win will be a confidence builder for one of these teams.

SEPT. 18

Danville at Milton

Another good early pop quiz. How will Danville adjust under Sheptock? How much has a very young Milton team matured for 2026? Could either team be a sleeper in Class 3A? All of these questions could be answered, and more.

Mount Carmel at North Schuylkill

This has been the Red Tornadoes' opener the past few seasons, and the Spartans have exposed some holes in the Mount Carmel defense. They won't have to figure out how to stop Luke Miller this season — he's running track at St. Joseph's. This begins a stretch of the Spartans, Danville and Southern Columbia for Mount Carmel. We'll see quickly if it is a contender in Class 3A.

Jersey Shore at Shamokin

What more can be said about this game over the last two years? Only an injury to Bulldogs quarterback Nolen Pauling in the district championship game prevented us from having four straight classics in the series. There is no reason

to think these two teams won't play two more classics this season. After three seasons, I do wonder if the Bulldogs figure out a way to stop Logan Steele.

SEPT. 25

Mount Carmel at Danville

This is an easy one to list in here. Sheptock will coach against his alma mater for the first time. The Ironmen are an interesting team this season, and we've covered why earlier, but I'll be interested to see where Sheptock has the Ironmen at this point in the year. This is the point where injuries really did a number on Danville's depth last season.

Lewisburg at Warrior Run

It will be our first big look at the new-look Defenders, coming off two of the best seasons in school history. Now the bulk of those players have graduated, but Denyn Beachel and the three big linemen — Jackson Albright, Garrett Williams and Cayden Robinson — return. The Green Dragons could be one of the dark horses in Class 3A, and this one will probably go a long way in determining who wins Division III in the HAC.

OCT. 2

Southern Columbia at Mount Carmel

This has been a fun one for 30 years, and this year's edition shouldn't be different. We don't get a rematch in the playoffs since the Red Tornadoes are still in Class 3A, so this will have to do. Some of the best returning skill position players in the area will be featured in this game, so of course, it will probably be a defensive struggle.

Warrior Run at Mifflinburg

The Wildcats are back down in Division III, and this might determine the champion. Both teams are in the same boat, young, talented rosters with some youth in key spots. By the time this game rolls around, that youth will have grown up. Some of the area's best returning linemen will be competing in this game, which will go a long way to determine the winner.

Lewisburg at Loyalsock

If the above game isn't the key game in HAC III, then this will be the one. The Lancers graduated a lot of talent from last year's team that rode Jalil Coates to a playoff berth. Is there somebody to pick up that slack? The Green Dragons should have one of the most explosive passing attacks in the area.

OCT. 9

Steelton-Highspire at Line Mountain

This one has been for the division title the past two seasons, and this year should be no different. The Eagles have an odd start to the season. After opening with Tri-Valley, they play Western schools in Glendale and Northern Bedford. We will find out if it prepares this young group of Eagles for the rigors of the Mid-Penn Conference season. With District 4 Class A wide open thanks to graduations, Line Mountain could be rounding into shape to defend its Class A title at this point of the season.

Shikellamy at Selinsgrove

It's the Rally in the Valley, and the Seals will be looking for revenge. We'll know by this game if Selinsgrove has bounced back from its one-win season. The small-in-numbers Seals can't afford the injury bug that hit them last season. The Braves should be in position for a home playoff game by the time we reach this point in the season. It's always tough to crack into the top two with Shamokin and Jersey Shore there as well.

Loyalsock at Warrior Run

Separated by about 15 miles, these two teams have quietly engaged in some entertaining football games. Last year was no different in the regular season, a 47-42 shootout for the Defenders. I think both coaches would like to avoid another combined 89 points.

OCT. 16

Selinsgrove at Danville

This closed the season the past two years, and this crossover game should be a fun one. It's a battle of two schools looking to return to previous glory. The Seals are just three seasons removed from a PIAA Class 4A semifinal appearance, and the Ironmen had a string of five straight District 4 Class 3A championships snapped a season ago.

Bloomsburg at Lewisburg

Quarterback Wyatt Brosious is going to be a big hole to fill for the Panthers, so it will be interesting to see if Bloomsburg can build on last year. In a perfect world, the Green Dragons will have themselves in position for a Division III title with this game, and the Little Brown Jug will now be a league contest.

OCT. 23

Blue Mountain at Shamokin

This is a game that regularly appeared on the Indians' schedule back in the 1990s, but the Eagles return in 2026, and it should be a really good inter-district contest. The Eagles lost twice to eventual state champion Southern Lehigh — the same team that ended Shamokin's season last year — and the Eagles have enough returning to be a contender in District 11 Class 4A.

Southern Columbia at Jersey Shore

The Tigers make the trip to Thompson Street Stadium. There are any number of years people would get excited for this one, and who wouldn't, when the top two programs in District 4 clash. The Bulldogs probably feel they have something to prove because the Tigers have something Jersey Shore hasn't managed yet — a state title.

OCT. 30

Mount Carmel at Shamokin

It's the Coal Bucket, enough said. It will be tough to top last year's edition — Shamokin rallied with two scores in the final minute to win — but these schools always play tight games, and in a stretch in which both schools are good, it hasn't disappointed. Don't think Mount Carmel forgets that Shamokin has won two in a row after losing for 29 straight seasons.

Mifflinburg at Lewisburg

Rivalry week in the area, as the Little Brown Jug will be contested at Bucknell University. These two teams should be in the midst of the HAC-III race and jockeying for position in the Class 3A playoffs. A home playoff game could be on the line in this one.

Milton at Warrior Run

Since it's not Harvest Festival, can't call it the Tomato Bowl, but these two teams aren't particularly fond of each other. The young Black Panthers hope to make strides this season, and a win in the final game of the season would go a long way.

SINGULAR FOCUS



SINGULAR ATHLETE

Shamokin quarterback ready for senior season

Story by Todd Hummel | Photos by Robert Inglis



Marc Persing got the Shamokin job in the middle of the summer of 2023, and looking over his roster at the time, he knew his younger classes had a chance to be something special, even then.

"We knew these last two classes would be strong (the 2025 class and 2026 class)," Persing said. "They were coached well by their youth coaches, and they all have a pretty strong football background."

But he had no idea that a program-changing player lurked on his roster that year: A 5-foot-8, 135-pound freshman who was going to change the fortunes of the Shamokin football program. Oh, he'd have some help, but the quarterback-safety became the leader of a group that has won the past two District 4 Class 4A championships with just two losses. The group now has its sights set on a third straight title and maybe even more.

"He's 1-of-1," Persing said of Logan Steele. "He's truly a once-in-a-generation player."

Turning around the Shamokin program is something that Steele and the rest of the Shamokin seniors had been thinking about since they started playing Little Indian football as youngsters.

"We've been playing football together since I was eight years old. Our dads coached us at the time, and they pushed us as hard as they could," Steele said. "We've definitely kept that winning mentality. We just don't like to lose."



Shamokin's Logan Steele throws a pass during a game against Loyalsock in Coal Township in 2025.

Persing says the only time he's seen that confidence waver came during Steele's sophomore year.

Shamokin went to Thompson Street Stadium in Jersey Shore undefeated, but fell behind 13-0 and 20-7 to the Bulldogs.

"The one game in three years that I've seen doubt in his eyes was in the first half (of that game)," Persing said. "He snapped out of it in the second half.

"The rest is history."

In three seasons with the Indians, Steele has thrown for 3,000 yards and 35 touchdowns. He has also rushed for 2,000 yards and another 35 TDs.

He has been just as productive on the other side of the ball. Steele enters his senior year with more than 150 career tackles and 19 interceptions — including nine last year — five of which he has returned for scores.

But back to that game at Jersey Shore two years ago.

"The biggest thing for me (in that game) was having leaders like Chase Pensyl and Blake Hockenbroch," Steele said. "I was definitely nervous.

"That game was probably the most nervous I've ever been — starting on the road in a place like that. We hadn't beaten them yet. The game felt a little different to me. I was moving a little slower than I normally did."

But a pep talk from the seniors got Steele right as his coach said, and Steele freely admits the same thing.

"They really got me in the right state of mind," Steele said. "We went back out there (in the second half) and dominated."

That second half, which ended in a 30-28 win, made Shamokin the first District 4 team to win at Jersey Shore in five years, and the first Heartland Athletic Conference Division I team to pull off the feat in seven years.

And it also proved to Steele and the Indians that they aren't ever out of a game. They rallied to beat Jersey Shore in the regular season in 2025 after falling behind, and scored twice in the final minute to win the Coal Bucket over rival Mount Carmel to close out a second 10-0 regular season in a row.

"It really flipped a switch of resilience for us after that. We don't ever really give up," Steele said. "We just make things happen."

And the leadership Steele received that night in Jersey Shore has transferred over to him. His voice over the past two seasons has been loudest for an Indians team with plenty of big personalities.

"Logan commands respect, and I think the kids see the way he approaches things," Persing said. "We talk all the time that he always has to stay positive among his teammates because they look up to him so much. He's always giving the younger players pointers. We've had long talks about what he wants his senior year to be."

As great of a quarterback as Steele has been, he might be better on defense at safety. He intercepted nine passes last season, including a pick-6 in the state quarterfinals against Southern Lehigh. Sometimes his prowess on defense isn't quite as spectacular as some of his offensive work, but it's just as impressive.

Go back to Steele's sophomore year when both the Indians and Lewisburg were undefeated. Lewisburg's Jeremiah Davis had at least 100 yards in every game that year on his way to topping 2,000

yards, except for that meeting with the Indians. Steele and Pensyl, his running mate at safety, put on a clinic on stopping the run from the secondary.

The holes were there that game for Davis, but the Indians had something no other team had that year, including PIAA Class 3A semifinalist Danville: The kind of speed at safety from Steele and Pensyl to keep Davis from breaking big runs.

"I think playing quarterback gives me a different perspective (at safety)," Steele said. "I know how other quarterbacks think. I'm thinking he's probably going to look me off left, and then go the other way. It also helps me in what to look for when I'm watching film."

And he's no longer 135 pounds, either. Steele has been all football, all the time since his sophomore year.

"When you get older, your priorities change, but Logan's No. 1 priority has always been football," Persing said. "He's got his water bottle with him all the time in the hallway during school, and he's always eating the right things. He's done everything right for four years."

With all the distractions available — electronics, social media, etc. — Steele's singular focus on football is a rarity in 2026.

"It's really hard (not to get distracted)," Steele said. "But you have to have a love of the game, and know your goals, and you can make those sacrifices without really thinking about it."

His discipline and focus have resulted in a scholarship to play at Wake Forest.

"The staff was amazing at Wake Forest, and they really showed me what they had planned for me," Steele said. "At my official visit, I went with the players, and we really got along. Getting to know the players, they let me know what goes on down there.

"Their build-in-the-dark mentality, I love it."

Steele is expecting to play safety, and the Demon Deacons staff told him he might return kicks and punts as well. But wherever he ends up, Persing is going to be sad when Steele walks off the field as a Shamokin Indian the final time.

"He's the kind of player every coach is hoping for," Persing said.

"He's a once-in-a-career type of player, and we are going to make the most of this season as much as we possibly can."



Brant Bowman/Inside PA

Shamokin quarterback Logan Steele throws a stiff arm against Bellefonte in a PIAA Class 4A playoff game in 2025.

A PART OF SOMETHING GREATER

Pollock chose football over soccer and never looked back

Story by Todd Hummel | Photo by Robert Inglis

For those not super familiar with junior high sports, the junior high soccer season is played in the spring.

The timing allowed Thomas Pollock to play both football and soccer growing up, football in the autumn and soccer in the spring.

So only a few weeks after scoring 14 or 15 goals — Pollock couldn't remember the exact number — in his eighth-grade soccer season, he truly thought the pitch was his future as a freshman at Shikellamy.

"(Former Shikellamy) Coach (Jon) Steese said to me that I might as well just play (soccer)," Pollock said.

Listed at 5-foot-8, 115 pounds on the Braves football roster as a freshman, Pollock thought his size would impede any kind of football success.

"Like, at my size, I didn't think I could play football," Pollock said. "So, I was just gonna play soccer."

Pollock and his family were returning from vacation in the summer of 2023 when former Selinsgrove standout Logan Leiby, who had some pretty good receivers in becoming the Seals' all-time leading passer and third all-time in the state when he graduated — texted Pollock. Leiby, then an assistant at Shikellamy, asked him to come to one preseason practice with the football team.

"He just wanted me to give it a shot," Pollock said.

It's quite the scenario to consider: A choose-your-own-adventure book type of choice for both Pollock and the Shikellamy athletic program — what kind of impact could Pollock's athletic gifts have played for the soccer program and where would the football program be without Pollock.

That one practice convinced Pollock, even with his size, football was his future.

"I guess that's all it took. It was not that hard to convince me (to play football)," Pollock said. "The drills and the stuff I was doing (during practice) — the coaches just said I should probably keep coming."

From the moment he stepped on the field, Pollock impacted the Shikellamy football team.

He caught a 78-yard touchdown pass on the second drive of the opening game against Central Columbia in his freshman season — the Braves' first victory in an opener in six years at that point.

"It was actually the first catch of my career, I think," Pollock said. "I was just so excited."

