

2024 Times News Football

PASSING THE TORCH

Billy O'Gurek set to take over at Marian for longtime coach Stan Dakosty



TIMES NEWS
— MEDIA GROUP —

FEATURE

New Man in Charge

Former Marian fan, player, assistant takes over the Colts' program from Hall of Fame coach Dakosty

BY BRAD HURLEY
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First-year Marian head coach Billy O'Gurek grew up playing with his hand in the dirt on the field for the Colts. Now, O'Gurek is looking to create new memories with the blue and gold, manning the sidelines at Men of Marian Stadium.

Coach O'Gurek's love for Marian football started at just a young age. O'Gurek's neighbor was Marian All-State fullback/linebacker Joe Gillespie. Gillespie was a key part of Marian's 1990 state championship team and attended Maryland University on a full athletic football scholarship. O'Gurek remembers going to games early on in his youth to cheer on his neighbor and the team.

"I grew up around Marian football. My neighbor was Joe Gillespie who was a great player at Marian and my dad was working at the paper writing up games. It was something I really loved and became passionate about," said O'Gurek.

O'Gurek then went onto play for famed head coach Stan Dakosty, where he suited up for the Colts from 1998-2000. During that span, Marian won two District 11 2A championships and advanced to two state eastern finals.

So, needless to say O'Gurek bleeds blue and gold, and when he got an opportunity to join the Marian coaching staff seven years ago, he jumped at the chance. This will be O'Gurek's eighth year with the program - seven years as an assistant coach - and soon to be his first year as the head coach.

"I always wanted to get into coaching, and I always wanted to be a part of the program in that way. But with my job, we always needed to be out on the road, and I didn't get home until 4:30,



New Marian head coach Billy O'Gurek watches his team practice during a preseason workout.

so I wasn't able to do it," said O'Gurek. "But then when we switched to be able to work from home, I thought to myself that now was a good time to get involved. So, I approached Coach Dakosty who was retiring at the time, and he put me in touch with Pat Morgans who was taking over and Pat took me on. I

couldn't be happier. I have learned so much during that time and now I'm about to start my first year as head coach. I'm excited to coach this team and get out there and compete."

Dakosty returned to the program in 2020 and each year the Colts have worked to get back to their winning ped-

igree. Marian finished 7-5 last season, advancing to the District 11 1A championship. But Dakosty, who has over 320 wins and coached for over 40 years let the staff know that his coaching status was going to be year-to-year.

"Coach Dakosty approached me at the end of last season and asked me if the head coaching position was something I'd be interested in when he decided to step away, and if I was, that he would support me," said O'Gurek. "I told him that I was interested. And looking back I really want to thank Coach Dakosty for everything that he did in mentoring me. They interviewed seven or eight candidates for the position, but Coach helped prepare me. Over the years, he introduced me to all the different facets of the position. Getting involved with the booster club, our academic tutoring program, the discipline process, all the things you need to know to do the job. Looking back, I can tell that wasn't all on accident now."

Next up for O'Gurek and the Colts is their season opener at home vs. Hanover Area at 7 p.m. tomorrow night. O'Gurek is just the third coach in the last 40-plus years to lead Marian onto the now Stan Dakosty Field under the lights.

"I'm honestly just honored to be the head coach here at Marian. The alumni network has been great and so supportive, and the entire coaching staff has come back from last season. We're also getting some of our younger alumni involved in the program, which is always big," said O'Gurek. "Marian is a special school. I'm grateful for this opportunity and I'm excited to get to work to continue the tradition that has been built here."

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THE STARTING LINEUP

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Lehighton	Pg. 15	Schedules	Pg. 31

MARIAN



O'Gurek ready to lead Colts to success

BY SAM MATTA
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The horse is still there; the saddle, too.

But now there is a new guy in charge.

No longer is legendary mentor Stan Dakosty holding the reins. It's in the hands of William "Billy" O'Gurek.

O'Gurek is part of the "family affair" at Marian, which once ruled the gridiron roost. The program never backed away from playing bigger schools — from Hazleton, to Pottsville and one-time granddaddy, Mount Carmel.

And it won more times than naught.

"He was my mentor, a guy who coached me, a guy who showed

me how to be a coach," O'Gurek said about Dakosty. "Yes, I know how successful he was ... but coach gave me so much opportunity."

"Listen, this isn't about me, it's all about the program," the first-year mentor said. "The kids and the coaching staff are all on the same page, we're working to sustain success. We've got some players that can compete, and we've got some young players that we hope will step up as the season moves forward."

O'Gurek says everyone knows what is needed to get better.

"We do the little things, and the big things take care of themselves," O'Gurek said. "I feel that I'm prepared, being an assistant

here so long (seven years) ... coach Dakosty has helped me over the last four years (to get ready)."

The numbers are positive, with 40 out for the team.

"We've got a good group, they've got energy, they've got passion, and our leadership from the (upperclassmen) has been outstanding, not just during the (camp) but in the offseason, in the weight room. Coach Hack (JD Hackenberg) did a great job," said O'Gurek.

"Our basketball program has been a plus, our baseball team has been outstanding in a lot of ways, and that helps with our football players because a number of them play the other

sports."

Marian needs to find replacements for six starters on both sides of the ball, including the Rodino twins — Jesse and James. In addition, four defensive backs graduated. However, the trenches are solid with four starters returning on both offense and defense.

But as all coaches will tell you, defense is the key to success on the gridiron. Marian had a plus-5 turnover ration in 2023. It averaged 19 points per game while yielding just 13.8.

Marian will look to its super two-way standout Mike Gelatko. The 6-4, 230-pound senior — now in his fourth season starting —

See **COLTS** on Page 4

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

The QB position will have a new kid at the throttle but a familiar name in Dylan Rodino, brother of departed twins Jesse and James. He saw limited playing time last fall behind Bruce Hopeck, who threw for 1340 yards. Also in the mix are junior Nick Shigo and promising freshman Gregory Tirpak, while another freshman Matt Spino could emerge as time goes forward.

RUNNING BACKS

Rory Dixon is the feature back. He was a huge surprise in 2023 as a freshman churning out 948 yards. He came on strong after senior Matt Martin was felled by injury. Look out for junior Jah Bushati, another Rodino in junior Damian, sophomore Jason Ashfield and junior Reece Steibler.

WIDE RECEIVERS

The cupboard is slightly bare after the departure of several good receivers including Nova McGuire (13-355), Jesse Rodino (16-244), Brandon Klitsch (8-181) and Mike Silliman (7-121). That group combined for 10 touchdowns. Back is Mike Gelatko (23 catches, 381 yds). As for the other spots, look for seniors Charles Hower, Michael Johnson and Gio Fleming, along with sophomore Nolan Marsch to see action. Two players that will provide depth at tight end are sophomores Dominick Rodino and Rocco Grig-uoli.

OFF/DEF LINE

The Colts will be seasoned here with four returning starters on both sides of the ball. There's seniors Aidan Milkovits, Zach Holt and Julian Hermany along with Gelatko. Several other candidates find seniors Ashton Sullivan, Mason Sault, Sam Turrano and Connor Rehnert. Keep an eye on two sophomores — Billy Ebert and Walker Sheer.

LINEBACKERS

Dixon will vacate this position and bumps to the secondary, and the Colts are also looking to drop Gelatko into this position in certain situations. Getting reps are veteran starter Hower, newcomer Bushati, Dominic and Damian Rodino, along with seasoned vets Ashfield and Holt.

SECONDARY

Besides the aforementioned Dixon, who is the lone letterwinner in this group, fresh faces are emerging. Johnson, a senior, gets a crack, along with juniors Hunter Sartori and Reece Steibler. There are also sophomores Marsch and Brett McGuire.

MARIAN

2024 MARIAN ROSTER

SENIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Charles Hower	6-0	180	WR/LB
Michael Johnson	5-10	130	WR/DB
Chase Hower	6-1	189	TE/DE
Dylan Rodino	6-2	205	QB/DB
Gio Fleming	5-10	160	WR/DB
Michael Gelatko	6-4	230	TE/DE
Mason Sout	6-1	210	OL/DL
Sam Turrano	5-8	226	OL/DL
Connor Rehnert	6-0	266	OL/DL
Zach Holt	6-0	225	OL/DL
Ashton Sullivan	6-2	252	OL/DL
Aidan Milkovits	6-2	260	OL/DL
Julian Hermany	6-0	230	OL/DL



Michael Gelatko



Dylan Rodino



Aidan Milkovits



Connor Rehnert

JUNIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Nick Shigo	6-2	190	QB/DE
Hunter Sartori	6-0	170	WR/DB
Reece Steibler	5-8	150	RB/DB
Matt Spino	5-9	160	QB/DB
Damian Rodino	5-9	176	RB/LB



Charles Hower



Chase Hower



Julian Hermany



Gio Fleming

SOPHOMORES

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Dominick Rodino	5-10	170	TE/LB
Kaden Krajcirik	6-2	197	QB/DE
Rocco Griguoli	6-4	190	TE/DE
Nolan Marsch	5-8	138	WR/DB
Caleb Gerhart	5-5	140	WR/DB
Rory Dixon	5-10	170	RB/DB
Jason Ashfield	5-11	200	RB/LB
Billy Ebert	5-10	295	OL/DL
Walker Sheer	6-4	160	OL/DE

FRESHMEN

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Gregory Tirpak	6-3	190	QB/LB
Chris Del Rosario	5-4	120	RB/DB
Tyler Price	6-0	172	WR/DB
Elias Acosta	6-0	160	WR/DB
Loegan Joseph	5-7	135	RB/LB
Blake Gerhard	6-1	152	WR/DB
Jay Roque	6-1	166	WR/DB
Michael Elliot	5-11	215	OL/DL
Nick Polakovic	5-10	140	TE/LB

COLTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

will be a force on both sides of the ball. Gelatko is headed to Division 1 Buffalo, having committed earlier this summer. He has flexibility on both sides of the ball.

The Colts can flex him into several receiving roles from tight end to wideout, and even in the slot. Gelatko is a terror on defense, as well. He also handles the punting chores.

Besides Gelatko, Marian has a terrific soph-

omore running back in Rory Dixon — who rushed for 948 yards and eight touchdowns. He is bigger and stronger as he enters his second season, as he helped Marian finish with a 7-5 record.

“He has all the tools to be very good,” said his coach. “He was very impressive as a freshman, came up big for us down the stretch which helped us get into the playoffs. We are excited to watch him this season. And he will play both ways. He’ll be one of our starting defensive backs. The nice thing is he has experience ...

you can’t teach that.”

“I told our guys, we want to be playing meaningful football come October,” O’Gurek said. “If we get to week 7, 8, 9 and 10 and playing meaningful football game, then our goals are (attainable).”

The goal is surely within grasp, since the Colts are one of only three teams District 11 Class 1A, which also has Nativity and Tri-Valley. The three will be in a sub-regional with District 2. There are six schools in the mix, with four making the playoffs.

“Team’s bumped up

because of the new enrollment figures that came out for this season,” O’Gurek said. “If we get there, we will be in good shape.”

Marian will compete during the regular season in Division C of the Colonial-Schuylkill League. It opens at home with its only non-league game, Hanover, before traveling in Week 2 to face Tri-Valley.

“Certainly, I’m excited,” O’Gurekaid. “Marian football has great tradition, and I learned from the best coach (Dakosty). I’m very honored to take things over, and I feel I’m prepared thanks to coach.”

MARIAN



Sam Turrano



Mason Soult



Marian runs an offensive play during a recent practice.



Zach Holt



Michael Johnson

MOST POINTS SCORED IN A GAME BY TIMES NEWS AREA TEAM (SINCE 1978)

Pts.	Team	Date	Opp.	Pts.	Team	Date	Opp.	Pts.	Team	Date	Opp.	Pts.	Team	Date	Opp.
76	Jim Thorpe	9/23/19	vs. Kutztown	60	Lehighton	10/2/20	vs. Sch. Haven	56	Jim Thorpe	9/5/08	at Mahanoy Area	55	Marian	10/31/92	at Mahanoy Area
71	Tamaqua	9/14/18	vs. Panther Vy.	59	Palmerton	10/5/18	at Catasauqua	56	No. Lehigh	10/6/06	vs. Saucon Vy.	55	Marian	10/6/86	at Nativity
71	Lehighton	10/25/91	vs. Pocono Mtn.	59	Pleasant Vy.	9/16/16	at Allen	56	Northwestern	9/22/06	at Bangor	54	Palmerton	9/8/23	vs. Palisades
68	No. Lehigh	10/31/03	at Palmerton	59	Tamaqua	9/16/16	vs. Panther Vy.	56	No. Lehigh	9/23/05	at So. Lehigh	54	Palmerton	8/25/23	at Lehighton
67	Jim Thorpe	9/6/19	at Panther Vy.	58	Northwestern	11/17/23	vs. Palmerton	56	No. Lehigh	10/29/04	at Catasauqua	54	Palmerton	9/16/22	vs. Jim Thorpe
67	No. Lehigh	10/1/10	at Salisbury	58	Northwestern	11/17/23	vs. Lehighton	56	No. Lehigh	10/8/04	vs. Salisbury	54	Palmerton	9/17/21	at Marian
67	Northwestern	10/11/96	vs. Salisbury	58	Pleasant Vy.	10/10/03	vs. ES North	56	Northwestern	10/25/02	at Palmerton	54	Pleasant Vy.	9/4/21	vs. ES North
66	Jim Thorpe	9/24/22	at Pine Grove	58	No. Lehigh	11/2/01	at Palmerton	56	Pleasant Vy.	10/24/97	vs. Coughlin	54	Northwestern	11/6/20	vs. Lehighton
66	Pleasant Vy.	10/14/16	vs. ES North	58	Marian	10/12/96	vs. Tamaqua	56	Northwestern	9/29/95	vs. Palisades	54	Northwestern	11/2/19	vs. Lehighton
64	No. Lehigh	11/13/21	vs. Palmerton	58	Northwestern	8/31/96	at Palisades	56	Panther Vy.	11/8/91	vs. Susquenita	54	Tamaqua	10/11/19	at Lehighton
63	Jim Thorpe	9/7/18	vs. Panther Vy.	58	Lehighton	10/2/87	vs. Pleasant Vy.	55	Lehighton	9/17/22	at Wilson	54	Lehighton	10/13/17	at Pottsville
63	Pleasant Vy.	10/30/15	vs. PM East	58	Lehighton	10/16/82	at Northwestern	55	Lehighton	9/3/21	vs. Tamaqua	54	Jim Thorpe	9/23/16	at Shenandoah
63	No. Lehigh	9/24/04	vs. So. Lehigh	57	Northwestern	10/9/20	at Palmerton	55	Northwestern	10/23/20	vs. Saucon Vy.	54	Palmerton	10/16/15	vs. Catasauqua
63	Jim Thorpe	10/8/94	vs. Northwest	57	Jim Thorpe	9/8/17	at Panther Valley	55	Jim Thorpe	9/21/18	vs. Midd-West	54	Palmerton	9/12/14	vs. Bangor
62	Pleasant Vy.	8/26/22	at ES North	57	Pleasant Vy.	10/21/16	at PM East	55	Pleasant Vy.	9/9/16	vs. Northampton	54	Tamaqua	9/28/12	at Annville-Cleona
62	No. Lehigh	10/15/21	vs. Pen Argyl	57	Jim Thorpe	9/11/15	at Shenandoah	55	No. Lehigh	10/9/15	vs. Catasauqua	54	Pleasant Vy.	9/21/12	vs. Lehighton
62	Palmerton	9/22/18	at Pen Argyl	57	No. Lehigh	10/12/12	at Northwestern	55	Palmerton	9/4/15	vs. Wilson	54	Panther Vy.	9/14/12	at Kutztown
62	Jim Thorpe	9/14/18	at Kutztown	56	Northwestern	10/6/23	vs. Pottsville	55	Lehighton	10/11/13	vs. Allen	54	Jim Thorpe	9/3/04	vs. Tamaqua
62	Pleasant Vy.	10/7/16	at Dieruff	56	Palmerton	10/1/21	vs. Sch. Haven	55	Lehighton	11/4/11	vs. Jim Thorpe	54	No. Lehigh	9/12/03	vs. So. Lehigh
62	Lehighton	10/15/15	vs. Panther Vy.	56	No. Lehigh	10/23/20	vs. Salisbury	55	No. Lehigh	9/9/11	vs. Wilson	54	Jim Thorpe	10/24/98	vs. Card.Brennan
62	Jim Thorpe	11/5/04	at Lehighton	56	Palmerton	9/25/20	vs. Catasauqua	55	Pleasant Vy.	9/10/10	at Honesdale	54	Northwestern	10/16/98	vs. Notre Dame
61	No. Lehigh	9/16/22	vs. Pine Grove	56	Palmerton	10/4/19	vs. Catasauqua	55	Tamaqua	9/25/09	at Mahanoy Area	54	Jim Thorpe	10/1/94	vs. Bish. O'Reilly
61	Northwestern	10/26/18	at Catasauqua	56	Jim Thorpe	8/31/18	vs. Marian	55	Panther Vy.	9/19/98	at Jim Thorpe	54	Lehighton	10/15/93	vs. Northwestern
61	No. Lehigh	11/1/02	vs. Palmerton	56	Palmerton	10/20/17	at Salisbury	55	No. Lehigh	9/11/98	at Palisades	54	Marian	10/17/92	vs. Bish. O'Reilly
61	Marian	9/7/97	vs. Mahanoy Area	56	Marian	10/14/16	vs. Shenandoah	55	Northwestern	10/11/97	at Salisbury	54	Marian	9/29/90	vs. Lourdes
60	Palmerton	10/6/23	at Salisbury	56	Pleasant Vy.	9/26/14	at PM West	55	Jim Thorpe	9/24/94	at CMVT	54	Panther Vy.	11/10/78	at North Schuylkill

