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# Crusaders looking to run past opponents

## Kopulos back to carry load on ground

By Tom Badger  
Freeman Correspondent

WAUKESHA — If you bump into a member of the Catholic Memorial football team this fall, you might get a quick, "Sorry, gotta run," response from the Crusader.

That's just the way CMH's legendary, Hall of Fame coach Bill Young wants it.

"We have to run the ball," said Young, who begins his 41st year as head coach of the Crusaders this season, his 45th overall. "Last year, we struggled with that.

There were six games where we averaged something like 2.6 yards (per carry) or less. The No. 1 emphasis is to be able to run."

The lack thereof showed up in the Division 3 Level 3 playoff game with New Berlin Eisenhower.

"We were 9-3 a year ago and had a good year in the league at 7-2," Young said.

"We won our first two playoff games and met a really good New Berlin Eisenhower team that was the eventual state runner-up. The score was 7-0, however, they ran

the ball and controlled the clock while we struggled to run the ball. Our kids have focused in ever since that loss in Level 3."

On offense, the Crusaders will fill the quarterback void left by Ben Nimz with one of his favorite targets from last year — junior Luke Fox (6-foot-1, 175 pounds).

"He's a four-sport athlete here at Memorial and really just a terrific kid," Young said.

The Crusaders who are

See CMH, PAGE 5



Robert F. Borkowski/Special to The Freeman

Catholic Memorial's Tate Kopulos gains a few yards as he runs with the ball against Waukesha North during a game last season.

# Speed kills for Northstars

## Kelliher ready for next step at quarterback

By Tom Badger  
Freeman Correspondent

WAUKESHA — "Fast Times at Northstar High."

That's how Matt Harris sees the Waukesha North football season playing out in 2018.

"This is the fastest team that I've ever had," said Harris, who begins his fifth year

as head coach of the Northstars. "In my first year here, we probably had two kids run the 100-meter dash faster than 12 seconds. We've got about 18 in this group, including a couple that are running sub-11 (seconds). We are super fast."

The Northstars are also tall, especially at the quarterback position. Junior Johnny Kelliher (6-foot-3, 190 pounds) came to camp this summer nearly five inches taller than last season.

"Last year, Johnny was 5-11 and 165 pounds," Harris

See NORTH, PAGE 5

## Waukesha North

**Coach:** Matt Harris (fifth season 2017: 4-5 overall, 3-5 conference)

**Key returning players:** junior QB Johnny Kelliher, junior WR Chimere Dike, senior WR Ben Sorge, senior OL Jared Thompson

**Promising newcomers:** junior LB Javi Diaz, senior OL JR Shiddell, senior OL/DL Logan Yahnke, freshman DL Gabe Cheaney

**Key graduation losses:** Will McDonald, Sean Szori, Tony DiPiazza, Izzy Bacon

# Weight room transforming Blackshirts' culture

## McNello heir apparent at QB

By Daniel Mike  
Freeman Correspondent

WAUKESHA — As he enters his third season as the Waukesha South football coach, AJ Raebel is seeing the results of his team's effort in previous years.

"We've finally got a weight room culture," Raebel said. "We had 300 athletes in the

### Waukesha South

**Coach:** AJ Raebel (third season)

**2017 record:** 2-8 overall, 0-8 Classic 8

**Key returning players:** senior OL Matt Garrity, senior TE Manny Martinez, senior WR Isaiah Garcia

**Promising newcomers:** senior Jacob Pilon, sophomore Ezequiel Diaz

**Key graduation losses:** QB/DB Grayson Cooley, OL Hector Becerra, OL Jack Lehmann, WR Ryan Weninger, LB Dawson Sayles, LB Carter Krenz

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** at Oconomowoc

**Aug. 24:** Waukesha West

**Aug. 31:** at Mukwonago

**Sept. 7:** Waukesha North

**Sept. 14:** at Arrowhead

**Sept. 21:** Muskego

**Sept. 28:** Catholic Memorial at Carroll

**Oct. 5:** Kettle Moraine

**Oct. 12:** Wauwatosa East at

weight room every day all summer. It was difficult to establish, but we are there now."

That weight-room work will be beneficial as the Blackshirts go head-to-head with some of the large Classic 8 teams this season.

"Last year we tried to make up for what we thought was a relatively undersized O-line," Raebel said. "We weren't able to go toe-to-toe with power, so we had to do different things to keep defenses on their heels to move the ball. We did that effectively, but it's difficult to score in the red zone when you do have to go toe-to-toe."

As his team has grown and added some strength, Raebel

is hopeful that it will be able to win more battles in the trenches, which will pay off both on offense and defense.

"Up front, we are a much bigger team than in past," he said. "Our front seven on defense is going to be really tough. I think for the first time in as long as I've been with the program, we'll be able to consistently stop the run and force teams to pass on us."

"We'll be less flashy on offense, but hopefully we'll be able to control the game and play more traditionally because we're not playing from behind."

Last year's offense relied heavily on Grayson Cooley, an All-Classic 8 quarterback.



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Waukesha South's Jacob Pilon, center, and Isaiah Garcia take down Oconomowoc's Ryan Hayes during a game last season.

This year, sophomore Jordan McNello (6-foot, 175 pounds) will lead the offense. Raebel said McNello was an easy choice to take over behind center.

"He did a 42-foot triple jump with a 10-foot start on his first try," Raebel said. "He's an insanely athletic young man, and he's an experienced at quarterback having, played there in youth football and last year. He's not where

Grayson was with arm strength but is a sophomore with better athleticism.

"He's young, and we can coach him up. He's definitely the heir apparent."

Senior Matt Garrity (6-3, 240) will lead the offensive line, while McNello will have experienced targets in senior tight end Manny Martinez (6-1, 180) and senior wide receiver Isaiah Garcia (6-0, 175).

The biggest goal for the

Blackshirts this year is to improve on last year's 0-8 Classic 8 record.

"We still have fewer than 60 kids on the team," Raebel said. "We did a good job of developing the athletes we have, but we don't have very many. The 55 kids we have are intense competitors and hold each other accountable."

"The culture is where we need it to be — have a good culture and hope to grow it."

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# Young Wolverines hoping to stay on top of Classic 8

## Mikulak takes over for MacCudden at running back

By Dave Radcliffe  
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262-513-2655

WAUKESHA — Waukesha West has been a perennial power under Steve Rux, having only missed the playoffs twice in his 18 years as head coach.

In fact, the Wolverines have advanced to at least Round 3 of the postseason in each of the last five years, which included a pair of runner-up finishes in the WIAA Division 2 tournament.

West finished 12-1 last season, falling one win shy of its third state appearance in five years.

It certainly wasn't the way a loaded and decorated senior class wanted to go out,

but that's now in the past, and the Wolverines will have to rely on several inexperienced players to step in to keep their highly regarded football program a well-oiled machine.

"We've got a good mix of seniors and juniors, and a couple sophomores that are playing up with varsity right now to see if they're ready to play at the varsity level," Rux said. "It's a pretty normal year for us this year. We're usually 50-40, 60-40 seniors and juniors, where last year we were very senior-dominant, which is unusual for us."

A ridiculous amount of production came from a senior class that featured 17 all-conference performers.

West most notably loses three players who were all-state, including Classic 8 Conference Offensive Player of the Year Peter MacCudden, who played running back, defensive back and punter, two-way lineman Bryce Texeira and fullback/linebacker Tyler Zirpoli.

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** vs. Kettle Moraine  
**Aug. 24:** at Waukesha South  
**Aug. 31:** vs. Oconomowoc  
**Sept. 7:** at Germantown  
**Sept. 14:** at Mukwonago  
**Sept. 21:** vs. Waukesha North  
**Sept. 28:** at Arrowhead  
**Oct. 5:** vs. Muskego  
**Oct. 12:** at Catholic Memorial

But the Wolverines have had a knack for pumping out 2,000-yard rushers over the years, and next in line could very well be senior Sam Mikulak (5-foot-9, 175 pounds).

"Sam Mikulak ran for over 800 yards last year so he's definitely going to be our No. 1 at running back," Rux said.

Mikulak, who received all-conference honorable mention as a junior, found the end zone eight times on the ground and features a similar build to MacCudden, who rushed for over 2,000 yards in his senior season.

The most question marks

### Waukesha West

**Coach:** Steve Rux (19th season)  
**2017:** 12-1 (8-0 in conference, Classic 8 Conference champions)

**Key returning players:** senior OL Nick Hanke (honorable mention all-conference), senior RB Sam Mikulak (honorable mention all-conference), senior DB Trent Remmers (second team all-conference)

**Promising newcomers:** sophomore OG Devin Black, sophomore ILB LJ Griffin

**Key graduation losses:** RB/LB Peter MacCudden, OL Bryce Texeira, FB/TE Tyler Zirpoli, OL Christian Sheedy, DL Sam Huggett (first team all-conference), DE Dustin Baker, OLB Ben Cameron

for the Wolverines might be at wide receiver after losing their top five pass catchers from a season ago.

"At wideout, Trae Tetzlaff and Alex Regenfelder are guys who are seniors," Rux

See **WEST**, PAGE 5



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Waukesha West's Sam Mikulak runs for a touchdown during a WIAA Division 2 semifinal game against Brookfield Central last season.



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# North

## From Page 2

said. “Now he is just short of 6-4 and 190 pounds so he’s a little big more equipped to handle varsity football now. He was just a little boy last year. He’s grown up. Johnny Kelliher is a cerebral quarterback and a real student of the game. He knows this offense like the back of his hand. We’re just lucky to have him because he’s going to make this thing go.”

The Northstars have two second-team, all-conference receivers back in junior Chimere Dike (5-11, 170) and senior Ben Sorge (5-9, 165). Junior Rafa Martinez (5-9, 165) was all-conference honorable mention. Senior Jake Lee (5-10, 170) will also be in the mix.

“Chimere’s speed has gone through the roof,” Harris said. “His hands are incredible as is his route running ability. He is a prototypical wide receiver. I’ve had some really good wide receivers since I’ve been coaching, but Chimere is the best wide receiver at his age that I’ve ever seen. It won’t be long. After a couple of games, his (scholarship) offers are going to start popping. That’s how good he is.”

When the Northstars run, Kelliher will give the ball to juniors Kai Lermer (6-2, 170) and Zach Miller (5-9, 165).

