

High School

Aug. 27, 2026

FOOTBALL

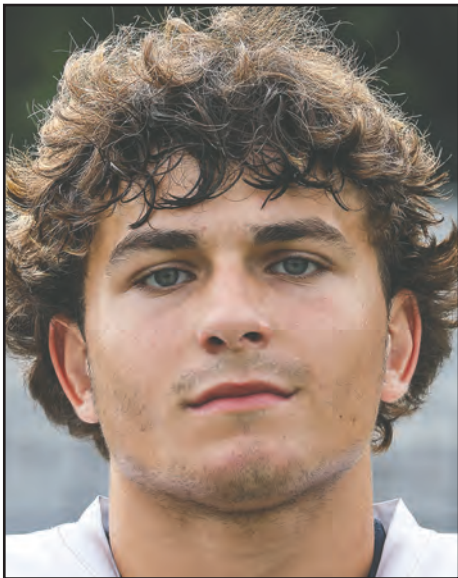
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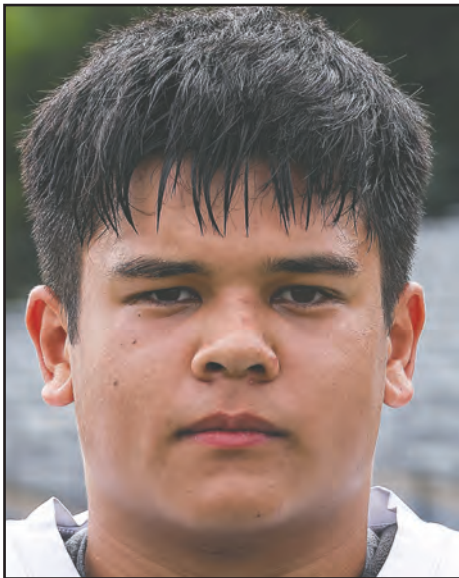
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OIL CITY OILERS

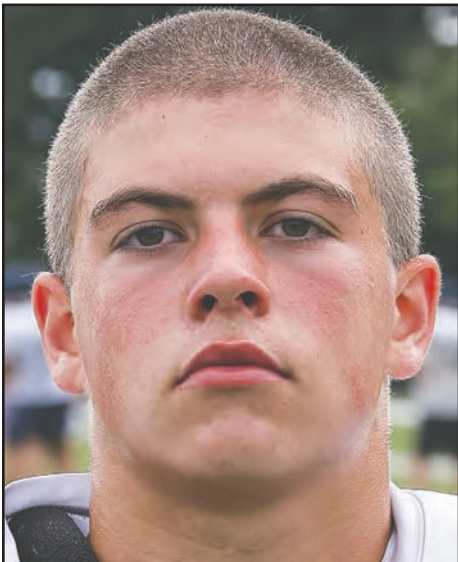
Oilers look to reload after key departures



CARTER THOMPSON



TYCEN SINDLINGER



CARTER BIALO



LINCOLN GALLA

By JOE HENDERSON
Sports editor

Behind the stellar play of quarterback Cole Findlay, the tough running of tailback Steven Heise, the dominant blocking of a deep and talented offensive line and the ferocious intensity of a stingy defense, Oil City’s football team captured the District 10 Class 4A championship last season.

But, many of the players that helped the Oilers claim their fifth D-10 crown since 1998 were either lost to graduation or are no longer members of the squad for various reasons, leaving head coach Dan York and his staff with lots of holes to fill for the upcoming campaign.

The biggest hole to fill is at quarterback as Findlay is now playing for PennWest Edinboro University after throwing for 1,600 yards and 15 touchdowns and running for 786 yards and 10 more scores last season.

Looking to take his place as the starting QB are senior Alex McIntyre and sophomore Bryce Marchinke. Both have limited experience at the position, but Marchinke did play QB at the junior varsity level.

“It’s an open competition right now,” York said. “They are doing exceptionally well at practice and both of them are going to be seeing some playing time. Both of them can run and pass the ball well.”

The Oilers will also be looking for a new starting tailback as Heise graduated after rushing for 1,346 yards and 18 touchdowns last season.

Carter Thompson, a junior, and Dylan VanWormer, a senior, appear to be the most likely candidates as Thompson averaged 12.3 yards per carry last year, finishing with 197 yards and three scores. VanWormer racked up 213 yards and a

touchdown with a 5.9 ypc. average.

Also vying for playing time at the position are junior Tycen Sindlinger and sophomore Clark Findlay while seniors Blake Stevens and Lincoln Galla will see time at fullback. Sindlinger and Findlay give the Oilers some versatility as they both can play tailback or fullback.

“We have a lot of depth at running back and they are all doing well in practice,” York said.

The team will also have to find replacements at receiver for My’Saun Mills, Landon Baker and Spence Singleton. Baker was the leading receiver with 37 receptions for 657 yards and five scores while Mills had 25 grabs for 355 yards and three TDs and Singleton 11 catches for 174 yards and s score.

Logan Heath, a senior, and Carter Bialo, a junior, are the top candidates at the position while seniors Elijah Sabin and Owen McCullough are also likely to see playing time as well.

“Logan and Carter are both very athletic and have good hands,” York said.

At tight end, senior Deryk DeLong and sophomore Matthew Antrilli should get the bulk of the playing time while Stevens can also play the position as well.

The offensive line is another area of need as Carson Foster, Lucas Wolf, Ashton Wagner, Matthew Brumbaugh and Caleb Sparks are all gone from last year’s roster.

The starters appear to be junior Jamarcus Cooke at center, juniors Alexander Piercy and Bradley Graham at guard and seniors Dominic Carson and Ashton Wenner at tackle while sophomore Carsen Hartle gives the Oilers some depth and versatility as he can play both center and guard while junior Tristan Fox could also see some playing time.

See OILERS, Page 21

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2026 High School Football Index

OIL CITY OILERS.....2, 3, 21

FRANKLIN KNIGHTS.....4, 5, 20

CENTRAL CLARION WILDCATS.....6, 7

REDBANK VALLEY BULLDOGS8, 9

UNION/A-C VALLEY FALCON KNIGHTS.10, 11

KEYSTONE PANTHERS.....12, 13

GROVE CITY EAGLES.....14, 15

TITUSVILLE ROCKETS.....16

LAKEVIEW SAILORS.....17, 18

COCHRANTON CARDINALS.....19

2025 DISTRICT 9 DIVISIOS.....21

2025 DISTRICT 10 REGIONS.....21

OIL CITY OILERS



Members of the Oil City football team compete during a drill at a recent practice at Oil City High School.

Photo by Eric Elliott

OIL CITY OILERS COACHES

- Dan York — Head coach, defensive coordinator
- Dave Skinner — Offensive coordinator, running backs, defensive backs
- Mario Fontanazza — Offensive line, defensive line
- Ritt Smith — Offensive line, defensive line
- Eric Cole — Running backs, defensive backs
- Bill Heber — Offensive line, linebackers
- Dylin Chapin — Quarterbacks, defensive backs
- Tony Bucholz — Offensive line, defensive line
- Jason Galla — Linebackers, running backs
- Caleb Bish — Wide receivers, running backs
- Cade Cochran — Wide receivers, wide receivers
- Bundy Fulmer — Junior high
- Matt Miller — Junior high
- Conor Taylor — Volunteer assistant
- Nate Neely — Volunteer assistant
- Josh Cherish — Volunteer assistant
- Tim Reed — Volunteer assistant
- Dave “Bossman” May — Equipment



Riley



Cooke

OIL CITY OILERS SCHEDULE

- Aug. 29 — at Meadville
- Sept. 4 — at Franklin
- Sept. 11 — SHARON
- Sept. 18 — at General McLane
- Sept. 25 — CATHEDRAL PREP
- Oct. 1 — WARREN
- Oct. 9 — at Grove City
- Oct. 16 — HARBOR CREEK
- Oct. 23 — Bye
- Oct. 30 — KARNs CITY

About the Cover

Franklin offensive linemen Aaron Moore-Junior, Mike Miller and Kaden Kisekla as well as running back Caden Mincer were joined on the cover by Oil City all-state linebacker Blake Stevenes and offensive linemen Deryk DeLong, Dominic Carson and Ashton Wenner.

The Oilers and Knights will be suiting up for their 130th seasons as Oil City will be looking to defend its District 10 Class 4A title while Franklin begins a new era with head coach Austin Ion.

Photographer Eric Elliott designed the cover and took photos of Oil City for this section while Christy Fackler took photos of Franklin.

Sports editor Joe Henderson and veteran correspondent Joe Sager authored previews for each of the area’s 10 football teams.

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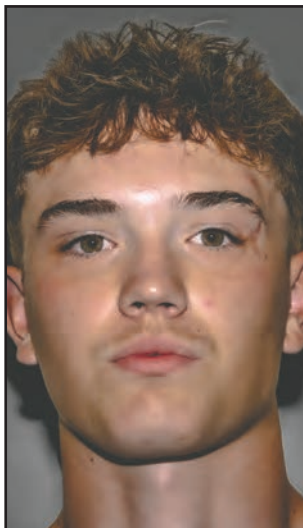
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FRANKLIN KNIGHTS

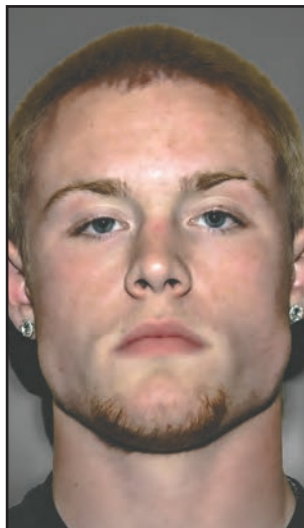
Ion ushers in a new era for Knights



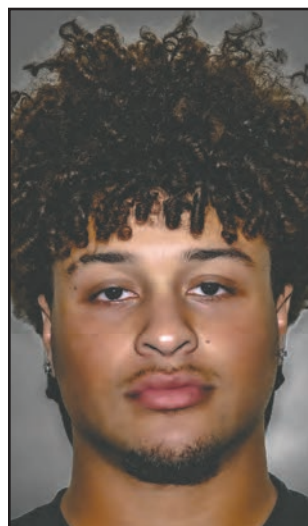
Harrison Doty



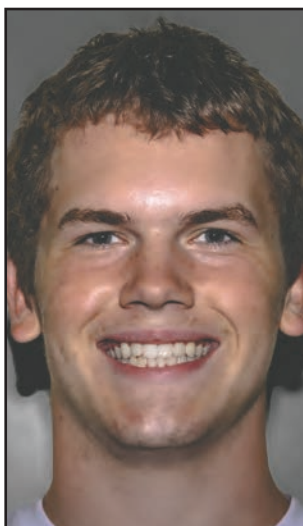
Austin Brown



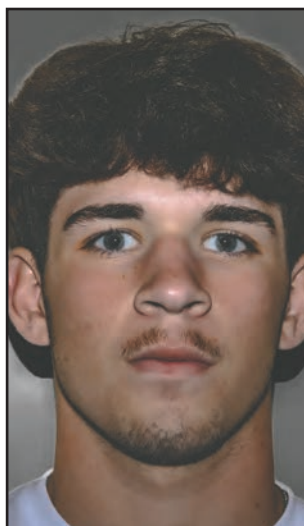
Caden Mincer



Freddie Blackhurst



Conor Johnson



Ryder Stevens

By **JOE HENDERSON**
Sports editor

After spending the last eight years as an assistant coach at Keystone High School, Austin Ion was rewarded with the opportunity to be a head coach for the first time at Franklin this past winter.

Ion will be looking to turn around a program that has struggled over the last few years as the Knights won only three games over the last two seasons and hasn't posted a winning record since 2006.

But with close to 35 players on his first roster, he feels the Knights can play some junior varsity football games this year, which can be an important building block for future success.

"With 34-35 kids on the roster, we should be able to play junior varsity games, so that's a win in my book," he said. "To me, being able to play four junior varsity games is good and to be able to play six to eight games is awesome just because of having to navigate injuries and everything. Being able to play those games gives these kids another chance to get out and develop on the field."

The Knights may have struggled last season in the win column, but the team brings back several key pieces to build around for the future, starting at the quarterback position.

Harrison Doty, a sophomore, earned valuable experience last year after playing in five games as a freshman, and Ion likes what he's seen out of his young signal caller. But, he's being pushed by junior Austin Brown for the starting job.

"There is a small competition right now, but Harrison is in the pole position," Ion said. "We are getting Austin up to speed and he is a good athlete as well, so we might use him in other places on the field because of how athletic he is. We'll see how it goes with the scrimmage."

Ion has been impressed with not only Doty's talent, but his work ethic and knowledge of the new offense.

"Harrison has a strong arm, throws a nice ball and he's really smart. He's really picked up the offense since we first got started in February. He knows what everybody is supposed to be doing and he understands what we are looking for, it's just a matter of making the right read and trusting in himself," Ion said. "He had five games of experience last year and that's huge. I'm not going to be worried that the game is going to be too fast for him because he did get a taste of it last year. The older you get, the more you play and the more comfortable you get."

Ion also likes the different dimension that Brown also brings to the offense.

"Austin has got a super strong arm and he's more of a runner as well, so he brings that dual look," Ion said. "He also catches the ball well, runs good routes and he's a big kid, too, so I can see a variety of different ways we can use him. He's another smart kid and hard worker."

Last season, the Knights' offense revolved around running back Caden Mincer as the junior finished with 1,065 yards on the ground, including a 249-yard, three-touchdown effort in the team's only win against Lakeview.

