# THE FINAL DRIVE



## **FEATURE**

# The Final Drive

## Senior quarterbacks Leh, Lawrence and Lazorick ready for 2025 season

**BY BRAD HURLEY** 

BHURLEY@TNONLINE.COM

"If you're a quarterback, you want everything on your shoul-

That quote by Tom Brady rings true for most quarterbacks, especially the veteran signal callers.

In the Times News area this season, three senior quarterbacks will be taking the field for what will be the final drive of their high school gridiron careers — Northwestern's Shane Leh, Lehighton's Jayce Lawrence, and Jim Thorpe's Cole Lazorick — with the trio expected to have big seasons for their respective ball clubs.

Northwestern Lehigh's Shane Leh has already put together a tremendous career for the Tigers. Leh. last season's Times News Offensive Player of the Year, threw for 1,583 yards with 24 touchdowns and just five interceptions. Leh was also effective with his feet, rushing for 401 yards and eight touchdowns.

In his career, Leh has thrown for 3,316 yards and 47 passing scores. He's also rushed for 748 yards and 16 rushing scores. While under center, Leh has helped the Tigers to a combined 31-1 record the past two seasons, and to back-to-back PIAA 3A state championship appearances, with the Tigers winning it all a season ago.



Lehighton's Jayse Lawrence

omore season and then he parlayed that into a great junior season for us as well," said Northwestern head coach Josh Snyder. "The way he finished off the season in the postseason, especially in the state playoffs, was tremendous.

"During the regular season we would get off to such fast starts that we didn't really need to throw the ball or put too much on his plate. But then obviously "Shane had a fantastic soph- in the state playoffs, you're go-



Northwestern's Shane Leh

against that level of competition and he delivered.

faster and stronger; he has put on 30 pounds of muscle. We're going to depend on him to run the ball for us more and help us carry the load a bit there. We're to finish the season on a high also really excited about our note with big wins over Tamaqua passing game with the veteran and Jim Thorpe and an upset His command of the offense is Lawrence settled in, so did the



Jim Thorpe's Cole Lazorick

ing to need to be more balanced tremendous. We're excited to see him get out there and perform."

Lehighton quarterback Jayse "Going into this season, he is Lawrence came on strong for the Indians late in the 2024 season. And as Lawrence got better, so did the Tribe.

Lawrence helped the Indians receivers we have coming back. victory over Blue Mountain in Shane is a veteran. He's a leader. the District 11 4A playoffs. Once

Lehighton offense as it averaged 35 points per game in those victories. On the season, Lawrence finished with 1,247 yards passing with 17 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, while rushing for 553 yards and six touchdowns.

"Later in the year, we really opened it up for Jayse. I think we could have done that earlier in the year, but when you have a new player taking over the quarterback position, you try not to put a lot on his plate. That probably wasn't the best approach, because once we did do that, he really responded," said Lehighton head coach Tom McCarroll. "Jayse is a really good dual-threat quarterback. Last season, you definitely saw that when we started to incorporate him more into our running

"This offseason he has really grown. He's very confident, and he is extremely comfortable running the offense. He has become like a coach on field for us and has really turned into a great leader for us. I've also been impressed with his progression from a skill level. He's throwing to guys open. He's making the more difficult throws and he's putting the ball in the tough spots, and he's doing it with confidence. He played his best in some of our biggest moments last season."

Jim Thorpe quarterback Cole See **FEATURE** on Page 29

## THE STARTING LINEUP

Jim Thorpe 3	Palmerton 17
Lehighton 5	Panther Valley 20
Marian 9	Pleasant Valley 23
Northern Lehigh 11	Tamaqua 27
Northwestern Lehigh 14	Schedules 31

#### **Credits**

Photos: Ron Gower, Rich Smith, Lynn Shupp, Joe Seremula, Taj Falconer, Matt Breiner, Nancy Scholz, Kathy Schwartz, Paul McArdle

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## JIM THORPE



# Thorpe has senior leaders, young talent

BY RICH STRACK

TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

Turn the page from a year ago. This year's edition of Jim Thorpe football will feature a stable of young talent, led by four outstanding senior veterans.

Coach Mark Rosenberger, in his 28th season at the helm, will be counting on a group of very athletic underclassmen to improve upon last year's three-win record.

The team will be led by one of the most exciting players that Thorpe has had in their illustrious history. Senior dual threat quarterback Cole Lazorick is a game-changer. The three-year starter has accounted for 52 touchdowns — 34 passing and 18 rushing — included in his total of 1,213 yards gained on the ground.

"Cole's ability to understand defenses has improved steadily," said Rosenberger. "He knows when to go for the downfield pass and when to check down."

Rosenberger praised his signal

caller's leadership.

"He leads by example in the weight room and through his hard work. Cole is vocal, too, but he gains respect from his teammates because he walks the talk.'

The Olympians will have exceptional speed at the other skill positions to accompany Lazorick.

Joshua Louk, who has averaged over six yards a carry in his career, will line up "everywhere" according to Rosenberger with the plan to get him as many touches as possible. As a receiver, the speedy senior has caught 88 passes for 14 TDs during the past three years.

'Josh is multi-dimensional," his head coach said. "He has great vision when he runs and great hands to catch the pass. His speed is exceptional when he gets into open space."

One of four freshmen expected to see plenty of varsity time is running back Bobby Levins.

Rosenberger likes Levin's maturity and patience to stay behind Rosenberger. "Baker is a good

his blocks until he accelerates drive blocker with football intelthrough the hole. At fullback, julligence. Solt is physically strong nior Paxton Novack and sophomore Nick Faust will bring physicality to block and pick up blitzes.

Senior Connor Zurawa will switch off from tight end to wide receiver. Sophomores Spencer Gothard and Dominic Kiehl will provide a deep ball threat along with Louk. Also seeing time at tight end will be freshman Ben Remmel.

As every coach will say, the offense succeeds only if the linemen do their jobs. Performing the snaps in JT's shotgun formation at center will be Adam Ziolkiewicz. The guards are junior Gavin Baker and sophomore Michael Solt. Manning the tackle positions will be senior Gavin Strohl and junior Logan O'Shura. Rotating into the line is sophomore Gaetano Sarnelli and freshman Lucas Knopf.

"We may be smaller across the line than in previous years, but we're quick off the snap," said

and has good leverage. Strohl can run and pass block, and O'Shura is football smart and versatile enough to play anywhere on the

"They are coming together as one unit and they play hard on everv single down.

Last season, Thorpe's defensive side of the ball did not resemble the Red Swarm that Thorpe fans have been used to seeing. Rosenberger hopes that this year's version will greatly reduce the number of points allowed in 2024.

Solidifying the front four in the trenches will be Strohl and Baker on the inside with Solt and Ziolkiewicz manning the edges.

"They have all had playing time last season," said Rosenberger. "They're getting better at block recognition, shedding blocks, and being physical."

At the second level, he likes See **THORPE** on Page 4

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

spark the offense with both his arm and his legs. Backing up the threevear starter is junior Kaden Hess, who can step in with his poise and ability to run all the plays in JT's multiple offensive sets.

### <u>RUNNING BACKS</u>

Both backs behind the QB will carry the ball, as well as wide receivers in iet sweep formations. Senior Joshua Louk can take it to the house whether by the run or the pass. Freshman Bobby Levins has been turning heads in practice and should get his fair share of carries. Fullbacks Nick Faust and Paxton Novack will lead block through the tackles and pick up blitzes.

### **WIDE RECEIVERS**

Defenses will have to key on Louk when he lines up at wideout where he can run or fly downfield to catch the homerun ball. Sophomores, Spencer Gothard and Dominic Kiehl bring speed to the passing game. Connor Zurawa will line up at the edge or at tight end.

### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

Up front, Thorpe will start junior Adam Ziolkiewicz at center with junior Gavin Baker and sophomore Michael Solt at the guard slots. Anchoring the line at tackle will be senior Gavin Strohl and junior Logan O'Shura. Rotating into the games are sophomore Gaetano Sarnelli and freshaman Lucas Knopf. Tight end belongs to Zurawa when he's not at wideout with freshman Ben Remmel blocking the edge otherwise.

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**

The defensive front will include Strohl and Baker on the inside with Solt and Ziolkiewicz protecting the edges. O'Shura, Knopf and Sarnelli provide depth.

### **LINEBACKERS**

Rosenberger is stressing every helmet to the ball on every play. Sophomore Nick Faust mans the middle with the athleticism to tackle sideline to sideline. Zurwawa and Kiehl intend to stop the sweeps and keep containment to the middle of the field. Novack and Remmel will spell the starters.

### SECONDARY

Lazorick and Gothard will play the corners with juniors Ralph Clay and Christian Ortiz getting into the action. Louk plays the deep middle. Knopf. Anthony Kiehl, Levins and freshman, Phillip Garner will be in the rotation and keep the secondary fresh.

4. Supplement August 2025

## JIM THORPE

### 2025 JIM THORPE ROSTER

	SENIORS		Tyler Hoherchak	5-11	160	QB/LB
Player	<b>Height Weigh</b>	Position	Colton Steigerwalt	5-9	105	WR/DB
Joshua Louk	5-9 170	) WR/DB	Colin Rogowitz	5-10	125	QB/DB
Cole Lazorick	6-1 180	QB/DB	Blaze Flyzik	5-10	150	K/P
Connor Zurawa	5-11 170	TE/LB	Ryan Broadbent	5-8	140	FB/LB
Gavin Strohl	6-1 28	OL/DL	Dominic Kiehl	6-0	160	WR/LB
			Nick Faust	6-0	197	FB/LB
	JUNIORS		Gaetano Sarnelli	5-10	197	OL/DL
Player	<b>Height Weigh</b>	Position	Michael Solt	5-6	215	OL/DL
Ralph Clay	5-11 14	WR/DB	Chase Karnas	6-0	203	OL/DL
Connor Broadbent	5-9 138	RB/LB	Michael McGinley	5-8	214	OL/DL
Kaden Hess	5-10 18-	QB/LB				
Christian Ortiz	5-7 134	WR/DB		FRESHM		
		- WD/DD	Player	Height	Weight	Position
Angel Rivera	5-8 13	WR/DB	-	_	_	
Angel Rivera Paxton Novack	5-8 13: 5-10 18:		Dominic Calcano	5-8	170	QB/LB
		FB/LB	Dominic Calcano Bobby Levins	5-8 5-9	170 157	QB/LB RB/CB
Paxton Novack	5-10 189	FB/LB OL/DL	Dominic Calcano	5-8	170	QB/LB
Paxton Novack Adam Ziolkiewicz Gavin Baker	5-10 189 6-0 219	FB/LB OL/DL OL/DL	Dominic Calcano Bobby Levins	5-8 5-9 5-7 5-11	170 157	QB/LB RB/CB WR/DB TE/LB
Paxton Novack Adam Ziolkiewicz Gavin Baker Logan O'Shura	5-10 189 6-0 219 5-11 249 6-0 209	FB/LB OL/DL OL/DL	Dominic Calcano Bobby Levins Philip Garner	5-8 5-9 5-7	170 157 150	QB/LB RB/CB WR/DB
Paxton Novack Adam Ziolkiewicz Gavin Baker Logan O'Shura	5-10 189 6-0 219 5-11 249	FB/LB OL/DL OL/DL	Dominic Calcano Bobby Levins Philip Garner Ben Remmel	5-8 5-9 5-7 5-11	170 157 150 165	QB/LB RB/CB WR/DB TE/LB RB/LB OL/DL
Paxton Novack Adam Ziolkiewicz Gavin Baker Logan O'Shura	5-10 189 6-0 219 5-11 249 6-0 209	FB/LB OL/DL OL/DL OL/DL	Dominic Calcano Bobby Levins Philip Garner Ben Remmel Dameon Rivera	5-8 5-9 5-7 5-11 5-3	170 157 150 165 140	QB/LB RB/CB WR/DB TE/LB RB/LB
Paxton Novack Adam Ziolkiewicz Gavin Baker Logan O'Shura	5-10 189 6-0 219 5-11 249 6-0 209 <b>OPHOMORES</b>	FB/LB OL/DL OL/DL OL/DL Position	Dominic Calcano Bobby Levins Philip Garner Ben Remmel Dameon Rivera Drake Klados Lucas Knopf Shane Thompson	5-8 5-9 5-7 5-11 5-3 5-4	170 157 150 165 140 173	QB/LB RB/CB WR/DB TE/LB RB/LB OL/DL OL/DL OL/DL
Paxton Novack Adam Ziolkiewicz Gavin Baker Logan O'Shura	5-10 189 6-0 219 5-11 249 6-0 209  OPHOMORES Height Weigh	FB/LB OL/DL OL/DL OL/DL Position WR/DB	Dominic Calcano Bobby Levins Philip Garner Ben Remmel Dameon Rivera Drake Klados Lucas Knopf	5-8 5-9 5-7 5-11 5-3 5-4 5-11	170 157 150 165 140 173 223	QB/LB RB/CB WR/DB TE/LB RB/LB OL/DL OL/DL

Did you know?... Jim Thorpe's Josh Louk had three touchdown catches in the Olympians' final game of the season a year ago. Over the past 30 years, Louk is just one of four Thorpe players to have three TD catches in a game. The others are Shawn O'Toole, Khaaliq Lynch and Kysheem Lynch — who did it twice.



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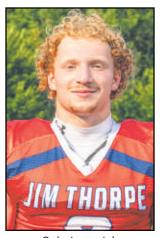
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Cole Lazorick



Joshua Louk



Gavin Strohl

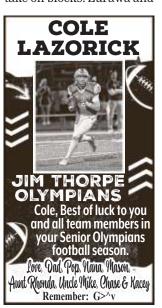


Connor Zurawa

## **THORPE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Faust to patrol the middle with his size and ability to take on blocks. Zurawa and



Kiehl will be the outside linebackers. Both can stop the run and drop into pass coverage.

Lazorick will bring his speed and athleticism at defensive back along with Gothard. Starting safety belongs to Louk.

Rosenberger likes the chemistry of his team with their senior leadership bonding with the athletic, but somewhat inexperienced younger players.

"We're not setting expectations, but we're excited about the improved culture we have and our overall mindset to do what needs to be done. Our team will play hard and hungry to prove themselves."

In a league stacked with powerhouse programs, JT realizes it will be under the radar in 2025 and not favored in too many games.

And that's exactly how they want it to be.



# Indians returning with high expectations

BY BROCK HECKMAN

TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

Culture can often reflect a team's identity both on and off the

For Lehighton football, this has certainly proven to be the case.

The Indians enter the 2025 campaign with head coach Tom Mc-Carroll starting his 14th season leading the Tribe. Despite only finishing last season with a 5-7 record, the back half of the season featured a change in mentality that saw Lehighton pull out crucial wins against Tamaqua, Jim Thorpe — and most noticeably — Blue Mountain in the opening round of the District 11 playoffs.

"That was a huge momentum shifter for the program as a whole," said McCarroll. "We got to the point in the season where we knew that a change needed to be made. We made a very conscious effort to change our apthe kids. They really bought in, and they're the ones that made the change.

With this new shift in culture, Lehighton has high hopes for success this season — especially with an experienced group of skill players returning.

Last season's quarterback — Jayse Lawrence — leads from the front. He has a great arm and downfield vision when passing the ball. However, after being given the green light to run the ball more often, it was revealed that he provides more of a dual-threat than originally expected.

"I think we really evolved throughout the course of the season in terms of how we were able to utilize him," said McCarroll. "He's always been a very good

I think you saw the results on the can throw the ball, and he makes to learn the system, but now he's field. All the credit really goes to all the throws that we need him to make, but to make him a dual threat really kind of opened up our entire offense.'

> With the departure of Jacob Ferguson, the running game features Lukas Croizier who not only succeeded but excelled in an elevated role as a sophomore. Now as a junior, he ran the ball 146 times for 702 yards and four touchdowns last year, and there is definitely the potential for him to become better.

> 'Croizier coming back at running back is a huge, huge get," Mc-Carroll said. "He was only a sophomore last year. I thought he did a tremendous job kind of carrying the load for his first year."

Two seniors, Equan Warner and Austin Green, will also be important members of the runquarterback in terms of where ning game. Warner in particular

proach, attitude, and practice, and he can throw the ball, how he was new last year and took time ready to jump in with no hesita-

> The Indians can take comfort in having well-experienced and talented receivers to compliment Lawrence's passing. Leading the charge down the field is two veteran seniors, 6-4 Blake Roberts and 5-11 Caden Meek.

"We have some depth behind them, but they're certainly going to get the bulk of our passes," said McCarroll.