It was certainly a harbinger of things to come for Pollock.

He enters his senior season with 174 catches for 2,662 yards and 22 touchdowns. He's already Shikellamy's all-time leading receiver and will be one of the top receivers in District 4 history when he wraps his career this fall.

With 338 yards, he'll join Southern Columbia's Julian Fleming, Danville's Carson Persing, Bloomsburg's John Klingerman and Warrior Run's Sam Hall as the only receivers with 3,000 career receiving yards in District 4 history. He'd be the 27th player in PIAA history to reach that milestone.

The numbers are incomprehensible to Pollock.

“I had no idea I’d be this good at football. I assumed at my size, I’d be a role player,” Pollock said. “Just do my job, and just do what the upperclassmen tell me to do.”

Things will be different for Pollock this season. The only quarterback he’s known in his career — Brody Rebuck — has graduated.

“I love that guy,” Pollock, who said he would like to join Rebuck, who is wrestling at Lock Haven, next year to play football for the Bald Eagles, said. “He was a great quarterback and an amazing guy.”

But Pollock says not to worry; whoever wins the Braves quarterback job — junior Brady Kurtz or sophomore Bobby Felmy — will have the rapport he and Rebuck had.

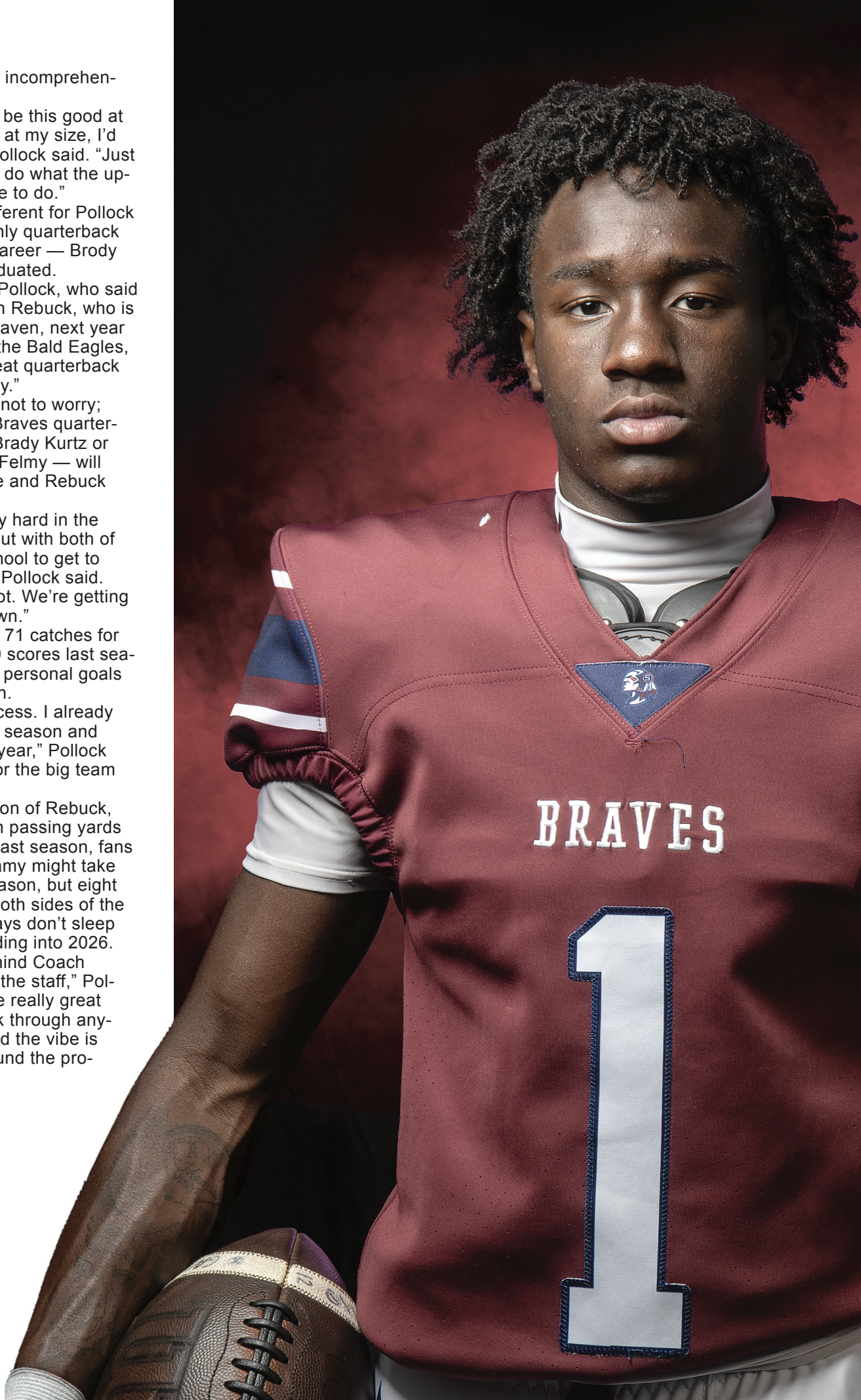
“We worked really hard in the offseason. I hung out with both of them outside of school to get to know them better,” Pollock said. “We ran routes, a lot. We’re getting that connection down.”

Pollock, who had 71 catches for 1,121 yards and 10 scores last season, hasn’t set any personal goals for the 2026 season.

“I want team success. I already had the 1,000-yard season and I was all-state last year,” Pollock said. “I’m looking for the big team goals.”

With the graduation of Rebuck, who led the team in passing yards and rushing yards last season, fans could think Shikellamy might take a step back this season, but eight starters return on both sides of the ball, and Pollock says don’t sleep on the Braves heading into 2026.

“We all stand behind Coach (Mike) Hoover and the staff,” Pollock said. “They are really great men, and we’ll stick through anything with them. And the vibe is 100% different around the program.”





SOMETHING TO PROVE

Ironmen reset under new boss

Story by William Bowman

Shawn Sheptock has been part of the Valley's football scene for more than three decades, first as an all-state player and a state champion under Whitey Williams at Mount Carmel, and most recently as an assistant coach.

For the first time in his career, he is taking over the top spot, looking for a quick reset at Danville, where he has been on the staff for the past three seasons.

After graduating record-setters on both sides of the ball from the 2024 state semifinalist — including Sheptock's son Bo — Sheptock takes over an Ironmen team that now must again replace its top passer, rusher, receiver and tackler from a team that lost to Mifflinburg in the District 4 Class 3A semifinals.

"We have players who have come up through school and have seen the success of the program," Sheptock said. "But none of them have been in those games. We've got to prove it to everyone, prove it to themselves.

"Just because Danville has been successful in the past doesn't mean anything. We have to develop our program now."

Sheptock has spent the better part of 20 years as an assistant, including stops at Shikellamy, Mount Carmel, Berwick and then Danville. He was the defensive coordinator for Danville teams that won 25 games over two seasons, before stepping away from the DC role a year ago.

"I've always dreamed of being a head coach, and there were other opportunities, but the timing was never right," Sheptock said. "I didn't want to miss my kids playing and be so involved I couldn't enjoy it."

But when his youngest son Bo, a three-time all-state player, graduated in 2024, Sheptock knew the timing might be right when the Danville job opened up.

"When Bo and I were at Danville, I had to make sure to separate football and being a dad," he said. "When we left football, it was done. I was a dad. It would have been more difficult to be a head coach with Bo there. Now I can focus on everything."

That focus involves taking over a program that has averaged more than eight wins a season dating back to 2009 and the past three head coaches winning District 4 titles.

Last year's 4-7 mark, which

DANVILLE | IRONMEN

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 3A | HEARTLAND DIVISION II



Brant Bowman/For Inside PA

Jagger Simpson caught 17 passes as a freshman in 2025.

ended a string of five consecutive District 4 3A crowns, was just the team's second losing season since 2015 and one of just three since 2009.

And in a loaded 3A field where just four teams reach the postseason, getting one of those semifinal spots feels like a good starting goal.

Offensively, the Ironmen will be young. Sheptock expects to start the season with either a freshman or sophomore at quarterback. Macon Patrick, the younger brother of former standout Madden Patrick, and Jacob Litwin, both freshmen, are in the mix, along with sophomore Jagger Simpson. Simpson completed three passes as a freshman, but is the top receiver coming back after making 17 catches as a ninth-grader.

Even with players such as Mason Kingery, Ben Koser and Braxtyn Girardi, who have played some quarterback in their careers, Sheptock is looking for some athleticism in the position, he said. Danville will also likely find a role for junior Myles Koser, who is back in his home district after spending two seasons as the quarterback at Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech.

"We do have some experience, but we're looking for something different," Sheptock said. "In our ideal offense, we are looking for someone more athletic in that position. I remember when we lost in the state semifinal to Northwestern Lehigh (in 2024), how their athletic quarterback hurt us. Having an athletic quarterback makes you tougher to defend."

Surrounding the new quarterback will be plenty of speed and skill.

Simpson and Girardi —

COACH: SHAWN SHEPTOCK

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	Lewisburg
Sept. 4	Shamokin
Sept. 11	at Central Columbia*
Sept. 18	at Milton*
Sept. 25	Mount Carmel*
Oct. 2	Montoursville*
Oct. 9	at Southern Columbia*
Oct. 16	Selinsgrove
Oct. 23	at Bloomsburg
Oct. 30	at Shikellamy

*-PHAC-II GAME

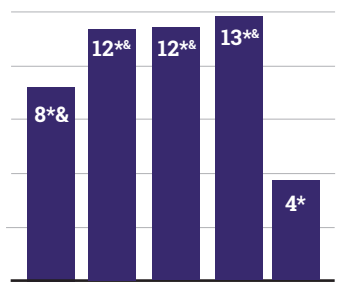
2025 RESULTS (4-7)

L	Bloomsburg	30-10
L	Mifflinburg	42-14
L	At Montoursville	33-21
W	At Central Columbia	43-7
W	Milton	28-17
L	At Southern Columbia	41-21
L	At Mount Carmel	61-13
L	Loyalsock	34-20
W	Shikellamy	26-21
W	At Selinsgrove	21-12

DISTRICT 4 3A PLAYOFFS

L	At Mifflinburg	56-14

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Carter Raup	93-161	6	8	1,284

RUSHING	Att	Yards	TD
Landon Kehoe	68	512	9
Jack Rarig	**40**	**212**	**0**

RECEIVING	Rec	Yards	TD
Kole Harvey	35	657	6
Landon Kehoe	31	423	3

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an all-state safety — offer some explosiveness, along with state track qualifier Kayvion Seabrook. Kingery caught 10 passes while playing both outside and quarterback, and Anthony Westley returns from injury to offer more speed.

"We are athletic and fast; that will be a strength," Sheptock said.

"We have a lot of athletes who can contribute, and that makes us tougher to defend."

One area where Sheptock and his coaching staff hope to do some serious work is creating some depth along the offensive and defensive lines.

Danville might have been the first program to ever start a player at quarterback one week and then left tackle the following week in returning junior Ben Koser. By the end of the season, Aiden George went from the starting tight end to starting center.

"Depth is something that has hurt us in the past, so we've been trying to get more guys ready to play," he said. "We had to improve in the weight room. I think we've done that. We can't develop size, but we can develop strength."

For his first venture as a head coach, Sheptock said he's looking to quickly build a foundation from past success and failure.

"We're trying to put some mental toughness in place, how to respond when things aren't working, working through what's hard," he said. "I've been part of two of the winningest programs in Pennsylvania, so I know the pressure that comes with it. I've experienced it as a coach and a player, so I know what it can be when it comes together."



Brant Bowman/For Inside PA

New Danville coach Shawn Sheptock addresses his team during a summer workout at Ironmen Stadium.



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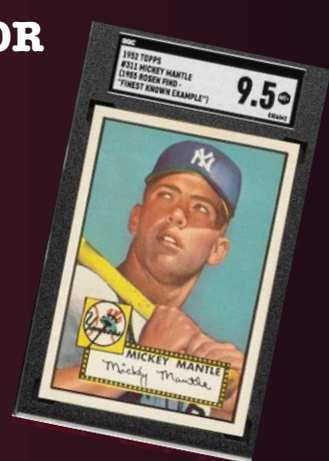

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BACK ON TRACK

Green Dragons look to take step forward

Story by Todd Hummel

One quick look at the record in the Lewisburg graphic shows 2025 was a step back from a District 4 Class 3A championship appearance for the Green Dragons in 2024.

However, closer inspection shows the Green Dragons were closer to a playoff team than most two-win teams, thanks to three one-score losses in 2025.

Reversing those fortunes will go a long way in getting Lewisburg back into the 3A playoffs, and a wide-open Heartland Athletic Conference-Division III race.

Jaylen Walker returns at wide receiver for Lewisburg, and will be one of the top pass catchers in the area. He caught 36 passes for 559 yards and 10 scores last season. A four-year starter, Walker has 79 catches for 1,451 yards and 19 touchdowns as he enters his final season.

Who will be getting him the ball might be different. Quarterback Xavier Carter threw for 1,121 yards and 13 touchdowns last season, and does return, but is being pushed by junior Jett Jamieson.

Jamieson grew an inch — up to 6-foot-5 — and added 15 pounds to his frame.