TAMAQUA



Raiders hope to build on strong finish

BY PATRICK MATSINKO
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Tamaqua's turnaround at the end of the 2023 season spoke volumes.

What could have been a catastrophic collapse after a slow start turned into four straight wins and victories in five of the Blue Raiders' final six contests to reach the district playoffs.

The task now is for the 2024 Tamaqua team to continue that momentum.

"I was really proud of the team last year," he said. "It's easy to pack it in once you start off 0-4. And we have a good core of those guys back that kind of helped turn that second half of the season around. Victor Schlosser was a kid that really turned it on the second half of the season. Luke Kane was a leader the second half of the season. Declan Coleman, a

kid that we got back that (for the second half), who was out I think basically the first four games. So he was a big part of winning some of those games in that second half of the season. We have guys that know what it takes to win games."

Coleman (TE/DL), Kane (QB/LB) and Schlosser (WR/DB) return for the senior seasons key contributors in all phases of the game.

In addition to passing for 908 yards and nine TDs last season, Kane also led the team with 77 total tackles. Kane also rushed for 191 yards on 62 carries with four scores.

Senior Tyler Koch returns after recording 61 total tackles, second on the team, while also making 12 grabs for 202 yards and two scores and rushing for 173 yards and three scores.

Leading rusher Bradley Wha-

len had 694 yards on 122 carries (5.69 yards per carry) to go along with seven scores as a junior while also making 33 tackles in nine games.

Schlosser caught 15 passes for 171 yards and two scores to go along with 35 tackles.

"I think it's important that we build off of that and that, continue that kind of mentality that, 'Hey, we can play with anybody,'" said Bonner. "We gave ourselves a chance and an opportunity to win games."

Senior Jacob Hehn returns after finishing fourth on the team with 46 total tackles, while junior Luke Fronheiser made the fifth-most tackles on the team with 42.

"I think experience, and especially with our specialty guys, Bradley Whalen, Luke Kane, Declan Coleman, Victor Schlosser, Jacob Hehn, are all experienced

skill guys that we have coming back that have been playing since their sophomore year," said Bonner. "And a lot of them are two way guys. So you look at those guys, but then we have Luke Fronheiser, a junior who's been a starter, and he's going to be at center and at middle linebacker. We've got that core group of skilled kids that have experience and know what it's going to take for us to be competitive."

Tamaqua scored 21.1 points per game (third-best in the area) and averaged 234.9 yards per contest en route to a 5-6 finish a season ago. Defensively, the Blue Raiders surrendered 28.4 points and 282.6 yards per game.

"We have a very athletic seven guys up front; four guys up front are skilled guys," said Bonner. "Our defensive end is Jacob

See **RAIDERS** on Page 7

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

Senior Luke Kane returns after completing 62 of 134 pass attempts for 908 yards with nine scores and seven interceptions. Bonner has indicated he hopes the senior can push 1,500 yards this season. Look for junior Chase Serfass to be the backup with freshman Ace Schickram a third option.

RUNNING BACKS

Bradley Whalen returns as the starter after rushing for 694 yards and seven scores last season. Full-back Tyler Koch is also a returning starter. Jacob Hehn and freshman Terrence McDowell will also be in the mix for playing time in the backfield.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Victor Schlosser was the team's second-leading receiver a year ago and will hope to build on the 15 catches for 171 yards and two scores he posted last fall. Junior Brady McCabe, along with senior Declan Coleman, who missed five games a year ago, at tight end will also be vital parts of the passing game. Jacob Hehn and Tyler Koch will also be in the passing game. Newcomer and senior Cooper Ansbach will be in the mix at wide receiver.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Junior Luke Fronheiser returns at center. Senior Declan Franz is another returning starter on the offensive line. Junior Malachi Stewart has also impressed coaches in camp at guard, along with sophomore Damian Jazowski who will move into a starting role.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Seniors Bradley Whalen Isaiah Davis will both see playing time at defensive tackle. Malachi Stewart could see time at both positions, while Declan Coleman and Jacob Hehn will play defensive end. Damian Jazowski will also provide depth along the line.

LINEBACKERS

Luke Fronheiser and Tyler Koch will play inside linebacker, while Luke Kane and Brady McCabe will play outside linebacker. Chase Serfass, along with Terrence McDowell and Ace Schickram also should be in the mix at linebacker.

SECONDARY

Junior Shawn Chen will play safety, while seniors Scott Case and Victor Schlosser will play corner. Cooper Ansbach also figures to see playing time in the secondary as a first-year player. Sophomore Peyton Schwartz will also see time in the secondary.

TAMAQUA

TAMAQUA RECORDS

Year	Record	Head Coach
2023	5-6	Sam Bonner
2022	4-7	Sam Bonner
2021	3-7	Sam Bonner
2020	5-4	Sam Bonner
2019	12-3	Sam Bonner
2018	9-2	Sam Bonner
2017	6-5	Sam Bonner
2016	5-6	Sam Bonner
2015	5-5	Sam Bonner
2014	5-5	Sam Bonner
2013	7-3	Sam Bonner
2012	10-1	Sam Bonner
2011	6-6	Sam Bonner
2010	3-7	Sam Bonner
2009	8-3	Sam Bonner
2008	8-4	Sam Bonner
2007	3-7	Sam Bonner
2006	3-7	Rick Bennett
2005	3-7	Rick Bennett
2004	2-8	Rick Bennett
2003	6-4	Tom Bonner
2002	5-5	Tom Bonner
2001	6-4	Tom Bonner
2000	5-6	Tom Bonner
1999	1-9	Tom Bonner
1998	1-9	Jack Young
1997	1-10	Jack Young
1996	3-7	Jack Young
1995	0-11	Pete Radocha
1994	0-11	Pete Radocha
1993	1-10	Pete Radocha
1992	3-8	George Yaniger
1991	6-4-1	"Whitey" Williams
1990	8-3	"Whitey" Williams
1989	3-8	Wayne Schickram
1988	0-11	Wayne Schickram
1987	1-10	Wayne Schickram
1986	7-3	Tom Bonner
1985	7-4	Tom Bonner
1984	8-5	Tom Bonner
1983	4-7	Tom Bonner
1982	2-9	Dale Titus

RAIDERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Hehn. He's our backup tailback/flanker. Our other defensive end is Declan Coleman, and he's a wide receiver, tight end. Our nose guard is are tail back. We have three-shade tackle that plays some skill stuff.

"So we have four guys up front that are not the

biggest kids, but athletic. So we're looking for those guys to get a lot of those TFLs, get a lot of those turnovers and fly around the ball.

"They're not the biggest group, but I think they're more athletic groups that have had it front in a while."

Bonner acknowledged that the team is hoping to find stability up front, something that will be key

for the team to take another step forward this season.

Continued progress is something Bonner knows this team is capable of after its strong finish a year ago.

"I think we're capable of surprising a lot of people," said Bonner. "I think there's a lot of people right now, obviously, I don't put anything in the preseason polls whether it be NFL,

NCAA, or high school. I don't put a lot into it. But I don't think a lot of people are expecting us to make much noise, especially in upper division. We're playing six 4A schools. We're a 3A school playing in a 4A schedule, basically. The 3A schools we're playing are very competitive, North Schuylkill and Northwest-ern, two of the best teams, not just in the district, but probably in the state. So

I think a lot of people are looking at our schedule saying that we're gonna have a rough time.

"Our goal is hopefully to surprise a lot of those people. And I think the kids, there's the buy-in from these kids. We've had good turnouts in the off-season. We have kids working hard, we have some good team leadership, so we're hoping that that pays off for us."



Luke Kane



Jacob Hehn



Declan Coleman



Tamaqua head coach Sam Bonner talks to one of his players during a recent practice.

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TAMAQUA

2024 TAMAQUA ROSTER

SENIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Isaiah Davis	6-1	249	OL/DL
Cooper Ansbach	6-2	160	WR/DB
Scott Case	5-8	156	WR/DB
Luke Kane	6-2	208	QB/LB
Connor Reighard	5-7	161	WR/LB
Victor Schlosser	5-9	150	WR/DB
Jacob Hehn	6-1	186	TE/DL
Bradley Whalen	5-10	173	TB/DL
Tyler Koch	5-11	179	FB/LB
Declan Franz	5-9	230	OL/DL
Declan Coleman	6-5	203	TE/DL
Nicholas Barron	6-1	167	K/P

Malachi Stewart 5-6 206 OL/DL

SOPHOMORES

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Peyton Schwartz	5-7	141	WR/DB
Francis Hill	5-8	146	FB/DL
Quinn Coleman	5-5	160	WR/LB
Regen Schieck	5-6	140	WR/DB
Richard Steinmetz	5-9	153	OL/LB
Teegan Phillips	6-1	177	OL/DL
Damian Jazowski	5-11	191	OL/DL
Alexander Alcantara Pojoy	5-8	206	OL/DL
Flynn Coleman	6-1	176	TE/DL



Scott Case



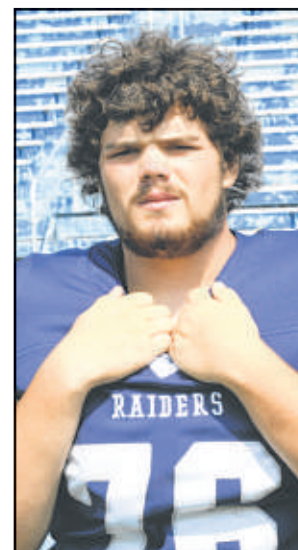
Isaiah Davis

JUNIORS

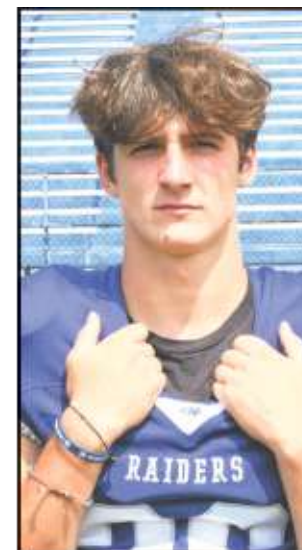
Player	Height	Weight	Position
Brady McCabe	6-2	197	WR/LB
Shawn Chen	5-10	160	WR/DB
Chase Serfass	5-11	186	QB/LB
Justice Machura	5-7	154	WR/LB
Myles Schlosser	5-8	140	WR/DB
Logan Pribila	5-10	250	OL/DL
Keagan Coleman	5-10	166	OL/LB
Luke Frohnheiser	5-10	195	OL/LB
Hayden Magrini-Calkins	5-5	155	OL/DL
Elijah Watkins	5-4	270	OL/DL
Logan Zimmerman	5-10	215	OL/DL
James Nalesnik	5-11	208	OL/DL

FRESHMEN

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Carter Williams	5-11	170	TE/L
Ace Schickram	6-0	160	WR/DB
Dustin Miller	6-1	160	TE/LB
Terrence McDowell	5-8	140	TB/LB
Brandon Case	5-10	197	OL/DL
Jy'zaiah Rivera	5-8	198	OL/DL
Bryce Nelson	5-8	209	OL/DL
Konnor Sanders	5-8	231	OL/DL
Carter Trotman	5-11	207	OL/DL
Dylan Garcia	5-9	232	OL/DL
Henry Bazan	5-9	192	OL/DL
James Wronski	5-9	259	OL/DL
Yosgartz Bazan	6-3	212	OL/DL



Declan Franz



Bradley Whalen

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TAMAQUA



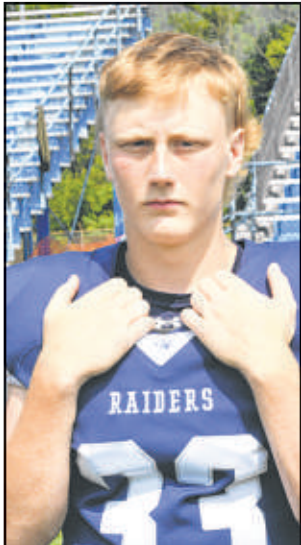
Cooper Ansbach



A Tamaqua receiver catches a pass during a recent practice.