For receiving depth, junior Kyden Hauser makes his return, while sophomore Ty Nansteel and senior Hunter Kintz will most likely round things out. Kintz and Nansteel primarily played in defensive roles as tight ends, and while they will return to this role, McCarroll hopes to expand it and give them more opportunities as

See **INDIANS** on Page 8

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

Lehighton's offense often goes how senior Jayse Lawrence goes. His greatest strength has been his passing abilities, but he proved last year how successful he can be running the ball. Having him as a dual-threat allows the Indians to expand their offensive possibilities. His backup is junior Owen Eckhart.

### **RUNNING BACKS**

Junior Lukas Croizier leads the way after having a standout performance last season, rushing for 703 yards. He will be complemented by two seniors, Austin Green and Equan Warner, who are also expected to make big plays.

### **WIDE RECEIVERS**

Coach McCarroll refers to seniors Blake Robers and Caden Meek as a "quarterback's dream" with how reliable they are as receivers. He also values the importance of junior Kyden Hauser in this role. Others expected to see time are senior Hunter Kintz, who primarily played defense last year, and sophomore Tv Nansteel, who impressed the staff with his offseason work ethic.

### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

With only two returnees up front in junior Marc Macias at center and sophomore Parker Rodgers at right guard, the other spots are still up for grabs. Possible names to fill these roles include junior Jonathan Mayers, and sophomores Chase Keller, Nick Blose, Dominic Lawrence and Lucas Voorhees. Kintz and Nansteel will solidify the tight end position.

#### DEFENSIVE LINE

Similar to the offense, the defensive line is open for competition. Macias and Rodgers return here too, but expect to see Mayers and Voorhees earn most of the playing time up front. In addition, freshman Zaden Martinez will likely be one of the Indians' main edge rushers after impressing the staff with his offseason preparations.

### LINEBACKERS

Kintz and junior Preston Degrazia return with significant experience inside. On the outside, Roberts also returns and will be complimented by either Nansteel or sophomore Carl Lingham.

### **SECONDARY**

as Crozier leads the way as the top safety with Lawrence supporting in the back as well. Makai Breiner. Austin Green, and Cash White provide depth at the corners, and Meek can play a combo of both.

### 2025 LEHIGHTON ROSTER

	SENIOR	15	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Equan Warner	5-8	150	RB/DB
Jayse Lawrence	6-0	175	QB/DB
Caden Meek	6-0	180	WR/DB
Hunter Kintz	5-10	210	TE/LB
Blake Roberts	6-2	220	WR/LB
Austin Green	5-9	170	RB/DB
Makih Breiner	5-10	160	WR/DB
Philip Ebbert	5-11	175	K

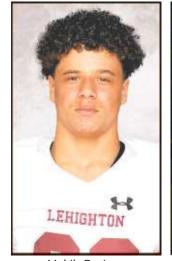
JUNIORS			
Player	Height	Weight	Position
Owen Eckhart	6-0	160	QB/DB
Kyden Hauser	5-9	165	WR/DB
Nate Dubow	5-9	160	WR/LB
Peyton McLean	5-8	175	RB/LB
Tommy Blair	6-1	180	WR/DB
Jose Rodriguez	5-7	155	RB/DB

Lukas Croizier	5-9	165	RB/DB
Preston DiGrazia	5-9	185	OL/LB
Jonathan Mayers	6-0	220	OL/DL
Mark Macias	5-11	290	OL/DL
Keegan Swedar	5-11	240	OL/DL

SOPHOMORES				
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>	
Cash White	6-0	180	WR/DB	
Jack Lucykanish	5-7	150	QB/WR/DB	
Carter Williams	6-0	170	TE/LB	
Connor Loy	5-7	145	WR/DB	
Ty Nansteel	6-0	185	TE/LB	
Dustin Mammana	5-8	150	WR/LB	
Kris Rodgers	5-8	155	RB/DB	
Sebastian Yturrino	5-8	150	WR/DB	
Lucas Voorhees	5-10	200	OL/DL	
Noah Lusch	6-0	170	OL/LB	
Nathan Sheckler	6-1	185	OL/DL	

Parker Beltz	5-8	190	OL/DL
Parker Rodgers	6-4	345	OL/DL
Dom Lawrence	6-0	240	OL/DL
Nick Blose	5-11	240	OL/DL
Chase Keller	5-11	300	OL/DL
Zayden Martinez	5-10	175	OL/DL
Carl Lingham	6-1	180	WR/LB
Austin Brooks	5-9	160	K

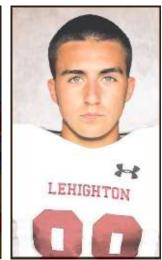
FRESHMEN				
	Player	Height	Weight	Position
	Ryder Croizier	5-5	135	RB/LB
	Aiden McCarroll	5-7	145	WR/DB
	Brock Atwood	5-11	170	QB/LB
	Landen Steigerwalt	5-10	145	WR/DB
	Dayton Moyer	5-10	155	TE/LB
	Vinnie Hill	5-8	155	RB/LB
	Noa Obranovic	5-9	180	OL/DL



Makih Breiner



Lehighton runs an offensive play during a recent practice.

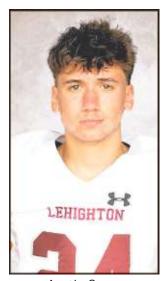


Philip Ebbert

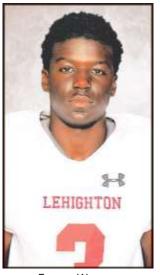












Equan Warner



Jayse Lawrence



Caden Meek



**Blake Roberts** 



Hunter Kintz

### 2024 RESULTS

Jim Thorpe (3-8)

Jim Thorpe 38, Palmerton 15 Pottsville 48, Jim Thorpe 7 Blue Mtn. 49, Jim Thorpe 0 Tamagua 48, Jim Thorpe 7 N. Schuylkill 50, Jim Thorpe 7 So. Lehigh 56, Jim Thorpe 12 Jim Thorpe 39, Catasauqua 0 Northwestern 55, Jim Thorpe 0 Jim Thorpe 43, Bangor 27 Lehighton 42, Jim Thorpe 26 +So. Lehigh 56, Jim Thorpe 27

Lehighton (5-7)

No. Lehigh 15, Lehighton 14 Lehighton 33, Bangor 7 So. Lehigh 34, Lehighton 3 Lehighton 61, Palmerton 17 Northwestern 42, Lehighton 7 Pottsville 21, Lehighton 3 Blue Mtn. 55, Lehighton 14

Lehighton 34, Tamaqua 14 N. Schuylkill 58, Lehighton 21 Lehighton 42, Jim Thorpe 26 +Lehighton 29, Blue Mtn. 28 +Becahi 35, Lehighton 14

Marian (6-5)

Marian 35. Hanover 0 Tri-Valley 24. Marian 0 Marian 27, Panther Valley 0 Marian 47, Shenandoah 23 Mahanov Area 27. Marian 7 Marian 20, Minersville 14 Sch. Haven 36, Marian 0 Williams Valley 33, Marian 0 Marian 34, Pine Grove 7 Marian 21, Nativity 18 +Tri-Valley 27, Marian 0

Northern Lehigh (7-4) No. Lehigh 15, Lehighton 14

Northwestern 56, No. Lehigh 7 No. Lehigh 26, Pen Argyl 14 No. Lehigh 46, Palisades 22 No. Lehigh 51, Palmerton 14 Notre Dame 49. No. Lehigh 19 No. Lehigh 42, Wilson 7 No. Lehigh 27, Catasauqua 3 No. Lehigh 44, Salisbury 24 Saucon Vy. 49, No. Lehigh 14 +Pen Argyl 32, No. Lehigh 14

Palmerton (3-7)

Jim Thorpe 38, Palmerton 15 Pen Argyl 24, Palmerton 7 Saucon Vy. 63, Palmerton 7 Lehighton 61, Palmerton 17 No. Lehigh 51, Palmerton 14 Palmerton 32. Wilson 28 Palmerton 44, Palisades 21 Salisbury 31, Palmerton 28 Notre Dame 52, Palmerton 0

Palmerton 28, Catasaugua 13

Panther Valley (2-8)

Salisbury 28, Panther Vy. 6 Sch. Haven 57. Panther Vv. 0 Marian 27, Panther Vy. 0 Panther Vy. 21, Pine Grove 13 Nativity 60, Panther Vy. 0 Tri-Valley 49. Panther Vv. 7 Williams Vy. 47, Panther Vy. 0 Panther Vy. 32, Shenandoah 0 Mahanoy A. 35, Panther Vy. 0 Minersville 43, Panther Vy. 0

Pleasant Valley (0-11) Gov. Mifflin 35, Pleasant Vy. 0 Dieruff 40, Pleasant Vy. 26 Exeter Twp. 49, Pleasant Vy. 0 Parkland 52, Pleasant Vy. 0 ES South 54, Pleasant Vy. 14 Nazareth 60, Pleasant Vy. 7

ES North 21, Pleasant Vy. 20 PM East 10, Pleasant Vy. 7 PM West 17, Pleasant Vy. 12 Stroudsburg 35, Pleasant Vy. 21 +ES South 47, Pleasant Vy. 7

Northwestern (16-0)

N'western 47. Wilson 0 N'western 56. No. Lehigh 7 N'western 55, Bangor 7 N'western 30, Blue Mtn. 8 N'western 42. Lehighton 7 N'western 49, N. Schuylkill 7 N'western 35, Pottsville 0 N'western 55. Jim Thorpe 0 N'western 51, Tamaqua 0 N'western 23, So. Lehigh 17 +N'western 40. Saucon Vv. 12 +N'western 36, N. Schuylkill 7

+N'western 49, Conwell-Egan 7 +N'western 34, Scranton Prep 0 +N'western 31, Danville 14 +N'western 36. Avonworth 33

Tamaqua (7-4)

Tamaqua 38, Pen Argyl 7 Tamaqua 35, N. Schuylkill 17 Tamaqua 24. Pottsville 21 Tamaqua 48, Jim Thorpe 7 Tamaqua 49, Salisbury 7 Tamagua 51. Bangor 0 So. Lehigh 43, Tamaqua 7 Lehighton 34, Tamaqua 14 N'western 51, Tamaqua 0 Blue Mtn. 21, Tamaqua 7 +Tamaqua 35, Pequea Vy. 0

+ postseason game





## You continue to amaze us with

your musical talents! We love watching you perform and hope you enjoy your senior year! We love you so much Mon & Dad

# **ABBY**



## INDIANS

Wishing our awesome senior cheerleader, Abby, the best of luck in your 2025-2026 cheer season! We're so proud of you – Rocking that Varsity spot all 4 years!

With all our love, Morn, Oad, and Tank

### GABE EBBERT



### LEHIGHTON INDIANS Have a fantastic

senior year! You continue to make us proud!

Love Morn Dad. and Mana

### MORGAN SHAFFER

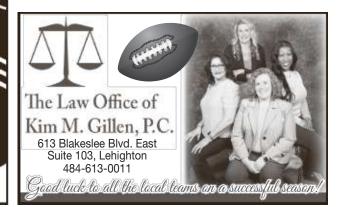


LEHIGHTON INDIANS Have a fantastic

> We love you, Morn & Dad

Senior year!

**Good Luck** Everyone on a **Great Upcoming** Season!





Lehighton players participate in practice while preparing for the upcoming season.



HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 7 AM-4:30 PM; Sat. 8 AM-12 PM; Sunday Closed

YBConline.com





## **INDIANS**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5** receivers.

The offensive and defensive lines are still in the works of being final-Parker Rodgers as a guard. With the loss of three key linemen in Joey Hauser, Yadiel Acosta-Rodriguez, and Brock Gower, many players are fighting for the chance to step in and fill those roles. Whoever earns the remaining positions, coach McCarroll already has high hopes for them.

"There's some youth there that are fighting out these spots, but I'll tell excited about what all of them can do."

Players fighting for with sophomore Lucas see a mixture of Makai the table."

Voorhees, are likely to play on both lines.

The remainder of the Indians' defense features more experience to a team that is already full of experience offensively. The linebacking roles will be ized, but expect to see Marc filled by Kintz and junior Macias return at center Preston Degrazia on the inor defensive tackle, with side, while Roberts comes back to his usual outside spot alongside Nansteel and sophomore Carl Lingham, which makes a team strength even stronger and deeper.

For the secondary spots, McCarroll wasn't quite sure how much depth he had in this area until last year's game against Jim Thorpe.

starting defensive backs you right now, I like all of hurt and didn't play in the energy. With a them," he said. "Whoev-that game. Three new guys like this, we don't haver wins those battles, I'm stepped in and they didn't do it every single day. miss a beat. So that developed a ton of depth for us."

Crozier will return as these roles include sopho- the primary safety along mores Chase Keller, Nick with Jayse Lawrence, who can, but they're serious Blose and Dominic Law- has also proven how benerence, and freshman. Ju- ficial he can be in the back. nior Jonathan Mayers, At the corners, expect to

Breiner, Cash White, Austin Green and Caden Meek. who also has safety experience too.

The atmosphere around the Indian squad is one of both excited anticipation for the season to begin while also understanding exactly what's expected from them this year.

Coach McCarroll can't help but express how positive this offseason has been working with this group of players and how this hopefully translates to success on the field.

"The offseason has been fun so far; preseason has been fun," he said. "This group has a very unique personality, and we like "We had three of our it because sometimes as coaches, we have to dictate the energy. With a team like this, we don't have to

> "So, we've got kids with great personalities and great work ethics. They keep it light when they when they need to be. So I really like this group and what they're bringing to





### LEHIGHTON RECORDS

Year	Record	Head Coach
2024	5-7	Tom McCarroll
2023	2-9	Tom McCarroll
2022	3-8	Tom McCarroll
2021	1-9	Tom McCarroll
2020	3-6	Tom McCarroll
2019	3-8	Tom McCarroll
2018	4-7	Tom McCarroll
2017	12-1	Tom McCarroll
2016	4-7	Tom McCarroll
2015	11-1	Tom McCarroll
2014	8-3	Tom McCarroll
2013	6-5	Tom McCarroll
2012	3-7	Tom McCarroll
2011	4-6	George Ebbert
2010	4-6	George Ebbert
2009	1-9	George Ebbert
2008	3-7	George Ebbert
2007	5-6	Bill Brong
2006	7-4	Bill Brong
2005	9-3	Bill Brong
2004	3-8	Bill Brong
2003	4-6	Bill Brong
2002	8-4	Bill Brong
2001	10-2	Bill Brong
2000	8-3	Dave Parsons
1999	3-8	Dave Parsons
1998	3-7	Dave Parsons
1997	7-4	Dave Parsons
1996	4-8	Dave Parsons
1995	6-5	Dave Parsons
1994	6-5	Dave Parsons
1993	7-4	Dave Parsons

## MARIAN



# O'Gurek, Colts eye another step forward

**BY SAM MATTA** 

TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

The storied football program at Marian Catholic High School has been vast and far-reaching.

Former coach Stan Dakosty set the bar high during his tremendous tenure, producing standout football players the way Hershey turns out candy bars.

That standard has long gone, but for second-year coach Bill O'Gurek, there is a brightness shining down. A disciple of Dakosty, O'Gurek is excited to welcome his second edition to the gridiron.

"Oh, I learned a lot in my first season," O'Gurek said with a smile. "I was well prepared by position — running practice you really don't understand the things that come up and how you have to deal with them. It was an eye-opener, and fortunately I have great assistant coaches.3

He admits mistakes were made, but progress was evident.

This is a crucial year for us. We're looking to make it three straight seasons of winning football," O'Gurek said. "Stan's last year, he produced a winner. Last year we went 6-5, and I know we could have been a little better maybe won another two or three games."

The Colts pulled off a stunning overtime win against highly fa-

Stan, but until you get in that vored Minersville on the road last looms large in that pursuit. The

To be sure, it was a signature victory for O'Gurek in just his third game as head coach. Though the rest of the season was a rollercoaster, that victory set the right tone — one O'Gurek and his staff hope to carry into 2025.

"The challenge for me was trying to live up to the expectations of the program — the fact that we've become successful again and trying to continue that tradition,' O'Gurek said. "What we want to do is stack winning seasons, and we haven't done that in a while. We haven't had three straight winning seasons in 10 years.'

Certainly, the upcoming season

mantra: Continue to take the next

"We want the kids to believe in what Marian football is all about."

Marian graduated a dozen quality players, including much of its offensive line and Division I recruit Michael Gelatko.

An All-State selection, Gelatko filled multiple roles last season, finishing with 23 receptions for 381 yards and a touchdown, along with 80 tackles, three sacks and an interception. He was also the team's punter.

