

# Quick Hits

## West Albany

Brian Mehl is not a name-dropper.

Mehl, the West Albany football coach, will not identify his starting players or even mention which ones are vying for which starting positions until the season opener.

"It's against my coaching philosophy," he said.

He was willing to answer other questions, and that included identifying the players of last year who have graduated. The Bulldog seniors of 2014 included both quarterbacks, Joey Roos and Keaton Co-



rado; and safety JT Valenzuela.

"We have a very solid running back group, several good receivers and good offensive line returners," Mehl said. "The quarterback position is an evolving process, with six boys competing."

He said the defensive line would be strong as well as the inside linebacker positions.

The Bulldogs finished third in the

Greater Valley Conference last year, losing only to Sprague, McKay and South Salem. They went 1-1 in the playoffs.

Without making any conference predictions for the coming season, Mehl commented: "I think it's a competitive league. We get a mix of just about everything." He did say that South Salem and West Salem should be tough.

This is the sixth year in the West Albany program for Mehl and his second year in the head coaching job.

Unlike most GVC coaches this year, Mehl will not be one of his own coordi-

nators. Those jobs will be filled by Jared Hinkle on offense and Cole Touliot on defense.

Darrell Mehl, the head coach's father, will coach middle linebackers, and Austin Jones will coach outside linebackers. Other assistants are James Myrick, running backs; Derek Duman, wide receivers; Don Lien, defensive backs; Peter Zoumbokous, offensive line; and Cory Perkins, tight ends.

"I'm very, very excited for the 2015 season," Brian Mehl said. "We have a good core group of guys."

- Herb Swett, for the Keizertimes

## Forest Grove

Forest Grove, one of the newer members of the Greater Valley Conference, is rebuilding.

Coach Dwight Jensen noted that his Vikings were 3-6 last year, 3-5 in conference.

He has to replace a few key players who graduated this spring, including wide receivers Cam Kemper and Cody Fletcher and middle linebacker Keagen Tsenti.

Returning starters on offense are wide receiver Ben Pearson, quarterback Taylor Jensen, fullback Hunter Lepari, halfbacks Tanner Heikus and Marcus Estrada, tackles Ben Godfrey and Noah Corona, guards Bobby Taylor and Austin Brown and tight end Wyatt Andresen.

Taylor and Brown also play on the defensive line, as does Corona Godfrey. Estrada, AJ Turner and Lepari rotate at

the linebacker positions. Other rotating defenders are Andresen and newcomer Griffin Torrence. Ben Pearson, Tanner and Ronnie Thompson are in the secondary.

Jensen did not know at this writing who all of his special teams players would be, but Andresen is a punter and Zeke Aleman a long snapper.

Looking at the rest of the conference, the coach sees Sprague, West Salem and South Salem as the toughest foes. He notes that they not only have been strong but also are returning many first-string players.

Jensen, who has been the Vikings' head coach since 1990, is his own offensive coordinator and quarterback coach and is adding the duties of secondary coach. The defensive coordinator is Perry Herbst, who also coaches the defensive tackles.



Other assistants are Bobby Larkins, defensive ends; Jeff Turner, inside linebackers; Andrew Garrett, outside linebackers; Tim Hoppe, defensive backs; Greg Evers, wide receivers; Anthony Mancuso, slots; Alex Etta, running backs; Ron Morris, of-

ensive linemen; and Eddie Galvan, tight ends.

"We're really excited here," Jensen said, "with the amount of experience returning from last season."

- Herb Swett, for the Keizertimes

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