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LOCAL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

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KENT STATE ASHTABULA

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Changes bring positivity for 2019 season

MICHAEL GRECO ||

The 2019 football season has arrived.

Teams will have the next 10 weeks to game plan for opponents, go through the traditions high school football has to offer, look to win as many games as possible and possibly win a conference championship and/or reach the postseason.

It used to be gearing up for Friday night football, but over the years, that has changed. Teams, especially those who share the fields with other schools, now play on Saturdays.

More recently, Thursdays have become a thing for high school football. This gives teams a chance to play a night before virtually everyone else.

It s happened in Ashtabula County.

Jefferson and Grand Valley have done so in the past. Conneaut and Edgewood will do so this year, kicking the season off tonight.

The neighboring rivals will play for the first time since 2015.

We re excited to get that game (Edgewood) back on the schedule, Spartans coach Rocco Dobran said earlier in August. They re getting their program turned around. The kids are excited for that rivalry.

With schools changing conferences, there will be a more local flavor on the football scene.

Lakeside, Edgewood and Grand Valley have joined the Chagrin Valley Conference. Geneva is already in the CVC.

So, the Dragons, Warriors and Eagles will all play each other in the same CVC Chagrin Division.

Lakeside and Edgewood have played each other in the past. Geneva hasn t gone against a county school since 2015.

I love it, I m so excited, Eagles head coach Chip Sorber said earlier in August. I can t wait to go to Corlew Field. It s beautiful and I haven t been there in years.

I m excited to play Lakeside. They re right down the road, our next door neighbor and we never play them.

GV won t have a county rival in the CVC s Valley Division. Pymatuning Valley, the Mustangs county rival in the Northeastern Athletic Conference, is off the schedule for this season, but GV will look to play the Lakers once the opportunity arises.

Still GV opens at home against Jefferson, before playing at Edgewood. Jefferson is in the Northeast 8 Conference for football, a year after the other high school sports joined the conference.

The NE8 is composed of Youngstown area schools. But, the Falcons will start the season against three county schools in GV, Geneva and Edgewood.

Playing county schools whether it s conference or non-conference just makes sense.

The crowds and enthusiasm at such events says it all, especially when there s something on the line. The county players and fans know each other. They may be neighbors, they may be friends, they may work together.

But for that particular night, they may be frenemies. Plus, for the players involved, it s bragging rights not only for the year, but a lifetime.

Scheduling can t be just limited to just county schools, though. There s oustanding players and teams to our friends from the east, south and west of Ashtabula County.

After all, two of the seven state football champions last season were from Lake County (Kenston in Division III and Kirtland in VI).

Non-county schools also provide good and healthy competition and those fans support their teams.

Certain teams may try to look for better opponents with computer points in mind. Teams may look to see a certain type of style of offense or defense in preparation for a future opponent.

Whatever the motivation may be, the changes county teams have made is a positive step. Now, it s time to see what happens on the field.

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WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 29
Non-Conference
Edgewood at Conneaut, 7

Friday, August 30
Non-Conference
Lakeside at Struthers, 7
Geneva at Madison, 7
Jefferson at GV, 7
Mineral Ridge at PV, 7
Mathews at St. John, 7 (Spire)

Friday, September 6
Non-Conference
Madison at Lakeside, 7
GV at Edgewood, 7
Jefferson at Geneva, 7
Lakeview (Pa.) at Conneaut, 7
Cardinal at PV, 7
St. John at Holgate, 7

Friday, September 13
Non-Conference
North at Lakeside, 7
Edgewood at Jefferson, 7
Geneva at Kirtland, 7
GV at Harvey, 7
Champion at PV, 7
Madison at Perry, 7
District 10
Conneaut at Iroquios, 7

Saturday, September 14
Non-Conference
Fairport at St. John, 6 (Spire)

Friday, September 20
Chagrin Valley Conference
Lakeside at West Geauga, 7
Perry at Edgewood, 7
Orange at Geneva, 7
Beachwood at GV, 7
Non-Conference
Conneaut at Wilmington (Pa.), 7
Northeast 8 Conference
Niles at Jefferson, 7
Northeastern Athletic Conference
PV at Newbury, 7
Western Reserve Conference
South at Madison, 7

Friday, September 27
Chagrin Valley Conference
Chagrin Falls at Lakeside, 7
Geneva at Edgewood, 7
GV at Berkshire, 7
District 10
Seneca at Conneaut, 7
Northeast 8 Conference
Jefferson at Hubbard, 7
Northeastern Athletic Conference
Chalker at PV, 7
Non-Conference
Bishop Rosecrans at St. John, 7
Western Reserve Conference
Madison at Riverside, 7

Friday, October 4
Chagrin Valley Conference
Lakeside at Harvey, 7
Edgewood at Chagrin Falls, 7
West Geauga at Geneva, 7
Hawken at GV, 7
Non-Conference
Sharpsville at Conneaut, 7
Northeast 8 Conference
Struthers at Jefferson, 7
Western Reserve Conference
• Mayfield at Madison, 7

Saturday, October 5
Non-Conference
St. John at Sandusky St. Mary, 2 p.m.
PV at Hopewell-Loudon, 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 10
Western Reserve Conference
North at Madison, 7

Friday, October 11
FOOTBALL
Chagrin Valley Conference
Geneva at Lakeside, 7
Edgewood at Orange, 7
GV at Kirtland, 7
Northeast 8 Conference
Jefferson at South Range, 7
District 10
Conneaut at Northwestern (Pa.), 7
Northeastern Athletic Conference
Newbury at PV, 7
Non-Conference
St. John at Bishop Rosecrans, 7

Friday, October 18
FOOTBALL
Chagrin Valley Conference
Lakeside at Perry, 7
West Geauga at Edgewood, 7
Harvey at Geneva, 7
GV at Cardinal, 7
Non-Conference
Conneaut at Conneaut Area, 7
Northeast 8 Conference
Poland at Jefferson, 7
Northeastern Athletic Conference
Mathews at PV, 7
Western Reserve Conference
Madison at Kenston, 7

Saturday, October 19
FOOTBALL
Non-Conference
Sandusky St. Mary CC at St. John (Spire), 2

Friday, October 25
Chagrin Valley Conference
Orange at Lakeside, 7
Edgewood at Harvey, 7
Perry at Geneva, 7
Wickliffe at GV, 7
Non-Conference
Conneaut at East Palestine, 7
Northeast 8 Conference
Jefferson at Girard, 7
Northeastern Athletic Conference
PV at Chalker, 7
Western Reserve Conference
Madison at Chardon, 7

Friday, November 1
FOOTBALL
Chagrin Valley Conference
Lakeside at Edgewood, 7
Geneva at Chagrin Falls, 7
Northeast 8 Conference
Lakeview at Jefferson, 7
Northeastern Athletic Conference
PV at Windham, 7
Non-Conference
Conneaut at Cleveland Central Catholic, 7
St. John at Chalker, 7
Fairport Harding at GV, 7
Western Reserve Conference
Brush at Madison, 7

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WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Pymatuning Valley's Tyler Bean (9) looks for running room against Edgewood during a scrimmage last Friday night at Corlew Stadium.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Madison's Jacob Glass prepares to block during a recent football practice.

POSTSEASON SCHEDULE

Regional Quarterfinals
Friday, Nov. 8
Divisions I, II, III and VI
Saturday, Nov. 9
Divisions IV, V and VII

Regional Semifinals
Friday, Nov. 15
Divisions I, II, III & VI
Saturday, Nov. 16
Divisions IV, V & VII

Regional Finals
Friday, Nov. 22
Divisions I, II, III & VI
Saturday, Nov. 23
Divisions IV, V & VII

State Semifinals
Friday, Nov. 29
Divisions I, II, III & VI

Saturday, Nov. 30
Divisions IV, V & VII

State Championship Weekend in Canton (all divisions)
Thursday, Dec. 5 - Saturday, Dec. 7

Aug. 30
vs. Mathews
7 p.m.

Sept. 6
at Holgate
7 p.m.

Sept. 14
vs. Fairport
6 p.m.

Sept. 27
vs. Rosecrans
7 p.m.

Oct. 5
at Sand. SMCC
2 p.m.

Oct. 11
at Rosecrans
7 p.m.

Oct. 19
vs. Sand. SMCC
2 p.m.

Nov. 1
at Chalker
7 p.m.

Different yet the same

Heralds fielding an 8-man football team for 2019 football season

BY MIKE SHAFFER
news@starbeacon.com

SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP Don t feel bad for St. John or for third-year coach Scott Knisely.

Don t ask about kids who graduated, transferred to other schools or chose not to play football in order to focus on other sports.

Don t talk about any disappointment of making the state playoffs a year ago and not see an increase in numbers from it.

The Heralds have a football team this fall, and for Knisely, that s all that matters.

The fact that the roster of just 13 players seems more appropriate for basketball than football, or that they ll be playing an eight-game schedule with eight players on the field means very little.

I don t care if it s 6-man, 8-man, 11-man, 12-man, I just want to see the kids play and have fun. Knisely said. And they ve been working extremely hard. We ve never had to question the work ethic, even when things were up in debate. These kids worked very hard. They deserve that right, they ve worked extremely hard and they deserve the chance to put on that Heralds helmet.

Knisely said he was never concerned St. John would not field a team this fall, he just didn t know what the circumstances would dictate.

We knew we d have a team, he said. We were just waiting to see if we d have enough for an 11-man team, which we originally thought we were going to.

Unfortunately, we didn t have enough, so we had this 8-man option by these guys that have stayed together and played as a team. They deserve that right they deserve to put on the Heralds jersey.

The 8-man game will look a little different from traditional football. The field is the same length, but the sidelines move near to where the yard-line numbers would typically be.

There will be a couple of options about how many linemen to use and what formations to use, but at the end of the day, Knisely said what s most important about the game will remain the same.

It s gonna look a little different, but at the end of the day, it s the same concepts, he said. You still have to throw the football, you still have to catch it, you still have to tackle. It s just less guys out there. I think it will be a bigger change for the fans watching than for the kids playing.

It may be the same concepts, but with 13 players, the way the team goes about preparing for the season requires some precautions. Tackling dummies are utilized more often than live drills since injuries will not be something they can afford. It s also a little hard to have a scout team to go against.

Of the 13 players on the St. John roster, only six saw varsity action a year ago seniors Caleb Hill, Joey Timonere and Elijah Vasquez, junior Jack Hammers and sophomore Devin Mercilliott also saw the field. Another player, sophomore Tyler Cathcart, didn t play a year ago, but had previously.

From there, it s a group of first-time varsity players, some of whom never played a football game in their life before.

But, for Knisely, none of that matters.

A lot of these kids, they ve never put a helmet on, they ve never put shoulder pads on, he said. We re teaching them everything they need to know about football. It s been a lot of fun.

Nothing changes my outlook. Football is football and these kids deserve the very best and that s what I m going to give them. And the fact that they are working so hard and have improved so much, that s what s been most rewarding to me.

As far as the Xs and Os go, at times the game may seem like

SEE **HERALDS,** 6

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
2.	Caleb Hill	RB/DB	6-0	185	Sr.
4.	Dylan Carpenter	WR/DB	5-9	140	Jr.
5.	Seth Thomas	QB/DB	5-6	130	So.
7.	Andrew Williams	WR/LB	6-0	170	So.
8.	Lucas Wychock	WR/LB	6-0	180	Jr.
9.	Tyler Cathcart	WR/DB	5-9	130	So.
13.	Cameron Hill	WR/DB	6-0	195	Sr.
14.	Daniel Miller	WR/DB	6-0	165	Jr.
23.	Devyn Mercilliott	WR/DB	5-7	160	So.
53.	Jack Hammers	OL/DL	5-11	180	Jr.
56.	Elijah Vasquez	OL/DL	5-7	210	Sr.
57.	Joey Timonere	OL/DL	5-8	200	Sr.
74.	Steven Heath	OL/DL	6-5	200	Sr.

Knisely

'Nothing changes my outlook. Football is football and these kids deserve the very best and that's what I'm going to give them.'

Scott Knisely
St. John football head coach

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WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

They may be small in numbers, but the St. John Heralds are fielding a football team this season, playing as an 8-man squad.

HERALDS: St. John ready to go for the 2019 season as 8-man team

FROM PAGE 5

backyard football. Offensively, it will be wide open. Between three and five linemen will be deployed, depending on the situation. What s certain is the Heralds are going to spread it out and put the ball in the air a lot.

From a defensive standpoint, speed is a huge factor, so is the coaching staff s ability to make adjustments.

Typically, St. John will use three or four linemen, possibly a linebacker depending on the situation with everyone else dropping in coverage.

Yes, it will be different and yes, the numbers are not ideal, but what matters most is that the St. John Heralds will be on the field this fall.

We re playing football, Knisely said. I don t want people sitting around feeling sorry for St. John because we re playing 8-man football. That s how we re looking at it. Don t feel sorry for us, share in the excitement with us because these kids are ready to play.

QUARTERBACKS

Like many of the players, Seth Thomas is a work in progress. The sophomore will throw the ball and run with it.

He s spent a lot of time this summer working on the playbook and understanding how to read defenses.

The coach would like to see him get a little bigger, but believes he has the athleticism to be successful.

RECEIVERS/SECONDARY

St. John won t deploy a traditional backfield. The team will run the ball from other formations, but probably not often.

When the Heralds do run it, Cathcart will probably get a good share of the carries.

Guys like Hill, juniors Dan Miller and Lucas Wychock and Mercillott will line up as receivers.

Knisely said it s a group that has caught on quickly and has been impressive in picking up what he ll need them to do.

LINEMEN

Vasquez, Timonere, Hammers and senior Steven Heath will work in the trenches on both sides of the ball.