The glaring hole, however, is along the offensive and defensive lines, where seven starters depart-

See MARIAN on Page 10

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

Coach O'Gurek has anointed Greg Tirpak as his quarterback. A solid three-sport athlete, Tirpak has been at the forefront all summer and has some game experience from last fall. Backup duties will go to senior Matt Spino, who will start at wide receiver.

### RUNNING BACKS

Marian returns one of the premier running backs in the region in Rory Dixon, who rushed for 1,005 yards (211 carries) and eight touchdowns. Letterwinner Jason Ashfield paves the way at fullback, and is a threat coming out of the backfield to latch onto passes; the same for Dixon, too.

### **WIDE RECEIVERS**

There is a bumper crop of good hands in this department, starting with Tyler Price, who can also play tight end and running back when called upon. Keep an eye on superb athlete Rocco Griguoli. A standout basketball and baseball player, he is now a junior and will get plenty of opportunities to catch the ball. Toss in senior Jake Tom to get targeted at wide receiver, who is a long jumper on the track

### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

This is where Marian has to grow up in a hurry. O'Gurek does have some seasoned players returning. Damian Rodino 5-10 205, senior center; his brother junior Dominick Rodino at left tackle, right tackle finds Walker Sheer. Maning the guard position you'll find senior veteran Jah Bushati along with junior Billy Ebert. Waiting in the wings for playing time are sophomores Jack LeClair and Nick Polakovich.

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**

Just flip things over from the offensive line and the group consists of defensive ends Ashfield and Griguoli with Sheer waiting in the wings. The tackles are led by Dominick Rodino, Ebert and

### **LINEBACKERS**

Once again, Marian will engage two-way players in their scheme. The Colts have two veteran led by Bushati and Damian Rodino.

### SECONDARY

The cornerbacks find Tom and Tate, strong safety has a veteran crew with Dixon, who can also walkup as a linebacker, rice and Sartori. The free safety battle features Spino and Nolan Marsch.

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## **MARIAN**

### 2025 MARIAN ROSTER

	<b>SENIOF</b>	15	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Hunter Sartori	6-0	180	WR/DB
Jake Tom	5-7	140	WR/DB
Matt Spino	5-9	155	WR/LB
Nick Shigo	6-2	205	TE/DE
Damian Rodino	5-10	205	OL/LB
Jah Bushati	5-11	170	OL/LB

CENIADO

### **JUNIORS**

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Yaniel Nunez	5-10	175	WR/DB
Dante Tate	5-6	125	WR/DB
Caleb Gerhart	5-7	150	WR/DB
Rocco Griguoli	6-4	195	WR/DE
Nolan Marsch	5-9	145	WR/DB
Rory Dixon	5-10	170	RB/DB
Jason Ashfield	5-10	207	RB/LB
Billy Ebert	5-11	320	OL/DL
Dominick Rodino	6-1	210	OL/DL
Walker Sheer	6-3	180	OL/DL

Did vou know? ... Marian has won more overtime games (8) than any other Times News area team. Northwestern and Tamaqua are tied for second with five. The Colts have won seven straight games when going to OT.



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### **SOPHOMORES**

Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Tyler Price	6-1	190	WR/DB
Chris Del Rosario	5-5	135	RB/DB
Nick Ramirez	5-7	145	RB/DB
Gregory Tirpak	6-3	220	QB/LB
Loegan Joseph	5-10	150	RB/LB
Jack LeClair	5-11	195	OL/DL
Evan Perez	6-3	260	OL/DL
Nick Polakovich	5-11	160	OL/DL

### **FRESHMEN**

	I IILOIIII		
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Tristan Kotsko	5-9	155	WR/LB
Cole Grochowski	5-11	178	QB/DB
Jaycee Piccione	5-9	150	WR/DB
Ray Koslop	5-5	138	RB/DB
Ethan Cabrera	5-7	115	WR/DB
Mason Joseph	5-2	101	RB/DB
Conner Giannelli	5-6	140	TE/LB
Keegan Betz	5-9	160	OL/DL
Liam Johnstone	5-8	180	OL/DL



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9** 

ed.

The Colts return one of the premier running backs in the region in Rory Dixon, who rushed for 1.005 yards on 211 carries with eight touchdowns.

A two-way standout, Dixon also played linebacker, recording 80 tackles, three sacks and an interception.

O'Gurek has anointed Gregory Tirpak as his quarterback. A three-sport athlete, the 6-foot-3, 220-pound sophomore gained game experience last fall and has led the team in the summer.

Senior Matt Spino (5-9, 155), who will also start at wide receiver, will serve as the backup.

Junior letterwinner Jason Ashfield (5-10, 207) returns at fullback, paving the way for Dixon.

"Ashfield has good bloodlines," O'Gurek said, noting his grandfather Mike Tracey was a star running back on the 1980 Eastern Conference Class B championship team. "He was our second-lead- O'Gurek said.

ing rusher last year, so he has the experience. We're counting on him to play a bigger role this season."

Sophomore Tyler Price (6-1, 190) is a triple threat who can line up at wideout, tight end or halfback. Junior Rocco Griguoli (6-4, 195), a standout in basketball and baseball, is expected to make an impact.

Senior Jake Tom (5-7, 140), a state medalist in the long jump, also figures into the rotation.

Senior Damian Rodino (5-10, 205) anchors the line of scrimmage at center, joined by his brother, junior Dominick Rodino (6-1, 210), at left tackle.

Junior Walker Sheer (6-3, 180) slots in at right tackle.

Veterans Jah Bushati (5-11, 170) and Billy Ebert (5-11, 320) hold the guard positions.

Sophomores Jack Le-Clair (5-11, 195) and Nick Polakovich (5-11, 160) provide depth and are expected to push for playing time.

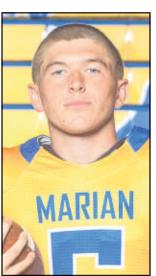
"What I like about our offense is that we've got a lot of skill guys who can play various positions,"



Jah Bushati



Matt Spino



Jake Tom



Damian Rodino

**Hunter Sartori** 

## **MARIAN RECORDS**

Year	Record	Head Coach
2024	6-5	Billy O'Gurek
2023	7-5	Stan Dakosty
2022	4-6	Stan Dakosty
2021	4-7	Stan Dakosty
2020	1-7	Stan Dakosty
2019	1-9	Pat Morgans
2018	4-7	Pat Morgans
2017	4-7	Pat Morgans
2016	6-6	Stan Dakosty
2015	8-5	Stan Dakosty
2014	8-4	Stan Dakosty
2013	7-5	Stan Dakosty
2012	8-3	Stan Dakosty
2011	5-5	Stan Dakosty
2010	2-8	Stan Dakosty
2009	3-7	Stan Dakosty
2008	6-5	Stan Dakosty
2007	11-3	Stan Dakosty
2006	11-2	Stan Dakosty
2005	6-4	Stan Dakosty
2004	5-5	Stan Dakosty
2003	6-5	Stan Dakosty
2002	7-4	Stan Dakosty

August 2025 SUPPLEMENT 11

## NORTHERN LEHIGH



# Bulldogs return both experience, talent

BY ROD HECKMAN

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It's a recipe for success. Experience + talent = wins.

Northern Lehigh proved that formula to be true last season, and the Bulldogs are hoping to take it a step further in 2025.

Two years ago, the program was forced to start numerous and sophomores freshmen which resulted in a 3-7 record.

That playing time proved to be beneficial, though, as the team flipped their mark around, going 7-3 in the regular season last year before losing to Pen Argyl in the district quarterfinals.

With a bulk of the roster back again — now bigger, stronger, faster and oozing with on-field savvy — expectations are high for another winning year and a mouth ... But take that out of it offensive line, the Bulldogs are possible run in the postseason.

"The reps that they have, the experience that they have, we feel really good about that," said Joe Tout, who is in his 20th season as head coach of the Bulldogs. "We've tried to do a little more 11 on 11s this summer and even though it's non-contact we kind of upped the teams that we felt we were going to see. We went against Stroudsburg and Pocono Mountain West. We saw Schuylkill Haven, so you get a little bit more out of those than you do just having an in-house workout.

"We took our lumps two years ago playing some of those freshmen. Last year, the playoff loss left a bad taste in our skill positions, as well as the

and reflect on it, to go 7-3 with starting a ton of sophomores and juniors, I felt pretty happy with where we ended last year. This year our mentality, our motto is just win now ... When we get out there, our goal is to win that game. Our first two weeks, we know Northwestern is a returning state champion and Lehighton's got a lot back. But our goal is to win those games ... We don't want to just keep games close. We believe every team on our schedule we can beat."

One of the reasons many anticipate a big year from Northern Lehigh is an offense that that production, we have to have could put up some big numbers.

Combining returnees at the

primed to score plenty of points.

Garrett Smoyer is back at quarterback, a year removed from being the first player in program history to throw for over 1,000 yards as a sophomore. The team's top ground gainer, senior Grady Newhard (821 yards), returns, as well as junior Chris Frame, who led Nolehi in touchdowns (16) and receiving yards (632) and is a threat to go the distance whenever he touches the ball. Ryan Zambo is another top receiver back, while Colin Karetsky is also a weapon.

"When you start looking at about 95 percent of it back," said Tout. "We're going to lean

See **BULLDOGS** on Page 12

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

after a stellar sophomore season that saw him throw for 1,253 yards and 12 TDs. Backing him up will be sophomore Caleb Oswald

### RUNNING BACKS

team in rushing (821 yards) a year ago and will be back to lead the Bulldog ground game. Junior Chris Frame is also a threat in the backfield. Others who could see time include junior Mason Rothrock and sophomore Keith Lectora.

### WIDE RECEIVERS

Besides Frame, who caught 22 passes for 632 yards and seven scores, Smoyer's main targets will be juniors Ryan Zambo (16-222) and Colin Karetsky. Chris Vargas, a senior, and Carter Thomas, a junior, will get reps as receivers.

### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

The Bulldogs return both starting guards from a year ago in junior Landen Klimek and senior . Kayden Novicki, as well as their two tackles — seniors Nate Kuhns and Adam Neff. The center spot figures to go to sophomore Dawson Newhard. Novicki could slide to center if needed. Others that figure to see time include senior Ethan Grozier, juniors Bill Slattery and Gio Marino, sophomores Bryce Nance and Bill Kennedy, and freshman Riley Shimko.

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**

Returning end Bill Slattery played in all 11 games a year ago, while Landen Klimek and Chase Gall will trade off at the other end spot. Nate Kuhns, a DE last year, will slide to tackle with the other spot to be decided between sophomore Bryce Nance, Kayden Novicki and Adam Neff.

### <u>LINEBACKERS</u>

Grady Newhard will be a fouryear defensive starter and line up outside with senior Kaden Quinones - last year's leading tackler — on the opposite end. In the middle will be Mason Rothrock. If needed, Ethan Grozier could move to a linebacker spot. Chase Gall will also see playing time.

### SECONDARY

An experienced group returns. Corners Ryan Zambo and Chris Frame, and safety Ryan Zambo started all 11 games a year ago. Ethan Grozier, who started before being injured, will man the other safety spot. Backups are Caleb Oswald, Garrett Smoyer, Keith Lectora and Carter Thomas.

## NORTHERN LEHIGH







Chris Vargas



Kaden Quinones



**Grady Newhard** 

## **BULLDOGS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

on those guvs big time ... We're trying to look at some things in the passing game that might be different than what we've done traditionally. Between Frame, Zambo and Karetsky, they're all No. 1s. Any other year, those guys would easily be our top wideout, so we're blessed to have all three this year. And they're all iuniors.

"Our offensive line, we have both guards back and then we have both tackles back. The only replacement we have is at center. I feel really good line wise where we are. Assignment wise, you can't replace reps. So having all those guys get those reps last year, we're

year having those guys bring back a d-end in Bill back.'

The offense isn't the only place where the Bulldogs have experience. The defense boasts a number of returnees, including their leading tackler en. We don't have major from a year ago.

Probably the only concern is the front four.

Tout. "Our secondary, we return all four ... "At line- ly on when we're going backer, we return two of against bigger schools." three but to me it's almost like we're returning all three. Kaden Quinones, we call him Q, was our leading tackler last year. I think our guys feed off of him. He's a guy that goes one way and puts everything into that defensive happens, the longtime spot. To have him back is

"Our d-line is still a past.

looking forward to this work in progress. We Slattery, who started all 11 games last year ... We just don't want to have a bunch of two-way guys on the line. We feel really good about our back sevlosses on the front line, but we still have to build that depth, especially if "Our back seven is our we're trying to stay away strength on defense," said from a lot of two-way guys, and especially ear-

While all signs lead to a strong season and Northern Lehigh being a contender in the district's Class 2A, Tout does point out that the class is one of the strongest in the state.

But no matter what mentor is thrilled with the progression from the

MODELIEDALI ELIIQLI DEGODDO

"It's been enjoyable to watch them buy in to now become leaders," said Tout of his players. "To watch them kind of be thrown into the fire and maybe not be prepared for it to now step through and have that confidence. And now I think they realize now they kind of reap the rewards.

"This could be the most loaded 2A bracket we've seen in a long time. Williams Valley and Schuvlkill Haven are strong, and Minersville has a Division 1 quarterback. Executive is a wild card and then you also have Pen Argyl. I don't get into the 'if we don't do this the season's a bust.' But I put it this way. We feel we're capable of winning a district championship as well as any other team'

### 2025 NORTHERN LEHIGH ROSTER

	RS		
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Ethan Grozier	6-2	170	WR/DB
Chris Vargas	5-9	135	WR/DB
Kaden Quinones	5-9	155	RB/LB
Grady Newhard	5-8	190	RB/LB
Caleb Bosch	5-9	190	OL/DL
Kayden Novicki	5-9	240	OL/DT
Adam Neff	6-0	250	OL/DL
Nate Kuhns	5-10	235	OL/DL

	JUNIOF	RS	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Chris Frame	5-11	175	RB/DB
Garrett Smoyer	5-10	165	QB/DB
Ryan Zambo	5-11	160	WR/DB
Kaiden Smith	5-4	115	RB/DB
Mason Rothrock	5-11	170	RB/LB
Colin Karetsky	6-2	180	WR/DB
Andrew Rudolph	5-9	145	TE/LB
Chase Gall	5-10	162	TE/DE
Carter Thomas	5-6	130	WR/DB
Jolcris Monegro	5-6	140	RB/DB
Jaxon Bower	6-1	165	TE/DE
Bill Slattery	5-11	190	OL/DL
Anthony Hanna	5-7	150	K
Giovanni Marino	5-6	180	OL/DL
Landen Klimek	5-10	200	OL/DL
Rami Ouaziz	6-1	160	WR/DB

#### SOPHOMORES **Player Height Weight Position** Keith Lectora 5-8 140 RB/DB Caleb Oswald 5-10 160 QB/DB Christian Fortino WR/DB 5-8 135 Anna Trelease 5-4 140 WR/DB **Brvan Debias** 5-6 135 WR/DB Paul Porobenski 5-9 150 RB/LB Bryce Nance 5-11 170 OL/DL Brayden Nance 5-11 185 OL/DL Bill Kennedy 5-10 220 OL/DL **Dawson Newhard** OL/DL 5-9 200

NUK	NORTHERN LEHIGH RECORDS									
Year	Record	Head Coach	Year	Record	Head Coach					
2024	7-4	Joe Tout	2010	13-1	Joe Tout					
2023	3-7	Joe Tout	2009	10-3	Joe Tout					
2022	12-2	Joe Tout	2008	4-6	Joe Tout					
2021	11-4	Joe Tout	2007	7-4	Joe Tout					
2020	5-4	Joe Tout	2006	7-4	Joe Tout					
2019	6-4	Joe Tout	2005	11-1	Jim Tkach					
2018	5-5	Joe Tout	2004	10-2	Jim Tkach					
2017	0-10	Joe Tout	2003	14-1	Jim Tkach					
2016	4-7	Joe Tout	2002	10-2	Jim Tkach					
2015	4-6	Joe Tout	2001	7-4	Jim Tkach					
2014	7-5	Joe Tout	2000	8-3	Jim Tkach					
2013	2-8	Joe Tout	1999	11-3	Jim Tkach					
2012	7-4	Joe Tout	1998	10-2	Jim Tkach					
2011	10-2	Joe Tout	1997	5-6	Jim Tkach					

	-KESHM	IEN	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Cooper Gladfelter	5-6	135	K
Connor Whalen	5-8	135	WR/DB
Ryder Gall	5-5	130	QB/DB
Brady Bielawski	5-3	110	WR/DB
Brayden Greene	5-10	145	RB/DE
Jayden Rehrig	5-6	130	RB/LB
Cole Chruscial	5-6	130	OL/LB
Cam Chruscial	5-6	125	OL/LB
Reilly Shimko	5-11	205	OL/DL
Aiden Reinik	6-2	175	OL/DL
Bryce Wanamaker	5-9	145	TE/DL

EDECHMEN

## NORTHERN LEHIGH





Nate Kuhns



Northern Lehigh runs an offensive play during a recent practice.