On the offensive line, the Northstars will be counting on senior JR Shiddell (6-5, 235) and senior Everett Vallier (6-3, 265)

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 17:** vs. Muskego  
**Aug. 24:** at Catholic Memorial  
**Aug. 31:** vs. Kettle Moraine  
**Sept. 7:** at Waukesha South  
**Sept. 14:** vs. Oconomowoc  
**Sept. 21:** at Waukesha West  
**Sept. 28:** vs. Mukwonago  
**Oct. 5:** at Wauwatosa West  
**Oct. 12:** at Arrowhead

at right and left tackle, respectively; all-conference senior Jared Thompson (6-4, 300) and senior Logan Yahnke (5-11, 255) at the guard spots and Ryker Robarge (5-11, 255) at center.

The D-line is set up with senior Daniel Arellano (5-9, 205) in the middle, alongside senior Josh Fischer (6-2, 245) and junior Josh Schultz (5-11, 215) at ends.

The Northstar linebacker troop is led by junior Javi Diaz (5-11, 185) and junior Nelson Liu (5-10, 195) in the middle with outside help from junior Saul Gonzalez (5-10, 180) and senior Isaiah Cambronero (5-10, 170).

In the secondary, Dike will pull double duty and play defensive back along with senior Alex Lesperance (6-1, 175), while the North safeties are senior Ben Mazzone (5-10, 170) and senior Riley Brey (6-0, 170).

“The back of our defense — linebackers and D-backs — are so fast that it’s incredible,” Harris said. “Our speed on defense is going to be our strength.”

Junior Austin Peters is back

legrini (6-5, 275) and junior Sam Bautz (6-2, 260) at the tackles.

Junior Sergio Carini (6-0, 262) is expecting to return to help by midseason from an offseason basketball injury, Young said.

The D-line will be anchored by junior noseguard Jason Guzniczak (6-2, 292), and sophomore J.C. Latham (6-6, 270) and senior three-year starter Luke Hubley (6-1,241) at the end spots.

Behind the front wall, linebacker spots will be filled by junior Jake Koslo (6-1, 220), junior Joey Goetz (6-2, 205), senior Dominic Hoffmann (5-9, 192), junior Ben Kreul (6-3, 221) and Dakovich. Sikma, senior Matt Schultz (5-10, 169), senior Joe Oechsner (5-9, 162) will be counted upon in the Crusader secondary. Anderson (5-10, 162) is battling with Fynaardt and Will Rothmeier (5-10, 163) for the final starting spot.

Place-kicking responsibilities



Sue Boyer/Special to The Freeman

Waukesha North quarterback Johnny Kelliher throws a pass against Oconomowoc last season.

for his third year as the Northstar place kicker while Lesperance will help out with the punting.

The Northstars open the season Aug.17 at home against Muskego, whom Harris lists as a top team in the Classic 8 Conference.

“I think we’re going to make

the next step,” Harris said. “We’re kind of playoffs or bust right now. Especially for us, sometimes you have to find a little luck in this conference.

“We’re going to be right there again making a run to make the playoffs. If we make the playoffs, we’re going to make a ton of noise.”

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 17:** at Mukwonago  
**Aug. 24:** Waukesha North  
**Aug. 31:** at Arrowhead  
**Sept. 7:** Muskego  
**Sept. 14:** at Hamilton  
**Sept. 21:** at Kettle Moraine  
**Sept. 28:** Waukesha South  
**Oct. 5:** at Oconomowoc  
**Oct. 12:** Waukesha West

will fall on Fox while Kreul will handle the punting duties.

“Everybody’s hopes are really high right now,” Young said. “No one has played a game yet and no one has a loss yet. Our emphasis is to get bigger, faster, stronger which is everybody’s goal and we’re in the process of getting better than we were a year ago.”

Young sees Muskego, followed by Arrowhead, as the top teams in the Classic 8 Conference.

## Catholic Memorial

**Coach:** Bill Young (41st season)  
**2017:** 9-3 overall, 7-2 conference  
**Key returning players:** Senior RB Tate Kopulos, junior QB Luke Fox, senior DE Luke Hubley  
**Promising newcomers:** Junior DB/WR Daniel Fynaardt, junior DB/WR Chrys Stringfellow, junior LB Joey Goetz  
**Key graduation losses:** C.J. Goetz, Ben Nimz, Dylan Schubbe, Michael Naze

“We don’t ever talk about winning a state championship or a conference title,” Young said. “We want to win four (games) to get into the playoffs. With the size of our school, we have to be dialed in and put all of our emphasis on our first opponent — Mukwonago. We’ve got some talent and we’re excited about the opportunity to see how we can play.”

# West

## From Page 4

said. “Trae’s looked really good. He’s done a great job. He also plays at corner.”

Tetzlaff (6-0, 160) had seven catches for 161 yards last season. Regenfelder (5-11, 155) saw time at quarterback and wide receiver, but will start junior Brooks Blount (5-11, 155) behind center.

“We started that transition late in the season so he learned the position,” Rux said Regenfelder. “He did good things at wideout and when Brooks got hurt in the second round, he took us through the third round and then played the game against (Brookfield Central) in the semis, so if we had any trouble at quarterback and something happened to Brooks, we can transition right to Alex.”

Blount was the team’s leading passer as a sophomore, completing 55.1 percent of his throws for 1,030 yards and 12 touchdowns with seven interceptions. He also rushed two scores and more than 100 yards.

“We lost him in the second round last season, but he had an outstanding year last year,” Rux said. “He knows what we’re trying to accomplish and he’s looking very solid at that position.”

West also lost a pair of first-team all-conference offensive lineman to graduation in Texeira and Christian Sheedy, but brings back senior and honorable-mention center Nick Hanke (5-11, 205) as well as, senior guard Ryan Galbari (5-10, 230).

“Then there are a number of other guys stepping in,” Rux said. “I think they’ve put in the time in the offseason. I think they’re prepared. The learning curve is very big so each day they go out there and get a little bit better.”

Transitioning from the offensive line to fullback is senior Josh Barth (5-8, 215), while Zach Seidl (5-11, 185) shifts over from receiver to tight end.

Rux believes his strongest unit on the team, offense or defense, will be a secondary anchored by senior second-team all-conference defensive back Trent Remmers (6-2, 175) and senior Trenton Tucker (5-8, 170), who was the team’s third-leading tackler in 2017.

“He’s done a great job at corner,” Rux said of Remmers. “He’s also played some wide receiver for us in different sets. He’s really solid. We have Trent Remmers and Trenton Tucker and Pierce Hudson playing back there, he’s a junior now.”

At linebacker, senior Max Peters (5-8, 155) has the most experience among returning varsity players.

“He’s doing a great job in the middle, and then there are several other guys fighting for other spots at linebacker,” Rux said.

“On the defensive line, Zach Busalacchi (6-4, 200) is a guy who’s a senior. He had significant game experience last year. The other guys playing defensive line are guys who were sophomores last year and juniors coming in, so they’re learning a little bit each day and working hard.”

Rux and his talented senior class led the Wolverines to a perfect regular season and Classic 8 title a year ago. But West will have its hands full, to say the least, if it wants to repeat that showing.

“I think Muskego is always loaded with talent and physical kids,” Rux said. “Their sophomore class was very talented so this year they have some really good players coming back.

“Catholic Memorial, I would say, is up there also. They had a number of really good senior players who graduated, but also some young guys who are very athletic and talented. And Arrowhead, I’d imagine, will be much better this year. It has that tradition.”

# Arrowhead has holes to fill on offense, defense



Robert F. Borkowski/Special to The Freeman

Arrowhead's Jacob Schleicher catches a touchdown pass against Muskego last season.

## Warhawks must replace 14 all-conference players

By Chuck Delsman  
Freeman Correspondent

TOWN OF MERTON — For the first time in a lot of years, Arrowhead's highly successful football program has to replace a lot of graduated players.

Third-year coach Fritz Rauch has to find bodies to make up for the loss of 14 players who earned all-league honors in the Classic 8 Conference in 2017.

But Rauch thinks his team is up to the task. He knows he lost some gifted kids from one year ago, but likes the group he has coming back.

"We lost a lot of quality kids to graduation from last year and don't think that I wouldn't like to have all of them back," Rauch said. "But losing those kinds of players happens to every team every year.

"Those kids were great for us, but out of total respect for those kids, I like the group we have this season. They've worked hard in the offseason

and have reported in great shape.

"The great thing about football is starting over each year. Right now it's about finding some new guys to replace those who have left."

The Warhawks finished 5-5 in Rauch's first year in 2016 and last year jumped to 7-4. In both years, they made the playoffs, losing in round one in 2016 and then falling to Fond du Lac in the second round, 17-14, last season.

Advancing to the WIAA playoffs is commonplace for Arrowhead. The Warhawks qualified for the playoffs a Waukesha County record 22 consecutive years and 26 times in the last 27 seasons. That's the highest total in county history and the ninth-highest number of postseason appearances in state history.

In the 21-year history of the Classic 8 Conference, the Warhawks have won the most championships with 10, including four in a row from

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

Aug. 16: at Marquette  
Aug. 24: at Muskego  
Aug. 31: Catholic Memorial  
Sept. 7: at Kettle Moraine  
Sept. 14: Waukesha South  
Sept. 21: at Oconomowoc  
Sept. 28: Waukesha West  
Oct. 5: at Mukwonago  
Oct. 12: Waukesha North

### Arrowhead

**Coach:** Fritz Rauch (third season)

**Key returning players:** senior DL Jack Hazod, senior WR Jacob Schleicher, senior QB/DB Nic Wohlfiel, senior OL Jalen Webster, senior OL Matt Fried

**Promising newcomers:** senior DL Will Paulson, senior RB Robbie Lindemann, junior RB Josh Nielsen

**Key graduation losses:** senior QB Jeff Holtz, senior K Alex Norz, senior C D.J. Dean, senior DL Alex Tanke, senior LB John Doleschy, senior DB/P Chandler Pulvermacher, senior LB Zach Hastings, senior DL Michael Riege, senior LB Connor Hanley.

earned all-conference honors in 2017.

Senior defensive end Jack Hazod (6-foot-2, 240 pounds) and senior wide receiver Jacob Schleicher (5-10, 170) both made the honorable-mention list. Schleicher caught 21 passes one year ago, averaging a hefty 21.2 yards per reception

See **ARROWHEAD**, PAGE 10

# KM's solid nucleus looking to contend in Classic 8

## Lasers coming off second-round playoff berth

By Chuck Delsman  
Freeman Correspondent

WALES — Will the trend continue this season for the Kettle Moraine football team?

