

2019 Waukesha County Prep

# FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Published by Freeman Newspapers ♦ August 17, 2019



265312001



Walk In. See a Specialist. Walk Out.  
**ORTHO-ASAP CLINIC**

Exit 290 - Hwy 94/SS [OrthoWisconsin.com](http://OrthoWisconsin.com)



# Stout D back for CMH

Fox back  
behind center  
for defending  
D3 champs

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

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

Aug. 23: at Oconomowoc  
Aug. 30: Brookfield Central  
Sept. 5: Mukwonago  
Sept. 13: at Kettle Moraine  
Sept. 20: Waukesha South  
Sept. 27: at Muskego  
Oct. 4: Arrowhead  
Oct. 11: at Waukesha West  
Oct. 18: Waukesha North

## Catholic Memorial

**Coach:** Bill Young, 42nd season  
**2018 record:** 13-1, 7-1 in Classic 8, won WIAA Division 3 title

**Key returning players:** senior QB Luke Fox, senior WR/DB Joe Sikma, senior WR/DB Daniel Fynaardt, senior FB/DE Cole Dakovich, senior LB/FB Ben Kreul, senior RB Tommy Schmitzer, senior OL Sam Bautz, junior DB/WR Alex Oechsner, senior LB Joey Goetz  
**Promising newcomers:** sophomore RB/LB Obacoso Allen, sophomore WR/DB Rory Fox, sophomore OLB Langston Latham, sophomore OLB Charlie Jarvis  
**Key graduation losses:** DB Joe Oechsner, DE Luke Hubley, RB Tate Kopulos, TE/FB Alex Cyskiewicz, DE/OL JC Latham (transfer)

Waukesha West, Waukesha North is going to have a very good team. Kettle Moraine ... in our league, if you don't play well, you'll lose."

See CMH, PAGE 5

# North's 1-2 punch returns

Kelliher, Dike  
dynamic in  
passing game

By Rob Reischel  
Special to Conley Media

WAUKESHA — Three times in WIAA history, a quarterback and wide receiver have connected for 22 touchdowns in a season. That's a state record.

Playing in the ultra-competitive Classic 8 Conference, that could be a tough number for Waukesha North quarterback Johnny Kelliher (6-4, 190) and wideout Chimere Dike (6-1, 175) to reach. But when it comes to the Northstars' dynamic duo, never say never.

Dike, a University of Wisconsin recruit, was a first-team all-state selection last year. Kelliher was a second-team all-conference quarterback in 2018 and is one of the state's top returning signal callers.

Together, North's terrific twosome could challenge several records this fall. In the process, they will try leading the Northstars to the playoffs for the first time since 2006.

"Johnny and Chim are special," North coach Matt Harris said. "They are superstars on the field and off the field. No tandem in the state has worked harder than them since the end of football last season, I can promise you that. They probably were the best tandem in the state last year. It will only continue even more this year."

That's a scary thought for foes who watched Kelliher deliver strike after strike, then saw Dike racing through their secondary.

Dike, who also plays safety, led the state during the regular season last year with 1,091 receiving yards. His 79 receptions also tied for first in the state.

Kelliher had a huge year himself, throwing for 2,273 yards and 19 touchdowns, while completing 62.2% of his passes.

Kelliher threw 12 of those touchdowns to Dike, which marked an impressive trend



Kenny Yoo/Special to Conley Media

Waukesha North senior Chimere Dike, a Wisconsin Badgers recruit, returns after a first-team all-state selection last season.

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

Aug. 23: Mukwonago  
Aug. 30: at Kettle Moraine  
Sept. 6: Waukesha South  
Sept. 13: at Muskego  
Sept. 20: Arrowhead  
Sept. 26: at Waukesha West  
Oct. 4: Wauwatosa West  
Oct. 11: Oconomowoc  
Oct. 18: at Catholic Memorial (at Carroll University)

for North's star wideout. Dike caught three TDs as a freshman, six as a sophomore and 12 a year ago — meaning he's doubled his touchdown total every year.

If Dike continues that pattern, it would put him on pace for 24 TDs this year — meaning he and Kelliher could set a state record. Right now, though, the two four-year varsity players are thinking more about winning games than setting records.

"We are lucky to have them leading our program this year and setting us up for the future as well," said Harris, whose team went 2-7 a year

## Waukesha North

**Coach:** Matt Harris, sixth season  
**2018:** 2-7, 2-6 in Classic 8  
**Key returning players:** WR/S Chimere Dike, QB Johnny Kelliher, RB Javi Diaz, WR Ben Spiers, CB Javeonta Brown, LB Chris Abts, LB Nelson Liu, LB Saul Gonzalez.

**Promising newcomers:** OL Jace Ocker, TE/WR Clayton Schwalbe, DT Gabe Chaney, LB Jack Klussendorf.

**Key graduation losses:** RB Ben Sorge, OL Jared Thompson, OL J.R. Shiddell, DB Alex Lesperance.

ago. "They make us look like the best passing game coordinators in the state, but they are just that good."

The rest of North's offense could be awfully good as well.

Senior running back Javi Diaz (5-11, 185) "is primed for a huge year" according to Harris. Junior tight end Clayton Schwalbe (6-1, 180) and senior Ben Spiers (6-2, 170) will complement Dike

See NORTH, PAGE 4

# The Freeman has your team covered!

12 WEEKS  
FOR \$40.00\*

Offer expires 10/1/2019

High school game coverage every week.

To subscribe call  
(262) 542-2500

\*New subscribers only

The FREEMAN

A Trusted Tradition since 1859

or online at  
gmtoday.com/preps



DID THE  
KIDS  
BORROW  
THE CAR  
AGAIN?



\$

50

OFF

ANY DENT  
REPAIR

Maaco of Waukesha location only.  
Expires 9/30/19

Call 262-899-0065 to schedule your free estimate  
MAACO of Waukesha • 1921 S. West Ave., Waukesha, WI 53189



# South playing for Raebel this season

## McNello back at QB for second year

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

WAUKESHA — Football never comes before family. But the Waukesha South football program is family, and it will be moving forward with head coach A.J. Raebel on its mind when he isn't there on the sideline during the upcoming season.

In June, Raebel found out his cancer had returned after nearly a decade of remission, forcing him to take a leave of absence. But Raebel is still helping out behind the scenes for now, while assistant coaches Darnell Wilks, Adam Pilon and Dave Wolter divvy up head coaching duties.

"Right now I'm helping as much as I can, but a lot of it is on the administrative side of things," Raebel said. "Then I have a backup (Emma Pilon) assisting with all of it, and that's probably even understating it. Eventually she'll kind of take control of everything."

As Raebel fights his battle, the show goes on for the Blackshirts.

They couldn't have asked for a better start in 2018, snapping a drought of 23 straight conference defeats with a 42-27 victory over Oconomowoc in Week 1. There were other bright spots for South, which included rallying past Wauwatosa East in the final minute to bookend its season with a victory.

But the injury bug bit early and often for the Blackshirts, and it is something they hope to avoid in 2019.

"We lost 10 starters, so that was almost an impossible thing to overcome," Raebel said. "We had one healthy senior by the end of the year, so first and foremost, we want to make sure we stay healthy."

Six of those now departed seniors garnered all-conference recognition, but a talented junior class has the Blackshirts optimistic. One of those juniors is receiver/defensive back Ezequiel Diaz (5-11, 170 pounds), the top returning pass



Robert F. Borkowski/Special to Conley Media

Waukesha South junior Lavante Cleveland is a lead blocker for junior QB Jordan McNello during a game last season. These two will be in the backfield for the Blackshirts again this season.

catcher for South.

"He's going to be an impact player," Raebel said. "You may not see him always leading the stat line, but he's an extremely physical player. He's a great blocker on the perimeter taking on linebackers and defensive backs, and he's also a great strong safety. He comes downhill hard and makes big-play tackles, so I think Zeke Diaz is going to be a very important player for us."

Raebel also highlighted junior WR/DB Eli Hoyt (5-10, 158), who caught the game-winning pass against the Red Raiders.

See SOUTH, PAGE 6

## Waukesha South

**Coach:** A.J. Raebel

**2018 record:** 2-7, 1-7 in Classic 8

**Key returning players:** junior WR Zeke Diaz, junior QB Jordan McNello, junior RB Lavante Cleveland, senior OL/DL Nick Waggoner, junior WR/DB Eli Hoyt

**Promising newcomers:** senior OL/DL Alex Bartosz, senior OL/DL Geramiah Drew

**Key graduation losses:** OL Spencer Vigo, WR/LB Isaiah Garcia, WR Alex Vazquez, DE Matt Garrity, LB Manny Martinez, LB Jacob Pilon

## North

From Page 2

in the passing game, while junior center Jace Ocker (6-2, 205) spearheads what should be an athletic offensive line.

"We have a ton of great athletes as always," Harris said. "Our line has a different look this year with very athletic linemen, but we're not as big as in the past."

If North is going to make a playoff push, its defense has to make dramatic improvements. The Northstars allowed 36.3 points per game last year and four teams scored at least 42 points against North.

Dike was an honorable-mention all-conference safety and junior Javeonta Brown was an honorable-mention all-conference cornerback. The rest of the key cogs include senior middle linebacker Chris Abts (5-10, 190), sophomore defensive tackle Gabe Chaney (5-11, 230), junior linebacker Jack Klussendorf (6-1, 190), and senior outside linebackers Nelson Liu (6-0, 195) and Saul Gonzalez (5-10, 180).

"For the most part our entire defense is back from last year," Harris said. "We were extremely young and undersized. Every one of these players has put their heart and soul into training. They are definitely bigger, faster and stronger.

We should be much better equipped to stop the run this year."

North suffered a devastating loss this off-season when running back Kai Lermer died after going into cardiac arrest while playing basketball with friends. Lermer, who would have been a senior this year, suffered from an undiagnosed heart condition called Wolf Parkinson's White Syndrome.

"Every second we walk on the field we will be honoring Kai," Harris said. "We miss him tremendously and our team will fight for him with everything we have."

Whether or not that helps North reach the playoffs remains to be seen.

Either way, the Dike-Kelliher duo should make the Northstars one of the more exciting teams to watch this fall.

"Snapping that streak used to be a driving force," Harris said. "We have had some great teams in the last five years that if in different situations might have made a lot of noise in the 'Wisconsin Playoff System.'

"Our driving force is becoming the best football team we possibly can and control what we can control. We have incredible talent to compete in this conference, but we have to develop the younger players to create depth."

# AIRSOFT HEADQUARTERS

## YOUR "TACTICAL TOY STORE"

Wisconsin's LARGEST Airsoft Superstore Offering over 300 Airsoft Replicas

**262-278-4313**

300 Travis Lane, Unit 19, Waukesha, WI 53189

Mon. - Fri. 12pm-8pm • Sat./Sun. 10am-6pm

# AIRSOFT HEADQUARTERS

## Airsoft Arena

**CATEGORIES**

- New Releases
- C3 Specials
- Trade-Ins
- Electric Rifles
- Gas Rifles
- Pistols
- Shotguns
- Sniper
- Safety
- Accessories
- BB's
- Batteries

**PRODUCTS**

Elite Force Glock 17

KWC Colt 1911

Ares Amoeba Striker

CYMA M870

SHOP OUR  
NEW  
ONLINE  
STORE

[www.TheAirsoftHeadquarters.com](http://www.TheAirsoftHeadquarters.com)



CMH

From Page 2

Fortunately, CMH has the pieces in place to play at a very high level.

After overhauling the offense last season under new offensive coordinator Nick Vitale, the Crusaders opened things up and relied heavily on now senior quarterback Luke Fox (6-1, 180 pounds), a Division I baseball recruit heading to Duke next year.

Fox's live left arm has translated to football pretty well. Last season, he completed 59.9 percent of his passes for 2,425 yards and 29 touchdowns to just three interceptions.

The mobile Fox also rushed for 264 yards and four scores, including a memorable, go-ahead 70-yard scamper to the end zone in the WIAA Division 3 championship game against West De Pere last season, in which CMH rallied to win 37-24.

"He's a special player," Young said. "He can throw on any platform, moving, throwing across his body, vertically. He's a really, really good player."

Fox will be protected up front by junior Jim Schwaab (6-4, 270) at center, senior James Groehler (6-2, 240) at right guard, sophomore Josiah Nathaniel (6-0, 240) at left guard, senior Rocco Pellegrini (6-5, 290) at left tackle and senior Sam Bautz (6-3, 275) at left tackle.