Mincer is back to lead the ground attack once more, but Ion is hoping to ease some of his burden this year by finding some more options at the position. Freddie Blackhurst, a senior, and Conor Johnson, a junior, are the likely candidates.

"Caden is going to be the main guy, but we are looking for some other guys to supplement his carries because we don't want to run him into the ground," Ion said. "Freddie will see time at running back and receiver and Conor might see some carries. There are some freshmen and sophomores that might be able to work their way onto the field for some carries here or there as well."

Looking to join Blackhurst at wide receiver are sophomore Ryder Stevens and freshmen Korbyn Sires, Jackson Bell-Carone and Giovanni Gonsalves as well as Brown if he doesn't win the QB job. Mincer could also catch some passes out in space.

A pair of juniors in Anthony Martin and Luke Marsteller are expected to get the bulk of the time at the tight end/fullback position.

But, the big key for how the Knights do this year will depend on the big guys up front on the offensive line, which appears to have lots of depth and size.

A pair of seniors in Aaron Moore Junior and Kaden Kiselka should see plenty of playing time along with sophomore Michael Miller while junior Devin Voto-Pelletier, senior Jack Wimer, sophomore Tyler Hill, freshman Brandon Deeter and junior Elijah Geer are also in the mix.

"We could use a mixture of any of those guys. I like what I see and they are big. My offensive line coach Devon Latchaw has done a really nice job of developing them and getting them up to speed," Ion said. "We work a blitz pickup session every day in practice when we are doing offense and I tell my defensive coordinator Josh Albright to give me whatever he's got and they've done a good job of picking stuff up. Not many defenders have leaked through and if they have, it's a great time to sit down and evaluate things."

See **KNIGHTS**, Page 20

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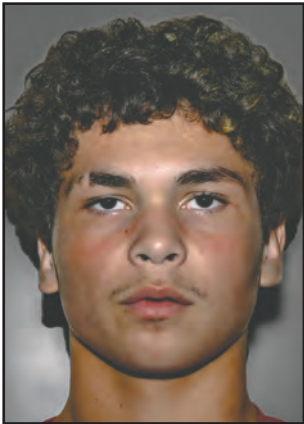
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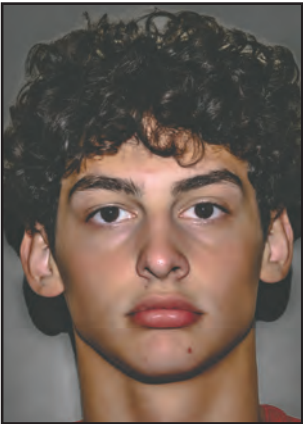
FRANKLIN KNIGHTS

FRANKLIN KNIGHTS ROSTER

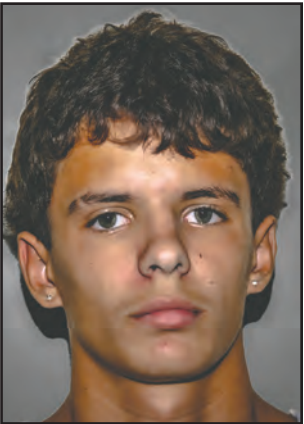
Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Ryder Stevens	5-9	150	So.	WR/DB
Jacob Fleming	5-8	150	Fr.	K/P
Freddie Blackhurst	5-10	185	Sr.	WR-DB
Jackson Bell-Carone	6-1	170	Fr.	WR-FS
Giovanni Gonsalves	5-7	115	Fr.	WR/Fs
Conor Johnson	5-10	150	Jr.	RB;LB
Korbyn Sires	6-0	180	Fr.	WR/SS
Conar McLaughlin	5-10	160	Fr.	RB/DB
Emery Palmero	5-4	110	Fr.	WR/DB
Austin Brown	6-0	170	Jr.	QB/SS
Brian Platt	5-11	160	So.	WR/DB
Harrison Doty	5-11	150	So.	QB
Padraig Johnson	5-6	140	So.	K/P
Caden Mincer	6-1	195	Sr.	RB/LB
Gilberto Rivera	5-8	140	Fr.	WR/DB
Joshua Grossman	5-8	150	Sr.	RB/SS
Eddie Platt	5-9	165	Sr.	RB/SS
Dakota Sybert	6-0	195	So.	RB/LB
Cooper Carll	5-11	170	So.	TE/DE
Luke Marsteller	6-1	170	Jr.	TE/DE
Taivan Williams	5-8	210	Jr.	TE/DE
Elijah Geer	5-10	205	Jr.	OG/DT
Michael Miller	5-10	210	So.	OG/DT
Jayden Brown	5-9	235	So.	OG/DT
Brandon Deeter	5-11	230	Fr.	OT/DT
Tyler Hill	6-2	255	So.	OT/DT
Jacob Palmer	5-6	180	Fr.	OC/DT
Jack Wimer	6-5	265	Sr.	OG/DT
Devin Voto-Pelletier	6-3	245	Jr.	OT/DT
Kaden Kiselka	5-10	260	Sr.	OG/DT
Aaron Moore Jr.	6-6	330	Sr.	OC/DT
Keith Habbyslaw	5-6	145	Fr.	WR/DB
Anthony Martin	6-4-	230	Jr.	TE/DE



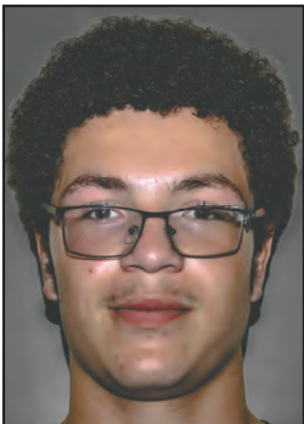
Korbyn Sires



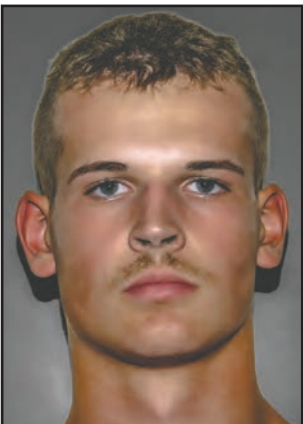
Jackson Bell-Carone



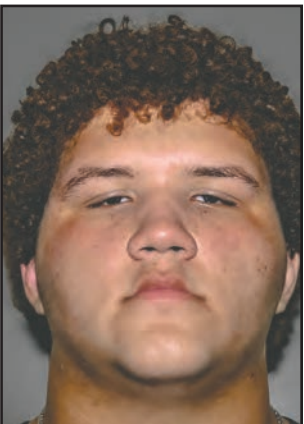
Giovanni Gonsalves



Anthony Martin



Luke Marsteller



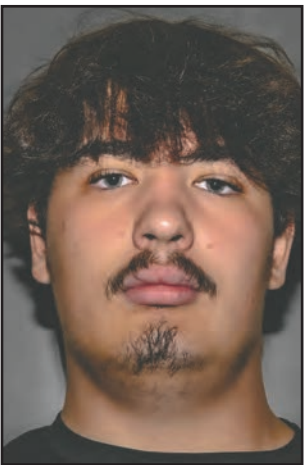
Aaron Moore-Junior



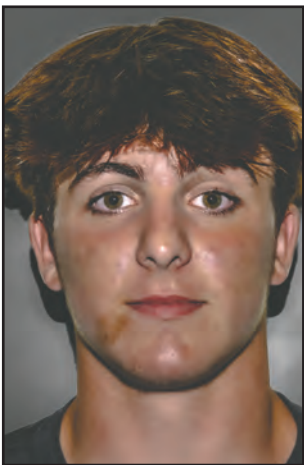
Kaden Kiselka



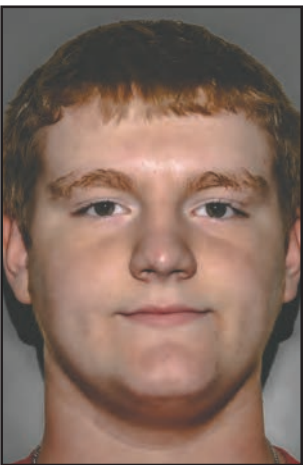
Michael Miller



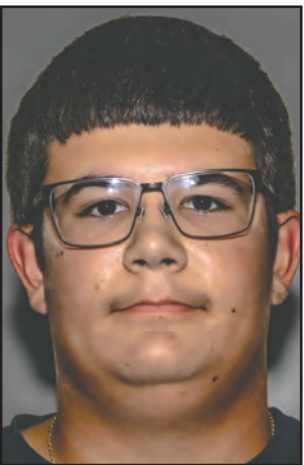
Devin Voto-Pelletier



Elijah Geer



Tyler Hill



Brandon Deeter

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CENTRAL CLARION WILDCATS

Experienced Wildcats hope to avoid 'growing pains'

By **JOE HENDERSON**
Sports editor

With a young roster, some early injuries and a tough schedule, Central Clarion's football team got off to a slow start last year, sporting a 2-4 record after the team's first six games.

But, the Wildcats started to find their groove down the stretch, reeling off wins in five straight games to reach the District 9 championship game before falling to Karns City to finish at 7-5 overall.

As head coach Dave Eggleton and his staff prepare for the upcoming campaign, they are hoping that the experience the team gained last year translates into better results this season.

"We bring a lot of guys with a lot experience back this year. Some of them grew up a little last year and we have a couple of guys who have three years of experience as starters," Eggleton said. "Hopefully, we don't go through the growing pains like we did last season."

A big plus for the Wildcats this year is the return of junior quarterback Carter Hindman, who started all 12 games last year. He completed 54 percent of his passes for 1,171 yards and 13 touchdowns while also adding 261 yards and two scores on the ground.

"Carter put in a lot of work in the offseason. He's a big, strong kid and as the season went along last year, he definitely seemed to get a lot more comfortable. I think he had a pretty good season as he was a first-year starter and only a sophomore. He stepped into some pretty big shoes, so there were some high expectations," Eggleton said. "He can run the ball, too, and that's something I'd expect to see more of with him this year as he's gotten faster and bigger. He's about 6-1 or 6-2 and 205 pounds, so he's a tough kid to bring down."

The quarterback room also features a pair of younger guys the coaching staff is high on in sophomore Ethan Ferguson and freshman Brady Klinger.

"Ethan is a good athlete so he might be able to find his way onto the field somewhere else," Eggleton said. "Brady is a freshman we feel good about and he's had a really good summer and camp. We think he's got a bright future, too, so between those two, they will be handling the backup duties."

The Wildcats expect to have a balanced attack on offense with the return of senior running back Ethan Rex, who led the team in rushing with 1,100 yards and 15 touchdowns last year. He was also second on the team with 19 catches for 284 yards and six more TDs.

"Ethan is one of those kids who is so versatile and he can pretty much play about anywhere. We can split him out or we can put him in the backfield. He had a big year running the ball last season and he's put in a lot of work and he's had a really good camp," Eggleton said. "He's gotten bigger, stronger and faster, too, so I look for him to be one of the premier guys in the area. He is just a great football player, so I expect him to have a big season."

Joining Rex in the backfield is senior fullback Alex Love, who finished with 331 yards rushing and six scores last season.

"When Alex has the opportunity, he runs the ball tough, he has good vision and he's shifty," Eggleton said.

Brody Beggs, a junior, is another weapon Eggleton is excited about as he's expected to have a huge role in the offense after getting injured early last season.

"Brody can play in the backfield or he can split out and play slot or receiver. He has elite speed and he's probably the fastest kid in the area," Eggleton said. "He's had a really good offseason lifting in the weight room and it shows as he just looks strong, but he can still run fast. We are happy to have him back and healthy right now."

Jackson Mravintz, a junior, is another versatile athlete that the coaching staff is planning on utilizing in the backfield after he ran for 200 yards and two scores and caught six passes for 98 yards a season ago.

"Jackson is another guy like Brody where he can play in the backfield or he can split out and play in the slot," Eggleton said. "He saw a lot of time at receiver last year after our No. 1 receiver missed a lot of time with injury. He stepped into that spot and did really, really well."

Trey Hooks, a senior, and Tyson Hooks, a sophomore, are also in the mix for playing time at the slot and receiver positions.

"Both of them are great athletes. Trey took a year off, so we're glad to have him back," Eggleton said.

The Wildcats have a senior in Dylan Smail and a sophomore in Kolen Kemmer who the coaching staff thinks can help them out at receiver as well.

"Dylan is just a phenomenal athlete so we are excited to have him back out this year. He is going to make a big difference," Eggleton said. "Kolen is a little undersized, but he runs good routes and he's quick."

Rounding out the skill positions of the offense are junior Casey Kemmer and Gage Kinnan, who are expected to see time at tight end.

"Casey is a big kid and he was limited last year due to injury. We're hoping to keep him healthy so he can have a good season for us," Eggleton said. "Gage is another big, strong kid. He didn't play last year, but he

came out again this year, so we are excited about him, too."

The Wildcats return a pair of starters on the offensive line in senior Brendan Bracken and junior Patrick Durish. Bracken, entering his third year as a starter, played center the last two years, but he is moving to guard this year. Durish will be starting at tackle after playing the position last season.

"Brendan has had a really good offseason and he's gotten a lot stronger and more athletic. He will probably be the anchor of the line and our senior leader," Eggleton said.

The Wildcats have some holes to fill with the other three starting spots with senior Billy Kahle moving from fullback to take over at center.