Kayden Novicki



Adam Neff

### MOST POINTS SCORED IN SEASON (BY TEAM, 1969-2024)

JIM THORPE								
Name (Year)	TD	хр	2хр	FG	Pts.			
Justin St. Hill (2017)	29	0	1	0	176			
Jason Figura (2004)	24	0	2	0	148			
Rick Kuhn (1975)	18	17	0	1	128			
Robbie Heller (2015)	20	0	1	0	122			
CJ Selby (2019)	20	0	0	0	120			
Ryan Saunders (2013)	17	10	4	0	120			
Gary Storer (1994)	19	0	0	0	114			
Gary Storer (1993)	19	0	0	0	114			
Phil Redline (2006)	18	0	1	0	110			
CJ Selby (2018)	17	0	0	0	102			
Mike Gruber (1993)	15	0	5	0	100			
LEHIO	AOTH2	J						

LEHIGHTON									
		•			Pts.				
Cody Scherer (2017)	24	0	22	0	188				
Robbie Frey (2006)	27	0	1	0	164				
Chris Green (1991)	23	11	4	0	157				
Robbie Frey (2005)	25	0	2	0	154				
Bradley-Chambers (2017)	24	0	2	0	148				
Wyatt Clements (2015)	24	0	1	0	146				
Jacen Nalesnik (2011)	19	25	0	2	145				
Wyatt Clements (2014)	23	0	0	0	138				
Joe Semanoff (2000)	21	0	5	0	136				
Dwayne Fisher (1989)	20	0	2	0	124				
Clayton Andrews (1986)	20	0	0	0	120				
Larry Mertz (1977)	18	0	6	0	120				
Kevin Snyder (1978)	18	0	1	0	110				

Clayton Andrews (1987)	17	0	2	0	106			
Wyatt Clements (2013)	16	0	2	0	100			
Jacen Nalesnik (2012)	12	19	0	3	100			
Todd Wolfe (1990)	16	0	2	0	100			
MADIAN								

MARIAN								
Name (Year)	TD	хр	2xp	FG	Pt			
Mike Tracy (1980)	30	0	2	0	18			
Al Donadi (2000)	28	0	1	0	17			
K.J. Snerr (2015)	24	2	0	0	14			
Jim Agosti (1976)	23	0	2	0	14			
Paul Martin (2011)	19	18	2	1	13			
Justin Barrasso (1998)	22	0	2	0	13			
Jason Donadi (1993)	20	14	1	0	13			
Gary Grant (1971)	17	0	13	0	12			
Mike Tracy (1979)	19	0	2	0	11			
Greg Izzo (1988)	19	0	0	0	11			
Mark Makovec (1992)	18	0	1	0	11			
Seth Paluck (2017)	18	0	0	0	10			
Pete Bumbulsky (1980)	18	0	0	0	10			
Chris Perhonitch (1996)	16	0	2	0	10			
Mark Hrebik (1989)	13	20	1	0	10			

NORTHERN LEHIGH/SLATINGTON								
Name (Year)	TD	хр	2xp	FG	Pts.			
Cody Remaley (2010)	39	8	7	0	256			
Cody Remaley (2009)	26	10	10	0	186			
Matt Frame (2021)	28	0	3	0	174			
Nick Hosford (2005)	27	0	1	0	164			

Trevor Amorim (2021)	24	0	5	0	15
Jake Serfass (2003)	23	0	1	0	14
Ryan Hluschak (2001)	23	0	1	0	14
Jake Kern (2010)	22	1	3	0	13
Ryan Hluschak (2002)	23	0	0	0	13
Brad Walters (1998)	21	0	2	0	13
Caleb Johnson (2012)	20	0	2	0	12
Steve Hluschak (1999)	19	0	2	0	11
Brad Walters (1999)	18	0	5	0	11
Brett Misera (2021)	10	56	0	0	11
AJ Jimenez (2022)	17	0	6	0	11
Nate Farber (2014)	17	0	5	0	11
Glenn Parry (1969)	14	10	9	0	11
Cody Remaley (2008)	16	0	3	0	10
Keith Blose (1997)	16	0	2	0	10

NORTHWESTERN						
Name (Year)	TD	хр	2xp	FG	Pts.	
Eli Zimmerman (2024)	38	0	2	0	232	
Dalton Clymer (2023)	35	0	6	0	222	
Brett Snyder (1995)	33	0	2	0	202	
Cade Christopher (2022)	30	0	4	0	188	
Cam Richardson (2014)	27	0	2	0	166	
Josh Snyder (1997)	25	0	1	0	152	
Harry Hall (2015)	23	0	1	0	140	
Justin Holmes (2021)	21	0	6	0	138	
Dalton Clymer (2022)	21	0	4	0	134	
Josh Snyder (1996)	22	0	1	0	134	
Nick Henry (2019)	21	0	2	0	130	

Trevor Cunningham (2016)	21	0	2	0	13
Cade Christopher (2021)	20	0	2	0	12
Ben Clymer (2007)	16	22	1	1	12
Austin Bleam (2002)	20	0	0	0	12
Harry Hall (2014)	19	0	0	0	11
Harry Hall (2013)	18	0	0	0	10
Seth Kern (2024)	8	49	0	3	10
Deven Bollinger (2018)	17	0	0	0	10
Ty Cunningham (2011)	17	0	0	0	10

PALMERION					
Name (Year)	TD	хр	2xp	FG	Pts.
Matt Machalik (2023)	37	0	3	0	228
Matt Machalik (2021)	31	5	5	0	201
Matt Machalik (2022)	22	0	2	0	136
Tekoah Guedes (2017)	20	0	5	0	130
Mike Stasko (2015)	21	0	1	0	128
Mike Stasko (2016)	20	0	2	0	124
Chris Siracuse (1998)	20	0	0	0	120
Daniel Lucykanish (2022)	17	0	8	0	118
Justin Petersen (2007)	18	0	5	0	118
Ty Sander (2023)	18	0	4	0	116
Kody Gildner (1994)	17	0	4	0	110
Jordan Nelson (2018)	13	28	0	0	106
Jason Hernandez (1996)	17	0	0	0	102

PANTHER VALLEY					
Name (Year)	TD	хр	2xp	FG	Pts.
Brad Miller (1992)	24	0	4	0	152

Brian DeGiosio (1998)	23	0	2	0	142
Chas Field (2004)	16	10	2	0	110
Dan Blazosky (1999)	18	0	1	0	110
Dave Slonaker (1978)	18	0	0	0	108
Chas Field (2005)	16	7	1	0	105

### 

TAMAQUA						
Name (Year)	TD	хр	2xp	FG	Pts.	
Nate Boyle (2019)	33	46	2	1	251	
Nate Boyle (2018)	27	49	0	0	211	
Dalton Nunemacher (2012)	24	0	1	0	146	
Jarred Muffley (2011)	24	0	0	0	144	
Bud Moyer (2015)	21	0	2	0	130	
Nick Breiner (2017)	21	0	1	0	128	
Tyler Hope (2013)	19	0	5	0	124	
Paul James (1974)	14	26	0	3	119	
Bud Moyer (2014)	17	5	1	0	109	
Jim Hope (1990)	18	0	0	0	108	
Wayde Williams (2008)	17	0	1	0	104	
Nick Breiner (2018)	17	0	0	Ο	102	

14. SUPPLEMENT

## NORTHWESTERN



# New chapter begins for state champions

**BY MIKE HAINES** 

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Last year the Tiger football team had a storybook season, going 16-0 and capturing the program's first state title with an overtime win.

But it's time for that book to move to the next chapter.

"It was a quick offseason," said Tiger head coach Josh Snyder. "Last season went so long and then celebrating, snap your fingers and you're back in the mix. It feels good to turn the page and get ready for this season. These guys are excited for their opportunity to play."

After two straight trips to the

state championship game, the gowy defending champs will see some turnover on their roster.

While Shane Leh returns for his third season as the starting quarterback, four first-year starters will be in front of him on the offensive line and he won't be handing the ball to Eli Zimmerman for the first time in his career as the 2025 PIAA Class 3A Player of the Year is now a Bloomsburg Husky.

Leh's backfield might be new, but he will have some familiar targets to throw to as all-state defensive athlete Mason Bollinger (senior) returns at wide receiver along with junior Michael La-

Bollinger led the team with 520 receiving yards and six touchdown catches last year.

'This year our skill coming back, especially on offense, we're really comfortable there," said Snyder. "Even though we lost Eli, there's enough there that we can share the ball and be produc-

"I think we can be a little more balanced than last year. That being said, at Northwestern we hang our hat on being able to run the ball and stop the run. We look forward to being able to do that again.'

Success in the pass game and

the run game will likely depend heavily on how well the new offensive linemen adjust to the varsity level.

"It's just how fast can that front five come together and jell as one," said Snyder. "It takes a lot of communication and talking up there to be on the same page. We run a pretty sophisticated offense. We're aware of that.'

On the front line, senior left tackle Colton Popp and tight end Shane Hulmes will be the leaders helping along four new starters up front.

Hulmes is a three-year starter who does a lot for the offense.

See **TIGERS** on Page 15

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

Shane Leh returns for his third season as the starter. He's started 32 games over the past two seasons. He completed 114 of 193 passes last year for 1,536 yards. He also ran 86 times for 401 yards and could get more carries this fall. Chase Sukanick and Trey Snyder will back up the senior.

### RUNNING BACKS

Three players are in the mix to be the Tigers' primary ball carriers in senior Braxton Lakatosh, junior Brady Zimmerman and sophomore Chase Sukanick.

### **WIDE RECEIVERS**

Senior Mason Bollinger returns after leading the team with 38 receptions for 520 yards and six touchdowns last year. Junior Michael Lagowy had 11 catches for 149 yards and a pair of TDs last season. Senior Kemurry Morgan will also be a primary target.

### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

With four graduates to replace, returning senior Colton Popp will lead the interior from the left tackle position. Sophomore Maddox Hurdle will play right tackle. Sophomore Nolan Koehler and junior Luke Rennels are battling for center, while three players, seniors Braidon Berk and Michael Boring, and sophomore Devin Rex are competing for the two guard spots. Tight end Shane Hulmes, a senior and three-year starter, scored 11 total TDs last season.

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**

Popp, a nose tackle, will lead a three-man front of all new starters. Sophomore Fritz Scheirer will play one defensive end position while senior Ethan Steigerwalt and Michael Boring will be part of a rotation on the other side.

#### LINEBACKERS

All-State linebacker Hulmes returns as a starter in the middle of the team's 3-5 look. The senior led the team in solo tackles (53) last year and was second with 116 total stops. On the outside, Brady Zimmerman (team-high 121 tackles in 2024) and Bollinger return. Bollinger was an all-state pick last year. In the mix for the other two LB positions are Koehler and senior Evan Wagstaff.

### <u>SECONDARY</u>

Lagowy returns and will play corner or safety, depending on the match-up. Morgan was recently leading the battle to play the other cornerback spot. Leh and Sukanick will get reps at safety.

## NORTH WESTERN



Mason Bollinger



Shane Leh



Shane Hulmes



Colton Popp



Kemurry Morgan



Evan Wagstaff

## **TIGERS**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14** 

He can line up as a fullback or run a wildcat offense, which the team used effectively last season, especially around the goal line. Last season Hulmes caught five touchdown passes and ran for six scores.

"We'll move him said Snyder. around." "He'll take some direct snaps like he did last year. We'll line him up at fullback and sort of flex him on the ground, leadership Bollinger, who earned recto different areas.'

Leh started running the field." ball more at the end of last season. Look for that to continue into this year.

"I think we'll probably rely on him earlier in the season to run the football," said Snyder. "Last year we sort of waited for the postseason. He put on about 30 pounds so he's a little bigger, more physical as a runner. He has a big frame to put it on. He carries it well. He'll be able to take man returns at outside hits and play defense.

things from him in the air, total tackles last year.

Graduation also hit the Tigers hard on defense, taking the starting front three in their 3-5 defense.

But Hulmes returns after an all-state season at inside linebacker for his third full season as a starter. He led the team in solo tackles (53) last season and was second in total tackles (116).

Junior Brady Zimmerlinebacker after lead-"We're looking for big ing the team with 121 on the field and off the ognition as an all-state de-

fensive athlete last season, returns at the other outside linebacker position.

In the secondary, graduates Zimmerman (6) and Seth Kern (5) accounted for 11 interceptions last year and will be difficult to replace.

One advantage for the Tigers is that almost all of their first-year starters saw playing time last year, some over the past two seasons.

"Even though we lost a lot of starters, a lot of these guys played in a lot of football games," said Snyder. "There were a lot of lop-

sided wins. Our backups more time to form chemislast year probably played eight games because of how much we were able to get them in games."

Northwestern played 32 games over the past two seasons en route to reaching two state championship games. No other team in the state has played more. That also means the team has more experience and has had

try than any other team in the state.

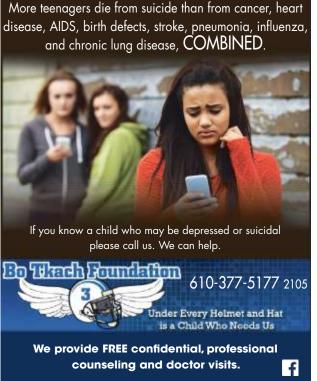
"Combine the two years, we've played an extra season," said Snyder. "All those weeks of practice, our scout team players and freshmen, they're playing and practicing an extra season. That goes a long way. They're ready. They're eager.'

## **N'WESTERN RECORDS**

Year	Record	Head Coach
2024	16-0	Josh Snyder
2023	15-1	Josh Snyder
2022	11-3	Josh Snyder
2021	11-1	Josh Snyder
2020	7-2	Josh Snyder
2019	10-2	Josh Snyder
2018	9-3	Josh Snyder
2017	4-7	Josh Snyder
2016	5-6	Josh Snyder
2015	9-3	Josh Snyder
2014	11-2	Josh Snyder
2013	9-3	Josh Snyder
2012	3-7	Josh Snyder
2011	5-5	Tom Linette
2010	5-5	Tom Linette
2009	8-4	Bob Mitchell
2008	4-6	Bob Mitchell
2007	7-5	Bob Mitchell
2006	9-3	Bob Mitchell
2005	2-8	Bob Mitchell
2004	5-5	Bob Mitchell
2003	9-3	Bob Mitchell
2002	11-3	Bob Mitchell
2001	10-2	Bob Mitchell



Northwestern lines up to run a play during a recent practice.