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2019 CONFERENCE ALIGNMENTS

2018 records

Chagrin Valley Conference

Chagrin Division

Perry	10-2
Orange	7-4
Geneva	4-6
Chagrin Falls	4-6
West Geauga	4-6
Edgewood	3-7
Lakeside	2-7
Harvey	1-9

Valley Division

Kirtland	15-0
Wickliffe	8-3
Grand Valley	7-3
Beachwood	6-4
Cardinal	4-6
Berkshire	1-9
Hawken	0-9

Metro Division

Cuyahoga Heights	11-3
Independence	6-4
Lutheran West	6-4
Richmond Heights	4-6
Brooklyn	3-7
Trinity	2-8

Northeast 8 Conference

Girard	13-2
Hubbard	11-2
Struthers	7-3
Poland	6-4
Lakeview	4-6
Niles	4-6
South Range	4-6
Jefferson	0-10

Northeastern Athletic Conference

Windham	9-2
Chalker	6-4
Pymatuning Valley	2-8
Newbury	2-8
Mathews	1-9

Western Reserve Athletic Conference

Kenston	14-1
Riverside	9-3
Chardon	7-4
Mayfield	5-6
Madison	4-6
Brush	4-6
South	2-8
North	2-8

District 10, Region 3

Conneaut	6-4
Northwestern (Pa.)	6-3
Iroquios	2-8
Seneca (Pa.)	0-9

Independent

St. John	7-4

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

St. John's Seth Thomas leads an agility drill during the first day of football practice on Aug. 1.

KEY GAME

Week 1: vs. Mathews

County fans will get a look at the Heralds and their 8-man team against Mathews Friday at Spire. The Mustangs finished 1-9 last season, but this game doesn't count as an Ohio High School Athletic Association contest for Mathews.

ST. JOHN AT A GLANCE

Coach: Scott Knisley
Years at St. John: Third season
2018 record: 7-4
Career record: 9-11
Conference: Independent
Base offense: Spread, multiple
Base defense: 3-1-4
Assistant coaches: Scott Blank, Bob Dlwgosh

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

St. John's Dan Miller practices his kicking form Monday at the school.

Aug. 30 vs. Mineral Ridge 7 p.m.
Sept. 6 vs. Cardinal 7 p.m.
Sept. 13 vs. Champion 7 p.m.
Sept. 20 at Newbury 7 p.m.
Sept. 27 vs. Chalker 7 p.m.
Oct. 5 at H. Loudon 2 p.m.
Oct. 11 vs. Newbury 7 p.m.
Oct. 18 vs. Mathews 7 p.m.
Oct. 25 at Chalker 7 p.m.
Nov. 1 at Windham 7 p.m.

Experience gained

Youthful Lakers excited about prospects for 2019 season

BY BRENDAN FEENEY
bfeeney@starbeacon.com

ANDOVER Pymatuning Valley is in a unique position as the 2019 football season approaches and head coach Neal Croston is ready to take full advantage.

The Lakers are young and experienced. Freshmen outnumbered the seniors and juniors last year and seven of those now-sophomores are returning starters.

Tyler Bean earned a spot on Division VI s all-state third-team offense after hauling in 25 passes for 601 yards and nine touchdowns last year as a sophomore. Kenny Crouch made the all-state third-team defense with 73 tackles, including eight for a loss of yards, four sacks and a fumble recovery.

He is one of only two seniors on the team.

Right now, going into Week 1, we have no freshmen that are starting, so that s a positive, just for the physical aspect, Croston said. We have a lot of returning guys. Yeah, only two seniors, but right now we're thinking we definitely want to be competitive.

PV has collected a 2-8 record in three of the last four seasons and finished 3-7 in the other.

Last year s 2-8 campaign came with plenty of growing pains.

The Lakers kicked off the season with a 36-34 overtime win over Mineral Ridge, then lost seven straight and eight of their last nine.

They surrendered at least 60 points in each of their first three defeats, fell to 1-4 after allowing 51 to St. John, and only held one opponent under 30 points.

The offense had its struggles, too, getting shut out twice and being held to six points on two other occasions. In all, opponents outscored PV 466-134 last season, including the two wins.

There were times that it was brutal last year going against someone like Garfield or Liberty," Croston said. It was just more physical, but the guys didn t back down. The biggest thing, they didn t quit.

A lot of our guys play two, three sports — we finally got the whole team together in June and July. Guys were working hard. They were lifting. There s no complaining. We re doing the sets. We re not cheating. Little things like that. So, I think we had a positive vibe throughout the whole summer and it s gone into our scrimmages. We re really looking forward

SEE **LAKERS,** 9

KEY GAME

Week 4: at Newbury

Like most head coaches, PV's Neal Croston is not looking past Week 1. "Week 1 is a big game," he said. "It gets that momentum rolling forward, backwards and whether you win or lose, you want to see your team come out and play well and hard." Week 4 is just as big, if not bigger, for a PV team that is chasing a conference title. The Lakers open NAC play at Newbury, a team that beat them 36-18 one year ago. The Black Knights will also be playing with a chip on their shoulder as 2019 will likely be the last season of the Newbury football program.

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WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

The Pymatuning Valley football team is looking to make inroads in the Northeastern Athletic Conference this season.

LAKERS: Garrett Smith takes over at QB

FROM PAGE 8

to Week 1.

The Lakers have a few goals they would like to accomplish this season.

Senior Logan Giddings said he wants to be the first PV team to hit the .500 mark win at least five games since 2014.

If and when that comes, the Lakers are looking to contend for a Northeastern Athletic Conference championship and maybe even a playoff berth.

PV, which has six home games, begins its season against Mineral Ridge for the fourth-consecutive year.

The Lakers won in 2015 and 2017 and the Rams got the better of PV in 2016. Cardinal, Champion and Hopewell-Loudon in Week 5 round out PV s non-conference schedule.

The Lakers play NAC foes Newbury and Chalker twice, and Mathews once before ending their season at Windham, the reigning NAC champions.

Week 1, it starts there, Croston said. We want to win all of those out-of-conference games and once we get to the conference, we want to win it this year. I think we got a good core of guys and if we play hard, play smart, we gotta chance. Week 10, hopefully we have a decent record and we ll see where we are in the standings.

Giddings explained what it will take for the Lakers to reach their goals.

The only way that s going to happen is if every man does his job, he said. And we re going to have to have that team chemistry, because we can t have players getting on other players and having people get down.

QUARTERBACKS

First-team all-county quarterback Logan Drnek and his 1,560 passing yards and 15 touchdowns are gone.

Enter Garrett Smith.

The sophomore played receiver last year and beat out Bean for the starting quarterback gig during preseason.

Croston does not anticipate his team relying on Smith s arm in the same way it did last year with Drnek, but he has faith in the sophomore to make plays and lead the team as needed.

If you can run the ball, it makes it much easier less turnovers, control the clock, Croston said. So, we re going to try to run the ball a little bit more this year. Last year, we had to do it just because we were undersized with a lot of freshmen and sophomores on the line. We are going to throw the ball, but if we can control the run game,

SEE **PV,** 31

Strength of Schedule

Division VI, Region 21

2018 OPPONENT RECORD

30-51 (.370)

PLAYOFF OPPONENT

Windham

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

Division V (1), Division VI (3), Division VII (6)

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
2.	Garrett Smith	QB/WR/CB	6-1	175	So.
3.	Tyler Britton	QB/WR/CB	6-1	195	Fr.
6.	Kenny Crouch	RB/LB	5-11	205	Sr.
9.	Tyler Bean	QB/WR/LB	6-1	175	Jr.
13.	Mason Inman	WR/CB	6-0	165	Jr.
15.	Tim Strang	WR/LB	5-10	175	So.
17.	Jacob Hettmansperger	WR/CB	5-8	145	Fr.
18.	Michael Spencer	WR/CB	6-0	165	So.
20.	Andrew Root	WR/CB	5-10	165	So.
21.	Robert Verba	WR/LB	6-1	195	So.
23.	Jonah Wilkerson	WR/DE	6-1	200	Jr.
24.	Dillen Knowles	RB/WR/LB	6-0	190	Jr.
25.	David Haapela	WR/CB	5-9	145	Fr.
28.	Devin Sharpe	WR/CB	5-5	135	Fr.
32.	Nicholas Hitchcock	RB/LB	5-10	155	Fr.
42.	Logan Giddings	RB/LB	6-0	205	Jr.
51.	Hunter Stevens	OL/DE	5-9	185	So.
54.	Victor Verba	OL/DL	6-2	300	Jr.
57.	Thurmond Adkins	OL/DL	5-10	230	So.
60.	Kamron Cargill	OL/DL	5-10	175	Fr.
61.	Brendan Sharpe	OL/DE	6-0	215	Jr.
62.	Louie Phillips	OL/DL	5-11	235	Jr.
63.	Hunter Smith	OL/DL	6-0	325	So.
65.	John Chalfant	OL/DL	5-10	265	Jr.
70.	Jimmy Shaver	OL/DL	5-11	185	Fr.
72.	Brayden Schlote	OL/DE	6-0	215	Fr.
75.	Nathan Hicks	OL/DL	5-1	230	Jr.
79.	Dale Dehn	OL/DL	5-10	210	So.
80.	James Bohinc	WR/LB	6-1	175	So.
85.	Samuel Reyes	WR/CB	6-1	155	Fr.
98.	Cole Hartman	OL/DL	6-3	285	Jr.

Aug. 30 vs. Geneva 7 p.m.

Sept. 6 at Lakeside 7 p.m.

Sept. 13 at Perry 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 vs. South 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 at Riverside 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 vs. Mayfield 7 p.m.

Oct. 10 vs. North 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 at Kenston 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 at Chardon 7 p.m.

Nov. 1 vs. Brush 7 p.m.

Ready to make a move

Experienced Blue Streaks look to compete in rugged WRC

BY DAVID NEGIN
sports@starbeacon.com

MADISON It is often said that experience is the greatest teacher.

If that is the case for the Madison Blue Streaks, the 2019 football season looks to be quite promising for coach Tim Willis team.

With 22 seniors on his roster, Willis believes he has a team poised to compete in the rugged Western Reserve Conference after 2-8 and 4-6 seasons the past two years.

These guys have a lot of experience under their belt now, Willis said. This is the year we ve got to put things together. It all comes down to effort and attitude. I do believe this group really wants to get it done this year.

Entering his 20th season leading the Blue Streaks program, Willis certainly knows what a winning team looks like, having produced a 117-74 record in his tenure. He didn t hesitate when asked what his team needed to improve on from last season.

Many of our mistakes were self-inflicted," Willis said. Penalties, fumbles, things like that ... You will know we are a mature football team if we are able to eliminate those things.

Having third-year starter Alex Dragas back at quarterback should help. The senior combined for 1,570 yards of offense (752 passing; 818 rushing) and a total of 14 touchdowns last season.

But, Willis didn t stop there when mentioning his leaders. Seniors Aidan Thompson and Jacob Glass are a pair of linemen who have started for Madison the past two seasons.

They (Glass and Thompson) are just two really good high school football players, Willis said. They are the meat behind our offensive line.

Having experience up front will be a key as Madison plays a tough schedule again, opening up with a veteran Geneva team and pair of road games at Lakeside and rival Perry in Week 3 heading into WRC play.

The league is very competitive again, Willis said. Chardon is going to be very good. Eastlake North is going to have a good team. Mayfield is good and Kenston is a returning state champion and are returning many players so they obviously are going to be loaded again. I believe we can compete with all those guys.

KEY GAME

Week 1: vs. Geneva

The Blue Streaks, with 22 seniors, face another veteran group in the Eagles. A challenging game for Madison to start the season.

Strength of Schedule

Division II, Region 5

2018 OPPONENT RECORD

59-51 (.536)

PLAYOFF OPPONENTS

Perry, Riverside, Mayfield, Kenston, Chardon

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

Division II (6), Division III (3), Division IV (1),

QUARTERBACKS

Offensive coordinator Mike Martin has been pleased with the progress of backups, junior Brad McKeon and sophomore Michael O Brien. Both will see action mostly for the junior varsity team, but both have flashed potential.

But, with Dragas returning for the third-straight year, both should see limited varsity time, barring any unfortunate injury to their offensive standout.

The dual threat of passing and running that Dragas provides has been a centerpiece of the Madison offense the past two seasons and that should continue this season as well.

Willis is hoping that another year under his quarterback s belt will help improve his completion percentage (40 percent) and lead to less turnovers (six interceptions).

RUNNING BACKS

With several players going both ways, Madison often rotates offensive skill personnel to keep fresh legs on the field.

Martin has several players who will share time in the Blue Streaks backfield with seniors Michael Woody, Will Weema and Alex Blackie.

Woody received the majority of the carries last season until an injury early in the season sidelined him the rest of the year.

He is healthy now, Martin said of Woody. Weema provides speed and is a good receiver out of the backfield for us and Blackie is in the mix as well.

With those three players also helping the defense, Martin mentioned junior Austin McCourt as someone who is just focusing on the offensive side of the ball and has gotten the attention of the coaching staff in the early going.

He is shifty and quick, Martin said. He has that home-run potential.

RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS

The top two wideouts from last season are senior returners Cole Tanner and Marcel Welch.

This will be Tanner s third season as a starter. He led the Blue Streaks with 20 receptions for 323 yards and five touchdowns a year ago. Welch showed his speed on the outside, hauling in 10 passes for 108 yards and a TD in 2018.

Madison will move its tight ends around and use them as fullbacks in certain offensive sets. Seniors Jacob Fisher and Jacob Land are two returners with the most experience.

Seniors Brayden Johnston and Zach Reynolds are also competing for playing time.