If Jamieson wins the job, Carter will move around on the offense



Frank Dimon/For Inside PA

Lewisburg's Jaylen Walker tries to run between Warrior Run's Maxwell Fogelman (11) and James Keifer at Milton High School's Alumni Field in 2025.

and just might be needed to help in the running game.

The now-graduated Nick Coleman took over the tailback role midway through the season, and led the team with 643 yards, including 171 against Loyalsock and 175 against Montoursville. Dane Shuey (206 yards, 1 TD) and Carter (136 yards, TD) are the other leading returning rushers.

When Coleman moved to tailback, Shuey moved onto the offensive line because of injuries, and is one of the returning players up front for Lewisburg at guard. Wyatt Noble and Lucas Cassidy, along with Hunter and Cole Hollenbach, return up front for the Green Dragons.

In addition to Walker and possibly Carter at the skill positions, Sean Perez and Owen Fellon are back for Lewisburg. Perez played a lot as a freshman in the defensive backfield, while Fellon, now a junior, played a lot at tight end as a freshman, but missed most of last season with an injury.

Lewisburg brings at least two players back at each level of the defense, but lost potentially its best young defender before the season. Ace Bynum was third on the team in tackles last year as a freshman, but he moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, in the offseason. Bynum's father, Shelton, is now the director of football strength and conditioning at Colorado State, following Jim Mora from UConn.

The experience in the defense will be in the backend, even with the loss of Coleman, a four-year starter in the secondary. Todd Dershem, Walker, Perez and Carter all return in the defensive backfield. Carter started at safety as a sophomore member of the 2024 Class 3A finalists. Dershem is the team's top returning tackler with 39.

The Green Dragons coaching staff will have to find a replacement for leading tackler Ethan Long at linebacker. Long had 121

LEWISBURG | GREEN DRAGONS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 3A | HEARTLAND DIVISION III



Frank Dimon/For Inside PA

Lewisburg's Todd Dershem (11) try to tackle Shamokin's Colin Steinhart at Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium in 2025.

tackles and a team-high 13.5 tackles for a loss. Fellon and Shuey will move into full-time roles at linebacker. Shuey had 4.5 tackles for a loss in a part-time role on the defensive line. Fellon had a sack in three games last season.

Lewisburg will have to find a pass rush, especially from the front. Lewisburg had 13 sacks last season, and lost the players that produced 9.5 of those sacks. Darion Jackson and Elijah Carter are the returning defensive linemen, but expect those offensive linemen mentioned earlier — Noble, Cassidy and the Hollenbachs — to get some play at the defensive front.

Lewisburg will have two Saturday games this season, both coming in back-to-back weeks in September. Hughesville will visit Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium on Sept. 12, while the Southern Columbia game on Sept. 19 will be at Alumni Field at Milton High School. Lewisburg will also play at Milton on back-to-back weeks in October. They will host Bloomsburg on Oct. 16, and will face the Black Panthers as a visitor on Oct. 23.

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COACH: ERIC WICKS

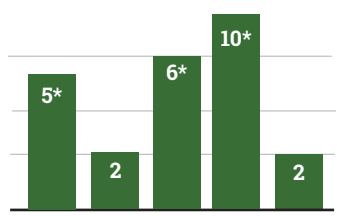
2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	at Danville
Sept. 4	at Shikellamy
Sept. 12	Hughesville*
Sept. 19	Southern Columbia
Sept. 25	at Warrior Run*
Oct. 2	at Loyalsock*
Oct. 9	Midd-West*
Oct. 16	Bloomsburg*
Oct. 24	at Milton
Oct 30	Mifflinburg*
	*-PHAC-III GAME

2025 RESULTS (2-8)

L	At Line Mountain	38-13
L	Shikellamy	29-27
L	At Bloomsburg	35-24
W	At Hughesville	36-0
L	Warrior Run	29-24
L	At Loyalsock	14-7
W	At Midd-West	35-7
L	Shamokin	38-0
L	Montoursville	38-14
L	At Mifflinburg	24-0

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Xavier Carter	**87-163**	**3**	**13**	**1,162**
RUSHING	Att	Yards	TD	
Nick Coleman	93	643	3	
Dane Shuey	**50**	**206**	**1**	
RECEIVING	Rec	Yards	TD	
Jaylen Walker	**35**	**581**	**9**	
Nick Coleman	17	186	1	

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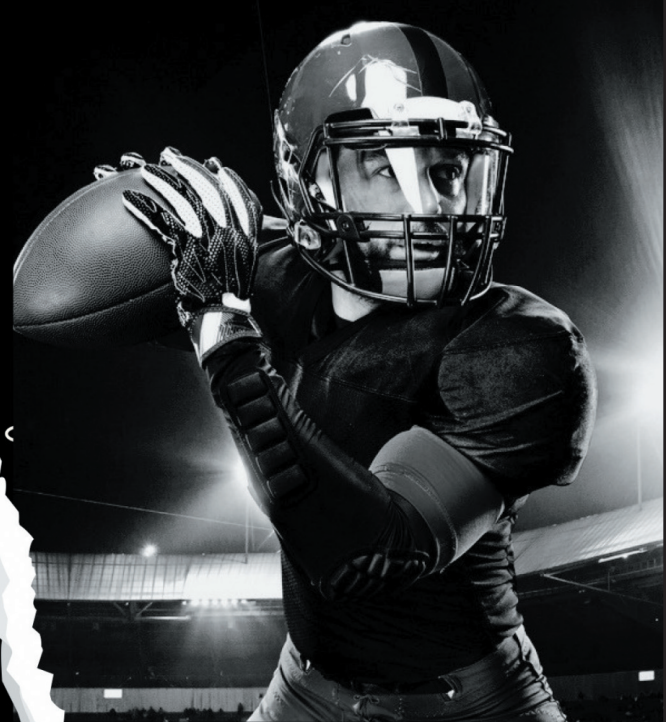

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INTO THE UNKNOWN

Eagles look to retool for title run

Story by Michael Bullock

Kaden Dunkelberger has fielded plenty of inquiries — even within his own family.

And many of the inquisitive types — including a good number of individuals who've been involved with Line Mountain's football program — are mighty, mighty curious.

"How are things going?"

"Are our Eagles going to be as successful as we've been the past few years?"

"What will we look like every time we step on the field?"

Well, based on some significant graduation losses — including plenty of sizable youngsters — Line Mountain's coaching staff has been busy adapting the playbook to the personnel on hand. That could mean plenty of things, including some stuff from the past.

"A lot of Line Mountain graduates who have run (throwback) offenses like that come up to me and ask, 'Hey, what's the game plan for this year?'" the running-back said. "They're all saying, 'Is it gonna be pretty much like when I played?'

"In my family, and we're a big sports family that likes to talk about those things, they've all said it's gonna be like old-fashioned Line Mountain."

And those who vividly remember the Eagles of the 1970s and 1980s — for the most part — will recall squads that fielded a few bigs up front.

At the same time, those Line Mountain outfits featured an endless string of athletes who could run … and hit like trucks.

Welcome back.

"It's a little of the unknown not having that set of bread and butter (plays)," coach Brandon Carson said. "We're not going in there knowing we're gonna pound the ball. We're not going in there knowing we're gonna have a great passing attack.

"It may be some of the unknown, but I'm confident in the athletes we have that we're going to be able to do multiple things to be successful."



LINE MOUNTAIN | EAGLES

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS A | MID-PENN CONFERENCE/Capital

After watching three all-state players graduate along with most of the offensive front, the Eagles (11-1, 8-0) will chase their second consecutive Mid-Penn Capital Division title and another District 4 Class A crown by trying to keep opposing defenses guessing.

Dunkelberger, the lone senior packing plenty of on-field experience, could line up just about anywhere. Same holds for sophomore Hank Malfara, Line Mountain's leading returning pass catcher. Athletic youngsters Liam Troutman, Garrett Cockeril, Luke Malfara, Niam Braswell and Preston Derk also will get their share of offensive touches.

Carson's candidates up front won't be as large collectively as their predecessors — junior Tyson Smeltz is the lone returnee — but Cade Feger, Lucas Laudenslager, Wyatt Hoffman and Elijah Bradley won't need to occupy opponents long since speed is all around them.

"I'm definitely interested to see how it turns out," said Dunkelberger, the Eagles' leading returning rusher. "We had some great talent in our senior class, but I feel we have some talent that got overshadowed by the (guys) in that other grade."

Well, Line Mountain's spotlight is about to shine brightly on those youngsters that played quite a bit a season ago or spent 2025 waiting impatiently for their opportunity.

Come late August, at Tri-Valley, the new-look/old-fashioned Eagles will give it a go.

"We're all fired up," junior Luke Malfara said.

"It's been on my mind since back in March … just Week 1 and this season. All my teammates and me, we're ready."

Ask Carson and he'll tell you he expects his defense to be better in 2026.

While the Eagles can park some big eaters up front, such as Smeltz, the rest of Line Mountain's unit can really go after the ball before smacking opposing backs, receivers and quarterbacks.

Dunkelberger and Luke Malfara are the top returning tacklers — and both are likely to be utilized in multiple ways. Feger made tremendous strides a season ago as a freshman, and he'll man an inside backer spot. Others such as Cockeril, Hank Malfara, Derk, Braswell and Troutman will make good use of their speed and quickness.

Freshman linebacker Caden Carson, the coach's son, has been working with the Eagles' front-line defense and will get his chances inside.

"Making them feel every hit," Luke Malfara said.

"Our defense wants to get after it."

Those on defense — likely to get all sorts of reps — will get their breathers when the Eagles have the football offensively. So, Carson believes his squad has plenty of depth.

Plus, Line Mountain's junior varsity had a terrific run in 2025.

"I'm excited for everything this year," Dunkelberger said. "How we're running offense; how we're running defense. It's completely different (in many ways), but it's so much fun as to how we changed things. … I feel very confident we can make another good run."

So are plenty of former football-playing Eagles.

"I'm excited about these guys," Brandon Carson added. "We may have a lot of sophomores and juniors, but we have some battle-tested guys — and we'll be ready to go."



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Line Mountain's Luke Malfara tries to intercept a pass intended for Halifax's Teegan Carroll during their game in Herndon in 2025.

COACH: BRANDON CARSON

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	at Tri-Valley
Sept. 4	at Glendale
Sept. 11	Northern Bedford
Sept. 18	at Upper Dauphin*
Sept. 25	Camp Hill*
Oct. 2	at Susquenita*
Oct. 9	Steelton-Highspire*
Oct. 16	Halifax*
Oct. 23	at Juniata*
Oct. 30	Newport*

*-MID-PENN/CAPITAL GAME

2025 RESULTS (11-1)

W	Lewisburg	38-13
W	Newport	62-7
W	At Juniata	35-0
W	Halifax	62-14
W	At Upper Dauphin	33-20
W	Steelton-Highspire	36-34
W	At Middletown	27-26
W	At James Buchanan	54-8
W	Camp Hill	49-13
W	At Susquenita	63-14

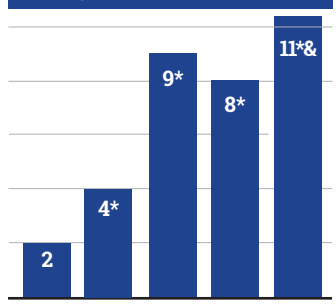
DISTRICT 4 A PLAYOFFS

W	Montgomery	20-14

PIAA CLASS A PLAYOFFS

L	Lackawanna Trail	31-20

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
K. Maurer	142-221	8	34	2,224
RUSHING	**Att**	**Yards**	**TDs**	
Kaiden Maurer	83	634	6	
K. Dunkelberger	**87**	**524**	**11**	
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yards**	**TDs**	
Dalton Schadel	51	959	13	
Bryce Smeltz	28	545	9	

RETURNEES IN BOLD

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SHAPING NEW LEADERS

Mustangs to rely on seniors to lift program

Story by Michael Bullock

Since many of Midd-West's seniors have been with him since the junior high level and earlier, Jeff Janovich is really counting heavily on his 10-man class.

For several football-related reasons.

"The senior class this year has been a breath of fresh air," Janovich said, who is heading into his third season in charge since succeeding Lance Adams at the helm of the program entering its ninth season in varsity football.

"They're involved. They're acclimated to everything," Janovich continued. "It's exciting to see the leadership shape they've grown into. They're ready to win this year.

"It's going to be a different year. It's going to be an exciting year, for sure."

Having gone winless as freshmen still adjusting to the varsity level, Janovich's seniors claimed one victory as sophomores before doubling that win count to two a season ago.

Perhaps more successes await the Mustangs, who were 2-8 overall and 0-5 in the Heartland Athletic Conference's Division III last fall. In the two-year realignment, the Mustangs are back in Division III with conference games against Mifflinburg, Lewisburg, Bloomsburg, Hughesville, Warrior Run and Loyalsock.

"Right now, four (wins) should be the minimum, in my opinion," Janovich said.

And when Hamburg pays a visit to the Midd-West Sports Complex later this month, things could be mighty interesting since the Hawks claimed a 22-21 win a season ago.

Just 26 seconds remained or the Mustangs may have opened the season 2-0.

With a handful of returning starters on the offensive side of the football, Janovich and his coaching staff have altered the Midd-West attack to fit the current personnel.