That's the biggest question surrounding the Lasers this season as they begin the third year of play under energetic head coach Justin Gumm.

Gumm's first season at KM was 2016 and the Lasers finished 4-5 overall and 3-4 in Classic 8 Conference play. Last season things improved dramatically for the Lasers. Kettle Moraine finished tied for fourth place in the conference with Arrowhead at 5-3 and closed out the season with a 7-4 mark. That was just the second time in the last nine seasons that the Lasers finished with a winning record.

The Lasers also advanced to the WIAA postseason play-

offs one year ago, defeating Verona in the first round (28-19) before falling to Sun Prairie in round two (38-14). That marked the first playoff appearance for KM since 2008.

Can the Lasers deliver another big campaign this season?

"We really don't have any goals as far as numbers go," Gumm said. "We just want to continue on the right track, moving forward. We're process-orientated and if we stick to that, the results will take care of themselves.

"I like the group of kids we have this season. They've had a good offseason and I think some of that has to do with our success one year ago. I like the direction we're going."

While KM lost a talented group of all-conference players (nine) to graduation, the

cupboard is not empty for Gumm and the Lasers. Six players are back from 2017 who earned all-conference honors.

Senior kicker Blake Wilcox (6-foot-4, 190 pounds) — one of the best in the state — was a first-team selection last season. Earning second-team status were junior lineman Trey Wedig (6-7, 285), senior defensive back Caleb Hotchkiss (5-1, 170) and senior running back Eli Weis (6-1, 190). Senior receiver Will Knutson (5-11, 175) and senior defensive back Hunter Denor (5-10, 175) earned honorable mention.

"There's no doubt we lost some very talented kids from last year," Gumm said. "We're definitely not going to be as deep as we were last season. But we've got some good

See **KM**, PAGE 7



Mary Langenfeld/Special to The Freeman

Kettle Moraine running back Eli Weis runs behind a block during a WIAA Level 2 playoff game against Sun Prairie last season.

# Warriors poised to make another deep run in playoffs

## Makinen, Bosshart look to lead Warriors' potent offense

By Andrew Wagner  
Freeman Correspondent

MUSKEGO — After falling a game short of a playoff spot in 2016, the Muskego Warriors went into their offseason with a singular goal of getting back to the postseason in 2017.

That effort paid off as Muskego tied for second in the Classic 8 Conference with a 6-2 record and advanced all the way to the state semifinal before falling to Sun Prairie, 26-21, the deepest run by a Warriors team since 1994, when they made it to the state title game.

Now, with a returning group heavy on experience on both sides of the ball, Muskego comes into the 2018 campaign with an eye on taking another step forward.

"It was a huge motivation to come so close," said coach Ken Krause, entering his 11th season at the helm. "Our first goal, always, is to make the playoffs; then focus on a conference championship and then, hopefully, a state championship."

"We gained a lot more confidence (last season)."

As training camp has progressed this season, Krause has watched his team pick up where it left off last year, both in terms of performance and personality.

"Last year's group did a nice job of embracing the underclassmen," Krause said. "We always have to count on sophomores and juniors to start. This year's group has taken it up another notch. Practice this year has been fun. Kids are working with each other, teaching each other. Everyone wants to get better."

Offensively, the Warriors bring back plenty of talent at the skill positions,

### Muskego

**Coach:** Kenneth Krause (11th season)

**2017:** 9-4 (6-2 Classic 8)

**Key Returning Players:** QB A.J. Makinen; RB/WR R.J. Bosshart; LB Jacob Peardon; LB Nate Stewart; LB Lenny Roecker; PK Lucas Amaya; CB Joey Mlachnik

**Promising Newcomers:** Brian Gruehn; CB Mitchell Kudronowicz; OL Terrin Hey; FB John Reiske; RB Hunter Woller.

**Key Graduation Losses:** FB Cody Krause; OL Sam Kurth; LB AJ Spychal LB; Brady Bloomer LB.

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug 17:** at Waukesha North

**Aug 24:** vs. Arrowhead

**Aug 31:** at Brookfield East

**Sept. 7:** at Catholic Memorial

**Sept. 14:** vs. Kettle Moraine

**Sept. 21:** at Waukesha South

**Sept. 28:** vs. Oconomowoc

**Oct. 5:** at Waukesha West

**Oct. 12:** vs. Mukwonago

including senior quarterback AJ Makinen (6-foot-1, 175 pounds).

Makinen completed 52 of 87 attempts for an average of 57.2 yards per game. He threw for two touchdowns but went the entire season without an interception.

"He has started the last 17 games," Krause said. "He's a very savvy athlete and very intelligent. He makes really good decisions so it's nice to have a quarterback with that kind of experience."

Senior RJ Bosshart (5-10, 165) served as a jack of all trades last season, leading the team with 24 receptions and over 11 rushing yards per carry. Bosshart finished with 965 yards and a team-high 17 TDs on the ground



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Muskego quarterback A.J. Makinen throws a pass down field during a home game against Waukesha North last season.

and 335 yards and two more TDs receiving last season. He'll play an even bigger role in the Warriors' backfield in 2018 as they look to replace Cody Krause, who rushed for 1,312 yards a year ago.

Up front, Muskego brings back three starters on its offensive line — seniors Austin Burke (5-11, 208) and Braden Wagner (6-6, 330), and junior Jacob Leszczynski (6-3, 315).

There's plenty back on the defensive side of the ball, too. Cornerback Joey Mlachnik (5-10, 165) led the secondary in tackles last season. Senior Nate Stewart (6-1, 296) was a second-team all-conference defensive lineman, while juniors

Jacob Peardon (6-0, 256) and Lenny Roecker (6-2, 214) also have experience.

"Nate and Jacob have some really nice size and Lenny is just a very intelligent technician," Krause said.

Senior Lucas Amaya (6-3, 205) kicked the Warriors into the final four last season, booting a 37-yard field goal with 11 seconds left to cap off a stunning upset of Franklin. He's back this year, too, while Shane Dunning (5-9, 160) returns to punt.

"We have some real nice pieces in our special-teams package," Krause said. "It's nice to have your kicker, punter and long snapper back."

## KM

From Page 6

football players back this season and at some positions, we're going to be better than we were one year ago. That's exciting.

"Now we're adding some kids who played well at the JV level last year. We'll have some good competition at a lot of positions for playing time."

Weis is back with the varsity for the third year. Last season he averaged 5.6 yards per carry on 189 attempts and scored nine touchdowns. Senior John Gulrud (5-10, 167) also is expected to get his share of carries.

Gumm likes his receiving corps. Knutson is the anchor of that group, having caught 38 passes for three touchdowns and averaged 12.3 yards per catch last season. Others expected to contribute are senior Logan Ohm (6-0, 178), junior Josh Wendt (6-1, 190) and junior Karsen Kleppe (6-1, 160).

Just how good the KM offense might be will probably come down to quarterback play.

Gumm said Denor, Kleppe and junior Max Mathison (6-5, 190) are the leading candidates to take over the job. Denor threw one pass last season, while Kleppe and Mathison have never played in a varsity game.

The good news is that KM might have a solid offensive line to protect the quarterbacks.

Wedig is one of the top O-line players in the state and is ranked by one national service as the 85th-best high school player in the country.

Others figuring to play big roles up front are senior Jake Rock (6-6, 255), senior Mike Barker (6-2, 280) and senior Connor Ring (6-1, 230). Rock played tight end last season and made some big plays, but has moved to the O-line.

"Trey is the anchor of that group but I'm expecting big things from Jake, Connor and Mike as well," the KM coach said. "Trey has really stepped up in taking the leadership role. He's worked with a lot of guys in the offseason workouts and that's helped a lot. It's going to be nice having two 6-foot-6 tackles."

On defense, Hotchkiss and Denor are the top returning

### Kettle Moraine

**Coach:** Justin Gumm (third season)

**2017:** 7-4 overall, 5-3 Classic 8 Conference

**Key returning players:** Junior T Trey Wedig, senior K Blake Wilcox, senior RB Eli Weis, senior WR Will Knutson, senior DB Caleb Hotchkiss, senior DB Hunter Denor

**Promising newcomers:** sophomore DB Nolan Gende

**Key graduation losses:** QB Max Herro, LB/RB Mike Timm, OL Nick Wedig, OL Jacob Brevard, DL Logan Reis, LB Trevor Fulton, WR Evan Schneider

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug 17:** at Waukesha West

**Aug. 24:** Mukwonago

**Aug. 31:** at Waukesha North

**Sept. 7:** Arrowhead

**Sept. 14:** at Muskego

**Sept. 21:** Catholic Memorial

**Sept. 28:** at Menomonee Falls

**Oct. 5:** at Waukesha South

**Oct. 12:** Oconomowoc

players as both started in the secondary all season. Ohm and sophomore Nolan Gende also figure to see a lot of action in the defensive backfield. Juniors Sam Rife (6-0, 195) and Lukas Spencer (6-3, 205) expect to man two of the linebacker spots.

Gumm admits a key to his team's success will be the play of the front seven on defense.

"There's no doubt that the front seven is a big question mark for us," Gumm said. "We don't have much experience in those spots but the competition has been very healthy between all of the guys."

The biggest trump card in Kettle Moraine's deck is Wilcox. Last year, he kicked a school-record eight field goals. The longest was one of the longest kicks in state history when he booted a 60-yarder against Waukesha South. He also had field goals of 25, 25, 44, 39, 47, 44 and 30 yards.

"We knew what kind of place-kicker Blake was but this summer he tried punting and got an invite to punt at the national Under Armour event," Gumm said. "He had only been punting for two months before shining at that camp. He's one of those kids that just works his tail off. He's a great weapon for us."

# New coach ready to get Mukwonago back into playoffs

## Gnewuch led Fond du Lac to postseason last four years

By John Gittings  
Freeman Correspondent

MUKWONAGO — Mike Gnewuch is coming home.

Well, close to it.

Gnewuch, an Oconomowoc native, is entering his first season as the head football coach at Mukwonago, taking over a program that has fallen on tough times recently. He spent the last six seasons at Fond du Lac, where he guided the Cardinals to Division 1 Level 3 playoff appearances during the last four years of his tenure.