SEE **BLUE STREAKS,** 11

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Madison has 22 seniors this season and is poised to make some noise in the rugged Western Reserve Conference.

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
2.	Alex Dragas	QB	6-0	175	Sr.
4.	Noah Tweedy	WR/DB	5-10	160	Jr.
5.	Alex Blackie	WR/LB	5-10	160	Sr.
6.	Michael O Brien	WR/DB	6-0	145	So.
7.	Truman Myers	WR/DB	5-10	150	Jr.
8.	Cole Tanner	WR/DB	6-0	155	Sr.
9.	Jacob Fisher	TE/LB	6-1	185	Sr.
10.	Brad McKeon	QB/DB	5-9	155	Jr.
11.	Marcel Welch	WR/DB	5-10	155	Sr.
12.	Sam Cost	RB/DB	5-8	165	So.
14.	Will Weema	RB/DB	5-9	150	Sr.
15.	Alex Parmertor	WR/LB	5-10	160	Sr.
17.	Mitchell Polovic	WR/DB	5-5	140	So.
21.	Barat Gasi	RB/DB	5-10	155	Jr.
22.	Michael Woody	RB/DB	5-11	190	Sr.
23.	Vince Fisher	RB/DB	5-10	150	Jr.
24.	Hunter Nadzan	WR/DB	5-8	155	Sr.
25.	Jaren Havens	RB/DB	5-6	150	Jr.
26.	Christian Curry	RB/DB	5-10	160	So.
27.	Di Anthony Curry	RB/DB	5-9	150	Fr.
28.	Charlie Wade	RB/DB	5-5	135	So.
29.	Noah Horvath	WR/LB	5-6	145	So.
31.	Michael Colaneri	TE/LB	5-10	180	Sr.
32.	Brayden Johnston	RB/LB	5-11	190	Sr.
33.	Danny Alley	RB/DB	5-10	160	So.
34.	Bryce Michalek	RB/DB	5-6	150	So.
35.	Ryan Crim	TE/LB	6-1	170	So.
36.	CJ Kessler	K	5-10	165	Sr.
40.	Cruz Tosdorf	RB/LB	5-8	150	So.
41.	Jacob Kujala	RB/LB	5-6	155	So.
42.	Julian Zappitelli	WR/DB	5-4	140	Fr.
43.	Ben Harrison	WR/DB	5-6	145	Sr.
45.	Landon Albert	RB/LB	5-6	165	So.
46.	Michael Loveridge	RB/LB	5-7	165	Fr.
48.	Zach Reynolds	RB/LB	5-10	190	Sr.
49.	Jacob Land	TE/LB	5-10	190	Sr.
50.	Will Eaton	OL/DL	6-1	165	So.
51.	Nick Wardrop	OL/DL	5-10	190	Sr.
52.	Eddie Rodriguez	OL/DL	6-2	180	Sr.
53.	Ryan Kadas	OL/LB	5-10	175	Sr.
54.	Payton Schroeder	OL/DL	5-7	190	So.
55.	Jorden Watt	OL/DL	6-3	240	So.
56.	Drew Laurie	OL/DL	5-6	155	Fr.
57.	Jake Laurie	OL/DL	5-5	175	Jr.
58.	Randy Taulbee	OL/LB	5-11	180	Jr.
59.	Aidan Thompson	OL/DL	5-11	255	Sr.
60.	Ethan Bovee	OL/DL	5-9	175	Sr.
62.	Derek Zirkle	OL/DL	5-9	212	Sr.
63.	Josh Barragan	OL/DL	6-0	180	Jr.
64.	Dominic Zirkle	OL/DL	5-9	212	Sr.
66.	Luke Cermak	OL/DL	5-7	185	Jr.
67.	Aidan Sample	OL/DL	5-6	155	So.
70.	Cole Sundquist	OL/DL	5-7	175	Fr.
71.	Andrew Molnar	OL/DL	5-6	150	Fr.
72.	Kyle Golding	OL/DL	5-9	210	So.
73.	Andrew Spitler	OL/DL	5-7	160	Fr.
74.	Alex Reznak	OL/DL	5-8	160	Fr.
75.	Scott Murdock	OL/DL	6-0	215	So.
76.	Ben Combs	OL/DL	6-0	220	So.
77.	Connor Kozlina	OL/DL	5-7	160	Fr.
78.	Jacob Glass	OL/DL	6-3	295	Sr.
84.	Cody White	WR/DB	5-8	145	So.
88.	Chase Martin	WR/DB	5-7	145	Fr.
89.	Kenyon Boncella	WR/DB	5-8	140	So.

BLUE STREAKS: Senior Dragas returns as a three-year starting quarterback

FROM PAGE 10

OFFENSIVE LINE

With Thompson and Glass, the right side of Madison s line should be one of the best in the area.

Thompson is in his third year at right end and Glass is a two-year starter at right guard.

Senior Nick Wardrop is also a returner up front and will settle in at either left guard or left tackle, depending on how the competition between seniors Derek Zirkle and Eddie Rodriguez plays out.

Willis and Martin both praised the work of junior Jack Laurie, who has stood out for his play at center.

DEFENSIVE LINE

In his base 3-4 defense, coordinator Mike Gilligan will rotate his linemen to keep them fresh, as well.

All of our offensive linemen will rotate in and out as well as other guys who will be in the mix, Gilligan said.

Glass and Thompson will be at nose guard/end spots and will provide strength and leadership to perhaps Madison s most dominant group.

Fisher (end), Laurie (nose), Rodriguez (end) and brothers Dominic and Derek Zirkle (end) will rotate along the line as well, but the coaching staff is also excited about freshman Cole Sundquist.

LINEBACKERS

Brayden Johnston is a returner and brings us a lot of toughness, Gilligan said.

SEE **MADISON,** 31

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Aug. 30
at Struthers
7 p.m.

Sept. 6
vs. Madison
7 p.m.

Sept. 13
vs. North
7 p.m.

Sept. 20
at West Geauga
7 p.m.

Sept. 27
vs. Chagrin Falls
7 p.m.

Oct. 4
at Harvey
7 p.m.

Oct. 11
vs. Geneva
7 p.m.

Oct. 18
at Perry
7 p.m.

Oct. 25
vs. Orange
7 p.m.

Nov. 1
at Edgewood
7 p.m.

Continuing to build

Dragons look to take the next step in second year under Edwards

BY MIKE SHAFFER
sports@starbeacon.com

SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP
If there s one thing Buzz Edwards doesn t expect to have to deal with this season, it s culture shock not from his players, or even himself.

A season ago, the now second-year Lakeside coach spent his time preaching to his players how a change in the number of wins would only take place with a change in their mentality.

Edwards believes that mentality is in place as he prepares for his second year at the helm of the Lakeside program.

Year one, you set the foundation, he said. Now, they know what s expected of them, they know the level of commitment expected to participate in a championship-level program.

I think the culture is flipping. We're starting to see the change in our kids.

The Dragons went 2-7 a year ago against a schedule that included six state playoff teams.

This year, they return some key players, such as seniors Tyrell Meeks and honorable mention Northeast Lakes All-District selection Mark Dalrymple, along with a few others.

Across the board, though, the team s youth is prevalent.

Only 10 upperclassmen are on the roster seven seniors and three juniors.

Sophomores make up the biggest part of the roster. Many were rushed into action a year ago.

While it s still not an ideal situation for the coaching staff, it is a better hand than they were dealt a year ago.

Many of those kids got battle tested last year as freshmen, Edwards said. The standard has been set and the ones that wanted to stay and put the work in and understand what we want to do here, they ve stayed on board.

The ones that haven t are not here. It is what it is, but we re gonna coach the kids that we got, we re not gonna complain about what we don t have. We re going to focus on the kids we have and make them better every day.

The Dragons will once again look to play up-tempo and put pressure on the opposition in every aspect of the game.

For the coaching staff, the game plan is to keep it simple and let the players focus on making plays.

In football, if you think, you slow down, Edwards said. We want to put our kids in an opportunity where they don t have to think and they can play fast and they can use their skills and be in a spot where they can be successful.

Last year also marked the end of Lakeside s tenure in the All-American Conference.

Instead, they ll make a new home in the Chagrin Valley Conference.

The Dragons will open on the road at Struthers, before returning home to Madison.

A couple other key games will be a Week 7 matchup Oct. 11 with Geneva at home.

They ll head to Perry the following week and close out at crosstown rival Edgewood in Week 10 Nov. 1.

Gone from the slate are powerhouse programs such as Warren Harding, Boardman and Fitch.

Edwards, however, was quick to dismiss any talk of a break in the schedule

There s a little misconception about that, he said. We have some good football teams on our schedule. Geneva plays good football. Perry is a good football team.

Madison, Eastlake North, they play good tough football.

I understand that we re not playing Warren or Fitch or Boardman that is gonna roll out with 120 kids and go to the state playoffs every year.

But, we re still gonna be playing good football programs and we re excited about that.

QUARTERBACKS

Lakeside will turn to Garrette Siebeneck under center this season.

The sophomore pushed for varsity time a year ago as a freshman.

Edwards said that Siebeneck had a good camp and progressed well in areas of footwork and ball delivery.

Speed and agility aren t his strength, so he will be used more in a traditional role.

The offense has been simplified to help him out,

SEE **DRAGONS,** 13

KEY GAME

Week 1: at Struthers

The Dragons will see how far they've progressed against a solid Struthers team, which is expected to contend for the NE8 title.

Strength of Schedule

Division II, Region 5

2018 OPPONENT RECORD

46-57 (.447)

PLAYOFF OPPONENTS

Perry, Orange

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

Division II (II), Divisiion III (II), Division IV (IIIIII)

Edwards

'I think the culture is flipping. We're starting to see the change in our kids.'

Buzz Edwards
Lakeside football coach

LAKESIDE AT A GLANCE

Coach: Buzz Edwards
Years at Lakeside: Second season
2018 record: 2-7
Career record: 2-7
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference Chagrin Division
Base offense: Spread
Base defense: 3-5-3
Assistant coaches: Bob Frey, Terry Henton, Lou Edwards, Ryan McEndree, Paul Lauth

DRAGONS: All-county lineman Petros returns

FROM PAGE 12

but as he develops, new wrinkles to the Dragons attack will be added.

RUNNING BACKS

Meeks and senior classmate Davin Watkins are slated as the top running backs on the team, but Edwards said as many as five different players could get 5-10 carries a game.

On the ground, the Dragons want to keep it simple.

Dalrymple and sophomore AJ Raffa are likely starters on offense.

The coach is also high on freshman J Shon Sanders.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Dalrymple and sophomore Ashton Wheelock are the top returning pass catchers from a year ago.

Savion Colbert, a junior, is a very good football player, according to Edwards.

He ll be used in a variety of formations and will be a frequent target in the passing attack.

Junior Chris Steele will be lined up in the slot, but will function more like a tight end.

A couple of freshmen, Angelo Callazo and Dereck Briggs could also be in line for playing time.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Up front is where it all starts for the Dragons.

Lakeside has a young but experienced front five that came together last year and is still learning and growing together as a unit.

Jordan Mellin is the lone senior in the mix.

After that, it s four sophomores, led by Sam Petros, a second team all-county selection a year ago.

According to Edwards, he is the strongest kid on the team.

Chris Bartone, another sophomore, is coming back from an ACL injury.

Two other sophomores, Kaleb Scaine and Morgan Bish will also be in the mix.

SEE **LAKESIDE,** 14

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Lakeside players go through a drill on the first day of practice Aug. 1.

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
1.	Savion Colbert	RB/DB	5-9	164	Jr.
2.	Jamil Haynes	WR/DB	5-6	125	Fr.
3.	Kyler Sabatine	DB/WR	5-7	150	So.
4.	Angelo Callazo	DB/QB/WR	5-9	140	Fr.
5.	Desmond Triplin	OLB/RB/WR	5-9	190	Sr.
6.	J Shon Sanders	RB/LB	5-5	175	Fr.
7.	Jon Heath	OLB/WR	5-9	160	So.
8.	Chris Steele	WR/OLB	6-1	175	Jr.
10.	Caleb McKinney	LB/TE	5-8	180	Sr.
11.	A.J. Raffa	LB/RB	5-8	180	So.
12.	Kamron Crockett	QB/DB	5-8	125	Fr.
13.	Malachi Matlock	WR/DB	5-7	160	Fr.
14.	Jon Higgins	DB/WR	5-1	106	Fr.
16.	Devon Orsulic	OLB/WR	5-10	130	So.
18.	Garrette Siebeneck	QB/FS	6-3	210	So.
20.	Thomas Allen	LB/OL	5-10	165	So.
22.	Mark Dalrymple	WR/DB	5-8	170	Sr.
23.	Austin Wheelock	WR/DB	5-10	165	So.
25.	Dereck Briggs	DB/WR	5-7	110	Fr.
27.	Malachi Donahue	LB/RB	5-8	145	Fr.
28.	Lorenzo Lagoa	DB/RB	5-7	165	So.
30.	Lorenzo Jackson	WR/DE	6-2	180	Sr.
32.	Anthony Donahue	DE/LB	6-2	195	So.
34.	Davin Watkins	FS/RB	5-9	175	Sr.
42.	Tyrell Meeks	LB/RB	5-8	185	Sr.
50.	Johnathan Beals	LB/OL	5-6	130	Fr.
51.	Junior Valerino	OL/DL	5-9	170	So.
52.	Sam Petros	OL/DL	6-2	244	So.
56.	Alex Rounds	LB/DL	5-8	180	So.
61.	Jordan Mellin	OL/DL	6-0	232	Sr.
64.	Kaleb Scaine	OL/DL	5-8	215	So.
72.	Johnny Gifford	OL/DL	6-1	279	Fr.
74.	Cameron Shortridge	DL/OL	5-7	211	So.
75.	Morgan Bish	DL/OL	5-8	215	So.
76.	Chris Bartone	OL/DL	6-2	262	So.
78.	Robert Mitchell	DL/OL	6-0	220	So.
80.	Cameron Mitchell	LB/TE	5-8	140	Fr.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Lakeside's A.J. Raffa catches a touchdown pass during 7 on 7 drills this summer at Riverside High School in Painesville.

