

FOOTBALL

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2019



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Lewis County head coach Josh Hughes instructs a drill during a preseason practice last season.

PHOTOS BY JARED MACDONALD
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT



Mason County runs onto the field before their 2018 season opener against North Adams, Friday, Aug. 17, 2018, in Maysville.

PHOTOS BY TERRY PRATHER
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT



Fleming County coach Bill Spencer patrols the sideline during the Panthers' game against Harrison County, Friday, Aug. 17, 2018, in Flemingsburg.



Fleming County's Jonathan Maher runs for a touchdown during a game last season against Lewis County. Maher will be in control of the offense once again for the Panthers this season at quarterback.

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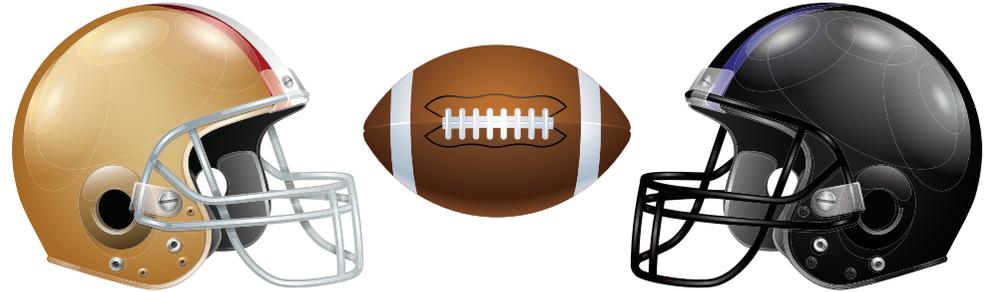
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 **Special thanks to those that submitted photos*

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Thanks to the area coaches, staff, volunteers and administration who helped with the process of putting the preview together. We look forward to another exciting year of action on the gridiron!

Follow us on Twitter @LedgerSports for all the action during the fall sports season. @EvanDennison1 will be providing game and feature stories, live-tweeting games, uploading video highlights and the Ledger Sports handle will post all the scores and game stories from the action.



Follow us on the Facebook page of Evan Dennison as well as The Ledger Independent page. Evan's personal page will upload game stories, features, photo galleries and videos of the action this season.



Fleming County takes the field ahead of its 2018 season opener against Harrison County, Friday, Aug. 17, 2018, in Flemingsburg.

PHOTO BY JARED MACDONALD
 THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT



Mason County's Jake Swolsky breaks up a pass against Morgan County during the 2018 season.

PHOTO BY TERRY PRATHER
 THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

MASON COUNTY ROYALS

MASON COUNTY MOTIVATED BY 2018 SEASON

Royals not shying away from 2-8 record

Jared MacDonald

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The Mason County football team isn't shying away from last season's results.

A 2-8 record. Six straight losses. Missing out on the postseason for the first time since 2015.

The Royals aren't trying to forget it – they're using it as motivation and as a learning experience heading into the 2019 season.

"Focus in practice has been trying to erase 2-8, trying to be a different team, trying to do things differently, trying to have a different mindset, trying to win every rep, taking it one day at a time and realistically ... you can't cheat the process," fifth-year coach Jonathon Thomas said. "There's only one way to win and we've really tried to focus on that. I think if you ask the kids if what we've done thus far has been different, they'll probably tell you, 'Yeah.'"

Mason County beat North Adams – a club team based in Seaman, Ohio that plays in the Southern Ohio Independent League – to open the season, 53-0. Losses to Fleming County and Rowan County followed, before a 35-32 victory over

Morgan County.

The Royals lost the next four games to Class 4A, District 7 foes Scott, Bourbon County, Harrison County and Holmes to miss the playoffs. The team fell in its final two games to Grant County and Lewis County.

This season, Mason County makes the move to Class 3A, District 6, with Fleming County, Lewis County, Pendleton County and Powell County. A drop in class might seem like an easier path to the playoffs, but the Royals plan on taking every opponent seriously.

"Our district is going to be tough. Some people are like, 'You should be better because you're moving down to 3A and who's in your district,'" said Thomas. "Again, we won two ballgames, so we're going to take everybody seriously just like they're going to take us seriously because we're going to get everybody's best shot. We've got some demons to get off our backs as well."

Several weapons return to the team's offense this season, starting with Carson Brammer, who's entering his second season at starting quarterback. Brammer

completed 64-of-152 passes for 1,071 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior last year. He was also the team's second-leading rusher, carrying the ball 74 times for 342 yards and six scores.

"I'm just going to try to trust my line a little bit more," said Brammer. "I like to get out of the pocket a lot. I couldn't take any pressure really. I'd like to stay in the pocket and deliver passes."

The 6-foot-2, 180 pound QB has plenty of options to throw to. Jayden Riggs, the leading receiver last year, is back for his senior year, as is second-leading receiver Jeremiah Jones, who missed the majority of his sophomore season due to injury.

Brammer will also have Kolby Jones and Chandler Black out for their senior seasons, as well as 6-foot-4 Jake Swolsky, who played for the first time last fall.

Despite all of those options, Thomas still wants a balanced offense. Gone is Seth Chambers, who carried the ball 185 times for 1,152 yards and 12 touchdowns last year, and it likely won't be one person replacing him.

Brandon Dearing has been the leader through the preseason to get the bulk of the carries, but he'll likely be splitting duties with several others, including Mason Baxter, Josh Irwin, Brady and Carter Sanders and Caden and Chad Clark-Roberts.

"I'm just going to have to get better and get more skill and more knowledge and more experience and I'll get better as I go along," said Dearing.

The Royals lose the top two tacklers from last year with Jared Collins and Chambers, but get back plenty of experience defensively. Mason County brings back Tyler Stice, Irwin, Colton Riggs and Jayven Hesler, who all had a defensive fumble recovery last year. Jayden Riggs led the team with three interceptions and Colton Riggs was right behind with two more.

Thomas also points to players like Dylan Osgood and Nailen Billie, who's returning after not playing last season, to be leaders along the line.

Another benefit to the team this year is

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Mason County Royals

ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE	NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE	NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE
2	Jayden Riggs	WR/DB	5-11	150	Sr.	27	Jonathan Jones	WR/LB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	73	Nailen Billie	OL/DL	6-1	350	Sr.
3	Isaac Marshall	N/A	6-2	N/A	N/A	29	Colton Riggs	WR/DB	5-6	160	So.	74	Shepherd Dalton	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	So.
4	Jeremiah Jones	WR/DB	6-1	150	Jr.	31	Carter Sanders	FB/LB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	75	Jayven Hesler	OL/DL	5-8	280	So.
5	Tyrell Henry	QB/DB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	35	Devon Brandon	WR/DB	5-8	180	Jr.	76	Kenai Billie	OL/DL	6-1	225	So.
6	Isaac Frye	TE/DE	N/A	N/A	Fr.	40	Josh Irwin	WR/DB	5-5	132	Jr.	79	Kris Booker	OL/DL	6-1	340	Sr.
7	Kayne Jones	WR/DB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	42	Kyin Lewis	TE/DE	N/A	N/A	Fr.	80	Chad Clark-Roberts	RB/LB	N/A	N/A	Fr.
8	Brandon Dearing	RB/LB	5-8	175	So.	49	Hunter Thompson	OL/DL	5-9	195	So.	Head Coach: Jonathan Thomas (Fifth Season) Assistant Coaches: Dean Ravencraft, Jim Stice, Bradley Boone, Tristan Foster, Andrew Okruch, Daniel Akers Middle School Staff: Tony Jackson, Rodney Washington, Corey Arthur, Alex Hamilton Radio (95.9 WFTM): Travis Scaggs, JT Teegarden Manager: Matt Miller Press Box: Daniel Scilley, Adam Sapp, Kelly Faris, Larry Dunaway Stats: Rodney Washington Film: Butch Chain Field Crew: Jim Brown, John Roberts, Johnny Walker, Joey Waddell, Todd Johnson, Chad Thomas, Matt Jolley					
9	Carson Brammer	QB/DB	6-2	180	Sr.	50	Owen Stice	OL/LB	N/A	N/A	Fr.						
10	Jake Swolsky	WR/DB	6-4	170	Sr.	52	Kyin Lewis	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	Fr.						
11	Kolby Jones	WR/DB	6-3	155	Sr.	53	Braxton Champion	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	So.						
12	Dylan Osgood	QB/DB	5-10	163	Jr.	54	Jackson Turner	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	So.						
14	Ashton Adams	QB/LB	5-8	150	So.	55	Dravin Routt	OL/DL	5-9	210	So.						
15	Tyler Stice	QB/LB	5-11	177	Jr.	59	Lang Touchton	OL/DL	6-3	210	Sr.						
17	Matthew Chambers	WR/DB	5-8	145	Jr.	60	Lucius Billie	OL/DL	6-0	215	Fr.						
18	Chandler Black	WR/DB	N/A	N/A	Sr.	61	Joseph Tull	TE/DL	5-10	215	Jr.						
19	Mason Baxter	FB/LB	5-10	166	So.	62	Ben Redmond	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	Fr.						
20	Brady Sanders	RB/LB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	63	Shawn Monteith	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	So.						
21	Caden Clark-Roberts	RB/LB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	64	Austin Reetz	OL/DL	5-9	160	Jr.						
22	Carson Pugh	WR/DB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	65	Max Moran	OI/DL	6-1	240	Sr.						
23	Luke Jarjosa	QB/WR/LB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	70	Stephen Lofton	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	Fr.						
25	Westin Messer	WR/DB	N/A	N/A	Fr.	72	Wyatt Fuller	OL/DL	N/A	N/A	Fr.						

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 23	Russell	home	7:30 PM	Sept. 20	Lloyd Memorial	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 25	Powell County*	home	7:30 PM
Aug. 30	Harrison County	home	7:30 PM	Sept. 27	Pendleton County*	away	7:30 PM	Nov. 1	Greenup County	home	7:30 PM
Sept. 6	Clay County	away	8:30 PM	Oct. 11	Fleming County*	home	7:30 PM	*District Game			
Sept. 13	Grant County	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 18	Lewis County*	away	7:30 PM				

Royals Football con't

numbers. The Royals have had roughly 50 kids out through preseason, which will allow some to play on just one side of the ball – a luxury Thomas doesn't believe he's had in his previous four seasons.

"We always joke as a staff, 'We're going to get Hudl Assist, Hudl Sideline,' and I'm like, 'Who are we going to coach on the sideline because everybody who plays offense plays defense,'" said Thomas. "This year we'll actually have some guys that can be on the sideline, so it'll be good defensively to be able to have some guys who can actually rest."

The program has also seen an influx of youth. The roster includes an 18-member freshman class that saw success at the middle school level, and Thomas expects the group to make an impact this season.

"If you've watched us practice at all, you'll see those white jerseys sprinkle in and they're coming, which is good because we haven't had a ton of competition here either," he said. "Competition breeds

success. We're definitely able to push a few guys, which only makes us better."