Victor Schlosser



Tyler Koch



Nicholas Barron

TN AREA DISTRICT 11 FOOTBALL TITLES

Team	Year	Class	Head Coach
Northwestern	2023	3A	Josh Snyder
Northwestern	2022	3A	Josh Snyder
Northern Lehigh	2022	1A	Joe Tout
Northern Lehigh	2021	2A	Joe Tout
Tamaqua	2019	3A	Sam Bonner
Marian	2015	1A	Stan Dakosty
Northwestern	2014	2A	Josh Snyder
Northern Lehigh	2010	2A	Joe Tout
Marian	2007	1A	Stan Dakosty
Northern Lehigh	2003	2A	Jim Tkach
Northwestern	2002	2A	Bob Mitchell
Lehigh	2001	3A	Bill Brong
Marian	2000	2A	Stan Dakosty
Northern Lehigh	1999	2A	Jim Tkach
Marian	1998	2A	Stan Dakosty
Northwestern	1997	2A	Bob Mitchell
Northwestern	1995	2A	Bob Mitchell
Palmerton	1993	2A	Manny Guedes
Marian	1993	1A	Stan Dakosty

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MOST TD CATCHES IN A SEASON (TIMES NEWS AREA)

Player, Team	No.	Year
J. Richardson, Pleasant Vy.	15	2016
T. Cunningham, N'western	14	2016
C. Richardson, N'western	14	2014
Shane McEvoy, Lehigh	14	2007
Justin Holmes, N'western	12	2019
Matt Kistler, Tamaqua	12	2019
Justin Rodda, N'western	12	2018
A. Romeo, Pleasant Vy.	12	2012
Kysheem Lynch, J. Thorpe	12	2008
Brad Miller, Panther Vy.	12	1992
D. Lucykanish, Palmerton	11	2022
C. Christopher, N'western	11	2021
Jake Dunn, Panther Valley	11	2009
Austin Cseh, Palmerton	11	2008
Josh Hontz, Jim Thorpe	11	2007
Zach Crum, Lehigh	10	2017
Jacen Nalesnik, Lehigh	10	2011
Jake Dunn, Panther Valley	10	2008
Avery Weber, Palmerton	10	2006
Fenton Black, Panther Vy.	10	1992
Joe Butchko, Jim Thorpe	10	1991
Chris Green, Lehigh	10	1991
Brett Misera, No. Lehigh	9	2021
Zach Crum, Lehigh	9	2018
Mike Harleston, Jim Thorpe	9	2012
Connor Dillon, Tamaqua	8	2022
Trevor Amorim, No. Lehigh	8	2021
Mike Stasko, Palmerton	8	2016
D. Vandermartin, Tamaqua	8	2012
Khaaliq Lynch, Jim Thorpe	8	2011
Rich Irving, Pleasant Valley	8	2010
A. Bumbulsky, Pleasant Vy.	8	2009
Don Evans, Jim Thorpe	8	2000
J. Schoenberger, Lehigh	8	1994
Eric Bollinger, Palmerton	8	1993
Justin Yescavage, Jim Thorpe	7	2023
D. Hildebrand, N'western	7	2023
Ian Rarick, Lehigh	7	2022
K. Robinson, Palmerton	7	2022
Austin Smyth, No. Lehigh	7	2022
Hunter Crum, Lehigh	7	2021
Trevor Amorim, No. Lehigh	7	2020
Cade Christopher, N'western	7	2020
Justin Rodda, Northwestern	7	2019
Noah Snisky, Jim Thorpe	7	2019
Matt Kistler, Tamaqua	7	2018
Mike Brown, Pleasant Valley	7	2017
Matt Kistler, Tamaqua	7	2017
Casey Rother, Tamaqua	7	2017
Nick Chambers, Lehigh	7	2015
Tegan Durishin, Lehigh	7	2015
Angelo Makornick, Marian	7	2014
Cam Richardson, N'western	7	2013
Payton Bachman, N'western	7	2011
P.J. Johnson, Jim Thorpe	7	2011
Anthony Farole, Lehigh	7	2010
Rob Getz, Pleasant Valley	7	2010
JT Keer, Lehigh	7	2009
A. Bumbulsky, Tamaqua	7	2008
Shane McEvoy, Lehigh	7	2006
Kevin McNavage, Marian	7	2006
Steve Nesgoda, Marian	7	2003
Jim Mansell, Marian	7	2002
Scott Holloman, Marian	7	1997
Josh Snyder, Northwestern	7	1997
Scott Holloman, Marian	7	1996
Mark Makovec, Marian	7	1991
Dalton Drake, Palmerton	6	2022
Taylor Wikert, Northwestern	6	2021
Hunter Crum, Lehigh	6	2020
James Denicola, Palmerton	6	2020
Derek Holmes, Northwestern	6	2018
Tyler Lobach, Northwestern	6	2018
Jordan Nelson, Palmerton	6	2017
Mike Brown, Pleasant Valley	6	2016
Caleb Clymer, Northwestern	6	2016
Mike Mitchell, Pleasant Valley	6	2016
Zeke Wassell, Tamaqua	6	2016
Aaron DeAngelo, Marian	6	2015
Taylor Breining, N'western	6	2014
Tyler Crum, Lehigh	6	2014
Kevin Cruz, Pleasant Valley	6	2013
N. Nevarez, Pleasant Vy.	6	2013
John Julian, Marian	6	2012
A. Bumbulsky, Tamaqua	6	2009
Caleb Shilko, Tamaqua	6	2007
Avery Weber, Palmerton	6	2005
Jamie Irvine, Pleasant Vy.	6	2004
Aaron Smith, Jim Thorpe	6	2004
Michael Cody, Jim Thorpe	6	2000
Terry Whalen, Marian	6	2000
Bryan Ahner, Lehigh	6	1997
Jim Pio, Pleasant Valley	6	1997
Rich Watkins, Pleasant Vy.	6	1996
Kody Fedorchka, No. Lehigh	6	1995
Mark Makovec, Marian	6	1993
Fenton Black, Panther Vy.	6	1991

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PANTHER VALLEY



Experienced Panthers hope to improve

BY JEFF MOELLER
TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

With only four starters lost to graduation from last year's team, Panther Valley's Brennan Kunkel has high expectations for his team this fall.

The Panthers finished 2-8 last season, dropping their final six games.

However, winning isn't a staple in Lansford. Panther Valley hasn't had a winning season since 2009 when they were 9-3.

Despite the downslide, Kunkel is optimistic this season will be a winning one.

"I think we can be a very competitive team this year," said the senior running back. "We have put in work all winter and summer, getting stronger and faster.

I think if we execute, we will do really good things.

"We have a lot of returning starters back, such as all our skill positions and the whole line is back."

During late spring, head coach Mark Lavine sent the message and Kunkel and the rest took it to heart.

"I think we can have a decent amount of wins this year," said Lavine, who will begin his third year at the helm. "We have a lot of kids back, probably more this year than when I got here three years ago.

"Most of these kids have come through our program, and we know them now. They have put the time in the weight room, and they look sharp on the field. You

can see how they have developed."

Kunkel will lead the rushing attack that averaged nearly four yards per carry last season. He ran for a team-high 551 yards (4.88 per carry) and scored 12 touchdowns. Against Shenandoah Valley, Kunkel ran for a school-record 328 yards, shattering the previous mark of 294 held by Dale Evans in 1974.

Kunkel is high on the coach's list.

"He had a great offseason," said Lavine about Kunkel. "He worked really hard in the weight room, and has improved his speed. We know he is capable of making some big plays for us this year."

Senior Brady Jones, who caught 18 balls for 342 yards with three touchdowns, is back in the

fold along with fellow senior Logan Fisher, who had eight catches for 155 yards. Kunkel had 12 receptions for 93 yards.

Junior Brody Breiner returns at quarterback. In his first year as a starter, Breiner completed 48 of 130 attempts for 686 yards with four touchdowns.

Yet, Lavine is confident his signal caller will elevate his game with a year of experience behind him.

"Brody came a long way in his first year starting for us last year, and we expect big things from him," added Lavine. "We didn't protect him as well as we should have last year. He is a natural leader and one of our hardest workers.

See **PANTHERS** on Page 27

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

Barring injury, Brody Breiner will be at the controls all season, and his stock is expected to rise. Freshman Chase McArdle is the backup. Running back Brennan Kunkel can also make the switch over to quarterback.

RUNNING BACKS

Brennan Kunkle, who ran for 551 yards and scored 10 total touchdowns a year ago, will get the majority of the snaps here. Junior fullback Marcus Rodriguez (27-115) is expected to see more time. The Panthers would like to "ground and pound."

WIDE RECEIVERS

Senior Brady Jones, who led last year's team with 18 catches and 342 receiving yards, is the prime target back along with fellow senior Frank Shubeck. Senior Logan Fisher will be a tight end. Juniors Gavin Yurichek, Ben Baneravage, and senior Jeremy Phelps will also be in the mix.

OFFENSIVE LINE

This will be a strength will seniors Zack Seifert, Michael Williams, Clinton Dyer and junior Marco Tessitore back. Sophomore Spencer Black will be a first-year starter. Others who should see time are sophomores Jerry Harrison, Carlos Maldonado, and freshman Brody Vermillion. The Panthers will be in a 4-3 alignment.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Marco Tessitore, Clinton Dyer, Spencer Black, and Zack Seifert will rotate on the line. Junior Gino Williams, senior Jeremy Phelps, and sophomore Jerry Harrison should also see time.

LINEBACKERS

The Panthers should have another strength here. Marcus Rodriguez and Logan Fisher return and junior Peter Kurslicky will man the other spot. Brody Vermillion and Gavin Yurichek will see action as well.

SECONDARY

The unit is the most seasoned on both sides of the ball. Brennan Kunkel and Brody Breiner will be at safeties and Brady Jones and Frank Shubeck will be at the corners. Ben Baneravage and Chase McArdle provide depth. The group will anchor the defense.

PANTHER VALLEY

2024 PANTHER VALLEY ROSTER

SENIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Brady Jones	5-10	170	WR/DB
Brennan Kunkel	6-0	180	WR/DB
Frank Shubeck	5-11	155	WR/DB
Clinton Dyer	5-10	240	OL/LB
Michael Williams	5-10	215	OL/DL
Matthew Hoyum	6-0	220	OL/DL
Zack Seifert	6-0	210	OL/DL
Jeremy Phelps	6-2	210	TE/DL
Logan Fisher	6-1	195	TE/LB



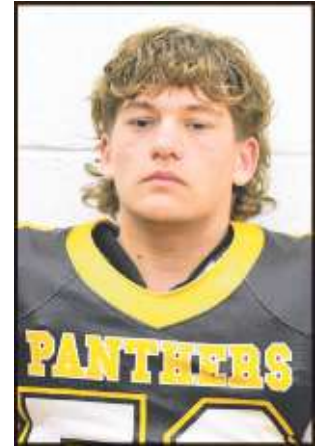
Brennan Kunkel



Brady Jones



Frank Shubeck



Clinton Dyer

JUNIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Gavin Yurichcek	6-3	165	WR/DB
Brody Breiner	5-10	170	QB/DB
Ben Baneravage	6-1	155	WR/DB
Peter Kurslicky	5-10	190	FB/LB
Marcus Rodriguez	5-10	210	RB/DB
Elijah Shepherd	5-10	185	RB/LB
Zack Zabroski	5-10	155	OL/LB
Marco Tessitore	6-2	315	OL/DL
Moses Lozada	5-11	205	OL/DL
Bobby Campomizzi	5-8	145	OL/LB
Michael Richter	6-0	230	OL/DL
Joe Gindhart	5-9	230	OL/DL
Gino Williams	6-1	220	OL/DL



Logan Fisher



Michael Williams



Zack Seifert

SOPHOMORES

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Jerry Harrison	6-0	265	OL/DL
Jayden Ramos	5-7	260	OL/DL
Gabriel Rodriguez	5-6	142	OL/DL
Spencer Black	6-3	245	OL/DL
Carlos Maldonado	6-1	250	OL/DL
James Kelly	6-0	220	OL/DL

FRESHMEN

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Nehemiah Smith	6-3	230	TE/LB
Chase McArdle	6-0	175	QB/DB
Tyler Boyd	6-0	140	WR/DB
Adonis German	5-7	155	RB/LB
Jayden Dealbertis	5-9	150	RB/LB
Troy Nunez	5-6	155	RB/LB
Cy Maynard	6-0	155	TE/DE
Jason Ahn	5-11	165	TE/DE
Brody Vermillion	5-11	180	OL/LB
Lyric Ingrassia	5-4	150	OL/DL
Teegan Brideson	6-0	200	OL/DL

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JIM THORPE



Thorpe possesses quick strike firepower

BY RICH STRACK
TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

In past seasons, many Jim Thorpe football teams have relied on a strong running game, long drives and time clock possessions.

That may not be the manner of the Olympians' offensive attack this season. Opposing defenses will have to prepare for quick air strikes for long touchdowns and ground sizzling runs to the house.

The offensive firepower begins with junior quarterback Cole Lazorick, who last year threw for over 1,700 yards and 16 touchdowns. The dual threat signal caller also ran for 700 yards and nine TDs.

"Cole is an exceptional athlete," said head coach Mark Rosenberger, "and his experience from last year will make him even better as a decision maker when he looks downfield to pass. Besides his athletic ability, he has become a leader by example as

well as a vocal presence when he needs to be.

"In all my years as a coach at Jim Thorpe, he is at the top of the list when it comes to his leadership qualities."

Lazorick will be surrounded by multiple weapons, but his go-to-guy will be senior wide receiver Justin Yescavage. Last season, the pass-catching machine caught 50 balls for 964 yards and seven touchdowns. In 10 of JT's 11 games, Yescavage averaged 10 yards or more for each reception. He can certainly be a game changer.

"Justin is a big weapon for us and has a good chemistry with Cole," said Rosenberger. "He goes up in traffic with great hands for the ball and his route running has been really improving."

Another quick strike receiver is senior Aaron Curran, who Rosenberger says has good hands and runs precision pass routes.

In the backfield — when he's not another long pass target at the slot receiver position — will be junior speedster Joshua Louk. TJ Garritano and sophomore Aiden Irwin play in Rosenberger's "mix and match" multiple set offense. All bring quickness and are breakaway threats to run to paydirt. Fullback Michael Antignani, who will also play middle linebacker on defense, has earned high praise from his coach.

"Michael is a hard-nosed football player. He's unselfish, very physical and a good blocker. On defense he will call our alignments."

The tight end position will be manned by Ethan Moore and Connor Zurzawa, both good blockers with pass catching abilities on routes run over the middle.

The offensive line is mostly a work in progress. Starting will be three underclassmen with junior center Adam Kosciolek and soph-

omore guards Adam Ziolkiewicz and Logan O'Shura. At the tackles are seniors Blake Carroll and Aiden Curran. Rosenberger likes Kosciolek's consistency with his shotgun snaps.

"We have good size, athleticism, and physicality up front," he said. "Carroll and Curran are road graders at the tackles. Everyone has worked hard all summer and come a long way in their pass protections."

Last season, the Olympians scored 231 points — which is above the national average for high school teams. On the other side of the ball, however, the Red, White, and Blue allowed over 300 points — a number the Red Swarm hopes to reduce this coming year to improve upon a 4-7 record.