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LAKESIDE: Linebacking unit a strength

FROM PAGE 12

Freshman Johnny Gifford is also expected to see time.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Edwards said Lakeside is working with 12 linemen that will go on both sides of the ball. Petros and Mellin are expected to split time at nose tackle.

Sophomore Anthony Donahue has had a great camp, Edwards said.

In the 2019 track season, Donahue reached the Division I 110 hurdles and high jump regional tournament.

Scaine and Bish are expected to rotate in and out. Sophomore Caleb McKinney is switching from linebacker to defensive end.

LINEBACKERS

The teeth of the Dragons defense unquestionably lies in the linebacker unit.

Raffa and sophomore Thomas Allen are also standouts on the track team. Along with Meeks, they ll be called on to make plays with their speed and energy.

On the outside, Desmod Triplin is a senior, but first-year football player. Edwards spent all last year recruiting him to the team.

The coach said several other players with similar skill sets will be deployed into the linebacker spots.

SECONDARY

Wheelock, Dalrymple and Colbert will get the start at the corner positions.

Colbert will see time at safety, too.

Watkins is also expected to play safety, along with Callazo.

SPECIAL TEAMS

It looks like Wheelock is slated to be the Dragons kicker and Siebenbeck the team s punter this season.

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Aug. 29
vs. Edgewood
7 p.m.

Sept. 6
vs. Lakeview (Pa.)
7 p.m.

Sept. 13
at Iroquois (Pa.)
7 p.m.

Sept. 20
at Wilmington (Pa.)
7 p.m.

Sept. 27
vs. Seneca (Pa.)
7 p.m.

Oct. 4
vs. Sharpsville (Pa.)
7 p.m.

Oct. 11
vs. N western (Pa.)
7 p.m.

Oct. 18
at Conneaut (Pa.)
7 p.m.

Oct. 25
at E. Palestine
7 p.m.

Nov. 1
at Clev. CC
1 p.m.

Out to defend their title

Experienced Spartans seeking third District 10 crown in last four years

BY MICHAEL GRECO
mgreco@starbeacon.com

CONNEAUT The Conneaut Spartans have found playing in District 10 to their liking with two conference championships in the past three seasons.

The Spartans would like to still be playing in Ohio after the 10-week regular season.

Conneaut has the components to make that happen this season, but coach Rocco Dobran is well aware it can come down to the small details to determine wins or losses.

We have experience, he said. They have to take the next step in details and knowledge of the game and controlling what we can do. We have 13 seniors with 10 over a 3.3 grade-point average. They ve worked hard since seventh grade.

The Spartans, however, lose county player of the year, running back Mike Williams, two-time county lineman of the year John Applebee and leading tackler Stefan Yopp.

The strong nucleus starts with experienced skilled personnel, offensive linemen and familiar names who also excelled on defense.

Conneaut finished 6-4, 3-0 to win the Region 3 championship last season.

They routed Northwestern (Pa.) 49-0 in mid-October to clinch the conference title.

Dobran envisions the conference teams of Iroquois, Seneca and Northwestern to improve.

I think those will be good games, he said.

The Spartans have a solid slate of non-conference games to play, starting with the home opener tonight against neighboring Edgewood.

The two schools haven t played since 2015.

We re excited to get that game back on the schedule, Dobran said. They re getting their program turned around. The kids are excited for that rivalry.

Lakeview (Pa.), Wilmington (Pa.), Sharpsville (Pa.) and Conneaut Area (Pa.) are back on the schedule, while the Spartans close the regular season with two new opponents in East Palestine and Cleveland Central Catholic.

Wilmington finished 13-1 and reached the state 2A state championship game in Pennsylvania last December, before falling to Southern Columbia 49-14.

If the kids want to be a playoff-caliber team, they re going to beat those types of teams, Dobran said.

Conneaut is also moving regions in the Ohio High School Athletic Association computer rankings this season, going from Division IV, Region 13 into Division V, Region 17 with the likes of Divison VI state champion Kirtland, which moved up.

KEY GAME
Week 4: at Wilmington

Conneaut coach Rocco Dobran knows if the Spartans want to take the next step, then defeating the Division 2A state runners-up is next in the pecking order.

Strength of Schedule

Division V, Region 17 (Division IV, Region 13 in 2018)

2018 OPPONENT RECORD
40-56 (.417)

PLAYOFF OPPONENTS
Wilmington

DIVISION BREAKDOWN
Division IV (2), Division VI (1), rest against Pennsylvania

QUARTERBACK

Rylan Davison is the primary signal-caller for the Spartans.

The senior threw for 753 yards with six touchdowns and ran for another 594 and 10 scores last season.

On his own, in the weight room, with speed and agility, he has taken his game to a new level and taken the young guys with him, Dobran said of Davison. He has the ability at any time to run the ball and can throw the ball. We like his multiple abilities.

Senior Branden Smile is expected to be brought in at QB in certain packages and Davison moved to wide receiver.

RUNNING BACK

Williams capped off his career with 1,179 yards rushing and 20 TDs last season. He also caught 12 passes for 401 yards and six scores.

With those numbers gone, seniors Seth Fedor and Chance Ryan will pick up the load at running back.

Fedor brings back 521 yards and 11 TDs. He averaged nearly 9 yards per carry.

Ryan checked in with 130 yards last season.

The runners have a little different style, Dobran said. Fedor is a big speed guy who is hard to catch and Ryan is a hard-nosed runner. We ll have more backs rotating in.

WIDE RECEIVER

Senior tight end Richie Picard led the team with 22 receptions last season. He earned honorable mention all-Ohio honors. Sophomore Alex Kohlman is also working at tight end.

The receivers are Smile, seniors Aidan Thomas, Jay Green and juniors Anthony Nunes and

SEE SPARTANS, 16

SPARTANS: Conneaut looks to capitalize on experience offensively, defensively

FROM PAGE 15

Tellus Andrews. Green started the last five games last season.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Seniors Hunter Dale, Damon Bowers and Logan Johnston and junior Jake Wiley are all returners.

Sophomore Nick Osborne, who was projected to start last season, is ready to go after an injury put him out all of last the season.

Senior Karter Kaczoroski and sophomore Joey Bowen are also in the mix up front.

We have at least four guys coming back and all of them are pretty experienced, Dobran said. We need someone to step up and be a leader and take charge of the line.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Dale and Kohlman are returners up front with seniors Tyler McCurdy, Leon Moffett and Kaczoroski in line for playing time.

Dale, a second-team Northeast Lakes All-District choice last season, posted 49 total tackles a team-leading 16 tackles for loss, six sacks and three forced fumbles last season.

Dale has a great motor, Dobran said. He s getting college looks. He s a tough guy at end.

LINEBACKER

Fedor, Davison and Picard are well-positioned in this area with plenty of experience, although others will rotate in.

Fedor was second on the team with 61 total tackles in 2018.

The second-team Northeast Lakes All-District selection in 2018 also chipped in with 10 tackles for loss, five sacks and had a team-high three forced fumbles.

Davison recorded 67 total tackles.

I don t think Fedor has come off the field in two years, Dobran said. He has a great motor and is the leader on defense.

SECONDARY

Smile and Green are the primary cornerbacks with sophomore Keifer Mandagelo also working in that position.

Thomas, Ryan and Nunes are the safeties.

Thomas runs the show on defense and Smile, at cornerback, understands that side being a quarterback, Dobran said.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior Joey Merlene is slated to handle kicking and field goal duties, while Davison and Smile are the punters.

Davison, a second-team Northeast Lakes All-District choice last season, averaged 35.5 yards per punt.

Merlene converted 31 extra points last season.

Dobran

'We have experience. They have to take the next step in details and knowledge of the game.'

Rocco Dobran
Conneaut head coach

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
2.	Keifer Mandagelo	WR/DB	5-7	130	So.
3.	Zack Rice	RB/LB	5-11	166	Fr.
4.	Chase Carpenter	WR/DB	5-11	135	So.
6.	Jay Green	WR/DB	5-11	160	Sr.
7.	Jason Herd	QB/DB	5-9	150	So.
8.	Ryan Davison	QB/WR/DB	5-9	180	Jr.
9.	Richie Picard	WR/TE/LB	5-11	185	Sr.
10.	Seth Fedor	RB/OLB	5-9	155	Sr.
11.	Tellus Andrews	TE/LB	5-8	160	Jr.
12.	Nathan Koston	QB/DB	5-8	130	Fr.
13.	Lane Herman	WR/DB	5-11	155	Jr.
14.	Joey Merlene	K	5-11	150	Jr.
15.	Jake Slayton	WR/C	5-6	150	Jr.
18.	Sean Herman	WR/OLB	5-9	140	Jr.
19.	Brandon Smile	QB/DB	6-4	170	Sr.
20.	Karter Kaczoroski	FB/LB	5-11	160	Sr.
21.	Owen Shields	WR/DB	5-6	130	Fr.
23.	Anthony Nunes	WR/DB	5-7	140	Jr.
24.	Ethan McLimans	RB/LB	5-9	160	So.
25.	Ryan Osborne	WR/DB	5-3	120	Jr.
26.	Chance Ryan	RB/DB	5-9	170	Sr.
27.	Aidan Thomas	WR/DB	6-0	185	Sr.
28.	Jason Stiles	OL/LB	5-9	135	Fr.
30.	Larry Hamm	WR/DB	5-9	125	Fr.
42.	Leon Moffett	RB/DL	6-0	185	Sr.
44.	Robert Hagstrom	TE/DE	6-2	195	So.
50.	Hunter Dale	OL/DL	6-2	221	Sr.
51.	Patrick Kantola	OL/DL	6-2	225	So.
54.	Daren Christine	TE/LB	5-9	176	Fr.
55.	Tyler McCurdy	FB/LB	5-7	160	Sr.
56.	Logan Johnston	OL/DL	5-10	208	Sr.
60.	Billy Schmaemann	WR/LB	5-10	181	Jr.
64.	Isaac Schroeder	OL/DL	5-11	185	Jr.
65.	Eric Woods	OL/DL	5-11	210	So.
66.	Jacob Wiley	OL/DL	6-1	235	Jr.
71.	Moses Schwartz	OL/DL	5-9	195	Fr.
72.	Damon Bowers	OL/DL	5-9	270	Sr.
75.	Nick Osborne	OL/DL	5-9	215	So.
78.	Colton Cameron	OL/DL	6-2	180	Fr.
85.	Dylan Steward	WR/S	6-1	160	So.

CONNEAUT AT A GLANCE

Coach: Rocco Dobran
Years at Conneaut: Ninth season
2018 record: 6-4
Career record: 37-43
Conference: District 10, Region 3 (Pa.)
Base offense: Spread, multiple
Base defense: 3-4
Assistant coaches: Tony Pasanen, Tim Tallbacka, Bill Lipps, Erik Hodges

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The Conneaut football team is seeking its third District 10 football championship in four seasons in the 2019 campaign.

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WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Conneaut defender Seth Fedor reacts after making a play during a recent scrimmage at Pymatuning Valley.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Conneaut's Anthony Nunes runs after catching a pass during a recent scrimmage at Pymatuning Valley.

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Sept. 20 vs. Orange 7 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Edgewood 7 p.m.
Oct. 4 vs. West Geauga 7 p.m.
Oct. 11 at Lakeside 7 p.m.
Oct. 18 vs. Harvey 7 p.m.
Oct. 25 at Perry 7 p.m.
Nov. 1 at Chagrin Falls 7 p.m.

Battle-tested Eagles

Senior-laden team ready to turn corner in 2019

BY BRENDAN FEENEY
bfeeney@starbeacon.com

GENEVA Chip Sorber has been building toward the 2019 season since he first became Geneva's head football coach in 2015.

He and his coaching staff attacked every facet of the program offseason, in season, academics, physical and mental over the past four years and they have seen the progress they ve wanted.

The Eagles followed up a 2-8 2016 season with a 2-8 mark in 2017, but the two seasons had many differences. Two years ago, Geneva lost to Madison by one touchdown and fell to Northeast Ohio powerhouse Mogadore by 13 after being a tipped pass away from a tie game at halftime.

The Eagles gave Perry, which was undefeated at the time, its toughest test of the regular season, in terms of final scoring margin, and they lost their last two games to playoff teams Orange and Wickliffe by a combined three points.

Last season, after an 0-3 start, the Eagles doubled their win total from 2018 with only a handful of seniors on the roster. They won four of their last seven games and finished in a tie for second in the Chagrin Valley Conference.

Geneva returns 16 starters this year and is ready to push for conference and playoff contention.