Mason County won't have an easy slate of games to prepare for playing in a new district. The Royals open the season

at home against defending Class 3A, District 5 champion Russell and follow with a home contest with defending Class 4A, District 7 champion Harrison County. That'll lead into a string of four straight road games with Clay County, Grant County and Lloyd Memorial before opening district play at Pendleton County on Sept. 27.



Mason County coaching staff

PHOTOS BY JARED MACDONALD THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

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MASON COUNTY ROYALS

Royals Football con't

"To me, you definitely want to prepare yourself for district. It's a fine line," said Thomas. "You need some confidence, you need a test, you don't need to get steamrolled five weeks in a row and then you go in and you're 0-5, although we've done that before here, gotten beat, go in and win a district title and we're rolling into the playoffs."

Following the game with the Wildcats, the Royals will host Fleming County, travel to Lewis County and close out the season with home games against Powell County and Greenup County.

With a new district and a combination of returning talent and young players, Thomas feels confident entering his fifth year that Mason County can improve from last year's 2-8 season.

"Just taking the challenges that come every season – I'm sure I'll make mistakes on a daily basis – but we usually have a pretty good feel for kind of what we want to do," said Thomas. "Again, there was a lot of things we changed this year differently in the offseason coming into this, just because we knew we needed to be just a little bit different because of our results from previous years."

ROYALS RUNNING BY COMMITTEE

Mason County mixing up backs with no clear favorite entering fall

Jared MacDonald

jmacdonald@cmpapers.com

The last few years, Mason County football coach Jonathan Thomas didn't have to answer many questions about who would be getting the bulk of the team's carries.

Entering the 2016 season, the duo of Tyrion Fox and Malkolm Devine were coming back and were expected to lead the charge. In 2017, Devine returned for his senior season. Last year, Seth Chambers was going to be getting the ball.

This fall, it's not as clear, and the Royals will likely be running by committee, with several younger players expected to step up and fill in the role.

"Last year, if we got in a bind, we could give it to 39 [Chambers]. He's a different animal. This year, right now, if we get in a bind, we're probably going to throw it," said Thomas. "We've got to definitely figure out that run game because I definitely want to be a balanced team. You don't want to get in a bind where you can't do one or the other because it makes it easier on the defense. We don't want to be predictable and we want to make run look like pass and pass look

like a run."

Fox's career at Mason County was plagued by injury, but when healthy, he provided an immediate threat for the Royals' offense. Devine rushed for nearly 1,500 yards and scored 10 times on the ground as a senior. Chambers accounted for 1,152 of Mason County's 1,688 rushing yards last year.

The Royals currently have six or seven players that could see touches, and all are still fairly young. The oldest in the group are Mason Baxter, a 5-foot-10, 166 pound junior fullback that recorded 60 yards and one touchdown on 18 carries last season, and Josh Irwin, a 5-foot-5,

132 pound junior that carried the ball once for 29 yards. Baxter says he's seen a difference in the way the team has worked out this offseason, as opposed to last year when the Royals went on to have a 2-8 record and missed the Class 4A playoffs.

"What Coach Thomas has been talking about is a winning season. He says he wants to hang one of them helmets up that says '2019,'" said Baxter. "That's just our goal this year. We're just trying to get that winning season."

Brandon Dearing is the frontrunner to get the most touches right now, according to Thomas, but the fifth-year coach expects

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Mason County's Mason Baxter (19) runs the ball in the second quarter while Harrison County's Timothy Abbott (5) goes in for the tackle, Friday, Oct. 5, 2018, in Maysville.

PHOTO BY TERRY PRATHER
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

Royals Football con't

him to go through some growing pains as he's only a sophomore. The 5-foot-8, 175 pound back did see some limited action as a freshman, carrying the ball 13 times for 21 yards.

"This year it's been a lot of pressure, but I'm going to have to get used to it playing as a sophomore," said Dearing. "In the offseason, I've been working with personal trainers and things like that to prepare for the regular season, so I should be fine."

The rest of the committee are part of an 18-member freshman class that Thomas is hoping can help revitalize the program for years to come. Brady Sanders, Carter Sanders, Caden Clark-Roberts and Chad Clark-Roberts could all get touches after successful middle school careers, despite it being their first season of varsity football.

"We'll have to have some people grow up really, really fast and our job is to get them as prepared as possible and, again, if I had to pick who the winner was right now, it's probably Brandon," said Thomas. "Again, Brandon has still got a lot of work to do. Brandon works extremely hard, but he's still a sophomore, so he's going to have some growing pains and has still got some things to figure out, but I think he may be at the head of the pack right now."

The returning players were able to work

with some of the players that previously came through the program, while the freshmen were able to watch them and learn on Friday nights.

"It helps a lot to know how they played the game, how they scored, how they got to every position correctly," said Caden Clark-Roberts. "It just helps a lot to work on footwork and everything. That's what I looked at when I watched them."

While the players being handed the ball may be inexperienced, Mason County has the benefit of returning a veteran receiving core, as well as second-year starting quarterback Carson Brammer, who finished last season as the team's second-leading rusher with 342 yards. The offense has more faith in the players along the line this season as well, which could help keep the offense balanced this season.

Another advantage Thomas sees with the offense comes with the fact he has so many players he can hand the ball off to. Each comes with a different style – Baxter says he's more of a bruiser, Dearing says he relies on his moves and agility and Caden Clark-Roberts says he's got more of an all-around style.

"I tell you what, man, if you watch any team in America, whether it's high school, college, NFL guys on Sunday, most guys have a stable of backs, and those backs

bring their own thing to the table," said Thomas.

"It's a good change up, a good change of pace and when it's your night and your turn, have at it, but sometimes it's not your turn, your night, and sometimes there will be a bruiser come in, sometimes there will be a guy who you can throw to, sometimes there is a guy who is between the tackles, sometimes there will be a guy who's more of a Le'Veon Bell type guy," added Thomas. "It just depends. I do think having that many kids in that position, we may end up being in that position as they get older, more reps, get more comfortable."

It's an offense that will be tested at home in the first two weeks of the season, before hitting the road for four straight games. The Royals start the season against Russell, a team that allowed just over 15

points per game in its 13 games last year, the fifth-best mark in Class 3A. The Red Devils ranked fifth in the state in rushing yards allowed, surrendering an average of 116 per game. Mason County will face Harrison County in its second game. The Thorobreds allowed just 89 rushing yards per game last year, the fifth-best mark in Class 4A.

It's a tough slate of games to start the year, but one the Royals are hoping can help boost them into its games in a new district – Class 3A, District 6 – in hopes of reaching the postseason after a one-year absence.

"Last year we had some close games and we had some very different games," said Dearing. "I hope it's a lot different than it was last year and it's looking different than what it was last year. I just hope for the best for my team."

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FLEMING COUNTY PANTHERS

TURNOVERS AND RUN GAME POINTS OF EMPHASIS FOR PANTHERS

Fleming County looks to limit mental mistakes in district title quest

Evan Dennison

edennison@cmpapers.com

After their first losing season since 2013, a new season with a new district brings excitement to Flemingsburg once again.

Things didn't go the way in 2018 the Panthers have been used to the last several years with explosive numbers on the stat sheet and scoreboard, equating to victories and a district title. Turnovers were the main culprit, the Panthers committing more than three per game as they went 4-7 with a first round playoff exit to eventual Class 3A state champion Louisville Central.

With experience at quarterback and line play that is seasoned and stronger, the Panthers enter 2019 with hopes of getting back to where they were in 2017...district champions. There's no more Russell to shoot for, Fleming County now in the Class 3A, 7th District with Mason County, Powell County, Pendleton County and Lewis County.

"When it's something new it's exciting. It's exciting to have Mason County back in our district. They've always been a rival of ours and now it means a little bit more when it's a district game," Panthers coach Bill Spencer said. "I'm sure every other team is looking

at our district and sees Russell gone and there's really not a clear-cut favorite and who is going to be the big dog. That's what we've told our kids all winter, it's there for us to take and now we need to go out and do it."

The Panthers are familiar with Mason, Pendleton and Lewis, having each one's number as of late, but Powell brings in an unknown and might be the Panthers foe that stands in their way of a district title.

"They were in our district a while back. We haven't played them in varsity in years," Spencer said. "We played them in JV a couple of times. It's something that we're all kind of talking about and everyone in our district wants to know about them. They are kind of a darkhorse, we don't know much about them. We played them in JV last year, but things are a lot different from Monday nights and Friday nights."

Jonathan Maher starts year no. 2 under center, tasked with the difficult spot of having to replace Josh Crump last year. Spencer feels with that cloud not over him anymore and a year of experience under his belt, we'll see an improved Maher after throwing for 831 yards with 12 touchdowns and 18 interceptions in his junior year.

"Johnny is a kid that was a wide receiver all the way until last year when we had to make him the quarterback. It was a tough deal for him, big shoes to fill going in behind Josh Crump. Everybody asking who is going to be our quarterback, is he going to be like Josh," Spencer said. "There's not a lot of Josh Crump's running around here. He had a lot of pressure on him last year. This year I feel like he's a lot more relaxed and feels a lot more comfortable with his role."

Helping Maher will be line play that was spotty at times last season but figures to be one of the strengths of the team in 2019. The bulk added up front in the weight room, mixed in with technique and familiarity within the offense should help Maher succeed with a running game looking to improve upon the 106.4 yards per game they averaged on the ground a year ago.

Kyron Humphrey moves to tackle and brings versatility having played guard and center in prior seasons. Cooper Schwartz big frame at 6-foot-4, 315 pounds occupies another spot with Jacob Werline at center, forming a respectable line to protect Maher and gash teams on the ground.

"A lot of us were dedicated in the weight room and didn't miss many days," Humphrey said. "I know myself I didn't miss any. We pushed each other and ourselves to the limit to try and get better. We want a district championship in our new district."