"This is where I'm originally from, Waukesha County," Gnewuch said. "It holds a special place in my heart. I have two young kids and opportunities presented themselves to get back closer to family, back to what I consider home. Mukwonago schools are really good for an 8- and 5-year-old, so I knew that would play an important consideration in the decision."

The Indians missed the WIAA Division 1 state playoffs in the

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** vs. Catholic Memorial  
**Aug. 24:** at Kettle Moraine  
**Aug. 31:** vs. Waukesha South  
**Sept 7:** at Oconomowoc  
**Sept 14:** vs. Waukesha West  
**Sept. 21:** at West Allis Hale  
**Sept 28:** at Waukesha North  
**Oct. 5:** vs. Arrowhead  
**Oct. 12:** at Muskego

past three seasons after reaching Level 4 of the 2014 playoffs. Mukwonago finished 3-6 overall and 2-6 in Classic 8 play in 2017.

"We've had a whole summer together now and we've seen daily and weekly improvements," Gnewuch said. "I think that's kind of our goal as we look forward to the season; to try and get better every single day."

Gnewuch is taking over a program that, while somewhat downtrodden, has many key pieces returning. One of the most significant of those is 6-3, 225-pound senior tight end/defensive end

### Mukwonago

**Coach:** Mike Gnewuch (first season)

**2017:** 3-6, 2-6 Classic 8

**Key returning players:** Senior TE/DE Dalton Gillette (6-3, 225), senior RB Josh Jendusa (5-8, 185), senior WR Wesley Juszcak (6-5, 190), senior DL/OL A.J. Major (6-4, 255), senior DB Paul Vildberg (5-11, 185), senior ILB Mitch Magolan (6-0, 195), senior QB Cory Broncatti (6-1, 195).

**Promising newcomers:** Junior OL Tyler Pitcel (6-5, 275), freshman QB Greyton Gannon (6-4, 190), junior LB Will Borchert (6-0, 225).

**Key graduation losses:** QB Connor Tess, RB/DB Jacob Boucher, WR Andrew Lewis, RB/ILB Jacob Marine, OL/DL Aric Bohn.

Dalton Gillette, who was a starter throughout 2017 and has garnered interest from Division-I and -II schools. He figures to have a large impact on both sides of the ball.

See MUKWONAGO PAGE 9



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Mukwonago's Wesley Juszcak catches a touchdown pass against Waukesha North last season.

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# Mukwonago

From Page 8

Senior Wesley Juszcak, a 6-5, 190-pound receiver, is a multisport athlete who led the team in receiving last year with 14 catches for 206 yards and one touchdown. Juszcak, also a key contributor on the basketball team, looks to once again be a force in the passing game.

Senior running back Josh Jendusa is a 5-8, 185-pound scatback who paced a balanced rushing attack in 2017. He led the Indians with 288 rushing yards and four touchdowns last season and may carry an increased workload under Gnewuch.

Senior A.J. Major (6-3, 255) will play in different spots on the defensive line. In the secondary, senior cornerback Paul Vildberg (5-11, 185), returns after he was honorable-mention all-conference as a junior. Senior Mitch Magolan (6-0, 195) returns as the starting middle linebacker.

"He moves really well and has good instincts," Gnewuch said of Magolan.

"We have some guys that received recognition and who have considerable experience in the league," Gnewuch added. "We're hoping that they continue to build on what they did last year and really fit in well with the new schemes on both O and D."

The returnees will provide many of the elements needed for Mukwonago to make its way back up the Classic 8 in 2018, but some newcomers will contribute as well.

Junior offensive lineman Tyler Pitcel (6-5, 275) was a key junior varsity contributor as a sophomore. Senior offensive lineman Brett Pladies (6-1, 210) brings a level of tenacity that intrigues the first-year coach.

"He's just a pitbull," Gnewuch said of Pladies. "He sure does play hard and he goes whistle-to-whistle every single snap."

Another senior, fullback/linebacker, Michael West (5-9, 165), figures to be in the mix on both sides of the ball, while junior Will Borchert (6-0, 225) will also vie for playing time in a crowded linebacking corps.

"He's a solid kid; your traditional linebacker,"

Gnewuch said of Borchert.

Gnewuch's offense will still largely be run-based, an identity that defined the Indians' program. However, Gnewuch will employ a pro-style, I-formation offense.

"When you want to establish that ground game and you get a little more beef, you want to get them coming off the ball, staying on double teams and creating movement," Gnewuch said. "Four yards wins games is kind of our philosophy. That's what we want to get on the ground every snap."

The leader of the new offense is still to be decided. Senior Cory Broncatti (6-1, 195), the backup last year, is a dual-threat quarterback who passed for 118 yards and rushed for 159 yards in 2017. Two other QB candidates include junior Justin Peck and freshman Greyton Gannon. Gannon is a 6-4, 190-pound raw talent who is extremely athletic, Gnewuch said.

"Between the three of those guys, we're hoping to establish somebody who's really consistent and can really take control of the offense," Gnewuch said.

# Palmyra-Eagle keeps improving

## Panthers looking for first playoff berth since 2010

By Dave Radcliffe  
dradcliffe@conley.net.com  
262-513-2655

PALMYRA — Palmyra-Eagle's football team inched closer to its first playoff berth since 2010, coming just one win away from reaching the postseason last

fall.

While the Panthers lose a pair of first-team All-Trails Large Conference performers from that squad — inside linebacker Connor Sullivan and defensive lineman Nate Sullivan — they still bring back many of their key pieces at the skill

positions offensively.

Junior quarterback and team captain Brandon Wilde (6-foot, 150 pounds) has some starting experience under his belt. Last season he completed 51 percent of his passes for 537 yards and a pair of touchdowns in three games, and his favorite target was second-team all-conference receiver Morgan Carpenter (6-3, 190).

See P-E, PAGE 10

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# Cooney hoping for more ups this year

## Raccoons lost final eight games in 2017

By Mark Hutchinson  
mhutchinson@conley.net.com  
262-513-2693

OCONOMOWOC — The 2017 season was one of firsts for the Oconomowoc football team.

It was the flagship voyage in the Classic 8 Conference for the Raccoons, who closed out their 88 years in the Wisconsin Little Ten Conference by winning three of the league's last four championships.

It marked the Ocon coaching debut of Greg Malling, who guided Arrowhead to four straight WIAA title-game appearances and two state titles spanning 2012-15 before coaching at Coon Rapids (Minn.) High School in 2016.

It saw the Raccoons prevail over Waukesha South 42-28 in their first Classic 8 game, then drop their remaining eight contests of the season and miss the WIAA playoffs for the first time since 2014.

When Malling put the campaign in perspective, he didn't mince words.

"It's important to pay the price if you want to be successful in this sport or in anything in life, and I think the move to the Classic 8 amplified the need to work harder," Malling said. "Again, for the first year of a transition, it was good. But we will need to work exponentially harder moving forward if we want to achieve at the level this community and school deserve.

"We had some ups and downs in terms of team unity. Football is multicultural in the sense that good teams believe in service and in placing others ahead of ourselves. We didn't always do that this year. The players recognized it, however, and made corrections.

That alone is a reason to be excited moving forward."

Malling saw his returning players progress during the offseason.

"We were very pleased with the offseason commitment we saw from our guys," he said. "We were probably in the neighborhood of 90 percent or better participation. They were either in a sport or they were lifting.

"It was a great offseason. The numbers in the weight room were great, and guys were playing two or three other sports, which is great."

Defensive lineman Nick Baker, who was Oconomowoc's lone first-team All-Classic 8 selection in 2017, was among 36 members of last season's squad who graduated. That group also included Max Cavaiani, who rushed 97 times for a team-high 439 yards; and wide receiver Ryan Hayes, who caught a team-best 39 passes for 326 yards.

The Raccoons do, however, have some experienced performers back.

Senior defensive end Theo Ringgold, who received All-Classic 8 honorable mention as a junior, has two years of experience as a starter, while junior offensive lineman Noah Zupke and junior defensive back Drew Brezenski also earned all-conference honorable mention as varsity newcomers in 2017.

Senior quarterback Miller Wallace completed 142 of 257 passes (55.3 percent) for 1,570 yards and eight touchdowns with 11 interceptions as a junior, while senior QB Brady Wraalstad was 21-of-37 for 164 yards and no interceptions last season.

Senior running back Drake Reese carried 24 times for 178 yards and two touchdowns, while senior running back Alex Biddle ran seven times for 62 yards and snared seven passes for 147 yards.

Junior wide receiver Cam Thelen caught six passes for 108 yards, and senior Leif Engstrand started at offensive tackle.



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Oconomowoc's Alex Biddle rushes the ball downfield during a Classic 8 Conference game against Catholic Memorial last season.

## Oconomowoc

**Coach:** Greg Malling (second season)

**2017:** 1-8 overall, 1-7 in Classic 8 Conference

**Key returning players:** senior DE Theo Ringgold, senior RB Drake Reese, senior OL Leif Engstrand, senior QB Miller Wallace, senior RB Alex Biddle, junior DB Drew Brezenski, junior OL Noah Zupke  
**Key graduation losses:** DL Nick Baker, WR Ryan Hayes, RB Max Cavaiani, OT Kian Rexroat-Potts, DB Lincoln Stultz.

Malling's second season at the Oconomowoc helm got off to an encouraging start during the team's summer camp.

"The energy and discipline are good," Malling said. "Being the second year of doing routines has made quite a difference.

"The players don't need to feel

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** vs. Waukesha South (Parents Night)

**Aug. 23:** at Brookfield Central

**Aug. 31:** at Waukesha West

**Sept. 7:** vs. Mukwonago (Youth Night/Raccoon Rally)

**Sept. 14:** at Waukesha North

**Sept. 21:** vs. Arrowhead (OSBC Tailgate/Senior Night)

**Sept. 28:** at Muskego

**Oct. 5:** vs. Catholic Memorial (Homecoming)

**Oct. 12:** at Kettle Moraine

their way through things, nor do we as coaches."

Malling was asked if his players have picked up the system well and bought into it.

"Yeah, they have," he said. "They were good at it last year as well.

"The difference is having more time to absorb things."

## Arrowhead

From Page 6

and Hazod was near the top in total tackles.