"Billy is one of those kids that wants to know what he can do to get on the field. We had that discussion and he decided it would be best for the team to move to the center position," Eggleton said. "He's had a pretty good camp for us, so we'll see how it goes when we put the pads on."

Competing for the other two starting spots are Matt Raymond, sophomore Cash Niederriter, junior Leo Coradi and Kinnan if he's not playing at tight end.

"We have probably seven or eight guys that can slot into those five positions," Eggleton said of his line. "How they mesh and who fits best is going to determine who plays. We are going to do whatever gives us the best five guys and best six blockers up there with our tight end."

With so much talent on offense, the Wildcats are hoping to sport a potent attack this year.

"We are feeling pretty good about our skills guys on the offensive side of the ball. Having a balanced offense is always going to be key for us to have a successful offense," Eggleton said. "We want to run the football first and set up the play-action pass and that's kind of been our recipe the last several years. Even when we were throwing for a lot of yards, we were a run-first team, so that's kind of what the goal always is for us is to establish the run and set up the pass."

On the defensive line, Coradi is back after starting on the line last year while Bracken is back to start at defensive end. Durish and Kinnan are also expected to play at end while Raymond and Niederriter are expected to play in the interior of the line.

"A lot of these guys are playing both ways, so we'll try our best to give them a break and do what we need to do to keep those big guys up front fresh," Eggleton said.

See **WILDCATS**, Page 7

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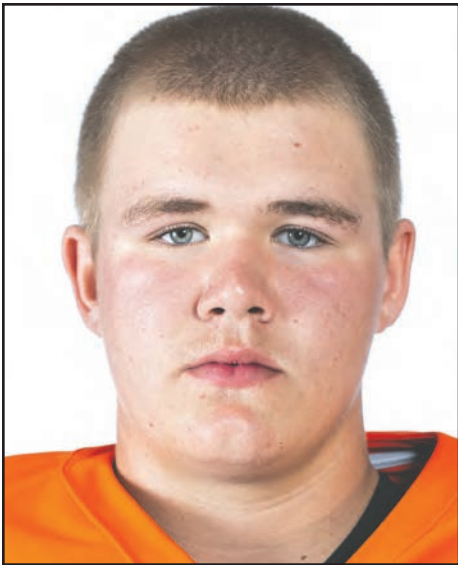
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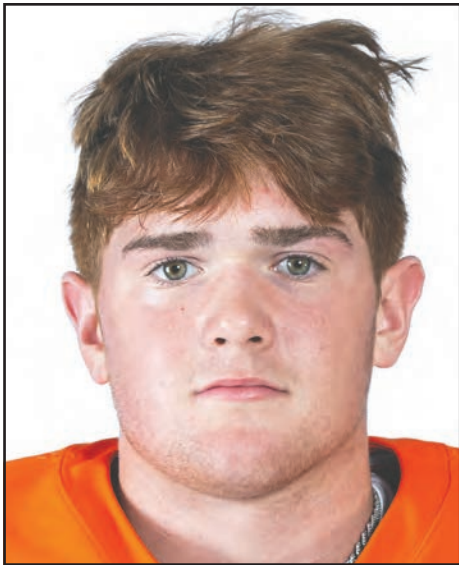
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CENTRAL CLARION WILDCATS



CARTER HINDMAN



ETHAN REX

Wildcats

Continued from Page 6

Love and Hindman return to start at inside linebacker while Rex is three-year starter on the outside. Ferguson, Trey Hooks, Tyson Hooks and Kahle can play inside or outside with junior Kayden Carnahan also in the mix.

“We have a pretty good battle there for playing time and it’s probably the deepest out of all of our positions. It may be a position-by-committee approach to keep guys fresh,” Eggleton said.

Beggs is expected to start at cornerback while Smail, senior Omari Scott, freshman Jayden Williams and Kolen Kemmer are also in the mix for playing time. Mravintz is back to start at safety and is the anchor of the defense.

“Jackson had a great season for us last year. He’s just an all-around great football player and he’s kind of the quarterback of that defense,” Eggleton said.

Martin Ormeno, a member of the soccer team, will be handling the placekicking duties while Rex will once again be the punter.

“Martin is just starting out, but he’s getting the hang of kicking a football. He has a strong leg and I think once he gets his form down, he’s going to do really well,” Eggleton said. “Ethan is a very good punter and he provides a threat that you have to be worried about anytime he’s touching the ball.”

After taking on an eventual state champion in Kirtland, Ohio, to start the season last year, the Wildcats will get another stiff test against General McLane on opening night this season.

“I don’t know whether it’s smart or not, but I’m never afraid to take on a challenge. Last year with Kirtland, we came in and played them really tough.

We had some injuries and that kind of really limited us, but when you look at what they did the rest of the season and in the state title game in Ohio, we did not play a bad football game,” Eggleton said. “We were disappointed it didn’t work out for us to go to Kirtland this year, but General McLane was looking for a game and they are traditionally a great program. I know they had a really strong team last year and they have a lot of good football players back, so we are excited for that challenge.”

With injuries limiting the Wildcats last year, the Wildcats are hoping to avoid that this season.

“I think for any high school football season, staying healthy is key,” Eggleton said. “Most high schools of our size, there isn’t a ton of depth, so if we can keep our starting group or that core group of like 20 guys healthy, I think we’ve got a shot of accomplishing our goals.”

Those goals are getting back to the D-9 title game again and competing for another championship.

“We obviously are going to take it one game at a time, but that’s kind of the standard we set is we expect to be in that position at the end of the season where we are competing for championships,” Eggleton said.

The Wildcats’ strong group of coaches remains intact, but there is a new addition to the coaching staff as Pete Beksid was brought in to work with the defensive backs and wide receivers.

“One thing I’ve been lucky with since I’ve taken over the program is we’ve pretty much had the same staff intact year in and year out and that makes a big difference,” Eggleton said. “We’ve got a really strong group of coaches who have been with me since the beginning, so I’m blessed to have them and they are the real reason for the success we’ve had the last few years.”

CENTRAL CLARION WILDCATS ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Brendan Bracken	6-2	235	Sr.	OL/DE
Treyven Hooks	5-10	157	Sr.	WR/LB
Billy Kahle	5-10	190	Sr.	RB/LB
Alex Love	5-8	193	Sr.	RB/LB
Martin Ormeno	5-10	155	Sr.	K/P
Ethan Rex	5-10	197	Sr.	RB/LB
Omari Scott	5-10	155	Sr.	WR/DB
Dylan Smail	5-10	155	Sr.	WR/DB
Brody Beggs	5-11	187	Jr.	RB/DB
Kayden Carnahan	5-8	175	Jr.	QB/LB
Leo Coradi	6-4	316	Jr.	OL/DL
Patrick Durish	6-5	235	Jr.	OL/DL
Haydin Foster	5-10	150	Jr.	OL/DL
Carter Hindman	6-1	205	Jr.	QB/LB
Lucas Ion	5-6	200	Jr.	OL/DL
Casey Kemmer	6-4	184	Jr.	TE/LB
Gage Kinnan	6-1	220	Jr.	OL/DL
Jackson Mravintz	5-10	150	Jr.	WR/FS
Matthew Raymond	5-7	220	Jr.	OL/DL
Tyler Roush	5-6	150	Jr.	RB/LB
Trenton Berst	5-9	278	So.	OL/DL
Ethan Ferguson	5-9	155	So.	QB/LB
Brooks Fleming	5-8	136	So.	WR/DB
Tyson Hooks	5-9	155	So.	RB/DB
Kolen Kemmer	5-8	136	So.	WR/DB
Weston Lawrence	6-1	155	So.	WR/DB
Michael McSwain	5-3	140	So.	RB/LB
Hayden Nickerson	5-9	130	So.	WR/DB
Cash Niederriter	6-1	265	So.	OL/DL
AJ Painter	5-6	180	So.	RB/LB
Parker Palmer	5-7	180	So.	OL/DL
Samuel Smail	6-1	160	So.	WR/DB
Brady Clinger	6-0	165	Fr.	TE/DE
Jacob Coulter	5-8	224	Fr.	OL/DL
Thomas Courson	5-9	150	Fr.	RB/LB
Ian Craig	5-10	130	Fr.	WR/DB
Wyatt Dehner	6-1	180	Fr.	TE/DE
Mayson Detrick	5-9	190	Fr.	TE/DL
Isaac Dotterer	5-10	170	Fr.	OL/DE
Matt Fair	5-9	167	Fr.	OL/LB
Micah Henry	6-1	272	Fr.	OL/DL
Braden Larson	5-8	130	Fr.	WR/LB
Brody McClain	5-7	120	Fr.	WR/DB
Alexzander McGinley	5-7	127	Fr.	WR/DB
Zach Raymond	5-5	140	Fr.	RB/LB
Ben Standfest	5-6	118	Fr.	RB/DB
Hunter Wayland	5-10	155	Fr.	WR/DB
Jayden Williams	5-9	135	Fr.	WR/DB

CENTRAL CLARION COACHES

Dave Eggleton -- Head coach, offensive coordinator
Dave Louder -- Defensive coordinator
Doug Knepp -- Special teams, offensive line, defensive line
Mike Ferguson -- quarterbacks
Mike Hindman -- Offensive line, defensive line
Pete Beskid -- Defensive backs, wide receivers
Jared Beggs -- Assistant coach
Cam Kirtland -- Volunteer assistant
Kevin “Fonze” Slike -- Equipment manager

CENTRAL CLARION SCHEDULE

Aug. 28 — GENERAL McLANE
Sept. 4 — UNION/A-C VALLEY
Sept. 11 — at DuBois
Sept. 18 — at Keystone
Sept. 25 — BROOKVILLE
Oct. 2 — KARNs CITY
Oct. 9 — at St. Marys
Oct. 16 — PUNXSUTAWNEY
Oct. 23 — at Redbank Valley
Oct. 30 — at Butler

REDBANK VALLEY BULLDOGS

Bulldogs look to amp up running game

REDBANK VALLEY BULLDOGS ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Bailey Bowser	5-8	293	Sr.	OL/DT
Connor Colwell	5-11	162	Sr.	RB/DB
Abe DeSantis	6-0	196	Sr.	OL/DL
Nathan Jimenez	5-8	200	Sr.	OL/DL
Peyton Kennemuth	5-11	173	Sr.	RB/LB
Easton Magagnotti	5-11	155	Sr.	QB/DB
Riley Schrecengost	6-0	142	Sr.	RB/DL
Grant Shoemaker	5-10	175	Sr.	RB/LB
Hayden Smith	6-1	155	Sr.	WR/DB
Kaden Sturgeon	5-9	170	Sr.	WR/DB
Sloan Cornman	5-10	273	Jr.	OL/DL
Gage Franklin	5-11	135	Jr.	WR/DB
Jarrett Gould	6-0	230	Jr.	OL/DL
Luke Grafton	5-11	195	Jr.	OL/DL
Landon Hornberger	6-1	155	Jr.	RB/DL
Jace Huffman	6-2	241	Jr.	OL/DL
Owen Polka	6-2	165	Jr.	WR/LB
Tripp Riggleman	5-10	224	Jr.	OL/LB
Malachi Stewart	6-2	260	Jr.	OL/DL
Davene Williams	6-1	141	Jr.	WR/DB
Dawson Wright	5-7	125	Jr.	WR/DB
Kale Barnett	6-2	155	So.	RB/LB
Rowen Byers	5-10	219	So.	OL/LB
Gabe Clinger	5-6	140	So.	WR/DB
Jace Clowser	5-10	174	So.	WR/DB
Tayvin Kennedy	5-10	232	So.	OL/DL
Parker Kennemuth	5-10	153	So.	WR/DB
Jaron Minich	6-3	356	So.	OL/DL
Caine Monrean	5-11	175	So.	WR/LB
Zander Riley	6-2	249	So.	OL/DL
Greysen Stewart	5-9	153	So.	WR/DB
Elliot Troup	5-8	184	So.	OL/DL
Michael Troup	5-7	116	So.	WR/DB
Kayleb Young	6-0	145	So.	QB/DB
Kaden Craig	5-10	167	Fr.	QB/DB
Michael Golembiewski	5-5	114	Fr.	WR/DB
Blake Shaffer	5-5	146	Fr.	WR/DB
Chris Shilling	5-10	225	Fr.	OL/DL
Cain Stewart	5-7	150	Fr.	WR/DB

By JOE HENDERSON
Sports editor

Over the last four years, quarterback Braylon Wagner and receiver Jaxon Huffman proved to be a lethal pairing, fueling one of the top offenses in all of District 9 and making Redbank Valley’s football team a threat to win the district title on an annual basis.

At the end of last season, the two earned all-state honors as Wagner completed 63 percent of his passes for 2,734 yards and 31 touchdowns while also rushing for a team-best 717 yards and four more scores. Meanwhile, Huffman was the main target for Wagner, hauling in 81 receptions for 1,112 yards and 10 TDs as the Bulldogs finished with an 8-5 record and reached the D-9 title game.

But, with those two lost to graduation and the current roster featuring a different makeup than in the past, head coach Blane Gold and his staff came to realize that a change to the Bulldogs’ style of play was in order for the upcoming campaign.

“We had a unique situation when we were rolling with Braylon as we were starting freshman and sophomores on the offensive line. When we talk about Braylon being our leading rusher last year, that’s because we were using backs to block or we were going with empty sets because we were young and didn’t have the bodies developed to be successful there,” Gold said. “Now we are at a point where we have four linemen coming back with experience, so we are expecting a lot more out of our running game this year.”

