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BERWICK BULLDOGS

Dawgs shouldn't miss a beat under new head coach

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com

Stability was once a staple of the Berwick head coaching position. From 1971-2005, George Curry ran the show. Since then, the job has changed hands four times, including a return of Curry from 2013-2015.

The newest guy is Carmen DeFrancesco, a veteran with a proven track record at several schools mainly in District 4. The 66-year-old hasn't been a head coach since 2014 when his gig at Mount Carmel ended, but has stayed active as an assistant at other schools where his former players are coaches.

ON OFFENSE

Francesco said that he'd like the offense to run the ball about 70 percent of the time. While that might seem a lot, the Dawgs ran the ball at a 79-percent clip in 2018. Berwick lost 1,200-yard rusher Owen Shoemaker to graduation, but there are several guys ready to take the reins. Sophomore Aiden



"We're going to show multiple fronts and we're a one-gap team. We're going to loop right and left with our guys because we feel we have to take advantage of our quickness."

Berwick coach Carmen DeFrancesco
On the Berwick defense



Wilk



Schechterly



Zalutko



M. Laubach



R. Laubach



Maurer



Montes



Craig

Mason (46-322, 3 TDs) and junior Blake Maurer (23-155, 2 TDs) showed signs of being

productive runners in limited roles last season. Senior Alejandro Lopez will also get



Sheptock

some carries. When the Dawgs want to utilize a bigger backfield then either Eric Montross or Mason Laubach will be inserted.

Ryan Laubach will be the quarterback. He had a handful of starts late last season, but didn't throw much. He hit on 14-of-23 passes for 175 yards and a pair of TDs.

Teagan Wilk leads the receiving corps after catching 23 passes for 224 yards and two touchdowns. A perennial all-state player, Wilk will play at East Carolina next fall and is also a dangerous kick returner. Shawn Sheptock got a late jump on last season, but showed a burst to get past the secondary. He was third in the 100-meter and second in the 200-meter dashes at the District 2 Class 2A track meet. Senior Antonio Baratta also figures to get playing time.

"We have the ability to stretch the field. I mean, really stretch the field," DeFrancesco said.

See BERWICK | 4

BERWICK
Coach: Carmen DeFrancesco (152-97), 1st year at Berwick; 23rd overall
Division: WVC 4A
PIAA Class: 4A
Male enrollment: 302
Stadium location: Crispin Field, Mulberry and 11th Sts., Berwick
Key players lost: Will Decker, DL; Alex Force, QB/DB; Jarret Groshek, K; Joe Lynn, LB; Ben Peck, OL/DL; Justin Robbins, WR; Alex Sharkusky, WR; Owen Shoemaker, RB; NaQuan Smith, DB; JJ Snyder, DL
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Alex Force 38-of-76, 545 yds., 6 TDs, 5 Ints.
Rushing: Owen Shoemaker 173-1,241, 7.2 avg., 16 TDs
Receiving: Teagan Wilk 22-224, 10.2 avg., 2 TDs
Scoring: Owen Shoemaker 96 pts.
Kicking: Jarret Groshek 38 XPM, 4 FGs, 50 pts.

Schedule
Sat., Aug. 24 at Abington Heights (4A) 2 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 31 at Pittston Area (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6 Williamsport (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13 Wyoming Valley West (5A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20 Selingsgrove (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27 at Valley View (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4 Hazleton Area (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11 at Crestwood (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18 at Dallas (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25 Wilkes-Barre Area (6A) 7 p.m.

2018 Results (9-3)
Abington Heights (2-9)W 42-0
Pittston Area (4-7)W 38-0
at Williamsport (5-6)W 41-17
at Wyo. Valley West (5-5)W 40-24
at Selingsgrove (5-7)W 21-7
Valley View (13-1)L 35-7
at Hazleton Area (6-6)W 28-21
Crestwood (2-8)W 61-13
Dallas (11-2)L 13-10
at Coughlin (0-10)W 55-7
District 2 Class 4A playoffs
Pittston Area (4-7)W 42-0
at Dallas (11-2)L 3-0 OT

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FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
2019

Fri., Aug. 23	7:00 pm	Athens vs. Hanover	Fri., Sept. 20	7:00 pm	Dallas vs. WWW
Fri., Aug. 30	7:00 pm	Scranton vs. Wilkes-Barre	Fri., Sept. 27	7:00 pm	Holy Redeemer vs Hanover
Sat., Aug. 31	1:00 pm	Northwest vs. Holy Redeemer	Fri., Oct. 4	7:00 pm	Wilkes-Barre vs. WWW
Fri., Sept. 6	7:00 pm	WWW vs. Crestwood	Fri., Oct. 11	7:00 pm	Abington vs. WWW
Sat., Sept. 7	1:00 pm	Mahanoy Area vs. Holy Redeemer	Fri., Oct. 19	7:00 pm	Williamsport vs. Wilkes-Barre
Fri., Sept. 13	7:00 pm	Del. Valley vs. Wilkes-Barre			

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Berwick

From page 2

The tight end spot is in good shape with veterans Blaine Cleaver and Dallas Schechterly back.

The line will be Jake Lanning and Sullivan Slabinski at tackles, Noah Craig and Aaron Cashman at guards and Nick Heimbach at center. Mike Zalutko and Jordan Young will also see action.

ON DEFENSE

Berwick's base defense will be a four-man front, but the Dawgs will switch out of that based on the situation.

"It's a quick, athletic group," DeFrancesco said. "We're going to show multiple fronts and we're a one-gap team. We're going to loop right and left with our guys because we feel we have to take advantage of our quickness."

Wilk returns at free safety after picking off seven passes in 2018. He'll likely end up on this side of

the ball at East Carolina. Strong safety Cleaver nabbed an interception last year. There is plenty of speed at the corners with Sheptock, Baratta and Preston Robbins. The weak safety will be either Ryan Laubach or Peyton Williams.

Berwick was tough to run against last season and should be once again. Veterans Montes and Mason Laubach will hold down the defensive end spots. Slabinski and Anthony Sisco will be the tackles, with Lopez and Brian Knorr rotating in.

Schechterly and Zalutko anchor the linebacking group.

OUTLOOK

Berwick last won a District 2 championship in 2013. Since then it's been four championship game losses followed by a semifinal ouster in 2018.

The Dawgs will once again be a player for the D2-4A title, but can't have the offense falter in the postseason like in recent years.



Berwick running back Blake Maurer ran for 155 yards and two touchdowns last season.

Times Leader file photo

CRESTWOOD COMETS

New coach wants changes on and off the field

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com

New Crestwood coach Ryan Arcangeli spent 10 years as an assistant at the school. So while the transition for him and the players should go smoothly, things are going to change.

"We have to continue to build the culture that we tried to set in front of the kids in December," Arcangeli said. "We gave the kids three seeds, an easy plan. Commitment to weightroom and classroom, a commitment to community and a commitment to changing our culture."

"If we can hit those three things — and we've done a great job since December — we're going to build ourselves up for success."

The Comets won just two games last season, their worst campaign since a two-win season in 2008. They haven't posted a winning record since 2014 when the program finished off a fourth season of well above .500.

"We have guys on our football team that did not play last year," Arcangeli said. "That's



"We have to continue to build the culture that we tried to set in front of the kids in December. We gave the kids three seeds, an easy plan. Commitment to weightroom and classroom, a commitment to community and a commitment to changing our culture."

Ryan Arcangeli
Crestwood coach



Niemenski Petrosky Swank DeMarzo Petrochko Miller Cesario

because they're buying into, 'Hey, there's going to be a change.'"

One change is the coaching staff, as Arcangeli has added many new assistants.

ON OFFENSE

The unit really struggled to produce points last season as the Comets scored 14 or fewer points in five games. However, it's going to be retooled.

The rushing attack had

problems and Crestwood will use a running back by committee in hopes of better results. Logan Arnold, Jimmy Hawley, Ryan Harding, Ryan Miller and Rob Spaide will all get rushing attempts. Miller had the best stats last season with 121 of the quintet's 147 yards.

Ryan Petrosky had 22 receptions in 2018, but now he'll move to quarterback. He threw one pass last season.

"It's a big-time position

change for him," Arcangeli said. "He's doing remarkably well. He's an athlete. He's a point guard (on the basketball team) and he knows how to win."

Petrosky has a couple of experienced receivers to rely on. Tight end Brandon Niemenski caught a team-high 31 passes for 452 yards and has committed to UConn. Receiver Garrett Swank grabbed 16

See CRESTWOOD | 6

CRESTWOOD

Coach: Ryan Arcangeli (0-0), 1st year
Division: WVC 4A
PIAA Class: 4A
Male enrollment: 351
Stadium location: High school, Route 309, Wright Twp.
Key players lost: Jimmy Curry, LB; Rob Figmic, DB; Sean Foley, OL/DL; Kevin Frisbie, OL/DL; Adam Gegaris, OL/DL; Chase Passman, QB/DB; Derek Petrochko, OL/DL; Pat Rother, RB/DB
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Chase Passman 57-of-165, 840 yds., 7 TDs, 10 Int.
Rushing: Anthony Caporuscio 109-552, 5.1 avg., 7 TDs
Receiving: Brandon Nieminski 31-452, 14.6 avg., 2 TDs
Scoring: Anthony Caporuscio 48 pts.
Kicking: Garrett Swank 12 XPM, 12 pts.

Schedule


Fri., Aug. 23	Wilkes-Barre Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30	at Dallas (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	Wyo. Valley West (5A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	at Pottsville (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	at Williamsport (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	at Nanticoke Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	Tunkhannock (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	Berwick (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	at Pittston Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	Hazleton Area (6A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (2-8)

at Coughlin (0-10)	.....	W 21-14
Dallas (11-2)	.....	L 32-12
at Wyo. Valley West (5-5)	.....	L 31-27
Pottsville (7-5)	.....	L 33-6
Williamsport (5-6)	.....	L 49-26
Nanticoke Area (6-5)	.....	L 47-14
at Tunkhannock (3-7)	W 35-20
at Berwick (9-3)	L 61-13
Pittston Area (4-7)	L 14-7
at Hazleton Area (6-6)	L 42-39


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LACKAWANNA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
Friday, Aug. 23
 Honesdale at Lakeland
 Lake-Lehman at Western Wayne
 Mid Valley at Wyoming Area
 Montrose at Wyalusing
 Lackawanna Trail at Northwest
 Old Forge at Carbondale
 Pennridge at Delaware Valley
 Susquehanna at Riverside
 Valley View at Wallenpaupack
 West Scranton at North Pocono
 Wyoming Valley West at Scranton

Saturday, Aug. 24
 Berwick at Abington Heights, 2 p.m.
 Dunmore at Scranton Prep, 2:30 p.m.

WEEK 2
Friday, Aug. 30
 Abington Heights at Valley View
 Carbondale at Riverside
 Delaware Valley at West Scranton
 Dunmore at Mid Valley
 Hanover Area at Old Forge
 Lakeland at Lake-Lehman
 Scranton at Wilkes-Barre Area

Susquehanna at Lackawanna Trail
 Wallenpaupack at Honesdale
 Western Wayne at North Pocono
Saturday, Aug. 31
 Wyoming Area at Scranton Prep, 1:30 p.m.

WEEK 3
Friday, Sept. 6
 Dunmore at Carbondale
 Honesdale at Western Wayne
 Montrose at Lackawanna Trail
 North Pocono at Scranton
 Riverside at Lakeland
 Wallenpaupack at Delaware Valley
 West Scranton at Valley View

Saturday, Sept. 7
 Old Forge at Susquehanna, 1 p.m.
 Scranton Prep at Abington Heights, 1 p.m.

WEEK 4
Friday, Sept. 13
 Abington Heights at North Pocono
 Carbondale at Lake-Lehman
 Delaware Valley at Wilkes-Barre Area
 Hanover Area at Riverside
 Holy Redeemer at Old Forge
 Lackawanna Trail at Dunmore

Lakeland at West Scranton
 Scranton at Wallenpaupack
 Tunkhannock at Honesdale
 Western Wayne at Montrose

Saturday, Sept. 14
 Susquehanna at Mid Valley, 1 p.m.
 Valley View at Scranton Prep, 2:30 p.m.

WEEK 5
Friday, Sept. 20
 Lackawanna Trail at Carbondale
 Lakeland at Mid Valley
 Riverside at Dunmore
 Scranton Prep at West Scranton
 Valley View at Honesdale
 Wallenpaupack at Pittston Area
 Western Wayne at Hanover Area

Saturday, Sept. 21
 Montrose at Susquehanna, 1 p.m.
 Scranton at Abington Heights, 1 p.m.
 North Pocono at Delaware Valley, 4 p.m.

WEEK 6
Friday, Sept. 27
 Academy of the New Church at Riverside

Berwick at Valley View
 Carbondale at Montrose
 Delaware Valley at Hazleton Area
 Dunmore at Old Forge
 Mid Valley at Lackawanna Trail
 Scranton Prep at North Pocono
 West Scranton at Pittston Area
 Western Wayne at Lakeland
 Williamsport at Scranton
 Wyoming Valley West at Wallenpaupack

Saturday, Sept. 28
 Honesdale at Abington Heights, 1 p.m.
 Northwest at Susquehanna, 1 p.m.