The offensive front returns only tackle and PHAC-III all-league selection Graydon Van Horn. Jared Devine is back at tackle after missing the 2025 season with an injury, while Barry Penepacker will slide in at center after playing tackle.

Janovich also has several candidates challenging for the starting nods at guard.

Bigger and faster this time around — he's also more adept at reading defensive schemes — junior Witten Carter is Midd-West's No. 1 quarterback.

Carter shared time as a sophomore with two others who've graduated, but now the job is his after throwing for 193 yards and a touch-

MIDD-WEST | MUSTANGS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 4A | HEARTLAND DIVISION III



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Midd-West's Noah Kratzer, left, and Mason Fultz bring down a Hughesville player during a game in 2025.

down a year ago.

Sophomore Jacob Acker is Carter's understudy.

Opting to utilize the spread offense most of the time, Janovich & Co. will feature more typical sets than before. Nonetheless, senior all-star Noah Kratzer returns after rushing for 300-plus yards during an injury-plagued season. Physical backs Jiovaunni Drumheller — Drumheller has plenty of speed, Janovich said, — and Maverick Smith will also get their share of touches.

"We're counting on leverage and athleticism there," Janovich said.

While veterans Mason Fultz and Konnor Kullman return on the flanks, the Mustangs also sport a home-run threat in D'Angelo Drumheller, who averaged nearly 20 yards on six catches last year. Janovich also had other candidates whom he believes will make the competition crisp once training camp finally opened.

COACH: JEFF JANOVICH

2026 SCHEDULE

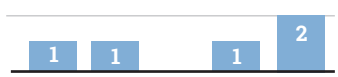
Aug. 28	Hamburg
Sept. 4	Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech
Sept. 11	at Warrior Run*
Sept. 18	Loyalsock*
Sept. 25	Bloomsburg*
Oct. 2	at Hughesville*
Oct. 9	at Lewisburg*
Oct. 16	Mifflinburg*
Oct. 23	at Central Columbia
Oct. 30	at Holy Redeemer

*-PHAC-III GAME

2025 RESULTS (2-8)

W	At Central Columbia	27-7
L	At Hamburg	22-21
L	Warrior Run	48-20
L	At Loyalsock	40-20
L	Hughesville	18-7
L	Bloomsburg	48-13
L	Lewisburg	35-7
L	Milton	47-0
L	At Mifflinburg	62-0
W	Holy Redeemer	34-26

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-Playoffs

&-District Champion

#-PIAA Champion

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Brady Janovich	31-67	7	2	327
RUSHING	**Att**	**Yards**		**TDs**
Kyle Shupp	131	472		4
Noah Kratzer	**62**	**314**		**5**
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yards**		**TDs**
Mason Fultz	**13**	**128**		**2**
D. Drumheller	**6**	**116**		**0**

RETURNEES IN BOLD



Frank Dimon/For Inside PA

Mifflinburg's Kaiden Kmett, left, moves in on Midd-West's Witten Carter at Wildcat Stadium in 2025.

Van Horn and Kratzer — both all-league choices on both sides of the ball — are the most experienced members of Midd-West's defensive front. Penepacker and Smith started some in 2025, while Devine figures to be part of the rotation now that he's healthy.

Fultz gained all-league recognition at outside linebacker, but one significant move has a bigger, stronger Aiden Rose shifting to outside backer from strong safety.

Everyone else will be new.

An experienced secondary featuring Drumheller, Kullman and R.J. Wilt as the frontrunners for starting spots, but some of the newer candidates could land in the rotation. While the defensive backs can really run, they also possess terrific lift, Janovich said.

Although the players have been identified, now comes the difficult part.

"They have to go in every Friday night and believe they can stick with whoever is on the other sideline," Janovich said.

"And you've got to put the team over your own stats, over your own playing time, over everything else before we can have success as a unit.

"I've been really happy with and pleased with the participation efforts, but the way these kids have really gathered around each other is definitely different than the last 10-12 years."

Midd-West's anticipated turnout was hovering around 40, up from last year, and that's adding even more excitement to what the Mustangs believe they have percolating.

Added Janovich: "I'm ready for it to get going."

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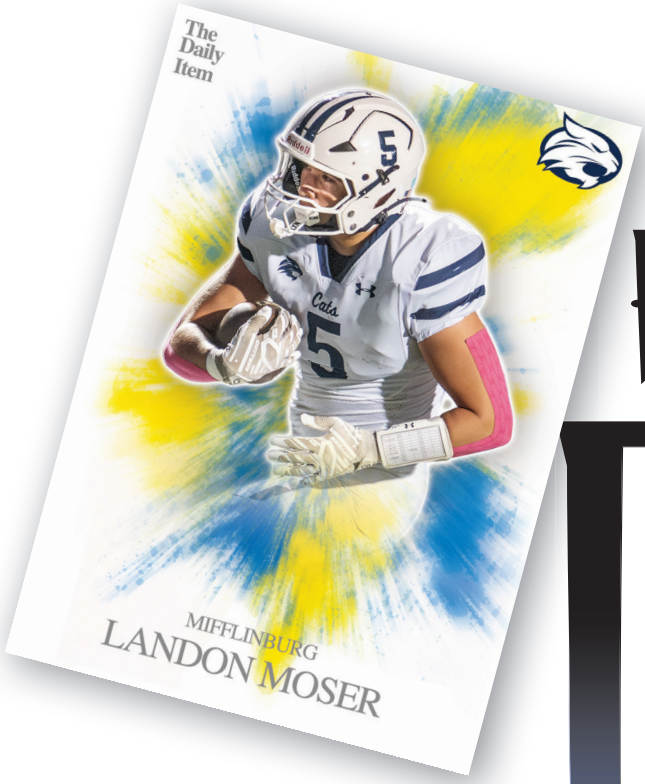


FIGHTING TOOTH & CLAW

Wildcats look to reload after title run

Story by Harold Raker

The lone downside to Mifflinburg's fantastic 2025 season is that much of the talent that led to that success vanished after diplomas were handed out in June.

Wildcats coach Cody Botts, however, has made it clear that he does not intend for his program to be a flash in the pan.

His goal, he said recently, is to have a championship-caliber team year in and year out.

But how realistic is that goal after the loss of more than a dozen seniors and most of the offensive production from a team that posted arguably the greatest season in school history a year ago?

Last year's Wildcats won the school's first District 4 Class 3A championship and finished 10-3 after a narrow state-playoff loss to Scranton Prep.

But that was accomplished with a roster that included a senior wide receiver, Landen Murray, the likes of whom Botts admitted the school may never see again, and a bruising, strong-armed senior quarterback, Chad Martin.

Botts is excited about a 2026 team that Wildcats fans should enjoy watching this fall.

"Our senior class was pretty loaded with talent, and anytime you lose that many kids in a senior class, it takes a toll on the team," he said, quickly adding, "but culture is the key. (It's about) building perspective."

Botts, a two-way lineman for his predecessor, Jason Dressler, said that having graduated from Mifflinburg (and Lycoming College), one of his goals was to turn the program around and surround himself with the right people as coaches.

What happened last season and what he believes lies ahead are all part of that plan.

Botts already has his quarter-

MIFFLINBURG | WILDCATS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 3A | HEARTLAND DIVISION III



Brant Bowman/For Inside PA

Mifflinburg sophomore Seth Hartman runs for yards as Danville's Carter Raup gives chase during a HAC-II game at Ironmen Stadium in 2025.

back, sophomore Brennen Snyder.

"Brennen is a three-sport guy who has had success as a freshman in every sport he's played," Botts said, referencing the baseball and basketball teams.

"He's been in tough situations; he's been in some big situations. So we feel real good about his ability to make plays," Botts said.

Refering to Martin, the coach said, "You're not going to get many 235-pound quarterbacks who are running over linebackers. We were very fortunate to have him, but Brennen is going to make some pretty special plays on Friday nights."

No one will be asked to

COACH: CODY BOTTS

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	Shikellamy
Sept. 4	Selinsgrove
Sept. 11	at Bloomsburg*
Sept. 18	at Hughesville*
Sept. 25	Loyalsock*
Oct. 2	Warrior Run*
Oct. 9	at Central Mountain
Oct. 16	at Midd-West*
Oct. 23	Montoursville
Oct. 30	at Lewisburg*

*-PHAC-III GAME

2025 RESULTS (10-3)

W	Loyalsock	47-13
W	At Danville	42-14
W	At Mount Carmel	48-20
W	At Montoursville	35-7
L	At Hollidaysburg	49-14
W	Milton	49-7
L	Southern Columbia	21-14
W	At Central Columbia	65-3
W	Midd-West	62-0
W	Lewisburg	35-0

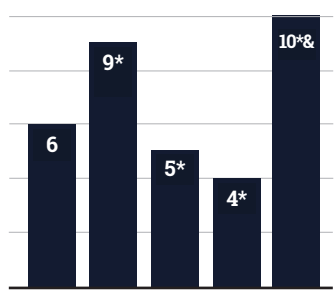
DISTRICT 4 3A PLAYOFFS

W	Danville	56-14
W	Montoursville	35-12

PIAA CLASS 3A PLAYOFFS

L	Scranton Prep	28-21

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Chad Martin	148-238	7	33	2,739
RUSHING	**Att**	**Yards**		**TD**
Landon Moser	**104**	**661**		**10**
Seth Hartman	**90**	**518**		**7**
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yards**		**TD**
Landen Murray	58	1,493		20
Jackson Griffith	45	703		6

RETURNEES IN BOLD

replicate the accomplishments of Murray — a two-time all-stater — he said.

"We won't be able to throw the ball 80 yards downfield and expect him to catch it.''

He said the passing game will be fine, but will just look different.

The receivers cupboard is far from bare.

"I don't think we're going to line up and just kind of call out when we want to score, but I do think we have a really good group of young kids who are really good athletes," he said.

In addition to a large group of underclassmen, Botts said he will count on a pair of talented senior receivers.

"Senior Jackson Marr started both ways last year, and he will get a heavy dose of everything we're doing offensively,'' Botts said.

The other is Grady Brubaker (6-4, 220), a talented basketball player who has not played football since junior high.

"He's a big kid and he's going to hopefully make a big splash,'' Botts said.

He is also excited about a trio of sophomores: Brady Threet, Hayden Showalter and Brayden Resseguie.

Both running backs return: Senior Landon Moser (6-3, 225) rushed for 664 yards and 10 touchdowns last year, and junior Seth Hartman added 518 with seven scores. Sophomore Dylan Catherman will also be in the mix.

Although Botts said his team lost nine defensive starters, "I think our biggest need where we need to step up is our offensive line.''

"We lost four or five starters, and we probably averaged 265 to 270 across the board, and we don't have that anymore," he said.

"The kids we do have we feel really good about as far as their strength and they're going to be very fast — just different from what we could do in the past.''

Botts and the staff were still working on the front line personnel as camp approached, but he said it would include senior Lucas Miller and juniors Isaiah Kurtz and Liam Tressler.

The good news on defense is that arguably the best pair of Landons in the district, Tucker and Moser, are back.

Botts said junior outside linebacker Moser (47 tackles, 5 for loss and 3 interceptions) "is a Division I type of kid; he's our stud. He got bigger and better, and he's going to have a phenomenal season."

Senior inside linebacker Landon Tucker (5-11, 220), an all-state selection, logged 53 tackles (51 solo) last year along with 16 tackles for loss and four quarterback hurries.

"He was virtually unblockable at times last year; his skill set is very impressive," the coach said.

Kurtz and sophomore Hudson Troup will also play in the middle.

Quarterback Snyder ("our best defender," Botts said), will also patrol the secondary, joined by senior cornerback Marr, who had a pick-6 in the district title game.

Brubaker will play somewhere on defense.

The Wildcats will move from Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference Division II to Division III, where their conference opponents will be Lewisburg, Bloomsburg, Hughesville, Loyalsock, Warrior Run and Midd-West.

Botts said he is not familiar with Warrior Run nor Hughesville, but Lewisburg is a huge rival and Bloomsburg and Loyalsock are always a challenge.



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BIGGER, STRONGER, FASTER

Black Panthers look to bounce back in tough HAC-II

Story by Michael Bullock

Searching for a particular word that seems to be on the tips of numerous Milton tongues?

Well, "dominant" seems to be making the rounds.

"We want to be physical and dominant and make teams wear out by the fourth quarter," said junior linebacker Schuyler Humphrey, who landed all-league props last season from the Pennsylvania Heartland's Division II coaches after totaling 87 stops, including 4.5 for loss.

"We want to be a lot better than last year," added energetic junior edge rusher Brady O'Rourke, another all-league pick who posted 105 tackles — 18.5 for loss and 7.5 quarterback sacks — in an all-state season. "We want to be in every game we play, we want to control the line of scrimmage, and we want to physically dominate other teams."

Easier said than done — particularly within a PHAC-II landscape littered with land mines — but that's why Matt Wilson's Black Panthers (3-7, 1-5) have been living in the weight room and doing everything possible to get bigger, stronger and faster since last season ended.

Here's another plus:

Seven youngsters who landed all-league nods return on the defensive side of the football for a Milton program that spent many nights trying to stop opposing offenses since the Black Panthers struggled to move the ball — despite the efforts of do-everything Monty Fisher.