They'll be paving the way for playmaker Kaleb Flanery. Flanery was selected by Cats' Pause as the preseason Class 3A, 6th District Player of the Year, coming off



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2019 Fleming County Panthers

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NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE	NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE	NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE
46	Braden Allen	WR/DB	5-8	137	Fr.	56	Andrew Hedge	OT/DE	6-0	236	So.	7	Jordan Raikes	WR/DB	5-9	140	Jr.
40	Brayden Allen	RB/LB	5-9	184	Jr.	18	Maddox Howard	RB/LB	5-6	149	Fr.	35	Payton Roark	WR/LB	6-3	220	Jr.
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4	Bryce Bradley	WR/DB	5-8	128	Fr.	45	Grayson Hurst	FB/LB	5-9	200	Jr.	22	Landon Shields	RB/LB	5-10	168	Fr.
42	James Buckler	QB/TE/DL	6-0	180	Fr.	74	Austin Hyatt	OG/DT	6-0	253	So.	88	Tristan Still	WR/DB	5-9	125	So.
5	Hunter Carpenter	WR/DB	5-11	139	Fr.	23	Braxton Igo	FB/LB	5-9	172	So.	59	Daniel Watkins	OT/DE	5-11	241	Jr.
16	Zeke Conn	QB/LB	5-8	208	Jr.	28	Caleb Igo	RB/LB	5-8	140	Fr.	60	Marcus Weaver	OG/DT	6-0	242	So.
71	Rodney Cummings	OT/DE	5-8	179	Fr.	34	Andrew Jackson	TE/LB	6-3	162	Fr.	10	Tanner Weaver	RB/LB	5-6	140	Jr.
31	Zach Davis	WR/DB	5-6	150	So.	33	Jesse Jones	TE/LB	5-10	190	Fr.	79	Jacob Werline	C/DT	5-8	293	Jr.
65	Dylan DeAtley	OG/DE	5-9	201	Fr.	62	Waylon Justice	TE/DL	5-10	258	Sr.	Head Coach: Bill Spencer (10th season) Assistant Coaches: Jordan Fritz, Todd Glascock, Jimmy McKinney, Aaron James, Heath Burnett, Jared Wagner Superintendent: Brian Creasman Principal: Stephanie Emmons Athletic Director: John Elliott Team Doctor: Mike Boyd Team Managers: Molly Spencer, Clara Gonzalez Video: Aubrey Montgomery, Bryan Manning Stats: Kym Campbell					
9	Levi Denton	WR/LB	5-9	151	So.	36	Devin Kiskaden	WR/DB	5-10	154	Fr.						
72	Harrison Doyle	OG/DT	5-11	187	Jr.	77	Brant Layne	OT/DT	5-6	242	So.						
32	Matthew Dugan	TE/LB	6-3	202	Jr.	20	Jonathan Maher	QB/WR/LB	6-2	170	Sr.						
50	Austin Emmons	OG/DL	5-7	145	Fr.	52	Kenley Manning	C/DE	5-10	206	Jr.						
68	Tristan Emmons	C/G/DT	5-11	221	Jr.	24	Blake McKibben	WR/DB	5-11	155	Sr.						
25	Matthew Everidge	WR/DB	5-6	115	So.	15	Buddy Morgan	QB/DB	6-0	150	Jr.						
2	Kaleb Flanery	RB/DB	5-9	170	Sr.	69	Carson Oldham	OT/DE	6-1	202	So.						
27	Justin Fields	TE/LB	5-11	175	Sr.	82	Chance Pergrem	WR/DB	5-6	156	Fr.						
21	Carsen Gulley	WR/DB	6-0	152	Sr.	14	Logan Pinkley	WR/DB	6-1	150	So.						
61	Jett Hamilton	OT/DE	6-2	250	Sr.	78	Brady Poston	OT/DT	5-5	212	Fr.						
64	Tyler Hardin	OG/DT	5-10	237	Jr.	57	Wyatt Prater	OG/DE	5-6	146	Fr.						

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 23	Nicholas County	away	7:30 PM	Sep. 27	Russell	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 18	Pendleton County*	away	7:30 PM
Aug. 30	Greenup County	home	7:30 PM	Oct. 4	Powell County*	home	7:30 PM	Oct. 25	Lewis County*	home	7:30 PM
	Cheap's Chevrolet Game				Friends of James Watkins Bowl			Nov. 1	Harrison County	home	7:30 PM
Sep. 13	Rowan County	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 11	Mason County*	away	7:30 PM				*District Game
Sep. 20	East Carter	home	7:30 PM								
	Bypass Homes Bowl										

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a junior campaign with 345 rushing yards, 226 receiving yards and four touchdowns. He'll be joined by Tanner Weaver, limited last year with an injury and Maher also poses as a running threat.

After years of talented receiving corps that featured Zac Alexander, Brad Glascock, Jaden Campbell and Cole Saunders, the wide receiver position is a bit of an unknown for this Panthers team. Spencer expects C.J. Gulley and Blake McKibben to step up in those roles.

Another key piece of the offense on special teams will also need to be replaced as kicker Austin Paige graduated and is now playing at Centre. Paige was sure-footed with extra points for nearly all of his attempts and provided a boost on kickoffs with his placement. As of early August, the Panthers were still searching for that role to

be filled.

Much like being the leader of the offense, Maher spearheads the defense that looks to improve upon their 36.3 points per game allowed average last season. Maher led the team in tackles with 101 last year and will assume lead linebacker duties once again.



Fleming County coaching staff

PHOTOS BY EVAN DENNISON THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT



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FLEMING COUNTY PANTHERS

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"Leading both sides of the ball means everything to me," Maher said. "I just want to have fun and try to lead the team to a district championship. We'd like to be the first ones to have two district titles before we graduate."

The improvement on defense will be keyed by the defensive front, Brad Applegate and Jett Hamilton providing the push up front. Hamilton led the team with six sacks last season while Applegate tallied 65 tackles, 10 of them for loss and two fumble recoveries. Flanery will head the secondary.

"We're an aggressive group and they were dying to get pads on," Spencer said. "I like that with them. When we finally put pads on you could tell they were eager to get to it. I think we're going to be an aggressive group with our linebackers and our front. I think with our DBs, Kaleb is back and has a lot of

experience and we have some athleticism with him that is going to help out."

The Panthers out of district schedule should have them well prepared once October rolls around and district play begins. Bouts with Nicholas County, Greenup County, Rowan County, East Carter and Russell precede a showdown in Flemingsburg with Powell County on October 4 with big district implications. They can't get too comfortable from there as a trip to Maysville follows the next week against rival Mason County. They'll close out with Pendleton County and Lewis County in district play with Harrison County the season finale.

"Our non-district games we didn't go out and cherry pick and try to find people we could blow out and get wins. We wanted to go out and find teams that will make us get better and get ready for that playoff push," Spencer said.

PANTHERS BRINGING THE POWER UP FRONT

An offseason spent in the weight room has the Panthers bulked up

Evan Dennison

edennison@cmpapers.com

A season of uninspiring results taught Fleming County they needed to get meaner and leaner in the weight room.

The Panthers gave up an average of 36.3 points per game on their way to a 4-7 season, their first losing season since 2013.

With the bad taste in their mouth from last year's results, the Panthers hit the weight room hard in the winter, spring and summer leading into the 2019 football season and enter the year to prove '18 was not how it's supposed to go.

"We can sense it, not just the first few weeks of practice but through the winter in the weight room and all the way up to now. You could tell the kids were anxious to go out and get that bad taste out of their mouth and put that behind them," Panthers coach Bill Spencer said.

Fleming County returns key cogs Brad Applegate and Jett Hamilton on the defensive front, Kyren Humphrey, Jacob Werline and Cooper Schwartz on the offensive front. Those five along with others should help provide stability for a Panthers front that had trouble controlling the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball in '18. The Panthers ran for just 106.4 yards per game while allowing 231.2 per game last season. They know that needs to become more balanced to chase their goal of a district title in '19.

Spencer sees things changing for the better come August 23 when Fleming opens up the season in Carlisle against Nicholas County.

"Our strength is our offensive and defensive line this year. We've got a lot of experience back there, a lot of kids back," Spencer said. "Those kids have really put in the work in the weight room this winter and gotten stronger."

From 2014-17, the Panthers didn't have trouble finding the end zone. Skill players like Josh Crump at quarterback, Zac Alexander, Jaden Campbell, Brad Glascock at wideout and Travis Humphrey at running back found the end zone a plenty. None of that happens without adequate line play though.

"Years past it wasn't uncommon that our skill players were our strongest kids when we had ZA and Jaden and those guys. This year our offensive and defensive line have really gotten stronger and really anxious to carry us," Spencer said.

Kyron Humphrey agrees, eager to follow in his brother Travis' footsteps and go out with a district title his senior season like his older brother did in 2017.

"A lot of seniors were dedicated in the weight room and didn't miss many days. I know myself I didn't miss any. We pushed each other and ourselves to the limit to try and get better. We want a district championship in our new district," Humphrey said.

Humphrey has made the switch from

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guard to tackle, providing versatility along the line offensively having played center, guard and now tackle over the years.

"It's different. It's a lot of work too because I need to go all the way outside and get the linebacker or drive the lineman out there in front of me. It's different but coach has faith in me and hopefully we can get it done," Humphrey said.

The offense should be helped by more experience under center. Jonathan Maher enters his second season as the starting quarterback and has much more confidence in not only his own abilities,

but the guys protecting him up front.

"I feel a lot more comfortable," Maher said. "The guys up front have a lot more speed and are a lot stronger."

Maher will also play the quarterback role on defense at linebacker and will have Applegate and Hamilton in front of him helping dictate the line of scrimmage. The two combined for 106 tackles last season while Hamilton led the team in sacks with six on the defensive edge. He aspires to do the same this year.

"Definitely would like to get more tackles

and lead the team in sacks again," Hamilton said.

Applegate's 10 tackles for loss and two fumble recoveries led the Panthers last season. He's using last season for fuel and relaying it to others.