This is where we should be, this is where we wanted

SEE **EAGLES,** 22

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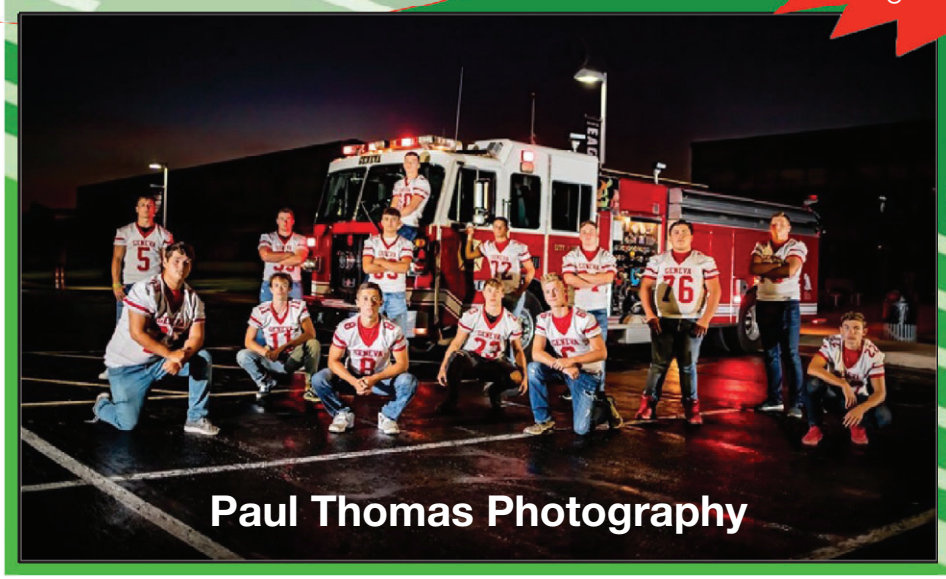
We would like to thank NMS Wealth Management and GOTL for allowing us to run parking lots as fund raisers and everyone who helped make Mulch Day such a success. We would also like to thank the City of Geneva, Geneva Schools and the Geneva Athletic Boosters for their dedicated support to Geneva football.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

who are 3-time champions of the third annual Scholastic Challenge with a combined grade point average of 3.41! The Gridiron Club is proud of the entire team's work and dedication on and off the field!

Class of 2020

Vinny Varckette, Daniel Lanning, Justin Way, Aiden Cowles, Mike Cooper, Nick Erb, John Amato, Brandon Thomas, Blake Peet, Terry Miller, Edmund Juodenas, Devin Young, Zachary Buskirk, Sam Davis



Paul Thomas Photography

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Geneva's football team has lofty expectations competing in the Chagrin Valley Conference Chagrin Division this season.

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EAGLES: Conference and postseason apsirations creates urgency for seniors

FROM PAGE 19

to be, Sorber said. We knew it was going to be a long journey. We knew it d be a lot of hard work to get to where we are now. We have an experienced team. We re returning a lot of starters that have been playing for one or two years already. They took their lumps as sophomores and had a much better year last year.

We are where we should be. This should be our best team in five years.

The Eagles, whose last .500-or-better season came back in 2010, open against Madison for the fifth-consecutive year. The two teams have played each other every year of the current decade and Geneva has only squeezed out one victory in nine tries.

Sorber replaced Mogadore in Week 2 with a rebuilding Jefferson team and the Eagles still have Kirtland, the reigning Division VI state champions, waiting in Week 3 before kicking off Chagrin Valley Conference play in Week 4.

We ve played a brutal schedule for the four years that I ve been here, Sorber said. Getting Mogadore off our Week 2 is huge. Going Madison, Mogadore, Kirtland is Murderer s Row and those three games (last year) affected us for the next four games physically.

Now, we have Jefferson Week 2. No disrespect to Jefferson, but they aren t Mogadore and that s pretty critical for us. We ve been 0-3 for the last three years and I don t expect us to be 0-3 after the first three games this year.

The Eagles have much more than a successful three game start to the season in their sights. Senior Blake Peet, a two-time first-team all-county defensive back, said he wants at least eight wins.

Sorber said the team is eyeing up a conference title and a playoff appearance, but he understands how difficult it can be to qualify in Division III, Region 9.

Two 8-2 teams failed to qualify for last year s playoff in the region and Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin finished 17th with a 7-3 record only the top eight teams reach the postseason.

In Division II, Region 5 where Lakeside and Madison play Mayfield reached the playoffs with a 5-5 record. In Division IV, Region 13 home to Conneaut and Edgewood a 6-4 Buchtel squad made the postseason.

We have a conference championship in our eyesight and we have a Week 11 game we would love to get to, Sorber said. This school hasn t been in a Week 11 game since 1989 30 years. We re in Division III, Region 9, which is the hardest region in the state of Ohio to get into the playoffs.

If these guys have any illusions of going to the playoffs, then they re going to have 10 playoff games. Every week is going to be a playoff game, because in Division III, Region 9, if you don t go 9-1, you re probably not going to get in.

The Eagles aren t just optimistic about their potential, though. They feel that a strong end to last season Geneva rushed for 545 rushing yards in a 48-33 win at Chagrin Falls in Week 10 coupled with the number of returning players, as well as the focus and determination showed this preseason can propel them into the 2019 season with momentum already on their side.

Our Week 10 game, we came out and rushed for 500-and-some yards and we just really got physical, Sorber said. Last year, we played with our offensive line all season long. We started with an offensive line Week 1 and it was three guys different Week 2. So, we had an offensive line that was in flux and was not a strong point of our team last year.

This year, they all come back. So that s huge. Our offense comes back with the exception of our quarterback (Kyle Stark). That s a decent situation to have. But Perry s the king. Until you slay Perry, they sit on top of that CVC throne. They built a house up there they ve been there so long.

To get there, we re going to have to control both lines of scrimmage, play better defense and take away the big play. If we do those four things, we re going to be in really good shape.

QUARTERBACK

Stark, a two-year starter, graduated in the spring and a void opened up under center in Geneva. Ben Scibona, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound junior, earned the starting job with a strong preseason.

Geneva has passed so little in the past that Stark earned all-county running back honors last year, but Sorber sees a change in strategy, albeit a minor one, with Scibona at quarterback.

He can zing it and for us not to use that, we would be foolish, Sorber said. Now, I don t expect

SEE GENEVA, 23

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
2.	Dylan Hamilton	RB/LB	5-9	165	So.
3.	Cameron Johnston	RB/LB	5-8	165	So.
4.	Matt Guzzo	SE/DB	5-9	145	So.
5.	Blake Peet	RB/DB	5-11	190	Sr.
6.	Nick Erb	SE/DB	6-0	155	Sr.
7.	Brady Peet	RB/LB	6-0	170	So.
8.	Aiden Cowles	RB/DB	5-8	170	Sr.
9.	Cole Vennis	K	6-0	175	Sr.
10.	Ben Scibona	QB/LB	6-4	200	Jr.
11.	Terry Miller	SE/DB	6-1	155	Sr.
12.	Gage Baker	SE/DB	6-0	175	Jr.
13.	Dominic Quinn	SE/DB	5-11	150	So.
15.	Kaden Colini	SE/DB	5-8	150	So.
20.	Mike Amato	RB/LB	5-10	150	So.
22.	Devan Young	SE/DB	6-0	155	Sr.
23.	Justin Way	RB/DB	5-8	180	Sr.
26.	Clayton Queen	QB/DB	5-11	155	So.
33.	Vinny Varckette	RB/LB	5-11	190	Sr.
35.	Charlie Taylor	RB/DL	6-2	240	Jr.
40.	Zane Francis	TE/LB	6-0	190	Jr.
41.	Gavin Juodenas	TE/LB	5-11	200	So.
52.	Brian Spencer	OL/DL	5-11	220	Jr.
54.	Austin Massena	OL/DL	5-9	220	Jr.
55.	Edmund Juodenas	OL/LB	6-0	240	Sr.
60.	John Amato	OL/LB	6-1	195	Sr.
62.	Christian Bradbury	OL/DL	6-0	240	Jr.
65.	Micah O Handley	OL/DL	5-9	200	Jr.
68.	Ethan Wright	OL/DL	5-11	255	So.
71.	Matt Gruzinski	OL/DL	6-4	260	Jr.
72.	Brandon Thomas	OL/DL	6-2	210	Sr.
73.	Sam Davis	OL/DL	6-4	275	Sr.
74.	Michael Cooper	OL/DL	5-9	215	Sr.
75.	Zach Buskirk	OL/DL	6-0	245	Sr.
76.	Daniel Lanning	OL/DL	5-8	260	Sr.
79.	Antonio Saldana	OL/DL	5-10	260	Jr.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Geneva's Blake Peet (5) is lifted in the air by Eagle teammate Sam Davis (73) after Peet's touchdown during a home scrimmage with Grand Valley earlier this month at Spire Institute in Harpersfield Township.

GENEVA: Offensive line expected to lead way

FROM PAGE 22

us to be throwing it 30 times a game, but we only threw that ball 52-54 times last year. I d expect us to throw at least 100 times this year.

RUNNING BACK

Geneva's backfield is loaded with talent. Fullback Charlie Taylor, a junior, earned a second-team all-county running back selection last year. Senior halfback Justin Way received the same honor in 2017.

Peet is a two-year starter in the backfield and Vinny Varckette, a senior, became Geneva s workhorse last season when both Peet and Way missed time.

Not only do we have the big powerful, bruising, physical runner (in Taylor), but we also have a lot of skill, finesse and speed with the two halfbacks, Sorber said. We will distribute the ball and our quarterback will carry the ball probably at least 10 to 12 times a game, also. So, we ll spread the wealth. That ball will be distributed amongst all the people out there. It s offense-by-committee out here. Always will be.

RECEIVER/ENDS

With the emergence of Scibona at quarterback, Geneva s split ends have become a bigger focus this offseason. The Eagles are currently using two ends, seniors Devan Young and Terry Miller, and sometimes both will be on the field at the same time. Zane Francis, a junior, will be lining up at tight end.

Not only do we expect them to run some routes and catch some passes, but they re critical blockers in our run-heavy offense, Sorber said of this position group. When we get a long run, typically it s because one of those guys had a great block down the field. So, they have a heavy responsibility to block. They ll be busy.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Temple University commit Sam Davis is the headliner, but the Eagles are deep and experienced in the trenches.

Seniors Michael Cooper, at center, and John Amato, at right guard, will both become three-year starters by the time Friday rolls around. Amato earned a spot as an offensive lineman on last year s all-county second-team.

Senior Edmund Juodenas played fullback each of his first two years at Geneva before moving over to the other guard spot last year.

Brandon Thomas, a senior who missed last year with a knee injury, rounds out the core who will likely determine how successful Geneva can be in 2019.

We re excited, Sorber said. A year ago at this time, we were patching together an offensive line. Last year, our first game, we went into Madison very unsure of who our linemen would be and by Week 2, we had three new ones playing up there. So, last year was tough on the offensive line, but we got through the year, and around Week 7, 8, it started to gel a little bit more and by Week 10 we rushed for 500 yards against Chagrin Falls.

That was what really made me excited about an offensive line that should be able to get it done. There should be no excuses up front for those guys. They gotta stay healthy and they gotta stay hungry.

DEFENSIVE LINE

With Davis lined up at nose tackle, flanked by Taylor and Thomas on each side, Sorber is expecting big things from his defensive line, especially Taylor.

For him to be a junior, that s your biggest growth year, mentally, Sorber said. So, we re expecting Charlie to really be a power up front on the defensive line.

Senior Zach Buskirk will rotate in at nose tackle.

LINEBACKER

Juodenas, Amato and Francis will man down the inside linebacker positions with Varckette and sophomore Brady Peet holding down the outside spots.

Juodenas was a first-team all-county defensive lineman last year and Varckette was a second-team all-county linebacker.

Our front eight are very, very good and we re excited about what they re going to do for us, Sorber said.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Blake Peet has had a case for best safety in the county each of the past two years. After missing a few games last season due to an injury, he is hungry to prove himself once again.

Way and Young will defend the outside as the team s two corners. Senior Aiden Cowles should receive some time, too.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Cole Vennis will kick field goals and extra points, while Taylor will handle the punting duties.

Varckette is the likely go-to returner, with Peet and Young likely to join in on the action.

Sorber said all could be home-run hitters, but at this point, we re just looking to catch the ball and get 5 yards. We ve had a hard time fielding punts here over the last several years. We ve let the ball roll all over the place, lost lots of yardage. Our goal is to catch it, get 5 and we ll be happy.

'We have an experienced team. We're returning a lot of starters that have been playing for one or two years already. They took their lumps as sophomores and had a much better year last year. We are where we should be. This should be our best team in five years.'

Chip Sorber
Geneva head coach

Sorber

GENEVA AT A GLANCE

Coach: Chip Sorber
Years at Geneva: Fifth season
2018 record: 4-6
Career record: 12-27
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference Chagrin Division
Base offense: Spread/Pistol/Wing-T
Base defense: Multiple Fronts (3-3, 4-4)
Assistant coaches: Don Shymske, Matt Peet, John Mirabell, Jay Corlew, Sean Seibert, Russ Brown

KEY GAME

Week 1: at Madison

The Eagles are thinking big in 2019 and if they want to accomplish all of their goals, a good start in Week 1 against Madison is necessary — especially with reigning Division VI state champion Kirtland and perennial CVC powerhouse Perry looming later in the year.

Strength of Schedule

Division III, Region 9
2018 OPPONENT RECORD
50-57 (.467)
PLAYOFF OPPONENTS
Kirtland, Perry, Orange
DIVISION BREAKDOWN
Division II (2 games), Division III (1 game), Division IV (5 games), Division V (2 games)

Aug. 30
vs. Jefferson
7 p.m.

Sept. 6
at Edgewood
7 p.m.

Sept. 13
vs. Harvey
7 p.m.

Sept. 20
vs. Beachwood
7 p.m.

Sept. 27
at Berkshire
7 p.m.

Oct. 4
vs. Hawken
7 p.m.

Oct. 11
at Kirtland
7 p.m.

Oct. 18
at Cardinal
7 p.m.

Oct. 25
vs. Wickliffe
7 p.m.

Nov. 1
vs. Faiport Harding
7 p.m.

