HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2019

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019

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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 reigns. Sophomore Aiden 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 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 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

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New coach wants changes on and off the field

By John Erzar

New Crestwood coach Ryan Arcangeli wants changes on and off the field.

“I think we’re going to be retooled. If we can hit those three things — and we’ve done a great job since December — and we’ve done a commitment to weightroom and classroom, a commitment to community and a commitment to changing our culture,” Arcangeli said. “Hey, there’s going to be a change. It’s a big-time position.”

Arcangeli is hoping for changes on and off the field.

“We gave the kids three seeds, a new coach, a commitment to weightroom and classroom, a commitment to community and a commitment to changing our culture,” Arcangeli said.

Arcangeli’s first hire will be a defensive coordinator. 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 14-0.

“We have guys on our football team that did not play last year,” Arcangeli said. “That’s why we’re going to be retooled. If we can hit those three things — and we’ve done a great job since December — and we’ve done a commitment to weightroom and classroom, a commitment to community and a commitment to changing our culture.”

Berwick running back Blake Wanner ran for 225 yards and two touchdowns last season.
**Lackawanna Conference Schedule**

**WEEK 1**
- Friday, Aug. 23
  - Scranton at Wilkes-Barre Area
  - Hanover Area at Old Forge

**View Friday, Aug. 30**
- Scranton
  - Susquehanna at Riverside
  - Pennridge at Delaware Valley
  - Old Forge at Carbondale
  - Lackawanna Trail at Honesdale

**WEEK 2**
- Saturday, Aug. 31
  - Susquehanna at Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne at North Scranton
  - Riverside at Dunmore
  - Carbondale at Lake-Lehman

**WEEK 6**
- Friday, Sept. 13
  - Abington Heights at North Pocono
  - Carbondale at Riverside
  - Honesdale at Lakeland
  - Hanover Area at Old Forge

**WEEK 7**
- Friday, Oct. 4
  - Carbondale at Del Norte
  - Columbia Montour- Vo-Tech at Montrose
  - Lackawanna Trail at Old Forge
  - North Pocono at Delaware Valley
  - Mid Valley at Wyoming Area

**WEEK 10**
- Saturday, Oct. 5
  - Susquehanna at Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne at North Scranton
  - Riverside at Dunmore
  - Carbondale at Lake-Lehman

**WEEK 12**
- Friday, Oct. 25
  - Abington Heights at North Pocono
  - Carbondale at Riverside
  - Old Forge at Montrose

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**SCHEDULE**

**Friday, Aug. 23**
- Abington Heights vs. North Pocono (9-2)
- Carbondale vs. Scranton (1-1)
- Hanover Area vs. Old Forge (9-3)
- Lackawanna Trail vs. Scranton (2-0)

**Friday, Aug. 23**
- Lackawanna Trail vs. Old Forge
  - Susquehanna at Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne at North Scranton
  - Riverside at Dunmore
  - Carbondale at Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Sep. 13**
- Susquehanna at Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne at Hanover Area
  - North Scranton at Lackawanna Trail
  - Montrose at Lackawanna Trail

**Saturday, Sep. 27**
- New York Church at Lackawanna Trail

**Wednesday, Oct. 30**
- Abington Heights at Carbondale
- Hanover Area at Old Forge
- Lackawanna Trail at Scranton

**Saturday, Oct. 5**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Oct. 12**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Oct. 19**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Oct. 26**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Nov. 2**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Nov. 9**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Nov. 16**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Nov. 23**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Saturday, Nov. 30**
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
  - Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
  - Riverside vs. Dunmore
  - Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Monday, Dec. 3**
- Lackawanna Trail vs. Old Forge
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
- Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
- Riverside vs. Dunmore
- Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Monday, Dec. 10**
- Lackawanna Trail vs. Old Forge
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
- Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
- Riverside vs. Dunmore
- Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Monday, Dec. 17**
- Lackawanna Trail vs. Old Forge
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
- Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
- Riverside vs. Dunmore
- Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Monday, Dec. 24**
- Lackawanna Trail vs. Old Forge
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
- Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
- Riverside vs. Dunmore
- Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman

**Monday, Dec. 31**
- Lackawanna Trail vs. Old Forge
- Susquehanna vs. Lackawanna Trail
- Western Wayne vs. North Scranton
- Riverside vs. Dunmore
- Carbondale vs. Lake-Lehman
Hawkeyes turn to familiar name to change their fortunes

By John Erzar jerron@timesleader.com

Hummer said. “Hopefully, we can get them out of that. My major goal is week by week, these kids get right direction. There will be a new quar- terback, either senior Matt Salwoski or junior Joe Curcio. Each has two or three passes last year. They’re both doing really, really well,” Hummer said. “They’re picking up the new playbook. The offense has changed a little bit back to the pro style, multisnap.”

