



PROFILE

Another Gjesdal goes onstage for Lancers

If Rod Gjesdal's eyes are a little bloodshot, he has a slight case of writer's cramp and he seems to be seeing everything in black-and-white when Reynolds takes the field against Gresham on opening night, there's a reason.

By that time, the Lancer junior will have watched more film that some movie critics, made as many notes as an archaeologist and done more reading than a librarian.

Gjesdal has had plenty of homework. And school hasn't even started yet. But as Reynolds' quarterback — and a well-considered one at that — all the brainwork has been necessary. And, Gjesdal hopes when the season is over, worth it.

Gjesdal is busy absorbing the offensive system of new Lancer coach Ed Sowash. Sowash plans to go with a pass-oriented attack and Gjesdal is the triggerman.

"Our offense is complicated and intricate," Gjesdal says. "The playbook is as big as an encyclopedia."

It's also been Gjesdal's companion away from practice. He's been working since June on memorizing pass patterns. Sowash acknowledges the difficulty of Gjesdal's task.

"I've thrown a college pass package at him and Rod may be talking to himself just a little bit right

now," says Sowash. "But he's picking it up and I think he can be an outstanding quarterback."

Gjesdal certainly has the physical tools for the job. Standing at 6-0, he weighs in at a solid 170. His arm is such that Reynolds baseball coach Bob Lindow used him at pitcher and third base.

He also comes from a family that has already produced two outstanding Lancer football players. Brother Brent was an outstanding fullback at Reynolds for two seasons while Dane rushed for 710 yards in nine games for last year's Lancers — the third highest rushing total in the Wilco League.

Gjesdal is the first quarterback in the family. He's also the first member to wear a football jersey other than No. 34. He'll be No. 11.

"I thought about getting it (No. 34), but I don't think the coaches would let me," he says. "Dane wanted me to try for it, though."

Although he was on the roster all season and suited up for every game, Gjesdal didn't play a down of varsity football last year. Instead he got his playing time in on the JV club. But he saw the whole remarkable year unfold for the Lancers from his sideline seat and knows what it took to get there.

"The hardest thing to overcome has been the peo-

ple saying we have a tough act to follow," he says. "We just have to start rebuilding and work extra hard to get the plays down."

Besides his passing, Gjesdal's mobility figures to be something Reynolds will be utilizing this year.

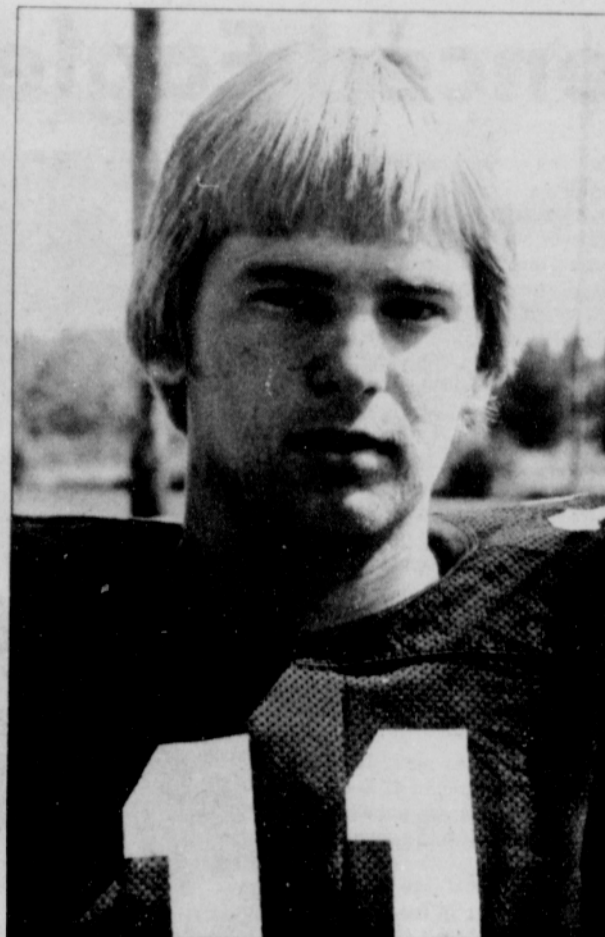
"We've been working on sprintouts and rollouts and those will be in our game plans," he says. "I don't think we did much of that before."

Gjesdal played defensive back last year on the JV team and may see action back there again this time around. So far, though, he's been exclusively at quarterback.

"With the new coach and offense, I've been working on getting that down," he says.

Which, besides work on the practice field, means lots of time in the film room.

Pass the popcorn, Rod.



Quarterback Rod Gjesdal follows the footsteps of brothers, Brent, top right, and Dane, right.

JIM HAYS

Lancers

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same people. Monson, Domingue, Leek and Schetter all figure to go both ways, Monson and Domingue up front and Leek and Schetter at cornerback. Salgado will be one safety and Gjesdal may end up in the defensive backfield, too.

Linebacker could be a Reynolds strength. With Hval, Kaczinski, Jeff Rink and Mike Egan, the Lancers have some heavy hitters.

Still, the Lancers are short of bodies. Sowash will be doing some recruiting in the halls after school starts but depth will be a problem this fall, especially late in the season when injuries begin to take their toll.

"We could end up 5-4 or 6-3 and still make the playoffs," says Sowash. "But we're not the team that was here last year. We're setting goals for ourselves but not so high that we can't reach them."

Coming to Reynolds after the banner 1981 year was a new experience for Sowash.

"I've turned teams around before," says Sowash, a 22-year veteran on the sidelines. "But I've never come into a situation where the team was 11-1 the year before. It's a tough act to follow."

Tough, but not impossible.

OPENING GAME: Friday at Gresham.

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