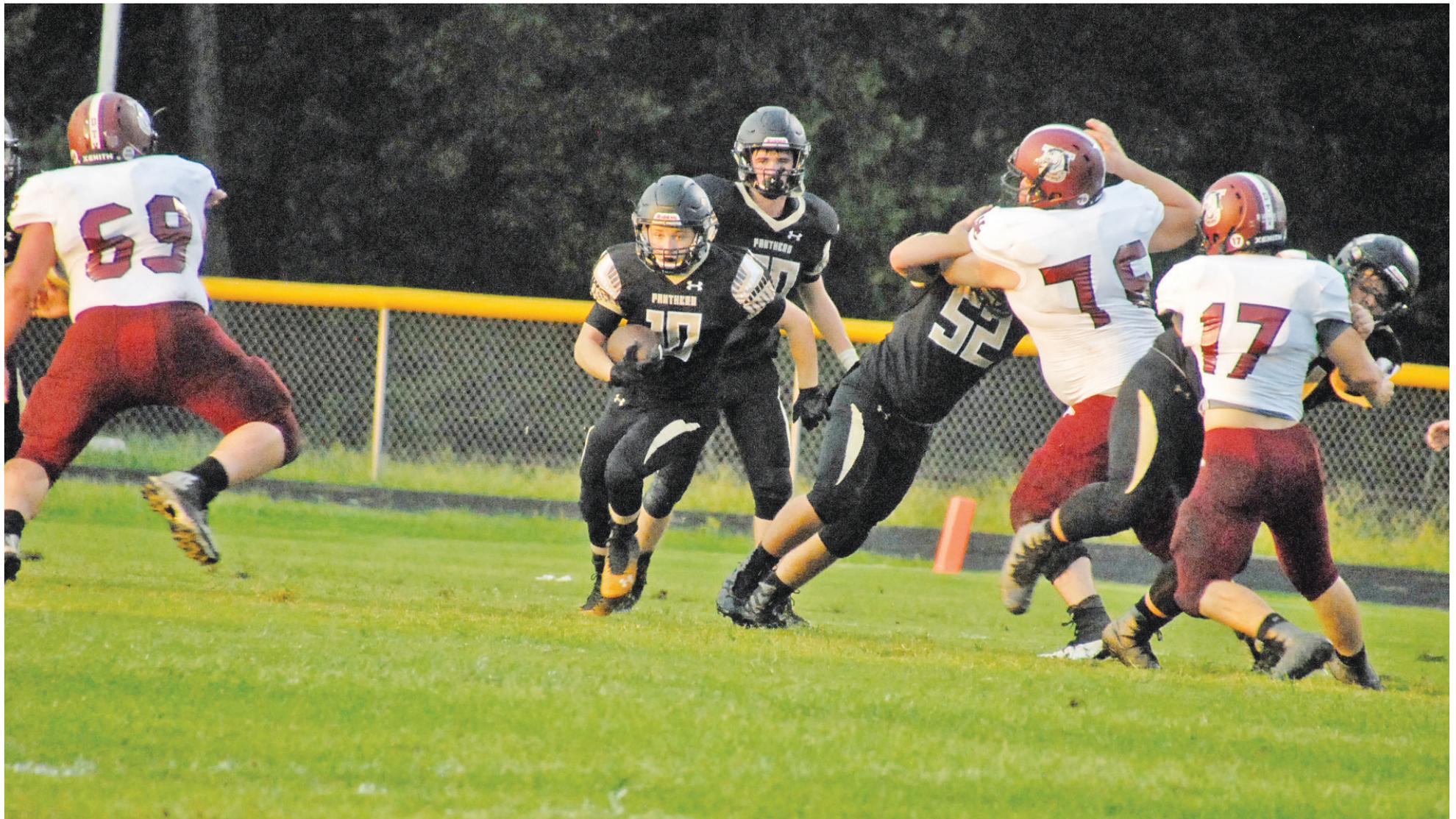
"We've all decided we're really not okay with last year again," Applegate said.

The Panthers will get tested out of the gate, starting with the Bluejackets. That matchup is followed by Greenup County, Rowan County, East Carter and Russell before district play starts. The Panthers

new realigned district features rival Mason County to go with Lewis County, Pendleton County and Powell County.

"Our non-district games we didn't go out and cherry pick and try to find people we could blow out and get wins. We wanted to go out and find teams and make us get better and get ready for that playoff push. Our goal was to line up before we hit our district to get us ready for anything we see in the district," Spencer said.

It all begins up front if the Panthers want to get to where they want to be.



Fleming County's Tanner Weaver hits a hole during a game with Harrison County last season. Weaver hopes to see holes like this when the Panthers hit the field this season, boasting improved fronts on both sides of the ball.

PHOTO BY JARED MACDONALD
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

BRACKEN COUNTY POLAR BEARS

CARVER NO STRANGER TO A REBUILD

First-year coach takes over a Bracken County team with a lot of turnover

Evan Dennison

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Even with as many wins over the last three seasons as their prior 13 of the program's existence, Bracken County will enter 2019 with a new era of football.

No more Tad Fisher, with over 4,000 rushing yards in his career, no more "Bear Down" defense dubbed over the years.

The 23 wins in the last three years included their first ever playoff victory,

first ever home playoff game and a share of the Class A, 5th District title in 2016.

All the talent from years past is gone as the Polar Bears as they enter the season under new coach Tim Carver, replacing David Brausch. Carver enters with a wealth of experience as coach, having over 35 years of experience on the sidelines. He'll enter with a team that has just three seniors as of photo/media day on August 13, that number later increasing to five when rosters were

turned in. Just nine players return with more than a game or two of experience from a season ago.

"Daniel Fisher the Athletic Director put it best, 'You just got to look at this right now where this program is...that you are where you were when you started at Pendleton County.' Looking from that standpoint, we've got a lot of really good kids. They're going to be fine...someday. We're going to be outsized and everything else this year."

The role that Carver will take on is nothing new to him. He's helped either start up or rebuild a program in the past, like when he did so at Pendleton County in 2003.

"I love doing it. When I was in Ohio they used to call me the doctor of sick football. Every place I went I took over programs that were really down. They had been down for years, or one school I was at I was the fourth coach for the senior class. I would go and stabilize things and get things turned around," Carver said.

Late additions to the roster once school started has helped with numbers, increasing from 26 to 33 players. The majority of those 33 however will be seeing varsity action for the first time.

The last two seasons it was Brausch's son, Trey, manning the quarterbacking duties. Now the quarterback battle is between freshman Garrett Reynolds and

junior Carson Hord.

"Carson brings a little maturity and has studied the playbook enough to where he can rattle stuff off to me. Garrett's got a good arm, but on the other hand is not as confident yet or sure about things. He has the tools though," Carver said.

Running back will be a priority in Carver's wishbone offense. Payton Gilvin is expected to see a bulk of carries while they also hope to get the ball to Emery Woods in open space. The two received limited touches a season ago, combining for 302 rushing and receiving yards and four touchdowns.

"We'll have three backs in the backfield at all times. Right now the question is who is going to be the fullback. If Garrett is the starting quarterback, Carson will be our fullback. If not, we'll look for Austin Holder to be our fullback," Carver said.

Running the wishbone means the Polar Bears will need an increased effort from the offensive line, an area they struggled last season, failing to score more than six points in four of 11 games and struggling to move the ball consistently.

Matthew Bishop and Kysten Morales will be two big factors to help the line play. The two will be key in running the ball up the middle occupying the guard positions. Logan Reed and Joe Simpson



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2019 Bracken County Polar Bears

ROSTER

NO.	NAME	GRADE	H	W	POS.	NO.	NAME	GRADE	H	W	POS.	NO.	NAME	GRADE	H	W	POS.
3	Noah Emery	JR	6-5	175	TE/DB	34	Tanner Yelton	FR	5-8	130	HB/DB	75	Lane Stewart	SO	6-1	185	OL/DL
4	Emery Woods	JR	5-6	135	HB/WR/CB	42	Amy Cracraft	JR	5-9	175	TE/DE	80	Nick Hutchins	SO	5-9	150	WR/DL
5	Garrett Reynolds	FR	6-0	184	QB/DB	44	Austin Holder	SO	5-10	165	FB/LB	N/A	Austin Mains	SR	6-1	160	WR/DB
8	Payton Gilvin	SO	6-0	180	HB/DB	45	Kyler Mahan	FR	5-5	143	HB/LB	N/A	Morgan Thorpe	SR	6-0	145	WR/DB
10	Logan Rice	FR	5-9	120	WR/DB	50	Ethan Bishop	FR	5-9	185	OL/LB	N/A	Joey Mastin	JR	5-7	190	FB/LB
12	Peyton Hord	FR	5-4	115	WR/DB	51	Mike Clark	FR	5-11	185	OL/DL	N/A	Sheldon White	SO	5-8	225	OL/DL
14	Ashton Muse	SO	5-7	140	WR/DB	52	Kysten Morales	JR	5-10	230	OL/LB	N/A	Brent Kirk	JR	5-11	175	OL/DL
16	Chase Wilson	FR	5-11	150	WR/DB	54	Robert Cracraft	FR	5-10	160	OL/DL	N/A	Riley Kinder	FR	5-9	210	OL/DL
21	Jared Zornes	SR	6-2	195	TE/DE	56	Caleb Jefferson	SO	5-10	200	OL/LB	N/A	Brady Smith	SO	5-7	120	WR/DB
24	Cody Pulaski	SO	5-11	170	TE/LB	61	Logan Reed	SR	6-1	240	OL/DL	HEAD COACH: Tim Carver (1st season)					
25	Carson Hord	JR	5-9	210	FB/LB	64	Matt Bishop	JR	5-9	185	OL/LB	ASSISTANTS: Mitchell King, Michael Kordes, Damian Kindle					
32	David Shook	FR	5-6	130	HB/DB	72	Joe Simpson	SR	6-4	290	OL/DL						

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	
Aug. 23	Landmark Christian, OH	home	7:30 PM	Sept. 20	Jackson County	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 11	Bishop Brossart*	home	7:30 PM	
Aug. 30	Ludlow	home	7:00 PM	Sept. 27	Dayton	home	7:00 PM	Oct. 18	Clinton County	away	7:00 PM	
Sept. 6	Pendleton County	home	7:30 PM	Oct. 4	Paris*	home	7:30 PM	Oct. 25	Nicholas County*	away	7:30 PM	
Sept. 13	Newport	away	7:30 PM									*District Game

Polar Bears Football con't

will be the offensive tackles.

"In high school football more than anything else it relies on the guards. They'll be making calls and stuff like that," Carver said.

Jared Zornes could provide a threat in the passing game, playing tight end.

Defensively, Morales and Bishop will play linebacker. Up front is a competition among underclassmen and has Carver wondering what formation they should have.

"It depends what we have. Nose guard is a question. We've got two guys right now that are both freshman. If we had any brains we'd go to a 4-2 and play two big guys up front. Put those two guys in the A-gap and just blow on through there. They're both physical kids and we may end up doing that," Carver said.

Ashton Muse and Emery Woods will provide speed at cornerback. Gilvin and Reynolds will man the outside linebacker roles.

"We'll be really young in the secondary. Lot of freshman, lot of sophomores," Carver said.

The Polar Bears open up their season with a favorable schedule having their first three games of the season at home. Landmark Christian out of Cincinnati, Ludlow and Pendleton County all come to Brooksville to kick off the year.

"It's a great challenge and huge for us to be able to come out and look good in front

of the home fans," Carver said. "If I would have gotten hired in February or even May it would have been a whole different story. Coming into the situation, we've looked at two different offenses before we got to this one. We've really spent a lot of time throwing stuff at the wall and seeing what will stick. At the same time we're trying to teach fundamentals and implement the kicking game. When we come out here on the 23rd, I want us to look like a well-oiled machine. But in order to do that we've had to back off some things and hopefully

implement them as we go."

Once they get to district play, not much is thought of for the Polar Bears chances in the Class A, 5th District. Many media and coaches polls have them ranked last under Paris, Nicholas County and Bishop Brossart.

"They know. We lost our two big guns. Until we can go out and beat somebody and prove them wrong, then we'll be down there," Carver said.

When he first took the job in late June and up until early August, Carver didn't have but one assistant at his first couple weeks of practice. He now has three coaches on staff to help in Mitchell King, Michael Kordes and Damian Kindle.

"Two of these guys played for me at Pendleton County. Always want to have guys that played under me coach for me. They know my system, they know me," Carver said.

Now Carver hopes he can carry out his past of rebuilding programs and turning them into a winner, much like the Polar Bears have been able to do as of late.



Bracken County Coaching Staff

PHOTOS BY EVAN DENNISON | THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

BRACKEN COUNTY POLAR BEARS

POLAR BEARS SET TO GROUND AND POUND

Wishbone offense will give the backfield plenty of touches

Evan Dennison

edennison@cmpapers.com

Bracken County has had their fair share of ball carriers the past couple of seasons.