"Jacob Schleicher has great football ability but I'm most impressed with his ownership of his new role as one of the leaders of our football team," Rauch said. "He's been great so far. With a lot of new faces in starting roles we're going to need some of our older guys to provide that kind of leadership."

Schleicher is one of a big group of receivers who figure to have good years. Others who could catch a lot of footballs are junior Robbie Symdon, senior Hunter Goodreau, senior Davis Zeutzius and senior Avan Prange.

One of the big keys to Arrowhead's passing game will be finding a quarterback to step up and make big plays. Two players figure to battle for that starting spot. Senior Nic Wohlfiel (6-0, 200) is working at that spot along with junior Tommy Darrow (6-1, 185).

Wohlfiel, who started in the secondary last year and was one of the team's top tacklers, played the final six games of the 2016 season at quarterback, filling in for starter Henry Case, who suffered an early injury. He completed 56 of 117 passes, good for five touchdowns. Darrow played sparingly last year.

"Nic finished the season at quarterback two years ago so that experience will help him a lot," Rauch added. "He's a good football player. He had a big year for us last year on defense."

Arrowhead's offensive line will be anchored by two returning starters in seniors Matt Fried (6-2, 240) and Jalen Webster (5-11, 205).

The top running back returning for the Warhawks is sophomore Owen Arnett. He carried the ball 92 times last season. Senior Robbie Lindemann (6-0, 170) carried the ball 34 times in 2017 and should see a lot of playing time.

On defense, where the Warhawks lost six all-conference players to graduation, the battle for spots will be competitive. Wohlfiel could play in the secondary, as will senior Jacob Boray (6-0, 175). Junior Dalton Elrod (6-3, 215) is expected to be the top player at linebacker. Hazod will play a key role for the Warhawks in the defensive line. He was solid all season one year ago up front for AHS.

## P-E

From Page 9

The senior wideout finished the 2017 season with 32 grabs for 422 yards and five touchdowns.

Slated to carry the load out of the backfield is returning senior captain Owen Butenhoff (6-1, 180). Last season he averaged 4.5 yards per rush, accumulating 381 yards and four scores in the

process.

The most decorated returnee for Palmyra-Eagle is junior captain Cade Fleischmann (6-3, 210). An all-conference performer at three positions, Fleischmann racked up 60 tackles, forced a fumble and had one interception from the outside linebacker position last season, where he was a second team pick.

The junior was also a first-team selection at kicker and a second-team all-conference punter.

Joe Hauser enters his second year leading the Panthers and was instrumental in a nice turnaround last season, going 4-5 overall and 2-4 inside the Trailways Large after back-to-back 1-8 campaigns.

He'll have to count on a young core to get P-E back to the post-season. Aside from Butenhoff, Carpenter, and second-team all-conference offensive lineman Jacoby Koutsy (6-1, 330), the Panthers have just four seniors.

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** at Marshall

**Aug. 24:** vs. Waterloo

**Aug. 31:** vs. Dodgeand

**Sept. 7:** at Horicon/Hustisford

**Sept. 14:** vs. Pardeeville

**Sept. 21:** vs. SWCHA

**Sept. 28:** at Markesan

**Oct. 5:** vs. Parkview

**Oct. 12:** Monticello/Princeton/Green Lake

## Palmyra-Eagle

**Coach:** Joe Hauser, 2nd year

**2017:** 4-5, 2-4 Trailways Large

**Key returners:** junior Cade Fleischmann (first-team all-conference kicker, second-team all-conference punter/outside linebacker), senior WR Morgan Carpenter (second-team all-conference), senior OL Jacoby Koutsy (second-team all-conference)

**Key graduation losses:** ILB Connor Sullivan (first-team all-conference), DL Nate Sullivan (first-team all-conference), DE Lonnie Garlock (second-team all-conference)

# Central’s motivation is getting back to state

## Leszczynski-Banda tandem to strike fear in opposing defenses

**By Steven L. Tietz**  
Freeman Correspondent

BROOKFIELD — There was a lot of business to take care of for the Brookfield Central football team before the start of practice the first week of August.

Fifth-year coach Jed Kennedy and his staff finished up the process of installing the lockers that had been purchased from UW-Whitewater last winter.

The staff, with the help of Kennedy’s wife, Melissa, installed the lockers to replace the ancient, creaky metal ones that had been in place for decades. The football team’s efforts so inspired the Booster Club that five other team rooms at the school got some sprucing up too, including new paint and carpeting.

“What started as a locker replacement became a facilities overhaul,” Kennedy said. “We expect the kids to work hard so we coaches decided to put in a little sweat equity ourselves.”

Further motivation for the Lancers will come from the memory of the painful one-point loss to Waunakee in the WIAA Division 2 state final last November.

The defeat denied Central its first state title and spoiled an otherwise unbeaten season.

Kennedy said the Lancers do not talk much about the defeat, but it’s always in the back of their minds.

Further, the Lancers feel they have the tools to make another strong run at Greater Metro Conference and WIAA state honors, because senior all-state level quarterback Drew Leszczynski (6-foot-1, 180 pounds, 2,200 yards passing last season) and his favorite target, senior end Julian Banda (6-1, 190, 1,076 yards receiving) are back to lead a high-octane single-wing formation offense.

“We expect them to be among the best at their positions in the state,” Kennedy said.

Another potentially explosive weapon is returning junior running back Rashad Lampkin (5-9, 175).

There will be some rebuilding along the offensive line, but first-team all-league choice Alec Mejchar (6-4, 210) is back.

“We don’t have a lot back in terms of numbers, but we have some pretty good puzzle pieces to put in place,”



Mary Langenfeld/Special to The Freeman

Brookfield Central quarterback Drew Leszczynski tries to get past Waunakee’s Jeremy Werner during the WIAA Division 2 state championship game last season at Camp Randall Stadium.

Kennedy said.

He still sees the inexperienced line as an asset, with newcomers like junior Zik Okoro (5-8, 220) and senior Stephen Owen (6-2, 235) helping out.

On defense, there is a little more work to do, but senior all-conference linebacker Chris Casey (5-11, 175) and all-league defensive back

Joey Cleary (6-4, 180) are back, along with returning defensive back Connor Kolb (5-9, 150).

Senior fullback Jack Cooney (6-1, 210) has been shifted to linebacker, and Kennedy is hopeful about the prospects of senior linebacker Peter Murray (6-0, 175).

The line of the 3-4 defense

will be young but deep.

“I think we will be able to rotate about six people,” Kennedy said. Highlighting the group will be junior Matt Zepecki (5-10, 205) and sophomore Hayden Nelson.

Overall, Kennedy sees big things ahead for his defending GMC champions.

“We have high expectations every year, and in that situa-

**Brookfield Central**

**Coach:** Jed Kennedy (fifth season)

**2017:** 13-1 (GMC champions)

**Key returning players:** QB Drew Leszczynski, sr., WR Julian Banda, sr., OL Alec Mejchar, sr., RB Rashad Lampkin, jr., DB Joey Cleary, sr., LB Chris Casey, sr.

**Promising newcomers:** OL Zik Okoro, jr., OL Stephen Owen, sr., DL Matt Zepecki, jr., DL Hayden Nelson, soph.

**Key graduation losses:** DB Luke Blamer, LB Reggie Jennings, LB Nick Leszczynski, DL Blake Fehrmann, AP Max Meves.

**2018 Schedule**

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** at Wauwatosa East

**Aug. 23:** vs. Oconomowoc

**Aug. 30:** vs. Germantown

**Sept. 7:** at West Allis Hale West

**Sept. 14:** vs. Wauwatosa West

**Sept. 21:** at Marquette

**Sept. 28:** vs. Brookfield East

**Oct. 5:** at Hamilton

**Oct. 12:** vs. Menomonee Falls

tion you’re going to lose good people every year,” Kennedy said. “We expect to develop people and for the cream to rise to the top. It’s likely a kid we’ve never talked about before will become a star by the end of the year.”

# McGath to lead East’s up-and-coming offense

## Linebackers Steger, Pagel to anchor defense

**By Steven L. Tietz**  
Freeman Correspondent

BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield East football program is two years removed from its ground-breaking WIAA Division 2 state title of 2016 and a year removed from a fine 10-2 campaign of 2017.

Third-year coach Ben Farley sees no sliding back from those standards.

“That senior class of two years ago was so strong and last year’s group really worked hard and really exceeded expectations,” he said. “We’re expecting to put a lot of good seniors out there again this year and they expect to be competitive every single night.

“We feel we’re just continuing our development.”

The Spartans, whose 2017 season ended with a WIAA Level 3 playoff loss to archival and eventual state D2 runner-up Brookfield Central, will have a lot of work to do to match the lofty heights of the last two seasons. But they do have a step up in that regard as junior returning

quarterback Sam McGath (6-0, 180) looks prepared to take the next steps in his development.

“He’s looked really good,” Farley said. “We’re looking at him to take on more of a leadership role this year with the offense.”

McGath is going to need to as there will be a lot of newcomers working to earn roles in the Spartans’ spread formation offensive set.

He will get help from senior all-conference all-purpose selection Cam McDonald (5-9, 150) at running back (he’s

also a starting safety) as well as newcomers such as junior slot receiver Dawson Hayden (5-11, 150) and sophomore wide receiver/defensive back Hayden Doyle, who was a big help in the Spartans’ run to the WIAA state basketball finals this winter.

The line will be led by a pair of juniors — John Champe (6-4, 300) and Clay Huwatcheck (6-3, 225).

On defense, the Spartans have a little more to work with including senior all-Greater Metro Conference linebackers Jack Steger (6-4, 215) and Joey Pagel (6-2, 205) who will anchor East’s 4-3 set-up.

**2018 Schedule**

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** vs. Wauwatosa West

**Aug. 24:** at Marquette

**Aug. 31:** vs. Muskego

**Sept. 7:** vs. Hamilton

**Sept. 14:** at Menomonee Falls

**Sept. 21:** vs. Wauwatosa East

**Sept. 28:** at Brookfield Central

**Oct. 5:** vs. Germantown

**Oct. 12:** at West Allis Hale

Leading the front will be returning starter Jacob Mandella (6-2, 210) whom Farley said has a lot of talent and will be moved around as needed.

**Brookfield Central**

**Coach:** Ben Farley (third season)

**2017:** 10-2 (second in GMC)

**Key returning players:** QB Sam McGath, jr., DB Cam McDonald, sr., LB Jack Steger, sr., LB Joey Pagel, sr., AP Cam McDonald, sr.