In an effort to bolster the running attack, Gold added two new members to his coaching staff in Nick Nosker and Kyle Smith. Nosker was the offensive coordinator at Brookville last year and was brought in to be the run game coordinator while Smith started 47 straight games on the offensive line for the University of Central Florida and was hired to work with the offensive line.

“We realized as a collective staff that we’ve just had a hard time finding a way to run the football to a point where we felt we needed to have success there, so when we looked at the program and the amount of big lineman bodies on the roster, we felt now was the right time to go out and expand our coaching staff and make sure we are putting ourselves in a position where the players are getting coached up as much as possible,” Gold said. “Nick is an experienced play caller and Kyle was good enough to start as a freshman in college and play against Tim

Tebow and the Florida Gators, so when you have that level of experience, we feel like this is something we needed to do with the personnel we have.”

Gold also added two new coaches on the defensive side of the ball with Kobe Bonanno in charge of the defensive tackles and Dalton Bish coaching the defensive backs.

“The new coaches have done a good job of meshing with the team and it’s nice for me because I feel I have three or four assistants on staff that either have been, could be or will be head coaches some day,” Gold said. “It’s good for the kids to hear different voices as well and be coached in different ways.”

Returning to lead the offensive line are three juniors in Jace Huffman, Malachi Stewart and Jarrett Gould and a sophomore in Tayvin Kennedy. Huffman has started 26 consecutive games, Stewart is also in his third year as a starter while Gould started every game at tackle last year and Kennedy started as a freshman until an injury ended his season.

Vying for the center position are junior Luke Grafton and sophomore Elliot Troup.

“Both of these guys are heady and intelligent guys, so that’s why we are looking at them at the center spot because they both have the ability to make the calls on the line,” Gold said. “All of our success this year is going to weigh on the five guys up front. We need to be able to run the ball so we can set up what we want to do in the passing game.”

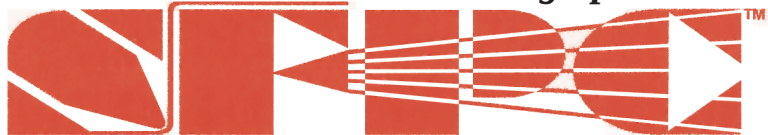
With the new emphasis on the running game, senior Peyton Kennemuth looks to be the featured back in the offense while senior Connor Colwell, senior Riley Schrecengost and junior Landon Hornberger are also expected to see lots of playing time at the position.

“Throughout the summer and in competitions and through his work in the weight room, Peyton has kind of emerged as our top rusher, but we are also going to have a running-back-by-committee approach,” Gold said. “Ideally, at the end of the year, we’d like to have four or five backs with between 300 and 500 yards. That would be a good situation for us.”

Wagner graduated as one of the best quarterbacks to ever suit up for the Bulldogs, so filling his shoes will be a tall order. Looking to take his place as the leader of the offense are sophomore Kayleb Young and senior Easton Magagnotti. Young was the backup last year and saw limited playing time while Magagnotti hauled in 30 passes for 393 yards and four scores as a receiver last season.

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 9

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REDBANK VALLEY BULLDOGS

Bulldogs

Continued from Page 8

We only had one quarterback on the roster, so we had to move somebody else to the position,” Gold said. “Both of these guys are doing a good job. Easton has the maturity and leadership qualities, but he’s only been playing the position for six months. Kayleb has essentially been playing the position since he was playing in Midgets, so we are going to find out during camp how the reps look. We feel pretty confident that we have the QB of the future, but we have to figure out who is the QB of right now.”

The Bulldogs also have some big holes to fill at the receiver spot with Huffman and Carson Gould (51 receptions, 577 yards, 9 TDs) now gone from the roster. Kaden Sturgeon is in line to start as well as a newcomer to the team while the other starting spot looks to be a competition between sophomore Greysen Stewart and junior Gage Franklin.

“Kaden is a really solid all-around athlete as he’s a really good soccer, basketball and baseball player,” Gold said. “He came out for the team in the spring and he’s looked really good in shorts playing receiver, so we’ll find out during camp how he looks when we fully pad up. We are going to have to see how the

cards fall with the other spot.”

Returning to start at the slot position is sophomore Jace Clowser, who is the team’s top returning receiver with 38 grabs for 308 yards and three scores. Magagnotti would go back to play in the slot as well if he doesn’t win the QB job.

“We started Jace as a freshman, so hopefully that got him ready for this year,” Gold said. “If we feel comfortable with Kayleb at QB, Easton will go back to playing in the slot and that would make us better as a whole.”

Sophomore Parker Kennemuth could also see time in the slot and at tight end while sophomore Caine Monrean could also play some tight end this year.

The Bulldogs are also expecting to have a much stingier defense this year, allowing the team to grind out wins instead of outscoring the opposition.

“We have been talking about how we need to be willing to win football games in an ugly fashion. When I think back to my second year here in 2020, offensively, we didn’t put up the amount of points that we did the last couple of seasons, but the defense gave up only eight points per game over the course of the year. So, that’s been our focus,” Gold said. “We are not going to be a team that scores 40-50 points a night, we want to try to hold our opponents to 17 points or less and try to get over 21 points a game on offense. We are not naive, we understand what we

lost and the makeup of our team is going to be different. A lot of our success this year is going to be the defense making stops and getting the ball back to our offense and controlling the clock with the running game.”

Returning to lead the defensive line is Huffman at defensive tackle while Stewart could also see time there as well. At the end spots are a combination of Hornberger, Schrecengost and Kennedy while 6-3, 380-pound sophomore Jaron Minich is also in the mix the as well.

Peyton Kennemuth returns to start at linebacker after leading the team in tackles last year while Grafton, Monrean, sophomore Gabe Clinger and Parker Kennemuth are also expected to see playing time.

Magagnotti and Colwell return to start at safety while Sturgeon is expected to start at cornerback with Franklin and Stewart engaged in another battle to start on the other side.

Sturgeon will also be handling the placekicking duties while the punting job is still up for grabs.

“In six of our seven years together as a staff, we’ve found our way to the D-9 championship game, so that’s the expectation of our program. We want to put ourselves in position in the regular season to get into the postseason and I firmly believe that once you make the playoffs, you can throw everything out the win-

dow. You plan and scheme and you find a way to win football games and that’s our focus. It’s always our belief that even when you lose players like Braylon and Jaxon, we built something that no matter what we have on the roster, we want to put ourselves in position to win a D-9 championship.”

But whether or not the Bulldogs make it back to the D-9 title game again this year will likely depend on how well the younger players mature within the program.

“We have a sturdy group of juniors and seniors and they are going to have to step up and exceed expectations a little bit,” Gold said. “But, we also have a group of sophomores that we feel has the potential to be an extremely good class, so we are going to have a lot of younger guys on the field for us playing in a lot of spots. Eventually, we will see if they can live up to the expectations we have for that grade.

“We are essentially going to be putting kids on the field at Kane on opening night that to be fair, shouldn’t be thrown into that situation at such a young age,” Gold continued. “But at the same time, we feel they are the future of the program and they give us the best chance to be competitive and win football games. A lot of our success this year is going to depend on how quickly they can grow up.”

REDBANK VALLEY COACHES

Blane Gold — Defensive coordinator, defensive ends
Jason Kundick — Offensive coordinator
Nick Nosker — Run game coordinator, running backs
Kyle Smith — Offensive line
Coltin Bartley — Offensive line, linebackers, special teams coordinator
Ron Geist — linebackers
Jason Huffman — Offensive line
Tom Wagner — Wide receivers
Kobe Bonanno — Defensive tackles
Dalton Bish — Defensive backs.

REDBANK VALLEY SCHEDULE

Aug. 28 — at Kane
Sept. 4 — at Ridgway
Sept. 11 — UNION/A-C VALLEY
Sept. 18 — at Brookville
Sept. 25 — BROCKWAY
Oct. 2 — BRADFORD
Oct. 10 — at Port Allegany
Oct. 16 — KEYSTONE
Oct. 23 — CENTRAL CLARION
Oct. 30 — at Moniteau



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UNION/ALLEGHENY-CLARION VALLEY FALCON KNIGHTS

Falcon Knights look to maintain standard

By JOE HENDERSON
Sports editor

Behind a rushing attack that featured two 1,000-yard runners, the Union/Allegheny-Clarion Valley football team steamrolled the competition last year, finishing with a 10-2 record and reaching the semifinals of the District 9 playoffs.

But, if coach Dan Reed's Falcon Knights hope to match or even surpass last season's incredible run, they will have to find replacements for their two star backs in Max Gallagher (1,266 yards, 20 TDs) and Logan Skibinski (1,180 yards, 18 TDs).

"It's going to be hard to replace those two, but we have a couple of younger guys in Micah Kindel and Parker Bish who I would have been comfortable starting last year at running back, but we just had two really solid seniors," Reed said. "So, I think we are going to be good at the position and I think you are going to see a lot of the same things with the running backs this year."

Bish, a junior, ran for 184 yards and averaged 12.3 yards per carry last year while Kindel, a sophomore, added 142 yards on the ground with a 6.5 per carry average.

"Both of those guys are a little more on the speed end, but Micah is a little bit bigger so we might expect him to run on the inside a bit more," Reed said. "However, we think they both can do a lot for us running both inside and outside."

The team has some depth at the position with sophomore Carson Crissman, senior Stephen Hepler and junior Peyton Wilson also vying for playing time.

"I think we have some kids there that can carry on what we started last year," Reed said of his running backs.

Another plus for the Falcon Knights is the return of sophomore quarterback Andrew Kifer, who started every game as a freshman. He finished the year with a 53 percent completion rate, 1,488 passing yards and 10 touchdowns.

"Andrew is a year older so I think you are going to see us open things up in the passing game this year, too," Reed said.

Reed also feels the team has a solid backup quarterback in freshman Jase Murray.

"Jase is a lot like Andrew as he's very smart and he throws the ball well," Reed said. "He does have a little bigger build to him and we like his athleticism, so we think he could play somewhere if he doesn't get any time at QB."

Nick Ielase, a senior, is likely to start at receiver while sophomore Broc Gagliano is competing for a starting spot at receiver after serving as the team's backup QB last season. Also vying for playing time at the position include juniors Hudson Lutz and Connor Langdon and sophomores Marshall Hepler, Dawson Hepler and Titan Smith.

"We have a lot of kids that we like at receiver and feel they can play the position for us," Reed said.

The team lost a stud lineman in Colbin Elliot, but they return three starters to the offensive line in juniors Noah Yori and Dane Wiant and sophomore Nash Earley. Yori started at center the last two years but he is moving to tackle. Wiant will also start at tackle while Earley will start at guard. The other two starting spots are up for grabs between sophomores Keagan Schreckengost, Ezra Myers and Kohen Gagliano and freshmen Bentley McKinney and Grant Long.

See FALCON KNIGHTS, Page 11

UNION/A-C VALLEY COACHES

Dan Reed — Head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks
Ray Fox — Assistant head coach, co-defensive doordinator
Rick Atzeni — Quarterbacks, linebackers
Rob Corrado — Offensive line, defensive line, assistant offensive coordinator
Caden Rainey — Co-defensive coordinator, defensive backs, wide receivers
Scott Kindel — Special teams, running backs, linebackers
Matt Bish — Volunteer
Ryan Wilson — Volunteer
Brad Yori — Volunteer

UNION/A-C VALLEY SCHEDULE

Aug. 28 — BROOKVILLE
Sept. 4 — at Central Clarion
Sept. 11 — at Redbank Valley
Sept. 18 — CAMERON COUNTY
Sept. 25 — at Ridgway
Oct. 2 — KEYSTONE
Oct. 9 — at Kane
Oct. 16 — at Otto-Eldred
Oct. 23 — ST. MARYS
Oct. 29 — SHARPSVILLE

UNION/A-C VALLEY FALCON KNIGHTS ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.P	Pos.
Lucas Yerkey	6-1	150	So.	WR/DB
Jaxon McKinney	5-8	130	So.	RB/DB
Parker Bish	6-0	165	Jr.	RB/S
Peyton Wilson	5-9	155	Jr.	WR/DB
Brandon Kanizer	5-7	120	So.	WR/LB
Broc Gagliano	6-0	160	So.	WR/DB
Hudson Lutz	5-10	145	Jr.	WR/DB
Cason Scott	5-6	160	So.	RB/LB
Nick Ielase	6-1	165	Sr.	WR/DB
Andrew Kifer	6-0	170	So.	QB/DB
Robert Best	5-6	135	Fr.	RB/LB
Micah Kindel	5-11	180	So.	RB/S
Dawson Hepler	5-10	140	So.	WR/DB
Josh Shirey	5-3	120	So.	WR/DB
Jase Murray	5-10	170	Fr.	QB/LB
Connor Langdon	5-9	155	Sr.	WR/DB
Erik Fischli	5-8	140	Fr.	WR/DB
Dom Herold	5-10	165	Jr.	RB/LB
Stephen Hepler	6-1	205	Sr.	RB/DL
Landon Eiler	5-5	115	Fr.	WR/DB
Ike Ielase	5-4	120	Fr.	WR/DB
Logan Altman	5-6	170	Fr.	RB/LB
Marshall Hepler	5-10	150	So.	WR/DB
Joey Long	5-8	145	So.	RB/DB
Carson Crissman	6-0	180	So.	RB/LB
Titan Smith	6-0	150	So.	WR/DB
Kolson Babcock	5-5	145	Fr.	TE/DE
Parker Wilson	5-9	160	Jr.	WR/DL
Dayten Jackson	5-5	165	Fr.	OL/DL
Jake Dehart	5-6	180	Fr.	OL/DL
Kohen Gagliano	5-8	210	So.	OL/DL
Noah Yori	6-0	225	Jr.	OL/DE
James Tedeski	5-7	160	Fr.	OL/DL
Braden Kemery	5-11	215	Sr.	OL/DL
Nash Earley	6-0	250	So.	OL/DL
Nick Beichner	6-0	320	So.	OL/DL
Noah Switzer	5-3	170	Fr.	OL/DL
Bentley McKinney	5-10	190	Fr.	OL/LB
Hunter Wiencek	5-9	190	Sr.	OL/DL
Ezra Myers	5-11	210	So.	OL/DL
Isaiah Rogers	6-0	235	So.	OL/DL
Dane Wiant	6-3	300	Jr.	OL/DL
Keagan Schreckengost	5-8	160	So.	OL/DL
Grant Long	6-0	270	Fr.	OL/DL

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UNION/ALLEGHENY-CLARION VALLEY FALCON KNIGHTS

► Falcon Knights

Continued from Page 10

“All of these guys have experience,” Reed said of his linemen. “How well our offense does this year begins and ends with how well the line does.”