Rosenberger will rely on his team's quickness to get off the ball to the ball carrier. At defensive ends will be Moore and senior

See **THORPE** on Page 14

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

Dual threat Cole Lazorick returns from a stellar season and is primed to lead the offense. The junior will be a handful for opposing defenses with his strong arm and his fast feet, both with the ability to break a game wide open. Backing up Lazorick will be sophomore Kaden Hess.

RUNNING BACKS

As usual, Thorpe will hand the ball to a committee of athletic running backs. Joshua Louk provides breakaway speed. Sophomore Aiden Irwin has flashed a downfield charge along with TJ Garritano, who can hit the hole with good vision. Fullback Michael Antignani can run inside for tough yards and open gaps with his blocking.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Justin Yescavage is one of the area's top receivers and has game changing ability to go above defenders to make big catches. Senior Aaron Curran has shown the knack for separating from coverage. Pierce Gothard will be another solid weapon for Lazorick. Louk is a burner and given a crease, his speed can light up the scoreboard.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The success of a diverse attack will depend largely on a developing O-line. Junior Adam Kosciolek centers the trenches with sophomore guards Adam Ziolkiewicz and Gavin Baker. Logan O'Shura will work into the rotation. Senior Blake Carroll and junior Gavin Strohl will anchor the tackle positions with physicality. Aiden Curran is in the mix. At tight end will be Ethan Moore while Connor Zurzawa brings good hands for balls thrown underneath coverage.

DEFENSIVE LINE

A return of the Red Swarm tradition depends upon several factors. Keys to stopping the run game will be tackles Strohl and O'Shura. Baker will be in the mix. At the ends are Moore and Carroll, who can stuff the perimeter and rush the passer. Senior Zachary Lopez will work in at the edges with a never-ending motor. Kosciolek will get reps at end.

LINEBACKERS

The ignitor to the defensive fire will be the three mobile and agile second line of defense. Antignani mans the middle with Zurzawa and Hess on the flanks. Irwin, and Mesiah Woodley will back up.

SECONDARY

The back line is solid at the corners with Lazorick and Yescavage. Aaron Curran will spell each of the offensive skill players. Louk and Garritano fill the two safety spots.

JIM THORPE

2024 JIM THORPE ROSTER

Player	SENIORS		
	Height	Weight	Position
Aaron Curran	6-0	171	WR/S
Zachary Lopez	5-1	190	FB/DE
Justin Yescavage	6-1	200	WR/CB
Noah Geiser	5-8	140	K/P
Blake Carroll	6-2	240	T/DE
Jerome Murphy	5-7	350	T/DT
Aiden Curran	6-3	348	T/DE

Player	JUNIORS		
	Height	Weight	Position
Pierce Gothard	5-11	145	WR/CB
Joshua Louk	5-9	165	WR/S
Cole Lazorick	6-0	180	QB/CB
Aiden Garritano	5-7	125	RB/S
Michael Antignani	5-9	195	FB/LB
Aiden Soldavini	5-10	225	G/DT
Adam Kosciolk	6-0	243	C/DT
Mike Jacobs	5-7	190	C/DE
Tobias Garner	5-8	245	G/DT
Gavin Strohl	6-1	281	T/DT
Trelawn Richards	6-2	225	T/DT
Ethan Moore	6-2	220	TE/DE
Connor Zurzawa	5-11	175	TE/LB

Player	SOPHOMORES		
	Height	Weight	Position
Aiden Dugan	5-9	180	OL/D

Ahmeer Woodley	5-8	160	FB/LB
Messiah Woodley	5-9	180	RB/LB
Paxton Novack	6-1	185	QB/S
Kaden Hess	5-10	163	QB/LB
Christian Ortiz	5-5	120	WR/CB
Angel Rivera	5-8	128	WR/CB
Ralph Clay	5-11	145	WR/CB
Aden Irwin	5-9	158	RB/LB
Adam Ziolkiewicz	6-0	215	G/DE
Gavin Baker	5-11	232	G/DT
Logan O'Shura	6-0	205	G/DT
Conlan Chicarelli	6-1	215	T/DT
Jude Zito	5-7	134	WR/CB

Player	FRESHMEN		
	Height	Weight	Position
Spencer Gothard	5-9	135	WR/S
Tyler Hoherchak	5-9	135	QB/LB
Colton Steigerwalt	5-5	100	WR/CB
Colin Rogowitz	5-7	120	QB/S
Anthony Kiehl	5-10	150	WR/S
Dominic Kiehl	5-10	150	WR/LB
Nick Faust	5-10	185	FB/LB
Gaetano Sarnelli	5-8	195	C/DE
Michael Solt	5-6	215	G/DT
Chase Karnas	5-9	180	T/DE
Wesley Silva	5-11	205	T/DE
David Kijewski	5-11	208	T/DE
Scott Pychinka	5-10	165	TE/DE
Mason Jacobs	5-9	148	FB/LB



Jim Thorpe head coach Mark Rosenberger talks to one of his players during a recent practice.

JIM THORPE YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS

Year	Record	Head Coach	Year	Record	Head Coach	Year	Record	Head Coach
2023	4-7	Mark Rosenberger	2011	1-9	Mark Rosenberger	1999	6-4	Mark Rosenberger
2022	3-8	Mark Rosenberger	2010	8-3	Mark Rosenberger	1998	6-4	Mark Rosenberger
2021	7-5	Mark Rosenberger	2009	4-6	Mark Rosenberger	1997	3-8	Adam Sieminski
2020	6-3	Mark Rosenberger	2008	6-4	Mark Rosenberger	1996	5-5	Adam Sieminski
2019	8-3	Mark Rosenberger	2007	9-3	Mark Rosenberger	1995	4-6	Adam Sieminski
2018	9-2	Mark Rosenberger	2006	8-3	Mark Rosenberger	1994	9-2	Adam Sieminski
2017	10-2	Mark Rosenberger	2005	6-4	Mark Rosenberger	1993	8-4	Adam Sieminski
2016	6-5	Mark Rosenberger	2004	10-1	Mark Rosenberger	1992	7-5	Adam Sieminski
2015	8-3	Mark Rosenberger	2003	8-3	Mark Rosenberger	1991	7-4	George Yaniger
2014	7-3	Mark Rosenberger	2002	6-5	Mark Rosenberger	1990	3-9	George Yaniger
2013	7-4	Mark Rosenberger	2001	6-4	Mark Rosenberger	1989	4-6	George Yaniger
2012	1-9	Mark Rosenberger	2000	5-5	Mark Rosenberger	1988	3-6-2	George Yaniger

Report scores and results to the TN Sports department at tnsports@tnonline

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JIM THORPE



Aaron Curran

THORPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Zachary Lopez to protect the edges.

"They are both physical with good motors."

At defensive tackles are sophomore Gavin Baker and junior Gavin Strohl who "explode off the ball and play with physicality."

Antignani will man the Mike linebacker position with junior Zurwawa at the Sam and sophomore Kaden Hess at the Will. Lack of experience at the edges will be countered with their athleticism and effort from the second level of defense.

The strength of the de-

fense is at the corner positions with Lazorick and Yescavage, along with Pierre Gothard rotating in. Aaron Curran will play strong safety and Louk will patrol the deep middle.

Kicking and punting duties will be handled again this year by Noah Geiser, who will come off the soccer fields to boot under the Friday night lights.

Olympian fans should be excited for the new season. Footballs will fill the air toward speedy targets. The running game displays athletic, big play potential with backs who have good downfield vision. A return of the Red Swarm defense could make this one of

many memorable seasons during Rosenberger's long tenure. Like most coaches, he hesitates to predict a number of wins and looks for his team to improve game-by-game.

"Moving into the Colonial League, we have some challenges ahead of us like Southern Lehigh and Northwestern. We need to stay healthy. Everything on offense starts up front. Our line needs to open holes and protect our quarterback. On defense, we are a work in progress and we hope to counter that with athleticism and multiple formations. We're excited and looking forward to getting after it."



Blake Carroll



Justin Yescavage

2023 RESULTS

Jim Thorpe (4-7)

Blue Mtn. 35, **Jim Thorpe 0**
Bangor 39, **Jim Thorpe 14**
Jim Thorpe 48, Salisbury 13
Palmerton 41, **Jim Thorpe 31**
Jim Thorpe 47, Pine Grove 7
Tamaqua 14, **Jim Thorpe 7**
N. Schuylkill 41, **Jim Thorpe 6**
Notre Dame 63, **Jim Thorpe 14**
Jim Thorpe 29, No. Lehigh 6
Jim Thorpe 28, Lehigh 13
Palmerton 37, **Jim Thorpe 7**

Lehigh 2(9-9)

Palmerton 54, **Lehigh 30**
Lehigh 28, Tamaqua 6
Pottsville 28, **Lehigh 7**
Lehigh 50, Wilson 0
Northwestern 49, **Lehigh 0**
Blue Mtn. 41, **Lehigh 13**
Bangor 49, **Lehigh 20**
So. Lehigh 54, **Lehigh 12**
Saucon Vy. 14, **Lehigh 13**
Jim Thorpe 28, **Lehigh 13**
Northwestern 58, **Lehigh 14**

Marian (7-5)

Marian 27, Sch. Haven 0
Minersville 41, **Marian 39**
Catasauqua 28, **Marian 0**

Marian 41, Sayre 7
Marian 12, Nativity 6
Marian 21, Mahanoy Area 13
Marian 30, Shenandoah Vy. 0
Williams Vy. 13, **Marian 6**
Tri-Valley 16, **Marian 6**
Marian 20, Pine Grove 7
Marian 14, Tri-Valley 6
Minersville 28, **Marian 12**

Northern Lehigh (3-7)

Catasauqua 48, **No. Lehigh 22**
Northwestern 48, **No. Lehigh 0**
No. Lehigh 16, Pen Argyl 12
No. Lehigh 45, Pine Grove 20
N. Schuylkill 42, **No. Lehigh 6**
No. Lehigh 45, Salisbury 13
Notre Dame 42, **No. Lehigh 7**
Tamaqua 23, **No. Lehigh 13**
Jim Thorpe 29, **No. Lehigh 6**
Palmerton 47, **No. Lehigh 13**

Northwestern (14-1)

N'western 49, Tamaqua 6
N'western 48, No. Lehigh 0
N'western 28, Blue Mtn. 21
N'western 41, Pen Argyl 7
N'western 49, Lehigh 0
N'western 43, Saucon Vy. 15
N'western 56, Pottsville 14

N'western 35, Bangor 6
N'western 53, Wilson 0
N'western 42, So. Lehigh 14
N'western 58, Lehigh 14
N'western 43, Notre Dame 21
N'western 58, Palmerton 8
N'western 27, Scranton Prep 6
N'western 33, Wyomissing 24
Belle Vernon 38, N'western 7

Palmerton (12-1)

Palmerton 54, Lehigh 30
Palmerton 27, Catasauqua 7
Palmerton 54, Palisades 23
Palmerton 41, Jim Thorpe 31
Palmerton 41, Notre Dame 26
Palmerton 41, Pine Grove 22
Palmerton 60, Salisbury 20
Palmerton 48, N. Schuylkill 24
Palmerton 34, Tamaqua 14
Palmerton 47, No. Lehigh 13
Palmerton 37, Jim Thorpe 7
Palmerton 32, N. Schuylkill 24
N'western 58, **Palmerton 8**

Panther Valley (2-8)

Panther Vy. 20, Salisbury 12
Tri-Valley 42, **Panther Vy. 12**
Mahanoy A. 40, **Panther Vy. 0**
Panther Vy. 39, Shenandoah 21
Minersville 41, **Panther Vy. 28**

Palisades 55, **Panther Vy. 6**
Sch. Haven 73, **Panther Vy. 8**
Catasauqua 55, **Panther Vy. 6**
Pen Argyl 13, **Panther Vy. 0**
Tamaqua 35, **Panther Vy. 7**

Pleasant Valley (6-5)

Becahi. 28, **Pleasant Vy. 0**
Pleasant Vy. 41, Dieruff 14
Pleasant Vy. 14, ES South 12
Pleasant Vy. 49, Allen 6
Pleasant Vy. 42, ES North 13
PM West 28, **Pleasant Vy. 7**
Northampton 42, **Pleasant Vy. 6**
Nazareth 56, **Pleasant Vy. 0**
Pleasant Vy. 21, PM East 0
Stroudsburg 31, **Pleasant Vy. 7**
Pleasant Vy. 28, Gov. Mifflin 19

Tamaqua (5-6)

Northwestern 49, **Tamaqua 6**
Lehigh 28, **Tamaqua 6**
Notre Dame 60, **Tamaqua 13**
N. Schuylkill 38, **Tamaqua 15**
Tamaqua 49, Salisbury 18
Tamaqua 14, Jim Thorpe 7
Tamaqua 42, Pine Grove 3
Tamaqua 23, No. Lehigh 13
Palmerton 34, **Tamaqua 14**
Tamaqua 35, Panther Vy. 7



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Aiden Curran



Noah Geiser



Zachary Lopez



Jerome Murphy

LEHIGHTON



Indians possess talented receiving core

BY ROD HECKMAN
RHECKMAN@TNONLINE.COM

It could be a nice problem to have.

Lehigh's Tom McCarroll, like most football coaches, strives to have a balanced offense.

The threat of running the ball or throwing it keeps defenses honest — and guessing.

But when you possess an obvious strength, it's tempting to rely solely on that talented area.

Such is the dilemma for McCarroll and his staff.

The Indians have a number of skilled receivers this season and hope to give opponents fits by spreading the ball around to those players. But they also don't want to become one-dimensional.

"Anybody in the game will tell you that the more balanced

you can be, the more successful you are," said McCarroll, now in his 13th year at Lehigh. "Our passing game is almost like when you have a basketball team that wants to get out and run. Coach says there's only one ball to go around, so that's kind of how our receiver situation is. They're going to have to be unselfish, but we have guys that I can certainly see on any given Friday night — probably four or five of them — have over 100 yards and do so effectively.

"So I think it will make it difficult for teams to scheme against us. Every year, every team seems to have one or two go-to receivers and a lot of the defenses play coverage toward them, or double team them, whatever it may be. I think with our talent and our

ability, it's going to make it difficult to do that, which means we're going to keep teams honest and increase our chances for success."

Blake Roberts and Joe Roth highlight the impressive receiving crew the Indians, who were 2-9 last season, will display weekly. Roberts snared 42 passes for 424 yards a year ago, while Roth finished with 31 receptions for 366 yards. Caden Meek, who was going to start last season before getting injured, joins those two, while Logan Kent (9-145) is another threat. Kyden Hauser and Ryan Kusse both had strong off-seasons and add to the team's strongest area.

"(Roberts and Roth) were our two leading receivers (last year)," said McCarroll. "We're excited

about both of them. They're big, strong physical kids — both basketball players — so you know they can go up and get the ball. We'll certainly lean on them."

Getting the ball to Roberts, Roth & Co. will be the job of quarterback Jayse Lawrence, who takes over the starting spot from Brady O'Donnell, who has graduated.