August 2025 16. Supplement

## **NORTHWESTERN**

### 2025 NORTHWESTERN ROSTER

	SENIOR	15	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Colin Macauley	6-1	163	WR/DB
Shane Hulmes	6-0	213	TE/LB
Kemurry Morgan	5-8	154	WR/DB
Braxton Lakatosh	5-9	176	RB/LB
Mason Bollinger	6-2	188	WR/LB
Shane Leh	6-1	187	WR/DB
Evan Wagstaff	5-8	178	TE/LB
Ethan Steigerwalt	5-10	200	OL/DL
Michael Boring	5-10	210	OL/DL
Colton Popp	6-0	234	OL/DL
Braidon Berk	5-10	199	OL/DL
Craig Snyder	5-9	225	OL/DL

## **JUNIORS**

Player
Brady Zimmerman
Michael Lagowy

	I۱
sition	٧
WR/DB	H
TE/LB	F
WR/DB	L
RB/LB	F
WR/LB	
WR/DB	
TE/LB	F
OL/DI	C

Height	Weight	Position
5-6	149	RB/LB
6-0	162	WR/DB

6-1	167	TE/LB
5-9	156	WR/DB
6-2	212	TE/DL
6-2	209	OL/DL
5-9	187	OL/LB
5-9	183	OL/LB
	6-2 6-2 5-9	5-9 156 6-2 212 6-2 209 5-9 187

60	DHOMO	DEC							
SOPHOMORES Player Height Weight Position									
Player	neignt	weignt	Position						
Chase Sukanick	5-8	155	QB/LB						
Lucian Sterling	5-10	153	WR/DB						
Landon Gauweiler	5-10	152	RB/LB						
Kendall Wikert	5-10	148	WR/DB						
Kollin Stringer	5-7	178	RB/LB						
Nicholas Whitney	5-10	168	TE/LB						
Kaden Kumernitsky	6-1	203	OL/DL						
Devin Rex	5-9	222	OL/DL						

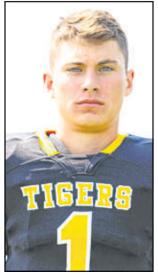
5-8

5-10

	Dean Lutz	5-11	159	OL/DL
}	Logan Grubb	5-5	191	OL/DL
	Fritz Scheirer	6-1	194	OL/DL
	Maddox Hurdle	6-1	285	OL//DL
	Rhonin Jonassaint	5-9	142	WR/DB

EDECHMEN

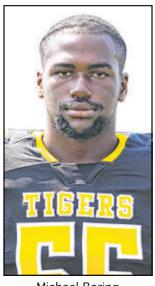
	FKE2HM	EN	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Trey Snyder	5-8	122	QB/DB
Calvin Kulp	5-8	111	WR/DB
Tripp Sell	5-6	124	WR/DB
LJ Gonger	5-6	120	WR/DB
Chase Kerschner	5-9	140	RB/LB
Adam Griffith	5-4	138	RB/LB
Caleb Hulmes	5-5	147	OL//LB
Carter Appleby	5-6	175	OL/LB
Nathan Apina	5-11	218	OL/DL
Jeremy Jobmann	5-7	174	OL/DL
Logan Lutzko	5-10	154	OL/DL
Caleb Jones	5-6	271	OL/DL



Colin Macaulay



Ethan Steigerwalt



Nolan Koehler

Mack Hausman

Michael Boring



175

180

OL/LB

OL/DL

Craig Snyder

### TN AREA DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Team .	Year	Class	<b>Head Coach</b>
Northwestern	2024	3A	Josh Snyder
Northwestern	2023	3A	Josh Snyder
Northwestern	2022	3A	Josh Snyder
Northern Lehigh	2022	1A	Joe Tout
Northern Lehigh	2021	2A	Joe Tout
Tamaqua 💍	2019	3A	Sam Bonner
/larian	2015	1A	Stan Dakosty
Northwestern	2014	2A	Josh Snyder
Northern Lehigh	2010	2A	Joe Tout
<i>l</i> arian -	2007	1A	Stan Dakosty
Northern Lehigh	2003	2A	Jim Tkach
Northwestern	2002	2A	Bob Mitchell
_ehighton	2001	3A	Bill Brong
<i>l</i> larian	2000	2A	Stan Dakosty
Northern Lehigh	1999	2A	Jim Tkach
<i>M</i> arian	1998	2A	Stan Dakosty
Northwestern	1997	2A	Bob Mitchell
Northwestern	1995	2A	Bob Mitchell
Palmerton	1993	2A	Manny Guedes
<i>M</i> arian	1993	1A	Stan Dakosty
<i>M</i> arian	1989	1A	Stan Dakosty
Panther Valley	1988	1A	Tom Bonner
_ehighton	1987	3A	Dave Parsons
Panther Valley	1987	1A	Joe Leonzi
Marian	1985	1A	Stan Dakosty

## MOST OFFENSIVE YARDS IN A GAME (1987-2024)

Team	Орр.	Date	Yards	Northern Lehigh	vs. Palmerton	11/1/02	554	Lehighton	vs. Marian	9/15/17	519	Palmerton	vs. Schuylkill Haven	10/1/21	504
Lehighton	vs. Jim Thorpe	10/27/17	643	Tamaqua	at Lehighton	10/11/19	550	Northwestern	vs. Tamaqua	8/26/22	518	Pleasant Valley	vs. Dieruff	9/6/13	504
Pleasant Valley	vs. ES South	9/30/16	617	Marian	vs. Sch. Haven	10/10/14	547	Northern Lehigh	vs. Pine Grove	9/16/22	517	Palmerton	vs. Palisades	9/8/23	503
Lehighton	vs. Sch. Haven	10/2/20	605	Jim Thorpe	at Nativity	11/5/99	547	Northwestern	vs. Bangor	9/21/07	517	Lehighton	vs. E. Stroudsburg	10/17/97	503
Lehighton	at Pottsville	10/13/17	596	Pleasant Valley	vs. Northampton	9/9/16	546	Lehighton	vs. PM East	9/28/02	517	Lehighton	vs. Jim Thorpe	11/11/17	501
Palmerton	vs. Jim Thorpe	9/16/22	594	Tamaqua	vs. Blue Mountain	9/22/17	545	Jim Thorpe	vs. Panther Vy.	9/21/12	516	Palmerton	vs. Wilson	9/4/15	500
Lehighton	vs. Whitehall	9/15/00	587	Palmerton	vs. North Schuylkill	10/13/23	541	Northern Lehigh	vs. Palmerton	11/13/21	514	Northern Lehigh	vs. WB-GAR	11/26/10	500
Northwestern	vs. Bangor	9/24/21	577	Tamaqua	at Panther Valley	10/29/21	541	Lehighton	vs. Tamaqua	10/6/17	512	Palmerton	at Catasauqua	10/5/18	499
Northwestern	vs. Lehighton	11/9/07	574	Northern Lehigh	at Northwestern	10/12/12	541	Northern Lehigh	vs. Saucon Vy.	9/17/10	512	Jim Thorpe	at So. Lehigh	10/31/24	498
Jim Thorpe	vs. Marian	8/31/18	571	Northern Lehigh	vs. Salisbury	10/23/20	540	Marian	vs. Jenkintown	11/10/07	512	Lehighton	vs. Jim Thorpe	10/25/24	498
Pleasant Valley	vs. ES North	10/14/16	571	Northwestern	at Palmerton	10/9/20	540	Northern Lehigh	at Catasauqua	10/29/04	511	Marian	at Montgomery	11/2/01	498
Northwestern	vs. Lehighton	11/6/20	570	Tamaqua	vs. Marian	11/6/09	538	Northwestern	at Palmerton	9/28/18	510	Tamaqua	vs. Mahanoy Area	9/1/17	497
Palmerton	at Pine Grove	9/30/22	569	Northern Lehigh	vs. Pen Argyl	10/15/21	537	Tamaqua	vs. Panther Vy.	9/16/16	510	Jim Thorpe	vs. C. Brennan	10/22/94	497
Northwestern	at N. Schuylkill	9/27/24	568	Marian	vs. Jim Thorpe	10/28/11	537	Jim Thorpe	vs. Tamaqua	9/3/04	510	Jim Thorpe	at Pine Grove	9/24/22	496
Tamaqua	at Annville-Cleona	9/28/12	566	Lehighton	vs. No. Dame	11/8/91	533	Northern Lehigh	at Pine Grove	9/16/23	509	Jim Thorpe	at Panther Vy.	9/6/19	495
Lehighton	at Schuylkill Vy.	9/9/16	562	Lehighton	vs. Palisades	11/18/17	531	Northwestern	vs. Saucon Valley	10/23/20	509	Northern Lehigh	vs. Salisbury	10/2/09	495
Pleasant Valley	vs. Lehighton	9/21/12	560	Northwestern	at Wilson	9/14/19	530	Jim Thorpe	at Panther Vy.	9/20/13	509	Palmerton	vs. Bangor	9/7/01	495
Palmerton	at Bangor	9/18/15	558	Jim Thorpe	vs. Palmerton	8/23/24	524	Palmerton	vs. So. Lehigh	9/16/94	508	Lehighton	at Panther Valley	9/11/20	493
Pleasant Valley	vs. Stroudsburg	10/31/03	558	Jim Thorpe	at Northwest	10/8/99	520	Palmerton	vs. Palisades	10/4/24	506	Lehighton	at Shenandoah	10/23/15	492

August 2025 SUPPLEMENT 17

## **PALMERTON**



# Bombers to have young QB, seasoned line

**BY TJ ENGLE** 

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It's been a while since Palmerton has had a quarterback competition.

After having Matt Machalik run the show for a number of years and Jameson Trainer taking over the reins behind center last season, Blue Bomber head coach Chris Walkowiak will look to one of two sophomores to take snaps on Friday nights.

The veteran mentor is monitoring the progress of both TK Gursky and TJ Weller, who are battling for the starting job.

"Both have been growing daily since we started our summer workouts," said Walkowiak, who enters his 15th season leading the Palmerton progress. "They're both hard workers and battle each

day to get better, and more importantly make the team better.

"They each possess certain intangibles that will serve them well during the season."

ilar size and both have already seen action on the turf at the varsity level.

Their head coach is stressing priorities to his young signal-callers and not asking them to do too much.

"Right now, we are looking for consistency in their play and asking them to manage the game by making good decisions with the ball, not forcing things and increasing their anticipation with their throws to help get rid of the ball faster," said Walkowiak, whose team finished 3-7 a year

us around them of experience on said. "I like how they operate in offense, which will serve both of them well."

Gursky and Weller have sim-their development so far and looks while Sagastume took 33 handoffs forward to working with them as the season moves along.

He is also excited to watch them "grow physically and mentally."

Helping them to do just that are the players that will be surrounding them. In the backfield, senior Caleb Sagastume and junior Cale Young, along with sophomore Michael Garey, will look to lighten the load for the Bomber QBs by churning out yards on the ground.

'Each brings a different style of running the ball, and we need to stay healthy with all of them since they all know our offense

"We have a very good nucle- and can make plays," Walkowiak our offense."

Young collected 294 yards rush-Walkowiak is pleased with ing on just 46 carries last year, and gained 163 yards. The Bombers' leading ground gainer was Trainer, who topped 1,000 yards.

> Trainer had very capable receivers in 2024, and they return this season. Vincent Taglieri (30 catches, 387 vards, five TDs) and Alex Keiper (13.18 yards per catch) lead the way, while Young also snared 18 receptions.

> Others, whether lined in the slot or outside, who expect to contribute include juniors Connor Lawless and Jacob Walkowiak, and sophomores Ben Negley and Gaven Meixsell.

> > See **BOMBERS** on Page 18

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

Two sophomores - TK Gursky and TJ Weller - are battling to take snaps behind center for the Bombers. Gursky may have the upper hand, serving as the back-up last season behind Jameson Trainer.

### **RUNNING BACKS**

Trainer (1,166 yards) accounted for more than half of the Bombers' 1,957 yards on the ground last season, but the Bombers do return a trio of experienced running backs. The Bombers will rely on senior Caleb Sagastume (33 carries for 163), junior Cale Young (46-294) and sophomore Mikey Garey (16-63).

### **WIDE RECEIVERS**

Look for senior Vincent Taglieri to add to his team-leading 387 receiving yards and five TD receptions from a year ago. Looking to complement Taglieri at slot will be juniors Connor Lawless, Jake Walkowiak, and Young while fellow senior Alex Keiper and sophomores Ben Negley and Gaven Meixsell round out the receiver position.

### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

The Bombers return their entire front line. Leading the way are seniors Logan Anthony and Beau Stahler, and returning to lend a helping hand are juniors Mason Heilman, Mason Konze, Cooper Henry and Colson Ruzicka. Sophomores Wyatt Gable and Parker Davis have experience upfront, while in-coming freshman Colby Kohler will also see time.

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**

Anthony, Stahler and Company won't have much rest in the trenches, as they will also line up on defense. With nine linemen, though, the Bombers will have plenty of players to rotate in and out between plays.

### <u>LINEBACKERS</u>

The Bombers lost both Trainer and Ortiz to graduation. Senior James Mack returns with the most experience. Fellow seniors Anderson Garcia and Caleb Sagastume figure to start, while others to see time include juniors Dillon Anthony, Chris Collier and Connor Lawless, as well as sophomores Mikey Garey and Ben Negley.

### **SECONDARY**

Coach Walkowiak welcomes back senior Alex Keiper to the secondary, while Cale Young, Gaven Meixsell and Jake Walkowiak will lend a hand to a squad that had 13 interceptions in 2024.

## **PALMERTON**

### **PALMERTON RECORDS**

Year	Record	Head Coach
2024	3-7	Chris Walkowiak
2023	12-1	Chris Walkowiak
2022	7-5	Chris Walkowiak
2021	9-3	Chris Walkowiak
2020	3-5	Chris Walkowiak
2019	3-7	Chris Walkowiak
2018	3-7	Chris Walkowiak
2017	8-4	Chris Walkowiak
2016	6-6	Chris Walkowiak
2015	5-5	Chris Walkowiak
2014	7-4	Chris Walkowiak
2013	2-8	Chris Walkowiak
2012	0-10	Chris Walkowiak
2011	4-6	Chris Walkowiak
2010	3-7	Paul McArdle
2009	1-9	Paul McArdle
2008	9-3	Paul McArdle
2007	9-3	Paul McArdle
2006	6-5	Paul McArdle
2005	4-6	Paul McArdle
2004	2-9	Paul McArdle
2003	0-10	Rick Bennett
2002	1-9	Donn Nicholas
2001	1-9	Donn Nicholas
2000	3-7	Caz Kosciolek
1999	3-8	Caz Kosciolek
1998	7-4	Manny Guedes
1997	7-3	Manny Guedes
1996	3-8	Manny Guedes
1995	5-7	Manny Guedes
1994	9-2	Manny Guedes
1993	10-2	Manny Guedes



A Palmerton defender covers a receiver during a play at practice.

## **BOMBERS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

"Our seniors have very good knowledge of our system and bring speed and play making ability to the field," Walkowiak said. "Our junior class is solid with their efforts and play-making abilities. They also have excellent attitudes that help make the whole unit cohe-

offense continue to get better in the pass game. I am excited about this group as a whole, they're play makers, and they're all selfless. They're a very fun group to work with."

starters, Logan Anthony — a

— and Beau Stahler return. more depth up front.' Juniors Mason Heilman, Mason Konze, Colson Ruzicka and Cooper Henry, as well as sophomore Wyatt Gable, give Coach Walkowiak a formidable front.

"In order to be successful, from last year. we need this entire unit to play well, and I believe we have many other key contributors in the trenches," Walkowiak said. "Anthony and Stahler have the expe-"They no doubt help our rience and knowledge of our system to make all the calls and mentor our other lineman. But, we need to be physical at all times with this unit and consistent with our mental approach.

"I like how we are gelling Any success by the of- together, and I expect this fense, though, starts up front unit to be our core nucleus with the offensive line. And to lead the way this year. We the Bombers are blessed are also in the process of dewith quality in the trenches. veloping (sophomore) Park-tions as we have done in the Seniors, and four-year er Davis and (freshman) past.'

Division I recruit (Rutgers) Colby Kohler to add even

With some experience under their belt now — 68 percent of the program were sophomores and freshmen Walkowiak expects his team to be much improved

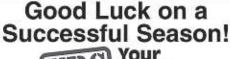
"Last season is gone, and now it is time to show maturity and make plays," Walkowiak said. "We have enough experience back; however, we need to have consistency in all phases of the game. We must act like a veteran team, although we still have quite a few underclassmen in our lineup.

"Responding to adverse situations is a must, while playing fundamental football and executing our assignments are a priority. We no doubt can't beat ourselves or put ourselves in bad situa-





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## **PALMERTON**

### **2025 PALMERTON ROSTER**

	<b>SENIOR</b>	13	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Alexander Keiper	5-8	150	WR/DB
Vincent Taglieri	5-7	145	Slot/DB
Floyd Michael	5-10	157	WR/DB
Caleb Sagastume	5-7	185	RB/OLB
Anderson Garcia	5-8	212	RB/ILB
James Mack	5-9	154	OL/ILB
Beau Stahler	6-0	243	OL/DL
Logan Anthony	6-3	320	OL/DL

	JUNIOF	RS	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Chris Collier	5-6	135	WR/QB/LB
Nathan Goldstein	6-0	170	WR/DE
Cale Young	5-9	155	Slot/DB
Jacob Walkowiak	5-8	145	Slot/DB
Hunter Sell	5-8	132	K
Connor Lawless	5-5	147	Slot/OLB
Dawson Takerer	5-10	160	WR/OLB
Dillion Anthony	5-8	155	Slot/ILB
Mason Konze	6-1	255	OL/DL
Mason Heilman	5-8	276	OL/DL
Colson Ruzicka	5-11	260	OL/DL
Cooper Henry	6-1	205	OL/DL
Devlin Moyzan	6-1	166	K

	SOPHOMO	DRES	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
TJ Weller	5-8	144	QB/DB
Lucas Mertz	5-0	120	WR/DB
Ben Negley	5-11	165	WR/OLB
Connor Buck	5-9	150	WR/DB
T.K. Gursky	5-7	135	QB/ILB
Gaven Meixsell	5-9	150	WR/DB
Michael Garey	5-9	173	RB/ILB
Ryan Sammy	5-6	150	RB/OLB
Bladimil Baez	5-5	132	Slot/DB
Wyatt Gable	6-1	240	OL/DL
Parker Davis	6-2	190	OL/DE

	FRESHM	<b>EN</b>	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
John Bishop	5-9	145	WR/OLB
Colton Labukas	5-8	130	WR/DB
Carlos Rivera	5-8	180	RB/ILB
E.J. Jimenez	5-9	134	WR/DB
Steele Zalik	5-9	125	WR/DB
William Kresge	6-0	201	OL/DL
Colby Kohler	6-1	185	OL/DL
Lucas Szumigraj	5-7	217	OL/ILB
Mason Moyer	5-10	215	OL/DL
Preston Stepp	5-10	206	OL/DL



Alexander Keiper



Anderson Garcia



Beau Stahler



Caleb Sagastume



Floyd Michael



James Mack



Logan Anthony



Vincent Taglieri

## PALMERTON MOST YARDS PASSING, SEASON

Player	Comp-Att	Yards	Player	Comp-Att	Yards	Player	Comp-Att	Yards
Matt Machalik (2022)	156-270	2,554	Matt Machalik (2021)	92-170	1,301	Brian Morgan (1988)	90-234	1,094
Garrett Perschy (2016)	153-259	2,152	Garrett Perschy (2014)	94-167	1,299	Garrett Perschy (2015)	78-180	1,080
Brian Morgan (1989)	149-308	2,030	Chris Lucykanish (1993)	81-175	1,220	Joe Weber (2009)	86-204	1,070
Tekoah Guedes (2017)	157-305	1,707	Zach Heller (2006)	65-140	1,172			
Matt Machalik (2023)	104-209	1,529	Matt Falcone (2008)	66-137	1,147	(From 1988-2024 acco	ording to TN st	tatistics)

Good Luck

Blue Bombers

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20. Supplement August 2025

## PANTHER VALLEY



# Panthers boast both chemistry, experience

BY JEFF MOELLER

TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

This summer, Brody Breiner has beamed about the team chemistry and overall experience at Panther Valley.