On the defensive line, Stephen Hepler, Parker Wilson, Earley, Yori, Myers, Wiant and senior Hunter Wiencek could all see playing time at the position.

The Falcon Knights will be looking for two new linebackers in their 4-2-5 scheme this year after the graduation of Gallagher and the move of Kindel to safety. Cason Scott, Crissman, McK-inney, Murray and sophomore Joseph Long are in the mix at the position.

Ielase and Peyton Wilson are expected to start at cornerback while Bish joins Kindel at safety while Broc Gagliano, Lutz and Langdon should also play in the secondary.

“Our defensive coaches do a good job and I think they will be able to put something together,” Reed said of the defense. “We have a lot of potential, but we have a lot of guys to replace as

Colbin Elliot was a stud on the defensive line and Gallagher was one of the best linebackers I’ve seen. It’s going to take a lot to replace them.”

Stephen Hepler returns to take care of the placekicking duties while Ielase and Crissman are competing for the punting job. Kindel and Bish will serve as the kick returners.

“I think health is key for a lot of teams, so we have to make sure our main players stay healthy,” Reed said. “It’s also going to be a matter of replacing the 11 seniors we lost. The younger guys who are replacing them, they have to really step up their game and show the leadership and things like that that those kids had last year. They have so far and I’m excited about that.”

The Falcon Knights may be a younger bunch this year, but the standard for the program is still the same.

“I think our guys last year set a pretty good standard and I think the kids really want to match that this year,” Reed said. “We don’t have very many seniors, so we have a lot of underclassmen and I think if they come along, I feel they can make some noise and maybe surprise some people.”



ANDREW KIFER



MICAH KINDEL



PARKER BISH



NICK IELASE



NOAH YORI



DANE WIANT



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KEYSTONE PANTHERS

Experienced Panthers to be tested early



Dom Corcetti



Eli Nellis



LJ Rankin



Joey Spence



Landyn Reed



Dylan Albertine

By **JOE HENDERSON**
Sports editor

Momentum has been slowly building within the Keystone football team over the last several seasons, and with a more experienced and talented roster, hopes are high that this season could be the one where the Panthers turn a corner and make a run for the District 9 championship.

Last season, head coach Todd Smith's Panthers were on the verge of a major breakthrough, but four tough losses to four playoff teams by a combined 11 points turned what could have been a 10-2 season into a 6-6 finish.

"We had a young team last year and the fact that we were in those games and we were playing with everybody, I thought that was a good sign," Smith said. "With being more of a veteran group this year and having a lot more experience, I think the expectation is that we get over the hump this year and win those games."

Fueling the optimism in the program this year is the return of several key players, starting with two-time all-state quarterback Dom Corcetti, who is entering his fourth year as a starter.

As a junior, he completed 52 percent of his passes for 1,160 yards and 15 touchdowns while he also led the team in rushing with 1,522 yards and 27 scores.

"Dom has started ever since the second game of his freshman year, so he has a lot of experience. He can do a lot of things for us and his leadership this year is definitely jumping out," Smith said. "He's really taking charge and he has a really good grasp of everything we want to do, so I'd say the expectations are pretty high for him."

His younger brother, sophomore Ethan Corcetti, also looks to have a promising future at the position. He is currently serving as the backup QB, but his athletic ability could see him playing some at another position this year.

"Ethan is our quarterback of the future, but he will also play a little wide receiver, too, so he's been getting some snaps at QB and working at wideout," Smith said. "He's a good athlete and both he and Dom do a lot of good things on the field."

Another significant returnee is senior running back Eli Nellis, who has been limited over the last couple of years due to injury, but his impact to the team when he's healthy is undeniable. Last year, he ran for 421 yards and scored three touchdowns while he also caught 19 passes for 291 yards and three more scores.

"Eli got hurt about halfway through the year last season and we are definitely a dif-

ferent team when he is on the field," Smith said. "Even with getting hurt the last two years, his impact when he's healthy is pretty legitimate. I think with him being healthy and us being more experienced, I think he's pretty excited for the season."

Another weapon that the Panthers are excited to bring back is junior LJ Rankin, who is a star on the defensive side of the ball, but he also made his presence known on offense last year, too, with 185 rushing yards and five TDs to go with 230 receiving yards and two more scores.

"LJ really came on for us at the end of last season," Smith said. "He was an all-state outside linebacker and led us in tackles, but he also plays in the slot, very similar to Eli, where he can run and catch the ball."

Landon Mohnney, a junior, is another versatile threat on both sides of the ball who will be the starting fullback this year.

"Landon lines up in the sidecar when we are in spread. He's versatile and he started coming on defensively last year as well," Smith said. I expect him to take a job on offense this year and really help us out."

Joey Spence, a senior, has made the all-state team the last two years as a long snapper, but he is another versatile weapon at tight end for the Panthers.

"We move Joey around to a lot of different spots. He can also run and catch the ball," Smith said.

A sophomore in Kyden Carnahan gives the Panthers some added depth at running back.

"Kyden took over last year when Eli got hurt and did a lot of good things for us," Smith said. "I think he scored six touchdowns as a freshman, so he's another one that has really good hands that we can throw in there."

Joining Ethan Corcetti as a receiving threat are junior Landyn Reed and sophomore Laughlin Plummer.

"Landyn caught about 10 passes last year, but he's really looking good and more mature. In situations like 7-on-7s, I've noticed him really standing out," Smith said. "Laughlin is another player who's really stood out. He has good hands and runs good routes."

The Panthers do have some starting spots to fill on the offensive line as only two return from last year's squad in senior Dylan Albertine and junior Monty Frederick. Albertine started at center over the last two seasons, but he is shifting to guard this year while Frederick will also start at guard, a position he's played since his freshman year.

"Both of those guys have plenty of experience and they both have a lot of toughness to them," Smith said of his starting linemen.

See **PANTHERS**, Page 13

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KEYSTONE PANTHERS

KEYSTONE PANTHERS COACHES

Todd Smith — Head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks, running backs
Jason Nellis — Defensive coordinator, linebackers
Lee Weber — Offensive line, defensive line
Kobe Cochran — Special teams coordinator

Panthers

Continued from Page 12

Lochlan Fulton, a junior, is expected to start at center Lucas Williams, another junior, is expected to start at one of the tackle spots. A two-way battle for the other tackle spot is being waged between juniors William Shawgo and Jaiden DeLay.

“The offensive line is always the key and it will determine how our team goes,” Smith said. “However the battle for the tackle spot goes, that’s going to give us some depth in case we need some. We only have two starters back, but the other guys have some experience and have played for us the last couple of years.”

With so much talent and athleticism returning, Smith is looking forward to what his offense can produce this year.

“I feel comfortable with all of the skill players we have. They all do some different things pretty well and I think all of them will have an impact for us on offense,” he said. “We have some depth there, so it’s one of those things where we will do a lot of different things in different sets to get those guys on the field and utilize their talents.”

The Panthers are also hoping to field a stronger defense this year, too, and have some playmakers returning on that side of the ball as well.

At defensive end, Williams, senior Jimmy Sprague, and Shawgo should all see playing time while Albertine and Frederick will anchor the interior with Fulton and DeLay possibly rotating in there, too.

But, the heart of the defense may lie in the two returning starters at linebacker in Spence and Rankin. Spence is 88 tackles away from breaking the school record while Rankin was all-state at the position last year. Mohney will also see time there after playing defensive end last year.

“If the guys up front are doing what they are supposed to do, the linebackers should make a lot of tackles,” Smith said. “We also roll Dom Corcetti into the box a lot from his strong-safety spot and he makes a bunch of tackles. He had 73 tackles last year, so his nose will be in there every play, too.”

KEYSTONE PANTHERS SCHEDULE

Aug. 28 — BROCKWAY
Sept. 4 — at Karns City
Sept. 11 — at Ridgway
Sept. 18 — CENTRAL CLARION
Sept. 25 — KANE
Oct. 2 — at Union/A-C Valley
Oct. 9 — CAMERON COUNTY
Oct. 16 — at Redbank Valley
Oct. 23 — MONITEAU
Oct. 30 — at Titusville

Carnahan is also expected to start at safety while Reed and Nellis will start at cornerback. Also expected to see time in the secondary are Ethan Corcetti, Plummer and sophomore Bronson Irwin, who was the starting point guard on the basketball team as a freshman last winter.

“I think we should take a step forward on defense this year. We have a lot of experience and toughness,” Smith said. “We are a much more physically stronger team than we were last year. Our defensive coordinator, Jason Nellis, does a really good job with the guys, so I expect the defense to be really solid.”

Bryce Mount, a junior, will be taking care of the placekicking duties and Dom Corcetti returns as the punter once again.

“Bryce is a soccer player and he did a little bit of kicking last year, but he’s made quite a jump as his leg is much stronger and he can definitely kick some field goals for us. He’ll be a threat for us,” Smith said. “With Dom as the punter, we can do a lot of different things with him back there. He gives us a threat every time he’s punting the ball.”

Injuries have hampered the Panthers’ ability to maximize their ability over the last couple of years, so keeping their guys injury free is a big key for the team.

“Probably what every Class 1A football team says is the key to a successful season is to stay healthy. So, I would say taking it one game at a time, staying healthy and keeping our guys on the field are really important for us,” Smith said.

If everything falls into place this year, Smith is hoping this year is the one where his team takes it to another level.

“We can’t look past anybody because there are a lot of good football teams out there, but at the end of the year, we’d like to be there as far as our region and our district and hopefully, to be playing for a championship,” he said.

The Panthers should learn right off the bat how they stack up this season as the start off the campaign with four tough games.

“We have a pretty tough schedule this year and we start off with four really good football teams in Brockway, Karns City, Ridgway and Central Clarion,” Smith said. “We have to be ready to roll on Week 1 because we are going to be tested.”



James Sprague



Kaden Matthews



Lucas Williams



Monty Frederick



Robert Walker



William Shawgo

KEYSTONE PANTHERS ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Dom Corcetti	6-1	185	Sr	QB-SS
Dylan Albertine	6-1	250	Sr.	OG/DT
Eli Nellis	6-0	180	Sr.	SB/CB
James Sprague	5-10	155	Sr.	FB/DE
Joey Spence	6-1	205	Sr.	TE-LB
Kaden Mathews	5-11	315	Sr.	OC/DT
Robert Walker	5-11	170	Sr.	FB/LB
Bryce Mount	5-11	170	Jr.	K/P
Jaiden DeLay	5-11	240	Jr.	OT-DT
James Rankin	5-11	190	Jr.	SB/LB
Kade Smith	5-9	170	Jr.	OG/DE
Landon Mohney	6-1	190	Jr.	FB/LB
Landyn Reed	6-0	170	Jr.	SE/CB
Lochlan Fulton	6-0	225	Jr.	OC/DT
Lucas Williams	5-11	210	Jr.	OT/DE
Monty Frederick	5-10	235	Jr.	OG/DT
William Shawgo	5-10	200	Jr.	OG/DT
Dane Nicewonger	5-11	155	So.	SE/SS
Ethan Corcetti	6-0	160	So.	QB/CB
Griffin Tharan	6-0	220	So.	OT/DT
Hunter Traister	5-6	140	So.	SB/CB
Karter Pratt	5-9	190	So.	OG/LB
Kenny Hartzell	5-10	170	So.	OT/DE
Kyden Carnahan	5-10	160	So.	SB/SS
Laughlin Plummer	5-11	160	Jr.	SE/CB
Mason Best	5-11	185	So.	TE/LB
Caleb Demmer	5-10	145	So.	SE/CB
Jase Swartzfager	5-10	180	So.	OT/LB
Bronson Irwin	5-8	150	So.	SB/SS
Chris Campbell	6-2	230	So.	OT/DT
Christian Allmedinger	5-11	160	Fr.	FB/LB
Adam Thomas	5-7	170	Fr.	OG/DT

GROVE CITY EAGLES

Eagles hope experience pays dividends

By JOE HENDERSON
Sports editor

After losing the final five games of the 2024 season to finish at 3-6, it seemed like the Grove City football team had turned things around in the first half of the 2025 campaign as the Eagles won four of their first five contests.

However, head coach Sam Mowrey's team suffered another late season tumble, dropping four of their final five matchups, including a 35-7 defeat to North East in the District 10 playoffs to finish at 5-5.