Hence, the Panthers' collective optimism.

Yet …

"We return a lot of guys on the defensive side, and I try not to blow their heads up. I try to keep them in check," Wilson said. "We lost games (last season), so we have to improve and work on things. … Our whole coaching staff is excited for that side of the ball."

In addition to O'Rourke and Humphrey, Wilson's Panthers return beefy lineman Carter Letteer up front, senior inside backer Jackson Wertz and junior linebacker Jack Reynolds. Wertz matched O'Rourke with 105 stops.

Gavin Whitenight, the other senior on Milton's roster, is likely to play closer to the line of scrimmage since he's a good run-stopper, despite his lack of physical size.

And then there's junior athlete Luis Santos, who may find himself in the box at times and playing strong safety at others. He's a 195-pound truck with terrific speed and athleticism, Wilson said.

"As a staff and as a school district, we're more impressed with Santos than any kid we have," Wilson said.

"He never played a down of football as a kid. His first down of football was in eighth grade. … He has so bought into the weight room and trying to be better."

So have Humphrey and O'Rourke.

"O'Rourke was a menace on the outside coming off the edge," added Wilson, referencing the 225-pounder. "He got bigger. He got stronger. He's killing the weights. His mindset is out of this world. He wants to dominate every single play."

A huge Ohio State fan, O'Rourke



MILTON | BLACK PANTHERS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 4A | HEARTLAND DIVISION II

has tried to model his game after former Buckeyes edge rushers Joey Bosa, Nick Bosa and Chase Young. His OSU partisanship is understandable once you learn his grandfather, Larry O'Rourke, was a teammate of the likes of Archie Griffin, Randy Gradishar, Bob Brudzinski, Neal Colzie and Tim Fox.

It also explains why O'Rourke's Milton jersey sports the No. 9 since his energetic granddad wore No. 99 at Ohio State before the Philadelphia Eagles drafted him in 1975.

Brady O'Rourke also is wound up because the Black Panthers are planning to bounce him around so opposing offenses can't run away from him. Opponents already are trying to find him and set blocking schemes during pre-snap calls — so he doesn't wreck play after play.

"I'm pumped," O'Rourke admitted. "You can't really pick up on anything. If I'm moving around, it gives me a lot more opportunities (to make stops or get to the quarterback). … Moving around is awesome. I'm really excited."

Wilson also believes his attack is going to be more effective — even with Fisher beginning his college career at Lock Haven. All-league selection Blake Kozicki will play tackle and center, respectively, while Letteer and Wertz will fit somewhere.

Sophomore Kamryn Wilson has the lead on the quarterback position, while Santos and Brody Locke will be part of Milton's running-back-by-committee approach.



Frank Dimon/For Inside PA

Milton's Jackson Wertz and Cole Rhodes (10) try to tackle Montoursville's Hayden Harvey at Alumni Field in 2025.

Jensen Souder and JaCori Brown are set on the flanks. Humphrey and O'Rourke will play tight end or H-back whenever they line up offensively.

Bottom line is Wilson just wants his offense to share the ball, adding intrigue while preventing opposing defenses from locking in on one or two players.

"It's going to be all hands on deck with everybody chipping in," Wilson said. "Our vision is we need to win, and the best way to win is if everybody's chipping in and we're not really focused on the one trying to do all the stuff."

Establishing dominance will help.

"We're a step ahead of where we were last year," Humphrey said. "I think everyone's determined to bring winning back to Milton."



COACH: MATT WILSON

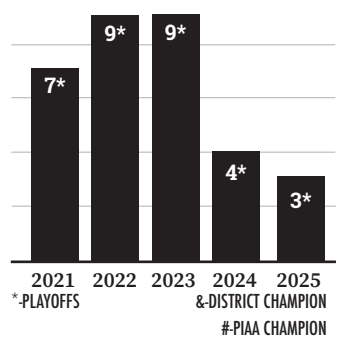
2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	Bloomsburg
Sept. 4	at Hughesville
Sept. 11	at Mount Carmel*
Sept. 18	Danville*
Sept. 25	at Montoursville*
Oct. 2	Northwest
Oct. 9	Central Columbia*
Oct. 16	at Southern Columbia*
Oct. 23	Lewisburg
Oct. 30	at Warrior Run
	-PHAC-II GAME

2025 RESULTS (3-7)

L	Shikellamy	33-15
L	Montoursville	35-7
L	At Southern Columbia	35-0
W	South Williamsport	25-0
L	At Danville	28-17
L	At Mifflinburg	49-7
W	Central Columbia	55-0
W	At Midd-West	47-0
L	At Mount Carmel	48-25
L	Warrior Run	41-10

5-YEAR WIN TREND

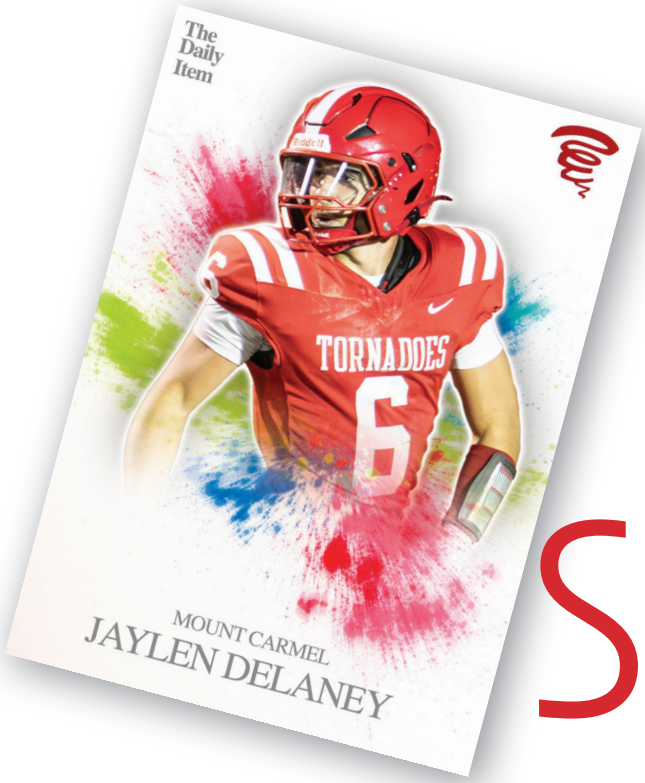


*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Monty Fisher	36-98	6	7	429
RUSHING	**Att**	**Yards**		**TDs**
Monty Fisher	182	1,484		17
Jaden Canelo	42	164		0
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yards**		**TDs**
Cole Rhodes	7	213		3
Jensen Souder	**13**	**134**		**2**

RETURNERS IN BOLD



LEARNING FROM LAST SEASON

Red Tornadoes look to grow from playoff loss

Story by Harold Raker

Talking about his team's prospects for the new season, a high school coach says that he is returning most of the starters from the previous year.

One pessimistic fan mutters sarcastically under his breath, "So, what's the good news?"

For 11th-year coach John Darrah and his Mount Carmel Area Red Tornadoes, that is the good news.

The veterans will not forget their final game of 2025, a wild 43-42 triple-overtime loss to Montoursville in the District 3A semifinals, which sent the boys in red into the offseason on a sour note.

Some players would want to wipe such a game from their memories, but, for Darrah, that 2025 finale could prove beneficial.

"You always learn something from a game, whether it's a win or a loss, and I think we knew we were playing some of our best football at the end of the year," Darrah said.

"We played well enough to win that game, but the mistakes and turnovers, and the penalties didn't help us.''

He said the turnovers — including a pair of lost fumbles — were the deciding factor.

"It doesn't always matter how well you execute if you're going to give them extra possessions,'' he said. "We need to work on protecting the ball.''

But with a lot of underclassmen, including freshmen, playing in that game, his returning players have the experience and know the pressures and the level of execution necessary just from having been in a game like that.

Turnovers coupled with some significant injuries contributed to the team losing four of its first five games, putting its playoff chances in dire jeopardy.

Yet the experience may lead to better games ahead. The Red Tornadoes won four in a row before that season-ending loss.

Promising freshman running back/linebacker Michael Higgins went down for the season in week three, and sophomore back/linebacker Jason Klokis and backup quarterback/defensive back James Spears each missed games due to injuries.

The biggest graduation loss is at quarterback, where Gavin Marshalek threw for 3,503 yards and 34 touchdowns in his four-year career, including 2,786 yards and 27 TDs as a starter the past two seasons.

Darrah and his coaches were watching a preseason battle between Spears and junior Alekzandr Lukoskie to step under center.

Although Michael Kimsal graduated, the running back group is deep. In addition to the returning Higgins, the running backs/wing backs will include seniors Cooper Karycki and

MT CARMEL | RED TORNADOES

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 3A | HEARTLAND DIVISION II

Logan Shuder and sophomores Lance Glenney and Tyson Toms and junior Klokis.

Darrah runs a lot of two-tight end sets with wingbacks often without wide receivers.

The tight ends will be returning seniors Max Karycki and Josh Blessing and junior Chance Swatski. Junior Aiden Brokenshire and first-year senior Laden Williams will also see action.

The receiver corps will include returning standout senior Jaylen Delaney and classmates Kenny Miller, Logan Shuder and Bradley Clark and junior Jaxson Boblick. Brokenshire and Max Karycki will also line up as receivers.

The Red Tornadoes have been blessed for the past few years with large, athletic linemen on both sides of the ball. Fans this season might be asking, "Where's the beef?"

Acknowledging a fall-off in size, Darrah said, "We don't have many 300-pound linemen like we have had in past seasons, but I like the aggressiveness of our kids; they're not huge, but they're very aggressive."

Sophomore Sam Robert (5-foot-11, 270 pounds) will man center, sophomore Christian Bibbus (5-10, 210) will be at guard along with others including Blessing (5-10, 205), junior Jason Dillow (5-10, 195), and sophomore Toms (5-9, 180); and tackles will include senior Aazaziel Lilly (6-1, 190) sophomore Dominick Lentini (5-10, 265). Senior Aiden Williams (5-11, 195) will also be in the mix on the line.



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Mount Carmel's Aidan Brokenshire tries to run past Mifflinburg's Isaiah Kurtz on a kick return in Mount Carmel in 2025.

Defensively, the interior up front will see Lentini, Max Karycki — already a three-time all-state selection — Lilly and Bibbus; outside linebackers will be Swatski, Brokenshire and Higgins with Klokis, Blessing and sometimes Higgins on the inside.

In the secondary, the players will be Delaney, Cooper Karycki, Spears, Glenney, Lukoskie, Shuder and possibly junior Jaxon Boblick.

With a new two-year cycle in the Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference schedule, Mount Carmel remains in Division II, but loses Mifflinburg, which dropped to Division III,

The Red Tornadoes will still play Montoursville and arch-rival Southern Columbia.

The longtime opening night opponent, rival North Schuylkill, has moved to week four with the Red Tornadoes opening with a new opponent, Schuylkill Haven, followed by another one, Pottsville.

Darrah said he believes the usual teams will be good again this season, but his concern remains with his own team.

"I feel good going into this year," he said. "Last year, early in the season, we had some difficulties.

"We had injuries, young kids, some never played football before.

"We had our struggles, but at the end of the season we were a dangerous team and playing some good football. We have some really good senior leadership and we are ready to get rolling."

COACH: JOHN DARRAH

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	Schuylkill Haven
Sept. 4	at Pottsville
Sept. 11	Milton*
Sept. 18	at North Schuylkill
Sept. 25	at Danville*
Oct. 2	Southern Columbia*
Oct. 9	at Montoursville*
Oct. 16	Central Colimbia*
Oct. 23	Central Mountain
Oct. 30	at Shamokin

*-PHAC-II GAME

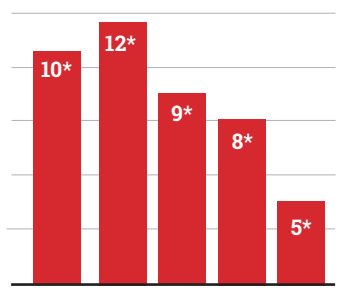
2025 RESULTS (5-6)

L	North Schuylkill	62-20
W	At Central Columbia	48-20
L	Mifflinburg	48-20
L	At Southern Columbia	49-16
L	Montoursville	27-0
W	Hughesville	41-13
W	Danville	61-13
W	At Central Mountain	35-13
W	Milton	48-25
L	At Shamokin	26-21

DISTRICT 4 3A PLAYOFFS

L	At Montoursville	43-42, 3OT

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
G. Marshalek	62-108	3	12	964
RUSHING	**Att**		**Yards**	**TDs**
Jaylen Delaney	**104**		**850**	**12**
Michael Kimsal	88		497	6
RECEIVING	**Rec**		**Yards**	**TDs**
Jaylen Delaney	**21**		**403**	**4**
A. Brokenshire	**11**		**276**	**3**

RETURNEES IN BOLD



IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY

Seals feeling hopeful with larger roster, lighter schedule

Story by Todd Hummel

It's not a familiar position for the Selinsgrove football program, but injuries and one of the toughest schedules in Pennsylvania had the Seals suffer through a one-win season in 2025, their worst in 14 years.

