

Jackson hopeful for Dallas to repeat

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas football coach Ted Jackson is cautiously optimistic about this year's team.

"We lost a lot of leaders from last year's championship team but we have some good kids returning this year and we have some strong leaders among them," Jackson said.

"Our team last year wasn't an outstanding bunch of players but they were hungry to win and they went out and did just that. Whether we win this year depends on how well our seniors want to do. If this year's kids are not satisfied with just the 1987 championship they can go out and do what their teammates did last fall."

Jackson said he has less depth than he had other years but this year's team is the biggest he has had since at Dallas and he has good speed in spots. Going into the opening game of the season September 3 against the Coughlin Crusaders, Jackson was pleased with the way his players were working.

"They are doing everything we are asking them to do. We have some talented kids and six kids that are proving to be outstanding leaders," Jackson said.

Jerry Ogurkis, Jay Cherrup, Ron Post, Scott Starbuck, Shawn Ruth and Chris Lesjak are the six athletes Jackson expects to fill leadership roles. They are also returning starters at

though Ogurkis was out much of last season from a knee injury which doctors predicted would end his football career. Ogurkis, Ruth, Cherrup and Lesjak are team captains and with Post and Lesjak play an important part in the Dallas defense.

Cherrup has been tapped as starting quarterback but junior Jay Straigis, 6 foot, three, 190 pounds, will be able to fill in if Cherrup is injured. Straigis, who showed talent last season, surprised the Dallas coaching staff with the way he improved over the summer. Ogurkis will play tailback on offense and will be backed up by junior Barry Miller. Chris Lesjak will be spelled by senior Bob Barbacci at fullback. Starbuck, who Jackson says is the best receiver in the league, is top wingback in the Mountaineers multiple formation offense. Jim Lister, Dave Mayer and Clark VanOrden, seniors, and Sam Jayne, junior, will fill in the wide receiver spots.

With only 39 candidates out this season, depth is a problem for the Mountaineers. Seniors Ruth will be at guard and Post will start at tight end. Phil George played last season and will play at tackle. Mark Paczewski, senior, and Dave Arnone, junior, can both fill the center spot and Jackson is expecting strong performances from 225 pound junior guard Tony Nadzan and 235 pound senior Scott Horoshko.

"We're strong up the middle on defense and we have two of the best inside linebackers in the conference in Ruth and Lesjak," Jackson said.

"Barbacci, Ogurkis, or junior Sam Jayne will play the two outside linebacker positions. Defensive tackle spots will be filled by Nadzan, George and Joe Piscorik, a senior, and Post and Seth Roskos will play defensive end positions.

Going into September 3's game with Coughlin, Starbuck was expected to be one of the three starters in the secondary while Straigis, VanOrden, Lis-

ter, Mayer and Miller were competing for the other two starting positions. Cherrup will do the punting and Ogurkis the kicking for the Mountaineers.

Jackson's concern is that his Mountaineers get through their first four games without injuries.

"We play four larger Class A schools in four of our first five games. Coughlin, Wyoming Area, Meyers, Tunkhannock, and Pottsville. If we get through these we will be all right," Jackson said. "We are the team the other teams want to beat this season. They want to get even."



Dallas Mountaineer coaches

Coach Ted Jackson gives much of the credit to his assistants for the way his team has been playing. Jackson is shown above with his assistants. From left are Bill Sliwi, Jackson, Tony Chiarucci and Paul Brown.

O'Reilly (continued from page 8)

Boyle expects them to play key roles on defense.

"Our weak spots are lack of depth and inexperience on defense," Boyle explained. "When it comes to carrying the ball we will rely on senior Rob Roberts. He will have the ball about 60 percent of the time."

The Queensmen have at least seven players from the Back Mountain on their roster, including Jack Jones, Mike Mascali, Bob Casteline, Kevin Sult, Joe Patton, Joe Kristian, Adam Morris, Mark Stella and Tom Finarelli.

"We're not eligible for a championship this year," explained Coach Boyle.

"We don't play all of the Class B teams, just Northwest, Hanover, Crestwood and Lake-Lehman. We also play Bishop Hadley, Freeland, Columbia-Montour-Tech, Jim Thorpe and Bishop Hoban. Eventually, I would like to get our team in the Suburban League."

Boyle gives a lot of credit to his assistants who are working individually with the athletes in the various positions. They are Joe Geiger, Kevin Gulpin and Roy Wall who are giving a lot of time to helping the Queensmen.

Gorgone coaches his son this year

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
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King's coach Rich Gorgone has a new challenge this football season: one of the players on his Lake-Lehman team is his son, Sam, a sophomore. This is Sam's first year on the varsity.

"Sam has a lot of experience in the game," said Gorgone. "He played football and on junior varsity. He is a great athlete, not only in football but in other sports as well."

"The fact that he is a good athlete helps take the pressure off me as a coach. The other kids know him and have played baseball and football with him. They all seem to like him."

Gorgone said he and his son have a good relationship with one another.

and that Sam is coachable and listens well, not only in football but in all sports.

"Sam will see some action this season but not a lot. I can see where next year could be tougher when he is a starter on the team. I believe he will be varsity material because he is technique-oriented," Gorgone said about his son.

Gorgone, who lives with his family in the Dallas School District, transferred his son to Lake-Lehman when Gorgone accepted the position as coach in 1985. He said he believes he made the right move for Sam, who has played baseball and other sports with students from Lake-Lehman, some of whom are now on the football team. "I don't foresee any problems," Gorgone said.



Rich Gorgone, Lake-Lehman coach and Sam Gorgone, his son

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