In the backfield, a pair of future Big Ten defenders will split time at fullback — seniors Cole Dakovich (6-5, 245) and Ben Kreul (6-3, 230). They'll pave the way for senior tailback Tommy Schmitzer (5-9, 190), who rushed for 652 yards and nine TDs a season ago.

Schmitzer split time in the backfield with Tate Kopulos, who accounted for 26 touchdowns and over 1,600 all-purpose yards in his final high school season.

"There's no doubt you're going to miss a kid



Mary Langenfeld/Special to Conley Media

Catholic Memorial senior Luke Fox runs for a touchdown during the WIAA Division 3 state championship game against West De Pere last season.

like Tate Kopulos," Young said. "We have some key losses off that team. We lost Luke Hubley (team-high nine sacks). He's going to Northern Michigan. He was a really outstanding defensive lineman. JC Latham (seven sacks), he's down at IMG Academy in Florida, and then our nose guard transferred back to Whittall, Jason Guzniczak. We lost Matthew Schultz and Joe Oechsner (nine combined INTs) on the back end. That's part of high school."

Being counted on to help replace Kopulos' production in the slot will be junior Alex Oechsner (5-9, 170) and sophomore Rory Fox (5-11, 165). Sophomore Obacoso Allen (5-9, 180), who showed flashes in limited action in 2018, will back up Schmitzer.

Out wide, seniors Joe Sikma (6-1, 175), Dan Fynaardt (6-2, 175) and

Jalen Harris (6-2, 195) will be the primary pass catchers. Sikma led the Crusaders last season with 60 receptions for 998 yards and 13 TDs.

"Our kids have a great attitude," Young said. "I really like our seniors. I'm really impressed with how hard the kids worked all summer. No doubt you lose some really great guys, but other guys have paid their dues, so it's wait and see how they progress."

Several of the aforementioned names will contribute on the defensive side as well. Perhaps the most noticeable change is Dakovich, who is committed to the University of Wisconsin, moving from linebacker to defensive end.

"Cole was our nickel last year," Young said. "He was probably about 225 last year. Now he's up to 247."

He'll be joined on the line by seniors Sergio

Carini (5-11, 260) and Jake Koslo (6-2, 230), with sophomores Adam Boehm (5-10, 230), Morgan McKnight (6-3, 235) and senior Alex Sperl (6-2, 220) also rotating in and out.

Two more players with all-conference accolades to their name — Kreul and fellow senior Joey Goetz (6-2, 220) — are slotted at inside linebacker. Kreul, a Purdue University commit, led Catholic Memorial in tackles with 145 last season.

Three players will rotate at the two outside linebacker positions in the Crusaders' 3-4 defense — senior Sam Rupel (5-11, 160), sophomore Langston Latham (6-1, 205) and sophomore transfer Charlie Jarvis (5-11, 175).

Sikma and Fynaardt return to the defensive backfield at cornerback and strong safety, respectively. Oechsner, Rory Fox, senior Chrys Stringfellow (6-1, 175) and junior Ben Didion (5-10, 190) have all been getting reps at the other two DB positions.

Fox will continue to kick for CMH, while Kreul and Rory Fox are the team's two punters, and junior Kellan Short (5-7, 160) rounds out the specialists at long snapper.

As Young alluded to, Muskego will be the popular pick to win the Classic 8 after an undefeated 2018 campaign that culminated in a Division 1 title. The Crusaders surely have their Sept. 27 trip to Muskego circled after falling by two points in a thriller last season.

Winning a C8 title before moving to the Woodland West Conference in 2020 would be a momentous accomplishment, but the ultimate goal is making it back-to-back state championships.

"The bottom line is you line up with the same guys each week, hope to keep them healthy, keep them fresh, play at a high level, make the playoffs and from there try to make a run," Young said. "I like how the kids are working."

Postseason regulars

West looking for fourth straight berth to D2 quarterfinals

By Daniel Mike  
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — The Waukesha West football team had another impressive postseason in 2018.

The Wolverines got to the WIAA Division 2 state quarterfinals a year ago, and those three postseason games gave West a nice head start for 2019.

"Whenever you get that extra time in the postseason, it gives you an opportunity to work with some of those younger guys — especially those sophomores," veteran West coach Steve Rux said. "That's three extra weeks of practice to get those sophomores ready to practice on the varsity level. While you're obviously focused on the task at hand, it still gives you a chance to see what you have for the next year."

That year is now, and West is excited to make another run for the postseason. An important reason for optimism is senior quarterback Brooks Blount (6-foot, 175 pounds). Blount is entering his third year as a starter after receiving All-Classic 8 Conference honorable mention as a junior.

"He gives us an advantage at

Waukesha West

**Coach:** Steve Rux, 20th season  
**2018:** 7-5 overall, 4-4 Classic 8 (lost in Level 3 of WIAA Division 2 playoffs)

**Key returning players:** senior offensive lineman Jack Sobczak (second-team All-Classic 8), senior defensive lineman Craig Handon (second team), senior offensive lineman Zach Kluge (honorable mention), senior fullback Lucas Stray (honorable mention), senior quarterback Brooks Blount, senior defensive lineman Nick Redding (honorable mention)

**Key graduation losses:** running back Sam Mikulak, receiver/defensive back Trae Tetzlaff, offensive lineman/punter Nick Hanke

that position," Rux said of Blount. "He understands the protection schemes and the route concepts."

Blount will benefit from three returning starters on the offensive line. Senior left tackle Jack Sobczak (6-2, 300) was a second-team all-conference pick last year, and senior right tackle Zach Kluge (6-2, 265) received honorable mention. Junior guard Gavin Black (6-2, 230) also returns.

Seniors Zach Schuett (6-2, 230) and Anthony Bertram (6-3, 250) and junior Logan Anderson (5-6, 215) are expected to fill the remaining two spots up front.

"We have a solid group and a lot of great backups," Rux said of the offensive line. "We've got a lot of younger guys, and we really like our offensive line group."

See WEST, PAGE 6



Kenny Yoo/Special Conley Media

Waukesha West senior Brooks Blount enters his third year as the starting quarterback for the Wolverines.



# West

From Page 5

Senior Lucas Stray (6-0, 188) returns at fullback after an honorable mention all-conference season, and senior Kyle Hubbard (5-9, 165) returns at running back after making two starts last season.

Junior Dan Kujawa (6-4, 201) saw a lot of action at tight end last season, while Rux is excited about his receiving group of senior Devon Portz (6-1, 175) and juniors Tyler Hug (5-11, 165), Nate Andringa (6-7, 180), Justin Jenkins (5-11, 160) and Devon Townsend (5-8, 160).

The defense will be led by senior defensive linemen Craig Hanson (6-2, 278) and Nick Redding (6-2, 235). Hanson was a second-team all-league pick, while Redding received honorable mention. Seniors Logan Clementi (6-5, 230) and Tyler Sieger (6-4, 215) will also provide a strong presence up front.

Senior Brent Bartelt (5-11, 180), who is making a move from strong safety to inside linebacker, headlines an athletic linebacker crew that includes senior Ben Zibton (6-2, 180) and juniors Alex Gerstner (6-1, 220) and Dylan Rhodes (6-1, 200). Junior Tate Peters (5-11, 180), who started one game last year, will also play a big role from the outside linebacker/strong safety position.

Junior CJ Grisar (5-10, 160) will move from strong safety to deep safety this season after starting eight games as a sophomore. Senior Pierce Hudson (6-0, 185) will move from safety to corner after starting every game last season.

Juniors Tanor Gehrke (6-3, 172), Kyle Miller (6-2, 170) and Tyler Lechner (6-1, 180) will also step into the defensive backfield.

“They’ve done a great job in camp,” Rux said. “It’s just that they haven’t gotten a lot of experience yet.”

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 23:** Kettle Moraine  
**Aug. 30:** at Waukesha South  
**Sept. 6:** Muskego  
**Sept. 13:** at Arrowhead  
**Sept. 20:** Menomonee Falls  
**Sept. 26:** Waukesha North  
**Oct. 4:** at Oconomowoc  
**Oct. 11:** Catholic Memorial  
**Oct. 18:** at Mukwonago

Rux said senior Alex Legut (6-1, 165) and Bartelt will handle kicking duties. “We’ve got a great group on defense,” Rux said. “We had a lot of guys put in time in the weight room and are ready to step up this year.”

After tying for fourth in the Classic 8 at 4-4 last season, the Wolverines are looking to make a move up the league standings.

“Like any year, we have to be ready to play each week,” Rux said. “We need to find that way in and make a run.”

That’s no small task in the Classic 8, which sent six of its nine teams to the postseason. That includes unbeaten Division 1 state champion Muskego and a one-loss Catholic Memorial team that won the Division 3 state title.

“It may be even stronger than a year ago,” Rux said. “Catholic Memorial has a great quarterback and some big talent on defense. Muskego had a great team, and I can’t imagine them taking a step back. Mukwonago should be better, Oconomowoc as well. Arrowhead really turned a corner last year — unfortunately against us.

“The Classic 8 is as strong as it’s ever been.”

Rux believes that includes his squad as well.

“I think we’ll be a strong team,” he said. “We’ve got a significant number of guys back on both sides, and this may be the first time we’ve ever had 22 starters. We’ve never been able to completely platoon.”

# Muskego’s success breeds success

## 13 starters return from title team

By Jeff Hagenau  
Special to Conley Media

MUSKEGO — Coming off the most successful season in school history, the Muskego football program plans to maintain its tough, hard-nosed approach and continue to build upon its long-standing reputation as a state powerhouse.

Muskego claimed the Classic 8 Conference title with an impressive 8-0 record en route to the D1 state championship — defeating five-time defending state champion Kimberly 24-21 in the state finals and finishing 14-0 overall last year.

Muskego has qualified for the playoffs 19 times dating back to 1984, earning postseason berths four of the last five years.

The Warriors, who have posted an impressive 70-29 overall record over the course of the last nine years, have captured Classic 8 titles three of the last five seasons.

Muskego, which averaged 39 points per game last year behind its explosive wing-T offense, generated 40 or more points in seven victories.

For Muskego veteran coach Ken Krause, entering his 12th season at the helm, the historic championship season has served as great motivation for this year’s team.

“I’m really excited about this group and how they have come into the season ready to go and hunting to accomplish their



Mary Langenfeld/Special to Conley Media

Muskego seniors Jacob Leszczynski, left, and Ethan Jauquet are three-year starting offensive linemen.

goals,” Krause said. “Even though we have a lot of returning starters, we’re a hungry, new team that’s ready to leave 2018 behind and make its mark.

“It’s early in camp, but I’ve been very impressed with their attitude, work ethic and desire to improve each time we step on the field.”

It will be difficult to fill a void created from the graduation of a strong, experienced contingent of all-conference players, including honorable mention quarterback A.J. Makinen, who passed for 654 yards with 12 touchdowns and also rushed for seven TDs last year.

First-team defensive lineman Nate Stewart, the Classic 8 Defen-

sive Player of the Year, first-team inside linebacker Mitch Borkovec, second-team tight end/fullback John Reiske, second-team defensive lineman Lenny Roecker, second-team kicker Lucas Amaya, honorable-mention offensive lineman Austin Burke and honorable-mention defensive backs Joe Mlachnik, Sam Chovanec and Mitchel Kundronowicz will also be missed.

They return of 13 starters, including 10 all-conference selections, will be vital to the team’s success this season.

Senior Connor Grohman (6-2, 185), is projected to be the starting quarterback.

See **MUSKEGO**, PAGE 7

# South

From Page 4

“He’s very undersized but learned how to become a phenomenal tackler,” Raebel said. “He ended up being our most consistent tackler. He’s really fast. He’s got good hands.”

Nick Waggoner (6-1, 220), one of 11 seniors on the team, is the driving force on both lines for the Blackshirts, and Raebel said junior linebacker Joe Kulas (5-9, 190), who will also play some running back this season, is one of the team’s most talented players.

Speaking of talent, senior defensive end Geramiah Drew (6-3, 245) is poised to be one of the biggest surprises across

all of the Classic 8 Conference.

“He’s long, he’s incredibly athletic, 8% body fat,” Raebel said. “Every team we’ve had come look at him from Division I schools have said, ‘He’s on our radar.’ He just hasn’t played a ton, otherwise he’d have Division-I offers all over. He’s grown into a man-sized body the last couple months.

“Last year, he was still trying to figure out the game of football, plus we already had guys like Matt Garrity. We had a lot of talent at defensive end. But he’s worked his butt off this offseason. I think he’s going to be phenomenal for us.”

Where the Blackshirts may have felt the most growing pains was at the most impor-

tant position on the offense — quarterback.