Selinsgrove played four teams that finished the regular season unbeaten in 2025: Shamokin, Hollidaysburg, Berwick and Twin Valley. Shamokin (4A) and Hollidaysburg (5A) both reached the state quarterfinals while Twin Valley reached the 4A semifinals.

"It's not often you can add Southern Columbia to your schedule, and it gets easier," Selinsgrove coach Matt Wenrich joked.

However, more importantly, the Seals' roster numbers have increased greatly, Wenrich said.

Selinsgrove will have more than 50 players to start the year, after spending most of last season in the mid 30s. The Seals have had plenty of numbers at their summer workouts as well, the coach said.

"I think I had more kids at the summer stuff this year and in the



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Selinsgrove's Andrew Gesumaria runs for a touchdown against Williamsport in 2025.

weight room than I did on the roster last season," Wenrich said.

Growing his roster and getting kids back out for the team are things that Wenrich worked hard on this past offseason.

"Some of it is our class sizes are getting bigger, and I feel like all I do sometimes (in the middle school) is recruit kids for football," Wenrich said. "Plus we have Coach (John) Aument and Coach (Pete) Voss in the high school, who are constantly talking with and checking in with kids."

His defensive coordinator — Ryan Keiser — will also be teaching in the high school starting this season, and teach power weights class.

The Seals will be experienced, but still young — Wenrich still only has four seniors on the roster.

That experience starts under center, where senior Rocco Amato will enter his third season as the starting quarterback.

"Rocco has gotten bigger and faster in the offseason. I'd like to see him more willing to run with the football this season," Wenrich said.

"He seems so much more athletic; I think he'll be able to get some yards himself."

Amato has his top two targets back in Pete Scorsone and Jonathan Neidig, both juniors. Neidig had 27 grabs for 230 yards and a score, while Scorsone had eight catches for 189 yards and two scores. Wenrich said that both have put in the work in the weight room in the offseason.

With the graduation of Brett Rice, the Seals spread around the carries. Gabe Paradis and Cale Badman return to the team after a year away. Max Sheltman is back from last year's knee injury, and the group of freshmen who got some play last year — Jarren Hackenberg, Jet Hollenbach and Colton Fegley — are a year more mature after more varsity playing time than intended because of injury.

"It's going to be running-back-by-committee," Wenrich said. "We've got a lot more depth back there than we had in previous years."

Selinsgrove has three starters back on the offensive line — Owen Hoffman, Ethan Portwood and Landon Magnuson — as well.

"Ethan Portwood is the biggest, strongest kid on the team. Owen Hoffman is the heart and soul; he'll run through a brick wall if you ask him," Wenrich said. "We have position battles at the other spots. We

SELINSGROVE | SEALS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 4A | HEARTLAND DIVISION I



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Selinsgrove's Rocco Amato looks for room to run against Twin Valley in Selinsgrove in 2025.

should have a lot of depth up front."

Wenrich also said to keep a watch on senior Andrew Gesumaria.

"He's going to be an offensive utility knife," Wenrich said.

That will be huge for an offense that scored 14 or more points just three times last season.

Hoffman returns to lead the Selinsgrove defense along with Neidig and Scorsone in the secondary. Hoffman led the team with 84 tackles last season. Scorsone had four interceptions.

"I feel a lot more comfortable about the defense this season. That depth at running back will also play over into the linebacking corps," Wenrich said.

Sheltman, who started on the defensive line as a freshman two seasons ago, will return to his defensive end spot after missing the final four games with an injury.

Wenrich hopes to have some of that offensive line depth pay off in the same way on the interior of his defensive line.

"The more guys we can find for our defensive line will allow us to keep our offensive line fresh," Wenrich said. "The fewer guys we have going two ways (up front), the better it will be for us."

Even after an uncharacteristic down year, there is optimism around a young team that Wenrich said "got a lot more experience than they normally would have at that age, last season.

"It should be a big step forward for us this season; we still only have four seniors. It's a young team," Wenrich said. "The turnout is nearly doubled, and there is just a much better feeling around the team.

"There has been so much buy-in."

COACH: MATT WENRICH

2026 SCHEDULE

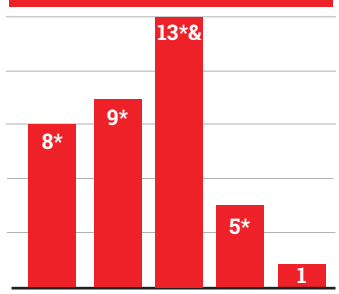
Aug. 28	Juniata
Sept. 4	at Mifflinburg
Sept. 11	at Jersey Shore*
Sept. 18	Central Mountain*
Sept. 25	at Williamsport*
Oct. 2	at Shamokin*
Oct. 9	Shikellamy*
Oct. 16	at Danville
Oct. 23	Tamaqua
Oct. 30	Southern Columbia

*-PHAC-I GAME

2025 RESULTS (1-9)

L	At Juniata	18-7
L	Twin Valley	62-0
L	Jersey Shore	49-6
W	At Central Mountain	27-3
L	Williamsport	29-23
L	At Shamokin	57-12
L	At Shikellamy	48-7
L	Hollidaysburg	42-14
L	At Berwick	56-0
L	Danville	21-12

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS &-DISTRICT CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Rocco Amato	**60-131**	**7**	**2**	**610**
RUSHING	Att	Yards		TD
Brett Rice	159	764		7
Isaac Thomas	**23**	**88**		**0**
RECEIVING	Rec	Yards		TD
Jonathan Neidig	**27**	**233**		**1**
Peter Scorsone	**7**	**159**		**2**

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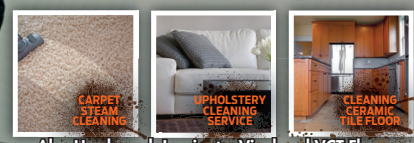

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KINGS OF THE HILL

Indians ready for favorite role

Story by Todd Hummel

The numbers, as they say, don't lie — 25-2, back-to-back District 4 Class 4A championships and a berth in the state quarterfinals in 2025.

All-staters Zakem Clinton and Izak Glover graduated and took their talents to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference — Clinton to Slippery Rock and Glover to Lock Haven — but there is still more than enough talent back in Coal Township for the Indians to chase a third straight district title.

"We still feel like we have some heavy hitters coming back," Shamokin coach Marc Persing said. "We feel like in the majority of the games we play this season, we'll have the best football players on the field."

Speed and versatility will be the name of the game for Shamokin on both sides of the ball.

It all starts with Logan Steele, who could line up anywhere from quarterback to wing to wide as the No. 1 receiver for the Indians. Steele, a Wake Forest commit, will make the offense go — he ran for 1,126 yards and 21 scores, along with throwing for 666 yards and another 10 TDs.

"We want defenses to have to account for him anywhere on the field," Persing said. "Anytime we



SHAMOKIN | INDIANS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 4A | HEARTLAND DIVISION I



Inside PA file photo

Shamokin's Logan Steele carries the ball as several Shikellamy defenders pursue in 2025.

get the defense to be more hectic before the snap is a win for us."

Add Colin Steinhart and Ryan Bickert to the Indians who will be moving around as well. Steinhart led the team with 31 grabs for 421 yards and five TDs.

"He's another athlete who will move around on the offensive side of the ball," Persing said. "He played out wide and some tight end last year, and he'll line up at wing at times as well."

In fact, so will the rest of the front line of the boys basketball team: Xavier Paul and Cru Schroyer.

"We have a couple of strong, physical kids that are about 6-foot-2, 6-3 that can go get the football," Persing said.

Another one of those moving parts on offense will be Bickert, the District 4 200-meter champion and the runner-up in the 100. He'll have a bigger role on the offense after starting the past two years in the defensive backfield.

"Ryan has been very patient the past two years, playing behind some guys on offense," Persing said. "We really expect him to have a breakout year. He's going to be a receiver and sometimes line up in the backfield with Logan."

One guy who might not be moving around much on the offensive side of the ball is Noah Ringes.

The senior ran for 417 yards and six touchdowns in a limited role, but those times the past few seasons that you saw Clinton come in to nail down some Shamokin wins in the second half, that role will fall to Ringes this season.

And Clinton's six sacks and fearsome attack off the edge will also likely fall to Ringes to replicate as well. Ringes finished with six sacks and 15 tackles for loss last year despite missing the first five games of the season.

"Noah has had a fantastic offseason. He's bigger, faster and stronger," Persing said. "We really expect him to step in and take that role Zakem had."

The speed and versatility will also carry over on defense. With Glover and his 400-pound frame off to Slippery Rock, the Indians won't have nearly as much size up front.

Persing calls Nate Kaleta, a junior, Shamokin's next Division I player.

COACH: MARC PERSING

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	at Pottsville
Sept. 4	at Danville
Sept. 11	Shikellamy*
Sept. 18	Jersey Shore*
Sept. 25	at Central Mountain*
Oct. 2	Selinsgrove*
Oct. 9	Williamsport*
Oct. 16	Hanover
Oct. 23	at Blue Mountain
Oct. 30	Mount Carmel

*-PHAC-I GAME

2025 RESULTS (13-1)

W	At Pottsville	34-14
W	Lake-Lehman	49-7
W	At Shikellamy	52-21
W	Jersey Shore	43-42 OT
W	At Central Mountain	35-7
W	Selinsgrove	57-12
W	At Williamsport	42-7
W	At Lewisburg	38-0
W	Loyalsock	42-7
W	Mount Carmel	26-21

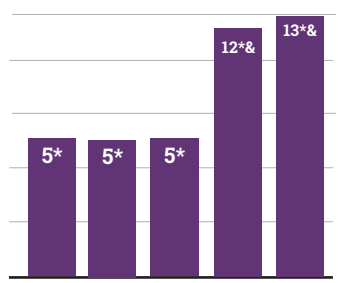
DISTRICT 4 4A PLAYOFFS

W	Shikellamy	37-7
W	Jersey Shore	37-0

PIAA 4A PLAYOFFS

W	At Bellefonte	42-13
L	Southern Lehigh	30-27

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Logan Steele	**46-112**	**8**	**10**	**693**
RUSHING	**Att**		**Yards**	**TD**
Zakem Clinton	186		1,575	20
Logan Steele	**129**		**1,168**	**21**
RECEIVING	**Rec**		**Yards**	**TD**
Colin Steinhart	**32**		**436**	**5**
Jayce Ginck	8		131	3

RETURNEES IN BOLD



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Shamokin's Noah Ringes tries to run past Shikellamy's Corbin Stahl during a District 4 Class 4A semifinal game in Coal Township in 2025.

"He's been blossoming right in front of our eyes. He's been taking care of his body, working hard in the weight room and at speed and agility," Persing said. "He's going to have some options going into his senior season."

Leading tackler Liam Montgomery returns to the linebacking unit, and Steele and Steinhart, along with Bickert, will anchor a secondary that intercepted 26 passes last season.

Steinhart and Steele each intercepted nine passes in 2025. Steele's pick-6 in the state quarterfinals gave the Indians a 10-point lead over eventual state champion Southern Lehigh before the Spartans rallied to end Shamokin's season, while Steinhart had five interceptions in a rout of Jersey Shore in the District 4 Class 4A title game.

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ALL IN

Braves' resurgence isn't over despite graduation losses

Story by Todd Hummel

The numbers put up by Brody Rebuck last season for Shikellamy were undeniable.

All-time leading passer. Led the team in rushing yards and rushing touchdowns in 2025. Plus, 17 tackles for a loss at linebacker.

So, yes, Rebuck was a big loss for the Braves.

"Brody was a machine for us last year," second-year coach Mike Hoover said. "All those athletes around Brady last year are back, and maybe the new quarterback isn't a 220-pound bulldozer, but they'll be able to make plays on the outside on pulls (in the zone read) and designed runs, though."

The most important thing the new Shikellamy quarterback can do is get the ball to the athletes on the outside — seniors Thomas Pollock and Corbin Stahl. Pollock, already Shikellamy's all-time leading receiver, can become just the fifth player in District 4 history to top 3,000 career receiving yards.

That quarterback battle — between junior Brady Kurtz and sophomore Bobby Felmy — won't be decided until the Sunday before the opener against Mifflinburg at the end of the month, but Hoover says whoever doesn't win the job will still have a role in the offense.

Felmy was the quarterback through youth and junior high football, but moved to receiver in his freshman season. He caught 27 passes for 274 yards and a touchdown, while Kurtz spent last season running the junior varsity offense and as Rebuck's backup.

Shikellamy knows it needs more out of its running game and the backfield without Rebuck's numbers. The young Shikellamy running backs were decimated by injuries in 2025, but the group of Gavin Keefer, Tristian Smith, Kyler Campbell and Elias Rojas will get a look at running back this season.

One plus for that group: The Braves' offensive line returns four of five starters, and put the work in during the offseason in the weight room. They started a power weight club, and Hoover said that really helped with the offseason turnout.

"Our big guys were in the weight room, our athletes were in the weight room; we just did the work," Hoover said. "We aren't huge (size-wise), but we got bigger, more athletic and we're faster than we were last year."

PIAA javelin medalist Willie Bender returns at guard along



Shikellamy's Thomas Pollock carries the ball during a game against Central Mountain in Sunbury in 2025.