Going through changes

Mustangs enter 2019 season with new head coach in new conference

BY BRENDAN FEENEY
bfeeney@starbeacon.com

KEY GAME
Week 1: vs. Jefferson

The Mustangs and Falcons have faced off to begin each of the last four seasons. Jefferson won in 2015 and Grand Valley has won each of the last three. This year's features two firsts. Clint Nims makes his head coaching debut and it will also be the inaugural Roaming Shores Battle of the Oar. Nims said the winning team will get to display its colors on the oar in the Roaming Shores Clubhouse.

ORWELL The players made the same walk from the fieldhouse to the field that they have done before every practice and game for years during a hot Wednesday morning in late August.

They strolled by the same bell and rock that lay outside the football stadium, past the same track and onto the same grass field. They tossed on their Grand Valley-blue football helmets and practiced just like they do every year.

But, nearly everything else has changed.

Gordon Seger is still lining up behind the center and David Nye is still being counted on to make plays on both sides of the ball, but they are no longer turning to John Glavickas on the sidelines the former Mustangs coach stepped down last January after seven years at the helm.

Long gone are the days of beating down on the Northeastern Athletic Conference where the Mustangs lost only one conference game since the start of the 2015 season.

Now, Clint Nims holds the clipboard on the Grand Valley sidelines for the Mustangs, who are members of the Chagrin Valley Conference for the second time this century.

We talk about how we can t control the events we are in, but we can control how we respond to them and our response determines our outcomes, said Nims, who is in his 17th year as a football coach and first as a head coach. The kids have been doing a great job with (the changes). The coaches are doing a great job adjusting and filling in where we need it. It s a little different, but I think everyone s doing a great job adjusting and doing what we need to do.

Nims' first year comes on the heels of one of the most successful stretches of football in GV history and in recent Ashtabula County memory.

GV has won at least seven games in each of the last four seasons and six times in the current decade. The county s seven other teams have achieved that same feat seven times in the same timespan.

The Mustangs are the only county team to have both a 10- and nine-win season since the start of 2010 and they have three seasons of eight-or-more victories compared to just one from the rest of the county Jefferson in 2012.

The team from Orwell has reached the postseason three times since 2015.

The seven other teams in the county have combined to reach the playoffs twice since 2010.

Obviously we want to be our own team, but we ve had a lot of successful seasons in a row and we want to keep that streak alive, Seger said after a practice in early August. So, obviously the goal is to go 10-0 every year. Going into the CVC, there s a lot of people saying we can t do it, because we played in a crummy conference and that s the reason we lost in the first round of the playoffs (in 2015, 2016 and 2017). We just want to prove everyone wrong.

The Mustangs kicked off each of their last three seasons with Week 1 wins over Jefferson and they will have the chance to make it four in a row when they host the Falcons on Friday.

GV will visit Edgewood its only other county opponent this year in Week 2 and return to Orwell to face Harvey in Week 3 before opening up CVC Valley Division play against Beachwood in Week 4.

The Mustangs share their new division with Beachwood, Berkshire, Wickliffe, Kirtland, Cardinal and Hawken.

Berkshire, Cardinal and Hawken struggled to a combined 5-24 record in 2018. Beachwood went 6-4, Wickliffe reached the playoffs and finished 8-3 and Kirtland won the Division VI state championship with a perfect 15-0 mark.

It s basically one day at a time, Nims said of his team s mindset entering its 2019 campaign. Give me your best right now and let s look to improve. We actually have a definition of success. We say we re successful if we pursued our full potential, if we ve given our full effort.

There s not necessarily a number of wins that we re looking for. Did we reach our full potential? Did we try to get to that full potential? If we did, we re successful. If we didn t then we sold ourselves short.

QUARTERBACKS

Seger will control the huddle for the second season in a row. He completed 39 of 87 pass attempts for 774 yards, 10 touchdowns and three interceptions last year as a junior.

Seger also picked up 183 rushing yards on 52 attempts.

I think the game has slowed down for him a lot, Nims said. He has a year experience,

SEE **MUSTANGS,** 25

MUSTANGS: Nims takes over as head coach

FROM PAGE 24

he sees the field a little better and he s a leader for us.

Junior Joe Sieracki will back up Seger.

RUNNING BACKS

Logan Newell, Clayon Takacs and Nick Reichek combined for 1,708 of GV s 2,818 yards and 28 of the team s 40 touchdowns in 2018. All three graduated last spring.

Nye will now receive the bulk of the carries as GV s starting tailback.

He averaged more than 7 yards on limited attempts as a sophomore and rushed for 434 yards and six touchdowns on 73 carries last year.

Juniors Sal Martin and Trevor Meeker will accompany Nye in the backfield.

Meeker tallied 58 yards on 11 attempts last season.

Sieracki will also contribute as an H-back.

WIDE RECEIVERS/ENDS

Senior Evan Heller is the Mustangs returning leading receiver after catching eight passes for 123 yards and a touchdown in 2018. Junior Ashton Zupancic will also be on the outside.

Cole Seger, a junior, started on the offensive line and played fullback in the past. This year he will slide over to tight end.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Grand Valley's Gordon Seger prepares to throw during a recent scrimmage at Geneva.

Strength of Schedule

Division V, Region 17

2018 OPPONENT RECORD

41-64 (.441)

PLAYOFF OPPONENTS

Kirtland, Wickliffe

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

Division III (1), Division IV (2), Division V (5), Division VI (1), Division VII (1).

OFFENSIVE LINE

The Mustangs are returning a lot of experience on the offensive line.

Seniors Bradley Busser, Isaac Purchase and Mason Shreve all started a year ago and the latter earned first-team all-county honors. Chase Cottrell, a junior, missed his sophomore

SEE **GV,** 26

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
2.	Gordon Seger	QB/DB	6-2	195	Sr.
3.	Sal Martin	WR/DB	5-11	160	Jr.
4.	Tyler Herendeen	WR/LB	6-0	150	Jr.
5.	Hunter Perry	RB/LB	5-9	195	So.
6.	Trent Doyle	WR/DB	5-4	115	Fr.
7.	Cole Seger	TE/DL	6-0	215	Jr.
8.	Zach Hall	QB/DL	6-0	170	So.
9.	Josh Huffman	K	5-9	150	Sr.
10.	Evan Heller	WR/DB	6-2	190	Sr.
11.	Jacob Taylor	WR/DB	6-0	160	Sr.
12.	Malik Mitchell	WR/DB	6-4	180	Sr.
13.	Alex Sullivan	WR/DB	5-6	135	So.
14.	Nathan Boiarski	QB/DB	6-0	150	Fr.
15.	Ashton Zupancic	WR/DB	6-2	135	Jr.
16.	Aidan Whitright	WR/DB	5-10	135	Fr.
17.	DJ Webb	QB/DL	5-9	215	So.
18.	Dylan Hivick	WR/DB	5-6	125	Fr.
19.	Toby Lucas	WR/DB	5-6	155	Jr.
21.	Josh Mullet	WR/DB	5-8	130	So.
22.	Justin Dlugos	WR/DB	6-0	140	So.
23.	Logan Jones	WR/DB	5-5	125	Fr.
24.	Joe Sieracki	QB/LB	6-2	205	Jr.
27.	Trevor Meeker	RB/LB	5-3	125	Jr.
28.	David Nye	RB/LB	5-8	200	Sr.
30.	James Phillips	RB/LB	5-5	145	Fr.
31.	Evan Hiland	WR/DB	5-11	155	Jr.
32.	Trenton Crum	RB/DB	5-7	130	Fr.
36.	Alex Baumann	TE/DL	6-0	215	So.
38.	CJ Samsa	TE/LB	5-7	150	So.
40.	Casey Turner	RB/LB	5-10	170	Fr.
44.	Keegan Hart	RB/LB	5-8	150	So.
50.	Bradley Busser	OL/DL	6-2	190	Sr.
51.	Jason Byers	OL/DL	5-11	205	Fr.
52.	Corey Fry	OL/DL	6-2	230	Sr.
53.	Mason Shreve	OL/DL	6-3	230	Sr.
54.	Reese Kuhn	OL/DL	5-7	180	So.
56.	Brandan Warne	OL/DL	5-8	200	So.
57.	Jaret Takacs	OL/DL	5-11	195	Jr.
58.	Cooper Pilarczyk	OL/DL	6-1	250	Jr.
59.	RJ Stein	OL/DL	5-10	190	So.
61.	Chris Cronin	OL/DL	5-10	200	Jr.
64.	Charlie Clason	OL/DL	5-7	145	Fr.
66.	Chase Cottrell	OL/DL	6-0	250	Jr.
71.	Eric Benton	OL/DL	6-3	210	So.
73.	Daniel Wilkes	OL/DL	6-3	255	Jr.
74.	Alex Noe	OL/DL	6-4	305	So.
76.	Riley Cunningham	OL/DL	6-0	235	Jr.
77.	Drew D Amico	OL/DL	5-10	195	Jr.
79.	Isaac Purchase	OL/DL	6-0	215	Sr.
86.	William Seger	WR/DB	5-10	140	So.
88.	Brendon Hamilton	WR/LB	5-8	155	So.
89.	Justin Belt	WR/DB	5-7	150	So.

'The kids have been doing a great job (with the changes). The coaches are doing a great job of adjusting and filling in where we need it'

Nims

Clint Nims
GV head coach

GV AT A GLANCE

Coach: Clint Nims
Years at GV: 17 (all as assistant)
2018 record: 7-3
Career record: 0-0
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference Valley Division
Base offense: Pistol/Spread/Option
Base defense: 4-3
Assistant coaches: Chris Perrotti, Josh Kocab, Nathan Pilarczyk, Jay Yuhasz, Michael McGovern

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

The Grand Valley Mustangs are making the move to the Chagrin Valley Conference this season with a new head coach as assistant Clint Nims takes over.

GV: Mustangs to face new challenges in CVC Valley Division

FROM PAGE 25

season due to an injury, but he started as a freshman.

Nims said he also has senior Corey Fry and juniors Cooper Pilarczyk and Jaret Takacs rotating in.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Fry, Shreve, Cottrell and Cole Seger will be down in the trenches on defense. Fry, Shreve and Seger combined for 13.5 tackles for loss last year.

Drew D Amico, a junior, has also impressed Nims the coach said he had an awesome camp and should earn a few rotations, too.

We have some guys up front that I think can wreak some havoc, Nims said.

LINEBACKERS

Like at running back, the Mustangs have holes to fill at linebacker.

Takacs was the county defensive player of the year in 2017 and earned first-team honors after a 100-tackle season in 2018. Reichek, a two-time all-county linebacker, recorded 101 tackles.

Nye, who played the last three years at nose tackle, is now leading the defense as the middle linebacker. Meeker and Sieracki will flank him on each side.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Heller, a second-team all-county safety in 2018, leads the GV secondary.

He picked off three passes a season ago and made 62 tackles.

He s had a fantastic camp, Nims said. He s been a great leader for us.

He will be joined in the defensive backfield by Zupancic, at safety, and Seger, at corner.

Senior Jacob Taylor, junior Evan Hiland and Martin round out GV s secondary.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Josh Huffman is responsible for GV s kicking duties.

Nims said Huffman made a 45-yard field goal during the team s midnight madness a number of weeks ago.

Seger will remain behind center in punting situations.

Nye and Martin will return kicks for the Mustangs and Heller will field punts.

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Aug. 29
at Conneaut
7 p.m.

Sept. 6
vs. Grand Valley
7 p.m.

Sept. 13
at Jefferson
7 p.m.

Sept. 20
vs. Perry
7 p.m.

Sept. 27
vs. Geneva
7 p.m.

Oct. 4
at Chagrin Falls
7 p.m.

Oct. 11
at Orange
7 p.m.

Oct. 18
vs. West Geauga
7 p.m.

Oct. 25
at Harvey
7 p.m.

Nov. 1
vs. Lakeside
7 p.m.

Making the commitment

Warriors sticking with the plan, showing improvement

BY MIKE SHAFFER
sports@starbeacon.com

KEY GAME
Week 1: at Conneaut
Edgewood opens the season tonight at Conneaut. It's the first meeting between the neighboring rivals since 2015. A win would go a long way in helping the Warriors get going this season.

Strength of Schedule
Division IV, Region 13
2018 OPPONENT RECORD
44-57 (.441)
PLAYOFF OPPONENTS
Perry, Orange
DIVISION BREAKDOWN
Division II (1), Division III (2), Division IV (6), Division V (1)

ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP
Certainly not everything went the way coach Jon Butchko would have hoped for in his first year at the helm of the Edgewood program.

In fact, at times, things went downhill so fast, the coach may have wished he never got on I-77 North to leave Canton.

Consider the first game of the season.

The Warriors were forced to use three quarterbacks, including a freshman who never took a varsity snap.

Two weeks later, Nick Monda, who was expected to carry the load offensively, suffered a knee injury against Hubbard and was sidelined the rest of the season.

Through the adversity, though, Edgewood came up with not only one of its biggest wins of the season, but also a battle cry going forward. It came Week 6 against Brookfield.

We wanted to give ourselves a chance to compete, Butchko said. The meeting before the Brookfield game, that became our motto. We said whatever is gonna happen, no matter what the scoreboard said, we were just gonna compete and let the outcome be what the outcome is.

As the outcome turned out, the Warriors put up more than 500 yards of offense and celebrated a 58-32 win.

Now, Butchko and his Warriors coaching staff enter their second year.

His first year saw the team go 3-7 and suffer back-to back losses to Struthers and Niles McKinley to leave lingering memories heading into the offseason.

The second-year doesn t promise a complete turnaround.

There will still be nights where Edgewood will look across the field at teams with a lot more players in uniform, many of whom will be bigger, stronger and faster than they are.

But, having gone through the growing pains of implementing a new system a year ago, Butchko believes the Warriors will be more ready to once again give themselves a chance to compete on Friday nights this fall.