It was the first year post-Grayson Cooley, an all-conference signal caller who broke all sorts of passing records at Waukesha South. That left big shoes to fill for Jordan McNello (6-0, 175), but now a year older and wiser, Raebel thinks the junior QB can settle into his own and put up big numbers.

“It was a difficult role for him to take over,” Raebel said. “We had to simplify the game for him a little bit. Grayson understood the game. He was able to override plays because he could read any defense.

“Jordan is just as bright, but he was 15, 16, so we had to take away some of the choice plays and give him a direct call.

Now he’s making more decisions. His arm’s a lot more accurate. So we’re hoping this year we can open up the playbook a little more, have him run around and play more backyard football, and I think that’s going well so far.”

South will also have to replace a majority of its offensive line and count on players like senior Alex Bartosz (6-0, 200) to step up and help pave the way for leading rusher, junior Lavante Cleveland (5-10, 169), and others.

“He’s always struggled to crack the starting lineup, but at the end of the year he became one of our starters on the offensive line,” Raebel said. “This year we’re leaning on him to play both ways. He put on ton of weight, a ton of

muscle, so he should be an impact player for us.”

Part of the battle the Blackshirts face when it comes to building their program is simply believing. Raebel wants to see that belief from his players from Day 1, and that could very well lead to results for a team looking for its first playoff berth since the turn of the century.

“From a competitive standpoint, the last two years, kids have seen we can compete with any team in the conference,” Raebel said. “I don’t know if they believe they can win against any team yet.

“I want to see them learn how to win, how to handle adversity. I want to see kids stay confident, believe in themselves and their team-

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 23:** at Arrowhead  
**Aug. 30:** Waukesha West  
**Sept. 6:** at Waukesha North  
**Sept. 13:** Oconomowoc  
**Sept. 20:** at Catholic Memorial  
**Sept. 27:** Mukwonago  
**Oct. 4:** at Kettle Moraine  
**Oct. 11:** West Allis Hale  
**Oct. 18:** Muskego

mates, play four quarters of football and get a victory.

“I think we can do it. The question is how many and against who. We’re not graduating many, so the year after that, it’s only going to get better. But the sooner we get over that hump, the better. I hope to see that in the first few weeks of the season.”



# Muskego

From Page 6

Senior second-team all-conference running back Andrew Leair (6-0, 177), junior second-team running back Alex Current (5-11, 176) and junior fullback Josh Bulski (5-10, 180) will solidify the backfield.

Current rushed 115 times for a team-leading 1,542 yards and 23 touchdowns, averaging 13.4 yards per carry. Leair added 42 carries for 410 yards and three TDs with a 9.8 yard average.

The first-team all-conference tandem of three-year starting offensive linemen Jacob Leszczynski (6-4, 335) and Ethan Jauquet (6-3, 260) will provide stability up front. Senior linemen Terrin Hey (6-8, 310) and junior Kyle Mason (6-1, 218), who each earned honorable mentions, also figure to bring stability up front.

Seniors Eric Strzyzewski (6-5, 200) and Ryan Harrison (6-2, 175) will be the tight ends.

Second-team all-conference senior inside linebacker Bryan Gruehn Jr. (6-0, 200), senior second-team outside linebacker Richard Wauer (6-1, 185), senior outside linebacker Nick Maier (6-0, 190), junior defensive back Mason Buehler (6-1, 175) and junior first-team free safety Hunter Wohler (6-2, 188) are slated to lead the defense.

Wohler led the Warriors with 155 tackles, including 106 solo tackles, and five interceptions last year.

Senior honorable mention punter Shane Dunning (5-11, 170) will help lead the special teams.

“We feel very fortunate and blessed to be able to play and coach in Muskego with so much support from the administration, community and fans year-in and year-out,”

## Muskego

**Coach:** Ken Krause, 12th season

**2018 record:** 14-0 overall, 8-0 in Classic 8 Conference (first place), and won the WIAA Division 1 state championship, defeating four-time defending state champion Kimberly 24-21)

**Key returning players:** senior QB/FS Connor Grohman, senior OT/G Jacob Leszczynski, senior OT Ethan Jauquet, junior FS Hunter Wohler, senior RB Andrew Leair and junior RB Alex Current

**Key graduation losses:** QB A.J. Makinen, DL Nate Stewart, OL Austin Burke, FB John Reiske, ILB Mitch Borkovec and K Lucas Amaya

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 22:** Marquette  
**Aug. 30:** Arrowhead  
**Sept. 6:** at Waukesha West  
**Sept. 13:** Waukesha North  
**Sept. 20:** at Oconomowoc  
**Sept. 27:** Catholic Memorial  
**Oct. 4:** at Mukwonago  
**Oct. 11:** Kettle Moraine  
**Oct. 18:** at Waukesha South

Krause added. “With the talent and depth of the Classic 8, it forces every program to take their game to a higher level and ultimately played a huge role in winning the state championship last season.

“It’s a privilege to be in the league and truly shows that it takes a one-game focus and mentality to be successful. That’s the approach we are going to continue to take once again this season. We expect to be in the mix so now we just need to get better each time we step on the field and stay healthy as the year progresses.

We have a hungry, hardworking group that’s ready to write some new history of its own.”

# Arrowhead eyeing better start in 2019

## Warhawks looking for 24th straight playoff berth

By Chuck Delsman  
Special to Conley Media

TOWN OF MERTON — One year ago, the Arrowhead football team got off to a near disastrous start, losing its first three games of the season. That’s uncharted territory for the Warhawks.

But coach Fritz Rauch and his Warhawks quickly went back to work, righted that sinking ship and won their next seven games. They battled undefeated and No. 1 ranked Fond du Lac toe-to-toe in a WIAA Division 1 Level 2 playoff game before eventually falling, 28-22. They finished 7-4.

Top priority for the fourth-year AHS coach and his team is obviously to get off to a better start this season and continue the momentum they built up the last eight weeks of the season.

“So far our practices and the kids are going great,” Rauch said. “We had a great summer and bring back some very good pieces. But we all know there’s room to grow.”

And at the top of the list is getting off to a lot better start than a season ago.

“Last year, we lost out first three games and then got things going after that, winning seven games in a row,” Rauch said. “A big key for us will be to start the year the way we finished it last year.

“We had a big chance to defeat Fond du Lac last year and the coaches and kids knew it. We were disappointed when we walked off the field that night. Our goal right now is to build off the momentum that we finished the season last year with and come out strong.”

Nothing will come easily for the Warhawks early in the season. They open Classic 8 Conference play Aug. 23 at home against Waukesha South and then travel to nemesis Muskego Aug. 30. All the Warriors did last season was take the Division 1 playoffs by storm, eventually winning their first football state championship in school history.

There’s a good deal of optimism around the AHS program



Kenny Yoo/Special to Conley Media

Arrowhead quarterback Tommy Darrow hands off the ball to Josh Nielsen during a game last season.

this year and for good reason. The Warhawks have eight all-conference players returning, including six on the defensive side of the ball.

Arrowhead has one of the most impressive playoff history runs in the state. It has qualified for the postseason 23 consecutive seasons and 27 times in the last 28 years.

Anchoring the AHS defense will be senior linebacker Johnny Orlando (5-11, 195), junior defensive back Owen Arnett (6-0, 190), senior lineman John Henry Schlager (6-3, 275), senior linebacker Brady Rippenburg (5-11, 205), senior linebacker Dalton Elrod (6-3, 215) and senior linebacker Everett Fawley (5-11, 205).

Add to that list junior lineman Nate Hess (6-1, 200) and senior defensive back Coleton Borkowicz (5-10, 175) and you have the makings of a very strong defense. Elrod, Fawley and Orlando were the top three tacklers for the Warhawks last season.

“Right now we look pretty good on that side of the ball,” Rauch said about his defense. “We’ve got a lot of guys who made all-conference back and a lot of guys who played a lot of football last year and kept getting better as the season moved on. From the front to the back we’re pretty solid. And we expect a few more kids to emerge as we go going.”

Offensively, the Warhawks finished with a bang, ending the season with a scoring average of 32.5 points per game.

A big key for that unit will be how the quarterback position

plays out. Senior Tommy Darrow (6-2, 185) will open the season at that spot and he’s not new to the position. He’s been with the varsity all four years and started the first three games last year before being replaced by Nic Wohlfiel. Darrow also played quarterback as a sophomore.

“Tommy started three games for us last year so he knows the position,” Rauch said. “He has a clear path to be our starter if his performances back that up.”

Darrow saw action at the spot in four games and completed 69% of his passes, good for three touchdowns and 7.4 yards per throw. Also in contention for playing time are junior Jackson Tanke (6-0, 170) and sophomore Charlie Smith (6-0, 170).

The Warhawks also return their top running back from last season. Senior Josh Nielsen (5-9, 180) got the bulk of the carries, finishing the year with 190 rushes and averaging 5.9 yards per attempt while scoring 11 touchdowns. Junior Brady Russ (5-11, 175) also is expected to do a lot of things for the Warhawks out of the backfield.

The top receiver back is senior Robbie Symdon (6-2, 195). In 2018, besides being an all-conference punter, he caught 25 passes, good for three scores and a solid average of 13.8 yards per reception. Junior Tyler Bittman (6-2, 170) also has looked good in the early practices.

“It’s nice having Josh Nielsen returning as our top ball carrier,” Rauch said. “He had a good year last season and should be even better this year. Brady

## Arrowhead

**Coach:** Fritz Rauch, fourth season

**2018:** 7-4 overall, 6-2 in Classic 8

**Key returning players:** senior LB Johnny Orlando, junior DB Owen Arnett, senior WR/P Robbie Symdon, senior DL John Henry Schlager, senior LB Brady Rippenburg, senior LB Dalton Elrod, senior LB Everett Fawley, senior RB Josh Nielsen, senior OL Mason Carnell

**Promising newcomers:** junior RB Brady Russ, junior DL Nate Hess, junior WR Tyler Bittman

**Key graduation losses:** QB/DB Nic Wohlfiel, DB Jacob Boray, DL Jack Hazod, RB Robbie Lindemann, WR Jacob Schleicher

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 23:** Waukesha South  
**Aug. 30:** at Muskego  
**Sept. 6:** Brookfield East  
**Sept. 13:** Waukesha West  
**Sept. 20:** at Waukesha North  
**Sept. 27:** Oconomowoc  
**Oct. 4:** at Catholic Memorial  
**Oct. 11:** Mukwonago  
**Oct. 18:** at Kettle Moraine

Russ can do a lot of different things for us, and Robbie Symdon and Tyler Bittman give us some good receivers. And again, we expect more guys to make contributions as the season moves on.”

Heading the offensive linemen are senior Mason Carnell (6-2, 270) and Loic Venon (6-3, 295). Both started last season and have been the leaders of that group so far.

“We need three things to happen for us this season that will be very important,” Rauch added. “First, we need solid senior leadership right from the start. That’s important. Second, we need all of our experienced guys to play with a chip on their shoulders. And third, we have go out on the field and perform, gain confidence with every game.

“We want to start fast. You can’t win a state championship or lose one in week two. But you can get stronger with each passing week.”

This is the 23rd season of the Classic 8 Conference and the Warhawks have won the most league championship with 10. Waukesha West and Catholic Memorial are next with five each and Mukwonago has four.



# New coach hoping to keep momentum going

## KM has won a playoff game each of last two years

By **Chuck Delsman**  
Special to Conley Media

WALES — The Matt McDonnell era is about to begin at Kettle Moraine High School. McDonnell was named the Lasers head football coach earlier this summer.

The job opened up for the longtime assistant coach in June when third-year KM coach Justin Gumm resigned. The school quickly set up some interviews and McDonnell got the job. He's familiar with the program, having been the team's defensive coordinator last year.

"I'm excited to get started and keep our momentum going in the right direction," McDonnell said. "Having been on the staff last year will make things easier. I know the kids and had the opportunity to work with a lot of them last season."

Keeping that momentum going won't be an easy task for McDonnell and the Lasers. The team made big headlines last year when it became the first in school history to win first-round WIAA playoff games in consecutive seasons.

The Lasers come into the season with back-to-back winning campaigns, the first time that's happened since the 2007 and 2008 seasons.

"So far there has been a lot of good energy and

enthusiasm in the practices from the players and coaches," McDonnell said. "We're going into the season with about 98% of the positions still up for grabs. The competition for spots has been good. We're just going to go out in the field and let things sort out and let the chips fall where they may."

On the offensive side of the ball, KM has a lot of work to do. Most of the points and playmakers from last year graduated in June. None bigger than running back Elijah Weis, who was one of the most productive running backs in the Classic 8 Conference the last two years. Last season, he scored 20 touchdowns and averaged a hefty 7.1 yards per carry.