"I'm real excited about what he's bringing to the table," said McCarroll about his signal-caller. "He absolutely has stepped up in his leadership, and he really seems like a different player than a year ago. He's taken on that role that every team wants their quarterback to be. He's a vocal leader and he's playing well. So we're excited to get him on the field."

See **INDIANS** on Page 18

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

Junior Jayse Lawrence gets the starting job for the Tribe this year. Lawrence replaces Brady O'Donnell, who threw for 1,403 yards and 13 TDs in 2023. Coach McCarroll says that Lawrence has stepped up his game and is excited about his progress. Backups will be Owen Eckhart and Jack Lucykanish.

RUNNING BACKS

Sophomore Lucas Croizier will get a bulk of the carries with Dylan Moyer (817 yards, 10TDs) having graduated. Senior Lucas Ferguson is a newcomer to the Indian squad and will see some time in the backfield, as will junior Austin Green.

WIDE RECEIVERS

The receiving corps is probably the team's strength. The top threats from a year ago, junior Blake Roberts (42-424) and senior Joe Roth (31-366), return to give Lawrence a pair of big targets. Caden Meek, a junior, is another option for the team's QB while senior Logan Kent, junior Ryan Kusse and sophomore Kyden Hauser provide quality depth at a loaded position. The tight end spot will go to either senior Deven Armbruster or junior Hunter Kintz.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The Tribe have both experience and size returning in the trenches. Seniors Joey Houser, Brock Gower and Yadiel Acosta-Rodriguez anchor the line with sophomore Mark Macias at center. The other starting job will go to either sophomores Preston Digrazia or Jonathan Mayers, or freshman Parker Rodgers.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Lehigh boasts depth on the defensive line with Joey Houser, Brock Gower, Mark Macias, Jacob Ferguson and Yadiel Acosta-Rodriguez all expected to see extended time. Add in Parker Rodgers and first-year Cameron Potts, a senior, and the Indians are hopeful their numbers will improve from 2023.

LINEBACKERS

Four guys will be battling for two positions inside. They include Deven Armbruster, Hunter Kintz, Preston Digrazia and sophomore Asher Traylor. Blake Roberts will start at one of the outside spots with Joe Roth and Ryan Kusse both seeing time at the other spot.

SECONDARY

Logan Kent will man one of the corner spots, with Kyden Hauser leading the way for the other side. The safeties will more than likely be Lucas Croizier and Jayse Lawrence. Caden Meek and Austin Green provide secondary depth.

LEHIGHTON

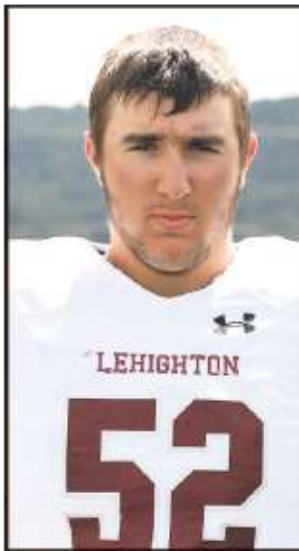
MOST PTS. IN SEASON

(1969-2023)

Name, Team	Year	Pts.
Cody Remaley, NL	2010	256
Nate Boyle, Tamaqua	2019	251
Matt Machalik, Palm.	2023	228
Dalton Clymer, NW	2023	222
Nate Boyle, Tamaqua	2018	211
Brett Snyder, NW	1995	202
Matt Machalik, Palm.	2021	201
Cade Christopher, NW	2022	188
Cody Scherer, Leh.	2017	188
Cody Remaley, NL	2009	186
Mike Tracy, Marian	1980	184
Justin St. Hill, JT	2017	176
Matt Frame, NL	2021	174
Al Donadi, Marian	2000	170
Cam Richardson, NW	2014	166
Robbie Frey, Leh.	2006	164
Nick Hosford, NL	2005	164
Chris Green, Leh.	1991	157
Trevor Amorim, NL	2021	154
Mike Mitchell, PIVy.	2016	154
Robbie Frey, Leh.	2005	154
Josh Snyder, NW	1997	152
Brad Miller, PaVy.	1992	152
Bradley-Chambers, Leh.	2017	148
Jason Figura, JT	2004	148
Wyatt Clements, Leh.	2015	146
K.J. Snerr, Marian	2015	146
D. Nunemacher, Tam.	2012	146
Jacen Nalesnik, Leh.	2011	145
Jarred Muffley, Tam.	2011	144
Brian DeGiosio, PaVy.	1998	142
Jim Agosti, Marian	1976	142
Harry Hall, NW	2015	140
Jake Serfass, NL	2003	140
Ryan Hluschak, NL	2001	140
Paul Martin, Marian	2011	139
Jake Kern, NL	2010	139
Justin Holmes, NW	2021	138
Wyatt Clements, Leh.	2014	138
Ryan Hluschak, NL	2002	138
Matt Machalik, Palm.	2022	136
Joe Semanoff, Leh.	2000	136
Justin Barrasso, Mar.	1998	136
Jason Donadi, Marian	1993	136
Dalton Clymer, NW	2022	134
Josh Snyder, NW	1996	134
Nick Henry, NW	2019	130
T. Guedes, Palm.	2017	130
T. Cunningham, NW	2016	130
Bud Moyer, Tamaqua	2015	130
Brad Walters, NL	1998	130



Deven Armbruster



Joey Houser

2024 LEHIGHTON ROSTER

SENIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Deven Armbruster	5-10	215	TE/LB
Logan Kent	5-7	155	WR/DB
Jacob Ferguson	5-9	170	RB/DL
Joey Houser	6-5	270	OL/DL
Yadiel Acosta-Rodriguez	6-3	250	OL/DL
Brock Gower	6-5	265	OL/DL
Joe Roth	6-1	180	WR/LB
Ethan DiGrazia	5-9	175	TE/LB
Cameron Potts	6-4	235	DL

Kyden Hauser	5-10	175	WR/DB/LB
Nate Dubow	5-9	160	WR/LB
Peyton McLean	5-8	175	RB/QB/LB
Jose Rodriguez	5-7	155	RB/DB
Lucas Croizier	5-9	165	RB/DB
Asher Traylor	5-10	190	LB
Preston DiGrazia	5-9	185	OL/LB
Jonathan Mayers	6-0	220	OL/DL
Mark Macias	5-11	245	OL/DL
Aiden Dugan	5-9	180	OL/DL

JUNIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Equan Warner	5-8	150	RB/DB
Jayse Lawrence	6-0	175	QB/DB
Caden Meek	6-0	180	WR/DB
Ryan Kusse	5-11	180	WR/LB
Hunter Kintz	5-10	210	TE/LB
Blake Roberts	6-2	220	WR/LB
Mason Seidler	5-9	155	WR/DB
Carter Hontz	5-10	165	WR/DB
Austin Green	5-9	170	RB/DB
Makih Breiner	5-9	150	WR/DB
Paiton Kincaid	5-9	170	RB/LB
Bodie Hawk	6-2	210	TE/DL
Anthony Dietrich	5-11	225	OL/LB
Julian Edwards	5-9	190	OL/DL
Ryder Campbell	5-10	225	OL/DL
Philip Ebbert	5-11	175	K

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Cash White	5-10	165	WR/DB
Austin Brooks	5-8	150	WR/DB
Jack Lucykanish	5-5	150	QB/DB
Connor Loy	5-5	145	WR/DB
Ty Nansteel	5-10	170	TE/LB
Jace Graver	5-8	155	RB/LB
Kris Rodgers	5-8	155	RB/DB
Sebastian Yturro	5-7	150	WR/DB
Parker Miller	5-5	145	WR/DB
Isaac Martin	5-8	155	RB/DB
Lucas Voorhees	5-10	190	OL/LB
Nick Blose	5-9	220	OL/DL
Noah Lusch	5-9	160	OL/LB
Nathan Sheckler	6-1	180	OL/DL
Chase Keller	5-11	255	OL/DL
Parker Beltz	5-8	180	OL/DL
Parker Rodgers	6-3	310	OL/DL
Dom Lawrence	5-10	240	OL/DL
Zayden Martinez	5-10	165	OL/DL
Jeremiah Murray	5-10	250	OL/DL
Carl Lingham	6-0	175	WR/LB
Carter Williams	5-11	170	TE/LB

SOPHOMORES

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Owen Eckhart	5-11	160	QB/DB

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LEHIGHTON



Jacob Ferguson



Joe Roth



Yadiel Acosta-Rodriguez



Ethan DiGrazio



Lehigh Valley Lehigh High School assistant coach Mike Lusch gives guidance to players during a recent practice.

2023 TIMES NEWS AREA STATS

Team	W	L	Pct.	Pts. For	Pts. Avg.	Pts. Ag.	Pts. Avg.
Northwestern	15	1	.938	670	41.9	194	12.1
Palmerton	12	1	.923	524	40.3	299	23.0
Marian	7	5	.583	228	19.0	165	13.8
Pleasant Valley	6	5	.545	215	19.5	249	22.6
Tamaqua	5	6	.455	232	21.1	312	28.4
Jim Thorpe	4	7	.364	231	21.0	309	28.1
Northern Lehigh	3	7	.300	173	17.3	324	32.4
Lehigh Valley	2	9	.182	200	18.2	381	34.6
Panther Valley	2	8	.200	126	12.6	387	38.7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

	Rushing			Receiving			
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	No.	Yds.	Avg.	
Machalik, Palm.	176	2250	12.78	Hildebrand, NW	56	703	12.55
Clymer, NW	293	1907	6.51	Sander, Palm.	39	572	14.67
Ecker, PIVy.	190	1254	6.60	Bollinger, NW	27	485	17.96
Sander, Palm.	144	1042	7.24	Louk, JT	29	476	16.41
Dixon, Mar.	215	948	4.41	Roberts, Leh.	42	424	10.10
Newhard, NL	171	898	5.25	Roth, Leh.	31	366	11.81
Moyer, Leh.	177	817	4.62	McGuire, Mar.	13	355	27.31
Whalen, Tam.	122	694	5.69	Gelatko, Mar.	22	352	16.00
Lazorick, JT	164	688	4.20	Matson, NW	24	349	14.54
Tosh, NL	125	591	4.73	Jones, PaVy.	18	342	19.00
Byrs-Robinsn, PIV.	104	555	5.34	Marino, Palm.	17	340	20.00
Kunkel, PaVy.	113	551	4.88	Sell, Tam.	20	299	14.95

	Passing			Scoring					
	Comp	Att.	Yds.	TD	xp2xp	FGPts			
Leh, NW	129	207	1821	Machalik, Palm.	37	0	3	0228	
Lazorick, JT	106	205	1777	Clymer, NW	35	0	6	0222	
Machalik, Palm.	104	209	1529	Sander, Palm.	18	0	4	0116	
O'Donnell, Leh.	125	227	1403	Ecker, PIVy.	16	0	3	0102	
Hopeck, Mar.	78	178	1340	Hildebrand, NW	13	0	2	0	82
Kane, Tam.	62	134	908	Kern, NW	2	67	0	0	79
Breiner, PaVy.	48	130	686	Moyer, Leh.	11	0	3	0	72
Smoyer, NL	39	88	321	Zimmerman, NW	10	0	1	0	62
Bollinger, NW	17	29	232	Kunkel, PaVy.	10	0	0	0	60
Byrs-Robinsn, PIV.	10	40	139	Three tied with	9	0	1	0	56

Good Luck on a Successful Season!



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Good Luck in the 2024 Season!

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PALMERTON



Bombers will be strong in the trenches

BY BRAD HURLEY
BHURLEY@TNONLINE.COM

The Palmerton football team may look different this season, but with a winning foundation solidified over the past three seasons, don't expect the Blue Bombers to lay down.

The loss of a talented senior class will certainly bring on some growing pains, but the Bombers possess an equalizer that could lessen the load for some of their youngsters.

Palmerton will be strong in the trenches in 2024, anchored by a group with both size and experience.

Juniors Logan Anthony (6-4, 320) and Beau Stahler (6-2, 225) will be the leaders of that group. Anthony and Stahler have a ton

of meaningful snaps in championship moments for the Bombers.

"Our strength and our identity is going to be tough and physical play up front. We have great size and good experience with that unit. Logan and Beau are going to be three-year starters for us, and they have played in some big games for us," said Palmerton head coach Chris Walkowiak.

"Then we have three other guys in Mason Konze, Mason Heilman and Colson Ruzicka. Those guys have some snaps to their name as well and got some key playoff experience last season. We always want to be able to run the ball, and I think we have a group up front that is going to help us accomplish that."

Palmerton has good leader-

ship up front, but it loses almost all of its experience from a skill position group that helped the Bombers lead the Times News area in yards per game, averaging almost 414 yards per contest.

Palmerton will need to break in new starters at almost every skill position group.

"Jameson Trainer has stepped into that leadership role for us at quarterback. He's been the backup for a few years now and has been a two-year starter on defense for us. I think already you can see the game slowing down for him on offense and he's gaining confidence there," said Walkowiak.

"Again, we're always going to look to establish the run and we have two sophomore running

backs in Caleb Sagastume (112 rushing yards, 2 TDs) and Cale Young that we're excited about."

Palmerton faithful were used to seeing a ton of explosive plays over the past three seasons that helped the Bombers finish a combined 28-9 over that span. The Palmerton offense may look to be a little more methodical early on as they find what works, but the Bombers' approach will still be the same as in season's past.

"We might be more of a grind-it-out team this season. But our goals are still the same every year — move the sticks, take what the defense gives us and take care of the football," said Walkowiak.

"I don't care what anybody says, winning the turnover battle

See **BOMBERS** on Page 21

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

Senior Jameson Trainer takes over the helm as the signal caller after a few seasons in the backup role for All-State signal-caller Matt Machalik. Freshman T.K. Gursky will serve as the backup this season.

RUNNING BACKS

The Blue Bombers like to run the football, as evidenced by the 3,774 yards and 54 touchdowns they gained on the ground a year ago, and will be depending on junior Caleb Sagastume and sophomore Cale Young to handle the rushing duties this season.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Junior Alex Keiper and senior Aidan Ortiz will headline the Palmerton receiving unit. Junior Vincent Taglieri, and sophomores Connor Lawless and Jacob Walkowiak will also see time. A year ago, the Bombers posted 19 touchdowns through the air.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Expected to be the strength for the Blue Bombers this season, juniors Logan Anthony (guard) and Beau Stahler (tackle) will anchor the unit in the trenches. Sophomores Mason Konze (tackle), Mason Heilman (center) and Colson Ruzicka (guard) will round out the starting group. Junior Ben Andrews and freshman Wyatt Gable will also see time up front.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Logan Anthony is back to lead this group, which will hope to shut down opponents' running game as well as put pressure on enemy quarterbacks. The defensive front will also feature Colson Ruzicka, Beau Stahler, Mason Heilman, Mason Konze and Ben Andrews.

LINEBACKERS

Palmerton is strong at the linebacker spot this season. Jameson Trainer (outside) and Aidan Ortiz (inside) are coming off productive seasons. Junor James Mack (inside) also comes in with experience. Caleb Sagastume and Connor Lawless are also expected to see snaps.