WEEK 7
Friday, Oct. 4
 Abington Heights at Delaware Valley
 Carbondale at Lakeland
 Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech at Montrose
 Lackawanna Trail at Old Forge
 Riverside at Mid Valley
 Valley View at Western Wayne
 Wallenpaupack at North Pocono
 West Scranton at Scranton
 Wyoming Area at Dunmore

Saturday, Oct. 5
 Honesdale vs. Scranton Prep, 7 p.m. PNC Field

WEEK 8
Friday, Oct. 11
 Abington Heights at Wyoming Valley West
 Dallas at Valley View
 Delaware Valley at Williamsport
 Hanover Area at Lackawanna Trail
 Lakeland at Nanticoke Area
 Lake-Lehman at Mid Valley
 Montrose at Honesdale
 North Pocono at Tunkhannock
 Old Forge at Riverside
 Scranton at Hazleton Area
 Wilkes-Barre Area at Wallenpaupack
 Western Wayne at West Scranton

Saturday, Oct. 12
 Dunmore at Susquehanna, 1 p.m.
 Pittston Area at Scranton Prep, 1:30 p.m.

WEEK 9
Friday, Oct. 18
 Delaware Valley at Wyoming Valley West
 Mid Valley at Tunkhannock
 North Pocono at Honesdale

Northwest at Old Forge
 Riverside at Montrose
 Scranton Prep at Lakeland
 Valley View at Scranton
 Wallenpaupack at Hazleton Area
 Western Wayne at Dunmore

Saturday, Oct. 19
 Carbondale Area at Susquehanna, 1 p.m.
 Lackawanna Trail at Holy Redeemer, 1 p.m.
 West Scranton at Abington Heights, 1 p.m.

WEEK 10
Friday, Oct. 25
 Abington Heights at Wallenpaupack
 Honesdale at West Scranton
 Lakeland at Dunmore
 Mid Valley at Carbondale
 North Pocono at Valley View
 Old Forge at Montrose
 Riverside at Northwest
 Scranton at Delaware Valley
 Scranton Prep at Western Wayne
 Susquehanna at Holy Redeemer

DALLAS MOUNTAINEERS

Dallas' senior group should equal success

By Tom Robinson
For Times Leader



"It doesn't matter how many kids you have back. There's still a process that you have to go through every day, every month. It changes a little as you go through the course of the offseason, but it's still the process and that's what allows you to have a chance."

Rich Mannello
Dallas coach

Dallas has been building for the 2019 season since the current senior class first arrived on the varsity roster.

Joshua Balara, Taylor Bolesta, Lenny Kelley, Matt Maransky, Dylan Schuster and Michael Starbuck are all entering their fourth seasons as starters for the Mountaineers. Classmate Luke DelGaudio is in his third season as a starter.

Dallas coach Rich Mannello said his players are well aware that there remains work to be done to make the most of the opportunities the team has after going from 2-9 as freshmen to 7-4 as sophomores to 11-2 as juniors. During that time the Mountaineers also went from the last qualifier to the District 2 Class 4A playoffs to a team that earned a home field to a team that reached the title game.

The Mountaineers won a pair of tight games from Berwick to take the Wyoming Valley Conference Division 4A title and reach the district



Kelley Starbuck Maransky Bolesta Schuster

final, but lost by 33 and 35 points to district champion Valley View.

"We talked from when we got off the bus after the playoff game from taking a beating up there that we had to manage the expectation and continue to follow the process that these kids grew up on," Mannello said. "Since ninth grade, they

bought into this process. Nothing changes.

"It doesn't matter how many kids you have back. There's still a process that you have to go through every day, every month. It changes a little as you go through the course of the offseason, but it's still the process and that's what allows you to have a chance."

ON OFFENSE
 Developing depth in the offensive line, the position group that Mannello coaches along with his duties running the program, is the coach's top priority.

Because so many of the key players are two-way performers it is necessary to be able to rotate others through the lineup.

"It's Dallas football," Mannello said. "We play both ways. Our guys do this."

"The next step in the program as we develop it is backing those offensive linemen in

See DALLAS | 8

DALLAS
Coach: Rich Mannello (26-20), 5th year
Division: WVC 4A
PIAA Class: 4A
Male enrollment: 328
Stadium location: High school, Hildebrandt Road, off Route 309, Dallas
Key players lost: Mike Anderson, OL/DL; Sean Cuba, LB; Matt Ferrara, OL/DL; Andrew Menig, OL/DL; Christian Motley, WR/DB
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Mike Starbuck 67-of-120, 1,364 yds., 19 TDs, 3 Ints.
Rushing: Lenny Kelley 185-1,327, 7.2 avg., 14 TDs
Receiving: Luke DelGaudio 24-569, 23.7 avg., 7 TDs
Scoring: Lenny Kelley 84 pts.
Kicking: Ryan Fisher 38 XPM, 3 FGs, 47 pts.

Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23	at Tunkhannock (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30	Crestwood (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	at Hazleton Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	Pittston Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	at Wyo. Valley West (5A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	at Wilkes-Barre Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	Nanticoke Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	at Valley View (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	Berwick (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	Lake-Lehman (3A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (11-2)

Tunkhannock (3-7)	.....	W 53-21
at Crestwood (2-8)	.....	W 32-12
Hazleton Area (6-5)	.....	W 44-21
at Pittston Area (4-7)	.....	W 41-21
Wyo. Valley West (5-5)	.....	W 42-6
Coughlin (0-10)	.....	W 35-7
at Nanticoke Area (6-5)	.....	W 35-0
Valley View (13-1)	.....	L 33-0
at Berwick (9-3)	.....	W 13-10
at Lake-Lehman (6-5)	.....	W 42-14
District 2 Class 4A playoffs	
Honesdale (3-8)	W 23-16
Berwick (9-3)	W 3-0 OT
at Valley View (13-1)	L 49-14

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Crestwood

From page 5

passes for 157 yards. Also available as wide-outs are Evan Fey, Brendon DeMarzo and Jesse Zaykoski, with Jacob Gower seeing time at tight end.

Three seniors will start on the offensive line — center Derek Petrochko, guard Mike Phillips and tackle Tyler Cesario. The other starters will be juniors Matt Dean at tackle and Dylan Horn at guard.

ON DEFENSE
 While the offense struggled last season, the defense was in the same boat. Crestwood surrendered 33 or more points in seven games.

The Comets will need to tighten things up front as the run defense had issues against better opponents. There is a large group of players expected to see action in the trenches. Dean, Harding, Zach Snyder and Matt Shiplett are slated to see time as defensive ends. The tackle group is also deep with Gower, Petrochko, Cesario and

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The linebackers will be Arnold, Hawley, Spaide and Cole Kakalachik, who is one of two freshmen on the roster. Nieminski will be on defense at a rover position.

Three seniors will play as cornerbacks — Miller, Evan Burseson and TJ Kulak. The safeties will be Swank, Brenden DeMarzo and Kyle Novack.

OUTLOOK
 Since winning the District 2 Class 4A championship and setting a school record with 12 victories in 2014, Crestwood hasn't been able to come close to that success. The Comets have been 13-27 in the past four years.

Arcangeli has a plan to right the ship, but it might not be this season as the schedule is tough once again.

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Dallas

From page 7

behind each other.” The Mountaineers will have the best chance of reaching their peak if Mannello can move players through those positions seamlessly.

“We have to get to the point where we can roll an offensive guard in and not give up an offensive drive,” he said.

Mannello said that as the first week of full-contact drills was reaching a conclusion he did not yet know who his sixth offensive lineman was.

The players leading the way are more evident.

Starbuck, the quarterback, missed the playoffs and had offseason knee surgery, but he had an



Lenny Kelley, Dallas' leading receiver last season, returns for his senior year in 2019.

outstanding regular season in which he passed for 1,364 yards, completing 55.8 percent of his passes while throwing for 19 touchdowns with just three interceptions.

The Mountaineers got

even more yardage from Kelley, the tailback, in the ground game and Starbuck has his top three receivers back to work with, including DelGaudio, a big-play threat.

“Luke's got a unique

skill set,” Mannello said. “He's a split end, but when we got two tight ends, he moves inside. He can handle himself in there. He's our long snapper. You won't find too many split ends at long snapper.”

Maransky returns at the other receiver and Farrell is back at tight end.

Danny Meuser also has experience in the backfield – when needed, he led the ground game during the 2017 season. He'll be at fullback and can play tailback, if necessary.

Balara, Bolesta and Xander Shaner are back in the offensive line along with Andrew Moli-

toris, who started there until getting hurt mid-way through the season.

When the Mountain-

ers need to turn to a kicker, they return one of the WVC's best in Ryan Fisher.

ON DEFENSE

The Mountaineers have experience at every position.

Balara, Bolesta and Shaner return in the defensive line where Farrell and Molitoris have also seen significant playing time.

Schuster, Meuser and Kelley are back at linebackers.

DelGaudio moved around the secondary last season, but will settle at safety.

Maransky, R.J. Wren and Jacob Esposito also return in the secondary.

Michael Lukasavage, who took over as the team's playoff quarterback when both Starbuck

and Wren were hurt, could also fit into the secondary or at linebacker. Gashi has experience at linebacker and is another player who could fit into either group.

OUTLOOK

Dallas will have too much firepower for many of its opponents.

Being ready to handle the toughest challenges could come down to what Mannello describes as managing the unavoidable and reducing the avoidable distractions.

The Mountaineers can keep improving for a third straight year with the talented 2020 graduating class, but at the level they reached a year ago, the task is in finding a way to turn that into more wins and accomplishments.

HANOVER AREA HAWKEYES

Hawkeyes turn to familiar name to change their fortunes

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com

Hanover Area made the District 2 Class 3A playoffs last season thanks to a bloated postseason field.

The Hawkeyes certainly didn't perform like a playoff team. They won just three games, snapping a 17-game losing streak in the process. They are 9-31 over the last four seasons, including a winless 2017.

Now it's up to new coach Rick Hummer, a former Hanover Area player and assistant coach, to lift the fortunes. If the surname sounds familiar it's because Hummer's twin brother Ron was Hanover Area's head coach from 2006-2014.

“They were in a bad place for the last four years,” Hummer said. “Hopefully, we can get them out of that. My major goal is week by week, these kids get better. If we get a couple Ws the atmosphere changes a little bit, people start feeling better about themselves and you get more people to the stadium.”



“My major goal is week by week, these kids get better. If we get a couple Ws the atmosphere changes a little bit, people start feeling better about themselves and you get more people to the stadium. That's what we're looking for.”

Rick Hummer
Hanover Area coach



Hummer



Salwoski



Mercadante



Mieldazis

“That's what we're looking for.”

ON OFFENSE

Hanover Area's 44-0 loss in the District 2 Class 3A quarterfinals was the third time the Hawkeyes were shut out during the season. Five other times they managed just one touchdown in a game. So there's plenty of work to do to get this unit heading in the

right direction.

There will be a new quarterback, either senior Matt Salwoski or junior Joe Curcio. Each threw two passes last year.

“They're both doing really, really well,” Hummer said. “They're picking up the new offense. The offense has changed a little bit back to that pro style, multi-sets.”

If Curcio doesn't start at

quarterback, he'll certainly be on the field. He rushed for a team-high 595 yards and seven TDs last season and had the team's only 100-yard rushing performance. He was the only running back to gain more than 200 yards in 2018. Peter Hibbard, Hunter Karpowich and Justin Stefanowicz bring a smattering of experience to the position.

Three of the top four pass catchers return. Wideout Bobby Sabecky grabbed a team-high 20 passes for 271 yards. Fellow wideout Tanner Bednarski had 11 catches for 141 yards while tight end Connor Hummer made 10

See HANOVER | 13

HANOVER AREA

Coach: Rick Hummer (0-0), 1st year
Division: WVC 3A-A
PIAA Class: 3A
Male enrollment: 234
Stadium location: St. Mary's Road, Hanover Twp.
Key players lost: Matt Beecham, OL/DL; Cameron Holeman, RB/DL; Aaron Hummer, QB; Jared Kishbaugh, WR/DB; Justin Kopko, OL/DL; Connor Quaglia, DB; James McCabe, RB/DB
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Aaron Hummer 69-of-180, 1,003 yds., 7 TDs, 14 Ints.
Rushing: Joe Curcio 108-595, 5.5 avg., 7 TDs
Receiving: Bobby Sabecky 20-271, 13.6 avg., 0 TDs
Scoring: Joe Curcio 48 pts.
Kicking: Auggie George 15 XPM, 1 FG, 18 pts.

Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23	Athens (3A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30	at Old Forge (A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	Lake-Lehman (3A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	at Riverside (2A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	Western Wayne (3A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	Holy Redeemer (3A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	at Northwest (A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	at Lackawanna Trail (A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	at Wyoming Area (3A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	Nanticoke Area (4A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (3-8)

at Athens (4-7)	L 38-6
Lake-Lehman (6-5)	L 42-0
at GAR (1-10)	W 21-13
Riverside (6-5)	L 42-0
Meyers (7-4)	L 23-6
at Holy Redeemer (0-10)	W 41-12
Northwest (4-6)	W 37-36
Lackawanna Trail (14-2)	L 35-6
at Wyoming Area (11-1)	L 56-7
at Nanticoke Area (6-5)	L 43-10
District 2 Class 3A playoffs at Wyoming Area (11-1)	L 44-0

DISTRICT FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FORMAT

Note: The Power Rating System will be used to determine seedings in all six classifications. All playoff games will be played at the site of the higher seed.

CLASS 6A

Teams (5): Delaware Valley, Hazleton Area, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre Area, Williamsport (Dist. 4)

Number of Qualifiers: 4 regardless of district

Semifinals: Nov. 1

Championship: Nov. 8

State First Round: Nov. 15 vs. D6/8/10 subregional champion

CLASS 5A

Teams (7): Wallenpaupack, Wyoming Valley West, East Stroudsburg North (Dist. 11), East Stroudsburg South (Dist. 11), Pocono Mountain East (Dist. 11), Southern Lehigh (Dist. 11), Whitehall (Dist. 11)

Number of Qualifiers: 4 regardless of district

Semifinals: Nov. 1

Championship: Nov. 8

State First Round: Nov. 15 vs. D6/8/10 subregional champion

CLASS 4A

Teams (12): Abington Heights, Berwick, Crestwood, Dallas, Honesdale, Montrose, Nanticoke Area, North Pocono, Pittston Area, Tunkhannock, Valley View, West Scranton

Number of Qualifiers: 8

Quarterfinals: Nov. 1 or Nov. 2 at higher seed

Semifinals: Nov. 8 or Nov. 9 at at higher seed
Championship: Nov. 15 or 16
State First Round: Nov. 22 vs. District 12 champion

CLASS 3A

Teams (7): Hanover Area, Holy Redeemer, Lakeland, Lake-Lehman, Scranton Prep, Western Wayne, Wyoming Area

Number of Qualifiers: 6

Quarterfinals: Nov. 1 or Nov. 2 at higher seed (Top-two seeds receive byes)

Semifinals: Nov. 8 or Nov. 9 at top-two seeds

Championship: Nov. 15 or 16

State First Round: Nov. 22 vs. District 4 champion

CLASS 2A

Teams (5): Carbondale, Dunmore, Mid Valley, Riverside, Susquehanna

Number of Qualifiers: 4

Quarterfinals: Nov. 1 or Nov. 2 at higher seed

Semifinals: Nov. 8 or Nov. 9 at higher seed

Championship: Nov. 15 or 16

State First Round: Nov. 22 vs. District 6 champion

CLASS A

Teams (3): Lackawanna Trail, Northwest, Old Forge, (Holy Cross suspended program for 2019 season)

Number of Qualifiers: 2

Championship: Nov. 1

State Preliminary Round: Nov. 8 vs. District 1 champion

State First Round: Nov. 15 vs. D-11 champion



Good Luck to all the Local Teams on the Upcoming 2019 Season!



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HAZLETON AREA COUGARS

Things are bound to change

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com

Hazleton Area is going to be a different team this season. Part out of necessity. Part out of need. Graduation gutted an extremely talented offense, so the Cougars are going to have to do things differently to generate points.

"You'll be seeing a lot more misdirection, doing a lot of different things," Hazleton Area coach Mike Brennan said. "We have to be. You're not going to see us line up with some big linemen and run it."

Without an explosive offense, the defense can't play like last season when the unit held just three opponents under 20 points and surrendered 35 or more six times. "Offense wasn't a big problem last year, we know that. We scored 35 points a game," Brennan said. "Defense was a serious issue, so we made some changes there personnel-wise and we think we can make an improvement there."



"You'll be seeing a lot more misdirection, doing a lot of different things. We have to be. You're not going to see us line up with some big linemen and run it."

Mike Brennan
Hazleton Area coach



Fisher Johnson Reed Minzola Santos

We think we run much better on defense."

ON OFFENSE

Gone is three-year starting quarterback Sparky Wolk. And running back Damon Horton, the Times Leader Player of the Year. And receiver Jacob Hunsinger, who is a preferred walk-on at Pitt. All three were all-state players. Also departed

is David Smith, one of the WVC's top receivers throughout his career.

"We have 600 yards of offense returning and five touchdowns," Brennan said. "Three (TDs) by Johnson, one by Meluskey and one by Fisher. Other than that, we lost about 90 percent of our offense."

Matt Fisher caught 18

passes last season and would have eased the burden of losing two outstanding wide receivers. Fisher, though, is shifting to quarterback where he threw two passes in 2018. Running back Lance Johnson has some experience

as he rushed for 230 yards and three TDs on 40 carries last season. Fullback Kevin Meluskey saw some action after returning from an early-season injury.

With Fisher shifted to quarterback, junior Evan Matyas is the most seasoned pass catcher. He caught eight passes over the final four games. He'll be

See HAZLETON | 13

HAZLETON AREA
Coach: Mike Brennan (134-96) 6th year at Hazleton Area; 18th year overall
Division: WVC 6A-5A
PIAA Class: 6A
Male enrollment: 982
Stadium location: Harman-Geist Memorial Field, Cedar Street, off East Diamond Avenue, Hazleton
Key player lost: Jared Cunningham, TE/DL; Jordan Cunningham, OL; Mike Fuchick, OL/DL; Will Garcia, K; Damon Horton, RB/DB; Josh Hedrington, OL; Jacob Hunsinger, WR/DB; Jefferson Luna, OL; Nolan Schneider, WR/DB; David Smith, WR/DB; Dallas Solomon, LB; Sparky Wolk, QB/DB
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Sparky Wolk 121-of-228, 1,959 yds., 15 TDs, 3 Int.
Rushing: Damon Horton 160-1,135, 7.1 avg., 21 TDs
Receiving: Jacob Hunsinger 46-891, 19.4 avg., 10 TDs
Scoring: Damon Horton 132 pts.
Kicking: Will Garcia 47 XPM, 4 FGs, 59 pts.

Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23	at Pottsville (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30	at Wyo. Valley West (5A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	Dallas (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	at Williamsport (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	Wilkes-Barre Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	Delaware Valley (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	at Berwick (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	Scranton (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	Wallenpaupack (5A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	at Crestwood (4A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (6-6)

Pottsville (7-5)	W 35-7
Wyo. Valley West (5-5)	L 21-20
Dallas (11-2)	L 44-21
Williamsport (5-6)	L 64-63
at Wallenpaupack (9-4)	W 34-32
at Delaware Valley (9-4)	L 42-31
Berwick (9-3)	L 28-21
at Scranton (1-10)	W 38-14
at Coughlin (0-10)	W 49-20
Crestwood (2-8)	W 42-39
District 2/4 Class 6A semifinal	
Williamsport (5-6)	W 47-13
at Delaware Valley (9-4)	L 35-14



Attorney William J. Watt, III
Hazleton Area Class of 2000

Good Luck to the Hazleton Area Cougars and all the teams in the 2019 football season!

Saporito,
& Falcone
Watt *Attorneys at Law*



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HOLY REDEEMER ROYALS

New coach hopes to change Royals' fortunes

By Dave Rosengrant
For Times Leader



"It's been pretty crazy. I'm just getting used to everything. Getting used to the guys. Developing a relationship with everyone has been the focal point. It certainly has been a challenge, but it's been a blast."

Tyson Kelley
Holy Redeemer coach

Just a few weeks ago, Tyson Kelley thought he was going to be assistant coach for the Holy Redeemer football team for the first time in four years.

Then, things changed. Drastically.

Dwayne Downing stepped down due to a new full-time job and handed over the reigns to Kelley, who now starts his first season as head coach.

"It all happened so fast. Everything happened in about a week," Kelley said. "Coach Downing approached me and said he had an opportunity for another job. And he talked to me about it and talked about exploring our options. It worked out to where we both kind of reversed roles where he can help out when needed due to his job.

"It's been pretty crazy. I'm just getting used to everything. Getting used to the guys. Developing a relationship with everyone has been the focal point. It certainly has been a challenge, but it's been a blast."



Williams



Daoud



Roppelt



Shay

Not everything is new to Kelley, who was previously on the staff under Scott Dennis at Redeemer in 2014 and 2015.

Plus, he has plenty of coaching experience. After leaving the Royals program, he spent time on the Old Forge staff before going to Westminster College in Missouri where he was special teams and linebackers coach for two years before returning to the Wilkes-Barre school.

"Fortunately, the senior class was around when I was here last time so we already have that rapport," Kelley said. "I'm really happy to have some faces around that I remember. It really is great. It's been a couple years, but we kind of picked up where we left off."

ON OFFENSE

Since he just started the new position two weeks before practice officially started, Kelley was not able to put in a new offensive game plan like new head coaches normally do.

Instead, the Royals will continue to use the playbook from past seasons and make adjustments where needed.

"I think it's a matter of lingo. I think lingo is a really, really big part of football," Kelley said. "We can't really change anything right now. We have to take the system that's in place and make our changes, our twists, our variations and do the best to relate to the kids

See REDEEMER | 13

HOLY REDEEMER

Coach: Tyson Kelly (0-0), 1st year
Division: WVC 3A-A
PIAA Class: 3A
Male enrollment: 200
Stadium location: Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium, Old River Road, Wilkes-Barre
Key players lost: Pat Curley, OL/DL; Gavin Fickne, OL/DL; Tom Hajkowski, OL/DL; Josh Kodish, OL/DL
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Ryan Williams 22-of-63, 225 yds., 3 TDs, 5 ints.
Rushing: Justice Shoats 29-242, 8.3 avg., 2 TDs
Receiving: Alex Hajkowski 12-101, 8.4 avg., 1 TD
Scoring: Colin Conway and Justice Shoats, 12 pts.
Kicking: Nate Roppelt 4 XPM, 4 pts.

Schedule

Aug. 23-24	OPEN	
Sat., Aug. 31	Northwest (A)	1 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 7	Mahanoy Area (2A)	1 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	at Old Forge (A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	at Nanticoke Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	at Hanover Area (3A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	Lake-Lehman (3A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	at Wyoming Area (3A)	7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 19	Lackawanna Trail (A)	1 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	Susquehanna (2A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (0-10)

Holy Cross (2-8)	L 14-12
at GAR (1-10)	L 43-0
at Mahanoy Area (5-6)	L 49-0
Old Forge (8-3)	L 42-0
at Tunkhannock (3-7)	L 36-0
Hanover Area (3-8)	L 41-12
at Lake-Lehman (6-5)	L 48-0
Wyoming Area (11-1)	L 43-7
Meyers (7-4)	L 38-0
at Northwest (4-6)	L 58-21

Redeemer

From page 12

so we can make that transition. I think down the road, those things will change. But in the meantime, it's a matter of using the concepts, terminology to not confuse the kids."

A trio of seniors will be leaned on to run the offense. Quarterback Colin Conway returns as a starter. Brian Williams will serve as running back and receiver. Jack Daoud is set to be the main receiving target once again.

Many other players will be filling in all over the offense.

"We've been shuffling

some guys around. It's just a matter of putting these guys in place so we can really highlight their strengths," Kelley added. "I think out of everything we've seen so far, some guys have emerged as good football players. And we're shuffling some other guys to show us what they have."

ON DEFENSE

Look for Conway, Daoud, Williams and others to be two-way players for the Royals. All three will see time in the defensive backfield.

Perhaps the biggest advantage for Kelley in his transition to being the head coach is that when he was on the staff previously, he was

defensive coordinator. "Fortunately, I got the experience and to be around the program to get a good idea of how things are," the coach said. "And I think that's going to help me out in the process."

OUTLOOK

The Royals finished winless last season and haven't picked up a win since the last week of the 2017 campaign.

This season might start off a little bit trying due to the transition. However, there is plenty of optimism to go around and if the Royals can continue to grow throughout the season, there's no reason why multiple victories can't be attained.

Hazleton

From page 11

joined by sophomore receiver Christian Price and junior tight end Bryce Torstrup.

The line also has to be rebuilt, with left tackle Jason Biever the only full-time returning starter. Left guard Richie Santos started four games last season. Leo Kelly will be the center. Matt Minzola will be the other tackle and the other guard will be either Seth Hunsinger or James Bugda.

ON DEFENSE

Hazleton Area scored 63 points against Williamsport and 31 against Delaware Valley.

Yet, the Cougars lost both games because the defense had trouble stopping just about every opponent.

The defense had problems vs. the pass as it recorded just 10 sacks and six interceptions.

Santos at defensive tackle and Bryce Reed at defensive end will be starters for the third consecutive year. Hunsinger started some at defensive end and is pegged to do so this season. Biever will be the other tackle.