But, with a lot of talented players back with game experience under their belt, Mowrey is hoping his Eagles can soar even higher this season.

"We have a good mix of veteran players and younger players. A lot of the juniors we have started as sophomores and many are going on their third year of varsity football," he said. "We also had some young kids who were able to step up in some key roles and I think their experience last year will definitely help them."

One of the younger players gaining key experience last year was sophomore quarterback Heath Hohman, who passed for 1,144 yards and nine touchdowns in 10 starts as a freshman.

"Heath has had a great offseason. He went right into wrestling after football season last year and I think it was really good for him in terms of mentality and movement," Mowrey said. "He's probably put on 15-20 pounds and he's worked his tail off this offseason. He's really done a great job."

Mowrey also feels confident in senior Drake Moore, a capable backup at quarterback.

"Drake has had some experience and he's continued to develop. He will be ready if he is needed," he said.

Another young player on the rise who

gained valuable experience last year is sophomore tailback Gavin Purdy, who led the team in rushing with 713 yards and 14 touchdowns. He also added seven grabs for 53 yards and two scores.

"We expect Gavin to carry the load at running back this year," Mowrey said. "He's had a great offseason and has put on a lot of size."

Keith Vandegrift, a senior, and Zach Mathieson, a junior, give the Eagles some depth in the backfield.

"We feel we have a few people that can play in the backfield and help share that load," Mowrey said.

The Eagles return two starters at wide-out in seniors Austin Gothe (18 receptions, 168 yards, 1 TD) and Levi Toth (22, 355, 3) while senior Peyton Miller, junior Charlie Miller and sophomore Heath Werhnyak are also in the mix at the position.

"We have a lot of experience and some good depth at the position with the younger guys," Mowrey said.

Another position of strength for the Eagles is at tight end where seniors Mikey Pelloni and Tanner Mong and a junior in Luke Gamble bring plenty of talent and experience.

"All three of our tight ends have significant varsity experience. They all are ready to compete for the starting job and spell if needed," Mowrey said. "Tanner is more of a receiving threat while Luke and Mikey are better blockers, but we can sort of mix them in and utilize the strengths that they have as needed."

The offensive line also features plenty of experience with seniors Patrick Faler, Andres Navarro and Evan Uber, and juniors Jordan Gamble and Malachi Whitley. Another senior in Brody Thompson adds some depth to the line while former tight ends in senior Jimmy Cooper and sophomore Simeon Toth add even more size and depth

See **EAGLES**, Page 15

GROVE CITY EAGLES ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Austin Gothe	6-2	175	Sr.	WR/DB
Levi Toth	5-11	185	Sr.	WR/DB
Gage Gildersleeve	5-9	140	Jr.	WR/DB
Easton Culmer	5-11	150	Fr.	QB/LB
Luke Gamble	6-4	230	Jr.	TE-DL
Heath Hohman	5-11	180	So.	QB/LB
Mason Rihel	5-8	135	Fr.	WR/DB
Chris Pelloni	6-0	190	Jr.	TE/LB
Drake Moore	6-0	190	Sr.	QB/LB
Gavin Purdy	6-1	215	So.	RB/LB
Keith Vandegrift	5-11	140	Sr.	WR/DB
Sam Miller	6-0	180	Sr.	WR/DB
Max Gothe	5-9	150	Fr.	QB/LB
Luke Trauterman	5-8	140	Fr.	WR/DB
Peyton Miller	5-8	155	Sr.	WR/DB
Brandon Bable	5-9	115	Fr.	WR/DB
Derek Jones	5-10	140	So.	WR/DB
Charlie Miller	5-10	165	Jr.	WR/DB
Heath Werhnyak	6-2	175	So.	WR/LB
Gage Wanner	5-6	170	Jr.	RB/LB
Tanner Mong	6-4	205	Sr.	TE/LB
Dylan Bable	5-2	115	So.	WR/DB
Conner Morgan	5-9	135	Fr.	WR/DB
Ace Buchanan	5-6	130	Fr.	WR/DB
Ben Miller	5-7	150	Fr.	WR/DB
Zach Mathieson	5-10	160	Jr.	RB/LB
Brody Foster	5-9	175	Fr.	RB/LB
Cayden Chambers	5-5	120	Fr.	K/P
Mikey Pelloni	5-11	220	Sr.	RB/LB
Joel Cooper	5-10	190	So.	OL/LB
Nathan Olenik	6-1	185	So.	OL/DL
Andres Navarro	5-11	220	Sr.	OL/LB
Jimmy Cooper	6-1	225	Sr.	TE/LB
Simeon Toth	5-10	210	So.	OL/LB
Nathan Metheney	5-7	145	So.	OL/DL
Peter Augustine	6-3	205	Sr.	OL/DL
Patrick Faler	5-9	250	Jr.	OL/DL
Devon Kengor	5-11	240	Jr.	OL/DL
Deonte Seelbaugh	5-8	160	Fr.	OL/DL
Judson Toth	6-0	240	Fr.	OL/DL
Elijah Parish	5-11	210	Fr.	OL/DL
Mark Wolfe	5-11	200	Fr.	OL/DL
Brody Thompson	5-9	170	Sr.	OL/DL
Malachi Whitley	6-0	245	Jr.	OL/DL
Brady Harris	5-10	190	Jr.	OL/DL
Titus Schepp	5-8	185	So.	OL/DL
Nicklas Belden	6-2	170	Sr.	OL/DL
Dillan White	5-11	175	Fr.	OL/DL
Evan Uber	6-0	210	Sr.	OL/DL
Jordan Gamble	6-3	255	Jr.	OL/DL
Martwan Martin	6-1	215	So.	OL/DL
Skyler Holtman	5-5	175	Fr.	OL/DL
Wyatt Felton	5-10	140	Fr.	WR/DB
Ivan Drost	6-0	180	Fr.	TE/LB
Lucas Kelly	6-1	175	Jr.	K/P

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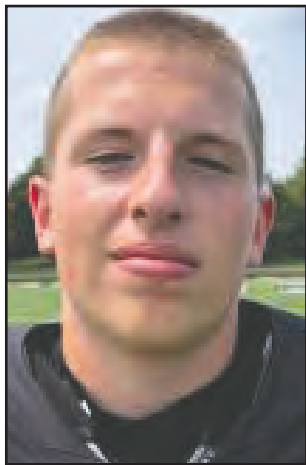


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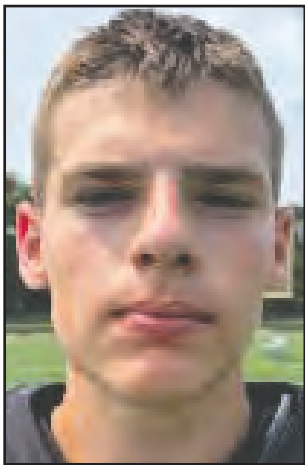
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GROVE CITY EAGLES



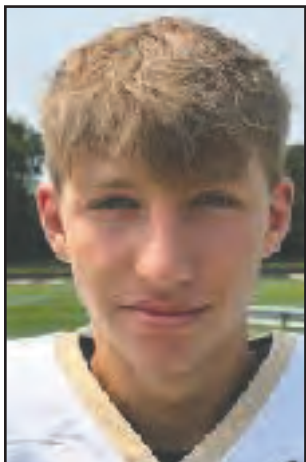
Jordan Gamble



Luke Gamble



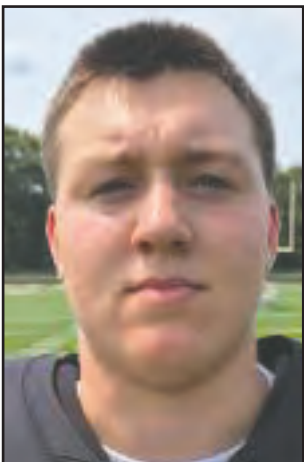
Charlie Miller



Tanner Mong



Drake Moore



Malachi Whitley

► Eagles

Continued from Page 14

“We have a good mix of underclassmen with experience and seniors, so we feel good about where our line is at right now,” Mowrey said.

Over the years, the Eagles have shown the ability to run the ball as well as throw it, too, so how the team schemes its offense will depend on who they are playing each week.

“I think what we do on offense this year is just going to be a matter of matchups and how teams are defending us,” Mowrey said. “We have the capability to get the ball to the outside or down field through the air, but we also feel good about running the ball, so it’s sort of going to depend on what we see from the defense.”

The defensive line is one area where the Eagles need to build some depth, so they are looking at Jordan Gamble, Luke Gamble, Faler, Uber, Whitley and a newcomer in senior Peter Augustine as possible starters at the position.

At inside linebacker, Navarro, Cooper, Vandegrift, Purdy, Mikey Pelloni and Mathieson are all in the running for

playing time while Moore, Mong and Wehrnyak are vying to play on the outside.

In the secondary, Charlie Miller, Peyton Miller, Toth and Gothe, are all guys that started last year and all of them can play safety or corner.

“We feel we have a good group with a lot of experience coming back. One of the strengths we have is depth, so we’ll be able to give people breaks when they need them,” Mowrey said. “But, we are working to gain some depth on the defensive line as that’s one of the areas we feel we need to find some guys who can play.”

After kicking extra points last year, Lucas Kelly returns as the placekicker while a battle is still raging for the punting duties.

Facing off against rivals like Sharon and Hickory every year, Region 4 is one of the toughest in D-10. With the addition of Fort LeBoeuf this year, it just got even tougher according to Mowrey.

“It was already a tough region, and adding Fort LeBoeuf, one of the best teams from the north to our region, makes it a little bit more challenging,” he said. “But, we hope to be in the playoffs again and competing for the District 10 championship.”

GROVE CITY COACHES

Sam Mowrey — Head coach
Jim Gamble — Tight ends, defensive backs
Todd Warner — Offensive line, run game
Brad Trezona — Running backs, outside linebackers
Dwayne Lettie — Tight ends, defensive line
Jordan Patterson — Offensive line, defensive line, special teams coordinator
Joey Kosick — Wide receivers, middle linebackers
Anthony Nemec — Running backs, middle linebackers

GROVE CITY SCHEDULE

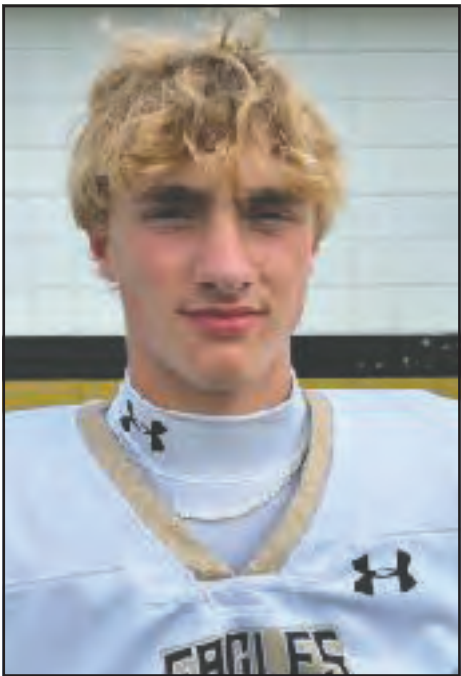
Aug. 28 — CORRY
Sept. 4 — at Titusville
Sept. 11 — HICKORY
Sept. 18 — at Fort LeBoeuf
Sept. 25 — at Ambridge
Oct. 1 — CONNEAUT LAKE
Oct. 9 — OIL CITY
Oct. 16 — SLIPPERY ROCK
Oct. 23 — at Sharon
Oct. 30 — at Wilmington



HEATH HOHMAN



GAVIN PURDY



AUSTIN GOTHE



LEVI TOTH

TITUSVILLE ROCKETS

Rockets look to build around youth movement

By JOE SAGER
Correspondent

TITUSVILLE – There was plenty of youth on display last year for Titusville. This season, it’s going to be more of the same for the Rockets, who welcome another young wave of players to Carter Field.

“You’re going to see a really young team,” Titusville coach Mike Reynolds said. “The majority of our guys are sophomores and juniors. We have a relatively small group of seniors.”

The good thing for Titusville is that a lot of the younger players are active throughout the entire year.

“A lot of the guys are in two or three sports and are super athletic,” Reynolds said. “That part is really good. It’s a very athletic group.”

Reynolds has been impressed with the team’s willingness to ramp up quickly on everything football.

“The great part about having a young team is that’s it like a kid getting a driver’s license -- they are excited and willing to learn and work to get better,” Reynolds said. “These guys have determined three core principles they want to build around: communication, trust and hard work. Those are the things we’re focused on -- we’re building that culture. These are guys who want to be together as a band of brothers. They are very competitive and they want to do well.”

Up front, the Rockets will rely on some of their experience in Tanner Clifford, Chad Roddy, Coy Campbell and

Jerrin Vroman. “There’s a lot of good chemistry there,” Reynolds said. “We are looking forward to seeing how they develop.”

Offensively, Weston Wakefield and Adam Reynolds will see the bulk of the carries from the backfield. Sophomore Hunter Martin returns at quarterback. He passed for 281 yards last year as a freshman.

“He does some good things back there,” Mike Reynolds said. “We’re looking for his growth to continue.”

Martin’s top targets will be tight end Dalton Knapp and receivers Chase Harrison and Charlie Ackerman.

“Our offense is going to develop as the season goes on,” Mike Reynolds said. “We have to find what the team is good at and do lots of it.”

The same linemen will play in the trenches on defense, too. Tanner Wolfkiel, Riley Porter, Brayden Burt and Campbell will be at defensive end, while Vroman and Knapp will be at linebacker. Ackerman and Martin will be in the secondary with Adam Reynolds and Wakefield.