With several returning upperclassmen, the senior quarterback is confident the Panthers can be a force in the Schuylkill League. Breiner hasn't tempered his high expectations despite his team winning two games (2-8) last season, and a total of seven over his previous three campaigns.

"The summer has been going amazing," said Breiner, who battled through injuries and completed 25 of 69 passes for 224 yards and also ran for 259 yards. "Every day we are pushing each other to get one percent better, and it's paying

off so far.

"Our chemistry is amazing, we all work very well together and have been playing sports with each other for a while."

Breiner is confident the Panthers can reverse the course from previous seasons and find their way to the postseason.

"We have the tools and strength to win, we just have to put it all together on the field and treat every play like it's our last one," he added. "Some goals in mind include making the district playoffs, having an overall winning record and getting better each week and fixing any mistakes we have."

Head coach Mark Lavine has echoed his senior's thoughts and anticipations, as he was pleased with the team's development

during the summer.

"I am very happy with where we are after our summer workouts and the first week of heat acclimatization," said Lavine. "We like where we are as far as conditioning and having our stuff in on both offense and defense.

"We have really good chemistry, led by a really good senior class who has played a lot of football and are great at helping our younger players and getting them up to speed. We have a lot of players who saw significant action last year."

Besides Breiner, senior Marcus Rodriguez is back at fullback and fellow seniors Ben Baneravage and Gavin Yuricheck return at wide receiver. Rodriguez rushed for 198 yards and scored a

pair of touchdowns last season.

Freshmen Chase McArdle and Troy Nunez are expected to be regular contributors at wide receiver and tailback, respectively. Senior Gino Williams will take over at tight end.

Yuricheck also has seen a tighter bond among his teammates.

"We have developed great chemistry," said Yuricheck. "The younger players are adjusting very well and quickly learning the plays, and some are even making statements for starting positions. I believe our team has the strength and talent to compete with anyone as long as we play confident and use that talent and strength.

"Some goals for this season for us as a team would be to make

See **PANTHERS** on Page 21

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

Senior Brody Breiner is a returning thee-year starter, and can be a dual threat as an effective runner. Breiner was injured for the final six games last season. Freshman Corrigan Crampsie will be the backup.

### <u>RUNNING BACKS</u>

Senior fullback Marcus Rodriguez will be back for his third year in the backfield. Sophomore Troy Nunez, and freshmen Nolan Rolan and Carson Jones both had a productive summer, and they are expected to see plenty of playing time.

### <u> WIDE RECEIVERS</u>

Senior tight end Gino Williams had a good camp, and he is expected to be a prime target. Seniors 6-1 Ben Baneravage and 6-4 Gavin Yuricheck will be counted on to use their height and will be primary targets. Sophomore 6-2 Chase McArdle will also be in the mix. The group should help the Panthers elevate their passing game and provide more overall balance.

### <u>OFFENSIVE LINE</u>

Senior tackle Marco Tessitore has been a factor for the past three years. Junior Spencer Black will open at right tackle. Juniors Jerry Harrison and Carlos Maldanado spent plenty of time in the weight room and will be the starters at guard. Sophomore Brody Vermillion is highly regarded for his checks on the line. Freshman Nathan Rolon also figures to see

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**

Tessitiore is known for his overall strength and could be one of the area's better tackles. Harrison and senior Ja'saad Smith will also be in the rotation, while Williams, Rodriguez, and Maldanado will share time at end. Junior Jayden Ramos will provide depth.

### <u>LINEBACKERS</u>

Vermillion and senior Peter Kruslicky both started last year and should benefit from their experience. They both had an excellent camp. Jones won the job for the other spot

#### <u>SECONDARY</u>

This will be one of the Panthers' stronger units. The Panthers will bring back Breiner as a four-year starter, and Baneravage led the team in tackles last season. They both will be at safety. Yuricheck and McArdle will be the starters at corner.

## PANTHER VALLEY

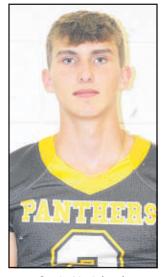
### 2025 PANTHER VALLEY ROSTER

	SENIOF	RS	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Gavin Yuricheck	6-4	205	WR/DB
Brody Breiner	5-10	170	QB/DB
Ben Baneravage	6-1	155	WR/DB
Peter Kruslicky	5-10	190	FB/LB
Marcus Rodriguez	5-10	220	RB/DB
Zack Zabroski	5-10	155	OL/LB
Marco Tessitore	6-2	315	OL/DL
Bobby Campomizzi	5-9	160	OL/LB
Ja'Saad Smith	6-0	325	OL/DL
Gino Williams	6-1	220	TE/DL

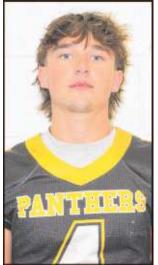
	JUNIOF	<b>?</b> S	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Gabe Rodriguez Jr.	5-9	150	RB/DB
Aaron Wagner	5-9	140	RB/LB
Landon Hunsinger	5-7	150	RB/LB
Gabriel Rodriguez	5-9	170	RB/LB
Jayden Ramos	5-8	275	OL/DL
Jerry Harrison	6-1	270	OL/DL
Spencer Black	6-4	250	OL/DL
Carlos Maldanado	6-1	250	OL/DL

Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Lyric Ingrassia	5-6	165	FB/LB
Chase McArdle	6-2	175	WR/DB
Tyler Boyd	6-2	145	WR/DB
Troy Nunez	5-6	165	RB/LB
Cy Maynard	6-2	170	QB/DB
Jason Ahn	6-0	175	TE/DE
<b>Brody Vermillion</b>	6-1	210	OL/LB
Teegan Brideson	6-2	250	OL/DL
Anthony Iudicello	5-9	240	OL/DL
James Kelly	6-2	295	OL/DL

	FRESHM	IEN	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Corrigan Crampsie	5-7	125	QB/DB
Giovanni Wilson	5-8	140	RB/DB
Carson Jones	5-9	205	RB/LB
Max Gasker	5-6	125	WR/DB
Nathan Rolon	5-7	155	RB/LB
Landon White	5-9	130	RB/LB
Markell Wilson	5-5	140	RB/DB
Ari Cambria	5-9	200	OL/DL
Ty Williams	5-8	170	OL/DL
Wyatt Helmer	5-6	185	OL/DL
Dennis Williams	5-10	210	OL/DL
Javie Martinez	5-9	210	OL/DL
Steven Weaver	6-0	160	TE/LB



Gavin Yuricheck



**Brody Breiner** 



Ben Baneravage



Peter Kruslicky

## **PANTHERS**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20** 

playoffs and beat some rival teams like Marian, and have fun because that's what it's all about in the end.'

Up front, senior Marco Tessitore and juniors Jerry Harrison and Spencer Black will help anchor the line. Freshman Brody Vermillion will get the nod at center.

Senior Ja'Saad Smith (6-0, 325) will be counted on to utilize his size, and junior Jayden Ramos should see plenty of playing time.

Lavine believes his team has developed, and he sees a victory in the season opener against Salisbury as a jump start for the sea-

Panther Valley lost to Salisbury, 28-6, in last



year's opener.

thers dropped two more games and had a threegame losing streak later in the season. They haven't of itself. had a winning season since 2009 when they went 9-3.

"We believe that we have the talent and overall strength within the program to compete with anyone and win football games," emphasized

Lavine. "We need to stay From there, the Pan- healthy and continue to get better throughout camp and our first game and everything else will take care win this year would be

> early spark, but we need to it to Salisbury week one create a spark and not wait to prove ourselves as confor something to happen as tenders in this league." we have done in the past."

His players agree.

"It would mean a lot to get an early win to start the

season off and start to roll the momentum for the season," said Breiner.

"Picking up an early huge for us," added Yuri-"We definitely need an check. "We need to bring

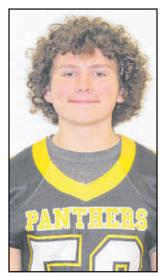




## PANTHER VALLEY



Marcus Rodriguez



Zack Zabroski



Bobby Campomizzi



One of Panther Valley's coaches gives instructions during a recent practice.

### **2024 TIMES NEWS FOOTBALL STATS**

L Pct.

0 1.000

.545

.417

.300

.000

4 .636

4 .636

8 .273

8 .200

**TEAM STATISTICS** Offense Rush Pass

1638

1279

1324

2208

1317

875

498

588

444

0 11

4565

2277

1972

1044

2089

1957

1735

1600

1333

Avg.

387.7

323.3

299.6

295.6

283.8

283.2

203.0

198.9

177.7

Yds

6203

3556

3296

3252

3406

2832

2233

2188

1777

RECORDS

	Northwestern Northern Lehig Tamaqua Marian Lehighton Palmerton Jim Thorpe Panther Valley Pleasant Valley	
	ті	EΑ
		F
	Northwestern	4
A	Tamaqua	2
100	No. Lehigh Jim Thorpe	
ALC: U	Lehighton	2
NZ	Palmerton	
	Pleasant Vy.	
06	Marian	•
(0)	Panther Vy.	
4	INDI	/15

Team

INDIVIDUAL	-	TICS	
Rush	3	Yds.	Av
Eli Zimmerman, NW	248	2665	10.7

Pts. For 669 305 308 191 275 192 206 66 114	Pts. Ag. 126 284 208 209 352 382 446 359 420	Rory Dixon, Mar. Jameson Trainer, Palm. Bradley Whalen, Tam. Grady Newhard, NL Lukas Croizier, Leh. Luke Kane, Tam. Chris Ward, PlVy. Jacob Ferguson, Leh. Jayse Lawrence, Leh. Chris Frame, NL Shane Leh, NW Brennan Kunkel, PaVy. Cole Lazorick, JT	237 173 134 149 146 102 105 71 102 79 88 94 123	1229 1166 861 821 703 697 696 619 553 523 448 398 368	5.19 6.74 6.43 5.51 4.82 6.83 6.63 8.72 5.42 6.62 5.09 4.23 2.99
		Cole Lazorick, JT	123	368	2.99

Pas	ssing				
	Comp	Att.	Yds.		
Cole Lazorick, JT	167	266	2058		
Shane Leh, NW	114	186	1585		
Luke Kane, Tam.	96	174	1262		
Garrett Smoyer, NL	71	128	1253		
Jayse Lawrence, Leh.	109	190	1247		
Jameson Trainer, Pali	m. 83	164	875		
Dylan Rodino, Mar.	37	93	507		
Jaxson Haines, PIVy.	38	77	418		
Brody Breiner, PaVy.	25	69	224		
Ben Baneravage, Pal	/y. 18	33	173		
Receiving					

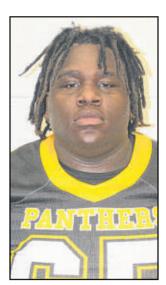
Recei	ving		
	No.	Yds.	Avg
Victor Schlosser, Tam.	65	769	11.8

1	Justin Yescavage, JT	55	756	13.75
	Chris Frame, NL	22	632	28.73
	Joshua Louk, JT	49	629	12.84
	Mason Bollinger, NW	38	520	13.68
	Joe Roth, Leh.	32	421	13.16
	Landon Matson, NW	20	410	20.50
	Aaron Curran, JT	42	404	9.62
	Vincent Taglieri, Palm.	30	387	12.90
	Caden Meek, Leh.	29	356	12.28
	Michael Gelatko, Mar.	27	295	10.93
	Eli Zimmerman, NW	28	277	9.89
	Blake Roberts, Leh.	27	264	9.78
	William Breuer, PIVy.	13	251	19.31
	Dyon Zambo III	16	222	12 00

	Ryan Zambo, NL	16	6	222	2 1	3.88	
s.	Scoring						
58	_	TD	xp2	2xp	FG	Pts	
85	Eli Zimmerman, NW	38	0	2	0	232	
62	Seth Kern, NW	8	49	0	3	106	
53	Chris Frame, NL	16	0	1	0	98	
47	Rory Dixon, Mar.	14	0	0	0	84	
75	Luke Kane, Tam.	14	0	0	0	84	
07	Mason Bollinger, NW	13	0	1	0	80	
18	Joshua Louk, JT	13	0	0	0	78	
24	Jameson Trainer, Palm.	13	0	0	0	78	
73	Victor Schlosser, Tam.	12	0	0	0	72	
	Grady Newhard, NL	9	0	4	0	62	
	Shane Hulmes, NW	10	0	0	0	60	
g.	Chris Ward, PIVy.	8	0	1	0	50	
83	Cole Lazorick, JT	8	0	0	0	48	



Marco Tessitore



Ja'Saad Smith



Gino Williams

August 2025 SUPPLEMENT 23

## PLEASANT VALLEY



# Lessons learned put PV on path forward

#### BY PATRICK MATSINKO

PMATSINKO@TNONLINE.COM

The 2024 season tested Pleasant Valley in ways few could have imagined.

A year removed from winning the Eastern Conference 5A/6A championship, the Bears graduated 20 seniors and were left with holes at nearly every position. What followed was a winless campaign — but also one filled with lessons that head coach Blaec Saeger believes will pay dividends this fall.

"Last year, a lot of our guys were thrown into roles they weren't ready for, and they had to learn on the fly," Saeger said. "But they competed, they got bet-

ter, and those experiences are only going to help us now. It was tough, but the kids grew through

This fall. Pleasant Valley will lean on a large senior class — 24 in total — to reestablish the identity of the program. Saeger sees the experience of last year as a foundation for growth.

Instead of scrambling to plug holes, the Bears enter 2025 with veteran leadership and confidence that was forged through adversity.

This is the most seniors we've had in a while, and they understand what it means to be part of Pleasant Valley football." Saeger said.

"They've been through hard times. They've seen what it takes. Now they want to be the group that turns it around."

That leadership begins under center with senior quarterback Jaxson Haines, who started every game last season.

Haines threw for 418 vards and two touchdowns, but more importantly gained the type of experience that can't be replicated in practice.

easier," Saeger said. "I expect huge things out of him. He's really taken ownership of the offense, and he's grown as a lead-

The Bears also have depth in the backfield. Seniors Isaac Westerman and Jacob George will share time at fullback, with George rushing for 238 yards and three scores last year.

At wingback, junior Chris Ward returns after leading the team in rushing with 696 vards and five total touchdowns, while Marcelus Solt is back after missing much of 2024 with an injury.

The addition of Niko Payan, 'Having a second-year kid returning to the program after in the system always makes life a year away, adds another playmaker, while sophomore Sean Cobb brings speed and athleticism.

Pleasant Valley's passing See PV on Page 25

### **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

Senior Jaxson Haines returns after starting a year ago. Haines threw for 418 yards and two TDs as a junior, gaining valuable experience. Coach Blaec Saeger said Haines has taken major strides in leadership and maturity.

### **RUNNING BACKS**

PV has depth at fullback, with senior Isaac Westerman and junior Jacob George splitting time. George rushed for 238 yards and three scores last year as a sophomore. At wingback, Marcelus Solt returns after missing much of 2024 with an injury. He's joined by Chris Ward, who led PV with 696 rushing yards and five total TDs. Niko Payan, who returns to the program, brings two-way ability, while sophomore Sean Cobb adds athleticism and playmaking potential.