Johnson returns to his starting outside linebacker position. Kellen Warner saw time as a cornerback in 2018, but will shift to the other outside spot. Meluskey and Bugda will be the inside backers.

Fisher will have another position change. He was a solid rush end last season, but he is shifting to cornerback. Matyas will be the other corner with promising freshman Matt Buchman as the safety.

OUTLOOK

The formation of Wilkes-Barre Area makes five Class 6A teams vying for four spots in the District 2/4 Class 6A playoffs. That means no free ticket to the postseason.

Although not as potent as in the past, the Cougars should be able to get one of those spots. Getting through the playoffs, though, could be difficult.

Hanover

From page 9

receptions for 109 yards. Sophomore Camron Ceppa will also see time as a wide receiver, as could either of the quarterback candidates, while Nick Gagliardi will work as a tight end.

The tackle positions are set with Mike Mieldazis and Jake Mercandante. So is center, where Zachary Halenda will start. Three guys were battling for the two guard spots — Tavon Hines, Seth Strouse and Anthony Palermo.

"Our offensive line, they're working really hard," Hummer said. "That's one thing we're happy with. They are really pushing themselves."

ON DEFENSE

The offense's inability to generate any continuity put added pressure on the defense last season. The result was surrendering 35 or more points in eight of 11 games.

Some opponents ran on the unit with success; others used the air. Nor was the group opportunistic, finishing with nine turnovers — with four coming in one game.

The strength appears to be at inside linebacker where Hummer and Stefanowicz will be three-year starters. Hibbard, Hines and Karpowich will be outside linebackers.

There is some experience in the secondary with Sabecky and Bednarski as corners and Curcio and Salwoski as the safeties.

There is decent overall

size up front. Gagliardi and Mercandante will be the defensive ends. Mieldazis, Halenda, Palmero and Derek Knorr will be defensive tackles.

OUTLOOK

Although the Hawk-eyes would love to have immediate success, the chance is this will be a year for laying a foundation to get the program back into contender status.

"We've been together all summer working on some things," Hummer said. "It's finally coming together, but it's a work in progress. We're just trying to get better week by week."

Hanover Area is likely to make the postseason since six of the seven District 2 Class 3A teams make the playoffs.

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WVC ROSTERS

BERWICK
No. Name Ht. Wt. Pos. Gr.
1 Mason Laubach 6-1 220 FB-DL Jr.
2 Devon Smith 5-8 130 WR-S Jr.
3 Stas Hughes 6-1 205 TE-DL Jr.
4 Shawn Sheplock 6-2 202 WR-CB Jr.
5 Blake Maurer 5-8 162 RB-S Jr.
6 Drayton Wilk 5-11 165 WR-S Fr.
7 Teagan Wilk 5-11 186 WR-S Sr.
8 Logan Smith 5-7 152 RB-CBSr.
9 Blaine Cleaver 6-3 219 QB-LB Jr.
10 Ryan Laubach 6-0 184 QB-S Jr.
11 Preston Robbins 5-10 157 WR-CBSr.
12 Gage Bortz 5-7 122 WR-CBSr.
13 Shane Levan 5-11 142 WR-CBSr.
14 Tahsjee Smith 6-3 181 TE-LB So.
15 Aiden Mason 5-10 212 TB-LB So.
16 Benjamin Knorr 5-10 157 WR-CBSr.
17 Bradon Hinkle 5-7 147 K-CB So.
18 Peyton Williams 6-1 185 QB-CB Jr.
19 Brayden Boone 5-8 130 WR-S Jr.
20 Alejandro Lopez 5-8 160 RB-DL Sr.
21 Nichls Pajovich 5-7 119 WR-CBSr.
22 Ryan Steele 5-7 140 WR-CBSr.
23 Hunter Madl 5-8 153 WR-CBSr.
24 Brndn Spezialetti 5-9 181 RB-S Jr.
25 Evan Meighan 5-9 150 WR-S Jr.
26 Cole Martelli 5-8 190 WR-CBSr.
27 Andrew Blockus 5-10 198 TE-LB Sr.
28 Dils Schechterly 5-11 205 TE-LB Sr.
29 Eric Montes 6-1 235 RB-LB Sr.
30 Aaron Cashman 5-10 240 OL-DL Sr.
31 Mike Zalutko 6-1 235 OL-LB Sr.
32 Nate Traugh 5-10 189 OL-DL Jr.
33 Ethan Knorr 6-4 255 OL-DL Jr.
34 Ethan Hughes 6-3 271 OL-DL Jr.
35 Sullivan Slabinski 6-1 215 OL-DL Sr.
36 Kyle Smith 5-10 215 OL-DL So.
37 Jake Lanning 6-2 225 OL-DL Jr.
38 Nichls Heimbach 5-11 215 OL-DL Sr.
39 Zander Unger 6-3 240 OL-DL So.
40 G. Cunningham 6-0 271 OL-DL So.
41 Shawn Powell 6-5 285 OL-DL Sr.
42 Jordan Young 6-1 237 OL-DL Jr.

DALLAS
No. Name Ht. Wt. Pos. Gr.
2 R.J. Wren 5-9 155 QB-DB Jr.
3 Jackson Wydra 5-9 135 QB-DB So.
4 Danny Meuser 6-0 200 RB-LB Sr.
5 Nikolus Gashi 5-7 170 RB-LB Jr.
6 Mitchell Burgess 6-0 185 RB-DL So.
7 Mike Starbuck 5-10 185 QB Sr.
8 Michl Lukasavage 5-9 165 QB-DB Sr.
11 Matt Esposito 5-5 105 WR-DB So.
12 David Biscontini 5-5 120 WR-DB So.
13 Parker Bolesta 5-11 170 RB-DL Sr.
14 Matt Lukasavage 5-8 145 WR-DB Jr.
16 Matt Jesse 5-10 135 WR-DB Sr.
17 Jacob Esposito 5-11 160 QB-DB So.
19 Rocco Ormando 5-6 145 RB-DB So.
20 Blaine Rex 5-5 170 WR-LB Sr.
21 Dylan Schuster 6-0 175 RB-DB Sr.
22 Ben Fife 5-8 150 WR-DB Jr.
23 Luke DelGaudio 6-2 175 WR-S Sr.
24 Joe Peters 5-4 120 WR-DB So.
25 Jacob Fenske 5-8 170 RB-LB Sr.
26 Logan Young 5-8 150 RB-LB Jr.
27 Chase Pugh 5-10 198 OL-DL So.
28 Mark Karcutskis 5-6 125 RB-LB Fr.
29 Matt Maransky 5-10 150 WR-DB Sr.
30 Joseph Curcio 6-0 200 ATH-S Jr.
32 Tyler Dezinski 5-8 165 RB-LB Jr.
33 Ryan Cuba 5-3 150 RB-LB Fr.
35 Cole Hart 5-5 130 WR-DB So.
36 Gavin Sypniewski 5-8 140 WR-DB Sr.
40 Duane Craig 5-7 140 WR-DB Jr.
41 Ryan Fisher 6-1 225 K-P Sr.
42 Lenny Kelley 5-10 175 RB-DB Sr.
43 Swyr Christman 5-5 130 RB-LB So.
44 Jake DelGaudio 5-6 135 WR-DB So.
49 John Scherer 5-6 145 WR-DB Fr.
51 Gabe Allen 5-10 210 OL-DL So.
52 Xander Shaner 6-2 220 OL-DL Sr.
55 Andrew Molitoris 5-9 255 OL-DL Sr.
56 Lucas Shultz 5-8 160 OL-LB Fr.
57 Chase Hector 5-10 195 OL-DL Jr.

HANOVER AREA
No. Name Ht. Wt. Pos. Gr.
2 Auggie George 5-11 175 K-P Sr.
4 Bobby Sabacky 5-7 140 WR-DB Jr.
5 Lamar Nelson 5-7 175 WR-DB Sr.
7 Aiden Fields 5-7 140 WR-OLB Jr.
6 Nick Gagliardi 6-2 210 TE-DE Jr.
9 David Paolucci 5-9 145 WR/DB Sr.
11 Tmnr Bednarski 6-0 150 WR-DB Sr.
12 Mthw Salwoski 6-0 170 QB-DB Sr.
14 Hntr Karpowich 5-10 190 FB-LB Jr.
17 Josh Dennis 5-6 115 WR-DB So.
20 Joseph Curcio 6-0 200 ATH-S Jr.
22 Peter Hibbard 5-5 150 RB-OLB Jr.
24 Sean Cavanaugh 5-9 180 FB-LB Sr.
25 Matthew Herbert 5-5 165 RB-ILB So.
27 Jeremy Vega 5-9 150 WR-DB So.
30 J. Stefanowicz 5-9 220 FB-ILB Sr.
32 Zach Kopec 5-9 170 TE-DE Fr.
33 Connor Hummer 6-2 215 TE-ILB Jr.
34 Sean Dooner 5-6 120 WR-C Fr.
44 Christian Torres 5-6 160 QB-ILB Jr.
47 Jace Andrews 5-11 190 TE-OLB Sr.
52 Lndn Rubenstein 5-10 180 G-DE So.
55 Dakl Rubenstein 5-10 180 G-DE So.
56 Anthony Palermo 5-6 240 OL-DL Jr.
58 Tavon Hines 5-11 210 G-OLB Jr.
60 Michael Kochoer 5-9 220 OL-DL Jr.
64 Seth Strouse 5-10 210 OL-DL Jr.
65 Paul Derwin 5-8 300 OL-DL So.
66 Derek Knorr 5-11 315 OL-DL Jr.
70 Chase Whitman 6-0 180 T-DE Fr.
72 Zachary Halenda 6-8 270 OL-DL Sr.
74 Mchl Mieldazis 6-2 290 OL-DL Sr.
76 Bryce Rockey 5-10 185 OL-DL So.
77 Jacb Mercadante 6-2 225 OL-DE Jr.
80 Dylan Martinez 5-11 180 TE-DE Jr.
81 Jared Dinoski 5-7 130 WR-DB Fr.
82 Joseph Wilder 5-8 115 WR-DB So.
85 Xavier Ankner 6-2 195 WR-DB So.
88 Cmnr Ceppa 5-11 180 WR-LB So.

LAKE-LEHMAN
No. Name Ht. Wt. Pos. Gr.
4 Casey Kaminski 6-0 185 WR-DB Sr.
6 Giovanni Ferrari 5-9 155 WR-DB Sr.
7 Jake Ferguson 5-9 140 QB-DB Sr.
8 Nate Salus 6-0 170 K Sr.
10 Colby Kennedy 5-8 150 WR-DB Jr.
11 Ethan Adams 5-10 180 QB-DB Jr.
15 Dustin Heinrich 6-0 130 WR-DB So.
18 Devyn Roote 5-10 160 WR-DB Sr.
19 Josiah Thomas 6-0 185 RB-LB Sr.
20 Tyler Ward 5-9 150 WR-DB Jr.
21 Matt Galasso 5-9 160 WR-LB Sr.
22 Jacob Monko 6-1 155 WR-DB Jr.
23 Jeremy Scouton 5-9 175 RB-LB So.
24 M. Woodrosky 5-10 150 WR-DB Jr.
25 K. Kojadinovich 5-11 200 RB-DB Sr.
28 Ryan Eiden 5-10 180 RB-LB Jr.
29 Luke Spencer 5-10 165 WR-DB Jr.
33 Nick Zaboski 6-0 175 RB-LB Jr.
34 Scott Robbins 5-11 230 FB-LB Sr.
35 Bryce Taylor 5-7 140 WR-DB Sr.
43 Danny Kutz 5-11 185 RB-LB Jr.
45 Joe Vegas 5-10 175 FB-LB So.
50 Sean Hanley 6-4 220 OL-DL Sr.
55 Damian Concklin 6-3 250 OL-DE Jr.
58 Wyatt Lopasky 5-10 220 OL-DL Sr.
61 Chris Traver 5-6 195 OL-DL Sr.
62 Michael Napierkowski 5-5 235 OL-DL Jr.
65 Jacob Simoson 6-3 255 OL-DL So.
67 Chase Cole 5-10 240 OL-DL Jr.
69 Aaron Groboski 6-0 310 OL-DL So.
70 Myka Kapitula 5-11 250 OL-DL Sr.
75 Justin James 6-3 315 OL-DL Sr.
77 Logan Hoyt 6-0 260 OL-DL Sr.
80 Jason Button 5-11 130 WR-DB Sr.
83 Grayson Bruno 5-10 180 OL-LB Sr.
84 Sean Sabaluski 6-2 210 TE-DE Sr.
88 William Labar 5-9 140 WR-DB Sr.
89 Connor Spencer 5-8 170 WR-DSSo.