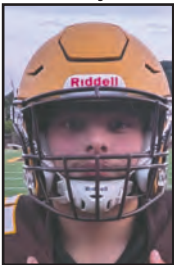
“The key for us is staying together and staying healthy,” Mike Reynolds said. “These guys love to compete. They’re a lot of fun to work with and we’re looking forward to seeing what they can do this year as we try to build our identity.”



Hunter Martin



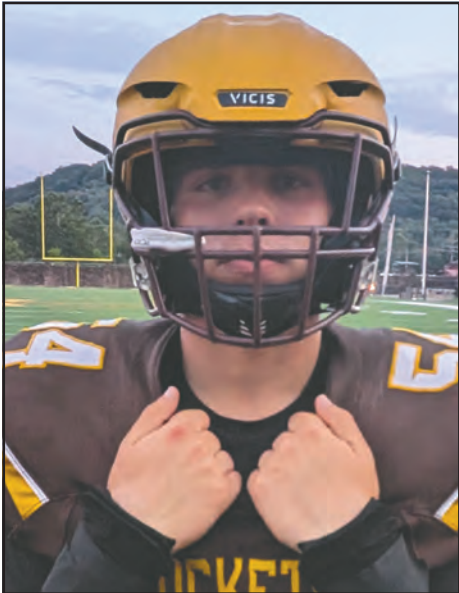
Tanner Clifford



Jerrin Vroman



CHAD RODDY



COY CAMPBELL

TITUSVILLE ROCKETS ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Charlie Ackerman	6-1	175	So.	WR/DB
Cameron Bauer	6-0	190	Sr.	OL/DL
Zach Bommel	6-1	165	So.	WR/DB
Axel Brooks	5-10	146	So.	WR/DB
Brayden Burt	5-10	195	So.	OL/DL
Coy Campbell	6-1	220	Jr.	OL/DL
Tanner Clifford	6-0	265	Sr.	OL/DL
Tim Fultz	5-10	178	So.	TE/LB
Ayrton Gonzalez	6-1	165	Sr.	WR/DB
Zach Guntrum	5-7	132	Fr.	QB/DB
Chase Harrison	5-9	155	Jr.	WR/DB
Carter Kline	5-8	170	Fr.	OL/DL
Dalton Knapp	6-0	185	So.	TE/LB
Hunter Martin	6-2	165	So.	QB/DB
Tommy Martin	5-8	135	So.	OL/LB
Connor Patterson	5-11	164	Fr.	OL/DL
Riley Porter	5-11	205	Jr.	OL/DL
Adam Reynolds	5-8	190	Jr.	WR/DB
Ethan Ralston	6-1	288	So.	OL/DL
Lane Rhodes	5-10	125	Fr.	WR/DB
Chad Roddy	6-2	230	So.	OLDL
Devin Tuck	5-9	112	Fr.	WR/DB
Jerrin Vroman	5-9	220	Jr.	OL/LB
Brennan Vroman	6-1	450	Sr.	OL/DL
Julian Vroman	5-6	145	Fr.	OL/LB
Weston Wakefield	5-8	175	Jr.	RB/DB
Bowin Wakefield	5-8	130	Fr.	WR/DB
Tanneer Wolfkiel	5-11	205	Jr.	TE/LB
Collin Catalfu	5-11	200	Fr.	OL/DL

TITUSVILLE ROCKETS COACHES

Mike Reynolds — Head coach, offensive coordinator

Scott Tenney — Defensive coordinator, tight ends

Josh Griffin — Wide receivers, defensive backs

Kurt Ledebur — Offensive line, defensive line, special teams

Shawn Fink — Running backs, defensive backs

Cody Rodgers — Running backs, linebackers

Jeremy O’Toole — Quarterbacks

TITUSVILLE ROCKETS SCHEDULE

- Aug. 28 — at Franklin
- Sept. 4 — GROVE CITY
- Sept. 11 — at Slippery Rock
- Sept. 17 — HICKORY
- Sept. 25 — REYNOLDS
- Oct. 2 — at Sharon
- Oct. 9 — at Conneaut Area
- Oct. 16 — at Girard
- Oct. 23 — FORT LeBOEUF
- Oct. 30 — KEYSTONE

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Wishing the best of luck
to all area teams!
Have a great season!

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LAKEVIEW SAILORS



Contributed photo

Members of the 2026 Lakeview Sailors football team pose for a group photo in front of the scoreboard at their home field.

Sailors to rely on seniors in bounce-back year



KARSON MATHIESON

By **JOE SAGER**
Correspondent

STONEBORO – Lakeview is looking for a bounce-back season this fall.

Fielding a young lineup, the Sailors took their lumps and dipped to 1-9 last year. However, they are ready to apply those lessons learned to this campaign.

“That’s the good part about it being a year later – a ton of starters were freshmen and now they are sophomores, so they have that experience, which is an awesome thing,” Lakeview coach Blake Reddick said. “We have a nice wave of freshmen now, too, and they’ll be playing some varsity football.

“We do have a pretty good senior group this year, as well, with guys who have now played two years of football. It may not be the most athletic group, but they are gritty and hard workers,” he

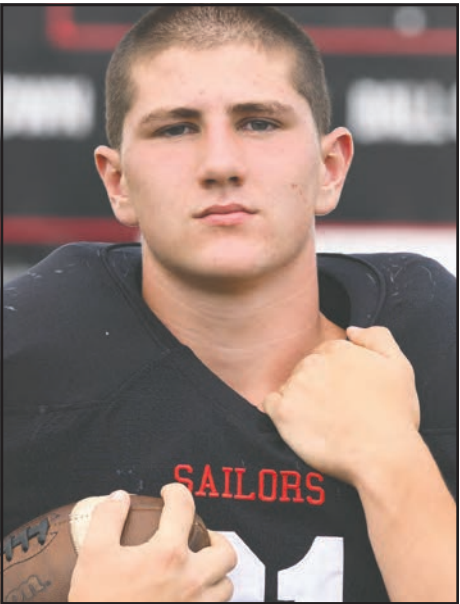
continued. “After a 1-9 year, everyone is motivated to get going in the positive direction. We had a really good winter, spring and summer. It was probably the best lifting summer we’ve had in my three years as head coach.”

Lakeview graduated its top rusher, but welcomes back sophomore Remington Marsh. He had 288 yards rushing and two scores last fall, but is expected to be the guy this year.

“He is definitely a spotlight for us,” Reddick said. “He put on a tremendous amount of muscle. He started lifting the day after we lost and hasn’t stopped. He has transformed his body. I am very excited to see what he’s going to do for us this year.”

Ethan Johnson returns at fullback, while Karson Mathieson will be at tight end. Austin Toth will be at receiver.

See **SAILORS**, Page 18



ETHAN JOHNSON

LAKEVIEW SAILORS

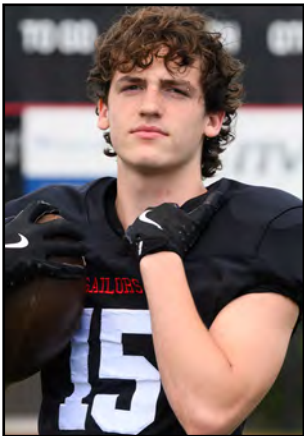
LAKEVIEW SAILORS COACHES
Blake Reddick -- Head coach
Craig Murdock -- Quarterbacks, of-
fensive coordinator
Marquis Spence -- Special teams,
linebackers, running backs
Mike Grimm -- Defensive coordinator
Joel McAfoose -- Offensive line, de-
fensive line
Doug Cole -- Defensive backs, wide
receivers

Sailors
Continued from Page 17

“Ethan developed his hands a bit, too, so he can be a target. Karsen can block, run, catch and tackle,” Reddick said. “Austin will be our deep threat this year. He can run and jump out of the gym and catch the football for us.”
Freshman Luke Johnson and sophomore Jayden Meyer are competing at quarterback. Johnson could see time at running back, while Meyer could be at receiver, too.
“Luke had a really good junior high season last year. He really has an arm and a good mind for the game,” Reddick said. “Jayden Meyer is really smart and makes the right decisions. Whichever one starts, I am sure they will do a good job.”
Up front, sophomores Weston Gilarno, Jackson Vincent and Trevor Shearer return to anchor the line on both sides of the ball. Junior Collin Whitcomb and senior Wyatt Maxwell are back, too.

LAKEVIEW SAILORS SCHEDULE
Aug. 28 — UNION CITY
Sept. 4 — at Farrell
Sept. 11 — MONITEAU
Sept. 19 — at Greenville
Sept. 25 — at Cochranston
Oct. 2 — WILMINGTON
Oct. 9 — at Mercer
Oct. 16 — at Sharpsville
Oct. 23 — REYNOLDS
Oct. 30 — CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

Johnson and Mathieson lead the line-
backers, while Owen Feltenberger, Michael
Strohl, Chuck Carlo, Carson Clark and
Noah Kaltenbaugh could all see time. Both
Kye Brown and Hunter Doyle will see time
at wide receiver and will be in the defensive
backfield with Lucas Johnson and Marsh.
“It’s competitive,” Reddick said. “It
seems like we have one extra guy at ev-
ery position, which keeps everyone on
their toes. That makes it fun and, the more
competitive you are, the better you are.”
The Sailors are eager to be a factor in
the District 10 Region 1 race.
“The region we’re in is tough, but
we’ll try to put something together. As
long as we do what we’re supposed to do
we’ll be all right,” Reddick said. “Karson
Mathieson and Ethan Johnson have really
taken it all in, being seniors. I don’t think
they were pleased with how things wound
up last year and don’t want to get beat up
on again. They have really taken the reins
and realize everything can’t come from
the coaches. The leaders on the team have
to be the leaders on the team. They’re get-
ting the kids to work hard.”



Kye Brown



Owen Feltenberger



Gage Gilmore



John Maxwell



Michael Strohl



Austin Toth

LAKEVIEW SAILORS ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Hunter Doyle	5-10	140	Fr.	WR/DB
Jayden Meier	5-11	159	So.	QB/DB
Rem Marsh	5-10	176	So.	RB/S
Michael Strohl	5-10	167	Sr.	RB/LB
Luke Johnson	6-0	169	Fr.	QB/S
Bentley Fleet	6-2	193	So.	TE/DE
Reid English	5-10	127	So.	WR/DB
Kolt Leath	6-0	161	Fr.	RB/LB
Kye Brown	6-1	182	Sr.	WR/S
Karson Mathieson	6-0	212	Sr.	TE/LB
Ethan Johnson	6-2	195	Sr.	FB/LB
Austin Toth	6-2	184	Sr.	WR/DB
Owen Feltenberger	5-8	207	Sr.	FB/LB
Noah Kaltenbach	5-9	173	Sr.	FB/LB
Carson Clark	5-9	161	So.	FB/LB
Seth Cunningham	5-10	172	Sr.	FB/S
Chuck Carlo	5-10	177	So.	FB/LB
Trevor Shearer	6-0	278	So.	OG/DE
Blaine Kinney	5-9	191	Fr.	OG/DE
Jackson Vincent	5-10	286	So.	OG/DT
Richie Speir	5-9	169	So.	OG/LB
Jacob Barcheck	5-10	210	Jr.	OC/DT
Gage Gilmore	6-0	244	Sr.	OT/DT
Mason Blair	6-2	184	Fr.	OT/DE
Weston Gilarno	5-10	276	So.	OC/DT
Colin Whitcomb	6-2	236	Jr.	OT/DE
Montana Adams	6-1	210	Sr.	OT/DE
John Maxwell	6-0	238	Sr.	OT/DE
Marcos Cabral	5-1	1291	So.	OT/DT
Greyson Kobsik	6-3	198	Fr.	TE/DE

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COCHRANTON CARDINALS

Cardinals look to build on experience

By JOE SAGER
Correspondent

COCHRANTON – The youth movement continues for Cochran’s football team.

Last fall, the young Cardinals rode a strong start to finish 4-5 with a 42-0 loss to Cambridge Springs in the first round of the District 10 Class 1A playoffs.

Many players return and hope to build on the experienced they gained.

“Even though we’re still young, we still don’t have to go back and reteach a lot of things to the returning guys,” Cochran coach John Svirbly said. “We do have some freshmen and some new guys coming out for football for the first time, but they are athletes and aggressive and hungry and ready to learn. We’ve seen a lot of good things from all the guys so far, and we’re hoping for them to continue to get better.”

Offensively, Cochran welcomes back some of its top players, including Brayden Williams and Parker Schmitt. Those two led the ground attack as Williams rushed for 378 yards and six touchdowns on 69 carries, while Schmitt had 137 yards and a score on 34 attempts.

“Brayden is a workhorse in the backfield. He has great vision,” Svirbly said. “We have Parker and J.J. Walker coming from the slot, too, to carry the ball. Hopefully, we can get some of our younger guys to step it up as well. Those guys know our system.”

On top of an experienced running game, the Cardinals welcome quarterback Noah Carroll back to lead the offense. The sophomore passed for 1,135 yards and 14 touchdowns in his first season of varsity football.

“We’re hoping for some really big things out of him this year,” Svirbly said. “The way he understands the game is crucial, learning how to read defenses and trying to get his skilled players in place. We want to get him some flexibility to learn more about the game, but we’ll start slow and keep things basic and let him evolve.”

“We’re trying to get our other skilled guys the ball more, too, to help take some pressure off him.”