SECONDARY

Alex Keiper returns to lead this group for Coach Walkowiak, whose team intercepted 17 passes last season. Cale Young, Jacob Walkowiak and Vincent Taglieri will also see time in the secondary.

PALMERTON



A Palmerton ballcarrier looks for room to run during a practice.



Jameson Trainer



Aidan Ortiz



Trevor Anthony

2024 PALMERTON ROSTER

SENIORS			
Player	Height	Weight	Position
Jameson Trainer	6-1	170	QB/OLB
Trevor Anthony	6-2	178	K
Aidan Ortiz	5-9	155	WR/LB/DB

JUNIORS			
Player	Height	Weight	Position
Alexander Keiper	5-8	140	WR/DB
Vincent Taglieri	5-7	155	Slot/DB
Floyd Michael	5-10	150	WR/DB
Caleb Sagastume	5-9	165	RB/LB/DB
James Mack	5-11	160	OL/ILB
Ben Andrews	5-9	205	OL/DL
Beau Stahler	6-2	225	OL/DL
Logan Anthony	6-4	320	OL/DL

MOST TD PASSES IN A SEASON (TN AREA, 1987-2023)

Name, Team	TDs	Year	Name, Team	TDs	Year	Name, Team	TDs	Year
Deven Bollinger, Northwestern	35	2019	Cody Scherer, Lehigh	20	2017	Frank Dangelo, Northwestern	17	2013
Brandon Keyes, Pleasant Valley	33	2016	Deven Bollinger, Northwestern	20	2016	Stan Dakosty, Marian	17	2000
Matt Machalik, Palmerton	31	2022	Garrett Perschy, Palmerton	19	2016	Brent Andrew, Marian	17	1997
Deven Bollinger, Northwestern	30	2018	Tyler Cann, Lehigh	19	2015	Cole Lazoric, Jim Thorpe	16	2023
Dylan Smoyer, Northern Lehigh	27	2021	Pat Duvigneaud, Jim Thorpe	19	2011	Zach Moyer, Northern Lehigh	16	2019
Corey Cinicola, Jim Thorpe	27	2008	Erik Pechas, Panther Valley	19	1988	Tekoah Guedes, Palmerton	16	2017
Cazzie Kosciolk, Panther Valley	25	1992	Justin Holmes, Northwestern	18	2021	Aidan McHugh, Pleasant Valley	16	2017
Shane Leh, Northwestern	24	2023	Justin Holmes, Northwestern	18	2020	Brandon Kuehner, Pleasant Valley	16	2014
Corey Cinicola, Jim Thorpe	24	2007	Brayden Knoblauch, Tamaqua	18	2019	Pat Duvigneaud, Jim Thorpe	16	2012
Derrick Walling, Pleasant Valley	23	2010	Chris Whiteman, Lehigh	18	2018	Casey Lawrence, Panther Valley	16	2008
Brandon Leap, Pleasant Valley	22	2012	Brandon Leap, Pleasant Valley	18	2013	Adam Agosti, Marian	16	2006
Frank Dangelo, Northwestern	21	2014	Nate Edmonds, Tamaqua	18	2012	Chris Lucykanish, Palmerton	16	1993
Josh Agosto, Lehigh	21	2010	Matt Falcone, Palmerton	18	2008	Brian Kennedy, Marian	16	1992
Casey Lawrence, Panther Valley	21	2009	Mike Makovec, Marian	18	1990	Bob Eckhart, Lehigh	16	1991
Brandon Williams, Lehigh	21	2007	Matt Machalik, Palmerton	17	2023	Geoff Kruczek, Tamaqua	16	1991

SOPHOMORES

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Nathan Goldstein	5-10	150	WR/DB
Cale Young	5-8	143	RB/Slot/DB
Jacob Walkowiak	5-9	135	Slot/OLB/DB
Hunter Sell	5-7	133	K
Connor Lawless	5-6	140	Slot/DB
Kaiden Nierer	5-11	233	OL/DL
Mason Konze	6-1	255	OL/DL
Mason Heilman	5-9	275	OL/DL
Madden Alexander	5-8	168	OL/ILB
Colson Ruzicka	5-10	265	OL/DL
Cooper Henry	6-1	195	OL/DL
Sebastian Lieberman	5-10	203	OL/DL
Luis Santiago	5-8	215	OL/DL
Chris Collier	5-5	130	WR/OL/DB

FRESHMEN

Player	Height	Weight	Position
TJ Weller	5-8	145	QB/DB
Lucas Mertz	5-2	102	WR/DB
Ben Negley	5-7	125	Slot/OLB
Connor Buck	5-7	128	WR/DB
T.K. Gursky	5-5	120	QB/DB
Gaven Meixsell	5-8	140	WR/DB
Michael Garey	5-8	160	RB/ILB
Ryan Sammy	5-6	145	RB/OLB
Wyatt Gable	5-11	245	OL/DL
Parker Davis	5-10	166	TE/OL/ILB

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PALMERTON



Palmerton players battle one-on-one during a rainy preseason practice.

BOMBERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

week in and week out is one of the most important keys to winning and losing football games.”

“The Bombers’ strength in the trenches on offense will need to also translate over to the defensive side of the ball as their starters along the offensive front will also see a lot of defensive action.

Anthony had a nice year inside on defense last season, collecting 59 tackles, including 16 tackles for loss and four sacks.

Defense is also where Palmerton does return its most experience with linebackers Trainer (58 tackles), Aidan Ortiz (39 tackles) and James Mack (18 tackles). Junior Alex Keiper also returns and

will anchor the secondary (27 tackles, 2 interceptions).

“Defensively, we have looked fast. I like our speed with that unit. I also like our versatility. Up front and at linebacker I think we can move a lot of guys around to different spots, which is always nice to have,” said Walkowiak.

“We have some experience on that side of the ball, and we always preach to just do your job. Do your job and the next guy does his job, and that’s how you play good defense.

“Overall, I just really like this team. They have been working hard, they’re scrappy and they play hard. It’s been a spirited camp so far, so we’re just looking forward to getting better every single day and getting out there and competing.”



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NORTHERN LEHIGH



‘Dawgs appear to be back on right path

BY JEFF MOELLER
TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

Last season, Northern Lehigh head coach Joe Tout and his team quickly discovered how a key injury and some inexperience can change the landscape.

The Bulldogs entered 2023 as two-time District 11 Class 2A champs, and they knew there would be some transition in the process.

Junior quarterback Ayden Oswald wanted to be a wide receiver for a play during practice, and the light motion turned into a major catastrophe. Oswald suffered a season-ending ACL tear, and fate flipped against them.

Freshman Garrett Smoyer did an admirable job as his replacement, and three other freshmen were in the lineup at season's end.

It ended with a disappointing 3-7 season.

This summer, Tout and his troops believe they are back on

the path. The Bulldogs have plenty of depth on both sides of the ball, as budding sophomores and juniors were battled-tested last year.

“We have a mix of young and older players,” said Tout. “We have a number of sophomores in the mix, a solid junior class, and a big senior class.”

“We were competing during camp, and there was a talented group of guys coming through. With depth, we are able to put our best 11 guys on the field.”

In the early going, Tout stated that both Oswald and Smoyer will handle the quarterback duties. Smoyer threw for 321 yards with four touchdowns and six interceptions last season.

“They are both different in their approach,” said Tout. “Andrew is a good runner, and Garrett is probably more of an accurate passer. They are both leaders and can get the job done.”

Junior Grady Newhard ran for 898 yards and scored six touchdowns, and he'll be the feature back. Sophomore Chris Frame, who ran for 262 yards, will be counted on for his speed. Sophomore Mason Rothrock and senior Isaac Raber will also be in the rotation.

Tout has continued to tout his tandem that will be integral to their offensive production.

“We believe we will have a strong run game with Grady Newhard and Chris Frame with both of them seeing time at running back. With their talent and speed, we can develop into an explosive offensive team.”

Brody Sterner returns at wide receiver, but Tout has been impressed with Ryan Zambo and Reese Lipsky, both of whom will bring speed to the overall equation.

The line lost three multi-year performers, but it again will be a

key to their success.

Three-year starter and senior Landon Moll will work on both sides of the line, and fellow senior Noah Herring is also expected to be a two-way performer. Moll and Herring will be on the right side, and senior center Eli Grady brings experience.

Twins Amir and Emil Mustafin, who just began playing football two years ago as linebackers, should play a major role on the defensive line.

Despite having some holes to fill, Tout is optimistic that there will be enough depth to avoid having a number of two-way starters.

“We need to develop our line after losing three starters,” said Tout. “We only return Landon Moll at end and must replace the three other positions. Noah Herring has been solid at the other end position, and we will play multiple players at defensive

See **DAWGS** on Page 24

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

A year ago, Ayden Oswald — now a senior — went down with a season-ending knee injury in practice, and then-freshman Garrett Smoyer took over. This season, both are expected to see time.

RUNNING BACKS

Junior Grady Newhard will be the feature back, but sophomore Chris Frame is expected to see plenty of time due to his speed. Both of them will be at tailback. Sophomore Mason Rothrock and senior Isaac Raber will split time at fullback.

WIDE RECEIVERS

The Bulldogs will be looking for sophomore Ryan Zambo to have a breakout year, using his speed to his advantage. Senior Reese Lipsky also should be a prime target. Senior Brody Sterner and sophomore Colin Karetsky should also have their share of touches. Senior Zane Roth and sophomore Chase Gall will battle at tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Three-year starting guard Landon Moll and senior returnee Cyrus Kinchen will provide a strong right side. Senior Eli Grady will anchor at center, and juniors Kayden Novicki and Adam Neff will be at left guard and tackle respectively. Freshman Dawson Newhard will be the backup at center, Senior Noah Herring and sophomore Landen Klimek will work behind at guard, and seniors Brody Rothrock and Josh Haldaman will provide backup at tackle.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Landon Moll will begin the season as the team's lone two-way starter. He'll be at one end and junior Nate Kuhns will be on the other. Landen Klimek and sophomore Bill Slattery will also see time at end. Noah Herring and senior twins Amir and Emil Mustafin will be at the tackles.

LINEBACKERS

Issac Raber will be in the middle, and he had a good camp. Newhard and Rothrock should get the nod at the other spots. Lipsky, Kaden Quinones and Chase Gall will figure in the mix.

SECONDARY

This unit has the chance to take the biggest leap this season. Chris Frame, Ryan Zambo, and Colin Karetsky started as freshmen and made huge strides. Junior Ethan Grozier will be on another starter. Brody Sterner, Ayden Oswald, Garrett Smoyer, and Noah Gosart round out the chart.

NORTHERN LEHIGH



Ayden Oswald



Brody Sterner



Reese Lipsky



Landon Moll



Amir Mustafin



Isaac Raber



Eli Grady



Emil Mustafin



Noah Herring



Ken Belen



Josh Haldaman



Cyrus Kinchen



Northern Lehigh players get set prior to a play during a preseason practice. RON GOWER/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES NEWS

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NORTHERN LEHIGH



Brody Rothrock



Austin Malick



Zane Roth



Chris Taveras



Seth Schaeffer



Logan Berfield

2024 NORTHERN LEHIGH ROSTER

SENIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Brody Sterner	5-7	145	WR/DB
Ayden Oswald	5-11	180	QB/DB
Logan Berfield	5-9	150	K
Seth Schaeffer	5-9	165	WR/DB
Noah Roth	5-6	150	RB/LB
Reese Lipsky	5-11	170	WR/DB
Isaac Raber	5-9	190	RB/LB
Yomar Sostre	5-8	150	WR/DB
Chris Taveras	5-11	185	TE/DE
Ken Belen	5-9	225	OL/DL
Noah Herring	6-0	205	OL/DE
Amir Mustafin	5-7	165	OL/DL
Emil Mustafin	5-7	160	OL/DL
Eli Grady	5-6	190	OL/DE
Landon Moll	5-11	200	OL/DE
Brody Rothrock	5-11	230	OL/DL
Cyrus Kinchen	6-3	295	OL/DT
Josh Haldaman	6-2	245	OL/DL
Zane Roth	5-10	180	TE/DE
Austin Malick	6-2	170	WR/DB/P

JUNIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Noah Gosart	5-5	130	RB/DB
Kaden Quinones	5-9	145	RB/LB
Ethan Grozier	6-1	160	WR/DB
Grady Newhard	5-7	190	RB/DB
David Perez	5-11	130	OL/DL
Patrick Conway	6-2	250	OL/DL
Kayden Novicki	5-9	240	OL/DT
Adam Neff	6-0	250	OL/DL
Jonathan David	6-1	280	OL/DL

Darius Adens	5-5	130	WR/DB
Nate Kuhns	5-10	235	TE/DE

SOPHOMORES

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Chris Frame	5-9	160	RB/DB
Garrett Smoyer	5-9	155	QB/DB
Ryan Zambo	5-9	145	WR/DB
Mason Rothrock	5-10	165	RB/DB
Colin Karetsky	6-1	165	WR/DB
Andrew Rudolph	5-9	145	TE/LB
Chase Gall	5-10	155	TE/LB/P
Kaiden Smith	5-1	110	WR/DB
Carter Thomas	5-4	120	WR/DB
Jolcris Monegro	5-7	130	WR/DB
Armani Hoffman	5-11	150	WR/DB
William Slattery	5-11	180	TE/DE
Anthony Hanna	5-7	150	K
Rocco Landosca	5-4	180	OL/DL
Giovanni Marino	5-6	160	OL/DT
Landen Klimek	5-9	200	OL/DL
Rami Quaziz	5-8	160	WR/DB

FRESHMEN

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Christian Fortino	5-5	140	WR/DB
Caleb Oswald	5-9	150	QB/DB
Keith Lectora	5-6	130	RB/DB
Hayden Lilly	5-9	155	TE/LB
Bryan Debias	5-2	135	WR/DB
Brayden Nance	5-10	180	TE/DE
Bryce Nance	5-10	180	RB/LB
Bill Kennedy	5-10	200	OL/DL
Dawson Newhard	5-8	195	OL/DL
Anna Treleasae	5-4	130	



A Northern Lehigh player runs with the ball during a recent practice.

DAWGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22
tackle.”

Newhard and Lipsky have moved to linebacker, and Raber has looked solid at middle linebacker.

Tout also is anxious to see if the secondary can take the next step. Frame, Zambo and Colin Karetsky all started as freshmen last season. Junior Ethan Grozier is penciled in as the other starter.

Like the offense, Tout sees speed as the prime factor for success on the opposite side of the ball.

“Defensively, we feel that our team speed will be our strength,” he stressed. “We are moving two starters from defensive back to

linebacker and hope that will give us a faster back seven to our defense.”

Overall, Tout has high expectations and anticipates his team being in the postseason hunt. The Bulldogs will open against Lehighton — a 4A school — and they also have Northwestern — a 3A school that played in the state title game on their schedule.