PITTSSTON AREA PATRIOTS
No. Name Ht. Wt. Pos. Gr.
1 Alex Hoban 6-1 193 RB-LB So.
2 Anthony Tomas 5-11 140 K-P Jr.
3 Alex Anastasi 6-0 190 TE-DB Sr.
4 Brennan Higgins 6-0 175 WR-DB Sr.
5 P.J. Pisanò 5-10 165 QB-DB Jr.
6 Andrw Krawczyk 6-2 185 WR-DB Sr.
7 Mike Nocito 5-11 165 QB-DB Sr.
8 Jimmy Spindler 5-8 155 QB-DB Fr.
9 Zac Sulima 5-10 170 WR-DB Sr.
10 Brndn Savokinas 5-9 145 WR Sr.
12 David Behm 6-4 190 WR-DB Jr.
13 Devon Shandra 5-10 145 WR-DB Sr.
14 Gino Triboski 5-8 145 WR-DB So.
16 David Girman 5-9 140 WR-DB So.
18 Bruce Rydz 5-10 155 WR-DB Jr.
20 Kahle Murray 5-10 150 WR-DB So.
21 Joe Cornwall 5-9 160 WR-DB Jr.
22 Dylan Luchanko 5-8 150 RB-DB Sr.
23 Tyler Granahan 5-10 155 RB-DB Sr.
24 Franny George 5-10 190 FB-LB Sr.
25 Brd Montgomery 5-10 140 WR-DB Sr.
26 John Symons 6-0 208 RB-LB Jr.
28 Zach Shock 5-9 167 WR-DB Jr.
33 D.J. Darbenzio 6-0 200 FB-LB Jr.
34 Ed Murdock 6-0 160 RB-LB Jr.
36 Josh Cotter 6-1 206 FB-LB Jr.
40 Bryhm Patterson 5-10 165 WR-LB Jr.
41 Ethan Menichini 5-7 165 RB-LB Jr.
42 Adam Lazar 5-7 155 FB-LB So.
43 Bryan Herron 5-8 175 RB-LB Sr.
45 Devin Atkins 5-5 155 RB-DB Jr.
48 John Morris 5-9 185 FB-LB Jr.
52 Noah Lyons 5-9 210 OL-DL Jr.
55 Chris Reiss 5-9 180 OL-DL Jr.
56 Dan Viquez 5-9 200 OL-DL Sr.
60 Adrian Colon 5-9 230 OL-DL Sr.
61 Matt Soy 5-9 230 K Sr.
63 John Galonis 6-3 220 OL-DL Sr.
64 Teagan Rebolli 5-11 210 OL-DL Jr.
65 Joe Galonis 6-3 220 OL-DL Jr.
66 Brandon Farrell 5-8 260 OL-DL So.
70 Hugh Bentham 5-9 230 OL-DL Sr.
74 Jack Albert 5-11 230 OL-DL So.
75 Jake Jones 6-0 235 OL-DL So.
77 Nick Thayer 5-10 290 OL-DL So.
79 Stephen Yanchis 6-3 286 OL-DL Jr.
80 Yvon Idoh 6-4 150 WR So.
81 Ryan Tarrant 5-10 145 TE-DL So.
82 Joe Slusark 6-2 165 WR Sr.
84 John Stone 6-1 185 WR-DB Jr.

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LAKE-LEHMAN BLACK KNIGHTS

Lake-Lehman diversifying plan of attack

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com



“When we look at this team, there is a lot of skill set on this team and we had to distribute the ball a little more. It’s our 10th year and we reflected on what we have and we said we have to distribute the ball a little bit better.”

Jerry Gilsky
Lake-Lehman coach

Lake-Lehman has found plenty of success over the past nine years under coach Jerry Gilsky, yet he believes it’s time to change up some things. “When you look at what we ran every year, it limited what we had,” Gilsky said. “When we look at this team, there is a lot of skill set on this team and we had to distribute the ball a little more. It’s our 10th year and we reflected on what we have and we said we have to distribute the ball a little bit better.”

There is certainly enough talent to do so. The Black Knights have one of the top skill-position groups in the Wyoming Valley Conference Division 3A-A. Wyoming Area is the only team in the division that could rival them. So the plan is to get plenty of hands on the football and see what happens.

ON OFFENSE
Lehman returns all but one player to its backfield.



Kojadinovich Eiden Kaminski Adams Sabaluski James



Robbins Hoyt Lopasky

Quarterback Ethan Adams had a solid season as a first-year starter, combining for the team in rushing with 635 yards. Receiver Ryan Eiden showed

his versatility in 2018, leading the team in receptions with 26 and rushing for 507 yards. Senior Casey Kaminski is a big-play threat as he turned seven of his 20 catches into touchdowns last season. He also returned two kickoffs for scores. Receiver Luke Spencer and tight end Sean Sabaluski

See LEHMAN | 22

LAKE-LEHMAN
Coach: Jerry Gilsky (63-39) 10th year
Division: WVC 3A-A
PIAA Class: 3A
Male enrollment: 211
Stadium location: Edward Edwards Stadium, high school, off Route 118, Lehman Twp.
Key players lost: Ty Bilotti, WR/DB; Jarrett Cummings, RB/LB; Josh Durling, TE/DL; Dakota Heinrich, OL/DL; David Horgeber, LB; Matt Kurtz, FB/LB; Frank Kutz, OL/LB; Floyd McRoy, WR/DB; TJ Meehan, OL/DL; Elmer Souder, OL/DL; Justin Timonte, K
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Ethan Adams 57-of-127, 989 yds., 13 TDs, 11 Ints.
Rushing: Zach Kojadinovich 98-635, 6.5 avg., 4 TDs
Receiving: Ryan Eiden 26-315, 12.1 avg., 3 TDs
Scoring: Casey Kaminski 54 pts.
Kicking: Justin Tomonte 36 XPM, 1 FG, 39 pts.

Schedule
Fri., Aug. 23 at Western Wayne (3A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30 Lakeland (3A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6 at Hanover Area (3A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13 Carbondale Area (2A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20 Northwest (A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27 Wyoming Area (3A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4 at Holy Redeemer (3A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11 at Mid Valley (2A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18 Nanticoke (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25 at Dallas (4A) 7 p.m.

2018 Results (6-5)
Western Wayne (6-6).....L 30-20
at Hanover Area (3-8).....W 42-0
Meyers (7-4).....W 42-7
at Carbondale Area (3-8).....W 40-0
at Northwind (4-6).....L 35-21
Wyoming Area (11-1).....L 29-7
Holy Redeemer (0-10).....W 48-0
at GAR (1-10).....W 50-22
at Lackawanna Trail (14-2).....L 17-7
Dallas (11-2).....L 42-14
District 2 Class 3A playoffs
at Lakeland (9-4).....L 6-3 OT

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2019 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

HIGH SCHOOL	AUG 23-24	AUG 30-31	SEPT 6-7	SEPT 13-14	SEPT 20-21	SEPT 27-28	OCT 4-5	OCT 11-12	OCT 18-19	OCT 25-26
BERWICK	Sat at Abington Heights 2pm	Fri at Pittston Area 7pm	Fri Williamsport 7pm	Fri Wyo Valley West 7pm	Fri Selinsgrove 7pm	Fri at Valley View 7pm	Fri Hazleton Area 7pm	Fri at Crestwood 7pm	Fri at Dallas 7pm	Fri Wilkes-Barre Area 7pm
CRESTWOOD	Fri Wilkes-Barre Area 7pm	Fri at Dallas 7pm	Fri Wyo Valley West 7pm	Fri at Pottsville 7pm	Fri at Williamsport 7pm	Fri at Nanticoke 7pm	Fri Tunkhannock 7pm	Fri Berwick 7pm	Fri at Pittston Area 7pm	Fri Hazleton Area 7pm
DALLAS	Fri at Tunkhannock 7pm	Fri Crestwood 7pm	Fri at Hazleton Area 7pm	Fri Pittston Area 7pm	Fri at Wyo Valley West 7pm	Fri at Wilkes-Barre Area 7pm	Fri Nanticoke Area 7pm	Fri at Valley View 7pm	Fri Berwick 7pm	Fri Lake-Lehman 7pm
HANOVER AREA	Fri Athens 7pm	Fri at Old Forge 7pm	Fri Lake-Lehman 7pm	Fri at Riverside 7pm	Fri Western Wayne 7pm	Fri Holy Redeemer 7pm	Fri at Northwest 7pm	Fri at Lackawanna Trail 7pm	Fri at Wyoming Area 7pm	Fri Nanticoke 7pm
HAZLETON AREA	Fri at Pottsville 7pm	Fri at Wyo Valley West 7pm	Fri Dallas 7pm	Fri at Williamsport 7pm	Fri Wilkes-Barre Area 7pm	Fri Delaware Valley 7pm	Fri at Berwick 7pm	Fri Scranton 7pm	Fri Wallenpaupack 7pm	Fri at Crestwood 7pm
HOLY REDEEMER	Open	Sat Northwest 1pm	Sat Mahanoy Area 1pm	Fri at Old Forge 7pm	Fri at Nanticoke 7pm	Fri at Hanover Area 7pm	Fri Lake-Lehman 7pm	Fri at Wyoming Area 7pm	Sat Lackawanna Trail 1pm	Fri Susquehanna 7pm
LAKE-LEHMAN	Fri at Western Wayne 7pm	Fri Lakeland 7pm	Fri at Hanover Area 7pm	Fri Carbondale 7pm	Fri Northwest 7pm	Fri Wyoming Area 7pm	Fri at Holy Redeemer 7pm	Fri at Mid Valley 7pm	Fri Nanticoke 7pm	Fri at Dallas 7pm
NANTICOKE	Fri at Pittston Area 7pm	Fri Tunkhannock 7pm	Fri at Wilkes-Barre Area 7pm	Fri Wyoming Area 7pm	Fri Holy Redeemer 7pm	Fri Crestwood 7pm	Fri at Dallas 7pm	Fri Lakeland 7pm	Fri at Lake-Lehman 7pm	Fri at Hanover Area 7pm
NORTHWEST	Fri Lackawanna Trail 7pm	Sat at Holy Redeemer 1pm	Fri Wyoming Area 7pm	Open	Fri at Lake-Lehman 7pm	Sat at Susquehanna 1pm	Fri Hanover Area 7pm	Fri Wyalusing 7pm	Fri at Old Forge 7pm	Fri Riverside 7pm
PITTSTON AREA	Fri Nanticoke 7pm	Fri Berwick 7pm	Fri at Tunkhannock 7pm	Fri at Dallas 7pm	Fri Wallenpaupack 7pm	Fri West Scranton 7pm	Fri at Williamsport 7pm	Sat at Scranton Prep 1:30pm	Fri Crestwood 7pm	Fri at Wyoming Area 7pm
TUNKHANNOCK	Fri Dallas 7pm	Fri at Nanticoke Area 7pm	Fri Pittston Area 7pm	Fri at Honesdale 7pm	Fri at Wyoming Area 7pm	Fri Towanda 7pm	Fri at Crestwood 7pm	Fri North Pocono 7pm	Fri Mid Valley 7pm	Fri Midd-West 7pm
WILKES-BARRE AREA	Fri at Crestwood 7pm	Fri Scranton 7pm	Fri Nanticoke 7pm	Fri Delaware Valley 7pm	Fri at Hazleton Area 7pm	Fri Dallas 7pm	Fri at Wyo Valley West 7pm	Fri at Wallenpaupack 7pm	Fri Williamsport 7pm	Fri at Berwick 7pm
WILLIAMSPORT	Fri at Central Mountain 7pm	Fri Altoona 7pm	Fri at Berwick 7pm	Fri Hazleton Area 7pm	Fri Crestwood 7pm	Fri at Scranton 7pm	Fri Pittston Area 7pm	Fri Delaware Valley 7pm	Fri at Wilkes-Barre Area 7pm	Fri Wyo Valley West 7pm
WYOMING AREA	Fri Mid Valley 7pm	Sat at Scranton Prep 1:30pm	Fri at Northwest 7pm	Fri at Nanticoke Area 7pm	Fri Tunkhannock 7pm	Fri at Lake-Lehman 7pm	Fri at Dunmore 7pm	Fri Holy Redeemer 7pm	Fri Hanover Area 7pm	Fri Pittston Area 7pm
WYOMING VALLEY WEST	Fri at Scranton 7pm	Fri Hazleton Area 7pm	Fri at Crestwood 7pm	Fri at Berwick 7pm	Fri Dallas 7pm	Fri at Wallenpaupack 7pm	Fri Wilkes-Barre Area 7pm	Fri Abington Heights 7pm	Fri Delaware Valley 7pm	Fri at Williamsport 7pm

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Members of the Wilkes-Barre Area Wolfpack wait around for their portraits to be taken at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium last week. The team plays its first-ever game on Friday night at Crestwood.

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WVC ROSTERS

Table containing WVC Rosters for Tunkhannock and Williamsport, listing player names, positions, heights, and weights.

WILKES-BARRE AREA

Table containing Wilkes-Barre Area Roster, listing player names, positions, heights, and weights.

WV ROSTERS

Table containing WV Rosters for Wyoming Valley West, listing player names, positions, heights, and weights.

WYOMING VALLEY WEST

Table containing Wyoming Valley West Roster, listing player names, positions, heights, and weights.