"It's almost impossible to replace a guy like Eli Weis," McDonnell said. "He was one of the best running backs in the conference. Guys like him don't come around that often."

The quarterback position is up for grabs. Competing for the starting spot are senior Max Mathison (6-4, 205) and junior Jackson Holzhauser (5-11, 160). Mathison played in three games one season ago and completed 11 of 27 passes.

"Those two guys also play basketball and are good athletes," McDonnell said. "We need one of them to step up and take charge."



Russ Pulvermacher/Special to Conley Media

Kettle Moraine senior wide receiver Karsen Kleppe catches a pass during a game last season.

Trying to fill the shoes of Weis at running back right now are junior Connor King (5-10, 160), senior Lukas Spencer (6-3, 212) and junior Tanner Carlsen (5-10, 178).

The top two receivers back from one year ago are senior Karsen Kleppe (6-2, 172) and Spencer. Kleppe caught 22 passes last season, averaging 16.1 yards per reception. Spencer also was productive, grabbing 10 passes, good for 12.9 yards per catch.

The offense has a strong backbone to build off of. Senior Trey Wedig was an all-state offensive tackle in 2018 and has already committed to play college football at the University of Wisconsin. The 6-7, 302-

pound Wedig is expected to be one of the best O-linemen in the state. This is his fourth year with the varsity.

Kettle Moraine's defense has many more returning players. Five of those spots will be manned by players who earned all-conference status one season ago.

Earning honorable mention last year on defense were senior defensive back Nicholas Randgaard (5-10, 155), junior defensive back Nolan Gende (6-0, 170), senior defensive lineman Carson Fontaine (6-2, 238), Wedig at defensive line and Spencer at inside linebacker.

"Having worked more with the kids on defense last year as the D-coordina-

### Kettle Moraine

**Coach:** Matt McDonnell, first season

**2018:** 6-5 overall, 4-4 in Classic 8

**Key returning players:** senior OL/DL Trey Wedig, senior DB Nicholas Randgaard, junior DB Nolan Gende, senior DL/OL Carson Fontaine, senior LB Lukas Spencer, senior WR/DB Karsen Kleppe

**Promising newcomers:** junior RB Connor King, junior LB Tanner Carlsen

**Key graduation losses:** P/K Blake Wilcox, DE Jacob Rock, OLB Caleb Rife, OLB Hunter Denor, DB Logan Ohm, DB Caleb Hotchkiss, WR Will Knutson, RB Elijah Weis

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 23:** at Waukesha West

**Aug. 30:** Waukesha North

**Sept. 6:** at Oconomowoc

**Sept. 13:** Catholic Memorial

**Sept. 20:** at Mukwonago

**Sept. 27:** Germantown

**Oct. 4:** Waukesha South

**Oct. 11:** at Muskego

**Oct. 18:** Arrowhead

tor will help a lot," McDonnell said. "We've got some kids back who made the all-conference team so we'll have some experience on that side of the ball."

"But like I said before. The competition for spots is still up for grabs. And that's good. We've got some kids working hard to get on the field."

# Indians seeking another playoff berth

## Mukwonago lost in Level 2 last year

By **Jeff Hagenau**  
Special to Conley Media

MUKWONAGO — "To be the best, out-work the rest."

That has been the underlying mantra of the highly successful Mukwonago football program for many years.

The Indians took that hard-hitting, no-nonsense approach to heart last season, reaffirming their long-standing reputation as a viable force within the challenging Classic 8 Conference and playoff contender.

Mukwonago finished in a three-way tie for fourth place in conference with a 4-4 record and wound up 6-5 overall last season, qualifying for the WIAA Division 1 playoffs for the first time since 2014 under first-year coach Mike Gnewuch.

Following a momentum-building home-field victory over Badger (35-15) in the opening round of the playoffs, the Indians lost on the road to high-powered Franklin in a Level 2 game to end their season.

With a system firmly in place, Gnewuch and the Indians look to learn from last year's success on the gridiron and continue to move the chains forward.

"The kids have high expectations, worked really hard throughout the offseason and bought into everything we've been doing hook, line and sinker," Gnewuch said. "We're led by a very close-knit group of seniors and collectively everyone has approached each challenge with a great attitude. Now we're just looking to build off of what we accomplished last year."

"Looking back, we had a lot of talent last season but just didn't have enough strength to sustain the momentum once we advanced into the second round of the playoffs. This

See **MUKWONAGO**, PAGE 9

**VILLAGE**  
AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE LLC

Honest & Fair Pricing • Quality Services villageautoandtire.com | service@villageautoandtire.com

**COUPON**

**\$5.00 off**

**Oil & Filter Change, Plus Lube**

Coupon expires 12/31/19



**ASE**  
CERTIFIED




**COUPON**

**10% off**

**Labor Up to \$100**

Coupon expires 12/31/19

**HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 7:30AM - 5:30PM**



**Dragonfly**  
EMBROIDERY

**10% OFF**

**Ready Made School Wear**

**Dragonfly**

Expires 9/30/19

**Embroidered Apparel • Afghans**

**Letter Jackets • Team Apparel**

**Sport Bags • And More!**

**check out our new location**

**262-363-2373**

**507 Main St. Suite 200, Mukwonago**

**Hours: T-F 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-noon, Eve by appt.**



# Mukwonago

From Page 8

year, with the weight training we've done, we should be much better suited for playing the entire Classic 8 schedule and making another strong push for the postseason."

It will be a challenging task to fill the void created by the graduation of nine all-conference caliber players including first-team running back Josh Jendusa, the team's leading rusher, who finished with 1,744 yards and 15 touchdowns, averaging 6.9 yards per carry.

First-team tight end Dalton Gillette, first-team outside linebacker Luke Siewert, second-team wide receiver Wesley Juszczak, second-team offensive lineman Brett Pladies, second-team defensive lineman A.J. Major, honorable mention offensive lineman Tristan Klumb, honorable mention inside linebacker Mitch Magolan and honorable mention defensive back Paul Vildberg will also be missed.

"In terms of the system, we have more installed now than we did through the second week of the playoffs last year so we're excited about the possibilities," Gnewuch said. "To be able to expand on some things is really a credit to the kids, their ability to communicate and their commitment to learning.

"Probably like most programs in the state, we feel very good about our No. 1 lineup, don't have a lot of depth and are looking for some of the younger players to step up and contribute."

The return of 11 starters, including four all-conference selections, will play a critical role in the team's progression.



Kenny Yoo/Special to Conley Media

Mukwonago senior Ryan Genrich runs the ball in for a touchdown during a game last season.

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 23:** at Waukesha North

**Aug. 30:** Oconomowoc

**Sept. 5:** vs. Catholic Memorial (at Carroll University)

**Sept. 13:** Hamilton

**Sept. 20:** Kettle Moraine

**Sept. 27:** at Waukesha South

**Oct. 4:** Muskego

**Oct. 11:** at Arrowhead

**Oct. 18:** Waukesha West

Senior quarterback Justin Peck (5-11, 195), who completed 102 passes for 1,686 yards and 19 touchdowns last season, returns to lead the Mukwonago offense. Peck also showed his versatility by rushing for 365 yards and six TDs.

Senior tailback Ryan Genrich (5-11, 160) and junior fullback Cole Kaestner (5-11, 170) figure to bring stability to the backfield.

Senior second-team all-conference selection Tyler Pitcel (6-5, 280), senior Gavin Nelson (6-2, 220), senior Mac Collins (6-0, 215), senior Ben Rucinski (5-10, 220), senior Zach Paprocki (6-3, 240) and junior tight end Garrett Gillette (6-4, 190) will help anchor an experienced offensive line.

Seniors Josh Rady (6-0, 140) and Sam Rehl (5-11, 160) are

## Mukwonago

**Coach:** Mike Gnewuch, second season

**2018:** 6-5 overall, 4-4 in Classic 8

**Key returning players:** senior QB Justin Peck, senior RB Ryan Genrich, senior ILB Will Borchert, senior FS Aaron Schmitz, senior OL Tyler Pitcel, senior DL Nate Wilcher

**Key graduation losses:** RB Josh Jendusa, TE Dalton Gillette, OLB Luke Siewert, WR Wesley Juszczak, OL Brett Pladies, DL A.J. Major, OL Tristan Klumb, ILB Mitch Magolan and DB Paul Vildberg

slated to lead the receiving corps.

Senior inside linebacker Will Borchert (6-0, 225), a first-team all-conference selection last year who registered 138 tackles with four sacks, three recovered fumbles and an interception, returns to lead the defense.

Senior linebacker Christian Schultz (6-2, 190), senior second-team free safety Aaron Schmitz (5-8, 175) and senior honorable mention lineman Nate Wilcher (5-10, 240) also return. Senior kicker Max Wrasman (5-11, 185) is slated to lead the special teams.

# P-E senior-heavy in 2019

## Most are 3-year starters

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

PALMYRA — Although its school district's future is in jeopardy, Palmyra-Eagle is poised to put forth an exciting on-field product this season, one that could result in plenty of wins.

Last year, a loaded junior class helped the Panthers reach the postseason for the first time in eight years. Those players are all seniors now, prepared to get P-E back to the playoffs — and perhaps secure its first postseason victory since 2005.

"This group of seniors came into high school witnessing back-to-back 1-8 seasons during their eighth- and ninth-grade years," P-E co-coach Mike Meracle said. "Most of them have been starting or seeing significant playing time since

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 23:** Marshall

**Aug. 30:** Dominican

**Sept. 6:** at Dodgeand

**Sept. 13:** Horicon/Hustisford

**Sept. 20:** at Pardeeville

**Sept. 27:** at Waterloo

**Oct. 4:** Markesan

**Oct. 11:** at Parkview/Albany

**Oct. 18:** Montello/Princeton/Green Lake

their sophomore year, and the program has seen steady improvement since then. The expectation of our senior class is that they want to do better this year. They want to improve in conference and win a playoff game or two."

Five players who received all-conference recognition in 2018 return, with senior offensive lineman Nathan Deuster (5-11, 245), senior defensive back Nolan Kopydlowski (5-11, 150) and senior defensive lineman Jake Pronschinske (6-4, 190) joining Wilde and Hammond.

## Palmyra-Eagle

**Coaches:** Mike Meracle and Kevin Wilde

**2018 record:** 6-4 overall, 3-3 in Trailways-Large, lost in first round of playoffs

**Key returning players:** senior QB Brandon Wilde, senior WR Danny Hammond, senior OL Nathan Deuster, senior DB Nolan Kopydlowski, senior DL Jake Pronschinske, senior RB/LB Cade Fleischmann

**Promising newcomers:** junior OL/DL Casey Webber, junior OL/DL Aiden Calderon

**Key graduation losses:** WR/LB Morgan Carpenter, DB/WR Josh Krystosek, RB Owen Butenhoff

The Panthers welcome back 15 starters in all.

Palmyra-Eagle also receives a big boost with senior Cade Fleischmann (6-3, 255) back in the mix. One of the more highly regarded linebackers in the state should also be the workhorse in the backfield while handling kicker and punter duties.

**URBAN HERRIGES & SONS, INC.**

262.363.4200  
www.herriges.com

121 Wolf Run, Suite 1  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
In Mukwonago since 1972

**Julie Herriges, CKBR**  
Wisconsin Registered  
Interior Designer

**m martens**  
PLUMBING & HEATING INC.  
Master Plumber Lic. #134384

**60+ Years**  
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!  
Serving Mukwonago & Surrounding Areas

**Plumbing Heating Air Conditioning Water Systems**

117 MacArthur Drive, Mukwonago, WI 53149  
**262-363-7146**  
www.martensplumbing.com

**We also do Bathroom Remodels**

265258001



# SJNMA starting earlier in 2019

## Bensch back at QB

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

DELAFIELD — It's Year 2 of Glenn Derby in charge of St. John's Northwestern Military Academy football, and this year's Day 1 proved to be leaps and bounds ahead of when the former University of Wisconsin and NFL offensive lineman took over.

Not only are the Lancers off to an earlier start this season — they only played seven games in 2018 due to an extended summer break — but enough players showed up to practice to field a team.

SJNMA showed marked improvement from its winless 2017 campaign, winning two of its seven games last fall.

The Lancers should be hopeful to match or exceed that total as they won't be lagging behind their counter-

### St. John's NW

**Coach:** Glenn Derby  
**2018 record:** 2-5 overall, 1-5 in Midwest Classic

**Key returning players:** junior OL Rolf Millan, senior RB/DB Gerald Gittens, senior RB/OL/LB Ricardo Barnes  
**Promising newcomers:** sophomore RB/LB Kenny Vasques, sophomore Colin Bonaccorsi, senior OL/DL Henry Mandel

parts and bring back a large chunk of last year's squad.