Nick Parker, Tad Fisher and Griffin Appleman in 2016, Fisher, Appleman and Trey Brausch in '17 and Fisher and Brausch in '18. Just between them, that's 7,987 combined rushing yards over the last three seasons.

It was no secret what the Polar Bears did well over that span. Ground and pound.

With all of them gone now, it's time to turn over the keys to possibly the next dynamic duo or trio. Filling in those blanks for new coach Tim Carver will most likely be Payton Gilvin, Emery Woods and Carson Hord.

In Carver's wishbone offense, things won't change much in terms of scheme of the offense and running the football. Three backs will be in the backfield at all times. Gilvin, Woods and Hord are the three prime candidates to get the bulk of the carries as the Polar Bears start the season on August 23 against Landmark Christian out of Cincinnati.

"If I would have gotten hired in February or even May it would have been a whole

different story. Coming into the situation, we've looked at two different offenses before we got to this one," Carver said. "We didn't know what we had. Everyday it was somebody different, somebody wasn't there or somebody was there that wasn't the day before or things like that. We've really spent a lot of time throwing stuff at the wall and seeing what will stick. At the same time we're trying to teach fundamentals and implement other things. When we come out here on the 23rd, I want us to look like a well-oiled machine. But in order to do that we've had to back off some things and hopefully implement them as we go."

While Gilvin and Woods have their roles pretty much defined, Hord will either carry on running duties as quarterback or as the fullback, depending on who wins the quarterback job between Hord and freshman Garrett Reynolds. If Hord wins the quarterback duties, Austin Holder will assume the fullback duties.

Gilvin and Woods are the most experienced out of the bunch, the two combining for 29 touches and 303 yards last season, primarily as receivers. Their roles will expand vastly this season.

"Oh I'm excited about it," Woods said. "I get the ball. I get to run it. Now that I'm in the

backfield I feel like I'm getting it a lot more. We didn't have much time to pass, so was only seeing it on returns and stuff like that."

Line play up front will be the key in driving the bus. Matthew Bishop and Kysten Morales are back and will man the guard positions.

"In high school football more than anything else it relies on the guards. They'll be making calls and stuff like that," Carver said.

Although the line won't have as much beef up front like it has in prior years, Bishop feels they can offset that with their speed and getting out to the second level.

"We can get up better and move better than we have in previous years and think that is going to help us out a lot," Bishop said. "Our guards are pretty quick, so blocking and

pulling downfield should work really good. Our tackles are hosses and they are pretty big. Will be hard to get past them if they do it right."

The "hosses" Bishop refers to are Joe Simpson and Logan Reed for the offensive tackle spots. Simpson stands at 6-foot-4, 290 pounds, Reed at 6-foot-1, 240 pounds.

"The line always is the biggest question. When you sit down to draw up plays or we draw up personnel, the first thing you draw is the line. I was a lineman, one of my assistants was a lineman, line is kind of a pride thing with us. We're trying to find things they can do well and we'll have to see where it goes."

If the Polar Bears can shore up the line play, look for another set of backs to rack up yardage and continue the success the program has seen over the last three years that tallied 23 wins, a share of a district title and a playoff victory.



Bracken County's Payton Gilvin will be relied on heavily in the Polar Bears wishbone offense. Gilvin had eight carries in his freshman season with the Polar Bears last year.

PHOTOS BY TERRY PRATHER
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT



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LEWIS COUNTY LIONS

LIONS LOOKING FOR FIRST PLAYOFF BERTH SINCE 2013

Lewis County trying to find right pieces after large graduating class

Jared MacDonald

jmacdonald@cmpapers.com

VANCEBURG – What will it take to replace a group of 11 seniors from last year's Lewis County football team?

"Hopefully not more than three weeks," Lions' head coach Josh Hughes joked at the team's media day on July 26.

That group included the starting quarterback, the leader in rushing yards, the leader in receiving yards, several from the offensive and defensive lines and more. Hughes has adjusted the way he's done things in the offseason knowing that those pieces would be gone in hopes of reaching the playoffs for the first time since 2013.

"We've just made wholesale changes all over the place, but we knew that going into the offseason. It wasn't like it was a shocker – 'Oh gosh, first day' – so we worked on that all offseason," said the 12th-year Lewis County coach. "We had them in the weight room and we had

them in the film room and we really just worked on this part of our offense, this is what we're going to have to go with and do."

Zach Lehn completed 66-of-139 passes for 722 yards and six touchdowns last year. He was a senior, and his replacement wasn't clear through preseason. Senior Moses Jackson and sophomore Dylan Hardy were competing for the starting spot leading up to the team's opener against Bath County. Jackson missed all but one game last year due to a knee injury and Hardy saw limited time as a freshman. He's the only player returning that completed a pass last year. He was 1-of-2 for 15 yards.

"We adjusted how we're doing things, whether it be practice, schemes and we realize that we're not as big up front. I think we had four starting seniors on the line and we don't have that obviously. We've adjusted the way we're blocking," said Hughes. "We've adjusted how we're going to call plays, we've adjusted the

types of plays we're calling to try to utilize the athleticism, the decision making of those two guys."

Garrett Applegate led the rushing attack last year, picking up 1,362 yards and 17 touchdowns on 186 attempts. He's gone, as is second-leading rusher Immanuel Manning, third-leading rusher Randy Irey and fourth-leading rusher Zach

Roberston. Roberston was the top target for Lehn out wide, catching 32 passes for 474 yards and four touchdowns last year. Applegate recorded 14 receptions for 266 yards and four scores.

Hughes sees sophomore Ethan Sizemore and senior Morgan Steadman getting most of the carries heading into the season, while David Keen, Izaia Burns, Peyton Spencer and Dalton Fry will be targets for Hardy or Jackson. If Hardy is playing quarterback, Jackson has the ability to fill in all over the field wherever needed.

"We're going to have to use the clock. We're going to be younger and I don't get the feeling that this is going to be a hurry-up team, although we have practiced our offense to be that way just so the



2019 Lewis County Lions

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ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE	NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE	NO.	NAME	POS	H	W	GRADE
1	Colton McNutt	WR/DB	5-7	140	Fr.	26	Ethan Sizemore	RB/LB	5-9	160	So.	75	TJ Thrasher	OL/DL	5-10	280	So.
3	Hunter Switzer	WR/DB	5-10	150	Jr.	33	Isaiah Hamm	RB/LB	5-8	160	Jr.	80	Izaia Burns	WR/DB	6-0	160	Jr.
4	David Keen	WR/DB	5-8	150	Sr.	37	Jackson Whitaker	WR/DB	5-9	150	Sr.	81	Hayden Gibson	WR/DL	5-11	160	So.
5	Tanner Willis	RB/DB	5-8	150	Sr.	50	Sam Bunch	OL/DL	5-10	220	Sr.	82	Jordan Keen	WR/DB	5-10	160	So.
7	Peyton Spencer	WR/DB	6-1	155	Jr.	52	Ryan Turner	OL/DL	6-0	210	Sr.	85	Quirin Knosel	WR/DB	5-10	135	So.
8	Zaiden Lewis	QB/LB	5-8	155	Fr.	53	Zared Lewis	OL/DL	6-0	225	So.	86	Hunter Lane	RB/LB	5-8	175	Sr.
10	Dylan Hardy	QB/DB	5-8	150	So.	54	Wes Fogle	OL/DL	5-10	175	Fr.	89	Alex Grabinski	OL/DL	6-1	170	So.
11	Austin Howard	RB/LB	5-11	165	So.	55	Braxton Smith	OL/DL	5-10	230	So.	Head Coach: Josh Hughes (12th Season) Assistant Coaches: Kody Willis J.D. Preston, Donald Ginn, Ryan Bentley, Brandon Hughes, William Melton Managers: Mattie Sparks, Kylee Weintz Trainer: Summer Logan					
13	Ashton Evans	RB/DL	5-10	180	Jr.	57	Brandon Smith	OL/DL	6-2	185	Jr.						
15	Caleb May	WR/LB	6-0	180	Sr.	59	Austin Cain	OL/DL	5-8	165	So.						
18	Moses Jackson	QB/DB	6-0	170	Sr.	60	Kade Walters	OL/DL	5-8	155	So.						
23	Morgan Steadman	RB/LB	5-10	190	Sr.	71	Josh Thayer	OL/DL	6-0	230	Sr.						
24	Dalton Fry	RB/LB	5-10	170	Sr.	72	Tucker Madden	OL/DL	5-9	180	Fr.						
25	Randy Potter	WR/DB	5-9	160	Fr.	74	Connor Kidwell	OL/DL	5-11	240	So.						

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 23	Bath County	home	7:30 PM	Sept. 20	Rowan County	home	7:30 PM	Oct. 18	Mason County*	home	7:30 PM
Aug. 30	East Carter	away	7:30 PM	Sept. 27	Powell County*	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 25	Fleming County*	away	7:30 PM
Sept. 6	West Carter	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 4	Pendleton County*	home	7:30 PM	Nov. 1	Fairview	away	7:30 PM
Sept. 13	Nicholas County	home	7:30 PM								

***District Game**

Lions Football con't

game slows down to them a whole lot," said Hughes. "I've never been somebody that's concerned with how many points. It's a matter of let's hold them and let's score one more time than them and I can deal with that."

Holding opponents hasn't been a strength of Lewis County the last few years, although the team saw improvement in the final two weeks of the 2018 season. In 2016, the Lions gave up an average of 46.5 points per game, in 2017 the team gave up 44.8 and last year it gave up an average of 37.

Over the last two games against West Carter and Mason County, Lewis County gave up 28 and 26 points, respectively. A new-look defense will hope to keep up the improvement to start the 2019 campaign. It'll likely be led by Steadman, Sizemore and Austin Howard at linebacker, Ashton Evans and Fry on the defensive line and Keen, Spencer and Burns in the secondary.

"I feel like it's probably going to be one of the faster defenses we've had here in a long time, and they're some of your better, aggressive kids," said Hughes. "I think the days of throwing your biggest kids up front - we're past that and good thing because we don't have them anyway."

Lewis County was already eliminated from postseason contention before the finale at Mason County, but, playing for pride, the team picked up a 36-26 win over the Royals. Hughes believes it benefited the young group leading into the offseason.

"I think it helped an awful lot because



Lewis County coaching staff

PHOTOS BY JARED MACDONALD
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

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LEWIS COUNTY LIONS

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you've got something to get them back in the weight room with and it shows you that you can only play 11 at a time and numbers don't really matter in that case," said Hughes. "As you see right now, that's something we have to push, is 'Look, we can get in a grind-it-out football game, you just have to be tougher and do what you have to do that night.'"

It also helps knowing Mason County is going to be in the same district this year. Realignment placed the Lions and Royals in Class 3A, District 6 with Fleming County, Pendleton County and Powell County.