“We will be a very competitive team this year, and we expect to compete for a district title,” said Tout. “Even though the schedules have changed, we feel playing a 3A or a 4A school helps us.

“If we take care of our schedule, it will take care of us. We feel we can compete with any school in District 11 this year.”

NORTHWESTERN



Tigers to form new identity this season

BY MIKE HAINES
MHAINES@TNONLINE.COM

Fans and the media still want to talk about Northwestern's run to the state title game last year.

Tiger head coach Josh Snyder, while proud of that team and all it accomplished, doesn't want live in the past.

"I'm anxious for this season to start just to turn that page completely," Snyder said. "It was a special group, but we've got to be fair to this group. It's their time now. It's their time to find their identity.

"We're going to be a different football team that's just as explosive, that's just as capable of making a run. It's just about doing it and finding your identity, digging deep, taking one game at time and finding out who your

leaders are as the season goes."

Snyder knows who at least a few of the leaders are who will take over that role from graduates Dalton Clymer, Blaine Snyder, Devon Hildebrand, Daniel Jenkins and Ben Walters.

Several key players are back from last year's team, which graduated just five seniors, including four offensive starters and five on defense.

The Tigers are bringing back quarterbacks on both sides of the ball. Junior Shane Leh is back under center, while safety Eli Zimmerman will be the QB of this year's defense.

Leh threw for 1,816 yards and 24 touchdowns last season, while running for another 466 yards and nine scores.

"Shane is going to be really good

this year," said Josh Snyder. "He had a great year as a sophomore starting 16 games. The big difference between last year and this year is his feel for the offense. He's on the same page with me. The playbook is wide open.

"He knows where guys need to get lined up. He's extremely accurate. His feel and grasp of the offense is really good. I think he's up for a really good year."

On the other side of the ball the Tigers have three all-state players returning.

Zimmerman, an all-state defensive back in 2023, set a Colonial League record with 10 interceptions. He also made 39 solo tackles, 24 assisted stops and recovered a pair of fumbles.

"He's a special player back there," said Snyder. "He's our

quarterback of the defense. He always gets us into the right coverage and the right position.

"He has a real knack for reading the quarterback and really driving on the ball. And he can go get it. He high-points the ball and out-efforts the offensive guys for the football. He's a ball hawk."

Zimmerman is an explosive punt returner who averaged 15.2 yards per return and took one for a touchdown last season. He'll also be the Tigers' starting running back this year after rushing for 499 yards and six scores last year.

The Tigers need to make up for the graduation of Clymer, who rushed for 1,930 yards last year. His 291 carries led the team by 229, as Leh's 63 were second on

See **TIGERS** on Page 26

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

Junior Shane Leh returns as the starter after a stellar season. He'll have a better grasp of the offense this year, allowing the Tigers to open up the playbook a bit more. Behind him will be capable back up Mason Bollinger.

RUNNING BACKS

Eli Zimmerman will get the bulk of the Tigers' carries, while Seth Kern will also be in the mix. The short-yardage back could also emerge to take some of the load from Zimmerman, a two-way player and special teams standout who will be on the field for nearly every meaningful snap this season.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Mason Bollinger and Landen Matson were a big part of last year's receiving corps. They'll be joined this year by Seth Kern and possibly sophomore Michael Legow. Josh Wambold and Shane Hulmes will play tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Three return in seniors Jared Meck (right guard), Bryer Reichard (right tackle) and Jackson Bailey (left guard). Senior Jeremiah Gornicz (center) and junior Colton Poll (left tackle) will join them.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Bryer Reichard is coming off an all-state season at end. Nose guard Jackson Huber is the team's top returning tackler. Jared Meck, Ethan Steigerwalt, Josh Wambold, Jackson Bailey and Colton Popp are all candidates to take over at the other end position.

LINEBACKERS

Three of five graduates need to be replaced. All-state Shane Hulmes returns in the middle. Landon Matson is back on the outside. Mason Bollinger and Josh Wambold are likely to earn two of the open spots, with Braxton Lakatos, Brendan Miller, Evan Wagstaff and Michael Boring in the mix to earn a linebacker position.

SECONDARY

Eli Zimmerman, an all-state safety last season, returns with Seth Kern coming back on one corner back position and the other still undetermined heading into the team's first and only scrimmage last week.

NORTHWESTERN



Jared Meck



Eli Zimmerman



Joshua Wambold



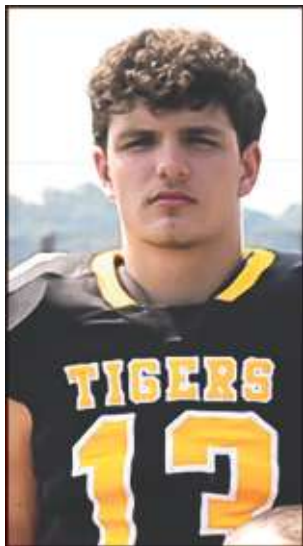
Bryer Reichard



Jackson Huber



Jeremiah Gornicz



Landen Matson



Northwestern coaches look on during one of the team's preseason practices.



Brendan Miller

JACKSON HUBER

NORTHWESTERN LEHIGH TIGERS

Wishing you and your team another successful season!

Love,
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TIGERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

the team, followed by Zimmerman at 52 totes.

With the strength of this year's offensive line, the Tigers expect to be able to run the ball effectively, maybe even at will.

Three linemen return for the Northwestern offense in seniors Jared Meck (right guard), Bryer Reichard (right tackle) and Jackson Bailey (left guard).

Reichard, a two-way player who made 32 solo tackles, 54 assisted stops

and a team-high 10 sacks last year, will anchor the line on both sides of the ball. Reichard also made nine tackles for loss in 2023 when he earned all-state recognition as a linebacker.

Another leader on the defensive front will be nose guard Jackson Huber, who had 16 solo tackles, 40 assisted tackles and three sacks last season.

"One of those two-gap nose guards," Snyder said of Huber. "He can get double-teamed without being driven and at the same time make plays going up and down the line."

Thanks to winning by the mercy rule in eight games last season, a lot of Northwestern players saw playing time on a team that went 15-1 and didn't lose until the state final.

"We've got a lot of guys back with a lot of experience," said Snyder. "You look at the mercy-rule games, the nonstarters probably played four or five full games last season. So that's a ton of experience."

One area that will be a question mark heading into the season, and maybe for a few weeks early-on, is the Tiger linebacking

corps.

Three of Northwestern's five graduates were starting linebackers. They accounted for more than 300 tackles last year, with inside linebackers Clymer (52 solo, 79 assisted) and Blaine Snyder (50 solo, 82) leading the team and Hildebrand (29 solo, 38 assisted) making an impact on the outside.

Junior Shane Hulmes is the top returning tackler for the Tigers and one of the team's three returning all-state players. He will return to his middle linebacking spot. As a sophomore he made 50 solo stops

and 66 assisted tackles last year. He also forced a team-high three fumbles, made seven tackles for loss and tallied 3.5 sacks.

Josh Snyder has a good idea who three of the four players are who will join Hulmes at the position, but the situation could remain fluid for a few weeks.

"We can't just reach into a hat and pull out three all-league linebackers," he said. "It's going to be a work in progress. The scrimmage is going to be really important. Even as the season rolls on that could be a work in progress."

NORTHWESTERN



Seth Kern



Jackson Bailey



Austin Schaller



Northwestern runs through a play at a recent practice.

2024 NORTHWESTERN ROSTER

SENIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Eli Zimmerman	5-8	160	RB/S
Landen Matson	5-11	178	RB/LB
Seth Kern	5-10	165	WR/CB
Joshua Wambold	6-0	180	TE/LB/DE
Jeremiah Gornicz	6-1	202	C/DL
Jared Meck	5-10	206	G/DE
Bryer Reichard	6-4	240	T/DE
Jackson Bailey	5-11	207	G/DE
Austin Schaller	5-9	223	OL/DL
Jackson Huber	5-10	299	OL/DT
Brendan Miller	5-9	161	TE/LB

JUNIORS

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Colin Macaulay	6-1	160	WR/S
Shane Hulmes	6-0	207	TE/LB
Kemurry Morgan	5-7	159	WR/CB
Braxton Lakatos	5-7	170	RB/LB

Mason Bollinger	6-2	186	WR/LB
Shane Leh	6-1	173	QB/DB
Michael Boring	5-10	202	RB/LB
Evan Wagstaff	5-8	175	RB/LB
Ethan Steigerwalt	5-10	207	OL/DL
Colton Popp	6-0	220	T/DE
Braidon Berk	5-10	195	OL/DL
Craig Snyder	5-10	193	OL/DL

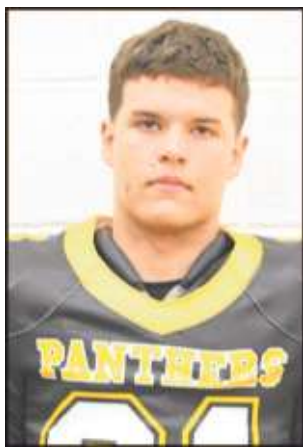
SOPHOMORES

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Brady Zimmerman	5-8	139	RB/LB
Michael Lagowy	6-0	151	WR/CB
Michael Mish	6-0	157	TE/LB
William Turner	5-8	142	WR/CB
Jesse Yenser	5-4	139	RB/CB
Rhys Trotter	6-0	181	OL/DL
Luke Rennells	5-6	190	OL/DL
Robert DiGiacomo	5-8	176	OL/LB
Harrison Wertman	6-1	185	OL/DL

Jesse Long	5-7	235	OL/DL
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FRESHMEN

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Chase Sukanick	5-6	127	QB/CB
Landon Gauweiler	5-8	142	RB/LB
Kendall Wikert	5-9	134	WR/S
Kollin Stringer	5-7	162	RB/LB
Lucian Sterling	5-8	140	WR/CB
Matthew Rogers	5-5	148	WR/LB
Nicholas Whitney	5-9	150	TE/LB
Devin Rex	5-8	198	OL/LB
James Oxford	5-10	201	OL/DL
Nolan Koehler	5-7	162	OL/LB
Timmy Coaxum	5-6	196	OL/DL
Mack Hausman	5-10	163	OL/DL
Logan Grubb	5-6	165	OL/DL
Fritz Scheirer	6-1	180	OL/DE
Maddox Hurdle	5-11	274	OL/DL
Rhonin Jonassaint	5-7	125	WR/CB



Jeremy Phelps

PANTHERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"He is ready to take charge."

Up front, the Panthers should be a solid unit with senior center Zach Seifert, who returns after missing all last year with an injury, along with seniors Clinton Dyer and Michael Williams at guard. Junior Marco Tessitore, a two-year starter, and sophomore Spencer Black will be at the tackles.

Most of them will be

playing on both sides of the line.

"We're very happy with what we have up front," said Lavine. "With this line, we believe we can run the ball and control the clock. These guys are experienced and we want to build on that."

Senior Logan Fisher and junior Marcus Rodriguez are back at the linebacker spots along with junior Peter Kurslicky.

The Panthers' secondary will be the early strength of the unit with

Kunkel and Breiner at safeties and Frank Schubeck and Brady Jones at the corners. Each of them brings at least two years of experience.

Defense will be the key for the Panthers, as they allowed nearly 39 points per contest last season. They also were flagged 52 times last year, four more than their opponents. In addition, the Panthers were outscored 289-84 in the first half of games last season.

"How we play defensively will determine how far

we can go," said Lavine. "We just missed too many tackles last year. These guys know that they have to tighten things up. Their time in the weight room, and their overall experience will help."

With a solid offensive core, the Panthers need to find ways to generate more than their 12.6 points they averaged last season.

"We feel like we can be more balanced this year, and throw the ball more," said Lavine. "Our offensive line is strong, and we want

to be able to run the ball and control the game.

"But we will rely on our passing game as well."

With more numbers in camp and a positive vibe, Lavine believes his club can have an effective campaign. The Panthers will open the season at Salisbury, a team they beat 20-12 in the opener last year.

"We have some depth at a few positions, and that will be a big help," Lavine said. "We like what we have seen, and we'll be ready to go."

PLEASANT VALLEY



Pleasant Valley hoping to retool quickly

BY KYLE MAGDA
TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

Pleasant Valley finished last season on a good note, rallying from a 19-point deficit to defeat Governor Mifflin for the Eastern Conference 5A/6A title.

The Bears, however, face a challenge this season having lost 20 seniors to graduation.

Among the departed are quarterback Valentino-Byers Robinson and running back Alex Ecker, who were catalysts on offense. Also gone is Dakota Lucas, who had a solid season defensively and on special teams.

Ecker led the team with 16 touchdowns and finished with 1,254 yards (third among area players) on 190 carries. His 16 touchdowns ranked fourth among

area players.

Byers-Robinson was second on the team with 555 yards rushing on 104 attempts and seven scores. Lucas made three grabs for 32 yards for an offense that attempted just 44 passes last season.

“That’s two years in a row that we’ve lost 20 seniors,” said Pleasant Valley head coach Blaec Saeger. “They are some big names that are going to be tough to fill.”

Junior quarterback Jaxson Haines takes over for Byers-Robinson. Haines saw some playing time in the past, and won the job to start for the Bears.

“He backed up last year as a sophomore,” Saeger said. “He was in competition all summer, but after the scrimmage, it appears the job is going to be his. With Val

Byers-Robinson departing after being a two-year starter, Jaxson has some big shoes to fill. We just need Jaxson to be Jaxson.”

Getting a bulk of the carries this season will probably be senior Aiden Lollis and junior Isaac Westerman. The two backs will fill Ecker’s spot in the backfield.

Lollis was third on the team with 140 yards rushing, while Haines also carried the ball 10 times for 43 yards.

Pleasant Valley finished with 2,435 yards rushing last season — third most in the area — but threw for just 167 yards, the fewest among the nine Times News squads.

Look for that gap to close this season.

“We’re looking to throw the

ball more this year,” Saeger said. “We have some kids that can run-and-catch.”

Haines can throw to senior Tyler Berger for big plays down the field.

The Bears will be in the new-look Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Monroe Division with Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg North, Pocono Mountain West, Pocono Mountain East and East Stroudsburg North.

“The division appears to be pretty wide-open,” Saeger said. “I know Stroudsburg has some returners and they always have a solid team. East Stroudsburg South, the same, and Pocono Mountain West are both very-well coached. Pocono Mountain East

See **BEARS** on Page 29

POSITION BREAKDOWN

QUARTERBACKS

Junior Jaxson Haines takes over for graduated Valentino-Byers Robinson at quarterback. Haines saw some snaps last season and performed well in the team’s scrimmage. Byers-Robinson ran a lot in the offense and Haines will have to adapt to the style of running that PV uses. Don’t be surprised if the Bears also throw the ball more.