There are some promising additions expected as well.

"We've got a couple transfer kids that came in from Arrowhead," Derby said. "We have a couple really nice players. (Senior running back/defensive back) Gerald Gittens (5-10, 190 pounds) will be back. He's getting D1 scholarship offers for basketball, but he's a very nice football player. (Junior lineman) Rolf Millan (6-3, 255), I think, is going to be just phenomenal. I'm pretty sure he'll get notice from a lot of colleges. (Senior quarterback) Haydn Bensch (5-10, 150) is back. It'll be his

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m. unless noted)

**Aug. 23:** at Waupun  
**Aug. 30:** Deerfield, 4:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 6:** Brookfield Academy, 4 p.m.  
**Sept. 14:** at Living Word Lutheran, 1 p.m.  
**Sept. 20:** St. Francis, 4 p.m.  
**Sept. 27:** at Lake Country Lutheran  
**Oct. 5:** HOPE Christian, 2 p.m.  
**Oct. 11:** at Kenosha Christian Life  
**Oct. 18:** University School, 3 p.m.

third year at quarterback, so hopefully he'll be settling in doing good things."

Along with Millan and Gittens, senior Ricardo Barnes (5-10, 180) also received all-conference recognition in the Midwest Classic at linebacker.

"Who knows as far as wins and losses go? I'm not worried about that," Derby said. "I really believe we'll be competing way better than last year."

# Ocon looking for bounce-back season

## Malling likes team's attitude

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

OCONOMOWOC — Oconomowoc's 2018 football schedule ranked among the most challenging in Wisconsin.

The rugged road took its toll as Ocon went 0-9 overall, 0-8 in the Classic 8 and saw its conference losing streak reach 15 games.

A bounce-back season won't come easily for Oconomowoc, either. Its graduation losses included the team's leading rusher in Drake Reese, its top passer in Brady Wraalstad, its three most prolific receivers in Alex Biddle, Ethan Burch and Miller Wallace and its No. 1 tackler in Theo Ringgold.

Ringgold, a defensive end, was the Raccoons' lone first-team All-Classic 8 selection, while fellow 2019 graduate Leif Engstrand was a second-team all-conference offensive tackle.

Oconomowoc has turned the page, though, and third-year coach Greg Malling expressed encouragement following the team's camp sessions in late July and the first four days of practice.

"We had a great first week," Malling said. "We have a leaner, meaner group of Ocon football players this year. We have a lot of multi-sport athletes who know how to compete, and that is making a tremendous difference in the tempo and intensity of practice."

"We've really enjoyed every minute with this group."

An enthusiastic tone for the season was set during the Raccoon Youth Football Camp, at which many of the varsity players assisted with the coaching, and it carried over during the high school camp and early practices.

"We have 100 players on the team this year — down about 10 from last year," Malling said. "We had 74 kids at the second youth camp this year, which is pretty standard."

"The high school players had a great turnout. We have a group of young men that



Mark Hutchinson/Freeman Staff

Junior quarterback Max Bredeson leads Oconomowoc's offensive unit up to the line of scrimmage during one of the team's July camp sessions.

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 23:** Catholic Memorial  
**Aug. 30:** at Mukwonago  
**Sept. 6:** Kettle Moraine  
**Sept. 13:** at Waukesha South  
**Sept. 20:** Muskego  
**Sept. 27:** at Arrowhead  
**Oct. 4:** Waukesha West  
**Oct. 11:** at Waukesha North  
**Oct. 18:** Wauwatosa East

like working with the younger players and sharing their knowledge and experience, and in doing so really help develop the ties that bind our community."

A couple of seniors emerged as leaders during the offseason workouts, the camp sessions and the first few practices.

"Ethan Piber is an unbelievable worker and teammate," Malling said. "Drew Brezenski is a vocal leader and three-year starter on defense. He's always been a great worker and awesome student, but his maturation as a player over the last year has been incredible."

Brezenski, a linebacker, ranked second among the Raccoons with 51 tackles a year ago.

Malling listed seniors Noah Zupke and Nate Sitzberger and sophomore Clayton Fliss — all linemen — as Oconomowoc's top returning offensive players and counted Brezenski, seniors Nate Bruno (defensive back), Justin Engler (defensive lineman) and Jared Strom (defensive lineman) and junior Rome Zupke (linebacker) as returning defensive leaders.

Rome Zupke ranked third among the Raccoons with 31

### Oconomowoc

**Coach:** Greg Malling

**2018 record:** 0-9 overall, 0-8 in Classic 8

**Key returning players:** senior LB Drew Brezenski, senior LB Ethan Piber, senior DB Nate Bruno, senior DL Justin Engler, senior DL Jared Strom, junior LB Rome Zupke, senior OL Noah Zupke, senior OL Nate Sitzberger, sophomore OL Clayton Fliss

**Promising newcomer:** junior QB Max Bredeson

**Key graduation losses:** DE Theo Ringgold, QB Brady Wraalstad, RB Drake Reese, WR Alex Biddle, WR Ethan Burch, WR Miller Wallace, OL Leif Engstrand

tackles and received All-Classic 8 honorable mention last season.

"Our team strengths are speed and team cohesion," Malling said. "I really like where we are at in these areas at this point."

"Our area of need is depth. We need some of the younger guys to mature quickly to support our upper classes."

The Raccoons must continue striving for something else that Malling noted following the 2018 season.

"We're making strides, and I applaud that, but we're not making the most important stride," the coach said. "There is that last stride where it is impossible to do anything other than win."

"At some point, we've got to figure out that last step if we're willing to. That's the question I have right now: 'Are we as a team, as a school, as a community, willing to do the last things it takes to finish?'"

## CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

SERVING OUR LOCAL AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES!

**Radtke**  
APPLIANCE & MATTRESSES

Sales & Service Since 1949  
682 E. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 567-4873 • 800-371-4873  
www.radtkeappliance.com



# East looking like contender

## McGath, Hunt form tough backfield

By Steven L. Tietz  
Special to Conley Media

BROOKFIELD — After the WIAA D2 state title season of 2016, there has been no lowering of the standards for the Brookfield East football program, just a couple of playoff roadblocks from archrival Central in the early rounds in both 2017 and 2018.

Now with a veteran, potentially explosive offense and enough pieces to put together a competent defense, the Spartans, under fourth-year coach Ben Farley, may be ready to make another big move this fall.

“We have 11 guys who started a varsity game last season,” Farley said. “That is certainly nice experience in anyone’s book. We have four of five offensive linemen back and we have a third-year quarterback in Sam McGath and one of the best backs in the area in Donovan Hunt.

“There are certainly pieces for us to work with.”

The Spartans have a total of 66 players sophomore through senior out this fall and a solid 31 freshmen. They will build around the senior McGath (6-1, 195), who passed and ran for over 1,300 total yards for the 7-4 East squad last season.

“Sam has the experience and he had a really good off-season,” Farley said. “I think we’re going to see the best Sam McGath yet this fall.”

McGath will get help from the senior Hunt (5-11, 175), who rushed for over 1,100 yards and 11 TDs in 2018.

The Spartans spread formation offense will be powered up front by 6-5, 300-pound senior and Northern Illinois recruit John Champe, who will man one of the guard positions. He will get help from senior Clay Huwatcheck (6-4, 230), junior Mike Wiesmueller (5-10, 245) and junior Tyler Rhode (6-2, 190).

“We have some speed and quickness at the skill positions so we’re looking for big things from the offense this year,” Farley said.



Russ Pulvermacher/Special to Conley Media

Brookfield East senior Sam McGath enters the 2019 season as a third-year starting QB.

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 23:** at West Allis Hale  
**Aug. 30:** Marquette  
**Sept. 6:** at Arrowhead  
**Sept. 13:** at Menomonee Falls  
**Sept. 20:** Wauwatosa West  
**Sept. 27:** at Wauwatosa East  
**Oct. 4:** Brookfield Central  
**Oct. 11:** at Hamilton  
**Oct. 18:** Germantown

Champe, a state-level wrestler, will play some defense, too.

On defense, the Spartans will run a 4-3 set and Champe is a returning starter up front along with junior Ryan Bromberg.

Other returnees include senior linebackers Nathan O’Connell (6-0, 190) and Nick Pluemer (5-11, 195) and defensive backs senior Michael Poker (6-0, 180) and junior Hayden Doyle (6-0, 165).

“We have some holes to fill on that side of the ball,” Farley said. “The key for us will be developing depth. Numbers are dwindling everywhere (in the Milwaukee area) so developing that depth will be very important.

“The defense as a whole is working hard, but we’re a lit-

### Brookfield East

**Coach:** Ben Farley, fourth season

**2018:** 7-4 overall, 6-2 in GMC

**Key returning players:** Senior Sam McGath QB, senior Donovan Hunt RB and senior John Champe OL/DL.

**Promising newcomers:** Junior Hayden Doyle DB, junior Ryan Bromberg DL, junior Mike Wiesmueller OL, and junior Tyler Rhode OL.

**Key graduation losses:** Cam McDonald AP, Joey Pagel LB, and Jack Steger LB/TE


tle young and undersized in some spots. They’re tough kids, though.”

Farley is encouraged by solid freshmen numbers in back-to-back seasons.

The Greater Metro Conference will be a challenge again, Farley said, as rival Central is coming off of back-to-back state D2 runner-up finishes and defending GMC champion Marquette will be tough again as always. Farley said Hamilton will be a contender this season, too.


“We’re looking forward to this season,” Farley said. “The kids are really positive and they’re doing a good job so far.”

# STUDENT CHECKING



The Student Checking Program is exclusively for students in high school or college, ages 14-26 and includes a free debit card with ScoreCard® Rewards, Mobile Banking, Online Banking, no-fee Foreign Currency exchange\* *and so much more.*

Visit a branch near you, [wsbonline.com](http://wsbonline.com), or call Customer Service at (414) 761-1000 for more information.










**Brookfield**  
Capitol Dr & Calhoun Rd

**Oconomowoc/Lake Country**  
Hwy 67 & I-94

**Pewaukee**  
Hwy 16 & Capitol Dr

**Waukesha/Brookfield**  
Hwy 18 & I-94

[wsbonline.com](http://wsbonline.com) | (414) 761-1000 |      |   EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS#407327

To be eligible for the WaterStone (WSB) Student Checking Program, you must be enrolled in high school or college, be between the ages of 14-26 and show student ID issued by school or college. Bank discretion for home school, online, and/or other student enrolled programs. If you are under the age 18, a parent or guardian will need to be joint owner on the account. Only one WaterStone Bank program can be tied to an account. Checking accounts can be any of the personal checking products available, e-statements will be required for the account. No-fee Overdraft Protection benefit requires an additional WSB deposit account owned by student with funds sufficient to cover the overdraft items. A CheckCard is included with the program and will be offered at no cost to the student. ScoreCard Reward promotions will be periodically offered for purchases made with WSB CheckCard. The first 8 ATM withdrawals per statement cycle will be fee free and fee assessed at the machine will be refunded to your WSB checking account within two business days. ATM withdrawals in excess of 8 in your cycle are subject to fees charged by the ATM owner. A statement cycle may be from the 17th (a calendar day) of a month to the 16th (a calendar day) of the next month. Free checks will be provided by WSB. This benefit does not include reimbursement of other check designs you previously purchased or plan to purchase. The College Real Rewards Credit Card is subject to credit approval and is an optional benefit for the Student Checking Program. WSB employees, agents of WSB and affiliates are not eligible. Program subject to change without notice. \*WaterStone Bank (WSB) offers foreign currency exchange services of more than 50 currencies at four WSB locations: Franklin, Oak Creek/27th St, Wauwatosa/State St, and Waukesha. Fees will be waived for Student, MVP and HERO program customers up to two times annually. The currency exchange rate used at WSB may differ than the daily rate of exchange and are subject to daily fluctuations. A \$10.00 fee is assessed for orders and return orders; fee is subject to change at any time. Currency orders placed and not picked up within 10 business days are subject to a return fee and any depreciation. Please see a WSB banker for more details.



# Nellis has Central hungry for another run at title

Lampkin rushed for over 2,000 yards last year

By Steven L. Tietz  
Special to Conley Media

BROOKFIELD — Memory is a hard teacher, and the lessons learned by the two-time WIAA D2 state runner-up football team from Brookfield Central are particularly hard to take in.