"I think it'll be a pretty tough district and obviously you can't let down at any point," said Hughes. "Hopefully we're healthy when we get to the middle of the season so we can give it a good run."

Before then, the Lions will start at home against Bath County, before back-to-back games on the road against East Carter and West Carter. Lewis County is scheduled to return home for games against Nicholas County and Rowan County, before opening the district slate at Powell County.

Hughes hopes both the close loss to the Comets and the win over the Royals can help his team carry momentum into the start of the 2019 season as Lewis County aims for the playoffs for the first time since 2013.

"We told the kids not to be afraid to be successful. It takes a little bit more. It's easy to lose. I think if we can get that mentality, I think we can be OK," said Hughes. "I think it seems like we got that the second half of the season last year and hopefully we can get it early this year."



Dylan Hardy (left) and Moses Jackson (right) were both getting work at quarterback this preseason for Lewis County as the Lions try to replace Zach Lehn.

LIONS GO THROUGH PRESEASON LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO QB QUESTIONS

Jackson, Hardy working to replace Lehn

Jared MacDonald
jmacdonald@cmpapers.com

VANCEBURG – There were few question who would be starting at quarterback in Vanceburg on Friday nights last fall.

Zach Lehn was returning for his senior season, after holding the position as a junior and throwing for more than 1,000 yards.

This fall, the quarterback situation isn't as clear.

Moses Jackson and Dylan Hardy have been seeing action throughout the preseason, and both may see time at quarterback when the Lions open the season at home against Bath County on Aug. 23 and throughout the year.

"I think it could change opponent to opponent," said Lewis County coach Josh Hughes. "I don't think the old saying, 'If you have two quarterbacks, you don't have any quarterbacks' – I'm not subscribing to that platoon the guys situation, but it could be a situation where one guy goes in for something and another guy goes in for other things depending on the team.

"It's just kind of one of those things where when we get close to the first game, it's what do we need?" added Hughes. "Moses can play other positions, too, so that'll be something that could factor in there as well."

Jackson, a senior this year, appeared in only one game as a junior, making two catches for 17 yards in the season opener against Greenup County – a 46-7 loss. He learned after the game it would be his last of the year. Jackson had torn his anterior cruciate ligament, and he says doctors believe it happened before the season even began.

PHOTO BY JARED MACDONALD
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

Lions Football con't

"I went to the doctors and got an MRI for tendinitis and they found it. They said it had been torn for at least three months. There was no bone bruising or anything," said Jackson. "Coming off of it – it's my second torn ACL – and the first time I recovered within the first four months and they said that was really quick. This time the same thing happened and I feel pretty good."

His first ACL injury was in his other leg and came when he was playing basketball with friends after his sophomore football season.

"He's a kid that works hard. He did stretches and things," said Hughes. "You never know how much a kid does with rehab like they're supposed to, but when he came back full speed, he looked full speed to me."

Jackson says he's been stretching and

working on his strength and conditioning to get back to playing form. He didn't think he'd be working out at quarterback this fall, however.

"I didn't really expect to play quarterback, but whatever the team needs. As long as we all have that mindset, I think we'll be fine," said Jackson.

"I kind of joked with the idea and one day we were all just messing around, and I'm like, 'It's something I can do,'" added Jackson.

Having another player prepared to take over in case of injury is another reason why Hughes wanted both Jackson and Hardy to get work in at quarterback. The team didn't have a true backup last year, but tried to make things work off the athleticism of Garrett Applegate, the team's leader rusher. Lewis County also has senior Dalton Frye – who caught four

passes for 45 yards last year – working as the third-string quarterback.

"Guys get hit, guys get hurt, so we're not going to leave ourselves in a situation where we don't have another quarterback ready, and we've had a few years where that's happened," said Hughes.

Hardy is the only returning player to complete a pass for the Lions last season. Then a freshman, he had two attempts and completed one for 15 yards. Hardy has been playing the position since fifth grade, he says, and Hughes is impressed with his decision making.

"I think it's more of a mindset thing," said Hardy. "Knowing what to do and reading the defense."

Hardy has more experience playing quarterback having done it for longer, where Jackson only played some in

elementary and middle school, he says, but Jackson's athleticism could provide a boost for a team looking to replace the majority of its skill players from last season.

While the two have essentially been in a quarterback battle, they weren't looking at it that way. Instead, they're both just looking to do whatever they can to help Lewis County get back into the playoffs for the first time since the 2013 season.

"This is something he's done his whole life. I know that he's good at it. I know he can do it. I know that if he can do it, I can be somewhere else and make the team that much better," said Jackson.

"I think sometimes we just joke around, compete for it a little bit. I'll be happy either way," added Hardy. "I just think that kind of motivates us to be the best we can at our position."



Lewis County's David Keen (4) breaks up a pass intended for East Carter's Micah Adams (2), Friday, Aug. 24, 2018, in Vanceburg. Keen is expected to be one of the targets for the Lions' quarterbacks this fall.

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MANCHESTER GREYHOUNDS

GREYHOUNDS RUNNING WITH NEW OFFENSE

Evan Dennison

edennison@cmpapers.com

Entering his sixth season, Manchester football coach Dustin Cook is running with what he has.

Literally.

The Greyhounds have decided to switch up their offense and run something similar to the Wildcat for the 2019 season. The switch-up of scheme has been met with positivity early.

“Changing up the offense from what

we’ve run the last five years has brought a little bit of excitement to try and fit it to the kids that we do have,” Cook said. “From a high school standpoint, you have to adapt to what you have. We feel like the strength is up front on our offensive line. From a backs standpoint and a skills position standpoint, we have a lot of guys that have been in the program, but haven’t had a lot of contributing time as far as skills positions go. In the offseason we looked and Coach Neria pitched the idea of this offense and thought that is something that will work for us.”

The new look offense will be far from traditional. The Greyhounds will have two running backs in the backfield at all times with no quarterback. Cook feels any one

of five guys will handle that role, starting with the trio of Trey Spears, Jacob Johnson and Mason Dunn, followed by underclassmen Lucas Smith and Rylan Bailey.

“We’ll have some deception in the backfield, but we’re going to be more of a power running team and try to get three to four yards a pop in front of our big guys that have been here for the long haul and put in the hard work,” Cook said.

As it is with any offense, the key to being successful relies at the line of scrimmage. The lone two seniors will be in charge of anchoring that, lineman Carl Ricketts and Kris Walters.

“I couldn’t be more proud of those two individuals as far as making sure kids are getting to practice, they’ll go and pick kids up and make sure that they’re coming. They’ve been extremely dedicated and

bought in to what we want to do here,” Cook said.

Many of the same names already mentioned will also be relied upon defensively for the 21-man football team. Just about everyone on the will be looked at to play both ways during a game this season.

“When you have low numbers you have to get creative from a practice standpoint. One of the things we’ve tried to establish is the commitment from the guys. When we go out and hit the practice field we try to maximize effort and get in as many things as we can in a shorter period of time,” Cook said.

The new offensive look will hopefully create some more time of possession in their favor and keep the defense off the field that allowed 42.1 points per game last season, hard pressed by an offense

Good Luck Teams!



U.S. 68, Maysville KY



2019 Manchester Greyhounds

ROSTER

NO.	NAME	GRADE	H	W	POS.	NO.	NAME	GRADE	H	W	POS.	NO.	NAME	GRADE	H	W	POS.
1	Dylan Wages	9	5-7	135	RB/DB	20	Trey Spears	11	5-9	175	RB/LB	66	Aaron Fanning	11	6-1	250	OL/DL
2	Dallas Wages	10	5-8	140	TE/DB	21	Jacob Johnson	11	5-9	180	RB/LB	70	Lucas Ballenger	10	6-6	275	OL/DL
3	Levi Gilvin	11	6-0	180	TE/DB	31	Mason Dunn	11	6-0	170	RB/LB	78	Kris Walters	12	6-0	315	OL/DL
4	Lucas Smith	9	5-9	155	RB/DB	44	Rylan Bailey	10	6-1	230	RB/DL	N/A	Jordan Donaldson	9	5-7	130	RB/DB
8	Nick Hagg	10	5-7	135	RB/DB	51	Corey Rigdon	10	6-0	175	OL/DL	HEAD COACH: Dustin Cook					
10	Justin Donaldson	9	5-6	130	RB/DB	52	Carl Ricketts	12	5-10	240	OL/DL	ASSISTANTS: Nick Neria, Ethan Stricklett, Tommy Denning,					
11	Alex Walters	11	5-9	150	TE/DB	53	Aaron Lucas	9	5-8	195	OL/DL	Greg Penny					
12	Jai Brookbank	10	5-6	135	TE/DB	65	Quentin Lucas	9	5-8	195	OL/DL						
18	Levi Justice	11	6-1	205	TE/DB												

2019 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 30	Fayetteville-Perry	home	7:00 PM	Sept. 27	Hannan (WV)	away	7:30 PM	Oct. 18	West Union	home	7:00 PM
Sept. 6	Portsmouth East	away	7:00 PM	Oct. 4	Peebles	away	7:00 PM	Oct. 25	North Adams	away	7:00 PM
Sept. 13	Green	home	7:00 PM	Oct. 11	Southern Ohio Buckeye	home	7:00 PM	Nov. 1	Hillcrest	home	7:00 PM
Sept. 20	Eastern Beaver	home	7:00 PM								

2018 RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SCORE	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SCORE
Aug. 24	Fayetteville-Perry	away	(L) 46-0	Sept. 14	North Adams	home	(W) 6-0	Oct. 12	Symmes Valley	away	(L) 42-6
Aug. 31	Miami Valley Christian Academy	home	(L) 58-0	Sept. 21	Portsmouth East	home	(L) 39-6	Oct. 19	Notre Dame	away	(L) 55-0
Sept. 7	Hannan (WV)	home	(W) 16-8 (2OT)	Sept. 28	Hillcrest	home	(L) 70-0	Oct. 26	Eastern Beaver	away	(L) 48-0
				Oct. 5	Green	away	(L) 55-0				

Greyhounds Football con't

that averaged just 3.4 points per game and was shutout six times.

With just two seniors on the roster, the Greyhounds don't return much experience either coming off a 2-8 season in 2018. After going 2-2 in their first four games, it was a war of attrition for the Greyhounds, outscored 309-12 in their final six games as they dealt with injuries.

The 2019 season won't start off easy with the likes of Fayetteville, Portsmouth East, Green and Eastern Beaver the first four games, but things lighten up a bit from there with a trip to Hannan, West Virginia followed by contests against Southern Ohio Independent League competition Peebles, Southern Buckeye, West Union and North Adams before finishing off with Hillcrest.

The contests against the SOIL are a new wrinkle and has created some buzz

amongst the team.

