

the ball. Williams' younger brother Tre, a senior, will boost BGA as a key contributor at wide receiver and at cornerback and Hennebery's twin brother, Jack, is also competing for snaps at linebacker, Rodriguez said.

"We have got some guys that have that ability, they just haven't had a chance to show it on Friday nights," Rodriguez said.

The Wildcats also lost two-year starting quarterback Brett Brown to graduation. Brown threw for more than 1,800 yards and totaled 21 touchdowns last season.

Rodriguez said sophomore Locke Kennedy and junior Gavin Berger are vying for the starting quarterback spot, a position still undecided heading into opening week.

"Locke has shown a lot of ability, plus he's grown quite a bit since last year working really hard in the off-season," Rodriguez said, adding how the 6-1, 165-pounder can also be a key player at safety. "I think he's primed for a great season, but the hardest part is finding where he best fits in our football team."

BGA's loaded schedule signals how the Wildcats will have to gain experience under heavy fire. They open at home against a talented Class 5A Nolensville team before trekking to Region 7-6A favorite Ravenwood. BGA faces two top quarterbacks in those first games in the Knights Coby Walton, who threw for more than 3,000 yards, and the Raptors Chris Parson, who just committed to Mississippi State.

The Wildcats battle region rival Christ Presbyterian Academy in Week 3. The Lions are coming off a fourth consecutive finals appearance in December, falling to another region opponent in Lipscomb Academy.

Trips to DII-A state runner-up Nashville Christian and developing region opponent Davidson Academy follow before a visit from Pope John Paul II and another four-star quarterback in



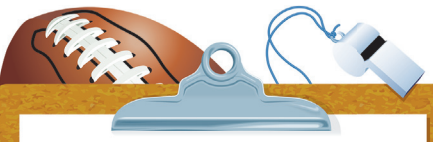
PHOTO BY CHARLES PULLIAM
BGA coach Jonas Rodriguez and his Wildcats face a tough schedule with plenty of new faces in 2022.

Pittsburgh commit Kenny Minchey.

And September isn't even over by that point with a trip to the defending DII-AA champion Mustangs still on the docket.

"There's a lot of electric players in those first weeks and being able to try and contain those skill players will be a huge challenge," Rodriguez said. "We will find out right away if we can even do that, but fortunately the kids are excited to face those types of players."

"There's just no off-weeks and we certainly have our work cut out."



BGA WILDCATS

COACH: Jonas Rodriguez (19-15 entering fourth season)
CLASSIFICATION: Division II, Class AA Middle Region
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 6-6, lost 35-28 at Lausanne in Division II-AA second round
KEY RETURNES: OL/DL Donovan Nevils, QB/S Locke Kennedy, WR/DB Jackson Hammontree, OL/DL Jackson Fisher, RB/DB Evan Hennebery, RB/LB Austin Ford
KEY LOSSES: Sean Williams, Brett Brown, Zion Morris, Daniel Morra, Zach Flores, Miller Barnett

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