

Quick Hits

North Salem

Jeff Flood is trying to rebuild his North Salem Vikings, who went 2-7 last year, 2-6 in league play.

He is working especially hard at replacing several of his 2014 seniors: quarterback Zac Liner, fullbacks Devin Varay and Larry Ne-delec, linemen Ezekiel Reyes and Alex Garcia, and linebackers Sam Hi-rons and Ryan Miller.

Tyler Borders and Hunter Sullivan are the candidates for the starting quarterback position; Borders is also an outside linebacker. Gio Gonzalez and Christian Maciel return as running backs; Maciel is also a kicker. Pedro Flores and John Stott, both of whom also play defense, are vying to be the starting fullback. Jimmy Van, Santana Reyes and Junior Sandoval return as defensive backs; Reyes is also a receiver.

Cordel Birkel returns as a tackle, Sam Saechao as an offensive and defensive line-man, Dylan Thompson as a defensive end and offensive tackle.

Asked how the opposition looks, Flood said: "Everybody looks good to us. Each team has its strength."

Flood, who has been the Vikings' head coach since 2008, is his own offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. Troy Walker is the defensive coordinator and inside linebacker coach. Tony Davis coaches the outside linebackers, Brent Turner the running backs, Bill O'Connell the wide receivers, David Richards the tight ends, Jordan Augustadt the defensive line, Jim MacInnes the defensive backs and James Pyatt the inside line-backers.

North Salem will use a wing-T formation on offense and multiple defensive formations.

"Every year the season just comes so quickly," Flood said. "You think you're prepared. The opening game with McNary is a daunting task."

- Herb Swett, for the Keizertimes



West Salem

Coach Shawn Stanley thinks his West Salem Titans can be at least as good as last year's 10-3 team.

Many key 2014 players were lost to graduation, among them Cade Smith, Keegan Hlad, Lisala Manu, Andrew Obrien and Roman Kleiber. As for newcomers, he said, "We have lots of players from an undefeated JV team."

Although it is too early at this writing for the coaches to decide on all their starters, Stanley said Kyle Terry will return at running back. For the offensive line, the only returners are Jake Thompson and Markus John, but "we have some big and talented guys ready to fill the other spots."

Thompson, also a defensive end, and John are the only returners on the defensive line, and all the linebackers will be new. Manny Bravo will be back. Returning to the secondary will be Andy Armstrong, Hunter Johnson and Trey Lindekugel, and "some really good players from our JV squad."

Special-team players will be new, "but I

think we have some all-conference-caliber ability there."

Asked how the schools on his schedule impressed him at this early stage, Stanley called South Salem and Sprague the front-runners.

The coach said he would operate mostly out of a shotgun offense and a 4-3 defense.

Stanley, who is his own offensive coordinator, has Damien Ramirez as a defensive coordinator. Robert Cary coaches the offensive line, Ty Nicholson the running backs, Josh Riddell the quarterbacks, Jeff Miller the tight ends, Joe Looney the wide receivers, Mark Walsh the defensive line, Chris Boock the centers, Aaron

Shinkle the safeties and Chris Vandiver the linebackers.

"We will have some growing pains early," he said. "But hopefully, like the West teams before them, we can be playing our best football late in the season."

- Herb Swett, for the Keizertimes



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