"I'm pumped for it. Ever since I found out that we were going to do it, even before the rumors we were going to do it, I was just excited and can't wait. I know a lot of the guys that play for the other teams and would tell them, 'I'll see them during track season or something.' Now I tell them, 'Just wait and until I see them on the field.' I'm friends with a couple of quarterbacks and told them they'll be getting a big ole' hug from me, just joking around," Greyhounds lineman Kris Walters said. "I think it's going to be really great every Friday night for the people in the county to do and come see us play each other."

The excitement with the scheduling and not having to play the greater Cincinnati or Portsmouth area could lead to improvement for the Greyhounds in '19, but they'll have to get through the early stretch first.

"Just dependent on how we bond as a

team and get better week in and week out. Those first four weeks are going to be extremely tough on our schedule and then the fun begins against our county schools," Cook said. "Just continuing to grow with a young team, we only have two seniors, week in and week out and

continuing to get better and once again building those relationships and making sure the train is staying on the tracks is going to be crucial to our success."

Manchester will get going August 30 when they host Fayetteville-Perry at 7 PM.



Manchester coaching staff

PHOTOS BY EVAN DENNISON | THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

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MANCHESTER GREYHOUNDS

GREYHOUNDS GETTING CHANCE TO PLAY LOCAL

Manchester taking on local teams Peebles, North Adams, West Union and Southern Buckeye this season

Evan Dennison

edennison@cmpapers.com

Long bus rides, hoping someone doesn't get hurt because there's not much behind them, not enough players to go 11-on-11 in practice.

Those are just some of the obstacles teams face in rural Division VII football in Ohio.

Manchester faces those challenges on a weekly basis preparing for the upcoming season and its next opponent.

But a change in schedule will make things a little better for the Greyhounds in 2019, especially in October. Manchester changed its schedule up for the upcoming season, picking up games against teams in the Southern Ohio Independent League, getting an opportunity to play against county rivals North Adams, Peebles and West Union, along with border county rival Southern Ohio Buckeye (primarily Eastern Brown).

Those contests will take place every Friday in October, starting with Peebles on October 4.

Gone are the trips to the greater Cincinnati or Portsmouth areas, or at least not as many.

"Being a Division VII school in the state of Ohio, especially regionally, you look around if we don't play the county schools we have to go to Scioto County, to Cincinnati and we're talking a couple hours on the bus every time we travel on Friday nights," Greyhounds coach Dustin Cook said. "That's another logistical piece of adding some of these county schools. Set aside the excitement, just being able to hop on the bus and being able to go 25 minutes to go play football as opposed to over an hour is huge."

Not only logistically, but the excitement from the team and community should help too. These schools get to face one another in basically every other sport, being in the Southern Hills Athletic Conference, now it extends to the gridiron for the Greyhounds.

"Always last year I wondered why we can't play West Union and all those schools. I just want to play them because it's fun. We play them in basketball, always play them in other sports but we just haven't had the chance in football. I wasn't mad, but just felt like we lost the opportunity to show that we think we're better," Greyhounds senior lineman Carl Ricketts said.

After a 39-year hiatus, the Greyhounds did get to face North Adams last season, a 6-0 victory for the Greyhounds in Manchester. They'll make the trip to Seaman on October 25 this season. Cook feels these games will

help with attendance with less travel and more familiarity with the opponents.

"It's something as far as the community goes you can definitely promote and their communities are doing the same thing. If you're just a football fan that wants to go see two local teams play on a football Friday night you'll have the opportunity now," Cook said. "It's definitely creating a lot of buzz and excitement from the boys all the way through to the community. Hopefully people will pack the stands and it will be successful."

If Manchester can survive the first five weeks against the likes of Fayetteville-Perry, Portsmouth East, Green, Eastern Beaver and Hannan (WV), things will lighten up when they make the trip to Peebles the first Friday of October.

Members of the SOIL might not create as much of a challenge as an OHSAA sponsored school would. The challenges mentioned at the beginning of the article go beyond that for these teams. With no school support and

not considered as an "OHSAA sponsored team", these teams are faced with fundraising for themselves, finding facilities to practice on and transportation to and from games. It creates an opportunity for a team like Manchester to not only play local, but gather a couple of victories as well. For example, North Adams brought just 12 players to the season opener at Mason County last season.

With just 21 players on the roster to start the year for the Greyhounds, staying healthy will be a key to get to October.

"Looking through the first four weeks we play a couple of Portsmouth area teams and then end with Eastern Pike who is going to be really good. Those first four or five weeks are going to be really tough on us and then the fun starts on our schedule with the county schools," Cook said.

The fun also includes some chatter amongst the players from other schools.

"I'm pumped for it. Ever since I found out that we were going to do it, even before the rumors we were going to do it, I was just excited and can't wait. I know a lot of the guys that play for the other teams and would tell them, 'I'll see them during track season or something.' Now I tell them, 'Just wait and until I see them on the field.' I'm friends with a couple of quarterbacks and told them they'll be getting a big ole' hug from me, just joking around," Greyhounds lineman Kris Walters said. "I think it's going to be really great every Friday night for the people in the county to do and come see us play each other."



PHOTO BY JARED MACDONALD
THE LEDGER
INDEPENDENT

Manchester's Trey Spears lines up for a play during a Friday, Oct. 27, 2017, game against Eastern Pike, in Manchester.



PHOTO BY EVAN DENNISON
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

Manchester got to face North Adams for the first time in 39 years last season. The Greyhounds will get the Green Devils along with West Union, Peebles and Southern Buckeye this season.

CLASS 3A, 6TH DISTRICT COACHES/MEDIA POLL, PLAYERS TO WATCH

PLAYERS TO WATCH (Submitted by each coach)

FLEMING COUNTY

QB/LB Jonathan Maher — led team in tackles with 101 last season and enters year No. 2 under center at QB.

RB/DB Kaleb Flanery — Most explosive player on the team and possibly the district. Selected by Cats' Pause as preseason district player of the year. Had 571 rushing/receiving yards and four touchdowns in '18. Had 21 tackles, two interceptions and a fumble recovery on defense last season.

FB/OG/DT Brad Applegate — Playmaker on the defensive line that recorded 65 tackles and a team-high 10 for loss in '18.

OL/DT Kyron Humphrey — Best lineman on what should be an improved offensive line.

RB/LB Tanner Weaver — Toughest kid on the team. Ran for 325 yards and six touchdowns, limited in '18 due to injury.

POWELL COUNTY

RB/LB Justice Harmon — Returning leading tackler with 123 in 2018, seven of them for loss. Also leading returning runner with 103 yards and two touchdowns last season.

RB/DB Preston Wasson — Recorded 89 tackles last season and led team in fumble recoveries.

RB/LB Lance Stevenson — Had 66 tackles in 2018.

MASON COUNTY

QB/DB Carson Brammer — Looking for a breakout year from the senior QB. Can be a two-way starter in the secondary. Will look to lead the offense with his aerial attack. Threw for 1,071 yards and 10 touchdowns in '18, ran for another 342 yards and six touchdowns.

QB/LB Dylan Osgood — Started at linebacker in his sophomore season that ended early with an injury. Looks to lead the defense with his experience and work ethic. Had 23 solo tackles in '18.

WR/DB Jake Swolsky — 2018 was his first time ever playing football. Has more confidence and knows the position better. Could be a big play threat for the Royals. Had nine receptions for 103 yards and two touchdowns last season.

OL/DL Dravin Routt — Played linebacker last season as a freshman and has moved to the offensive and defensive lines. Looks to bring his athleticism to the line of scrimmage.

OL/DL Nailen Billie — New addition after not playing last season. Agile and looks to clog up the middle defensively as the Royals run stopper to aid the defense.

PENDLETON COUNTY

RB/LB Lyle Secrist — Battled injuries the last two seasons but looks to be ready after

a solid offseason. Has the tools to be one of the top rushers in the district.

QB Matt Campbell — Threw for 1,193 yards and 14 touchdowns in '18. Improved in the offseason and has a great understanding of the offense. Will lead a balanced offensive attack.

OG/DT Patrick Wright — Will be a force to be reckoned with in the trenches. Plays with passion and determination and has a good balance of strength, balance and speed. Had 28 tackles in '18.

WR/DB Colton Beane — Led team in tackles with 73 last season. Plays defensive back, but plays like a linebacker. Third year on varsity defensively, also led team with four interceptions. Recorded 10 receptions for 216 yards and four touchdowns and also ran for a touchdown in '18.

WR/DB Colby Beane — Twin to Colton and shares many of the same qualities. Second on the team in tackles with 47, dependable and consistent on both sides of the ball.

LEWIS COUNTY

QB/WR/DB Moses Jackson — Smart playmaker, two-way starter the last two seasons when healthy. Could be the starting quarterback. Was limited to one game last season and seven games in '17.

WR/DB/K David Keen — Speed and a weapon field goals. Two-way starter.

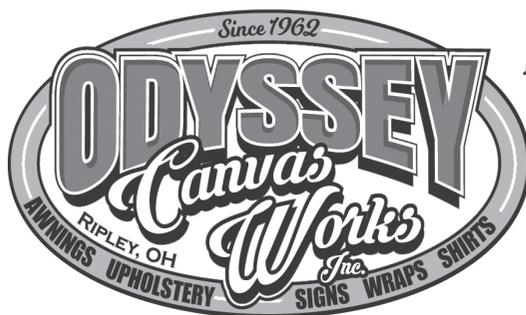
RB/LB Morgan Steadman — Four-year starter at linebacker.

QB/RB/DL Dalton Fry — Plays all over the field on both sides.

WR/DB Peyton Spencer — Returning starter on defense and will be a main receiving threat.

COACHES / MEDIA POLL

RANK	SCHOOL	POINTS	(1 ST PLACE VOTES)
1	Fleming County	45	(5) 
2	Powell County	43	(5) 
3	Mason County	31	
4	Pendleton County	16	
5	Lewis County	15	



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CLASS 1A, 5TH DISTRICT PRESEASON COACHES/MEDIA POLL, PLAYERS TO WATCH

PLAYERS TO WATCH (Submitted by each coach)

PARIS

RB/LB Matthew Barber — Played in two games and then missed the rest of the season due to injury in '18. Ran for 205 yards and two touchdowns in those two games. Tallied 960 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns in '17, averaging 10.1 yards per carry.

RB/DB Jamaun Clark — Ran for 643 yards and five touchdowns in '18. Also caught 12 passes for 167 yards and a score. Recorded 39 tackles, 10 of them for loss and an interception return for a touchdown.

RB/LB Zion Jackson — Returns with a team-high 61 tackles from last season, eight of them for loss.

NICHOLAS COUNTY

OG/LB Ethan Cleaver — Three year starter at six-feet, 250 pounds. Had 62 tackles, two sacks and a fumble recovery in '18.

RB/LB Cain Saucedo — Three-year starter. Ran for 698 yards and nine touchdowns last season. Second on the team in scoring with 68 points. Had 61 tackles and two fumble recoveries defensively.