If Curcio doesn’t start at quarterback, he’ll certainly be on the field. He earned a team-high 95 yards and seven first downs last season and had the team’s only 100-yard rushing performance. He was the only back returning 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 catchers return. Without Bobby Salwoski, grabbed a team-high 20 passes for 271 yards. Billow without Tom Bencivengo had 11 catches for 141 yards while tight end Connor Hummer made 10.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

Walls were hurt, could also fit into the secondary or at line- backer. Dallas has experience in both areas.

Schuster, Meuser and balancing the team’s only 100-yard rushing touchdown. He was the only 100-yard rushing performance. He was the only back returning to gain more than 200 yards in 2018. Peter Hibbard, Hunter Karpowich and Justin Stefanowicz bring a smattering of experience to the position.

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Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.
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.

“Defense wasn’t a big problem last year, we knew that. We scored 39, 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.

We think we run much better on defense.”

ON OFFENSE

Gone is three-year starting quarterback spicy Walk. And running back Darnel 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 through his career. "We have 400 yards of offense returning and five touchdowns,” Brennan said. “Three (TDs) by Johnson, one by Melusiny 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 carried the burden of losing two outstanding wide receivers. But a labor, though, is shifting quarterback where he moved two passes in 2018. Running back Lancer Johnson has some experience as he rushed for 230 yards and three TDs on 45 carries last season. Fullback Kevin Melusiny has some experience as well with 19 carries for 51 yards. He’ll have the burden of losing two out-three TDs on 40 carries last season as he rushed for 230 yards and three TDs on 45 carries last season. Fullback Kevin Melusiny has some experience as well with 19 carries for 51 yards. He’ll have the burden of losing two out.

Key player lost: Jared Cunningham, TE/DL:

Field, Cedar Street, off East Diamond Avenue,

Male enrollment: 982

PIAA Class: 6A

Hazleton Area; 18th year overall

Coach: Mike Brennan (134-96) 6th year at

Hazleton Area.

2018 Results (6-6)

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 Berwick (9-3) 7 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 18 Williamsport (5A) 7 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 25 at Crestwood (4A) 7 p.m.

Kicking: Will Garcia 47 XPM, 4 FGs, 59 pts.

Scoring: Damon Horton 132 pts.

Receiving: Jacob Hunsinger 46-891, 19.4 avg.,

Rushing: Damon Horton 160-1,135, 7.1 avg.,

15 TDs, 3 Ints.

Passing: Sparky Wolk 121-of-228, 1,959 yds.,

2018 regular-season leaders

Sparky Wolk, QB/DB

DB; Jefferson Luna, OL; Nolan Schneider, WR/

DL; Will Garcia, K; Damon Horton, FB/DB; Mike Fuchick, OL;

Josh Hedrington, OL; Jordan Cunningham, OL; Will Garcia, K; Damon Horton, FB/DB; Mike Fuchick, OL;

Josh Hedrington, OL; Jordan Cunningham, OL; Will Garcia, K; Damon Horton, FB/DB; Mike Fuchick, OL;

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Josh Hedrington, OL; Jordan Cunningham, OL; Will Garcia, K; Damon Horton, FB/DB; Mike Fuchick, OL;
By Dave Rosengrant

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

Then, things changed. Dramatically.

Downsizing stepped down due to a new full-time job and handed over the reigns to Kelley, who now starts his three-year tenure as head coach.

“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

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

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

ON OFFENSE

Since he just started the new offense a month ago, practice officially started, Kel- lcy was not able to put in a new offensive game plan like new head coaches normally do. Instead, the Royals will con- tinue to use the playbook from past seasons and make adjustments where needed.

“I think it’s a matter of lingo. I think I’m a lingo, really,” Kelley said. “The kids are getting used to the system that’s in place and make our changes, our tactics, variations and do the best to relate to the kids.”

On defense

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

OUTLOOK

The Royals finished 3-7 in 2018. They return just two starters from last year. Kelley understands the process and is excited for the opportunity.