Table containing Nanticoke Area Trojans Roster, listing player names, positions, heights, and weights.

NANTICOKE AREA TROJANS

Table containing Nanticoke Area Trojans Roster, listing player names, positions, heights, and weights.

Trojans prepared to take the next step

By Dave Rosengrant For Times Leader

Three straight years Nanticoke Area has finished the regular season with a record of 5-5 and followed that with a post-season game.

Under Ron Bruza, who begins his 10th season at the helm, the Trojans culture has changed from a team that was perennially near the bottom of the standings to one that is now expected to make a run to the playoffs every year.

"There's been a lot of changes. The ethics at Nanticoke are changing," Bruza said. "They're still great kids. They come to work. They're blue collar guys."



Ron Bruza Nanticoke coach



Bobeck Boseman Ammons Pelton Zaremba Shon

the coach said. "We lost 12 starters, some of them started both sides of the ball, but we had some success and the guys who have been around know what it takes to be successful."

ON OFFENSE

Piloting a Wing-T backfield led by three-year starter at quarterback Colby Butczynski,

"We have a good nucleus of guys back from last year," the coach said. "We lost 12 starters, some of them started both sides of the ball, but we had some success and the guys who have been around know what it takes to be successful."

the Trojans should be able to pick up where they left off last year. Darren Boseman (four-year starter) and Keanu Ammons return as receivers, while four-year starter Kyle Bobeck (6-foot-1, 240-pounds) and Braden Zaremba (6-3, 305) return to anchor the offensive line.

ing Pierson Park, who grabbed a plethora of touches a year ago, and Sincere Shilo, who could be seen all over the place on offense.

2018 Results (6-5)

Pittston Area (4-7).....L 28-21 at Tunkhannock (3-7).....W 53-31 Coughlin (0-10).....W 7-6 at Wyoming Area (11-1).....L 35-7 Western Wayne (6-6).....L 35-7 at Crestwood (2-8).....W 47-14 Dallas (11-2).....L 35-0 at Lakeland (8-3).....L 30-0 at GAR (1-10).....W 35-0 Hanover Area (3-8).....W 43-10 Eastern Conf. 4A Championship Hamburg (4-7).....W 14-6

See NANTICOKE | 22

Advertisement for Aqua Leisure Pools and Spas. Features a woman relaxing on a pink inflatable ring. Text: 'Fiberglass In-Ground Swimming Pools'. 'NOW SCHEDULING FALL INSTALLATIONS'. 'Save to \$4,000'. Contact: 185 N. Wilkes-Barre Blvd. Wilkes-Barre, PA 570-822-1188. www.aqualeisurepoolsandspas.com

Lehman

From page 15

will also be part of the skill group.

"We're going to more of a spread scheme," Gilsky said.

Wyatt Lopaski will be the center, Blaise Napierkowski and Dami-an Concklin will be the guards and Logan Hoyt and Justin James will be the tackles.

Lopaski and Hoyt are returning starters. James, though, might be one of the more intriguing players in the WVC. The first-year player is 6-foot-3 and 315 pounds and has shown tremendous strength in the weightroom. Gilskey added that Jones is athletic for his size.

"You look at the kids that are there," Gilsky

said. "We're bigger than last year and we're stronger than last year."

ON DEFENSE

The Black Knights return six starters to a defense which forced a turnover in every regular-season game.

Kaminski is back at cornerback, where he picked off six passes. Spencer will man the other corner spot. Matt Galasso, who picked off a pass in 2018, is back. Giovanni Ferrari and Marshall Woodrosky will also work in the secondary.

Danny Kutz will slide from outside linebacker to inside where he will be joined by fellow returning starter Scott Robbins. Eiden and Josiah Thomas will also be linebackers.

Hoyt, James, Conck-

lin and Sabaluski will flip sides of the line to anchor the front wall. Chase Cole will rotate in.

"Defense concerns me," Gilsky said, "but we have the size up front."

OUTLOOK

The District 2 Class 3A playoff field will shrink from eight teams in 2018 to six this year, but the Black Knights should easily make the postseason. The key is grabbing one of the top-four spots, which will lock up a home playoff game. They could be a contender for the district crown if a few things fall into place.

Lehman will be tested right out of the gates with a road game at Western Wayne and a home contest vs. Lakeland, two teams they lost to last season.



Times Leader file photo

Quarterback Colby Butczynski returns to lead the Nanticoke offense this season.

Nanticoke

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ON DEFENSE

Running a 4-4 defense, the Trojans only lost less than a handful of starters from a year ago.

Expect returning starters Bobeck, Boseman and Ammons to lead the pack.

Zack Pelton joins Bobeck at linebacker, while Chris Shon anchors the D-line.

"Our inside linebackers are back so we realistically lost three good guys on defense," Bruza said. "But I think we're going to be able to replace them with some guys who played a little bit last year and stepped up in the offseason."

OUTLOOK

The Trojans certainly have the leadership with 14 seniors, and the talent and experience to take the team to the next level this year and beyond.

Playing up at Class 4A for the second straight season will also help the team remain familiar with opponents.

"You hope your senior leaders step up and know what it takes. The expectations are laid out (to continue the success)," Bruza added. "A lot of these guys have been with me for six years, coming up from junior high so you know we definitely have a program at Greater Nanticoke Area, not just guys here, guys there. They know what the expectations are so I think that's what you really build off."

If the Trojans can get off to a hot start and build momentum, they could be headed for a winning regular

PITTSTON AREA PATRIOTS

Patriots seek to take the next step

By Tom Robinson

For Times Leader

Pittston Area will mix experienced backs, linebackers and receivers with many new faces in the line as it seeks a third straight District 2 Class 4A playoff appearance.

The Patriots have improved to 10 wins over the first two seasons under Nick Barbieri after winning just twice total in the two seasons prior to his hiring.

To keep that momentum going, the Patriots will be looking to build a front line that allows them to get the most out of returning their top passer, rusher and scorer.

"Skill-wise, I'm very pleased with what we have," Barbieri said. "I think we have a great group of skill kids and I think we have some depth there as well."

Returning quarterback Mike Nocito, leading rusher Dylan Lukachko and receiver Andrew Krawczyk lead that group.



Nick Barbieri
Pittston Area coach

"Skill-wise, I'm very pleased with what we have. I think we have a great group of skill kids and I think we have some depth there as well."



Krawczyk



Lukachko



Nocito



Higgins

ON OFFENSE

Stephen Yanchis, a 6-foot-3, 286-pound sophomore tackle, leads the offensive line, which Barbieri thinks has the potential to develop quickly.

"Only having one returning starter on the offensive line is a concern, but I like the way

these kids are working," Barbieri said. "Teagan Reboli is a junior who put on probably 20 pounds from last year.

"Adrian Colon is a kid who just started playing football two years ago and is really starting to learn the game now."

Reboli is the team's center.

Colon has some experience at guard where Hugh Bentham, a senior, is back after making some starts last season.

Senior John Galonis is expected to join Yanchis as the tackles.

The tight end is new – to the position – but has experience on the field.

Alex Anastasi, who started at quarterback for Old Forge earlier in his high school career and ran the offense in Pittston Area's playoff game last season, will move to tight end for his senior year. He took over for Nocito at times last season, particularly in situations where Barbieri was looking for more running from the quarterback spot.

"Alex is doing a real good job," Patriots coach Nick Barbieri said. "He'll be on the field a lot more there."

That leaves the quarterback position in Nocito's hands with P.J. Pisano providing depth.

Nocito was one of the Wyoming Valley Conference's

See PITTSTON AREA | 26

PITTSTON AREA

Coach: Nick Barbieri (10-12), 3rd year
Division: WVC 4A
PIAA Class: 4A

Male enrollment: 365
Stadium location: Charley Trippi Stadium, high school, Stout Street, Yatesville
Key players lost: Reily Brody, OL/DL; Mike Coe, RB/LB; John DeLuca, OL/LB; Ed Galonis, OL; Bryan Giambra, WR/DB; Tony Gorey, OL; Alex Haas, WR; Seth Johnson, OL/DL; Joey Jones, OL; Jordan O'Boyle, RB; Tannon Kraklio, DB; Billy Kyttille, DB

2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Mike Nocito 88-of-171, 1,304 yds., 14 TDs, 9 Ints.

Rushing: Dylan Lukachko 119-564, 4.7 avg., 5 TDs

Receiving: Bryan Giambra 28-438, 15.6 avg., 5 TDs

Scoring: Andrew Krawczyk 30 pts.
Kicking: Luchia Carabetta 9 XPM, 9 pts.

Schedule		
Fri., Aug. 23	Nanticoke Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30	Berwick Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	at Tunkhannock (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	at Dallas (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	Wallenpaupack (5A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	West Scranton (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	at Williamsport (6A)	7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 12	at Scranton Prep (3A)	1:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	Crestwood (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	at Wyoming Area (3A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (4-7)		
at Nanticoke Area (6-5)	.....	W 28-21
at Berwick (9-3)	.....	L 38-0
Tunkhannock (3-7)	.....	W 20-7
Dallas (11-2)	.....	L 41-21
at Coughlin (0-10)	.....	W 25-14
at West Scranton (7-5)	.....	L 41-14
Williamsport (5-6)	.....	L 36-33
Scranton Prep (13-2)	.....	L 50-12
at Crestwood (2-8)	W 14-7
Wyoming Area (11-1)	L 40-0

D2-4A playoffs
at Berwick (9-3)..... L 42-0

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Best of Luck to the PITTSTON AREA PATRIOTS

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TUNKHANNOCK AREA TIGERS

Tigers ready to continue upward swing

By Dave Rosengrant
For Times Leader

In his first year as head coach at Tunkhannock, Mike Marabell got a late start with the team because he was leading a Tunkhannock Area team to the Little League Softball World Series.

Still, he helped the Tigers football team have their most productive season in eight years.

That was just the start of what he hopes can be unlimited potential for the team as he begins his second season at the helm with a full year under his belt.

"We try to stay positive. It's a long road ahead," said Marabell, whose team finished with three wins a year ago.

"We haven't won many games in several years so it's a mentality thing. Everybody's got to buy into it to change it.

"Football is a beast of its own. Getting the kids to believe in themselves is a huge undertaking and we're



"We try to stay positive. It's a long road ahead. We haven't won many games in several years so it's a mentality thing. It's a community thing. Everybody's got to buy into it to change it."

Mike Marabell
Tunkhannock head coach



Frisco

Sickler

D'Amato

Walter

Sebobe

going in the right direction for sure."

It was the success from softball last year that bridged into a positive football season. This year, he's counting on a stellar wrestling season to help improve his team even more.

On the team are five district

champion wrestlers and one district runner-up. Included in there is senior running back/linebacker Gavin D'Amato who was a state qualifier for the Tigers team which also finished as district runner-up in duals and the individual championships.

"You learn to hand fight

in wrestling with your leverages and your hands by yourself. You take that to the football field where everybody is doing the same thing and you're going to succeed," Marabell said.

"It's a perfect marriage between wrestling and football and I wish every kid did both. You'd be phenomenal (in both sports) like Southern Columbia. We have a lot of experience in wrestling and football this year. So it'll show on the field."

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TUNKHANNOCK

Coach: Mike Marabell (3-7), 2nd year
Division: WVC 4A
PIAA Class: 4A
Male enrollment: 287
Stadium location: High School, off Route 6, Tunkhannock
Key players lost: Garrett Hopkins, WR/DB; Sergey Montross, LB; Tyler Peterson, OL/DL; Matt Ramey, FB/DL; Zach Rogers, TE/DB; Zach Ross, K; Jake Stephens, WR/LB
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Jack Chilson 105-of-225, 1,447 yds., 12 TDs, 17 Ints.
Rushing: Garrett Hopkins 84-500, 6.0 avg., 6 TDs
Receiving: Garrett Hopkins 37-547, 14.8 avg., 8 TDs
Scoring: Garrett Hopkins 90 pts.
Kicking: Zach Ross 26 XPM, 1 FG, 29 pts.

Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23 Dallas (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30 at Nanticoke Area (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6 Pittston Area (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13 at Honesdale (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20 at Wyoming Area (3A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27 Towanda (2A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4 at Crestwood (4A) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 12 North Pocono (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18 Mid Valley (2A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25 at Mid-West (4A) 7 p.m.

2018 Results (3-7)

at Dallas (11-2)L 53-21
Nanticoke Area (6-5)L 53-31
at Pittston Area (4-7)L 20-7
Coughlin (0-10)W 21-19
Holy Redeemer (0-10)W 36-0
at Towanda (4-7)L 42-32
Crestwood (2-8)L 35-20
at Wallenpaupack (9-4)L 47-7
at Mid Valley (1-9)W 34-0
Mid-West (5-5)L 31-20

WILKES-BARRE AREA WOLFPACK

WBA Wolfpack could take time to attack

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com

Before anyone thinks merging three programs into one will create immediate and long-lasting success, a history lesson is necessary.