QB/S Tyler Horn — Makes the move from wide receiver to quarterback, replacing Isaac Fryman. Threw for 199 yards and a touchdown in limited action last season. Caught 18 passes for 235 yards and three touchdowns at wide receiver in '18.

Recorded 30 tackles, a fumble recovery and interception defensively.

OG/DT Caleb Morgan — Three year starter at six-feet, 240 pounds. Had 29 tackles, two sacks and a fumble recovery in '18.

BISHOP BROSSART

QB Trevor Schadler — First year as starter. Schadler is a gamer, hard-nosed. Threw for 156 yards and two touchdowns in limited action last season. Also ran for 153 yards. Had 37 tackles and two interceptions defensively.

WR/LB Grant Haubner — Returning starter on defense. Continues to get better and better. Had 61 tackles, tying for a team-high eight of them for a loss with two fumble recoveries and a defensive touchdown last season.

WR/LB Devin Carson — Returning two-way starter. Balanced player. Caught 13 passes for 194 yards last season. Had 50 tackles defensively with an interception and fumble recovery.

WR/DB Brady Kramer — Returning two-way starter, playmaker. Recorded 15 receptions for 239 yards and two touchdowns in '18. Led team with four interceptions.

BRACKEN COUNTY

RB/LB Payton Gilvin — Will be the lead running back in the wishbone offense.

Averaged 10 yards per carry and reception last year in limited touches. Recorded 45 tackles and two interceptions in '18.

RB/WR/DB Emery Woods — Tied for a team-high four interceptions last season. Recorded 40 tackles. Had 11 receptions for 121 yards and a touchdown offensively.

OL/DL Kysten Morales — One of the returning linemen on the offensive and defensive side. Had 22 tackles, six of them for loss last season.

OL/DL Matthew Bishop — Returning starter on the offensive and defensive line. Recorded 44 tackles and two sacks in '18.

COACHES / MEDIA POLL

RANK	SCHOOL	POINTS	(1 ST PLACE VOTES)	
1	Paris	18	(4)	
2	Nicholas County	15	(1)	
3	Bishop Brossart	12		
4	Bracken County	5		

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 31	Toledo	home	12 PM
Sept. 7	Eastern Michigan	home	7:30 PM
Sept. 14	Florida	home	7:00 PM
Sept. 21	Mississippi State	away	TBD
Sept. 28	South Carolina	away	TBD
Oct. 12	Arkansas	home	TBD
Oct. 19	Georgia	away	TBD
Oct. 26	Missouri	home	TBD
Nov. 9	Tennessee	home	TBD
Nov. 16	Vanderbilt	away	TBD
Nov. 23	UT Martin	home	TBD
Nov. 30	Louisville	home	TBD

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Sept. 2	Notre Dame	home	8 PM
Sept. 7	Eastern Kentucky	home	7 PM
Sept. 14	Western Kentucky	Nashville, TN	4 PM
Sept. 21	Florida State	away	TBD
Oct. 5	Boston College	home	TBD
Oct. 12	Wake Forest	away	TBD
Oct. 19	Clemson	home	TBD
Oct. 26	Virginia	home	TBD
Nov. 9	Miami	away	TBD
Nov. 16	NC State	away	TBD
Nov. 23	Syracuse	home	TBD
Nov. 30	Kentucky	away	TBD

MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 29	Union College	home	6 PM
Sept. 7	Illinois State	away	7:30 PM
Sept. 14	Kentucky Christian	home	4 PM
Sept. 21	Murray State	away	7 PM
Oct. 5	Davidson	home	1 PM
Oct. 12	Jacksonville	away	1 PM
Oct. 19	Butler	home	2 PM
Oct. 26	Drake	away	2 PM
Nov. 2	Dayton	home	1 PM
Nov. 9	Valparaiso	away	2 PM
Nov. 16	San Diego	away	TBD
Nov. 23	Stetson	home	1 PM

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 29	Valparaiso	home	7 PM
Sept. 7	Louisville	away	7 PM
Sept. 14	Indiana State	away	1 PM
Sept. 21	Presbyterian College	away	1 PM
Sept. 28	Tennessee State	home	6 PM
Oct. 5	UT Martin	home	3 PM
Oct. 19	Murray State	away	3 PM
Oct. 26	Eastern Illinois	away	3 PM
Nov. 2	Austin Peay	home	1 PM
Nov. 9	Southeast Missouri State	away	2 PM
Nov. 16	Tennessee Tech	home	1 PM
Nov. 23	Jacksonville State	away	2 PM

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 29	Central Arkansas	home	7:30 PM
Sept. 7	Florida International	away	7 PM
Sept. 14	Louisville	Nashville, TN	4 PM
Sept. 28	UAB	home	7 PM
Oct. 5	Old Dominion	away	6 PM
Oct. 12	Army	home	7 PM
Oct. 19	Charlotte	home	4 PM
Oct. 26	Marshall	away	2:30 PM
Nov. 2	Florida Atlantic	home	4 PM
Nov. 9	Arkansas	away	TBD
Nov. 23	Southern Mississippi	away	3:30 PM
Nov. 30	Middle Tennessee	home	2 PM

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 29	Pikeville	home	7 PM
Sept. 7	Georgia	away	4 PM
Sept. 14	Toledo	away	7 PM
Sept. 21	Morehead State	home	7 PM
Sept. 28	UT Martin	away	7 PM
Oct. 5	Eastern Illinois	home	2 PM
Oct. 12	Tennessee State	away	3 PM
Oct. 19	Eastern Kentucky	home	3 PM
Oct. 26	Jacksonville State	away	4 PM
Nov. 2	Tennessee Tech	home	2 PM
Nov. 16	Austin Peay	home	1 PM
Nov. 23	Southeast Missouri State	away	2 PM

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 31	FAU	home	12 PM
Sept. 7	Cincinnati	home	12 PM
Sept. 14	Indiana	away	12 PM
Sept. 21	Miami (Ohio)	home	TBD
Sept. 28	Nebraska	away	TBD
Oct. 5	Michigan St.	home	7:30 PM
Oct. 18	Northwestern	away	8:30 PM
Oct. 26	Wisconsin	home	TBD
Nov. 9	Maryland	home	TBD
Nov. 16	Rutgers	away	TBD
Nov. 23	Penn St.	home	TBD
Nov. 30	Michigan	away	12 PM

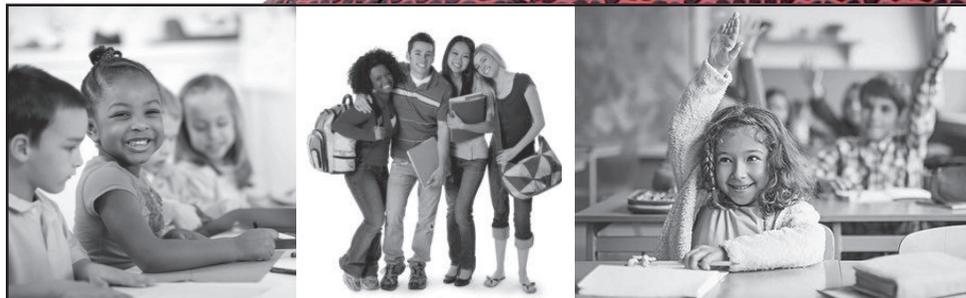
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 29	UCLA	home	7 PM
Sept. 7	Ohio State	away	12 PM
Sept. 14	Miami (OH)	home	12 PM
Sept. 28	Marshall	away	5 PM
Oct. 4	UCF	home	8 PM
Oct. 12	Houston	away	TBD
Oct. 19	Tulsa	home	TBD
Nov. 2	East Carolina	away	TBD
Nov. 9	UConn	home	TBD
Nov. 16	South Florida	away	TBD
Nov. 23	Temple	home	TBD
Nov. 29	Memphis	away	TBD



COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

 MARSHALL UNIVERSITY 				 OHIO UNIVERSITY 				 KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY 			
DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Aug. 31	VMI	home	6:30 PM	Aug. 31	Rhode Island	home	2 PM	Aug. 31	Thomas More	away	7 PM
Sept. 6	Boise State	away	9 PM	Sept. 7	Pittsburgh	away	11 AM	Sept. 7	Georgetown	home	6 PM
Sept. 14	Ohio	home	6:30 PM	Sept. 14	Marshall	away	6:30 PM	Sept. 14	Morehead State	away	4 PM
Sept. 28	Cincinnati	home	5 PM	Sept. 21	Louisiana	home	TBD	Sept. 21	Pikeville	away	7 PM
Oct. 5	Middle Tennessee	away	3:30 PM	Oct. 5	Buffalo	away	3:30 PM	Sept. 28	Warner	home	12 PM
Oct. 12	Old Dominion	home	2:30 PM	Oct. 12	Northern Illinois	home	3:30 PM	Oct. 5	Reinhardt	home	1:30 PM
Oct. 18	Florida Atlantic	away	6:30 PM	Oct. 19	Kent State	home	TBD	Oct. 19	St. Andrews	away	1:30 PM
Oct. 26	Western Kentucky	home	2:30 PM	Oct. 26	Ball State	away	TBD	Oct. 26	Bluefield	home	6 PM
Nov. 2	Rice	away	3:30 PM	Nov. 6	Miami (OH)	home	TBD	Nov. 2	Point	home	1:30 PM
Nov. 15	Louisiana Tech	home	7 PM	Nov. 12	Western Michigan	home	TBD	Nov. 9	Union	away	1:30 PM
Nov. 23	Charlotte	away	3:30 PM	Nov. 19	Bowling Green	away	7:30 PM	Nov. 16	Cincinnati Christian	away	1:30 PM
Nov. 30	Florida International	home	12 PM	Nov. 26	Akron	away	7 PM				



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Mason County's Cole Jones makes a tackle in the open field in a contest against Rowan County last season. Jones will be a returning member in the secondary for the upcoming season.



Fleming County's Kaleb Flanery tries to grab a reception against Mason County last season. Flanery was picked by Cats' Pause as the Preseason Class 3A, 6th District Player of the Year.



Mason County's Carson Brammer runs for a first down in a game against Morgan County last season. Brammer returns under center for his senior season.

PHOTOS BY TERRY PRATHER
THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

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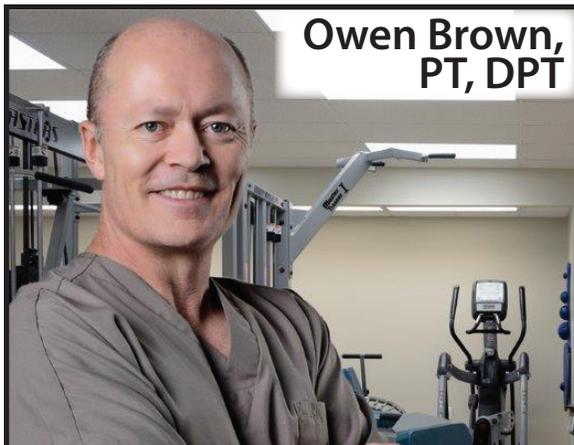


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