We re still teaching, the coach said. We re still implementing things and talking coverage adjustments and everything else that goes with our offensive and defensive schemes.

But, our older guys, guys that have played a season are helping the younger guys. What I ve been most encouraged by is we ve had very few absentees in workouts so far.

The team should also be in better physical shape.

Butchko, with help from a few others, implemented the Warrior Strong program. It was a conditioning program geared to helping student athletes and non-athletes get stronger over the summer.

I don t care if you re a member of the football team or the cross country team, we should be building core strength, Butchko said.

By and large, many of our coaches have been receptive to the program and I think that will make our sports better from top to bottom.

Making things better on the football field from an offensive standpoint will mean getting to the line of scrimmage quickly and playing up-tempo.

The Warriors will once again be in a spread formation.

Sophomore Zach Winchell returns under center and will be looking to establish a quick, short passing game by getting the ball into the hands of playmakers such as senior Alec Katon and sophomore Izaiah Harris.

Defensively, Butchko wants to improve against the run more than anything.

Up front, Edgewood has some depth.

At linebacker, junior Jacob Bell is a returning starter. Junior Brian Bisbey also got some starts. The secondary is young, but also talented, namely with Harris roaming about at safety.

Half of Edgewood s schedule is against Ashtabula County schools, starting at Conneaut tonight.

They ll face Grand Valley and Jefferson the following weeks, before getting into Chagrin Valley Conference play.

The Warriors will host Geneva Week 5 and close the regular season at home against Lakeside.

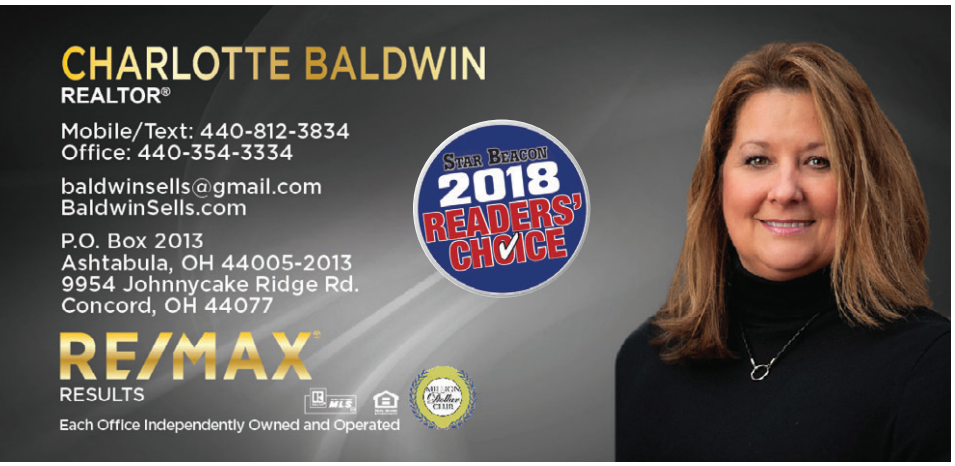
QUARTERBACK

Winchell, at 5-foot-10, 175 pounds, received a taste of what being a varsity quarterback is all about last season.

SEE **WARRIORS,** 29

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Edgewood's football team is looking to improve from last season's 3-7 mark in the second year under coach Jon Butchko.



WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Edgewood's Curtis Warren (right) closes in on Pymatuning Valley's Garrett Smith during a scrimmage Friday at Corlew Field in Ashtabula Township.

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WARRIORS: Coaching staff pleased with participation in workouts

FROM PAGE 27

Butchko is comfortable with his athletic ability and says he s brash enough at a young age to want to make plays.

The coach added that Winchell has been eager to learn and has grown with every snap this summer.

Katon will back him up and Harris could see time there, too, if needed.

RUNNING BACKS

In the backfield, Butchko said it s been a three-way competition for the starting tailback spot between Bell and seniors Teddy English and James Gross.

Gross is probably the quickest of the three, while Bell and English run with more power.

The one who catches the ball best though will see the most time.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Harris had a great freshman season and is primed to do more this year. He s bulked up and should make an impact on both sides of the ball.

Senior Ethan Colbert was an all-county selection from a year ago with Lakeside. Butchko said he ll add a little swagger to the receiving corps this fall. The Warriors also return senior Curtis Warren and Katon as pass catchers.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Connor Tack is the most experienced lineman returning. The junior played 10 games at right guard and will be there again this season.

A couple of players lost to injury last season are expected back, including senior Jason Bisbey and junior JJ Johnson.

Johnson is slated to play at one of the tackle spots. Sophomore Kaleb Summers is expected to line up at tackle. Sophomore Troy Peterson could make a compelling case to be on the playing field, along with freshman John Andrew.

Butchko went as far to say that, as a group, the offensive line is light years ahead of where they were a year ago.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Being a lineman will be a two-way job at Edgewood.

The line will have some interchanging parts throughout the

SEE **WORKOUTS,** 30

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
1.	Curtis Warren	WR/LB	6-0	185	Sr.
2.	Alec Katon	WR/DB	6-2	170	Sr.
3.	Dillon Wilburn	WR/DB	5-8	145	So.
7.	Zach Winchell	QB/DB	5-10	180	So.
11.	Izaiah Harris	WR/DB	6-1	190	So.
12.	Santo Sanabria	RB/LB	5-10	175	Fr.
13.	Ethan Colbert	WR/DB	5-10	180	Sr.
15.	James Gross	WR/DB	5-9	165	Sr.
16.	Logan McEndree	WR/DB	5-11	140	So.
17.	Donovan Ciesicki	QB/DB	5-10	150	Fr.
21.	Brian Bisbey	RB/LB	5-10	170	Jr.
23.	Jacob Bell	RB/LB	5-11	190	Jr.
25.	Hunter Cusano	RB/LB	5-11	165	Fr.
33.	Teddy English	RB/DB	5-9	170	Sr.
50.	Jason Bisbey	OL/DL	5-11	190	Sr.
51.	J.J. Johnson	OL/DL	5-10	190	Jr.
52.	Dominic Ciesicki	OL/DL	6-3	200	Sr.
54.	Raymond Braat	OL/DL	5-10	220	Fr.
56.	Kaleb Summers	OL/DL	6-1	225	So.
57.	William Meister	OL/DL	5-9	180	Fr.
59.	Troy Peterson	OL/DL	6-2	200	So.
64.	John Andrew	OL/DL	6-2	245	Fr.
66.	Zach Furman-Eckland	OL/DL	5-10	175	So.
70.	Dalonta Miller	OL/DL	5-10	230	So.
75.	Ethan Searles	OL/DL	6-2	195	So.
76.	Connor Tack	OL/DL	6-1	295	Jr.
79.	Will Mogel	OL/DL	6-1	290	So.
80.	Cody Estok	WR/DB	5-8	140	So.
82.	Anthony Zuccaro	K	6-2	230	Sr.
87.	Brian Bearce	K	5-7	140	So.

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WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Edgewood's Santo Sanabria (12) tries to find his way between Pymatuning Valley defenders Devin Ray (56), Thurmond Adkins (57) and John Chalfant (65) on Friday night at Corlew Field in Ashtabula Township.

WORKOUTS: Warrior Strong program has helped football team

FROM PAGE 29

season, but Butchko said sophomore Will Mogel is slated to play over the ball after gaining tough, but valuable experience a year ago.

Summers brings athleticism and quickness off the end.

Senior Dominic Ciesicki is expected to see minutes on the line.

Others in the mix include Peterson, Bisbey and Johnson.

LINEBACKERS

Bell will get the nod at one outside spot.

Bisbey has been asked to slide inside after playing outside linebacker and safety a season ago.

Warren, who also played safety a year ago, is slated to start at what Butchko calls a sandbacker.

SECONDARY

Harris will roam at free safety, while Colbert could be lined up as either a safety or a cornerback.

Both players will allow the defense to take some unconventional chances as far as making plays.

Katon has developed into an effective cover guy. English and Gross are in a position battle for the other starting safety spot.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Butchko loves analytics. One item he found is that blocked punts lead to an 80 percent chance of winning.

With that in mind, he wants his teams to be aggressive on special teams. Brian Bearce, a soccer player, will handle the place-kicking duties.

Katon will handle the punting duties with Harris and Colbert on returns.

The Warriors want to be aggressive on special teams. Last year, they typically went for two on extra points.

'What I've been most encouraged by is we've had very few absentees in workouts so far.'

Jon Butchko
Edgewood head coach

Butchko

EDGEWOOD AT A GLANCE

Coach: Jon Butchko
Years at Edgewood: Second season
2018 record: 3-7
Career record: 3-7
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference Chagrin Division
Base offense: Spread
Base defense: 4-3
Assistant coaches: Olajuwon Cooper, Rob McEndree, Tyler Welton, Jeff Herron, Jeremiah Keeler, Nate Winchell

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Edgewood's Zach Winchell launches a pass over Pymatuning Valley defender Logan Giddings last Friday night at Corlew Field in Ashtabula Township.

Willis

'These guys have a lot of experience under their belt now. This is the year we've got to put things together.'

Tim Willis
Madison head coach

MADISON AT A GLANCE

Coach: Tim Willis
Years at Madison: 20th season
2018 record: 4-6
Career record: 117-74
Conference: Western Reserve Conference
Base offense: Multiple formations
Base defense: 3-4
Assistant coaches: Brian Cramer, Mike Gilligan, Tim Mainello, Mike Martin, Vince Austin, John O'Brien, Nick Reilly

MADISON: Glass, Thompson stalwarts along the lines

FROM PAGE 11

Blackie is also a returning starter, while Woody moves over from safety to help out in the middle of the defense. Seniors Land, Reynolds, and Wardrop all add experience to the group.

SECONDARY

Weema returns as starting cornerback, while Dragas, who started the last four games last season at corner, will also see time in the defensive backfield.

Gilligan will rotate in juniors Truman Myers and Havens as well as Tanner and Welch, who both have experience.

Seniors Alex Parmetor is a returner at weakside safety and Hunter Nadzan (5-8, 155) is projected to start at the free safety position.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior CJ Kessler (5-10, 165) gained experience kicking last season filling in when Manny Dominguez was injured.

He will handle the field goal and extra point opportunities.

Dragas will most likely handle most of the punting situations, although Fisher has also punted in the past. Wardrop has all long-snapping responsibilities.

PYMATUNING VALLEY AT A GLANCE

Coach: Neal Croston
Years at PV: 10th season
2018 record: 2-8
Career record: 36-44
Conference: Northeastern Athletic Conference
Base offense: Spread/Pro Sets
Base defense: 4-man fronts (4-3, 4-4)
Assistant coaches: Kevin Brown, Sean Freeman, Jason Root

'They were lifting. There's no complaining. We're doing the sets. We're not cheating. Little things like that. So, I think we had a positive vibe throughout the whole summer.'

Croston

Neal Croston
PV head coach

PV: Bean, Crouch move to backfield

FROM PAGE 9

that s what we re looking for.

RUNNING BACKS

Bean is taking his talents to the backfield.

The all-state receiver rushed for 171 yards on 41 carries a year ago.

He will be joined by Crouch, an all-county first-team lineman turned fullback, junior Dillen Knowles and Giddings.

Those are all seniors and juniors, so it s nice to have some upperclassmen in the backfield," Croston said.

With those four, I think we ll have a good mixture back there.

WIDE RECEIVER

Sophomore Andrew Root started on defense in 2018 and will line up in the slot on offense in 2019.

Juniors Jonah Wilkerson and Mason Inman, both basketball players who are returning to the football field for the first time since middle school, are rotating at the outside receiver spot. Robert Verba, a 6-foot-1, 195-pound sophomore, is returning at tight end.

We got a decent core of guys, Croston said. We have some athletic guys, so we re excited about what we have at the skill positions.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Victor Verba, a 300-pound junior, and John Chalfant, a 265-pound junior, have been mainstays on the offensive line for the past two years and both are back.

Junior Louie Phillips is now a two-year starter and Hunter Smith, a sophomore, will return to the line after a preseason ankle injury heals, according to Croston.

Junior Nathan Hicks and sophomores Devin Ray and James McCulloch are also rotating in and out.

I have faith in our linemen because they seem to be getting at it a little harder in practice this year, Giddings said.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Giddings, junior Cole Hartman, sophomore Thurmond Adkins, Hicks, Chalfant, Smith, Phillips McCulloch, Ray and Victor Verba give PV a lot of depth on the defensive line, which will usually feature a four-man front.

We ve got about eight, nine guys, maybe even 10 on the defensive line that we can rotate in and out and that s something we haven t had in years past, Croston said.

LINEBACKER

Crouch is back at middle linebacker for the Lakers and he will be joined by Wilkerson.

Bean and Knowles will line up on the outside.

Those are all experienced guys, Croston said. Jonah s the new one in there, but his biggest thing is he s got instincts, so he s catching on quickly.

"Kenny's definitely the leader of the linebackers, he s making the calls for us. He gives you that presence of just being confident. You need someone who is going to be outspoken and that s going to lead that team out there.

DEFENSIVE BACK

Root returns to the defensive backfield.

Smith and Inman will take up the other two spots with Robert Verba receiving some repetitions.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Croston did not pencil in just one kicker, punter or returner for his team.

Robert Verba and Smith will continue to duel over the punting duties, while Verba will also battle Wilkerson for kickoffs.

Bean, Smith, Wilkerson and Inman will all have to be ready for returns.

I always want to have an extra few guys in case someone gets bumped up or someone needs a break, Croston said. So, those will be our four returning guys for punt return and kick return.

Aug. 30
at Grand Valley
7 p.m.

Sept. 6
at Geneva
7 p.m.

Sept. 13
vs. Edgewood
7 p.m.

Sept. 20
vs. Niles
7 p.m.