RUNNING BACKS

Senior Aiden Lollis and junior Isaac Westerman expect to get most of the carries for the Bears. The duo replace Alex Ecker, who had a 1,000-yard rushing season as a senior. Lollis is a three-year starter for PV and Westerman enters his third year for Coach Saeger.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Senior Tyler Berger leads the way for the Pleasant Valley receiver core. QB Jaxson Haines can also find junior Ajani Wheeler as a target and sophomore William Breuer will also line up as a receiver. The Bears, who completed only 12 passes a year ago, will look to throw the ball a little more this season.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The only returning starter on the offensive line for the Bears is senior Nick Marsh. Marsh will play right tackle and the offense will be lean on him a lot. Senior Mike LaFiura joins Marsh on the line, while Brady Cerrone and juniors Brad Serfass and McGregor Edward complete the front for the Bears.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Nick Marsh, Mike LaFiura and Brad Serfass will be the three starters on the defensive line. Defense was the name of the game for the Bears last season and the three will face a tough task when they play the Lehigh Valley powerhouse teams. Serfass is playing varsity football for the first time.

LINEBACKERS

Isaac Westerman and Aiden Lollis will be the inside linebackers for PV and there is competition for the outside backers. Sophomores Chris Ward and Jacob George will get one of the spots as a starter. Ward and George show the youth of the team. Ajani Wheeler and Tyler Berger are vying for the other outside linebacker spot.

SECONDARY

Both of Pleasant Valley’s starting cornerbacks from last year graduated. Sophomore William Breuer will get one of the spots and the other CB spot will go to either Justin Delgado or Quinn Kauffman, with the other one a reliable backup.

PLEASANT VALLEY



Deytan Ayers



Shay Kimmick



Mark George



Quinn Kauffman



Mike La Fiura



Aiden Lollis



Dan Baker



Brady Cerrone



Nick Marsh

BEARS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

has a brand new coach. I'm not really sure what East is going to have. East Stroudsburg North has improved. We're very young, so I don't know where we slot in."

The Bears have a tall task ahead of them with a younger team, and the primarily run-heavy offense — which scored 19.5 points per game — will have a challenge with Ecker gone and the carries rotating between Lollis and Westerman.

Defensively, Pleasant Valley has been solid under coordinator Brian Miller. The Bears ranked third in the area with 253.2

yards per game allowed, while surrendering 22.6 points per contest.

The Bears were 4-1 through the first half of the season a year ago, with their only loss coming to Bethlehem Catholic in the season opener. They went 1-4 in the second half, with a win over Pocono Mountain East in the annual Bucket Game.

A return to the postseason, where Pleasant Valley will compete in Class 5A, begins tomorrow with a rematch at Governor Mifflin.

The Bears will be looking to start strong, and carry the momentum of the Eastern Conference title game victory into a new year, writing a new chapter for the program.

GOOD LUCK, BEARS!

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Pleasant Valley players run through a drill during a preseason practice.

PLEASANT VALLEY

2024 PLEASANT VALLEY ROSTER

Player	SENIORS		Position
	Height	Weight	
Deytan Ayers	5-6	150	RB/DB
Dan Baker	6-0	165	QB/DB
Russell Berger	5-6	165	K
Tyler Berger	5-11	175	WR/LB
Brady Cerrone	6-0	215	OL/DL
Justin Delgado	5-7	135	RB/DB
Mark George	5-10	220	OL/DL
Quinn Kauffman	6-0	170	RB/DB
Shay Kimmick	6-0	225	OL/DL
Michael LaFiura	6-0	275	OL/DL
Aiden Lollis	5-8	180	RB/LB
Nick Marsh	6-2	255	OL/DL
Frank Megna	6-0	225	OL/DL

Player	JUNIORS		Position
	Height	Weight	
Adam Ahmed	6-0	160	RB/LB
Keenyu Bonnettmartin	6-0	160	WR/DB
Blaise Brown	6-5	340	OL/DL
Kevin Caron	5-10	180	RB/LB

Logan Czura	5-11	265	OL/DL
John Depaul	5-9	185	OL/DL
Levi DeSanto	5-9	160	WR/DB
McGregor Edward	5-10	175	OL/DL
Uriah Gearhart	6-2	175	WR/DB
Jaxson Haines	5-10	160	QB/DB
Stephen Matera	5-9	140	WR/DB
Ricky Merklin	5-11	200	OL/LB
Noah Reese	6-1	190	OL/DL
Brody Santo	5-7	150	WR/DB
Andrew Schmidts	6-1	175	WR/DB
Bradley Serfass	5-8	215	OL/DL
London Smith	5-8	145	WR/LB
Marcelus Solt	5-10	180	RB/DB
Anderson Soto	5-8	165	RB/DB
Isaac Westerman	5-8	185	RB/LB
Ajani Wheeler	6-2	200	WR/LB

Player	SOPHOMORES		Position
	Height	Weight	
Anthony Antonucci	5-7	150	WR/LB
William Breuer	6-5	200	WR/DB

Tyler C. Brown	5-6	130	RB/DB
Tyler F. Brown	5-10	160	RB/LB
Mason Carlo	5-10	180	OL/DL
Nick Colella	6-1	200	OL/DL
Sam Deemer	5-8	175	OL/DL
Jacob George	6-0	175	RB/LB
Collin O'Neil	6-4	285	OL/DL
Benjamin Orlick	5-10	250	OL/DL
Emil Restea	5-8	150	WR/DB
Maximus Shelly	5-8	250	OL/DL
John Treantafelo	5-11	250	OL/DL
Chris Ward	5-10	175	RB/LB
Nate Walter	6-0	215	OL/DL
Malachi Watt	5-8	230	OL/DL
Matthew Watt	5-9	260	OL/DL
Brandt Wines	5-10	200	QB/LB
Colson Ruzicka	5-10	265	OL/DL
Cooper Henry	6-1	195	OL/DL
Sebastian Lieberman	5-10	203	OL/DL
Luis Santiago	5-8	215	OL/DL
Chris Collier	5-5	130	WR/OL/DB

Did you know? PV rallied from a 19-point deficit to defeat Governor Mifflin in last year's 5A/6A Eastern Conference title game. The Bears own the all-time biggest TN comeback (23 points in 2014).

Go Bears!

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1st PLACE



Tyler Berger



Justin Delgado

Report scores to tnsports@tnonline.com

MOST RUSHING YARDS, SEASON (TN AREA)

(1989-2023)

Name, Team	Yards	Year
Brett Snyder, Northwestern	2,367	1995
Cody Remaley, No. Lehigh	2,322	2010
Robbie Frey, Lehigh	2,272	2005
TaQuan Bradley-Chambers, Lehigh	2,255	2017
Matt Machalik, Palmerton	2,250	2023
Cody Remaley, No. Lehigh	2,155	2009
Robbie Frey, Lehigh	2,028	2006
Dalton Clymer, Northwestern	1,907	2023
Cade Christopher, Northwestern	1,888	2022
Nate Boyle, Tamaqua	1,877	2019
Harry Hall, Northwestern	1,830	2014
Nick Hosford, No. Lehigh	1,717	2005
Matt Frame, No. Lehigh	1,692	2021
Chris Siracuse, Palmerton	1,689	1998
Wyatt Clements, Lehigh	1,669	2015
Harry Hall, Northwestern	1,651	2015
CJ Selby, Jim Thorpe	1,640	2019
Ryan Hluschak, No. Lehigh	1,638	2002
Cody Scherer, Lehigh	1,584	2017
Joe Semanoff, Lehigh	1,576	2000
Harry Hall, Northwestern	1,572	2013
Ryan Saunders, Jim Thorpe	1,570	2013
Justin St. Hill, Jim Thorpe	1,557	2017
Matt Machalik, Palmerton	1,542	2021
K.J. Snerr, Marian	1,534	2014
Jim Hope, Tamaqua	1,509	1990
Robbie Heller, Jim Thorpe	1,483	2015
Matt Rizzo, Marian	1,472	2007
Al Donadi, Marian	1,449	2000
Mike Mitchell, Pleasant Valley	1,447	2016
Dalton Clymer, Northwestern	1,445	2022
Brad Walters, No. Lehigh	1,434	1998
Jake Serfass, No. Lehigh	1,419	2003
K.J. Snerr, Marian	1,395	2015
Josh Snyder, Northwestern	1,392	1997
Justin Barrasso, Marian	1,385	1998
Cody Remaley, No. Lehigh	1,377	2008
Shane Edwards, Jim Thorpe	1,375	2010
Nate Farber, No. Lehigh	1,367	2014

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SCHEDULES



Mark Rosenberger

Jim Thorpe

August

23 - vs. Palmerton
30 - at Pottsville

September

6 - vs. Blue Mountain
13 - at Tamaqua
20 - vs. North Schuylkill
27 - at Southern Lehigh

October

4 - vs. Catasauqua
11 - at Northwestern
18 - vs. Bangor
25 - at Lehighton



Tom McCarroll

Lehighton

August

23 - at Northern Lehigh
29 - vs. Bangor

September

6 - at Southern Lehigh
13 - vs. Palmerton
20 - at Northwestern
27 - at Pottsville

October

4 - vs. Blue Mountain
11 - vs. Tamaqua
18 - at North Schuylkill
25 - vs. Jim Thorpe



Billy O'Gurek

Marian

August

23 - vs. Hanover
30 - at Tri-Valley

September

5 - vs. Panther Valley
13 - at Shenandoah Vy.
21 - vs. Mahanoy Area
27 - at Minersville

October

4 - vs. Schuylkill Haven
11 - at Williams Valley
18 - vs. Pine Grove
25 - at Nativity



Joe Tout

No. Lehigh

August

23 - vs. Lehighton
29 - at Northwestern

September

7 - at Pen Argyl
13 - vs. Palisades
20 - at Palmerton
27 - at Notre Dame

October

4 - vs. Wilson
11 - at Catasauqua
18 - vs. Salisbury
25 - vs. Saucon Valley



Josh Snyder

Northwestern

August

23 - vs. Wilson
29 - vs. Northern Lehigh

September

5 - at Bangor
13 - at Blue Mountain
20 - vs. Lehighton
27 - at North Schuylkill

October

4 - vs. Pottsville
11 - vs. Jim Thorpe
18 - at Tamaqua
25 - at Southern Lehigh



Chris Walkowiak

Palmerton

August

23 - at Jim Thorpe
30 - vs. Pen Argyl

September

6 - at Saucon Valley
13 - at Lehighton
20 - vs. Northern Lehigh
28 - at Wilson

October

4 - vs. Palisades
11 - vs. Salisbury
18 - at Notre Dame
25 - vs. Catasauqua



Mark Lavine

Panther Vy.

August

23 - at Salisbury
30 - at Schuylkill Haven

September

5 - at Marian
13 - vs. Pine Grove
20 - vs. Nativity
27 - at Tri-Valley

October

4 - vs. Williams Valley
11 - at Shenandoah Vy.
17 - vs. Mahanoy Area
25 - vs. Minersville



Blaec Saeger

Pleasant Vy.

August

23 - at Governor Mifflin
30 - at Dieruff

September

6 - vs. Exeter Township
12 - vs. Parkland
20 - vs. ES South
27 - at Nazareth

October

3 - vs. ES North
11 - at PM East
18 - vs. PM West
25 - at Stroudsburg



Sam Bonner

Tamaqua

August

24 - at Pen Argyl
30 - vs. North Schuylkill

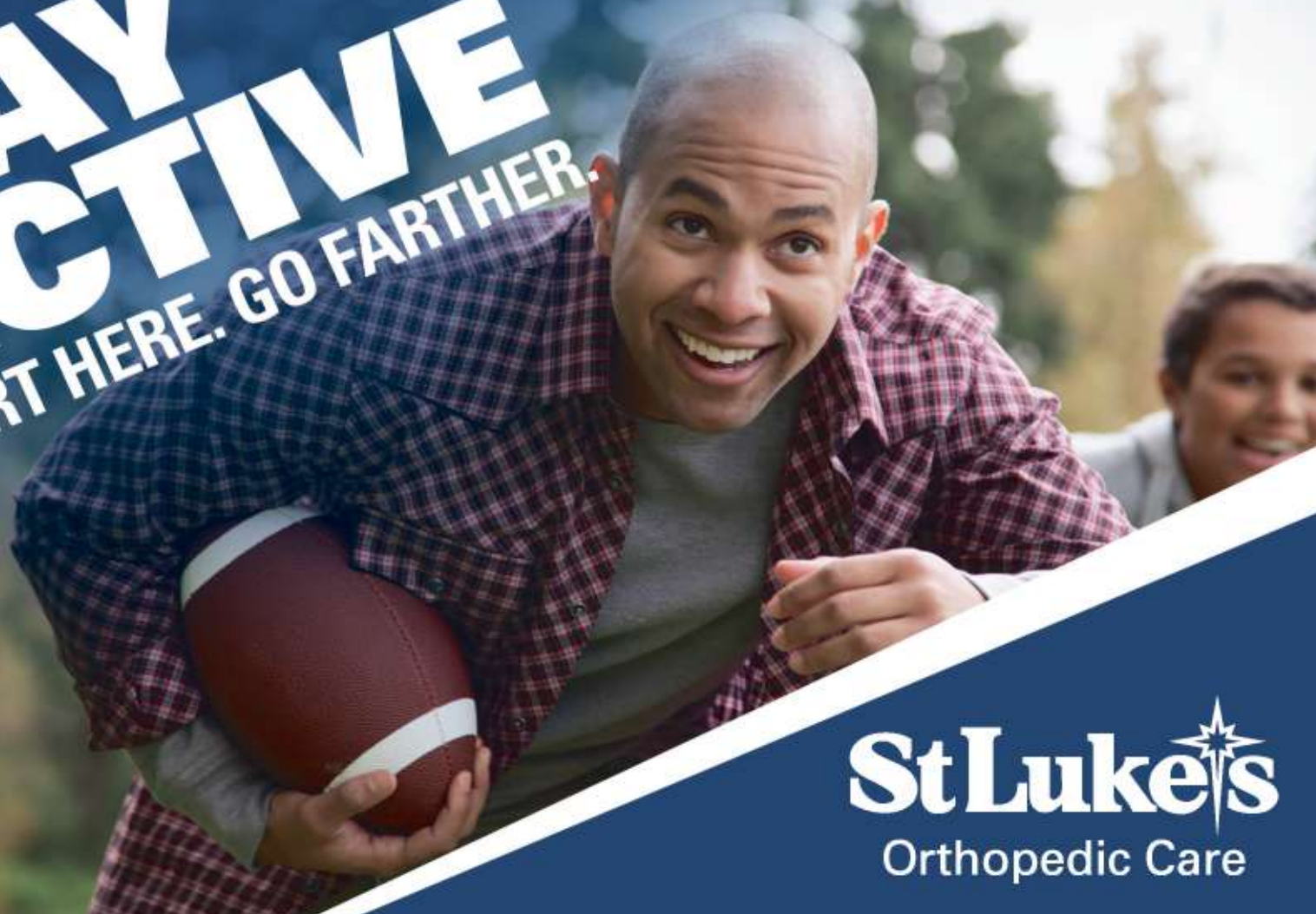
September

6 - at Pottsville
13 - vs. Jim Thorpe
20 - at Salisbury
27 - vs. Bangor

October

4 - at Southern Lehigh
11 - at Lehighton
18 - vs. Northwestern
25 - vs. Blue Mountain

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