Back-to-back losses in the state finals to first Waunakee (2017) and Homestead (2018) have all-state caliber veterans like running back Rashad Lampkin (5-10, 190) and defensive back Tommy Maurice (5-9, 195) and new coach Joel Nellis hungry for another crack at the holy grail of an elusive state championship.

But the Lancers will have to do it without the considerable talents of all-state quarterback Drew Leszczynski (Coastal Carolina) and wide receiver Julian Banda, who led Central to a Greater Metro Conference runner-up record of 12-2 last season.

Still Nellis, a long-time veteran of former coach Jed Kennedy's staff, feels that despite inexperience on

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 22:** Wauwatosa East  
**Aug. 30:** at Catholic Memorial (at Carroll University)  
**Sept. 6:** at Hamilton  
**Sept. 13:** Germantown  
**Sept. 20:** at West Allis Hale  
**Sept. 27:** Marquette  
**Oct. 4:** at Brookfield East  
**Oct. 11:** Menomonee Falls  
**Oct. 18:** at Wauwatosa West

offense, the Lancers will be motivated and ready to be major players on the state scene again.

"We have a lot of guys out here with bad tastes in their mouths," he said. "They don't like the way things have ended the last few years. They know that the goal here is always to go out there and win it (conference, then state).

"Both Rashad (Lampkin) and Tommy (Maurice) played in that game two years ago (against Waunakee) and they know what it's like. They're good motivators for the rest. They're not overconfident, but they're trying to get more done."

Both Lampkin (an Illinois State recruit) and Maurice are co-captains of a team that features 80 plus players sophomore through senior.

## Brookfield Central

**Coach:** Joel Nellis

**2018:** 12-2 overall, D2 state runners-up, 7-1 in GMC

**Key returning players:**

Senior RB Rashad Lampkin, senior DB Tommy Maurice, junior DL Hayden Nelson, senior OL Andrew Hodgson, senior OL Zik Okoro, and senior DL Matt Zepecki.

**Promising newcomers:**

Senior QB Sawyer Carlson, senior QB Max Hawkins, senior DB Shawn Birkholz, and senior DB Ryan Johnson.

**Key graduation losses:** QB Drew Leszczynski, WR Julian Banda, two-way performer Connor Kolb, and DL Jake Somlai

Nellis is trying to maintain the same winning atmosphere that Kennedy, who is now coaching and teaching in Alabama, created. He said there will be a few new wrinkles, but the same high-octane wing-T/spread style offense coupled with a stout 3-4 defense will lead the Lancers this season in the always challenging GMC.

The key will be getting help for the 2,000-yard runner Lampkin, as he is one of only four returning starters on offense. Others include junior fullback Cam Devine, and returning senior offen-



Mary Catanese/Special to Conley Media

Brookfield Central senior Rashad Lampkin, an Illinois State recruit, rushed for for more than 2,000 yards last season.

sive linemen and co-captains Zik Okoro and Andrew Hodgson.

The task of trying to fill the big shoes of Leszczynski will fall to either senior Sawyer Carlson or senior Max Hawkins. Nellis is willing to be patient offensively, as on the outside, there is no

one with the obvious talent of Banda. He did note, though, that there are "three or four guys" working hard and doing a good job of becoming steady receivers.

Defensively, the Lancers are in better shape, with six returnees on that side, including highly touted jun-

ior Hayden Nelson (6-4, 210) and senior co-captain Matt Zepecki (5-10, 230) and senior Cullen Berte (5-11, 190) all coming back on the line.

Other defensive returnees aside from Maurice, include senior linebacker Peter Murray (6-3, 215). Others, like senior defensive back Ryan Johnson (5-11, 175) and senior linebacker Ben Seegert (6-0, 185) and senior defensive lineman Ethan Olski (6-3, 200) also saw time last season. Senior defensive back Shawn Birkholz (5-9, 165) has also looked good and junior DB Jack Ockwood (5-10, 160) is also expected to figure into the mix.

Still, Nellis is concerned by having to replace two veteran linebackers and three defensive backs.

"Overall, we have a lot of competition going on out there," he said. "We know we're a known commodity out there, but the kids understand the expectations."

The GMC will be highly competitive again with defending champ Marquette, Hamilton, Brookfield East and the Lancers all expected to contend.

"The kids are doing well," Nellis said. "They've adapted well to the change (in coaches) and our seniors have set a high bar for us."

# Hamilton's staunch defense to be its calling card

Finnessy returns as all-state DB

By Rob Reischel  
Special to Conley Media

TOWN OF LISBON — Sussex is a community that's been exploding for a generation now.

The population is nearly 11,000 today, more than double what it was in the early 1990s.

Hamilton — which competed in the WIAA Division 2 playoffs as recently as 2014 — has nearly 1,500 students and is now firmly entrenched in Division 1. And the elementary schools are bursting at the seams, so a new intermediate school will open next month.

As the community has

blown up, so have expectations. And for the most part, the Chargers' football program has delivered.

John Damato, a former Hamilton standout who took over the program in 2004, has guided the Chargers to the postseason in 11 of his first 15 seasons. And six times under Damato, Hamilton has won at least one playoff game.

The Chargers will be expecting much of the same once again this fall, thanks to a potentially dominant defense and an offense that should be improved from a year ago.

"We are cautiously optimistic," Damato said. "How-

ever, a lot can and will happen throughout a season."

Hamilton went 6-5 a year ago and upset second-seeded Madison Memorial in the first round of playoffs before falling to Sun Prairie.

The Chargers, who finished fourth in the Greater Metro Conference at 5-3, were painfully close to challenging for a league title.

Hamilton led eventual conference champion Marquette, 21-7, heading to the fourth quarter before dropping a 31-28 heartbreaker. The Chargers had a series of killer turnovers and fell to Brookfield East, 3-0. And Hamilton was within a field goal of Brookfield Central late before the Lancers notched a 20-10 win.

Damato knows if the Chargers can find a way to win those types of games this year, anything and everything is possible.

"We had some heartbreaking losses last year," Damato said. "It wasn't from a lack of effort. Our team made some costly mistakes at times, and we as coaches need to do a better job of making sure our boys execute at a higher level and finish each game this year."

Hamilton had one of the state's toughest defenses a year ago, and the Chargers could be terrific on that side of the ball again.

Senior Lucas Finnessy, a University of Minnesota recruit, is the show-stopper. Finnessy (6-3, 225) was a

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 23:** Wauwatosa West  
**Aug. 29:** at Wauwatosa East  
**Sept. 6:** Brookfield Central  
**Sept. 13:** at Mukwonago  
**Sept. 20:** at Germantown  
**Sept. 27:** West Allis Hale  
**Oct. 4:** at Marquette  
**Oct. 11:** Brookfield East  
**Oct. 18:** at Menomonee Falls

first-team all-state defensive back last season. He will again lead the Chargers' secondary, but could be used all over the field as Hamilton tries exploiting matchups with its most gifted player.

"Lucas has a very special

See **HAMILTON**, PAGE 13

## Hamilton

**Coach:** John Damato, 16th season

**2018 :** 6-5 overall, 5-3 in GMC, lost in Level 2 of the playoffs

**Key returning players:**

DB/WR Lucas Finnessy, QB Eric Erato, DL Robert Zollicoffer, DL Tyler Walls, RB Josh Meulemans, LB Grant Reek.

**Promising newcomers:** TE Aidan Enneking, LB Grant Reek, RB Quantrell Booker, OL Rustin Lawrence, OL Noah Strauss.

**Key graduation losses:** OL Zack Lawrence, TE Will Enneking, RB Jackson Kolath, LB Zac Bagley, DL Cal Botsford, PK Andrew Schweigert





Robert F. Borkowski/Special to Conley Media

Hamilton senior Lucas Finnessy, a Minnesota recruit, was an all-state defensive back last year and will look to play multiple positions this season.

## Hamilton

### From Page 12

skill set," Damato said. "He's long, athletic, strong and explosive. He could play many positions on the field and be very successful."

Hamilton, which runs a 4-3 defense that often becomes a 4-5-2, could also have a dominant defensive line.

Senior end Tyler Walls (6-0, 233) is a three-year starter who received All-GMC honorable mention last season. Senior tackle Robert Zollicoffer (6-1, 250) has a motor that doesn't quit and was another honorable-mention All-GMC selection last year. And senior tackle Preston Olson (6-2, 285) demands constant double teams and is virtually immovable at the point of attack.

"Defensive line is our strength without question," Damato said. "They have done a tremendous job in the offseason and the expectations are to control the line of scrimmage within the confines of our scheme. Praise and statistics will come your way if you do your job."

Senior linebacker Grant Reek (5-10, 180) is a returning starter who Damato said, "should have a great year."

Offensively, senior quarterback Eric Erato was an honorable-mention all-con-

ference selection last season. Erato ran for 356 yards and threw for 432, and Damato would like to see those passing numbers rise.

It should help Erato to have the versatile Finnessy and junior tight end Aidan Enneking (6-3, 225) as targets.

"We are looking to be more confident in passing the football," Damato said.

Senior running back Josh Meulemans (5-9, 165) is a returning starter who ran for 339 yards and three touchdowns a year ago. Senior James Troutman (5-9, 175) and junior Quantell Booker will also see plenty of carries.

The offensive line was up and down a year ago, but senior Rustin Lawrence (6-1, 219) and junior Noah Strauss (6-3, 265) have impressed early on.

Damato believes Marquette, Brookfield Central and Brookfield East are the teams to beat in the GMC. But he fully expects his Chargers to be right there.

And after 15 years of mostly success under Damato, those expectations certainly seem reasonable.

"We strongly feel the team's character will be able to conquer most of the adversities," Damato said. "But we will just take it one game at a time and see how we finish at the end of the year."

# Falls has plenty back for playoff push

## Thomas hopes to build off last season

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

**MENOMONEE FALLS** — The promise of last season for Menomonee Falls was thwarted when University of Wisconsin recruit Julius Davis went down with an injury in Week 2 after a torrid start.

There was briefly renewed hope when the Indians still managed to reach the playoffs and Davis returned for Round 1, but that's where their season ended, and now it's Tamir Thomas' time to shine.

Thomas (5-10, 165 pounds), a senior running back, filled in admirably for Davis last season, compiling 782 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns as Falls finished 4-6 overall and 4-4 in the Greater Metro Conference.

The Indians also return plenty of talent at the other skill positions, including junior Quentin Redding (5-6, 131), who had a team-best 20 catches for 325 yards and two

scores.

"We've got Tamir Thomas coming back, and we're happy to get him back," Falls coach Dan Lutz said. "Our quarterback, (junior) Nate McLean (6-2, 177), is a returner from last year, and then we have the two Redding brothers. They're two standouts. Both of them play wide receiver; Quentin and (sophomore) Evan (5-9, 145), those two will probably play on both sides of the ball."

The Indians also return a few starters on the offense line, led by junior Brian Fullerton (6-1 212).

On defense, senior linebacker and first team all-conference pick Brett Boram (5-11, 204) leads the charge, while junior Billy Howard (6-2, 196) received honorable mention. Boram had a team-high seven sacks and 105 tackles last season, while Howard chipped in 80 touchdowns.

"They're our mainstays in the middle," Lutz said. "They're both very good inside. (Senior) Reis Jesko (6-0, 288) has done a great job on offense and defense. He's a tackle on offense. He's looking



Mary Catanese/Special to Conley Media

Menomonee Falls senior Tamir Thomas ran for 782 yards and 12 touchdowns last season.

really good in camp right now.

"We also have (junior) Connor Ceden (5-8, 138) back at one corner spot. The Reddings will play the other two DBs, and (junior) Patrick Lynch (6-0, 145) is at the other safety spot."

Falls started eight sophomores last season and has

them all back, an encouraging sign for this year and beyond as the Indians look for a fourth straight playoff berth and their first winning season since 2014.

"It's promising," Lutz said. "We've just gotta put it all together. I'm happy with what we've done so far."



Advanced Foot & Ankle  
of Wisconsin, L.L.C.

SE Wisconsin's #1 Surgical  
& Most Trusted Podiatry Group

## We Fix Foot & Ankle Pain Others Can't

414-281-1500

advancedfootanklewi.com

Brookfield, Milwaukee, Burlington



### Menomonee Falls

**Coach:** Dan Lutz

**2018 record:** 4-6 overall, 4-4 in Greater Metro, lost in first round of playoffs

**Key returning players:** senior LB Brett Boram, junior WR Quentin Redding, senior RB Tamir Thomas, junior LB Billy Howard

**Promising newcomers:** junior LB/TE Colin Heckman, senior FB Max Bacher, senior OL/DL Reis Jesko

**Key graduation losses:** RB Julius Davis, OL Brandon Niles

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 22:** Wauwatosa East

**Aug. 30:** at Catholic Memorial (at Carroll University)

**Sept. 6:** at Hamilton

**Sept. 13:** Germantown

**Sept. 20:** at West Allis Hale

**Sept. 27:** Marquette

**Oct. 4:** at Brookfield East

**Oct. 11:** Menomonee Falls

**Oct. 18:** at Wauwatosa West



# Plenty back for BA

## Blue Knights return 19 starters

By Chuck Delsman  
Special to Conley Media

BROOKFIELD — Brookfield Academy football coach Jon Kahle likes what the numbers tell him this season. And for good reason.