**Promising newcomers:** WR/DB Hayden Doyle, soph., OL/DL Clay Huwatcheck, jr., WR Dawson Hayden, jr.

**Key graduation losses:** OL Everett Cartier, OL Adam Strich, WR/DB Patrick Cartier, RB Justin Parbs, LB Brad Dati, DL Caleb Wright, DL Ron Edwards, P Cam Bauer.



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Brookfield East quarterback Sam McGath hands off during a game against Brookfield Central last season.

## East

From Page 11

Other spots are up for grabs, Farley said.

"There's a lot of talent in the younger groups and now this is the fun part of camp where we figure out who can help us out," he said.

The Spartans finished second in the

GMC last season behind Central and will visit the Lancers on Sept. 28.

"It's going to be a tough go every night," Farley said. "Competitive as ever, but Central and Marquette will be very tough as usual. Our energy has been as good as we could have expected given the hot weather and the early start.

"The kids are handling the workload well."

# Davis ready to run wild again for Indians

## Badgers recruit had viral 67-yard TD run last season

By Andrew Wagner  
Freeman Correspondent

MENOMONEE FALLS — With a commitment to the University of Wisconsin tucked neatly into his back pocket, running back Julius Davis will try to carry Menomonee Falls back to the playoffs in this, his final

high school season.

Davis wasn't heavily recruited before his junior season until he ripped off a 67-yard touchdown run against West Allis Central that featured more moves than a pro wrestler and quickly went viral. It didn't take long for the Badgers to notice and not long after, make a scholarship offer.

Davis verbally committed in November and while blue chip programs like LSU, Notre Dame and USC tried to get him to back out, Davis has made it clear he intends to honor his commitment and sign with the school

See FALLS, PAGE 13

# Hamilton to play ironman football

## Damato is longest tenured coach in GMC

By Daniel Mike  
Freeman Correspondent

TOWN OF LISBON — John Damato has grown accustomed to a few things.

The longest tenured coach in the Greater Metro Conference is entering his 15th season, and he's done a lot of the same things during his time leading the Hamilton football team.

"We are extremely thin," Damato said. "We have 40 (juniors and seniors). We typically have around 55. We're going to run kids both ways more than we ever have just due to the fact that we don't have the numbers to two-platoon."

Even though the number of athletes on his team is low, Damato likely would have been running guys out on both sides of the ball as the Chargers look to improve upon last year's 5-5 season (5-3 GMC).

"We also have some quality players who are able to (play both ways)," he said. "It's going to be hard for me having Lucas Finnessy on the sideline or Jackson Kollath who's running a 4.6 40. He's got to play defense."

This change in game-day philosophy has also required Damato to alter his team's practice procedures.

"There's not as much banging around now," he said. "Honestly, this is kind of uncharted waters for us, but we're very optimistic.

"We're changing things up how we practice and trying to stay healthy."

Finnessy, a 6-foot-3, 215-pound junior, is heavier than a handful of offensive linemen, but he will line up at cornerback on defense. He is also moving from fullback to receiver this season to help keep him healthy.

"He's a rare athlete — really long, really athletic," Damato said of Finnessy. "With what he brings to the table in regards to his ability to stretch the field vertically, the fact that he can jump out of the gym and the fact that he is going both ways, we want to keep on the perimeter."

Kollath, a 6-2, 230 senior, was injured last season, but will



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Hamilton's Jackson Kollath tries to break a tackle against Brookfield East last season.

play linebacker and running back. Senior lineman Cal Botsford (6-1, 235) will lead the interior line on both sides of the ball after earning all-conference honors on the defensive line last season.

Senior tackle Zack Lawrence (6-5, 294) will anchor the offensive line, while senior tight end Will Enneking (6-3, 237) will be a three-year starter at the position and should work his way into the defensive line rotation after dislocating a kneecap over the summer.

Other key returning players are senior linebacker Hunter Slaats (5-10, 185) and senior free safety James Hayden (6-0, 165).

"Hunter is undersized but a really good high school football player," Damato said. "James was a really nice player last year. He's astute, smart, rarely out of position and kind of like our coach on the field."

Last year's starting quarterback has moved to Utah, which has junior Eric Erato (6-0, 167) moving from receiver to quarterback this season.

"He runs really well," Damato said of Erato. "He's a Division-I baseball player with a strong arm. He's accurate and a leader."

The Chargers were a playoff team last year, and Damato hopes it was just the beginning of an upward trend.

## Hamilton

**Coach:** John Damato (15th season)

**2017:** 5-5 overall, 5-3 Greater Metro

**Key returning players:** senior OL/DL Cal Botsford, senior OT Zack Lawrence, senior LB/RB Jackson Kollath, senior TE/DL Will Enneking, senior CB/WR Lucas Finnessy, senior LB Hunter Slaats, junior QB Eric Erato, senior LB Zac Bagley

**Key graduation losses:** OL/DL Ryan Filo, OL Jacob Heinzelman, DB/RB Will Geels, DB Adam Hartung, LB Austin Goodreau

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 17:** West Allis Hale  
**Aug. 24:** at Wauwatosa West  
**Aug. 31:** Marquette  
**Sept. 7:** at Brookfield East  
**Sept. 14:** Catholic Memorial  
**Sept. 20:** Menomonee Falls  
**Sept. 28:** Wauwatosa East at Hart Park  
**Oct. 5:** Brookfield Central  
**Oct. 12:** at Germantown

"We took a dip for a couple years, and I think each year we've been building," he said. "I couldn't be more proud of this group with the time and effort it has put in."

# Youthful Blue Knights to rely on execution, toughness

## Kim back behind center

By Daniel Mike  
Freeman Correspondent

BROOKFIELD — There are two things the Brookfield Academy football team has always relied on: execution and toughness.

Unfortunately, there is one thing the Blue Knights won't be able to hang their hats on this season: experience.

Graduation took quite a toll on Academy, as the Blue Knights enter the season with just two seniors on the roster. One of them will likely miss the majority of the season after sustaining an injury in practice.

"The overwhelming theme is we're going to rely on what has made Brookfield Academy successful: discipline and toughness," sixth-

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m. unless noted)

**Aug. 17:** Cambridge

**Aug. 24:** at Deerfield

**Aug. 31:** St. John's North-western

**Sept. 7:** St. Francis

**Sept. 15:** at Living Word Lutheran, 1 p.m.

**Sept. 21:** Kenosha Christian Life

**Sept. 28:** at University School of Milwaukee

**Oct. 5:** Lake Country Lutheran

**Oct. 12:** HOPE Christian at Wisconsin Lutheran College

year coach Jon Kahle said. "We have to focus on improving each week."

The Blue Knights graduated six All-Midwest Classic Conference performers from 2017, but thankfully one key piece returns: senior quarterback Daniel Kim (5-foot-9, 160 pounds).

"Daniel's shown good con-

### Brookfield Academy

**Coach:** Jon Kahle (sixth season)

**2017:** 4-6 overall, 3-3 Midwest Classic

**Key returning players:** junior QB Daniel Kim (5-9, 165), senior LB Michael Novacek (6-2, 220)

**Promising newcomers:** junior OL/DL Michael Hoggatt (, junior OL/DL Mark Gundrum

**Key graduation losses:** OL Wesley Jurva, K Michael Ornek, LB Connor Guest, DB Madison Dieck, OL Cole Budney, LB Mason Vaughn

trol of the offense. We run a triple option, and he's shown to be very decisive in his reads," Kahle said. "He's a tough kid, played all year as a sophomore, took a lot of hits, showed a lot of courage last year in leading the team to the playoffs."

See BA, PAGE 14

## Falls

From Page 12

he's watched produce some of the best running backs in college football.

The 6-foot, 180-pound Davis was a beast for Falls last season, carrying 257 times for 1,762 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Along with Davis, the Indians bring back 21 seniors, five juniors and a sophomore from last year's team that finished 4-4 in the Greater Metro Conference and 4-6 overall before falling to Brookfield Central, 14-0, in a Level 1 playoff contest.

Of that group, head coach Dan Lutz brings back four starters on defense, including first-team all-conference defensive back Dominick Kollmann (6-0, 162) while Davis anchors a group of six returning offensive starters.

Graduation hit both the offensive and defensive lines hard, but Lutz has a large group of underclassmen ready to step into bigger roles in 2018, including juniors Clayton Divelbiss (5-8, 183) and Jack Porter, who



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Menomonee Falls running back Julius Davis tries to run through a tackle against Brookfield East last season.

will be counted on to clear a path for Davis.

"The strength of our team is our perimeter and skill positions," Lutz said. "Our offensive and defensive lines will have to gel as the season progresses."

# Derby new coach at SJNMA

## Head man was assistant at three Classic 8 schools

By Chuck Delsman  
Freeman Correspondent

DELAFIELD — Glenn Derby has been named head football coach at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy. The former Oconomowoc High School standout is the third coach for the Lancers in the last three years.

After spending almost 20 years being an assistant coach at Kettle Moraine, Oconomowoc and Arrowhead, this will be Derby's first year as a head coach.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of being a head coach for the first time," Derby said. "St. John's is a very unique place. The kids didn't report until Aug. 13 so that puts us two weeks behind every other school

right from the start.

"This will be a learning experience for a while. I want to change the culture of this program. My goal is to make us a successful football team and make sure each and every kid leaves the program a better man."

Derby, 54, was hired by former Kettle Moraine athletic director Mike Fink, who took the job at St. John's Northwestern in late June after spending his entire career at KM as the AD, head football coach and head girls softball coach. Derby was on Fink's football staff at KM when Fink was the head coach.

"I was the freshman coach at Arrowhead last season and I liked it a lot," Derby added. "I wasn't looking for a job. But then Mike called. I'm anxious to get going."

Football has played a major role in Derby's life for a long time. He graduated in 1983 from Oconomowoc, where he was an all-state offensive lineman. He played football at the University of

### St. John's NW

**Coach:** Glenn Derby (first season)

**2017:** 0-7 overall, 0-6 in Midwest Classic Conference

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m. unless noted)

**Aug. 31:** at Brookfield Academy

**Sept. 7:** Living Word Lutheran, 4 p.m.

**Sept. 14:** at St. Francis

**Sept. 21:** Lake Country Lutheran, 4 p.m.

**Sept. 28:** Hope Christian, 4 p.m.

**Oct. 5:** Tri-County, 4 p.m.

**Oct. 12:** at University School

Wisconsin, starting in the O-line for the Badgers for three years.

