

PREVIEW



Barlow's Bruins, including tailback candidate Larry Wallace (with ball), hope to charge into state playoffs.

Barlow sticks to what it does best

Under Coach John Harrington, Barlow is a team of few surprises.

You just know the Bruins are going to run their I formation offense, with the tailback doing most of the ball-carrying.

And on defense, it's a foregone conclusion that Barlow will come out in its usual 5-2.

While that might make the Bruins seem awfully predictable, there's one other factor. Under Harrington, Barlow has executed as well as any team in the league and the results have borne that out. Two state playoff appearances and a 22-9 record over 1978-80 made the Bruins' reputation.

That record was tarnished a bit last year. After opening the season with two straight wins, Barlow ran into a 41-0 disaster at Gresham and proceeded to lose six in a row.

The bottom line was a 3-6 campaign that Harrington's Bruins are anxious to put behind them.

"We could easily forget last year," says Harrington, in his seventh year coaching the Bruins.

The way things look in practice, that might not be too tough a task. Barlow has around 80 players in camp — more than even Harrington expected — a strong group of seniors and 30 juniors off last year's 8-1 JV club.

Back at quarterback is Bill Fellows, last year's starter, who has as live an arm as any QB in the conference.

Fellows' 1981 statistics — 738 yards passing on a 37.1 completion percentage and 14 interceptions — might not seem too impressive, but Barlow's pass protection last year left something to be desired.

That's changed, though and with an improved group of receivers, Fellows' and Barlow's passing fortunes should improve.

"We've got probably the fastest group of kids we've had out here," says Harrington.

Leading the speed corps is Mark Correll, a junior who Harrington labels, "a top athlete." Correll will be joined by senior Greg Biefgen and Brad Rhodes, who is coming off a knee injury suffered in a summer wrestling tournament. There is also a good group of younger receivers.

In addition to Fellows, the Bruins have Brad Kubik at quarterback along with juniors Rick Falkner and Tom Anderson. All are skilled competitors and will likely see action at other positions.

Up front, Barlow has several candidates that Harrington is hoping can open holes in opposing defenses and also keep the pass rush from forcing Fellows to unload hurriedly.

"I think we'll be much better off there," says Harrington.

At tailback, Barlow has junior Larry Wallace and senior Paul DeCamp. Both saw action last year after starter Scott Ogle went down with an injury.

Barlow is deep at fullback, too. Last year's starter, Mike Battles, is back, but whether he plays that position depends on how much time he puts in at linebacker, where he is also expected to play. If he does not play fullback, junior Brian Akin or Dave Jarrett figure to be the main candidates. Jarrett is the brother of former Barlow star Ed Jarrett.

"We're going to stick with our I formation, but we'll be able to do a few more things this year," says Harrington. "In situations where we threw the ball last year, we might not have to this year."

Defensively, Barlow has returning linebackers Battles and J.R. May.

The front line will have Rick Hebb or Steve Bunker at noseguard. Steve Maederer and Curt Teegarden are tackle candidates and Doug Storey and Dave Obrist will also compete for line positions.

The defensive backfield will probably be last year's JV secondary, which Harrington is bringing up intact. That will

find Falkner and Correll at the corners and Akin and Herb Miller at safety.

Overall, Harrington is hoping for a return to the Bruins pre-1981 form.

"We have what you might call cautious optimism," he says. "We have good kids that you'd want to be around, but we haven't really done anything yet. We are a better team than we were."

OPENING GAME: Friday at Centennial.

JIM HAYS

GRESHAM'S ONLY LOCALY OWNED BANK

"Where Local Business provides Local Services For Local People!!"

GRESHAM LOCATIONS

MAIN OFFICE
200 E. Powell
GRESHAM
667-6555

TWELVEMILE CORNER BRANCH
22415 S.E. Stark
661-5200

Mount Hood Security Bank



Member FDIC