“We’ve been together all through (Summer) camps,” Kelley said. “It’s been a real team effort. I think we’re vying for four spots in the District 2 Class 3A playoffs. That means no free ticket to the postseason. However, we feel good about our chemistry and the way we’ve been playing.”

ON DEFENSE

Hazard Area scored 26 points against Williamsport and 31 against Delaware Valley.

Yet, the Cougars lost both games because the defense had trouble stopping just about everybody. The defense had prob- lems vs. the pass as it registered just 10 sacks and six interceptions. Santis at defensive tackle and Bryce Reed at defensive end will be starters for the third consecutive year. Han- singer started some at defensive end and is pegged to start this season. Bieever will be the other guard.

Johnson returns to his starting outside line- backer position. Kellen Warner saw time a couple times in 2018, but will shift to the other outside spot. Mckey and Bugda will be the inside backers.

Now coach hopes to change Royals’ fortunes

HOLY REDEEMER ROYALS

New coach hopes to change Royals’ fortunes

By Dave Rosengrant

Defensive coordinator

“Fortunately, I got the opportunity to take the program to a good level of things. I love the coach. And I think that’s going to help me out in the process.”

OUTLOOK

The likes finished wireless last season and haven’t picked up a win since its last in 2017 cam- paign. So, in order to get back into contender status, it’s a matter of using the concepts, finishing with nine turnovers — with four coming in one game. The defense appears to be at its best against the line of scrimmage.

“We’ve been together all season with some- thing. Hines has been really good. There’s a chemistry coming together, but it’s a work in progress. We’re just trying to get better week by week.”

Kelley said the area is likely to make the postseason out of the six of the seven District 2 Class 3A teams make the playoffs.

OUTLOOK

The offense’s inability to protect quarterback has led to him get-ting put pressure by the defense last season. The result was de- livering 35 or more points in eight of 11 games. Some opponents ran to the game’s in the 40s. Most of the times used the air. Nor was the group oppor- tunistic, finishing with nine turnovers — with four coming in one game. The defense appears to be at its best against the line of scrimmage.
### Lake-Lehman diversifying plan of attack

By John Erzar
jernzar@timesleader.com

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 3-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.

#### By John Erzar
jernzar@timesleader.com

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.”

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### ON OFFENSE

Lehman returns all but one player to its backfield.
## 2019 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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**Scoreboard Sports Tavern**

**Daily Specials**

- **Monday:** "Taco Night" - 99¢ tacos
- **Tuesday:** "Wings" Bone In/ "Fresh Never Frozen" & Boneless - 40¢ ea.
- **Wednesday:** Cheese Steaks - $6.25 served w/ chips & pickle
- **Thursday:** Steamed Clams - $5.95 Baker's Dozen
- **Friday & Saturday:** Steak & Seafood Specials - Friday Night Happy Hour 4-6 P.M.
- **Sunday:** "WINGS BONE IN" Special Menu & Beer Specials

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The Trojans are ready to take the next step.

By Dave Rosengrant
For Times Leader

There’s a lot 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.”

On defense, the Trojans should be able to pick up where they left off last year. Darrel Roseman (four-year starter) and Keans Ammons (three-year starter) return as receivers while four-year starter Kyle Bobek (10-1, 240-pound) and Four-year starter Kyle Zarnola (6-5, 305) return to anchor the offensive line.

They’ll be making holes for several ball carriers, including Pierson Park, who grabbed a plethora of touches a year ago, and St. even Shilo, who could be seen all over the place on offense.

“We have a good nucleus of guys back from last year,” Bruza 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

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Northwest wants send message in final WVC season

By Paul Sokoloski
Northwest wants send message in final WVC season

0-3 start and quickly wiped finish, which began with an "Majer," pants under former coach Carl coach of the program in 2015. year for the first time since Conference postseasons last Dixon said. "I'm looking to two-way tackle Brendan "it's just not a great fit for us."

"I think we're all disap-

The biggest chore is southwest may have a chance to make plays. Sophomore Ryan Was shawn Nick Wilson. Both are returning starters and will have experienced follow behind them. Sophomore Ryan Was hunter. They may have to, con- Northwest's career tack- Burke, Hontz and Hunter Sophomore Ryan Was brack's Trail to Millheim. Both Milich and Brendan Dixon lin-

"We lose Nanticoke, who we no longer play, and we lose Meyers and GAB, who we've been very competitive with. When you take those three teams off the schedule, that leaves us with Hanover, Lehigh and Holy Redeemer that are local."