### **WIDE RECEIVERS/TE**

Junior William Breuer caught 13 passes for 251 yards a season ago and is poised for a breakout year. Senior Ajani Wheeler, also a returning starter, provides steady hands and strong blocking on the edge. Depth will come from senior Andrew Schmids and other upperclassmen pushing for snaps.

### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

Three seniors lead the unit: McGregor Edward (guard), Brad Serfass (guard/tackle) and Ricky Merklin (center). Senior John De-Paul has emerged as a first-time varsity addition, while junior Colin O'Neil anchors the left tackle spot. Others competing for time include Nick Colella and Logan Czura.

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**

Pleasant Valley will rely on rotation and depth up front. Merklin anchors the nose guard spot, while Wheeler and Edward line up at end. Serfass, O'Neil, and Czura will also see time in the rotation.

### **LINEBACKERS**

Westerman and George will play inside, giving the Bears two physical presences in the middle. On the outside, Chris Ward returns after earning all-league recognition. Junior Tyler F. Brown is also in the mix for the other outside spot.

### **SECONDARY**

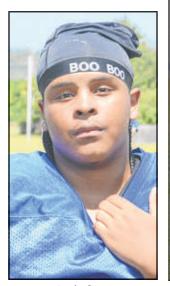
Breuer returns at corner, while Cobb will start opposite him. Marcelus Solt, a returning starter, will play safety alongside Niko Payan. Haines will also see snaps as a DB when possible, and sophomore Gavin Dorshimer provides depth at safety. Tyler C. Brown is also in the mix in the secondary.

## PLEASANT VALLEY



Adam Ahmed

Kevin Caron



Josh Cruz

### 2025 PLEASANT VALLEY ROSTER

	SENIOR	RS	
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Adam Ahmed	5-9	175	FB/LB
Kevin Caron	5-9	185	FB/LB
Josh Cruz	5-8	210	OL/DL
Logan Czura	6-1	235	OL/DL
John DePaul	5-10	195	OL/DL
McGregor Edward	5-1	195	OL/DL
Uriah Gearhart	6-2	185	WR/DB
Jaxson Haines	5-9	165	QB/DB
Jaiden Jaquez	5-9	165	WR/DB
Stephen Matera	5-8	155	WR/DB
Christian Mercedes	5-10	185	FB/LB
Ricky Merklin	5-11	195	OL/DL
Zahmier Morant	5-11	210	OL/DL
Niko Payan	5-10	185	RB/DB
Brody Santo	5-9	165	RB/DB
Andrew Schmids	6-1	185	WR/LB
Bradley Serfass	5-9	225	OL/DL
London Smith	5-9	175	WR/LB
Marcelus Solt	5-9	175	RB/DB
Storm Sykes	6-1	215	OL/DL
Malachi Watt	6-0	225	OL/DL
Matthew Watt	6-0	225	OL/DL
Isaac Westerman	5-9	205	FB/LB
Ajani Wheeler	6-2	205	WR/DL

Player	Height	Weight	Position
Noah Brandes	5-10	225	OL/DL
CJ Cornell	5-8	175	WR/DB
Justin Adamski	5-9	165	WR/DB
Anthony Antonucci	5-8	185	WR/LB
William Breuer	6-4	185	WR/DB

5-8	165	RB/DB
5-9	185	FB/LB
6-0	210	OL/DL
5-8	190	OL/LB
5-9	185	FB/LB
5-10	195	FB/LB
6-3	275	OL/DL
5-9	185	FB/LB
5-8	235	OL/DL
5-9	185	RB/LB
5-9	185	RB/LB
5-8	195	QB/LB
	5-9 6-0 5-8 5-9 5-10 6-3 5-9 5-8 5-9	5-9 185 6-0 210 5-8 190 5-9 185 5-10 195 6-3 275 5-9 185 5-8 235 5-9 185 5-9 185

SOPHOMORES							
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>				
Sean Cobb	5-8	165	RB/DB				
Gavin Dorshimer	5-9	165	RB/DB				
Ethan Duran	5-9	165	K				
Justin Estela	5-8	155	WR/DB				
Ethan Frost	6-0	165	WR/DB				
Chris Godshall	5-9	165	FB/LB				
Garrett Hoffman	5-9	225	OL/DL				
Conor Rakoski	5-9	165	WR/DB				
Christian Roseo-Collins	5-8	165	RB/DB				
Tyler Rudelitch	5-8	215	OL/DL				
Anthony Salvi	6-0	255	OL/DL				
Connor Serfass	5-8	165	FB/LB				
Caiden Slack	5-9	165	WR/DB				
Cole Vanderah	5-10	185	FB/LB				
Maximus Vasquez	6-0	185	QB/DB				

FKE5MMEN							
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>				
Colby Campbell	5-10	215	OL/DL				



Pleasant Valley head coach Blaec Saeger talks to his players during a practice session this season.



Jaxson Haines



Logan Czura



Jaiden Jaquez

## PLEASANT VALLEY

## PV

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23** 

game will benefit from a tall, athletic receiving corps. Senior William Breuer, who caught 13 passes for 251 yards (19.31 yds/catch) last year, is poised for a breakout sea-

He's joined by classmate Ajani Wheeler, a returning starter who provides reliable hands and blocking.

Additional depth comes from seniors Andrew Schmids and other upperclassmen pushing for rotation snaps.

The offensive line is anchored by seniors McGregor Edward, Brad Serfass, and Ricky Merklin, with junior Colin O'Neil — a 6-foot-4, 275-pound tackle — emerging as a force on the edge.

Senior John DePaul has stepped into a bigger role, while several others provide depth.

"Colin has all kinds of potential," Saeger said. "He's tough, athletic, and can do great things for us. The rest of the group has worked hard, and we're counting on them to set the tone.

Defensively, the Bears

front. Merklin anchors prove themselves." the middle at nose guard, while Wheeler and Edward play at end. Serfass, O'Neil, and junior Logan Czura will also rotate in to keep the unit fresh.

At linebacker, Pleasant Valley is experienced and physical. Westerman and George will man the middle, while junior Ward returns on the outside after earning all-league recognition last season.

other spot on the outside.

"We're very excited to have Westerman back healthy, and George has grown a lot since last year," Saeger said.

leaders, and he sets the tone defensively."

has drait t quit, saeger said. "They showed up every day, they worked, and tone defensively."

The secondary is a blend of experience and athleticism. Breuer re- fident in them this year. turns at corner, with Cobb on the opposite side.

Solt will line up at safety alongside Payan, while what Pleasant Valley foot-Haines can also step in ball is all about." when needed.

Sophomore Gavin Dorshimer adds depth at safe-

"This is an athletgroup with more ic speed than we've had in a while," Saeger said. "They've looked sharp

Special teams should also be a strength.

Junior Ward returns as punter after earning allleague honors last season, while Westerman handles kicking duties.

Saeger also noted the addition of a young soccer player who could develop into a future specialist.

More than anything, Saeger believes his team has regained its identi-Junior Tyler F. Brown ty. The struggles of 2024 is also in the mix for the forced players to grow, and now, with depth, experience, and leadership. the Bears are determined to write a different story.

"Last year was tough, ar," Saeger said.

no question, but these
"Ward is one of our kids didn't quit," Saeger they learned.

> "That's why I'm so con-They're not the same group they were last fall. They're ready to show



Stephen Matera



Matthew Watt



McGregor Edward

### PLEASANT VALLEY RECORDS

Year	Record	<b>Head Coach</b>	Year	Record	Head Coach	Year	Record	Head Coach
2024	0-11	Blaec Saeger	2014	6-5	Dave Pacchioni	2004	6-4	Mike Falcone
2023	6-5	Blaec Saeger	2013	7-4	Jim Terwilliger	2003	5-5	Neil Dangello
2022	7-4	Blaec Saeger	2012	8-4	Jim Terwilliger	2002	5-6	Neil Dangello
2021	5-5	Blaec Saeger	2011	5-5	Jim Terwilliger	2001	2-8	Neil Dangello
2020	2-3	Blaec Saeger	2010	8-3	Jim Terwilliger	2000	8-4	Tony Caracio
2019	0-10	Blaec Saeger	2009	5-5	Jim Terwilliger	1999	8-4	Tony Caracio
2018	1-9	Matt Kosciolek	2008	1-9	Mike Falcone	1998	3-7	Tony Caracio
2017	2-8	Mark Versuk	2007	3-7	Mike Falcone	1997	3-7	Tony Caracio
2016	8-3	Mark Versuk	2006	1-9	Mike Falcone	1996	2-8	Tony Caracio
2015	6-5	Dave Pacchioni	2005	3-7	Mike Falcone	1995	2-8	Tony Caracio







26. SUPPLEMENT August 2025

## PLEASANT VALLEY







Zahmier Morant



Niko Payan



**Brody Santo** 



**Andrew Schmids** 



**Bradley Serfass** 



London Smith



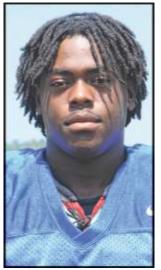
Marcelus Solt



Malachi Watt



Isaac Westerman



Ajani Wheeler



Christian Mercedes

### MOST PASSING YARDS IN A GAME - TN AREA

Name, Team Aidan McHugh, Pleasant Valley Richard Frohneiser, Lehighton Cole Lazorick, Jim Thorpe Chris Whiteman, Lehighton Aidan McHugh, Pleasant Valley Derrik Walling, Pleasant Valley Matt Machalik, Palmerton Bravden Knoblauch, Tamagua Matt Machalik, Palmerton Matt Long, Jim Thorpe Brett Balliet, Jim Thorpe Cazzie Kosciolek, Panther Valley Brandon Kuehner, Pleasant Valley Cazzie Kosciolek, Panther Valley Cody Scherer, Lehighton Matt Long, Jim Thorpe Cazzie Kosciolek, Panther Valley Brandon Keyes, Pleasant Valley Matt Long, Jim Thorpe Matt Machalik, Palmerton Stan Dakostv. Marian Matt Machalik, Palmerton Corey Cinicola. Jim Thorpe Craig Goida, Panther Valley

Geoff Kruczek, Tamaqua

Date Oct. 27, 2017 398 Oct. 2, 2020 Oct. 31, 2024 389 Aug. 31, 2018 Oct. 13, 2017 Oct. 22, 2010 Sept. 30, 2022 347 Aug. 23, 2019 345 Oct. 14, 2022 Oct. 29, 1999 Oct. 14, 2022 Aug. 30, 1991 Sept. 6, 2014 Nov. 6, 1992 Aug. 26, 2016 315 311 Sept. 23, 2000 Nov. 14, 1992 Oct. 7, 2016 Sept. 8, 2000 Sept. 16, 2022 Nov. 13, 1999 305 304 302 Sept. 9, 2022 Oct. 3, 2008 Sept. 8, 1989 Oct. 12, 1991

Name, Team Richard Fronheiser, Lehighton Sept. 11, 2020 Brandon Leap, Pleasant Valley Sept. 29, 2012 296 Kyle Hunter, Lehighton Sept. 4, 2009 296 Deven Bollinger, Northwestern 292 Sept. 9, 2016 Brent Andrew, Marian Oct. 24, 1997 Eric Schrantz, Jim Thorpe 291 Nov. 2, 1993 Deven Bollinger, Northwestern 290 Sept. 27, 2019 Rvan Saunders, Jim Thorpe 288 Nov. 8, 2013 Eric Schrantz, Jim Thorpe Nov. 14, 1992 284 Brandon Leap, Pleasant Valley 281 Oct. 25, 2013 Brandon Leap, Pleasant Valley Sept. 6, 2013 Derrik Walling, Pleasant Valley 281 Oct. 8, 2010 Brent Andrew, Marian 280 Nov. 9, 1996 Derrik Walling, Pleasant Valley 279 Nov. 6, 2009 Stan Dakosty, Marian
Brandon Keyes, Pleasant Valley 279 Oct. 30, 1999 278 Sept. 9, 2016 Brandon Keyes, Pleasant Valley Oct. 14, 2016 Cole Lazorick, Jim Thorpe Sept. 27, 2024 Jake Canzoneri, Panther Valley 274 Sept. 15, 2000 Brandon Williams, Lehighton Derrik Walling, Pleasant Valley 273 Aug. 31, 2007 Oct. 30, 2009 272 Brody Breiner, Panther Valley 271 Sept. 21, 2023 Deven Bollinger, Northwestern Sept. 24, 2016 Brandon Leap, Pleasant Valley Oct. 14, 2011 (Since 1988, according to Times News statistics)

# Date

Name, Team Nate Boyle, Tamaqua TaQuan Bradley-Chambers, Leh. Tyler Hope, Tamaqua Nate Farber, Northern Lehigh Eli Zimmerman, Northwestern Matt Frame, Northern Lehigh Jim Hope, Tamaqua Nasai Moon Pleasant Valley Justin St. Hill, Jim Thorpe Brennan Kunkle, Panther Valley Robbie Frey, Lehighton Matt Machalik, Palmerton Joe Semanoff, Lehighton Cody Scherer, Lehighton Alex Ecker, Pleasant Valley Robbie Frey, Lehighton Mike Mitchell, Pleasant Valley Vinnie Andrews, Lehighton Robbie Frey, Lehighton Grif Griffiths, Tamaqua Warren Stewart, Tamagua Robbie Frev. Lehighton Brandon Belfonti, Northern Lehigh Robbie Frey, Lehighton Dave Muffley, Lehighton

Yards Date 382 Nov. 1, 2019 Oct. 6, 2017 373 350 Oct. 11, 2013 338 Nov. 7, 2014 Nov. 29, 2024 334 Nov. 13, 2021 331 Nov. 3, 1989 328 Sept. 28, 2018 325 Sept. 29, 2017 324 Sept. 15, 2023 Sept. 2, 2005 319 Sept. 15, 2023 315 Sept. 15, 2000 309 Oct. 13, 2017 302 Sept. 1, 2023 302 Oct. 14, 2005 301 Sept. 30, 2016 301 Sept. 28, 2002 297 Oct. 20, 2006

Nov. 6, 2009

Oct. 29, 2021

Oct. 13, 2006

Sept. 9, 2016

Oct. 28, 2005

Nov. 6, 1998

294 289

281

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273

Eli Zimmerman, Northwestern Jameson Trainer Palmerton K.J. Snerr, Marian Brett Snyder, Northwestern Nasai Moon, Pleasant Valley Nate Farber, Northern Lehigh Gabe Robinson, Jim Thorpe Matt Frame, Northern Lehigh John Koehler, Panther Valley Robbie Frey, Lehighton Alex Zukus, Tamagua Jacen Nalesnik, Lehighton Ben Clymer, Northwestern JJ McDowell, Lehighton Dave Muffley, Lehighton Todd Wolfe, Lehighton Jim Hope, Tamaqua CJ Selby, Jim Thorpe Nasai Moon, Pleasant Valley

**MOST RUSHING YARDS IN A GAME - TN AREA** Jarred Muffley, Tamaqua 271 268 266 266 261 260 259 Cody Remaley, Northern Lehigh 259 Michael Pascoe, Panther Valley 258 Cody Remaley, Northern Lehigh 257 Austyn Borre, Pleasant Valley 255 255 255 254 Ryan Hluschak, Northern Lehigh 254 253 253 251 251 250 250 (Since 1988, according to Times News statistics)

Oct. 14, 2011 Sept. 27, 2024 Oct. 4, 2024 Oct. 10, 2014 Sept. 8, 1995 Oct. 19, 2018 Oct. 3, 2014 Sept. 24, 1999 Nov. 14, 2020 Sept. 11, 2010 Nov. 3, 2022 Nov. 26, 2010 Oct. 4, 2002 Oct. 2, 2015 Sept. 15, 2006 Oct. 26, 2001 Nov. 4, 2011 Nov. 9, 2007 Nov. 1, 2002 Oct. 23, 2020 Sept. 12, 1997 Nov. 10, 1990 Nov. 2, 1990 Sept. 20, 2019 Sept. 15, 2017

August 2025 SUPPLEMENT 27

## **TAMAQUA**



# Strong culture keeps Raiders thriving

BY JUSTIN CARLUCCI

TNSPORTS@TNONLINE.COM

Competition breeds champions, and Tamaqua head coach Sam Bonner couldn't be happier with what he's seeing through the first two weeks of practice.

"I feel like we've had a pretty intense two weeks of practice." the 19th-year Tamagua head coach said. "We have a lot of positions that aren't set in stone. I think that competition makes you better, and we definitely have more open competition for positions this year than we've had in the past.'