Back in 1991, Scranton Central and Scranton Tech joined forces to form Scranton. It took 12 years for Scranton to post a winning record. A year later, Freeland, Hazleton and West Hazleton merged to form Hazleton Area. There was initial success — eight wins in 1992 — but then it was another nine years before the program produced a winning record.

So as Coughlin, GAR and Meyers come together as the Wilkes-Barre Area Wolfpack, expect speed bumps along the way.

"I can say the kids have been really great. They've been working hard," said coach Ciro Cinti, who coached Coughlin the past 13 years. "I can't thank the coaches enough because a lot of extra stuff has been thrown on us. ... They've done more than their share



"I can say the kids have been really great. They've been working hard."

Ciro Cinti
WBA coach

getting these kids to practice, doing practice plans and doing whatever is needed to make this process successful.

"To say it's been easy, I'd be lying to you. It's been hard, which when you start it's always difficult. But without these coaches, I don't know how I'd be able to do it."

Cinti also praised the administrations of the three high schools for their support throughout the



N. Taylor



Redding



Carey



McCoy



Brown



K. Taylor



Swinney



Cinti

process.

ON OFFENSE

The receiving corps appears the strongest position with a pair of veteran seniors leading the group. Malachi Williams caught 28 passes for 465 yards and three TDs for GAR last season. Rafael McCoy put up similar numbers at Coughlin, with 24 receptions for 443 yards and two touchdowns. Three others will also see time at the position — seniors Casimir Van Buren and Nino Cinti

and junior Tyere Dobson. "They will all be in there through different sets," Cinti said.

There is good depth at tight end with seniors Silas Armstrong, juniors Malik Robinson and Conor Shedlock and sophomore Anthony Nguyen. Although there is experience here, Robinson was the only player among them to catch a pass in 2018.

The Wolfpack are in a unique situation where they return two starting quarter-

backs. Kam Taylor completed 78-of-168 passes for 1,302 yards and nine touchdowns for GAR, while Talee Swinney was 50-of-118 for 741 yards and four TDs at Meyers.

Center Randall Bendar and guard Greg DeLeon bring the most experience to a line that will feature Ian Bednar as a guard and Josh Jones and Kareem Jones as tackles. Also seeing time in the trenches will be senior Kevin Kaskey, junior Christian Swinney

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WILKES-BARRE AREA

Coach: Ciro Cinti (71-73) 1st year at WBA, 14th year overall
Division: WVC 6A-5A
PIAA Class: 6A
Male enrollment: 852
Stadium location: Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium, Old River Road, Wilkes-Barre
Key players lost: new program
2018 regular-season leaders: new program

Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23 at Crestwood (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30 Scranton (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6 Nanticoke (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13 Delaware Valley (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20 at Hazleton Area (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27 Dallas (4A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4 at Wyo. Valley West (5A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11 at Wallenpaupack (5A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18 Williamsport (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25 at Berwick (4A) 7 p.m.

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Times Leader file photo

Mike Nicito returns to quarterback Pittston Area.

Pittston Area

From page 23

most effective passers last season, hitting 51.5 percent of his passes for 1,304 yards and a 14-9 touchdown-to-interception ratio.

Lukachko led the Patriots in rushing with 569 yards and five touchdowns on 129 carries. Junior John Symons and sophomore Alex Hoban are also likely to see some playing time with him at tailback.

Franny George, a senior who has gotten some playing time the past two seasons, and junior D.J. Darbenzio are the options at fullback.

Krawczyk led the team in scoring with his six touchdowns, all on pass receptions, last season. He also finished two catches and 11 receiving yards out of the team lead with 27 catches for 459 yards.

Senior Brennan Higgins could take the other receiver spot. Senior Devin Shandra, sopho-

more Gino Triboski and even Pisano, when the junior is not working at quarterback, are others who could see action at wide receiver.

Junior David Behm and sophomore Ryan Tarrant are other options at tight end.

ON DEFENSE

Higgins led the team in tackles last season and will again be part of a talented secondary.

Lukachko and Krawczyk, who took over there late in the season, are back at cornerbacks. Senior Zac Sulima could also spend time at the position.

Anastasi, who has some starting experience there, is the strong safety. Junior Bryheem Patterson is another safety.

The linebacking crew returns George, who occupied a spot most of the time, and Symons, who moved into the lineup after being hurt early last season. They are likely to be joined by Darbenzio and Hoban. Bentham, Colon and

Yanchis are the leading candidates to make up the defensive front. Junior Chris Reiss is also in the mix. Barbieri hopes to build additional depth from a group of sophomores he is looking at there.

OUTLOOK

Pittston Area moved a game above .500 three times last season, but could not stay there, finishing 4-7 with the quarterfinal playoff loss at Berwick.

The Patriots have several established players to handle the ball and Barbieri sees signs that those players will get the help they need.

"Even though we're a little inexperienced up front, those kids will mature very quickly for us," he said.

Pittston Area already appears to have enough back to remain at last year's level. If the line does develop quickly, the Patriots could move up from there.

WBA

From page 25

and freshman Cameron Hagenbaugh.

Corey Brown, Richard Carey, Javier Gonzalez and Noah Taylor will share the running back duties. Brown is the top returning rusher as he carried five times for 55 yards with Meyers last season. Taylor did plenty of blocking for GAR.

ON DEFENSE

The defense has an intriguing mixture of players who saw action last season. Now comes the task of meshing them

into a cohesive unit.

Taylor and Richard Carey (Coughlin) will man the inside with Corey Brown (Meyers) and Aiden Redding (Coughlin) on the outside. Tyler Woolard will see time inside while Robinson, Nguyen and Kristian Vasquez will sub in on the flanks.

Veterans in Armstrong, Randall Bednar, Kasey and Josh Jones will start on the defensive front. Xavier Carter and Adriel Chamberlain will rotate in.

The secondary has experience, but again the projected starters played in three different schemes in 2018. Cinti and McCoy will be joined

by Dobson and Williams. Swinney and Van Buren are also in the mix.

OUTLOOK

Unlike the Hazleton Area and Scranton mergers, WBA won't have all their players under one roof during the school day. That will make things even more challenging.

A main goal should be working out the bugs along the way and laying a foundation for the future. That doesn't mean the Wolfpack won't be competitive, but how competitive is anybody's guess. This is truly a rare situation.

WILLIAMSPORT MILLIONAIRES

Williamsport has some rebuilding to do

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com



Crews

devoid of athletic talent."

In fact, Crews believes this team has more overall athletic talent than last year's, but doesn't have

those elite athletes like Potts, Fagnano and Simmons.

ON OFFENSE

If there was any consolation in Fagnano getting hurt it was freshman Dallas Griess getting to start a few games. He'll be behind center once again. Griess completed 15-of-27 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns with three interceptions. He also ran for 117 yards and three scores.

Potts' consecutive knee injuries robbed Wyoming Valley Conference fans the chance of seeing one of the most dynamic breakaway threats in conference history. He missed Week 2 and went down Week 6 after two carries vs. Scranton. Yet, he led the team in rushing. Also graduated is his understudy Blaze McClements, who was

the team's third-leading rusher.

Two likely candidates for the running chores are senior Drake Mankey and sophomore Keith Freeman. Mankey rushed for 72 yards on 10 carries last season. Freeman rushed 12 times for 35 yards.

Tight end Nasir Jones had a breakout season with 23 catches — a number that led all WVC tight ends — for 276 yards. Brock Moyer and Braedon Mazzante made some catches last season as wide receiver, although Mazzante has been injured. Moyer had 11 for 136 yards, while Mazzante had six for 70 yards.

Beau Smith is the most experienced lineman on the roster. Ethan Williamson started the season opener, but suffered a season-ending injury early in the game.

ON DEFENSE

The defense was a sore spot once again last season as it surrendered 33 or more points in eight of 11 games, including 63 to Hazleton Area. Oddly, Williamsport defeated Hazleton Area 64-63, demonstrating how

powerful the offense was went everyone was on the field.

The secondary will likely feature Freeman, Griess and Moyer. Freeman was second on the team with 57 tackles. Griess and Moyer each intercepted two passes.

Jones returns to the defensive line where he registered 52 tackles, a team-high seven sacks and a team-leading 19 tackles for loss a year ago. Ian Welshans is also back on the line after a solid junior year.

Mankey was one of the team's top tacklers from his linebacker spot in 2018. Linbacker Akyeem Cowen-Connolly saw action in nine games.

OUTLOOK

Williamsport can't dwell on what could have been. The Millionaires have too much work to do to secure a spot in the District 2/4 Class 6A playoffs. If things fall into place, they could be playing come Week 11.

Still, this is a very young team with limited experience. "It's not all bad," Crews said, "if they have a switch somewhere and can flip it."

WILLIAMSPORT

Coach: Chuck Crews (41-46), 5th year at Williamsport; 9th year overall
Division: WVC 6A-5A
PIAA Class: 6A
Male enrollment: 691
Stadium location: High School, West Fourth Street, Williamsport
Key players lost: Colin Esposito, WR/DB; Joe Fagnano, QB/DB; Jason Kelly, OL; Tucker Kreisher, OL/DL; Blaze McClements, RB/DL; Treyson Potts, RB/DB; Isaac Ritter, TE; Marcus Simmons, WR/DB
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Joe Fagnano 100-of-171, 1,349 yds., 12 TDs, 4 ints.
Rushing: Treyson Potts 70-570, 8.1 avg., 12 TDs
Receiving: Marcus Simmons 34-501, 14.7 avg., 5 TDs
Scoring: Treyson Potts 90 pts.
Kicking: Sam Hillman 34 XPM, 2 FGs, 40 pts.

Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23	at Central Mountain (5A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30	Altoona (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	at Berwick (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	Hazleton Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	Crestwood (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	at Scranton (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	Pittston Area (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	Delaware Valley (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	at Wilkes-Barre Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	Wyo. Valley Wes (5A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (5-6)

Central Mountain (1-9)	.....W 62-26
at Altoona (3-7)	.....L 38-0
Berwick (9-3)	.....L 41-17
at Hazleton Area (6-6)	.....W 64-63
at Crestwood (2-8)	.....W 49-26
Scranton (1-10)	.....W 27-10
at Pittston Area (4-7)	.....W 36-33
at Delaware Valley (9-4)	.....L 41-0
Wallenpaupack (9-4)	.....L 36-17
at Wyo. Valley West (5-5)L 46-21
District 2/4 Class 6A playoffs	
at Hazleton Area (6-6)L 47-13

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From One Great Team to Another Here's to a Winning Season

WYOMING AREA WARRIORS

Expectations are high for Warriors

By Tom Robinson For Times Leader

Wyoming Area returns its leaders, but also many of the other contributors that helped the team win its first 11 games last season before falling in the District 2 Class 3A semifinals.

With all the experience coming back, the Warriors will look to both repeat their regular-season success and try to add to the postseason accomplishments.

"Performing at that high level was something we were able to do in so many games last season," Warriors coach Randy Spencer said. "Now, it's a matter of doing it in the big games." Wyoming Area will pursue that goal with the team's 2018 leaders in rushing, passing, receiving, scoring, interceptions and return yards. Dominic DeLuca led in passing and interceptions. Corey Mruk led in rushing and scoring. Brian Williams was the top receiver and Leo Haros the top return man. "The hope is that they bring



"Performing at that high level was something we were able to do in so many games last season. Now, it's a matter of doing it in the big games."

Randy Spencer Wyoming Area coach



Mruk DeLuca Solomon Williams Ambrosino Rodney Braccini

confidence from what we were able to accomplish last year into this season, but also that the necessity of focus and not committing any self-inflicting wounds," said Spencer, pointing to the turnovers, penalties and big pass plays yielded that led to the upset loss to Lakeland, "minimizing those plays

in terms of execution in big games." The Warriors showed they were a deep team last year, both in replacing starters along the way because of injury and in getting strong efforts from reserves they turned to while in control of games.

ON OFFENSE The Warriors return their top five and seven of the eight rushers who produced more than 100 yards last season. Mruk was a 1,000-yard rusher who ran for 12 touchdowns in the final four games of the regular season before

See WARRIORS | 29

WYOMING AREA

Coach: Randy Spencer (60-50) 11th year
Division: WVC 3A-A
PIAA Class: 3A
Male enrollment: 270
Stadium location: Anthony "Jake" Sobeski Stadium, Boston Ave., off Route 11, West Pittston
Key players lost: Mike Amato, OL/DL; Jake Busch, WR/DB; Cameron Carr, OL/DL; Dimitri DePietro, WR/LB; James Gashi, OL/DL; Aleah Kranson, K; Jacob Mikolaiczuk, TE/DL; Jason Polit-Moran, OL/DL; Stephen Sokach-Minnick, OL/DL; Pat Neslon OL; Anthony Scalzo, DL; Matt Wycoski, OL/DL
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Dominic DeLuca 44-of-91, 808 yds., 14 TDs, 4 Ints.
Rushing: Corey Mruk 130-1,039, 8.0 avg., 18 TDs
Receiving: Brian Williams 21-403, 19.2 avg., 7 TDs
Scoring: Corey Mruk 116 pts.
Kicking: Aleah Kranson 37 XPM, 1 FG, 40 pts.