He was drafted by the New Orleans Saints and played in the NFL for three years at guard and tackle. He then went to Green Bay for a fourth season, but got hurt and eventually retired due to that injury.

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# LCL eyes another big season

Plenty back from last year's state runner-up team

By Chuck Delsman  
Freeman Correspondent

HARTLAND — One of the most successful high school football programs in the state the last six years should have no trouble continuing that winning tradition this season. There's a lot of reasons to smile if you're a fan of the Lake Country Lutheran Lightning.

Greg Brazgel, in his 15th season and only the head coach in school history, has all kinds of ability back for the 2018 season on both sides of the ball. And with that said, look for another big season for the talented Lightning.

One year ago, LCL advanced to the WIAA Division 5 state championship game at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison for the first time in school history.

The Lightning came close to bringing home some gold. They had a 21-14 lead in the third quarter before falling to state powerhouse Amherst 28-21.

Winning is nothing new for Lake Country Lutheran. In the last six years it has put together an incredible overall record of 64-8, a mark of 88 percent.

That's believed to be the third-best winning percentage in the state in that span. The only schools with a better record are Kimberly at 79-2 (97 percent) and Amherst at 77-5 (93 percent). The Lightning have put together 10 consecutive winning seasons.

LCL has done even better than that in Midwest Classic Conference play. The Lightning have won their last 30 straight league games and have captured five of the last six conference championships.

"We've had a nice run of success the last 10 years," Brazgel said. "We have a lot of talent back this year. But one of the biggest things we're going to have to overcome is the high expectations."

"We're no longer a snake in



Lake Country Lutheran running back Dane Vance gains yardage before Amherst defenders take him down in the WIAA Division 5 state title game last season.

Photos submitted by Kristin Simons

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m. unless noted)

**Aug. 17:** vs. Mineral Point

**Aug. 24:** at Darlington

**Aug. 31:** at Lakeside Lutheran

**Sept. 8:** at HOPE Christian

**Sept. 13:** vs. University School

**Sept. 21:** at St. John's North-western (1 p.m.)

**Sept. 28:** vs. Living Word Lutheran

**Oct. 5:** at Brookfield Academy

**Oct. 12:** vs. St. Francis

weapons," Brazgel said. "Ethan and offensive coordinator Erik Malm have a great connection and Dane Vance is our workhorse in the backfield. He's already had two big years for us."

"And our top four receivers look to have big seasons. Plus, we've got four starters back on the offensive line."

Starters back on the O-line are all-conference players senior tackle RJ Frerking, and senior guard Isaac Simons along with senior Tom Johnson and junior Noah Vanderberg.

The defense also has plenty of talent back, led by junior Jack Leverenz and Simons at linebacker. The two led the team in tackles and both were first-team all-conference selections.

"Those two guys run the

## Lake Country Luth.

**Coach:** Greg Brazgel (15th season)  
**2017:** 13-1 overall, 6-0 in Midwest Classic

**Key returning players:** senior QB Ethan Wilkins, senior RB Dane Vance, senior WR/S Bryce Haertle, senior G/LB Isaac Simons, junior LB/RB Jack Leverenz, senior OL RJ Frerking, junior OL/DL Noah Vanderberg, junior DL Peter Vande Zande  
**Promising newcomers:** junior DE Gabe Snyder, sophomore DE Chase Caliendo

**Key graduation losses:** WR Michael Schumacher, WR John Hewitt, LB Tyler Johnston, DL Matt Jobe

show for us," Brazgel said. "They're the best two tacklers we have and hopefully we can funnel a lot of plays right at them. They're both strong kids who love to play football."

Haertle and Mueller will be the starting safeties, and Will Brazgel will most likely play corner. Up front, the Lightning will be led by Vanderberg and junior Peter Vande Zande. The latter has had two big years already and is just five sacks away from the school record.

Junior Andrew Schumacher will play linebacker and do the kicking and punting for the Lightning.

# Vikings still looking for playoff victory

Chossek has coached team to two straight playoff berths

Rob Reischel  
Freeman Correspondent

NEW BERLIN — Ben Chossek fully understands that greatness doesn't happen overnight.

Chossek, New Berlin West's third-year football coach, inherited a program that was 4-14 the two seasons before he arrived. And the last time West won a playoff game was 1998.

In two short seasons, Chossek and the Vikings have taken major steps moving from ordinary

toward exceptional.

Chossek has led West to an 11-7 record in the last two regular seasons and back-to-back playoff appearances.

The Vikings lost in Level 1 of the postseason in both 2016 and 2017, though, and hope to break through with their first playoff win in two decades this fall.

"I'd say we're very happy with the culture that's developed over the last couple of years," Chossek said. "We're

See NBW, PAGE 15

## BA

From Page 13

With such a young group of players around him, Kim manning the triple-option attack will be important for the Blue Knights.

"It's the great equalizer in offenses," Kahle said of the triple option. "We have smart kids, decisive kids — and that's what the option is for."

Leading Academy's defense will be senior linebacker Michael Novacek (6-1, 205), another returning starter from last year's 4-6 team that went 3-3 in the MWC in advancing to the WIAA playoffs.

"If you're going to have any positions back, you want a linebacker and a quarterback," Kahle said of Novacek and Kim. "They were two major contributors last year and will be leaders this year."

Kahle pointed to junior linemen Michael Hoggatt (6-1, 180) and Mark Gundry (6-6, 210) as players

who will be called upon to step in right away and lead up front. Both saw playing time as sophomores.

"Right now, we're trying to get kids acclimated to varsity," Kahle said. "We're looking for steady improvement, which we've seen since camp started. It's definitely a hardworking team that's shown to be very coachable so far."

"They're hungry, unproven."

While this year may lead to some growing pains, Kahle is excited for his team's future.

"We're going to rely on a lot of sophomores, which will be scary in a sport played by grown men," Kahle said. "That being said, we have a lot of numbers in freshman and sophomore class — and we'll even have some freshmen on the field at times."

"The future is very bright, and I think if the kids can hang in there and not get terribly frustrated this team will compete for a conference title in a couple years."

# NBW

From Page 14

very happy with what the kids are doing in the offseason. Our offseason participation has definitely picked up and we just want to keep building on what we've done."

West has finished fourth in the Woodland West Conference each of the past two years. But the Vikings believe they're on the brink of challenging league powers New Berlin Eisenhower, Pewaukee and Greendale.

"If you look at our schedule from last year, outside the New Berlin Eisenhower game, we had an opportunity to win every one of our games," Chossek said. "We certainly closed the gap from year one to year two and I think we're at the point where we can at least play well against everybody on our schedule."

West ran the ball on 77.4 percent of its snaps a year ago. The Vikings — who run a spread option — figure to lean heavily on the ground game once again.

Senior Sam Meleski (6-foot-2, 180 pounds) was West's second-leading rusher last season with 408 yards and a 4.9 yards per carry average. Meleski could be a workhorse running back this season. Or Meleski could play quarterback, where he's battling senior Trace Ferreira for the job.

"We're exploring all of our options right now," Chossek said. "We're trying to get our playmakers in the best position to make plays, wherever that is."

West should have a chance to make more plays in the passing game. Senior Tyler Stoltenburg (5-11, 165) is a three-year letter-winner who was named first-team all-conference last season, while senior wideout Nick Paget (6-2, 195) is a four-year letter-winner.

West's offensive line figures to be a strength. Junior center Donovan Acevedo (6-1, 225), sophomore guard Paul Nennig (6-0, 245) and sophomore guard Jared Henrichs (6-0, 275) are all returning starters. Seniors Jesse



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

New Berlin West's Tyler Stoltenburg rushes the ball during a game against Eisenhower.

Sommer (6-0, 200) and Matt Newton (5-8, 170), along with junior tight end/defensive tackle Joey DiMotto (6-0, 210), will also factor in up front. Senior running back Kamden Wiese (5-8, 170) will take on an increased role as well.

"We have the potential to be pretty good," Chossek said of his offense. "We're young and we're still learning. But we're as big as and strong as we've been."

Defensively, linebackers Paget and Meleski — who were both first-team all-conference players last season — will lead the Vikings. West, which runs a 3-4 scheme, lost all of its starting defensive linemen and defensive backs, but has plenty of players ready to step up.

Senior cornerback Zach Wilkinson (5-10, 175), junior safety Adam Siegel (5-10, 165) and Ferreira — who also plays safety — will lead the group in back. Many of the Vikings' offensive linemen will play on the defensive line as well.

Chossek believes West has solid depth and that the Vikings had their best offense since he arrived. Chossek is hoping that all leads to a big season.

"We're going to see how far along we have brought some of these kids," Chossek said. "We've been

## New Berlin West

**Coach:** Ben Chossek (third season)  
**2017:** 6-4, lost in Level 1 of the playoffs  
**Key returning players:** QB/RB/LB Sam Meleski, WR/LB Nick Paget, WR Tyler Stoltenburg, OL/DL Donovan Acevedo, OL/DL Paul Nennig, OL/DL Jared Henrichs.  
**Promising newcomers:** QB/DB Trace Ferreira, TE/OT Joey DiMotto, CB Zach Wilkinson, S Adam Siegel.  
**Key graduation losses:** OL/DL Alex Underwood, QB/DB Joe Robey, DB Nate Arterian, P/DB Egan Iwanski.

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 17:** vs. Elkhorn  
**Aug. 24:** at Pius  
**Aug. 31:** vs. Shorewood/Messmer  
**Sept. 7:** at Pewaukee  
**Sept. 14:** vs. New Berlin Eisenhower  
**Sept. 21:** vs. Greendale  
**Sept. 28:** vs. Wisconsin Lutheran  
**Oct. 5:** at West Allis Central  
**Oct. 12:** Woodland crossover

developing them since we got here, and now we'll see if they're ready. It should be fun."

# Ike must replace 16 starters

## Lions just reloading though

By Rob Reischel  
Freeman Correspondent

NEW BERLIN — Sixteen starters from one of the greatest teams in school history have graduated.

Players who occupied 13 spots on the All-Woodland West Conference first team are gone.