Sept. 27
at Hubbard
7 p.m.

Oct. 4
vs. Struthers
7 p.m.

Oct. 11
at South Range
7 p.m.

Oct. 18
vs. Poland
7 p.m.

Oct. 25
at Girard
7 p.m.

Nov. 1
vs. Lakeview
7 p.m.

Working their way back up

Falcons eager to return program to past winning ways

BY MIKE SHAFFER
sports@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON When a program goes through a couple of lean years, as the Jefferson Falcons have, coaches tend to look at cultural issues.

The focus typically centers around fixing the environment, changing attitudes and teaching accountability to one another.

Falcons coach Ed Rankin, however, said that has not happened with his team.

Instead, it s his players that are working on making the Jefferson program back to what it was just a few years ago.

The kids are changing the tradition back to what Jefferson football was, Rankin said. It s the kids. Coaches don t change. We adopt different things, but I m the same dude that I ve been since I started coaching. The kids want to win and do things the right way. The change is coming from them.

Jefferson has won just one game over the last two years.

But, the players know that record is not indicative of the tradition that Jefferson football is.

Players on the roster now were in elementary school and junior high when the varsity program was posting winning records year in and year out and knocking on the door of the state playoffs.

Rankin said he has a group eager to return the program to those days again.

We re not creating anything, we re bringing it back Rankin said. That s important for the kids to understand who we are. We re not like a crappy football program that s never had any success and no one cares.

We have great tradition and great history. We just have to get back to doing things the old way.

The Falcons return 15 starters from a year ago, but youth is still a big factor.

Of those returning starters, only six are seniors and almost half of the roster is freshmen.

Rankin said many of them demanded he open the weight room up as soon as last season ended so they could get a jump on offseason lifting.

The best thing about this group of kids is football is important, Rankin said. They love being here. I could have pushed to maybe get 50-55 (players), but there would have been 10 that did not want to be here. This group, they want to be here.

Offensively, the Falcons have some weapons.

Senior DJ Hall will get the nod under center.

He ll be working behind a young, but much improved line from a year ago.

The need will be to get the ball into the hands of guys like juniors Austin Jones and Danny Bruckman and senior Austin Schmidt, among others.

Inexperience, along with lack of size and strength, haunted the defense last season and the results showed, as the Falcons gave up 40-or-more points in seven games.

Cleaning up missed tackles and getting better against the run will be key in the defensive unit s development.

Players such as juniors Jacob Sabo and Cam Hall, sophomores Cole Pawlowski, Brent Dietrich and Jacob Wheeler and senior Braxton Babic will be counted on to play fast and with a lot of heart.

The Jefferson schedule matches them against a slate of Ashtabula County opponents before getting into Northeast 8 Conference play.

They ll have their traditional opener at Grand Valley, then head to Geneva before coming home to take on Edgewood.

The Warriors pulled out a 14-8 win over the Falcons at Corlew Stadium a year ago.

His team may still be underdogs a good bit this season, but Rankin believes the program has taken the steps to reestablishing the Jefferson football tradition.

This is just a little bump in the road, he said. Look back at the tradition, even the recent history. All the players and coaches that have come before us, we have great tradition here.

It s getting close to being back. I think attitude-wise, it s back. Now we just have to play catch-up

SEE **FALCONS,** 33

KEY GAME

Week 3: vs. Edgewood

The Falcons nearly pulled out a win last season, falling 14-8. Jefferson will play its final county contest before entering NE8 play for the first time.

Strength of Schedule

Division V, Region 17 (Division IV, Region 13 in 2018)

2018 OPPONENT RECORD

63-108 (.583)

PLAYOFF OPPONENTS

Hubbard, Girard

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

Division III (2), Division IV (6), Division V (2)

Rankin

'The kids are changing the tradition back to what Jefferson football was.'

Ed Rankin
Jefferson head coach

FALCONS: Process continues at Jefferson

FROM PAGE 32

with physicality and experience. The kids have taken that upon them to bring that back.

QUARTERBACK

Hall won an intense position battle against classmate David Thompson for the starting role, but Rankin said both players had great camps.

The coach wants a quarterback that can run and, at 5-foot-8, Hall has that ability.

Built like a fullback, he s not afraid to get out of the pocket and make things happen.

He started the final game of last season against LaBrae.

RUNNING BACK

Bruckman rushed for 424 yards and five touchdowns a year ago.

Pound for pound, Rankin said he s as strong as anyone on the team.

Described as a powerful and determined runner, expect much of what Jefferson does to go through him.

A couple other players that will play prominent roles in the backfield are Schmidt and Jones.

Rankin believes all three backs have the ability to make plays against any team in their conference.

Pawlowski could also get some carries as a fullback.

WIDE RECEIVER

A year ago, the Falcons didn t complete many passes.

Schmidt, Jones and Thompson hope to

SEE **JEFFERSON,** 34

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Jefferson's quarterback D.J. Hall prepares to throw during the first day of practice earlier this month.

JEFFERSON AT A GLANCE

Coach: Ed Rankin
Years at Jefferson: Second season
2018 record: 0-10
Career record: 0-10
Conference: Northeast 8 Conference
Base offense: Shotgun-option
Base defense: 4-3-4
Assistant coaches: Scott Collins, John Namey, Tim Glodowski, Robbie Eckart, Jeremy Stiles

ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Gr.
3.	Wade Woodworth	WR/DE	5-11	165	Fr.
4.	Reid Boczar	WR/DB	5-9	145	So.
6.	DJ Hall	QB/LB	5-8	174	Sr.
7.	Austin Schmidt	WR/DB	5-11	188	Sr.
8.	Grant Hitchcock	QB/DB	5-9	135	Fr.
9.	Bradyn Campbell	WR/DB	5-10	125	Fr.
10.	Tim Kinkopf	QB/DB	5-10	160	So.
11.	Blaze Blankenship	RB/DB	5-7	135	Fr.
14.	Braxton Babic	WR/DB	5-9	168	Sr.
16.	David Thompson	QB/DE	6-2	185	Sr.
17.	Cameron Hall	WR/DE	6-0	153	Jr.
21.	David Ellis	WR/DB	5-7	140	Fr.
23.	Danny Bruckman	RB/DB	5-8	180	Jr.
26.	Tyler Brown	WR/DB	5-9	145	Sr.
32.	Daniel Bixler	RB/LB	5-9	135	Fr.
35.	Tyler Kinkopf	QB/DB	5-10	130	Fr.
40.	Patrick Beebe	WR/DB	6-0	131	Fr.
42.	Zach Burrnet	WR/DE	5-11	175	Sr.
44.	Jacob Wheeler	RB/DE	5-10	175	So.
50.	Cole Pawlowski	OL/LB	5-10	168	So.
51.	Jacob Sabo	OL/LB	5-10	183	Jr.
52.	Justin Miller	OL/DT	6-0	232	Sr.
53.	Preston Reams	OL/LB	6-0	160	Fr.
55.	Brent Dietrich	OL/DT	5-10	162	So.
57.	Johnnie Eckart	OL/DT	6-0	250	Sr.
58.	Kirk Lambert	OL/DT	6-1	222	Fr.
60.	Christian Rodgers	OL/DE	5-10	145	Fr.
65.	Devin Crowell	OL/DE	5-8	131	Fr.
66.	Jesse Moore	OL/DT	6-2	190	So.
68.	Sam Discher	OL/DT	6-2	245	Fr.
72.	Cole Brake	OL/DT	5-9	220	Fr.
73.	Hunter Dietrich	OL/DT	6-1	201	Jr.
75.	Mason Pawlowski	OL/DL	5-8	200	Fr.
76.	Edgar Reed	OL/DT	6-2	175	Fr.
78.	Jordan Wheeler	OL/DT	5-8	213	Fr.
80.	Erik Deary	WR/LB	5-9	136	Fr.
81.	Jon Waszil	WR/DB	5-8	128	So.
83.	Trent Hodge	WR/DB	5-8	128	Fr.
88.	Jordan Campbell	WR/DB	5-10	166	Sr.
89.	Austin Jones	WR/DB	6-0	180	Jr.

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RICK ZACK | CREATIVE PORTRAITS BY RAPID PHOTO

The Jefferson football team is working its way back up to Falcons teams of the past. Jefferson opens the season Friday night at Grand Valley.

JEFFERSON: Junior Bruckman keys Falcons' running game

FROM PAGE 33

change that this fall.

Aside from being in the backfield, Schmidt and Jones will see time in the slot. Rankin said all three players can run well and have the ability to catch the football.

Thompson is credited as someone who has brought tremendous leadership and is turning the culture back to what it was.

OFFENSIVE LINE

A season ago, Jefferson had linemen weighing only 140 pounds.

This season, there are freshmen that measure in over 6-foot and 240 pounds.

A pair of seniors, Johnnie Eckart and Justin Miller, will lead a young group up front.

The line also returns Dietrich and Szabo.

The line may be young, but Rankin said they won t be intimidated.

SEE **FALCONS,** 35

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FALCONS: Team captain Szabo to call signals from middle linebacker position

FROM PAGE 34

DEFENSIVE LINE

Up front on defense, the Falcons may be undersized, but Rankin loves how hard they play.

Eckart should be a force at nose tackle and Dietrich survived at 160 a year ago.

Wheeler and Cam Hall should lock down the starting end positions.

LINEBACKERS

Szabo will act as a coach on the field.

He s a team captain and will make all the defensive calls from his middle linebacker spot.

Szabo is another Falcon that has worked on getting bigger and stronger since a season ago.

Rankin calls him a fierce competitor who has been excellent defensively.

Pawlowski started six games as an offensive tackle a year ago, but has shown he makes plays from the linebacker spot.

Bruckman is scheduled to be the other starting linebacker.

SECONDARY

Young, but talented is how Rankin describes his secondary unit.

The coach said he s not exactly sure where everyone will fit in, but he s very high on Wade Woodworth and Grant Hitchcock.

Both players are freshmen and have a lot of upside.

Babic and Jones will round out the secondary.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jones and Hitchcock will handle place kicking and punting duties, respectively, while Schmidt is slated to be the kicker.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Jefferson quarterback David Thompson takes a snap during a 7 on 7 this summer at Conneaut.

WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Jefferson's Austin Jones (left) closes in on Conneaut's Chase Carpenter during a 7 on 7 in July.

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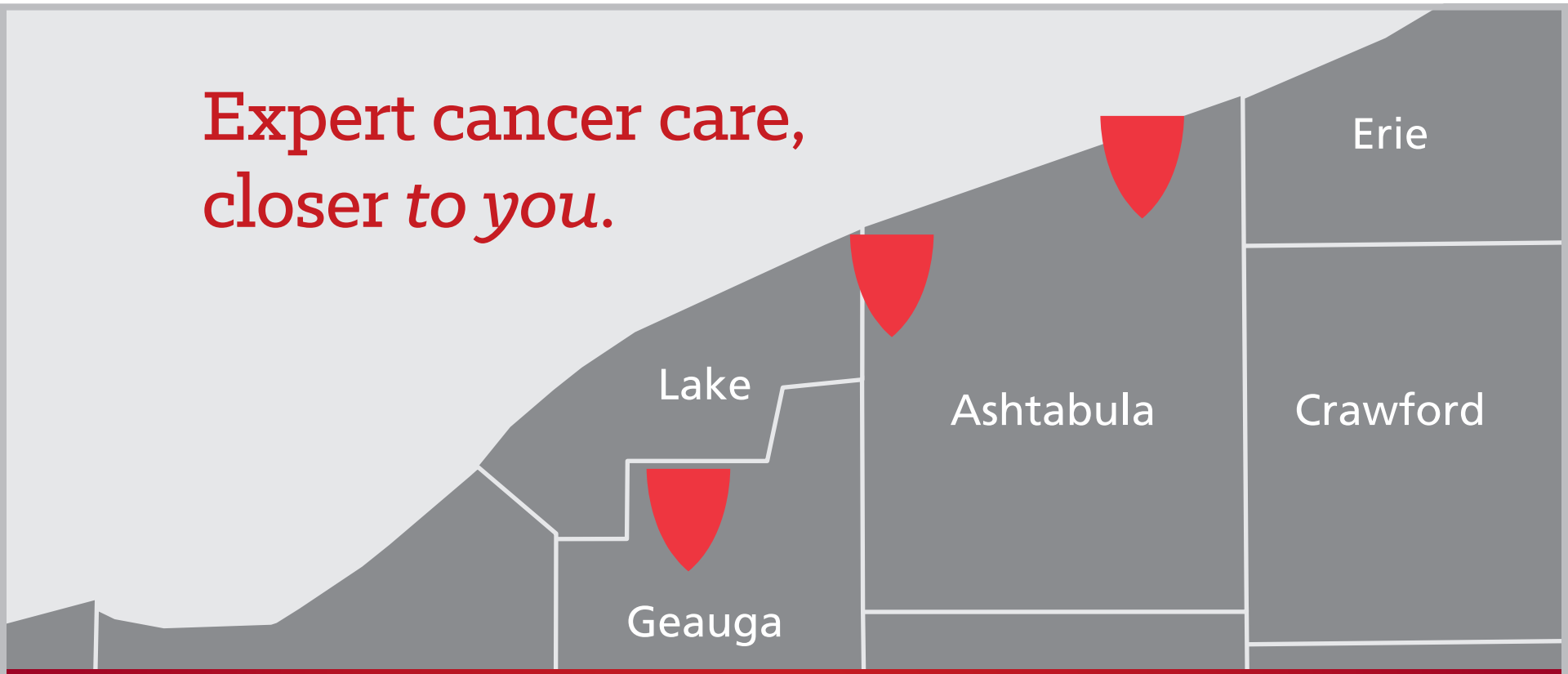

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