Tell how do you replace a couple of graduated school record- setters? You bow the door on Wednesday. Without nearly 6,000 combined career yards worth of offense from quarterback David Pastrauk or over 100 career catches from receiver Connor Hadet, the big-play potential they used to smush school marks before both graduated has dwindled.

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"When we looked on to make plays. Sophomore Ryan Was brack's Trail to Millheim. Both Milich and Brendan Dixon lin-
By Tom Robinson

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 AA 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 passers, 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 Dylann Lukashko and receiver Andrew Krancey lead that group.

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 (because of the success)," Bruns added. "A lot of these guys have been with me for six years, coming up from junior high so you know we have definitely a program at Greater Nanticoke Area, not just guys here, guys there. They know what the expectations are and I think that's what you really build off."
TUNKHANNOCK AREA TIGERS

Tigers ready to continue upward swing

By Dave Rosengrant
For Times Leader

We try to stay positive. It’s a long road ahead. We haven’t won many games in several years. A mentality thing. It’s a community thing. “We haven’t won many games with three wins a year ago. It’s a long road ahead,” said coach Mike Marshell, who begins his second season what he hopes can be unlimited years.

The football team have their most success in 2018 when they were 5-5 in the WVC 4A. The team is focusing on winning a World Series.

Still, he helped the Tigers team which also to the Little League Softball World Series. The team because he was lead-coach at Tunkhannock, Mike Freeland, Hazleton to post a winning record. A nine years before the program produced a winning record. So as Coach, Marshell, he helped the Tigers team which also to the Little League Softball World Series. The team because he was lead-

See TIGERS | 29

TUNKHANNOCK

Coach: Mike Marshell
Assistant: Jared Desko, Sam Stelley
Key players lost: Garrett Hopkins, WIlliam Swinney, Andrew Crook, Tyre Dobson
Key players: Zach Ross 26 XPM, 1 FG, 29 pts.
Scoring:
8 TDs
6 TDs
12 TDs, 17 Ints.
Passing:
Jack Chilson 105-of-225, 1,447 yds., 7 TDs, 7 Ints.
Zach Ross, K; Jake Stephens, WR/LB
Matt Ramey, FB/DL; Zach Rogers, TE/DB; Sergey Montross, LB; Tyler Peterson, OL/DL;

Stadium location: High School, off Route 6, Tunkhannock Male enrollment:
6A
PIAA Class:
Central and Scranton Tech
WVC 4A
Coach:
Ciro Cinti

2018 Results (3-7)

Fri., Aug. 23 at Crestwood (4A) 7 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 24 vs. Midd-West (5-5) 7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30 at Honesdale (4A) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 1 vs. Wyoming Valley West (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6 Pittston Area (4A) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 7 vs. GAR (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13 at Honesdale (4A) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 14 vs. North Pocono (5-2) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 21 at Wallenpaupack (9-4) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 22 vs. Wallenpaupack (9-4) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 28 vs. North Allegheny (6-2) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 1 vs. Wilkes-Barre Memorial (10-0) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 5 vs. Wilkes-Barre Memorial (10-0) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 6 vs. North Allegheny (6-2) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 12 vs. Tunkhannock (4-6) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 13 vs. North Allegheny (6-2) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 19 vs. Wilkes-Barre Memorial (10-0) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 20 vs. North Allegheny (6-2) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 26 vs. North Allegheny (6-2) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 27 vs. Wilkes-Barre Memorial (10-0) 7 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 2 vs. Wilkes-Barre Memorial (10-0) 7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 3 vs. North Allegheny (6-2) 7 p.m.

2019 Schedule

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Sat., Aug. 24 vs. Midd-West (5-5) 7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30 at Honesdale (4A) 7 p.m.
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WBA Wolfpack could take time to attack

By John Erzar
For Times Leader

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, Wilkes-Barre and East Wilkes-Barre merged to form East Wilkes-Barre. There was an initial success — eight wins in 1992 — but that was another nine years before the program produced a winning record. So as Coach, Marshell, he helped the Tigers team which also to the Little League Softball World Series. The team because he was lead-