In most places, everyone in the program would be hunting for the panic button. But New Berlin Eisenhower isn't most places these days.

The Lions have been trending upward since Matt Kern arrived in 2014. And despite heavy losses, Eisenhower — which went 13-1 and advanced to the WIAA Division 3 state championship game last season — should be in the hunt for big things again this fall.

"I'm certainly not ready to put any kind of ceiling on this team," said Kern, who has gone 28-6 in the last three seasons. "I'm really excited about the talent level."

"This group has put in the work and tried to do all the right things. They're a little bit inexperienced, but it's going to be fun to see what they can accomplish when things start coming together."

The Lions return just three starters on each side of the ball from last year's senior-laden team. But don't think for a second that there will be a major dropoff in talent.

Running back/linebacker Jack Himmelspace (6-foot, 197 pounds), offensive/defensive lineman Mark Shields (6-2, 252) and safety/wideout Jake Schara (6-2, 196) have already received collegiate offers. Kern said many of his other returnees who were reserves last season would have been starters in past years.

The Lions will also add several pieces from a JV team that went 8-0 last year.

"There are many promising players returning who either played key backup roles for the 2017 team or who played prominent roles on the undefeated JV team," Kern said. "Our team will be younger this year and will be working through some more questions throughout August, but there



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

New Berlin Eisenhower's Jack Himmelspace runs through a Whitnall tackler for a touchdown during a game last season.

## 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 17:** vs. Plymouth  
**Aug. 24:** vs. Pewaukee  
**Aug. 31:** vs. Wisconsin Lutheran  
**Sept. 7:** at Greendale  
**Sept. 14:** at New Berlin West  
**Sept. 21:** vs. West Allis Central  
**Sept. 28:** at Pius  
**Oct. 5:** vs. South Milwaukee  
**Oct. 12:** Woodland Crossover

is a good deal of talent and the ceiling is high."

Himmelspace will be expected to lead an offense that lost eight starters to graduation. Himmelspace shared time in the backfield last year, yet still ran for 977 yards, 13 touchdowns and averaged 7.3 yards per carry. This year, it should be the Himmelspace Show.

"He's not a burner, speed-wise," Kern said. "But he kind of reminds me of (former Denver standout) Terrell Davis. It's one cut and go, plus he's a power kid."

Schara, a standout safety, will also play wide receiver this season. Shields and junior Isaac Freichels (6-1, 220) are expected to lead the offensive line.

The greatest question mark is at quarterback, where sophomore Gabe Seifert (5-10, 170) and junior Gabe Olson (5-9,

## Eisenhower

**Coach:** Matt Kern (fifth season)  
**2017:** 13-1, Woodland West Conference champions, Division 3 state runner-up  
**Key returning players:** Jack Himmelspace, RB/LB; Mark Shields, OL/DL; Jake Schara, WR/DB; Jimmy Arcuri, DB; Isaac Freichels, OL/DL.  
**Promising newcomers:** Ben Buechel, WR/LB; Sam Tausz, WR/LB/DB; Eli Hoelke, RB/DB; Davy Counsell, OL/DE; Nate Clark, TE/LB; Max Lewis, WR/DB.  
**Key graduation losses:** QB Bryce Miller, RB/LB Jake Belongia, TE/LB Joey Lang, WR Stephen Halusan, OL/DL Max Toppel, OL Dylan Abbott, LB Mike White, DB Brett Angiolio, DB Peter Katris.

154) are battling for the job.

"Right now, they're equal repping," Kern said. "We'll make a decision after our scrimmage."

Defensively, Eisenhower runs a multiple front and did it with aplomb last year. The Lions allowed just 9.1 points per game in 2017 and pitched five shouts, including a 7-0 win over mighty Catholic Memorial in a Level 3 playoff game.

Leading the way will be Shields, who had a state record

# Young Pirates not lowering expectations in 2018

## Pewaukee will rely on defense again

By Todd Hansen  
Freeman Correspondent

PEWAUKEE — This year's Pewaukee football team is as inexperienced a group as coach Justin Friske has ever had.

The Pewaukee leader in his seventh season sees the Pirates return less than a handful of starters on each side of the ball.

The Pirates also lost seven first-team all-conference selections and five others who received honorable mention to graduation.

Despite the mass losses, Friske is not lowering his expectations for the season.

"We had a group of seniors who graduated, and good number of them started since they were sophomores and ended up being really good players, so we have a lot to replace," Friske said. "We have a lot of guys who are fired up and ready to go and anxious to replace them, but it's tough to replace three years of experience."

"I look at this year as being a learning year for a lot of us, but I also don't think that we're going to try and compromise our competitive standard, either."

The Pirates have made the playoffs for 13 consecutive seasons and were 19-5 combined over the past two seasons, which included a loss in the state semifinals two years ago.

"Everyone has to have their first time, and this just happens to be theirs," Friske said. "It's going to be a matter of how badly they want to shine in their first opportunity and of how important it is to represent our school and community to them in the best way possible."

"It doesn't guarantee wins, but it does say something if they are willing to work to our standard of competitive excellence."

"If you ask other people, the expectations for us would be pretty low just based on all the kids who have left and uncertainty with the guys coming in, but I don't feel that way."

### 2018 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 17:** vs Milwaukee Riverside  
**Aug. 24:** at Eisenhower  
**Aug. 31:** vs. Greendale  
**Sept. 7:** vs. New Berlin West  
**Sept. 14:** at West Allis Central  
**Sept. 21:** vs. Pius  
**Sept. 28:** vs. Brown Deer  
**Oct. 5:** at Wisconsin Lutheran  
**Oct. 12:** Woodland Crossover

Our expectations are as high as they've ever been from a practice and playing standpoint."

Pewaukee will once again look to rely on its defense, especially early in the season, as the young offense looks to mature.

The biggest loss on the defensive side of the ball is four-year starter Seth Bickett, who was a first-team all-state selection on the defensive line. Bickett also led the conference in rushing.

"As in most years we're going to try and build our team around our defense and special teams," Friske said. "If we can play great defense and special teams our offense will be enough to win some games as we move through the year."

"We have a lot of uncertainties on both lines and guys are going to need to step up."

Senior linebacker Josh Geisel (5-11, 195), senior nose guard Abel Savage (6-0, 290), senior defensive back Tyler Schroeder (5-10, 175) and junior defensive end T.J. Chadwick (6-3, 210) are main guys back on defense. Senior linebacker Masen Beatty (6-0, 190) also saw time last year.

Friske is counting on junior safety Justus Zemberi (5-11, 165), senior safety Robert Haga (5-11, 160), junior defensive back Luke Leveille (5-11, 160) to step up in the defensive backfield with juniors Logan Evers (5-10, 145) and Elliot Mueller (5-9, 145) providing depth.

Offensively, the Pirates don't return much experience either. Senior Liam O'Neill (5-10, 210) is back but is being moved to fullback from guard and Beatty was the teams second leading rusher behind Bickett. Senior David Bell (6-2, 240) returns but is switching from center to tight end. Senior tackle/center Josh



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Pewaukee's Masen Beatty competes for a jump ball during a game against New Berlin West last season.

Keskinen (6-1, 245) is also back but missed most of the season with a knee injury. Senior Owen Krumenacher (5-10, 160) saw action at wide receiver a year ago.

"We don't have a core nucleus back on offense," Friske said. "And the quarterback position is a complete open race for that job. We hope we have some kids step up at the skill positions and surprise us."

Juniors Brady Solomon (6-3, 170) and Timmy Haga (6-1, 185), sophomore Gabe Toureene (5-9, 150) and freshman Logan Dobberstein (6-5, 170) are competing for the quarterback position.

Others looking to contribute offensively are sophomores B.J. Yost (5-9, 145) and Kris Johnson (5-10, 160).

Krumenacher again will be the punter, and junior Thales Andrade (6-1, 165) will take over at kicker.

"Part of the great thing that has been a recurring theme in our program is great players graduate and then new great players emerge," Friske said. "We are in one of those phases right now where we really need some kids to elevate their game and maximize their potential and we're going to have to do it as a unit."

"It's not one guy. It has to be 11 (guys) always working together. If we can buy into

that philosophy and the kids can accept that for themselves, it will be a really fun year."

### Pewaukee

**Coach:** Justin Friske, seventh season  
**2017:** 8-3 overall (Lost in Level 2 playoffs), 6-2 Third place Woodland Conference West Division

**Key returning players:** senior LB/RB Josh Geisel; senior DL Abel Savage; senior DB/WR Tyler Schroeder; junior DE/TE TJ Chadwick; senior LB/RB Masen Beatty; senior FB Liam O'Neill; senior TE David Bell, senior OL Josh Keskinen; senior WR/P Owen Krumenacher.  
**Promising newcomers:** junior DB/RB Justus Zemberi; senior S Robert Haga; junior DB Luke Leveille, junior DB Logan Evers, junior DB Elliot Mueller; junior QB Brady Solomon; junior QB Timmy Haga; sophomore RB B.J. Yost; sophomore RB Kris Johnson.

**Key graduation losses:** DL/RB Seth Bickett; WR/DB David Young; OL Jordyn Kowalke; DE Jarrett Schmitz; DB Connor Vogt; QB Josh Swanson.

## Ike

From Page 15

23 tackles in the title game against Rice Lake. Linebacker Joey Lang also posted a team-high 110 tackles, had two sacks and two tackles for loss last year.

Schara is a dynamic safety who had a team-high four interceptions last season. Freichels had 48 tackles and three tackles for loss a year ago, Himmelsbach will play more linebacker than a year ago, and cornerback/outside linebacker Jimmy Arcuri (5-10, 184) will take on a greater role.

Eisenhower had back-to-back losing seasons before Kern arrived and hadn't won a conference championship since 2009. But the Lions have won two of the last three league titles, are co-favorites this year with Greendale, and should be poised for another run at greatness.

"It's been a pretty nice run," Kern said. "It's been pretty much a dream."

And no one seems ready to wake up.

## Mustangs & Mopars

### CAR SHOW & PIG ROAST

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018

#### CAR SHOW 1-5pm

Cory Park • Main St.  
Dousman

• Food & Beverage Available

**Live music by the Sawyer Road Band**

#### PIG ROAST 5-10pm

Bark River Yacht Club  
136 N Main St. • Dousman  
\$10 Dinner served 5-8pm (or until gone)

**Live music by Nostalgia**



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