

NW LEAGUE

New Card coach faces thin deck

CORBETT — New football coach Tyler Smith no sooner opened fall workouts than he was faced with his first problem.

Numbers are down for the Cardinal grid program this season. Smith has just 26 players available for duty.

"We have to establish some stability and consistency," says Smith, who is the Cards' third coach in three seasons. "All the coaching changes might be one reason the numbers are a little down. It's a little upsetting to the kids. But we might pick up some more kids later."

What Corbett does have Smith is hoping will be enough to improve on last year's 4-5 season. What the Redbirds lack in depth, they can make up for in quality, especially on defense.

Back are all-league defensive end Bob Godat and Dave Schwartz, who was an honorable mention selection at linebacker.

"They told me the reason Godat made all-league was that everybody was running away from Schwartz," Smith says.

Whatever the case, in Godat and Schwartz, the Cards have two solid players to build a defense around.

Lee Norby and Matt Elwood figure to be important cogs in the Corbett scheme, too. Norby is considered to have outstanding potential as a tackle on both sides of the line while Elwood will join Schwartz at the other linebacker spot in the Cards Oklahoma defense.

In the secondary, Smith will be counting on T.J. Henderson to anchor the team's pass coverage.

Offensive standouts include returning quarterbacks Ted Shuster and Jay Davis. Shuster started most of last year's games and is the top returnee. Kevin Brandon, Shuster's backup last year, was not out for the squad at press time.

Running backs will include Ed Dunlap, Elwood and Henderson. The latter two will also fill the Cards split end spot.

On offense, Corbett will run the I formation, Smith says.



Corbett quarterback Ted Shuster (11) will trigger Cardinal offense.

"We'll use the run to establish our offense, but we will throw when the opportunity presents itself," he says. "We want to have a strong running game and an efficient and effective pass-

ing attack. It will probably be 60-40 or 70-30, somewhere along those lines."

Things were still far from settled in the Cardinal nest as the team prepared for its opening contest at Neah-

Kah-Nie.

"We're going to have to move some people around, especially on offense," Smith says. "We need to put them in spots where they'll do the most to help the

team."

With another dozen or so players out, that job might be much easier.

OPENING GAME — Sept. 10 at Neah-Kah-Nie.

JIM HAYS

Run-and-shoot returns to boost Lutheran attack

If going 2-7 wasn't bad enough, the Lutheran Bluejays also lost 16 out of their 30 players last year to graduation.

But third-year coach Jim Schlachter says the Bluejays will do just fine with their three or four returning starters. To take advantage of his team's quickness and minimize the effect of its lack of size, however, Schlachter will change the game plan a bit this year.

"Since we have so few kids back it gives me a chance to experiment," Schlachter says. "We'll go to the run-and-shoot or the divide offenses to spread things out. We'll rely on speed because we won't blow people off the line."

Schlachter's line averages only about 160 pounds, but he figures there's enough talent there to help the Bluejays get on the scoreboard more often than last year.

A key man in the spread offense will be junior running back Joel Maier. Maier, one of four brothers who have played for the Bluejays, started both ways last year.

"Joel's not big but he's very fast," Schlachter says. "Both his older brothers were leaders for us and I think Joel will be one too."

Senior Tom Burgess is the probable starter at quarterback, but will have to beat out a couple of younger players first. Burgess (5-11, 150) started in the defensive backfield last year and is quick enough to put points on the board, Schlachter says.

Anything Burgess throws in the general direction of senior wide receiver Tim Brandt

will be caught, Schlachter promises. Brandt was named honorable mention all-conference last season.

Junior Mick Brandt (5-9, 150) isn't the biggest lineman you'll see this season, but Schlachter calls him "a fireball." Brandt will be helped in the trenches by senior Scott Raedeke and junior Paul Staaz, a player Schlachter calls the hardest hitter on the team. Senior Mark Brandt, no relation to the other Brandts on the team, should find a lot of action at linebacker and running back.

But the Bluejays have lost more than seniors. Schlachter figures he'll only have about 25 players out for the team this year, 12 of which will be freshmen. Still, that's not a bad number for a school with an enrollment of 140.

Meanwhile, the Class A Northwest League lost two teams this year, reducing the participants to six.

That means the first four of nine games on the Lutheran schedule will be non-league encounters. Something Schlachter plans to make the best of.

"You can beat the right three teams and make it to state even if those are the only three games you win," Schlachter says. "I plan to use the first four games to get some of my younger kids ready. If we can get some people keyed up we'll surprise some people."

Surprises like the 63-0 pasting the Bluejays gave their rivals, Portland Christian, in last season's finale. Schlachter's banking on that

Please turn to Page 22.

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