

Local broadcasters make predictions

KBZY broadcaster Mark Gilman and Craig Spivey of CCTV give their take on what to expect this upcoming football season.

Keizertimes: What are you most looking forward to this season?

Gilman: This marks the start of the fourth decade of prep football broadcasts for me personally—a milestone of sorts. Call me sentimental. The game has changed a lot in that time, but still generates the same sort of excitement that it did when I first started.

Spivey: The thing that is fun about high school football in general, and the Greater Valley Conference in particular, is the unpredictability. If you go in to a season thinking you know exactly how things are going to shake out, you're wrong. That said, one of the things I am really looking forward to is watching Josh Riddell coach the McKay Royal Scots. Josh's first head coaching job at his alma mater. The former all-league offensive player of the year comes from a great coaching heritage from his dad Duane, and had exposure to some great football minds during his college playing career. McKay is a program that could use a spark, and I think Josh is going to bring some great energy to the league.

KT: What's the biggest question you have



Mark Gilman



Craig Spivey

about the upcoming season?

Gilman: The favorites, as they have been the last few years, are South Salem, West Salem, and Sprague. The question is *still*: which one will ultimately win the GVC title? Every season, it is a horse race. South Salem has worn the crown most recently, but there are no guarantees.

Spivey: Most every program in the league has questions. Can South Salem respond after

losing so much talent at the skill positions? Is this the year North Salem can take that next step? Which team outside of Salem/Keizer will make an impact? I think for me, it's can a team from the GVC get back to prominence on a state level. Last year three league teams were ousted in the first round of the playoffs, the other two were bounced

in the second round. While West Salem has had success outside of the league, the balance of the league has not been as strong. At one point, not long ago, the league was very deep. I look forward to see if that kind of depth can be realized once again.

KT: Look into your crystal ball. Who are some of your favorites to win Greater Valley Conference Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year?

Gilman: He missed last season due to injury, but West Salem running back Manny Bravo could surprise a lot of folks and be the offensive player of the year. I like him and South Salem running back Francisco Ramirez-Perez as the favorites to compete for that honor. Both run hard and normally have fundamentally sound blockers out in front of them. On defense, McNary's Kolby Barker is a blue chip player who has the potential to take home the DPOY honors.

Spivey: There are several very good returning defensive players. As for potential defensive players of the year I think you have to start with Kolby Barker of McNary. He has the size and speed that has college scouts drooling. He is a real game changer. Behind Barker you have to like Junior Sandoval at North Salem, a very gutsy player that is very good in run support from his safety position. And finally, both Matthew Jarding from McKay and Anthony Zellner of West Salem are returning all-league performers.

On the offensive side, the league lost some incredible talent from a year ago. But I like Francisco Ramirez-Perez from South Salem. He is that tough single back that runs with great balance. The kind of back Coach Scott

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