WILKES-BARRE AREA WOLF PACK

2019 Schedule

Fri., Aug. 23 at Central A (6-1) 7 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 30 vs. Dunmore (6-2) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 1 vs. North Scranton (3-2) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6 at Wyoming Valley West (6A) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 7 vs. Wallenpaupack (9-4) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13 vs. New Castle Area (5-3) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 14 vs. East Williamsport (4-7) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 21 vs. Midd-West (5-5) 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 22 vs. North Scranton (3-2) 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 28 vs. Wyoming Valley East (6-2) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 1 vs. Hazleton Area (6A) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 5 vs. Wilkes-Barre Memorial (10-0) 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 6 vs. Greater Hazleton (4-7) 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 12 vs. East Williamsport (4-7) 7 p.m.
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See WBA | 26

On defense, the receiving corps appears the strongest position with a pair of veteran seniors leading the way. Malachi Williams caught 29 passes for 465 yards and three TDs for GAR last season. Rafael McCoy put up similar numbers in 2018. "They will all be in there getting those 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 difficult. It's hard to teach this process. I don't think the coaches can do it because a lot of extra stuff has been thrown on us. They've been thrown on us. … They've been thrown on us. … They've been thrown on us. … They've been thrown on us." It's a long road ahead. We haven't won many games in several years. It's a mentality thing. It's a community thing. ‘We haven’t won many games with three wins a year ago. It’s a long road ahead,’ said coach Mike Freeland, Hazleton to post a winning record. A nine years before the program produced a winning record. So as Coach, Marshell, he helped the Tigers team which also to the Little League Softball World Series. The team because he was lead-

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Wednesday, August 21, 2019 24
Pittston Area

From page 23

most effective passers last season, hitting 51.5 percent of his passes for 1,034 yards and a 4.9 touchdown-to-interception ratio.

Mike led the Patriots in rushing with 569 yards and six touchdowns on 110 carries. Junior John Symons and sopho-

mores Devan Shadid and Delilah Krepelka also had some starting experience last season, but the coaching staff is confident the Patriots could take the other three spots in the backfield.

OFFENSIVE LINES

Joe Fagnano, who started at left guard last season, is back. He also had some starting experience at center last season. Shadid, Krepelka and Krawczyk, who took over the left tackle spot last season, are back. Senior Zac Lukachko could also see some time at the position.

DEFENSIVE LINES

The defense has an experienced line where the coaching staff is confident the other three spots in the backfield.

Mike led the team in tackles last season and could again be a talented secondary. Junior Delilah Krepelka and senior Ronny Zajaczkowski led the team in sacks last season.

OFFENSE

The offense should be competitive this season, led by senior quarterback, are others who could see action with wide receivers.

POSTSEASON

Last year, the Patriots struggled through much of the season before an 11-1 turnaround to win the District 4 title.

Evan Taylor, Wesley Murray and Nick Ruhlin are among the others expected to share playing time at the skill positions.

There are some key returners from last year, is the strong safety, and is likely to be joined by some starting experience as a senior. Senior Zac Lukachko led the Patriots in tackles last season and could also see more playing time at middle linebacker.

Anastasi, who has some starting experience, but again could see some time at the position.

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Expectations are high for Warriors

Wyoming Area returns its leaders, but also many of the Township athletes that helped the team win its first 11 games last season before falling in the PIAA Class 3A second round.

“Performing at that high level was something we were able to do six or seven 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 its 2018 leaders returning, rushing, passing, receiving, scoring, interceptions and return yards.

“Dominic DeLuca led in rushing with 1,300 yards and would have returned for a fourth year at tailback for the workhorse that was something we were used to seeing,” Marabell said. “Riley Zacharias is expected to lead the group of interior linemen, while Brian Williams is back at tight end where another_inside_outside combination to take care of the defensive line, while Alec Seboe will become a standout at Wyoming Valley West as a sophomore, last season.

“Those types of games become an issue, there was not much missing from the equation for a team that for the second straight year enters the season surrounded by high expectations.

“Wyoming Area has added District 2 Class 3A and 2A champions Scranton Prep and Dunmore, so Wyoming Area winds up back at tight end where another_inside_outside combination to take care of the defensive line, while Alec Seboe will become a standout at Wyoming Valley West as a sophomore, last season.

“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 last season. Mruk was a 1,000-yard rusher who ran for 12 touchdowns last season.
Spartans under new leadership

By John Erzar

Friday, August 22, 2019

Spartans under new leadership

WYOMING VALLEY WEST SPARTANS

On defense

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

"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 out for the first time in five years. The program hasn’t had a losing season since 1994, but last year’s 5-5 finish certainly wasn’t pleasant.

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And at HKQ Law, no one will work harder for you.

Best of luck for your 2019 season!