Robert Inglis/Inside PA



SHIKELLAMY | BRAVES

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 4A | HEARTLAND DIVISION I



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Shikellamy's Corbin Stahl breaks up a pass intended for Selinsgrove's Jonathan Neidig in Sunbury in 2025.

with Jackson Kashuba at tackle. The only newcomer will be Everett Purdy, who moves to center.

Shikellamy returns its top tackler on defense — Bender — and Kashuba, who had three sacks last year, will move back from the defensive line to fill Rebuck's spot at inside linebacker. Outside linebacker Chase Swartz (four sacks) returns as well.

Pollock, Stahl and Maddox Hoover all return in an experienced and athletic secondary.

Mike Hoover says the Braves were searching for defensive tackles as preseason camp started, but he's confident Shikellamy will be strong on the defensive side of the ball with the return of Noah Johnson. Johnson, a senior, will play linebacker, and he missed most of the year last year after an injury in the second week of the season against Lewisburg.

"He's a sleeper and he works harder than anybody. He'll be huge for us this season," the coach said. "He was OK as a sophomore, but he worked really hard before his junior season, and he made huge strides, but then he got hurt.

"He worked just as hard this offseason, and I think he'll be a difference-maker."

Hoover says that he doesn't expect the Braves to take much of a step back this season, but they will also have to figure out a way to beat Jersey Shore and Shamokin to reach the heights they expect.

It's an interesting change from just 18 months ago for the Shikellamy program. The players and the communities of Sunbury and Northumberland are on board since Mike Hoover has taken over.

"I believe from the ground up — youth to varsity — everybody has really bought in (to the program)," Hoover said. "It's really about having fun, and that's the most important thing: That the kids have fun.

"If they are having fun, they are involved and invested in the program. It's reflected in the community and it was reflected in our weight room participation in the offseason."

COACH: MIKE HOOVER

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	at Mifflinburg
Sept. 4	Lewisburg
Sept. 11	at Shamokin*
Sept. 18	at Williamsport*
Sept. 25	Jersey Shore*
Oct. 2	Central Mountain*
Oct. 9	at Selinsgrove*
Oct. 16	at Loyalsock
Oct. 23	Warrior Run
Oct. 30	Danville

*-PHAC-I GAME

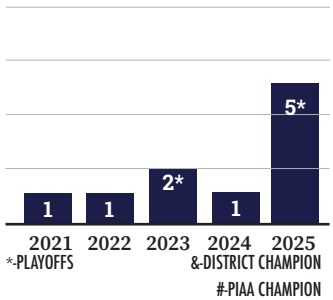
2025 RESULTS (5-6)

W	At Milton	33-15
W	At Lewisburg	29-27
L	Shamokin	52-21
W	Williamsport	35-14
L	At Jersey Shore	42-14
W	Central Mountain	14-7
W	Selinsgrove	48-7
L	At Bloomsburg	32-21
L	At Danville	26-21
L	Southern Columbia	61-28

D4 4A PLAYOFFS

L	At Shamokin	37-7

5-YEAR WIN TREND



2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
Brody Rebuck	144-266	12	14	2,022
RUSHING	**Att**	**Yards**		**TD**
Brody Rebuck	147	591		16
Luke Keally	55	202		1
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yards**		**TD**
Thomas Pollock	**71**	**1,121**		**10**
Corbin Stahl	**17**	**310**		**2**

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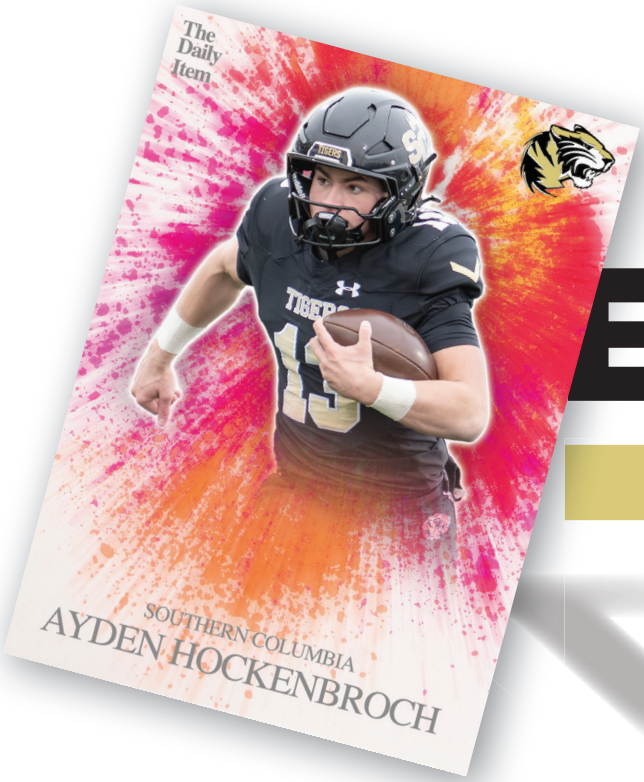


BACK ON TOP

Tigers look to veterans for another title run

Story by Todd Hummel

Southern Columbia entered last season with more questions about its mental state than anything on the football field.

How would the Tigers bounce back from having their PIAA title streak snapped by Troy in 2024?

Did a talented group of players have the moxie to get back to the top of the mountain?

Southern Columbia answered those questions emphatically with another Class 2A championship, but that begs the question: What do they do for a follow-up?

All-star linemen John Quinton and Greg Fulmer will be tough to replace along with leading rusher Brayden Andrews and top tackler Talon Piatt, but the Tigers have plenty of talent back to make a return to Chambersburg in December.

Quarterback Ayden Hockenbroch is entering his third year as a starter, and added a gold medal in baseball this past spring. Hockenbroch threw for 1,273 yards and 17 touchdowns, and didn't throw an interception in the Tigers' final 15 games after throwing three in an opening-night loss to Wyomissing.

Maybe the biggest improvement in Hockenbroch's game last season came with his legs. He ran for two touchdowns — for 13 and 31 yards — in the state semifinals against Lansdale Catholic. In the championship game win over Farrell, he had a 21-yard rush on second-and-12, and a 6-yard gain on fourth-and-1, along with a 2-point conversion run to give Southern Columbia a 14-7 lead on its way to a 43-22 victory.

"We'll probably run Ayden a little more this year. He didn't have a ton of yards, but he ran well in some critical situations (last year)," Southern Columbia coach Jim Roth said. "He became just more effective as a runner as the season went on."

Hockenbroch's top two receivers return in Blaise Kissinger (19 catches, 386 yards and 7 touchdowns) and tight end Jace Malakoski (18-302, 2 TDs), and Roth expects more balance in the offense this season.

"We've been heavier with play-action passing over the last few years, but I think something we've done in past years — the straight drop back and the quick game — is something we'll do more of this season just to get the ball in those guys' hands in space," Roth said. "Even with Jace, if we go to two receivers, he's going to move outside as that second receiver. So that's

SOUTHERN COLUMBIA | TIGERS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 2A | HEARTLAND DIVISION II



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Southern Columbia's Blaise Kissinger runs after making a catch during the PIAA Class 2A semifinals against Lansdale Catholic at Lehighton High School in 2025.

another way we'll be able to get him the ball."

That's not to say the Southern Columbia running game won't be potent in its own right once again.

The two returning running backs are halfback Grady Garcia, a junior, and senior Joey Williams at fullback. Garcia ran for 1,137 yards and 20 touchdowns, while Williams had 952 yards and 20 scores. Garcia came on as the season wore on last season, and Roth expects a big season out of him.

"I really think the state championship that he had (110 yards, 3 TDs) really set him up for this year," Roth said. "He's improved his blocking quite a bit."

The race to replace Andrews at the other halfback spot will come down to senior Gavin Brown and sophomore Kade Cecco. Brown is recovering from a torn ACL suffered early in wrestling season in December, but if Brown is healthy, it might be his job. Roth expects Cecco to fill one of the outside linebacker spots open on defense.

Fulmer was the only loss on the offensive front for the Tigers. Jaden Carter started playing one-way on defense as the PIAA playoffs wore on last season, and Cam Traugh took over at guard, including for the entire state championship game.

Southern Columbia's run late in the season was keyed by its defensive line led by Quinton and Chase Williams. Williams returns for his senior season after leading the Tigers with six sacks and 27 tackles for a loss.

Malakoski will take over at the other defensive end spot full time after being part of a rotation the past two seasons.

Carter will anchor the middle this season with Bloomsburg transfer Bobby Nenstiel and a Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech player — Reggie Moody — returning to his home district.

Piatt's 104 tackles will be tough to replace, but third-leading tackler Nolan Wittig (84 stops) returns inside for Southern Columbia with Cecco, Gavin Trometter and Jonathan Davis competing for the other linebacker spots.

The secondary is experienced as well with Kissinger (11 passes defensed) back at cornerback and Kaden Zachman (5 interceptions) returning at safety.

Keegan Diehl (nine passes defensed) will be the other cornerback after rotating last season, and starting at safety in the state championship when Zachman got hurt in practice the week of the game.

We'll get a quick read on the Tigers. They open once again with Wyomissing, and then head to Williams Valley for a 1 p.m. Saturday game with the Vikings, followed by the Heartland Athletic Conference-Division II opener against Montoursville.

COACH: JIM ROTH

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	Wyomissing
Sept. 5	at Willams Valley
Sept. 11	Montoursville*
Sept. 19	at Lewisburg*
Sept. 25	Central Columbia*
Oct. 2	at Mount Carmel*
Oct. 9	Danville*
Oct. 16	Milton
Oct. 23	at Jersey Shore
Oct. 3	at Selinsgrove

*-PHAC-II GAME

2025 RESULTS (15-1)

L	At Wyomissing	49-27
W	At Loyalsock	41-0
W	Milton	35-0
W	Mount Carmel	49-16
W	At Central Columbia	48-0
W	Danville	41-21
W	At Mifflinburg	21-14
W	At Montoursville	26-16
W	Bloomsburg	61-0
W	At Shikellamy	61-28

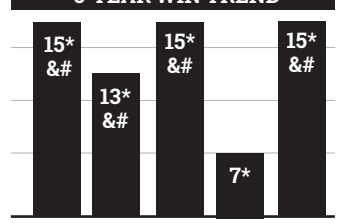
DISTRICT 4 2A PLAYOFFS

W	Cowanesque Valley	41-20
W	Bloomsburg	41-21
W	Troy	42-0

PIAA 2A PLAYOFFS

W	Steelton-Highspire	55-26
W	Lansdale Catholic	24-7
W	Farrell	43-22

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
A. Hockenbroch	**83-165**	**8**	**16**	**1,358**
RUSHING	**Att**	**Yards**	**TD**	
Brayden Andrews	184	1,529	23	
Grady Garcia	**136**	**1,137**	**20**	
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yards**	**TD**	
Blaise Kissinger	**20**	**393**	**7**	
Jace Malakoski	**18**	**302**	**2**	

RETURNEES IN BOLD



THE BIG BLUE WALL

Big, veteran line out to prove Defenders still formidable

Story by Michael Bullock

Wound up heading into the final season of his high school football career, Jackson Albright cannot wait until his Warrior Run Defenders tee it up against neighboring Muncy.

And to say Warrior Run's mountainous two-way lineman has several reasons to get the 2026 campaign in full motion would be an understatement. Albright is ready to go.

"I'm pumped," said Albright, who was tagged an all-league performer by the Pennsylvania Heartland's Division III coaches on both sides of the football. "I'm really excited for our team. We have a lot of linemen coming back.

"Everyone has doubts about us, that we're not gonna be as good as last year," Albright added. "I just want to prove all the haters wrong and show that all my hard work paid off."

Well, there's another point Albright wants to reemphasize.

"We've got some big boys up front," Albright continued.

Big doesn't quite cover it when any discussion regarding the Defenders' offensive front begins to unfold. While center Carter Robinson checks in at 220 pounds, tackles Garrett Williams and Cayden Robinson tip the scales at 280 and 265, respectively.

Two of Warrior Run's guards — Tyler Shiposh and Jaden Albright — weigh 250 and 290. As for Jackson Albright, a human eclipse committed to the Big Ten Conference's Rutgers Scarlet Knights, he stands 6-foot-5 and weighs a mere 315 pounds.

"Probably our biggest line we've ever had," said coach Derrick Zechman, who last season piloted the Defenders (10-2, 4-1) to a share of the PHAC-III championship, the most victories in any Warrior Run season and a berth in the PIAA District 4 Class 2A semis.

Now, with those aforementioned big eaters in place, Warrior Run is looking for more.

"I don't think there's anybody we play that can compete with our line," said senior back Denyn Beachel, who piled up 1,300-plus rushing yards in 2025. "I don't even think it's close. Our line should dominate every single team we play — if I'm being honest."

As for running behind Albright?

"It definitely makes my job a lot easier. He decks everybody in front of him," said the 185-pound Beachel, who ran for 13 scores and totaled eight games of 100-plus yards.

"Our line is just … great."

"It's a lot of fun (blocking for him)," said Albright, who really wants to line up alongside his brother before he trucks off to Rutgers. "I know I can trust him (Beachel) to do the job. He'll get yards no matter what. He's good. He's patient. He reads blocks."