Up front, Evan Walton, Josh Bender and Aden White saw a lot of snaps last season, while Cody Morrison, Barrett Wolfe, Riley Webber, Austin Boozer and Joey Reibel look to be key contributors on the lines.

“We need them to step up. We have

to lean on the experienced guys and they are all starting to figure it out,” Svirbly said. “They are some big kids there. A lot of those younger guys have put in a lot of work in the weight room, which is nice. It’s helped with their strength and mobility, which adds to their confidence.”

At linebacker, Schmitt returns to the inside, while Boozer and Williams will be on the outside. Bill Beiter and Tatum Wolfe should see time as well.

Abraham Ly and Bryce Hart could see time at receiver and on defense, too.

“There are a few positions where the door is open for someone as long as they step up and show they can do it and are not afraid to be aggressive and not afraid of contact,” Svirbly said. “We’re just waiting for guys to show us they can do it. We have some good athletes; we just have to get these guys believing in themselves and that they can figure it out.”

In terms of learning the game, Svirbly has been impressed with Cochran’s attention to detail.

“Their ability to pick up on the little things is impressive so far, especially the guys who haven’t played before,” he said. “A lot of guys are stepping up and trying to be leaders. If you can be a leader and be a good teammate, that sets the stage for a successful team. That’s huge for us.”

With many opportunities available, competition is high for the Cardinals.

“We approach it like nobody has a spot totally wrapped up. We want them to be competitive and push each other. That’s how they make each other better,” Svirbly said. “These guys know they might be a freshman, but if they show they can do things the right way, they will earn some playing time. We’ve seen a lot of competition, so far.”

“We’re just real excited about the season and itching to see what we can do. We’ve seen good things, day in and day out. When things don’t go our way at practice or in games, we have to learn to shake it off and come back the next day and make it better.”



Noah Carroll



Austin Boozer

COCHRANTON CARDINALS ROSTER				
Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Bill Beiter	6-2	153	Sr.	WR/DE
Riley Webber	6-1	230	Sr.	OL/DL
Austin Boozer	5-8	155	Sr.	OG/DE
Bryce Hart	6-2	182	Sr.	WR/DB
Branden Newbury	5-11	175	Sr.	OL/DL
Joey Reibel	6-2	184	Sr.	OG/DE
Joshua Bender	5-7	162	Jr.	OC/DT
Evan Walton	6-1	232	Jr.	OG/DT
Aden White	6-1	185	Jr.	TE/DE
Brayden Williams	5-5	155	Jr.	FB/LB
Tatum Wolfe	5-11	138	Jr.	WR/DB
JJ Walker	5-11	150	So.	WR/S
Kale Rembold	5-11	255	So.	OL/DL
Noah Carroll	6-1	155	So.	QB/S
Brayden Nuebert	5-7	128	So.	WR/DB
Parker Schmitt	5-7	153	So.	RB/LB
Abraham Ly	5-9	160	So.	WR/DB
Barrett Wolfe	6-0	210	Fr.	OL/DL
Fletcher Erdley	5-11	190	Fr.	OL/LB
JD Parker	5-9	162	Fr.	RB/LB
Zane Turner	5-2	125	Fr.	RB/S
Xylen Rowley	5-3	110	Fr.	WR/DB
Cody Morrison	6-0	225	Fr.	OL/DL
Pierce Trauterman	5-11	185	Fr.	OL/DL
Carson Theriot	5-8	130	Fr.	WR/DB



BRAYDEN WILLIAMS



PARKER SCHMITT

- COCHRANTON COACHES**
- John Svirbly — Head coach
 - Brian Olson — Defensive coordinator
 - Noah Cummings — Offensive coordinator
 - Troy Stininger — Offensive line, defensive line
 - Adam Whitling — Assistant line coach
 - Jason Nesbitt — Assistant linebackers, running backs

- COCHRANTON SCHEDULE**
- Aug. 28 — at Reynolds
 - Sept. 4 — SHARPSVILLE
 - Sept. 11 — MAPLEWOOD
 - Sept. 18 — MERCYHURST PREP
 - Sept. 25 — LAKEVIEW
 - Oct. 2 — at Iroquois
 - Oct. 9 — SAEGERTOWN
 - Oct. 16 — at Cambridge Springs
 - Oct. 23 — at Union City
 - Oct. 30 — Bye

FRANKLIN KNIGHTS



TAIVAN WILLIAMS



DAKOTA SYBERT

Knights

Continued from Page 4

The Knights’ offense featured a strong running game last year, but the team did struggle a bit when it came to throwing the ball. Ion is hoping for a lot more balance this year, but a lot will depend on what opposing defenses show on a weekly basis.

“We are going to do whatever we can. It will be a week-to-week decision,” he said. “The goal is to be somewhat balanced, but what we do will be based on what our opponent’s do and what we think we can take advantage of and what’s going to set us up for success every week.”

On defense, the line will be a mixture of Moore Junior, Kiselka, Voto-Pelletier, Wimer, Hill and Deeter while the linebacking corps is deep with Mincer, Marsteller, Miller and Johnson as well as junior Taivan Williams and sophomore Dakota Sybert.

The secondary will feature Stevens, Blackhurst, Bell-Carone, Gonsalves, Sires and Brown as well as seniors Eddie Platt and Joshua Grossman.

“Defensively, we are focusing on simplicity and letting kids be able to play free and loose,” Ion said. “I think that usually builds a pretty solid defense where they can just go out and make plays.”

On special teams, freshman Jacob

Fleming and sophomore Padraig Johnson are battling it out to see who handles the majority of the placekicking duties while those two and Platt are vying to handle the punting duties.

“Our goals this year are to get better every week, every day and every play and from there growth will happen. We want to focus on the little things first,” Ion said. “There is a phrase I’ve learned and I use a lot, ‘See a little, see a lot, see a lot, see nothing.’ We just want to see a little bit now and then we’ll see the big picture. If we just start looking at the big picture, we won’t accomplish anything that we need to accomplish.”

The region that Franklin has been playing in was already tough with the likes of Oil City, Meadville and General McLane on the schedule every year, but it got even harder this year with the additions of Cathedral Prep and Harbor Creek.

“The region is tough. It’s a gauntlet. For year one, I would be happy to finish in the middle, see a progression each week and grow on it from there,” Ion said. “But, I think these guys need to work hard every day, trust the process, trust in what we are doing and play to the best of their abilities. There are a lot of good athletes and football players here, they just need to play to their abilities, work toward being consistent football players and that can help them reach their full potential.”



Joshua Grossman



Jacob Fleming



Padraig Johnson

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FRANKLIN KNIGHTS COACHES

Austin Ion — Head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks
Josh Albright — Defensive coordinator, linebackers
Drew Keth — Special teams, quarterbacks, defensive backs
Kahlil West — Wide receivers, linebackers
Devon Latchaw — Offensive line, defensive line
Brian Reed — Running backs, defensive backs
Antwan Fleming — Fullbacks, tight ends, defensive line, linebackers
Quinten Graham — Wide receivers, defensive backs
Nathan Pfennigwerth — Kicking, punting

FRANKLIN KNIGHTS SCHEDULE

Aug. 28 — TITUSVILLE
Sept. 4 — OIL CITY
Sept. 10 — at Harbor Creek
Sept. 18 — CATHEDRAL PREP
Sept. 25 — IROQUOIS
Oct. 2 — at Meadville
Oct. 9 — at Warren
Oct. 17 — at Union City
Oct. 23 — GENERAL McLANE
Oct. 30 — at Seneca

OIL CITY OILERS

Oilers

Continued from Page 2

“We don’t have a lot of depth right now, but all of these guys have experience playing on the line,” York said.

The Oilers also have some big shoes to fill on defense as all-state selection Noah Lucarelli and fellow linemen Abdul Stanton and Wolf are no longer with the team, joining Cole Findlay and Heise as key departures.

DeLong and Cooke look to get the majority of the time at defensive end while junior kicker Landon Riley has opened some eyes this year at practice and could also see time at end.

“Landon kicked for us last year, but he has never played a position before, however, he has chance to play some at defensive end,” York said. “He is legitimately fast and has the potential to do some things for us.”

Stevens returns to start at linebacker after earning all-state honors at the position a year ago while Sindlinger is another returning starter. Clark Findlay and Antrillii could also see playing time at

the position while Piercy can play either linebacker or end.

“We have two returning starters at linebacker, but Findlay and Antrilli are both very good and very tough kids as well,” York said.

The secondary will feature four new starters in Thompson and Bialo at cornerback with McCullough also seeing playing time and Marchinke and VanWormer at safety with McIntyre also in the mix.

Riley will still handle the placekicking duties while he is in a battle with Heath for the punting job.

If trying to repeat as D-10 champs with the loss of so much talent wasn’t hard enough, the Oilers’ road back to the title game got a little tougher this year as not only do they have to face rivals General McLane and Meadville once again, but also Cathedral Prep and Harbor Creek as those two teams were added to Region 5.

“All the new starters that we have will have to come through and replace all the guys that we lost and that includes running, blocking, throwing and tackling,” York said. “Everybody has got to come together, the kids have to stick together and the new kids have to mature early.”

OIL CITY OILERS ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Pos.
Carter Bialo	5-8	154	Jr.	SE/DB
Carter Thompson	5-9	171	Jr.	RB/DB
Owen McCullough	5-11	157	Jr.	SE/DB
Joey Palczer	5-8	137	So.	WR/DB
Lincoln Galla	6-0	215	Sr.	FB/LB
Declan Cunningham	5-9	140	Fr.	RB/DB
Jack Garver	5-8	145	So.	WR/DB
Dylan VanWormer	5-9	152	Sr.	RB/DB
Skylar Hanlon	6-3	200	Jr.	QB/LB
Elijah Garver	6-2	136	Jr.	SE/DB
Mason Hartle	5-8	135	Fr.	RB/DB
Logan Heath	5-9	155	Sr.	SE/DB
Parker Nicewonger	6-0	165	Fr.	RB/LB
Alex McIntyre	5-11	195	Sr.	QB/DB
Jordan O’Brien	5-6	176	Jr.	SE/DB
Elijah Sabin	5-11	205	Sr.	SE/LB
Sy Kellerman	5-7	132	Fr.	RB/DB
Bryce Marchinke	5-10	200	So.	QB/DB
Xavier Piercy	5-9	157	Fr.	WR/DB
Wyatt Brown	6-2	160	Fr.	RB/LB
Michael Perry	5-6	122	Fr.	WR/DB
Clark Findlay	6-2	189	So.	RB/LB
Stephen Miller	5-3	135	Fr.	RB/DB
Rawlin Burkhouse	5-11	150	Fr.	RB/DB
Luke Ralph	5-9	139	Jr.	SE/DB
Matthew Antrilli	5-11	187	So.	TE/LB
Blake Stevens	5-11	191	Sr.	FB/LB
Landon Riley	6-1	193	Jr.	K/P
Tycen Sindlinger	5-10	207	Jr.	FB/LB
Sebastian Bemis	5-11	155	Sr.	RB/DB
Skyler Myers	6-0	185	Sr.	OL/DL
Callen Scarbrough	5-9	228	Fr.	OL/DL
Christian Denny	6-3	231	Jr.	OL/DL
Jamarcus Cooke	5-10	195	Jr.	FB/LB
Drake Rodgers	5-9	214	Fr.	OL/DL
Ashton Wenner	6-1	307	Sr.	OL/DL
Colt Heath	5-11	278	So.	OL/DL
Dominic Carson	5-11	345	Sr.	OL/DL
Aiden Wise	5-11	230	So.	OL/DL
Linkin Carson	6-2	248	Fr.	OL/DL
Carsen Hartle	5-11	254	So.	OL/DL
Tristan Fox	6-4	297	Jr.	OL/DL
Emory Hale	5-7	187	So.	OL/DL
Bradley Graham	6-2	270	Jr.	OL/DL
Alexander Piercy	5-9	193	Jr.	FB/LB
Kaleb Vitka	5-11	180	So.	OL/DL
Deryk DeLong	6-1	210	Sr.	OL/LB



Clark Findlay



Bradley Graham



Logan Heath

2026 DISTRICT 9 FOOTBALL DIVISIONS

DIVISION I

Central Clarion, DuBois, Karns City, Punxsutawney, St. Marys.

DIVISION II

Bradford, Brockway, Brookville, Port Allegany, Redbank Valley.

DIVISION III

Kane, Keystone, Cameron County, Ridgway, Union/A-C Valley.

DIVISION IV

Bucktail, Moniteau, Coudersport, Otto-Eldred, Smethport.

2026 DISTRICT 10 FOOTBALL REGIONS

REGION 1 (1A-2A) — Wilmington (1A), Lakeview (1A), Reynolds (1A), Sharpsville (2A), Greenville (2A), Mercer (2A), Farrell (2A).

REGION 2 (1A-2A) — Cambridge Springs (1A), Cochranton (1A), Saegertown (1A), Maplewood (1A), Mercyhurst Prep (1A), Iroquois (2A), Union City (2A).

REGION 3 (2A-3A) — Eisenhower (2A), Northwestern (2A), Seneca (2A),

Girard (2A), Corry (3A), Fairview (3A), North East (3A).

REGION 4 (3A) — Conneaut Area, Fort LeBoeuf, Titusville, Slippery Rock, Grove City, Hickory, Sharon.

REGION 5 (4A) — Warren, Oil City, Meadville, General McLane, Franklin, Harbor Creek, Cathedral Prep.

REGION 6 (6A) — Erie High, McDowell.

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