The seventh-year head coach has nine starters back on offense and 10 starters back on defense from a team that finished 5-5 overall one season ago and 2-4 in Midwest Classic Conference play. A total of 18 lettermen have returned.

“That’s the highest number of returning starters that we have returning in my seven years here,” Kahle said. “With that many guys back, we’ll be a year older and a year more experienced. We still don’t have a ton of depth, but the guys have been dedicated to the weight room and our offseason program. Hopefully all of that pays off this season.”

Brookfield Academy has five all-conference players back this season. Leading that list is senior quarterback Daniel Kim (5-9, 160), who was named to the first team. He also led the Blue Knights in rushing and passing.

Other all-conference players back, all of whom earned honorable mention, include sophomore Jonathan Kim (5-9, 170) at defensive back, junior defensive end Isaac Schoenwetter (6-1, 155), senior offensive tackle Mark Gundrum (6-6, 210) and senior offensive tackle Michael Hoggatt (6-1, 180).

Kahle said the offense will be a little different this season. While Daniel Kim played quarterback most of the games the last two years, he might be moved to running back and receiver to take full advantage of his athletic skills.

“Daniel is a very talented athlete and we plan on taking full advantage of all the skills he has,” Kahle said. “We’ll move him around where he works and fits best. We’ve got some others that also should help us on offense.”

Others that figure to be prominent in scoring for the Blue Knights will be sophomore Jonah Jensen (5-11, 150), Schoenwetter, Jonathan Kim and junior Logan Kobliska (6-3, 180).

The Brookfield Academy O-line will be anchored by Gundrum, and Hoggatt.

“We have a bunch of guys we can move around on offense in the backfield and at receiver,” Kahle

### Brookfield Academy

**Coach:** Jon Kahle, seventh season  
**2018:** 5-5 overall, 2-4 in Midwest Classic

**Key returning players:** senior QB/RB Daniel Kim, sophomore WR/DB Jonathan Kim, junior DL Isaac Schoenwetter, senior OL/DL Mark Gundrum, senior OL/DL Michael Hoggatt

**Promising newcomers:** RB/LB Brian Jacob

**Key graduation losses:** WR/DB Joey Krantz, LB/RB Michael Novacek

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m., unless noted)

**Aug. 23:** at Cambridge

**Aug. 30:** Milwaukee Reagan

**Sept. 6:** at St. John’s Northwestern, 4 p.m.

**Sept. 13:** at St. Francis

**Sept. 20:** Living Word Lutheran

**Sept. 27:** at Kenosha Christian Life

**Oct. 4:** University School

**Oct. 11:** at Lake Country Lutheran

**Oct. 18:** HOPE Christian

said. “We have to utilize the skill sets that they all bring to the game. And Gundrum and Hoggatt will anchor our line. Finding some depth there will be a big key for us.”

On defense, Schoenwetter and the Kim brothers will play key roles. Schoenwetter will return at defensive end and the Kims will play in the secondary. Some others who made plays last year include Gundrum, Hoggatt, junior linebacker Leo Astorga (5-9, 165) and senior defensive back Shane Laughland (5-11, 165).

“With 10 starters back on defense that should be a big help for us,” Kahle added. “Getting all of the reps that a lot of these guys got last year should benefit us this season.”

The Blue Knights did not make the WIAA playoffs last year but advanced to the postseason four straight years from 2014 through 2017. From 2014 through the 2016 campaign Brookfield Academy put together a composite mark of 22-8.

“I don’t know if we can put up those kinds of numbers again because we have a very competitive schedule this season,” Kahle added. “We have a tough game to start with at Cambridge and then play at home against City Conference champion Reagan. But I think talent-wise we have the potential to be just as good as those teams were. I don’t know if we can match those records, but I think our play on the field will be just as good.”

# LCL looking to continue dominance

## Lightning have won MCC five straight years

By Chuck Delsman  
Special to Conley Media

HARTLAND — Five consecutive Midwest Classic Conference championships. A brilliant record of 76-9 the last seven seasons. And a WIAA playoff run of 10 consecutive years where they advanced to Level 2 or further.

Those are the impressive accolades of the Lake Country Lutheran football program. They’re some of the top five numbers in all of Wisconsin.

So, how do things look for the upcoming 2019 season for the Lightning? You guessed it, they look outstanding once again.

Greg Brazgel, the only varsity coach the school has ever seen, is starting his 16th season with LCL. And once again his optimism is running high.

“We’ve had a good run of success and we want to keep that going this year,” Brazgel said. “We’ve won 116 games over the years and have lost 20 games. But we’re not focusing on the wins. We’ve been losing once a year the past few seasons. We’re now looking at those losses and seeing what we can do to fix things. We’re excited about what our team can do this season.”

The Lightning lost some very talented players from one year ago, including starting QB Ethan Wilkins and running back Dane Vance. Those two put up some of the best numbers in school history the last few seasons. They lost other skilled kids like receiver/defensive back Bryce Haertle, lineman RJ Frerking and linebacker Isaac Simons. Wilkins was the conference offensive player of the year and Haertle was the defensive player of the year.

But the cupboard of tal-



Photo submitted by Kristin Simons

Lake Country Lutheran senior Jack Leverenz runs through a hole in a playoff game last season.

ent is far from empty. LCL has five first-team all-conference players back and six others who received honorable mention.

“We’ve got a good group of kids returning this year that have played a lot of football for us,” Brazgel said. “A lot of these guys either started or played in the state championship game two years ago. So we have experience.”

Nothing is going to come easy for the Lightning this season, especially early in the year. They open the season against three very successful programs — at St. Mary’s Springs, then host Darlington and Lakeside Lutheran.

“No doubt it’s the toughest three games to open a season that we’ve ever played against,” Brazgel said. “We’re excited about the challenge. We’re not even thinking about conference games right now. WisSports has us playing the seventh toughest schedule in the state this year. We like that. We’re not going to run away from that, but run right at them.”

Offensively, sophomore Luke Haertle (6-0, 180) will take over the reins as the quarterback and Haertle is perhaps one of the most gifted athletes the school has ever had. He played quarterback and linebacker one year ago and was a standout as a freshman last winter on the basketball floor.

“Some people have asked me if I’m nervous having a

sophomore as our starting quarterback,” Brazgel added. “That doesn’t bother me at all. Luke is a very good athlete and he’s actually the fourth sophomore we’ve started at quarterback. I’m excited about having him as our starter.”

Top returnees joining Haertle in the backfield will be senior Jack Leverenz (6-0, 210) and senior Zander Mueller (6-0, 165). Leverenz, a power runner, has been outstanding in short yardage situations for the Lightning the last three years and Mueller is perhaps the fastest and most explosive player on the roster. Mueller was a first-team all-conference receiver one year ago.

Haertle will have three experienced receivers to throw to. Senior Will Brazgel (5-7, 160), senior Zech Hans (6-1, 175) and senior Andrew Schumacher (6-1, 185) have been with the varsity for the last three seasons and have caught more than their share of passes. Mueller also will be a major player in the passing game.

On the offensive line, the Lightning will be anchored by senior Noah Vanderberg (5-11, 225), senior Peter Vande Zande (6-1, 190), senior Steven Johnson (5-8, 170), senior Thomas Oberst (6-2, 230) and senior Joe Pawlak (5-10, 170). Vande Zande missed all of last season with an injury but started as a sophomore.

On defense, Leverenz once again will be the

### Lake Country Luth.

**Coach:** Greg Brazgel, 16th season

**2018:** 12-1 overall, 6-0 in Midwest Classic

**Key returning players:**

Senior WR/DB Will Brazgel, senior RB/LB Jack Leverenz, senior WR/RB/DB Zander Mueller, senior OL/DL Noah Vanderberg, senior OL/DL Peter Vande Zande, senior OL/DL Thomas Oberst, senior WR/LB Andrew Schumacher, senior WR/DB Zech Hans, sophomore QB/LB Luke Haertle

**Promising newcomers:**

sophomore RB/DB Sam Heicher, sophomore OL/DL Eddie Farrell

**Key graduation losses:** QB Ethan Wilkins, RB Dane Vance, LB/OL Isaac Simons, WR/DB Bryce Haertle, OL/DL Tom Johnson, OL/DL RJ Frerking

### 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m., unless noted)

**Aug. 24:** at St. Mary’s Springs

**Aug. 30:** Darlington

**Sept. 6:** Lakeside Lutheran

**Sept. 13:** HOPE Christian

**Sept. 20:** at University School

**Sept. 27:** St. John’s Northwestern

**Oct. 5:** at Living Word Lutheran

**Oct. 11:** Brookfield Academy

**Oct. 17:** at St. Francis

leader. He’s been starting at linebacker since his freshman season and just keeps getting better every year. The last two years he was a first-team all-conference defender for the Lightning. He’ll be one of the top defensive players in the conference.

Three other defenders earned first-team all-league honors last fall that are back this season. They are Vanderberg at tackle, Oberst at tackle and Schumacher at linebacker. Junior Chase Caliendo (6-2, 180) earned honorable mention at defensive end as did Mueller at defensive back.

Schumacher is expected to the kicking and punting for the Lightning.



# Eisenhower eyeing up another deep playoff run

Eight  
first-team  
all-conference  
players back

By Chuck Delsman  
Special to Conley Media

NEW BERLIN — In the last two seasons, the New Berlin Eisenhower football team has been one of the best and most successful in Waukesha County and southeastern Wisconsin.

In 2017 and 2018, the Lions were almost unbeatable under coach Matt Kern. In 2017, they finished 13-1 and finished second in the WIAA Division 3 championship playoff game, losing to Rice Lake, 25-3. Last year the Lions went 12-1, losing in the Division 3 state semifinals to eventual state champion Catholic Memorial.

With all of that postseason success and four consecutive Woodland Conference West Division championships behind them, what lies ahead for the 2019 version of Eisenhower?

Well, despite the losses of two conference players of the year and eight others who were first-team All-Conference honorees, don't feel sorry for the Lions. Eisenhower

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 23:** at Plymouth  
**Aug. 30:** at Greenfield  
**Sept. 6:** Greendale  
**Sept. 13:** at New Berlin West  
**Sept. 20:** at Wisconsin Lutheran  
**Sept. 27:** Pewaukee  
**Oct. 4:** West Allis Central  
**Oct. 11:** at Pius  
**Oct. 18:** Woodland Crossover

er has plenty of talent returning and should make another serious run at winning a conference championship and making a deep move in the WIAA postseason.

"Last year we went into the season having to replace 16 starters and it's about the same again this year," said Kern, in his sixth season as the NBE head coach. "But what I like this season is that we have a strong senior class. We're going to rely on a lot of those guys to supply the leadership. Things are good. But depth is more of a concern this year than it's been in the past."

Eisenhower has been unbeatable in the Woodland Conference the last two years. They've gone 8-0 the past two seasons and have won 18 consecutive conference games the last three seasons. In the last four years, the Lions have put together an incredible overall mark of 40-7.

With a big group of players

## Eisenhower

**Coach:** Matt Kern, sixth season

**2018:** 12-1 overall, 8-0 Woodland Conference

**Key returning players:**

OL/DL Isaac Freichels, QB Gabe Seifert, RB/DB Eli Hoelke, LB Colton Filipowicz, RB Jack Osielski, WR/DB Ben Buechel

**Promising newcomers:** QB RJ Connell

**Key graduation losses:** RB Jack Himmelspace, DL/OL Mark Shields, OL Davy Counsell, K Evan Laior, LB Jimmy Arcuri, LB Nate Clark, DB Jack Schara

who lettered one season ago back this season, the Lions hope to build off of all the WIAA playoff experience and turn that into more success this fall.

"We've played nine playoff games the last two years and lost just two of them," Kern added. "In that span we've notched a lot of extra practice time and game time. That should benefit us a lot this season. A lot of these guys know what it takes to win."

The two biggest losses from last year will be trying to replace the league's offensive player of the year in running back Jack Himmelspace and defensive player of the year in end Mark Shields.