"I really enjoy running the ball; it's just something I love to do," Beachel admitted. "I'm really excited to get out (there) just with the gains I've made with my speed and my strength. And with our returning line, we should have a great run game this year."

While Warrior Run's offensive front wants to generate space for Beachel to use his improved speed in the running game, they also need to provide protection so first-year



WARRIOR RUN | DEFENDERS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 2A | HEARTLAND DIVISION III

starting quarterback Logan Stevenson has time to find Liam Moore and others.

The passing game may take some time to develop until Stevenson gets comfortable. In addition to Moore, he'll have available targets such as Jonathan Casell, Zayas Reynolds, Bryson Weigel, Chase Wirnsberger and Lancaster McCaskey transfer Emiliano Torres.

Stevenson is succeeding remarkably effective dual-threat quarterback James Keifer.

"In the pass game, that's our No. 1 priority," said Albright, the first Warrior Run product to land a Division I football scholarship. "Obviously, with him being anxious and new to this, our job is to give him the most time possible and keep him clean. We'll be able to do that."

"Logan has skills," Zechman added. "He can throw the ball."

Even though Warrior Run's offensive front is getting plenty of preseason attention, the Defenders D-line returns four players who landed all-league nods. Tackles Albright and Cayden Robinson, as well as ends Williams and David Stiner.

While Stiner may get reps at linebacker — same holds for juniors Wirnsberger, Bryson Weigel, Carter Little and Reynolds — Beachel has been a fixture on the defensive side of the ball.

Moore headlines a transitioning secondary, but others such as Stevens, Mitchell, Caswell and Reynolds will have chances to play. Same for Torres.

"We like to have some depth at some positions," Zechman revealed.

Warrior Run also returns kicker Carter McCormick, an all-PHAC-III selection. Stevenson has the lead on the punting job heading into his junior season.

"Winning's been good," Zechman admitted. "It's a lot of work, but the kids are committed.

"Our expectations are the same. I know it's a new year, a new team, but the foundation has been laid with the seniors that already left – and that's winning."

A monstrous offensive front just adds to those possibilities.



Frank Dimon/For Inside PA

Warrior Run's Liam Moore, left, intercepts the ball in front of South Williamsport's Caleb Johnson during the District 4 Class 2A playoff game at Defender Stadium in 2025.

COACH: DERRICK ZECHMAN

2026 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	at Muncy
Sept. 4	Central Mountain
Sept. 11	Midd-West*
Sept. 18	at Bloomsburg*
Sept. 25	Lewisburg*
Oct. 2	at Mifflinburg*
Oct. 9	Loyalsock*
Oct. 16	at Hughesville*
Oct. 23	at Shikellamy
Oct. 30	Milton

*-PHAC-III GAME

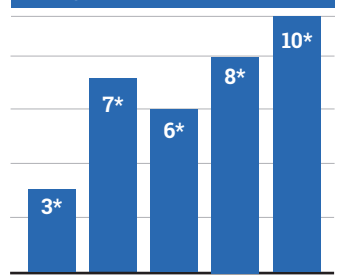
2025 RESULTS (10-2)

W	At Muncy	21-7
W	Montgomery	24-7
W	At Midd-West	48-20
L	Bloomsburg	42-28
W	At Lewisburg	29-24
W	NP-Mansfield	55-6
W	Hughesville	42-7
W	At Loyalsock	47-42
W	Central Columbia	55-0
W	At Milton	31-10

DISTRICT 4 2A PLAYOFFS

W	South Williamsport	41-7
L	Troy	48-34

5-YEAR WIN TREND



*-PLAYOFFS
&-DISTRICT CHAMPION
#-PIAA CHAMPION

2025 STAT LEADERS

PASSING	C-A	Int	TD	Yds
James Keifer	109-170	2	24	1,710
RUSHING	**Att**	**Yards**	**TD**	
Denyn Beachel	**182**	**1,318**	**13**	
Ty Ulrich	107	635	14	
RECEIVING	**Rec**	**Yards**	**TD**	
Cohen Zechman	62	1,136	14	
Ty Ulrich	23	285	3	

RETURNEES IN BOLD





BLOOMSBURG | PANTHERS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 2A | HEARTLAND DIVISION III

ON A ROLL

Panthers hope to continue winning ways

Story by Michael Bullock

Mike Kogut knew how many of his players walked during graduation ceremonies — including all-staters Wyatt Brosious and Jack Katulis — and those departures definitely hurt.

Yet rather than toss his Bloomsburg program into a rebuild, Kogut opted to tinker with his schemes and fit the personnel he will have into a tidy, hopefully productive, package.

And he believes his creativity will pay off rather handsomely.

"There's a lot of people saying, 'You lost Brosious and Katulis, you can't replace that,'" Kogut said. "Collaboratively, I think we can."

With six all-league selections returning from a squad (9-3, 4-1) that claimed a share of the Pennsylvania Heartland's Division III title and reached the District 4 Class 2A semis — the Panthers hadn't won nine games, a division title and a playoff scrap since 2011 — Kogut believes a defensive unit that's bigger, stronger and fueled by aggression can do more than compete, it can contend.

Particularly since all three linebackers — middle linebacker Zane Thomas and outside guys Wyatt Schrader and Shane Frey — return alongside athletic defensive backs Jharee Moore-Stewart and Julius Serrano. Defensive lineman Malcolm Tagba also is back.

While Kogut has some players in mind for the corner spots, Bryce Moore, Keston Peters, Braxton Martinez, Mark Katulis and Central Columbia transfer Demir Wood provide Bloom defensive coordinator Steve Weigle with some options in the trenches.

"I like our identity. I like where we're going," Kogut said of his defense. "I really love our strength, our aggressiveness and our mindset to be aggressive."

A creative offensive mind, Kogut has had to reconfigure his attack to fit personnel such as Moore-Stewart and Serrano — Bloom's fastest players. They could line up anywhere. Frey is moving in at quarterback, while Schrader will get the Panthers across the line to gain.

Christian Ackerman returns at center, while Moore and Thomas are back at the guard positions. Not as deep up front, the trio of Tagba, Peters and Katulis will rotate at the tackle spots. Several youngsters, meanwhile, are vying for playing time at tight end.

"We have the talent," Kogut said. "In a nutshell, we have the ingredients to do really well."

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CENTRAL COLUMBIA | BLUE JAYS

PIAA DISTRICT 4 | CLASS 3A | HEARTLAND DIVISION II

FROM THE GROUND UP

Jays look to rebuild with young faces

Story by Michael Bullock

Following a difficult first season as Central Columbia's coach, Ky Seesholtz and his Blue Jays coaching staff took a deep dive inside the struggling football program.

Essentially, what Seesholtz & Co. were attempting to discover was how to go about finding ways to put their youngsters in the best positions to enjoy success.

Yet while they didn't overhaul their offensive and defensive schemes entirely, what they eventually came up with was a simplified process that would lead to positive gains while allowing the Jays to play at an enhanced tempo in all phases.

Will it lead to positive results? We'll begin finding out in late August.

"We've really hammered out what are our seven running plays, what are our seven pass plays, what are our defensive fronts and our coverages that we're gonna be really good at," said Seesholtz, the Central alumnus whose first squad was winless in 2025.

What adds to the Jays' degree of difficulty is residing in the Pennsylvania Heartland Conference's rugged Division II with the likes of reigning Class 2A state champ Southern Columbia, Danville, Montoursville, Mount Carmel and Milton.

"We're surrounded by a bunch of great teams," Seesholtz admitted. "We're trying to become like them. For me, it's a day-to-day basis. … It's all about the next day."

With a handful of two-way regulars returning — linemen Mateo Jimenez and Owen Zanoline, backs Dominic Keller and Logan Robbins, and quarterback/wideout Cole Horrax — the Jays (0-10, 0-6) have a solid foundation in place.

Seesholtz also is anticipating immediate help from the likes of Dylan Blake, Blake Edgar and R.J. Cressler. In addition, several freshmen may be ready to pitch in.

And with Loyalsock on tap for Central's opener, a positive result would be welcomed.

"We're just excited to get going," Seesholtz said.

Realignment in place following PIAA enrollment update

Story by William Bowman

The PIAA's two-year realignment cycle kicks in this fall, meaning some minor tweaks in both the District 4 classifications and one shift in divisions among teams in the Heartland Athletic Conference.

Thirty-four schools in District 4 will field a football team in 2026, with seven in Class A, nine in Class 2A, 10 in Class 3A and seven in Class 4A. Williamsport remains the district's lone Class 6A school; there are no 5A teams.

Also important to remember as the season starts, only four teams will qualify for the District 4 playoffs in Class A through 4A, down from eight in Class 2A, where District 4 has produced the last nine PIAA champions. The teams are seeded based on a power ranking built from a mathematical formula combining win-loss records, strength of schedule and opponents' win-loss records.

Seven teams are in District 4 Class 4A this fall — six were in 4A over the past two cycles — but the teams have changed. Milton and Midd-West are both in 4A, shifting up based on enrollment, while Athens moves down to 3A. Jersey Shore, with an enrollment of 280, has opted to play up for the next two years after coming in just below the PIAA limit of 282 for Class 3A.

Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech, Selinsgrove, Shamokin and Shikellamy all stay put in 4A.

In Class 3A, District 4 will have 10 teams in the mix for four playoff spots, up from eight. Athens comes down from 4A while Loyalsock, Cowanesque Valley and Wellsboro move up from 2A.

Remaining from the last two years will be Central Columbia, Danville, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, Montoursville and Mount Carmel.

Class 2A also sees some movement. After a dozen teams were in 2A for two seasons, nine D4 teams fall into the PIAA's 2A enrollment figures for the 2026 and 2027 seasons. All nine were in 2A last year, with Bloomsburg, Hughesville, North Penn-Mansfield, Southern Columbia, South Williamsport, Troy, Towanda, Warrior Run and Wyalusing all remaining in 2A, battling for four playoff spots.



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Mifflinburg's Landon Tucker takes down Central Columbia's Josiah Hosler for a loss during their game at Central Columbia last fall.

It is a similar story in Class A, where all seven teams remain in place: Bucktail, Canton, Line Mountain, Montgomery, Muncy, Northwest and Sayre.

HAC REALIGNMENT

There is only one change in the Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference lineup this fall: Mifflinburg is shifting from HAC-II to HAC-III, which impacts the league's smaller two divisions.

HAC-I remains the same with Central Mountain, Jersey Shore, Selinsgrove, Shamokin, Shikellamy and Williamsport.

In HAC-II, with Mifflinburg's departure, the six-team division features Central Columbia, Danville, Milton, Montoursville, Mount Carmel and Southern Columbia.

HAC-III teams will now play six conference games with the addition of Mifflinburg. The division now features Bloomsburg, Hughesville, Lewisburg, Loyalsock, Midd-West, Mifflinburg and Warrior Run.

DISTRICT 4 ALIGNMENT

CLASS 6A (579 and above)	
Williamsport	621

Class 5A (413 to 578)
None

CLASS 4A (282 to 412)	
Shikellamy	400
Shamokin	319
Selinsgrove	305
Milton	303
Midd-West	298
Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech	291
Jersey Shore*	280

CLASS 3A (200-281)	
Mount Carmel	260
Athens	254
Danville	245
Mifflinburg	232
Lewisburg	222
Montoursville	218
Loyalsock	218
Central Columbia	217
Cowanesque Valley	217
Wellsboro	211

CLASS 2A (142-199)	
Towanda	199
Troy	191
North Penn-Mansfield	188
Hughesville	184
Bloomsburg	179
Warrior Run	165
Wyalusing	164
Sout Williamsport	163
Southern Columbia	147

CLASS A (1-141)	
Line Mountain	141
Muncy	135
Northwest	128
Canton	107
Sayre	101
Montgomery	91
Bucktail	41

**Jersey Shore opted to play up*



Frank Dimon/For The Daily Item

Warrior Run's Denyn Beachel, left, runs behind the block of lineman Garrett Williams during the District 4 Class 2A playoff game at Defender Stadium in 2025.



Robert Inglis/Inside PA

Shikellamy's Maddox Hoover breaks up a pass intended for Shamokin's Ryan Bickert during a District 4 Class 4A semifinal game in Coal Township in 2025.

HEARTLAND ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Division I
Central Mountain
Jersey Shore
Selinsgrove
Shamokin
Shikellamy
Williamsport

Division II
Central Columbia
Danville
Milton
Montoursville
Mount Carmel
Southern Columbia

Division III
Bloomsburg
Hughesville
Lewisburg
Loyalsock
Midd-West
Mifflinburg
Warrior Run

MID-PENN CONFERENCE

Capital Division
Camp Hill
Halifax
Juniata
Line Mountain
Newport
Steelton-Highspire
Upper Dauphin

FANS, BANDS and CHEER

Photos by Robert Inglis/Inside PA



The Shikellamy High School marching band performs a pre-game show in Sunbury.



Southern Columbia High School football cheerleaders excitedly root on their team during the final seconds of the state final win over Farrell at Cumberland Valley High School.







Above: Line Mountain cheerleaders hold up a sign for the football team to run through before the start of a game. Left: Members of the Mount Carmel High School marching band perform during a football game last year.



Fans of the Line Mountain High School football team cheer at the start of a game against Lewisburg.

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