Schedule

Table with 2 columns: Date, Game details (Opponent, Score, Time)

2018 Results (11-1)

Table with 2 columns: Opponent, Score

WARRIORS

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getting hurt in the play-off opener.

DeLuca produced 27 touchdowns and more than 1,300 yards combined rushing and passing.

Haros was the third-leading rusher as a freshman. Vincenzo Giambra, Darren Rodney, Nick Elko and Zajquay Williamson also return.

Haros, Rodney, Giambra and Williamson all provide a change of pace at tailback for the work-horse Mruk, who ran 24 times for 153 yards

Tigers

From page 24

ON OFFENSE

In addition to D'Amato on the offensive side of the ball is junior quarterback Jack Chilson, who started last year as a sophomore. Senior receiver Jake Frisco is a three-year starter, while junior Jhamal Zacharias might be the biggest tight end and receiver in the league at 5-foot-11, 277 pounds.

Zacharias, a district champion in wrestling, is also being called upon to be a leader on the team alongside Frisco, Chilson and D'Amato.

"He's a big, strong kid. He brings a little toughness that we lacked in years," Marabell said about Zacharias. "He's that kid that could really put the wind down to you. He's going to step into a leadership role, which we need. We need that one kid that kids can rally around and he's the

in the first half alone against Pittston Area.

The extra tailbacks and backup quarterback, Jacob Williams will also help supplement the receiving corps.

Brian Williams is back at one wide receiver with Riley Rusyn working at the other spot. Rocco Pizano and Adam Zymund could also be part of that rotation.

Elko, Samuel Solomon, Dillon Williams, F.J. Braccini and Colby Gashi all got some work at full-back last season.

Derek Ambrosino is back at tight end where Caleb Graham also has experience.

one."

ON DEFENSE

Zacharias is expected to line up on the end of the defensive line, while D'Amato will be in the middle at linebacker to pace the defense. Senior Alex Dailey will also man the line, with Alec Seboe joining the linebacking crew next to D'Amato. Junior Riley Jones will be counted on to lead the secondary.

Outside of the men up front, there isn't much size on the unit, so Marabell will be counting on the athleticism of the group to make the big plays.

"We're not huge. We're going to be more athletic. I have kids who are going to be physical," the coach said. "I don't have big kids, but I have athletic kids that fly to the football.

"We didn't have that last year. We struggled on defense last year. I have kids who are just flying around wanting to hit something, which is

There will be some new faces in the offensive line.

Bryce Hinkle returns at center. Dante Bovani, Nasir Condry and Shawn Kostak are likely starters at guards and tackles with Tom Wycoski, Jayden Rusyn, Vincent Bowers and Ryan Gilpin among the other candidates.

ON DEFENSE

The Warriors did graduate one statistical leader - Cameron Carr, an end who led the team in tackles and tackles for losses.

They do, however, return 17 of the 23 players who reached double figures in tackles, including

great."

OUTLOOK

There is plenty of optimism in Tigers camp this season as for good reason because the team showed promise for the first time in several years.

Not only does Tunkhannock have potential to break into the win column more often this season by creeping towards the .500 mark, but the future looks bright as well as only about a half dozen seniors will see significant playing time.

"We have a lot of sophomores and juniors starting and two freshmen that are going to be playing an awful lot," Marabell said. "So this year, we're going to get better and learn how to win. Next year, we're going to keep everything going with the quality and the work ethic that I instilled and you're going start seeing us getting around the corner a little better."

ing linebackers Mruk and Braccini, who tied for second on the team, along with Ambrosino, DeLuca and Bovani, who followed them.

Bovani and Solomon, a standout at Wyoming Valley West as a sophomore before transferring and missing most of last season with a leg injury, lead the group of interior linemen.

Elko, Wycoski, Kostak and Jayden Rusyn add to the options at tackle and could add size to the nose guard position when Spencer chooses to go away from the quick combo of Enzo Scotto-Diluzio and Gashi.

Ambrosino, Dillon Williams and Graham will combine to take care of the end positions. Quadre Sessoms and Jerrel Chepalonis provide depth. Mruk, Braccini are

back at linebacker where Charlie Banashefski's return from injury adds to the strength at the position. Condry and Drew Mruk, Corey's freshman brother who may also earn time in the offensive backfield, are also in the mix.

DeLuca, Rodney, Haros, Williamson and Jacob Williams give the Warriors an experienced secondary.

Riley Rusyn and Brian Williams add to the options when Spencer looks to use an extra defensive back or two.

OUTLOOK

The Warriors got a lot of playing time for a large amount of players, particularly for a Class 3A school, last season.

Most are back. "Hopefully, we'll have that same type of capa-

bility to create playable depth without the substantial, significant injuries," Spencer said.

The Warriors dominated most of their opponents last season, with the closest of the 11 wins coming 29-7 over Lake-Lehman. A beefed-up schedule could benefit a team that scored 35 or more points 10 times.

Wyoming Area has added District 2 Class 3A and 2A champions Scranton Prep and Dunmore.

"Those types of games are going to better prepare us for what we are going to see in the post-season," Spencer said.

Unless the offensive line becomes an issue, there was not much else missing from the equation for a team that for the second straight year enters the season surrounded by high expectations.

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WYOMING VALLEY WEST SPARTANS

Spartans under new leadership

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com



Jack Baranski
WVC coach

Jack Baranski expected to be an assistant coach this season. Everything changed in June.

Long-time head coach Pat Keating was reassigned from the high school to an elementary school, making a return to the sidelines unfeasible.

Baranski, who had been an assistant since 2000, was asked to take over the program.

“What made it easy was the amount of continuity we keep on the staff,” Baranski said. “It’s documented that coach Keating is gone, but the entire rest of the staff is here.”

“What also made this transition easier is the amount of senior leadership in this weightroom.”

Now the goal is to get the Spartans back into the district playoffs after missing it for the first time in five years. The program hasn’t had a losing record since going 1-8-1 in 1994, but last year’s 5-5 finish certainly wasn’t pleasant.

“What made it easy was the amount of continuity we keep on the staff. It’s documented that coach Keating is gone, but the entire rest of the staff is here. What also made this transition easier is the amount of senior leadership in this weightroom.”

ON OFFENSE

Unlike the past, the Spartans probably won’t have a 1,000-yard rusher this season. That’s by design.

“I see us sharing the ball at the running back position,” Baranski said. “We don’t have a bellcow or a Sean Judge who would touch the ball 25 times. These guys are going to split carries and they all have their strengths.”

Those guys are Darius Redguard, Zack McDaniels and Brendan Woods. Redguard rushed 46 times for 283 yards and four TDs last season. McDaniels gained 112 yards while Woods had three carries. McDaniels and

Woods, though, are three-year starters who made their names on the other side of the ball.

Dontae Rhodes will be the new quarterback. Although he threw just one pass last season, he saw action as a receiver so the varsity experience is there. So is some top-notch athleticism, which Baranski believes will make him a dual threat.

Rhodes will be throwing to a pair of veteran receivers in Nah-Syr Garner and Dylan Nastanski. Garner led the team with 31 receptions for 305 yards and two TDs. Nastanski grabbed 19 passes for 271 yards and three scores.

Jeremiah Williams, Tyler Weidman, Connor Olisewski and Coughlin transfer Salem Diop will also see action. The tight ends will be Jonathan Stochla and Jordan Evans.

The Spartans are set at three positions on the line. Brandon Tirado is back at center. Don Messersmith and Nate Mooney return as tackles. Tirado and Messersmith are both 300 pounders, while Mooney is 270. The three candidates in camp for the two guard spots were Noah Anderscavage, Mark Raskiewicz and Aiden Golightly.

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WYOMING VALLEY WEST

Coach: Jack Baranski (0-0) 1st year
Division: WVC 6A-5A
PIAA Class: 5A
Male enrollment: 421
Stadium location: Spartan Stadium, Pierce Street and Gates Avenue, Kingston
Key players lost: Nate Baranski, TE/DB; Quaid Braddy, RB/LB; Dylan Brown, OL; Carson Canavan, RB/LB; Elijah Croop, DL; Seth Decker, DL; Harunah Jallow, TE/DL; Connor Mikovitch, OL/DL; Jake Shusta, QB/LB; Adam Sivak, K; Jayden Watkins, LB; Dave Wildey, OL/DL
2018 regular-season leaders
Passing: Jake Shusta 85-of-146, 980 yds., 9 TDs, 6 Ints.
Rushing: Carson Canavan 172-1,265, 7.4 avg., 12 TDs
Receiving: Nah-Syr Garner 31-305, 9.8 avg., 2 TDs
Scoring: Carson Canavan 84 pts.
Kicking: Adam Sivak 29 XPM, 3 FGs, 38 pts.

Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23	at Scranton (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30	Hazleton Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	at Crestwood (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13	at Berwick (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 20	Dallas (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	at Wallenpaupack (5A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4	Wilkes-Barre Area (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	Abington Heights (4A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18	Delaware Valley (6A)	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25	at Williamsport (6A)	7 p.m.

2018 Results (5-5)

Scranton (1-10)	.....W 24-13
at Hazleton Area (6-6)	.....W 21-20
Crestwood (2-8)	.....W 41-17
Berwick (9-3)	.....L 40-24
at Dallas (11-2)	.....L 42-6
Wallenpaupack (9-4)	.....L 34-28
at Coughlin (0-10)	.....W 28-14
at Abington Heights (2-9)	.....L 35-21
at Delaware Valley (9-4)	.....L 45-7
Williamsport (5-6)	.....W 46-21

DISTRICT 2/4 CLASS 6A

Semifinals
Delaware Valley 26, Scranton 0
Hazleton Area 47, Williamsport 13
Championship
Delaware Valley 35, Hazleton Area 14

DISTRICT 2/11 CLASS 5A

Semifinals
East Stroud. South 32, Pocono Mtn. East 15
Wallenpaupack 28, Southern Lehigh 10
Championship
Wallenpaupack 29, East Stroud. South 7

2018 DISTRICT FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

DISTRICT 2 CLASS 4A

Quarterfinals
Valley View 44, Abington Heights 13
West Scranton 31, North Pocono 27
Berwick 42, Pittston Area 0
Dallas 23, Honesdale 16
Semifinals
Valley View 61, West Scranton 12
Dallas 3, Berwick 0 OT
Championship
Valley View 49, Dallas 14

DISTRICT 2 CLASS 3A

Quarterfinals
Western Wayne 50, Meyers 6
Lakeland 6, Lake-Lehman 3 OT
Wyoming Area 44, Hanover Area 0
Scranton Prep 42, GAR 7
Semifinals
Scranton Prep 28, Western Wayne 0
Lakeland 21, Wyoming Area 14
Championship
Scranton Prep 47, Lakeland 19

DISTRICT 2 CLASS 2A

Semifinals
Dunmore 55, Carbondale 8
Susquehanna 34, Riverside 0
Championship
Dunmore 60, Susquehanna 19

DISTRICT 2/1 CLASS A

District 2 Championship
Lackawanna Trail 29, Old Forge 12
District 1 Championship
Bristol 31, Jenkintown 0
D2/1 Subregional Championship
Lackawanna Trail 45, Bristol 7

WVV

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ON DEFENSE

A bulk of the defense returns.

The secondary is a strength with cornerbacks Garner and Williams and safety Nastanski all returning starters. Garner had five interceptions last season. Dominic Barofski and Josh Kennedy will also see time there.

Woods and McDaniels are back as linebackers. Woods made 100 stops and picked off two passes last season as an inside backer. McDaniels had 52 tackles and an interception on the outside.

Other inside linebacking candidates are Anderscavage, Josh Koval, Aziz Martin and freshman

Landon Dietterick.

“When you look at that position, Brendan Woods has been a starter for years,” Baranski said. “I’m trying to find the other guy. It could be situational. ... It could be a rotation there until somebody says, ‘This is my spot.’”

The competition for the other outside linebacker spot was between Redguard, Jonathan Chell and Zack Tomascik.

Stochla had a strong sophomore year at defensive end with 82 tackles and a team-high 16 tackles for loss. Evans will man the other end spot. There is plenty of depth at D-tackle with Tirado, Messersmith and Mooney joined by Ja’Mir Murphy and Elijah Kropp. Ideally, Baranski said, Murphy and Kropp

develop enough to keep the other three fresh for offense.

OUTLOOK

After starting the 2018 season 3-0, Valley West managed just two more wins — one against winless Coughlin and another against an injury-ravaged Williamsport squad. The 5-5 record left the Spartans sitting home Week 11 for the first time since 2005 as they declined a spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

If the defense can hold the fort early on until the offense clicks, then the Spartans could find a spot in the District 2/11 Class 5A playoffs. Consecutive games Week 4 at Berwick and Week 5 against Dallas will tell how far the team has progressed in the early games.



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