Offensively, the Lions will



Kenny Yoo/Special to Conley Media

New Berlin Eisenhower senior Eli Hoelke is back after averaging 8.7 yards per carry at running back last season.

return junior quarterback Gabe Seifert (5-11, 180). He played all 13 games one year ago and completed 55% of his passes, averaging 7.4 yards per completion while throwing 12 touchdowns. Senior Gabe Olson (5-9, 160) backed him up last season but could see action this year at wide receiver. Junior RJ Connell (6-0, 155) is another guy who could play quarterback if Seifert gets moved to another

position.

Trying to make up for the loss of Himmelspace, one of the best running backs in school history, will be a group of candidates. Senior Jack Osielski (5-7, 183) and senior Eli Hoelke (5-9, 173) are two guys who will help fill that void. Hoelke was a key contributor last season as he finished with 62 carries, averaging a hefty 8.7 yards per rush. Osielski averaged 6.8 yards

per carry.

When the Lions throw the ball, top targets expect to be Hoelke, senior Ben Buechel (6-3, 208) and senior Max Lewis (5-8, 140).

Up front, the O-line is anchored by senior Isaac Freichels (6-1, 225). Freichels was a standout one season ago, being named to the all-conference first team on both offense and defense. Others battling for line spots are senior Drake Weitzer (6-3, 240), senior Daniel Hintzman (6-1, 222), senior Will Wendlick (6-0, 185) and senior Nick Anderson (6-2, 230).

The defensive line will have a lot of similar faces. All of the above guys could play both ways along with senior Nathan Grellinger (5-10, 250).

Senior linebacker Colton Filipowicz (5-9, 180) was one the leading tacklers for the Lions last year, finishing third on the team. Others who could play those spots are senior Eric Dreyer (6-1, 186) and junior John Wesling (5-10, 190).

Buechel, Lewis and Hoelke should anchor the defensive backfield.

"We've got a good group of seniors who will lead the way for us," Kern said. "It will be most likely a senior-laden team. But at the same time I think we have some sophomores who can come in and help us. We'll see how every thing works out."

# Vikings trying to end playoff losing streak in 2019

15 starters, 22 letterwinners back this season

By Rob Reischel  
Special to Conley Media

NEW BERLIN — It was right there for the taking.

New Berlin West — which hadn't won a playoff game since 1998 and had heard about it, oh, about 6 million times — had East Troy down and nearly out in the postseason last October. But the Trojans rallied back from a 13-point deficit late in the third quarter and edged the Vikings, 28-26.

Much to West's chagrin, the streak lived on.

"It was really tough," West

fourth year coach Ben Chossek said. "But we had a young team ... and an experience like that can certainly drive a team."

The 2019 Vikings certainly seem driven — as well as talented and experienced. And West believes it has all the right ingredients for a terrific season.

"I feel like we have a lot of experience and kids in place that can do a lot of good things," said Chossek, who has gone 18-10 in his first three seasons at West. "I feel like if we play well and stay healthy, we're going to have

a chance most Friday nights to be successful."

West returns a bevy of talent on both sides of the ball. In all, the Vikings bring back eight starters on offense — including the entire offensive line — seven defensive starters and 22 letterwinners.

In addition, this is the first group of seniors that Chossek — a health and physical education teacher at the high school — has had from start to finish.

"It's the first group of seniors we've had from beginning to end and that's huge,"

Chossek said. "They know what we want and how we do things."

West's offense — which averaged 25.5 points per game — could be huge thanks in part to an offensive line that could be dominant.

Senior center Donovan Acevedo was a first-team All-Woodland West Conference player last year, while senior right tackle Joey DiMotto and junior right guard Paul Nennig were both named honorable-mention all-conference last year. Senior left tackle Luke Lehman and junior left guard Jared Henrichs also return.

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)  
**Aug. 23:** Elkhorn  
**Aug. 30:** at Greendale  
**Sept. 6:** at Wisconsin Lutheran  
**Sept. 13:** New Berlin Eisenhower  
**Sept. 20:** Pewaukee  
**Sept. 27:** at West Allis Central  
**Oct. 4:** Pius  
**Oct. 11:** at Brown Deer  
**Oct. 18:** Woodland Crossover

"That group improved tremendously over the course of last year," Chossek said of his offensive line. "We were young and played two sophomores, but we

## New Berlin West

**Coach:** Ben Chossek, fourth season

**2018:** 7-3, 6-2 in Woodland

**Key returning players:**

RB/OLB Adam Siegel, QB/CB Jake Wieneke, OL/DL Donovan Acevedo, OL/DL Paul Nennig, OL/DL Jared Henrichs, Joey DiMotto

OL/DL, OL/LB Luke Lehman.  
**Promising newcomers:** WR/S Andy VanZile, TE Billy Wesolowski, Aaron Sobush

**Key graduation losses:**

WR/DB Tyler Stoltenburg, QB Trace Ferreira, OLB Nick Paget, ILB Sam Meleski

See VIKINGS, PAGE 16





Kenny Yoo/Special to Conley Media

New Berlin West senior Adam Siegel was a first-team all-conference running back and defensive back last season, but looks to move to outside linebacker on defense.

## Vikings

From Page 15

were very lucky to have kids that could perform.”

That group will clear the way for senior running back Adam Siegel, who was a first-team all-conference selection last year. Siegel ran for 961 yards, averaged six yards per carry and had four 100-yard games.

Senior Jake Wieneke takes over at quarterback for graduated first-team all-conference player Trace Ferreira. Wideouts Andy VanZile and Aaron Sobush, along with tight end Billy Wesolowski will be Wieneke's top targets.

West threw the ball just 12.4 times per game last year, and only 26.7% of its plays were passes. When the Vikings threw, though, they were incredibly effective, completing 70.2% of their passes and averaging 7.4 yards per pass attempt.

“We like to throw it on our terms,” Chossek said. “And when we do, we expect to be successful.”

The Vikings' top players will all go both ways. And the defense will be built around a trio of standouts — Siegel, Acevedo and Wieneke.

Siegel, a first-team all-conference defensive back last year, moves to outside linebacker where he could be a force. Acevedo was a first-team all-conference defensive end last season. And Wieneke was an honorable-mention all-conference cornerback in 2018.

Up front, Henrichs could be a standout nose tackle, while ends such as DiMotto, Nennig, Wesolowski and Carter Cullaz will rotate and keep everyone fresh.

Lehman will play outside linebacker opposite of Siegel, while Alex Kutschenreuter seems poised for a big year at inside linebacker.

In back, Wieneke and Sobush could form a dynamic duo at cornerback. VanZile, Derek Ryan, Zach Gruszczynski and Ian Herpel are all battling at safety.

“I think up front, we have good size and are fairly physical,” Chossek said. “I think they'll take a step forward from last year. And with a lot of kids back, we have a better understanding of what we're doing, why we're doing it and how the pieces fit together.”

That could mean big things at West this fall — including its first playoff win in more than two decades.

# Pewaukee to use speed for advantage

## Pirates have depth at skill positions

By Todd Hansen  
Special to Conley Media

PEWAUKEE — Smaller but quicker:

That is the outlook for the Pewaukee football team entering the season.

With their lack of size, the Pirates hope to maximize their athleticism and speed, and sprint to the playoffs for the 14th consecutive season.

“We're not the biggest group that we've had but we do have some things that are unique for us in terms of the amount of speed and the perimeter athletes that we've had,” Pewaukee coach Justin Friske said. “We might look slightly different in terms of what we're doing schematically but I think generally the message has been if everyone puts their best foot forward for the team we have a chance to be really, really competitive. I think these kids want an opportunity to add to the legacy of Pewaukee football history.

“It's not that we are tiny but we don't have as many big linemen as we've had in the past. With what we do offensively, that could be a deterrent or we could try and make it into a positive.”

Having more speed than past seasons is something the Pirates hope will be beneficial on both sides of the ball.

“I just think the speed that we have is a difference that we need to learn to work with,” Friske said. “It's a good problem to have. If we can get guys playing together and be more concerned with how the team is performing than what my stat line says we are going to be in a great shape.

“It's a big jump for the lower levels to the upper levels and the jump is both physical and psychological. Our kids need to be prepared to be mature enough to handle competition at the varsity level.”

As always, the Pirates will emphasize the run again on offense.

Last year, Pewaukee

rushed for nearly 2,500 yards as a team after going over 3,000 yards a year earlier. On the flip side, the Pirates threw for just 568 yards last season.

“I don't think there is a high school football team in this state that is going to exclusively throw the ball and win consistently anyway,” Friske said. “It's a matter of stopping the run and being able to establish the run to begin with. The athletes that we have are lending themselves to being able to do some things that maybe will force us to be a little bit more diverse offensively, which really could be a good thing for us.”

Sophomore Logan Dobberstein (6-6, 165), senior Justus Zemberi (5-11, 165) and sophomore Zane Farra (5-8, 145) are all competing for the starting quarterback position. Dobberstein did see action in six games last season but attempted only 11 passes.

Those in the running back mix are seniors Nazir Spencer (5-8, 145), Elliot Mueller (5-10, 155), juniors Eric Longhini (5-11, 170), BJ Yost (5-11, 155) and Nick McFadden (5-8, 155), and sophomore Max Sheridan (6-2, 170). Senior Luke Leveille (5-11, 160) and junior Kris Johnson (5-11, 175) and Aidan Impola (5-10, 175) are the candidates at fullback.

Senior T.J. Chadwick (6-3, 215) returns at tight end where he was a honorable mention all-conference pick last season. Sophomores Nathan Schroeder (5-10, 165) and Ashton Janowski (6-1, 170) look to lead the wide receivers.

“We are open at quarterback and we have a lot of kids at running back,” Friske said. “We also have a nice group of wide receivers and tight ends. We have a wide variety of skilled kids

“It's going to be a matter of seeing where they all fit.”

The offensive line returns four full- or part-time starters from a year ago led by junior Jacob Kuglitsch (5-10, 205), who was a first-team all-conference selection last season. Also back are seniors Fred Crawford (6-4, 200), Joe Sklenar (6-1, 185) and Grant Griesbach (5-11, 210).

The defense is led by the



Kenny Yoo/Special to Conley Media

Pewaukee senior Justus Zemberi returns at defensive back, but is also trying to win a three-way competition at QB.

## 2019 Schedule

(all games 7 p.m.)

**Aug. 23:** Elkhorn

**Aug. 30:** at Greendale

**Sept. 6:** at Wisconsin Lutheran

**Sept. 13:** New Berlin Eisenhower

**Sept. 20:** Pewaukee

**Sept. 27:** at West Allis Central

**Oct. 4:** Pius

**Oct. 11:** at Brown Deer

**Oct. 18:** Woodland Crossover

return of four starters in the secondary. Senior Logan Evers (5-11, 155) along with Zemberi, Mueller and Leveille provide a lot of experience in the backfield.

Sklenar returns at linebacker and Chadwick at defensive line but the rest of the defensive positions are up for grabs. Those looking to contribute defensively include senior Matt Knitter (5-10, 185), Longhini, Yost and Johnson.

“We are really solid in the defensive backfield,” Friske said. “We are really high on that group. We're trying to figure out who's going to be at the linebacker and defensive line positions but I know we're going to find some kids that are willing to work really hard and do a good job for us. It will be interesting to see how the defense evolves.”

Senior Thales Andrade (6-2, 170) returns at kicker with Longhini or Andrade handling the punting duties.

## Pewaukee

**Coach:** Justin Friske, eighth season

**2018:** 7-4 overall (Lost in Level 2 playoffs), 5-3 Fourth place Woodland West

**Key returning players:** senior TE/DE T.J. Chadwick; junior OL Jacob Kuglitsch; senior OL Fred Crawford; senior DB Elliot Mueller; senior DB Luke Leveille; senior DB Justus Zemberi

**Promising newcomers:**

Sophomore QB Logan Dobberstein; sophomore WR Nathan Schroeder; sophomore WR Ashton Janowski; sophomore RB Max Sheridan  
**Key graduation losses:** Josh Geisel; Masen Beatty; Abel Savage; Josh Keskinen; Owen Krumenacher

Staying healthy and avoiding injuries will again be crucial for the Pirates as many of their players play both ways.

“We are thin and battling injuries will hopefully not be a challenging situation but could be the big challenge of the year,” Friske said. “We need to stay healthy.”

“I think our big challenge is being able to find some kids who can give us a little bit of a break on one side of the ball or the other so that other guys can be able to play on the opposite side. I'd like to be more one-and-a-half platoons if possible but finding guys that are able to step in and do that is going to be the big challenge.”