That intensity stems from a culture that keeps producing results year after year.

This summer's turnout tells the story perfectly — 43 kids on the roster, with 24 of them attend. regular season, which included a taining championship expecta-

"I don't think we had a workout where we had under 32 kids, Bonner said. "We had some workouts where we had 40 kids. That's not bad for a 43-man roster."

While losing 11 or 12 seniors from any football team typically hurts, here's the thing about Tamaqua — they reload, they don't rebuild. And with 13 seniors in the fold this year, there's plenty of veteran leadership to guide the

That mentality served them well last season.

The Blue Raiders are coming off a roller coaster 2024 season that perfectly captured what makes high school football so compelling. A blazing 6-0 start was followed by four straight losses to close the

ing 90% of the offseason workouts. battle with state champion Northtions. western Lehigh.

> But championships aren't won in October — they're won in November. And when it mattered most, Tamagua delivered, capturing the Eastern Conference Championship with a signature win over Pequea Valley to finish 7-4.

"Obviously, you never try to get down, but starting off 6-0 and then losing four games back to back, it was a tough way to end the regular season," Bonner reflected. "But it lifted our spirits to get a chance to finish up with the win, finish with an Eastern Conference championship, and finish with seven wins."

Now comes the challenge every successful program faces - replacing proven talent while main-

"Seven or eight of them were probably pretty good players for us for a couple of years," Bonner said of his departed senior class.

While many positions remain up for grabs, one spot is solidly locked down — quarterback, where senior Chase Serfass has earned the keys to the offense.

"He doesn't have a lot of varsity experience, but he's a kid that's been in the program since he was in seventh grade," Bonner said. "He knows the offense. I think he developed a lot over the past off-season, realizing that he has a chance to be that guy.'

Serfass embodies everything Bonner looks for in a quarterback intelligence, work ethic, and dependability. The senior has been

See **RAIDERS** on Page 30

## **POSITION BREAKDOWN**

### **QUARTERBACKS**

Senior Chase Serfass is the heir apparent to Luke Kane. Serfass has been preparing for this moment since seventh grade. Serfass has been hitting the weight room and developing into a leader. Junior Kaden Krajcirik provided valuable competition for Serfass, splitting reps at camp.

### **RUNNING BACKS**

Tamaqua will likely feature both junior Quinn Coleman and sophomore Terrence McDowell as its 1-2 punch. Junior Camden Walker returns after missing last year. The "fourth" punch of the backfield is converted lineman and Swiss army knife Malachi Stewart. The fullback squats 500 pounds and will offer some serious bang with the ball and critical lead-blocking ability.

### **WIDE RECEIVERS**

Senior Brady McCabe offers fantastic size at 6-2. He's a threeyear starter who's been the go-to target, and can also move to tight end. Frosh Gavin Shannon is 5-11 and likely still growing. The promising newcomer "caught a lot of the coaches' eyes in the summertime." Sophomore Ace Schickram will play the flanker role. Teegen Phillips moved from tackle to tight end. He has size and speed. Damian Jazowski is currently in a boot but expected back by week two.

### **OFF/DEF LINE**

Three seniors and a junior will be up front for Tamagua. Returning starter Logan Pribila will be at left guard, while senior Logan Zimmerman will be at RG after being limited by an injury most of 2024. Three-year starter Shawn Chen will be at center, with junior Flynn Coleman at LT, and sophomore Carter Trotmon at right tackle. On the D-line, you'll see a majority of the same group, but Phillips will be at defensive end with Jazowski as the other bookend. Stewart, Trotman, Flynn Coleman will see reps.

### **LINEBACKERS**

Quinn Coleman pulls double-duty at both running back and linebacker, showcasing his versatility. Walker will do the same and join him in the mix, while Bangor transfer Jon Kraeuter will add depth up the middle.

### <u>SECONDARY</u>

Chen will be a key cog of the secondary, and he also plays center on the other side of the ball at 160 pounds. Schickram and Mc-Dowell will play defensive back, while Myles Schlosser and Peyton Schwartz will be in the mix.

## **TAMAQUA**

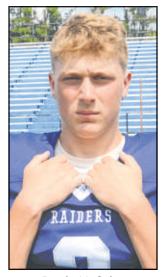
### **2025 TAMAQUA ROSTER**

SENIORS							
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>				
Brady McCabe	6-2	196	WR/LB				
Shawn Chen	6-0	165	WR/DB				
Malachi Stewart	5-6	214	RB/DL				
Chase Serfass	5-11	185	QB.LB				
Justice Machuca	5-7	193	WR/DB				
Parker Russell	5-10	169	WR/DB				
Myles Schlosser	5-9	150	WR/DB				
Hayden Magrini-Calkins	5-7	167	WR/DB				
Zachary Kerestes	5-9	153	OL/DL				
Logan Pribila	6-0	254	OL/DL				
Luke Frohnheiser	5-10	180	OL/LB				
Elijah Watkins	5-4	290	OL/DL				
Logan Zimmerman	5-10	236	OL/DL				
James Nalesnik	6-0	223	OL/DL				

Gabriel Conville	5-9	158	RB/LB
Yaviel Vargas	5-11	191	OL/DL
Flynn Coleman	6-2	186	OL/DL
Alexander Alcantara Pojoy	5-7	208	OL/DL

### SOPHOMORES

30F			
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>
Brian Godinez	5-8	147	K
Ace Schickram	6-0	167	FL/DB
Terrence McDowell	5-9	155	RB/DB
Jon Kraeuter	5-7	212	OL/LB
Carter Trotman	6-0	209	OL/DL
Henry Bazan	5-9	179	OL/DL
Konnor Sanders	5-9	241	OL/DL
Dylan Garcia	5-9	233	OL/DL
James Wronski	5-8	284	OL/DL







Chase Serfass

.1		N	10	RS
·	v		IV	ПЭ

JUNIUKS					
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>		
Damian Jazowski	6-0	200	TE/LB		
Peyton Schwartz	5-7	162	WR/DB		
CJ Walker	5-11	191	RB/LB		
Teegan Phillips	6-3	170	TE/DE		
Kaden Krajcirik	6-2	218	QB/DL		
Frank Hill	5-6	155	FB/DL		
Chase Heffelfinger	5-9	167	WR/DB		
Quinn Coleman	5-5	166	RB/LB		

FRESHMEN							
Player	Height	Weight	<b>Position</b>				
Ryder Holmberg	5-8	143	RB/DB				
Chance Makovec	5-8	164	TE/LB				
Gavin Shannon	5-11	157	RB/LB				
Thomas Heisler	5-10	242	OL/DL				
Jayden Benson	6-1	229	OL/DL				
Aaden Smith	5-8	143	OL/LB				
Troy Hartman	5-9	156	RB/LB				
Logan Sanders	5-5	205	OL/DL				



Shawn Chen



Malachi Stewart

### TAMAQUA MOST YARDS PASSING, SEASON

Player	Comp-Att	Yards	Player	Comp-Att	Yards	Player	Comp-Att	Yards
Brayden Knoblauch (2019	9) 138-233	2,134	Brian Boyer (1994)	112-264	1,295	Nate Edmonds (2012)	45-93	1,143
Geoff Kruczek (1991)	92-184	1,459	Ryan Palsgrove (2008)	85-156	1,272	Kyle Spotts (2002)	76-173	1,107
Brayden Knoblauch (2018	3) 106-179	1,424	Luke Kane (2024)	96-174	1,262	Luke Kane (2022)	53-135	1,016
Thad Zuber (2016)	90-169	1,348	Geoff Kruczek (1992)	82-162	1,239	Nate Edmonds (2013)	58-122	1,015
Adam Knoblauch (1998)	107-218	1,339	Adam Knoblauch (2000)	90-196	1,156	(From 1988-2024 acco	rding to TN s	tatistics)









## **TAMAQUA**







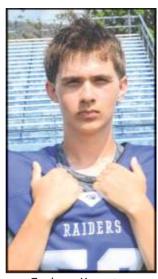
Parker Russell



Myles Schlosser



Hayden Magrini-Calkins



Zachary Kerestes



Tamaqua runs a play during a preseason practice. The Raiders open their season Friday against Pen Argyl.

## **FEATURE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

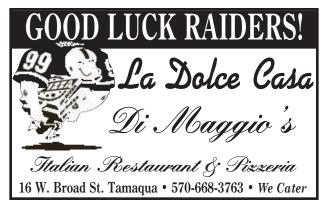
Lazorick might be the most entertaining quarterback to play in the Times News area over the past few seasons. A dynamic athlete, Lazorick's speed combined with his ability to make off-schedule throws with his strong arm can certainly fill up the highlight reel.

Last season, Lazorick finished with 2,059 yards passing with 17 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He also rushed for 368 yards and eight touchdowns. In his career, Lazorick has thrown for 3,966 passing yards and 34 touchdowns, while rushing for 1,213 yards with 18 rushing scores.

"Cole is unquestionably our leader," said Jim Thorpe head coach Mark Rosenberger. "He has done a great job this offseason of working with our young receiving core, being patient with them and coaching them up. Cole is one of the best leaders we have had in the Jim Thorpe football program during my time here.

"He's a true dual-threat player. One of the best around. His speed is impressive as he's been running in the 4.5 range this offseason. He's a dangerous weapon and his overall understanding of the position and mastery of the position has improved immensely as well.

"We expect him to have a huge year for us."







## TAMAQUA



Logan Pribila



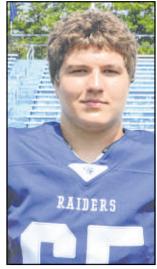
Luke Frohnheiser



Eliiah Watkins



Logan Zimmerman



James Nalesnik

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

#### 2024

#2

#3

# 5

#6

# 7

#8

# Q

#10

# 1

#10

#10

#10

Player Week School C. Lazorick Jim Thorpe E. Zimmerman N'western V. Schlosser Tamaqua J. Lawrence Lehighton L. Kane Tamaqua Palmerton J. Trainer Jim Thorne J. Yescavage Panther Vv. B. Kunkle G. Smoyer No. Lehigh J. Ferguson Lehighton

#### 2023

Week Plaver M. Machalik #2 #3 C. Lazorcik B. Kunkel # 5 T. Sander D. Clymer #6 # 7 R Dixon # 8 S. Leh N. Rosahac

School Palmerton A. Ecker Pleasant Vy. Jim Thorpe Panther Vy. Palmerton N'western Marian N'western Jim Thorpe Tamaqua

### L. Kane 2022

Player Week M. Machalik #2 C. Dillon #3 C. Christopher M. Pascoe # 5 D. Clymer D. Lucykanish # 6 N. Frame B. Balliet # 9 F. Olaniyan Pleasant Vy.

School Palmerton Tamaqua N'western Panther Vy. N'western Palmerton No. Lehigh Jim Thorne

No. Lehigh

School

Palmerton

Lehighton

N'western

Tamaqua

School

Lehighton

Palmerton

N'western

N'western

Panther Vy.

2021

AJ Jimenez

Week Player # 1 M. Machalik # 2 H. Crum J. Holmes Z. Coleman # 5 D. Smoyer # 7 D. Clymer #8 M. Frame #9

Tamaqua No. Lehigh R. Papaleo Pleasant Vy. N'western No. Lehigh M. Martin Marian

2020

W. Stewart

Week Player R. Fronheiser #2 M. Pascoe #3 C. Serfass J. Holmes # 5 J. Rodda #6 M. Rensher JJ McDowell #7

#8 N. Wickersham

#### 2019

Plaver Week B. Knoblauch #2 L. Sangiuliano #3 CJ Selby # 4 J. Holmes # 5 N. Boyle #6 D. Bollinger # 7 F Reis # 8 M. Rensher #9 J. Barron #10 J. Nelson No. Lehigh Lehighton Tamagua School Tamagua

Lehighton Jim Thorpe N'western Tamaqua N'western Panther Vv. No. Lehigh Tamaqua Palmerton

## **RAIDERS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

putting in work since last season ended, hitting the weight room and preparing for this moment.

"He's one of those guys you could count on being at every practice, scrimmage,

being in every workout," Bonner noted. "Dependability is a big factor as well.'

Of course, culture and preparation only take you so far when you're up against one of the most talent-filled schedules in the

After opening with Pen

Argyl, the Blue Raiders face a stretch that includes North Schuylkill, Pottsville and Jim Thorpe.

"There's no breeze in our schedule," Bonner said with the matter-of-fact tone of a coach who's been doing this for 19 years. "We go from Northwestern Lehigh to Southern Lehigh. We don't get too many breaks."

Having Bonner at the

helm for his 19th season provides the kind of stability that championship programs require.

"I always try to make it that once you're a Tamaqua football player, you're a football player for life." Bonner said. "Friday nights, we have guys that come back and stop in the locker room and talk to

That connection showed when the Blue Raiders captured their Eastern Conference title — Bonner's phone lit up with messages from former players spanning nearly two decades.

"It's great to see guys that you coached 20 years ago that didn't forget," he said.

Bonner's steady hand and the program's deep-rooted culture will guide the Blue Raiders through the personnel changes, just as they have

And this year's journey begins on Aug. 22 against Pen Argyl.

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## **SCHEDULES**



Mark Rosenberger

### **Jim Thorpe**

#### August

- 23 at Palmerton
- 29 vs. Pottsville

### **September**

- 5 at Blue Mountain
- 11 vs. Tamaqua
- 19 at North Schuylkill
- 26 vs. Southern Lehigh

#### **October**

- 3 at Catasaugua
- 10 vs. Northwestern
- 17 at Bangor
- 24 vs. Lehighton



Tom McCarroll

### Lehighton

#### **August**

- 22 vs. No. Lehigh
- 28 at Bangor

#### September

- 5 vs. Southern Lehigh
- 12 at Palmerton
- 19 vs. Northwestern
- 26 vs. Pottsville

#### **October**

- 3 at Blue Mountain
- 10 at Tamaqua
- 17 vs. North Schuylkill
- 24 at Jim Thorpe



Billy O'Gurek

### Marian

### **August**

- 22 at Hanover
- 29 vs. Tri-Valley

### September

- 5 at Panther Valley
- 12 vs. Shenandoah Vy.
- 19 at Mahanov Area
- 27 vs. Minersville

#### **October**

- 3 at Schuylkill Haven
- 10 vs. Williams Valley
- 17 at Pine Grove
- 23 vs. Nativity



Joe Tout

## No. Lehigh

### August

- 22 at Lehighton
- 28 vs. Northwestern

### September

- 5 vs. Pen Argyl
- 12 at Palisades
- 19 vs. Palmerton
- 26 vs. Notre Dame

#### **October**

- 4 at Wilson
- 10 vs. Catasauqua
- 17 at Salisbury
- 24 at Saucon Valley



Josh Snyder

## Northwestern

### August

- 23 at Wilson
- 28 at Northern Lehigh

### September

- 4 vs. Bangor
- 12 vs. Blue Mountain
- 19 at Lehighton
- 26 vs. North Schuylkill

#### **October**

- 3 at Pottsville
- 10 at Jim Thorpe
- 17 vs. Tamaqua
- 24 vs. Southern Lehigh



Chris Walkowiak

### **Palmerton**

### **August**

- 23 vs. Jim Thorpe
- 30 at Pen Argyl

### September

- 5 vs. Saucon Valley
- 12 vs. Lehighton
- 19 at Northern Lehigh
- 26 vs. Wilson

### **October**

- 3 at Palisades
- 10 at Salisbury
- 17 vs. Notre Dame
- 24 at Catasauqua



Mark Lavine

## Panther Vy.

#### August

- 22 vs. Salisbury
- 29 vs. Schuylkill Haven

### **September**

- 5 vs. Marian
- 13 at Pine Grove
- 19 at Nativity
- 26 vs. Tri-Valley

#### **October**

- 3 at Williams Valley
- 10 vs. Shenandoah Vy.
- 17 at Mahanoy Area 24 - at Minersville



Blaec Saeger

## Pleasant Vy.

#### August

- 22 vs. Governor Mifflin
- 28 vs. Dieruff

### September

- 5 at Exeter Twp.
- 11 at Parkland
- 19 at ES South 25 - vs. Nazareth

### **October**

- 3 at ES North
- 10 vs. PM East
- 17 at PM West
- 24 vs. Stroudsburg



Sam Bonner

## **Tamaqua**

#### August

- 22 vs. Pen Argyl
- 29 at North Schuylkill

#### September

- 5 vs. Pottsville
- 11 at Jim Thorpe 19 - vs. Salisbury
- 26 at Bangor

### **October**

- 3 vs. Southern Lehigh
- 10 vs. Lehighton
- 17 at Northwestern
- 24 at Blue Mountain

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