

PORTLAND STATE

PSU hopes ride on QB, bigger line

Gresham's Summerfield looks to improve this year

New conference, new stadium, new look.

That's this season's slogan for the Portland State University Vikings.

And they're about to see a new Terry Summerfield.

Summerfield, a three-sport athlete at Gresham High two years ago, has the inside track on the Viking's No. 1 quarterback spot. Last year as a freshman Summerfield was thrown into the fray in mid-season, had his ups and downs and got banged up in the process.

But Summerfield had successful knee surgery, worked on weights to build his weight and strength and now says his arm is much stronger than last season. Standing 6-4, he now weighs 200 pounds.

One year removed from the Mouse Davis run-and-shoot era, the Vikings went 2-9 last year under coach Don Read, who returned to the Park Blocks after a 10-year absence. They'll need the rebuilt Summerfield. The 19-year-old Greshamite, in turn, thinks he can help the Vikings score more than the 152 points they racked up last year.

"I really needed the strength to take the shots," Summerfield says. "There's a lot more weight in college ball. But now I'm stronger and confident about my passing. I'm really excited for the season to start."

Summerfield started three games and completed 36 of 80 passes for 466 yards and one touchdown. He was intercepted five times. He also ran for 215 yards while losing 257 yards in sacks.

"We knew Terry was a very good athlete when we recruited him last year, but we really threw him into the cement mixer early," Read says. "We were a pass-oriented team and he came from a run first, throw second program. He has good feet and a strong arm, but had to spend much of last season adapting to the complex system and getting over all the bumps and bruises."

"He's No. 1 so far," Read continues. "We like what we see in Terry but he needs more game experience."

Summerfield will be press-

ed for his starting slot by junior college transfer Bryan Mitchell who came up from Oregon Tech with Read last year. Mitchell, a junior, redshirted last year. Sophomore Roggy Pflug — out of Beaverton High and a part-time starter last season will also compete for the job. However, Pflug's chances were dimmed last week when he broke his ankle. He is expected to be sidelined five weeks.

"My No. 1 goal is to win the quarterback job and improve myself," Summerfield says. "I've learned a lot about the mental parts of the passing game. I've been thinking about this season over and over. I expect a lot this season."

Both Summerfield and Read are banking on a bigger and better offensive line to help things out this year.

"We're all a year older and our line is much bigger this year," Read says. "Last year we only averaged 200 pounds a lineman but we've gone out and gotten some JC transfers to bring in size."

Thirteen of the team's 22 linemen weigh in at more than 240 pounds.

If the quarterbacks get the time, the receivers have the hands, Read says. Redshirt Kurt Smith, a transfer from Oregon State, will move into the tight end spot and returnees Scott Lindsay and Tim Reeves will man the wide receiver positions.

On the ground, the Vikings will be counting on JC transfer Dan Antonetti (4.5 in the 40) and Chris Bixler and returning starters, Norm Goolsby and Doug Reed.

Read says his defense, which gave up an average of 29 points a game last season, will be radically improved this year. The reason is more JC acquisitions such as Chris Nyte, Bob Hebblewaite, Joe Gwinn, Don Springfield and Willie Edwards. Redshirts Doug Mikolas and Josh Dean should also help.

But the anchor will be senior linebacker Mitch Messina, who was credited with 81 tackles last season.

"We'll be better in all



Sophomore quarterback Terry Summerfield of Gresham hopes for a better season at Portland State University this fall.

ways," Read promises. "But we'll still be extremely young. We played 18 freshmen last season, but the transfers will play a key role."

One more thing is new at Portland State. The Vikings have joined the Western Football Conference and will play the likes of Cal Poly-Pomona, Cal State Northridge and Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. The Vikings open with Santa Clara at Civic Stadium on Sept. 11.

"Playing in a league for the first time will be added incentive," Read says. "We now have an end result. If we're successful we can go to the playoffs. That great PSU team a couple of years ago would have gone to a bowl game had they been in a league."

While talking of bowls seems presumptuous for a team that went 2-9, it might ring true if every Viking is as keyed up as Summerfield.

OPENING GAME: Sept. 11 vs. Santa Clara.

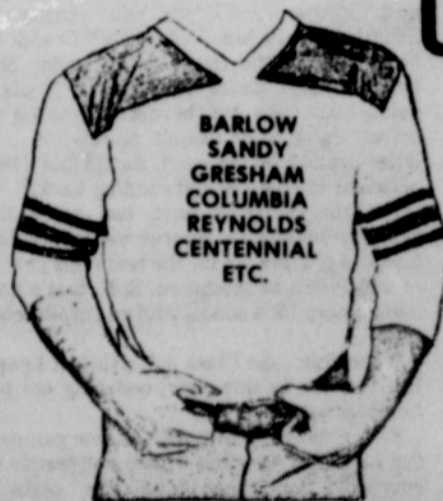
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