

An inexperienced Dallas team is making the jump from Class 2A to 3A this season.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## DALLAS FB

Continued from page 2

fensive tackle broke his foot during the summer and is expected to return this week. The senior is the program's record-holder in bench press with a lift of more than 420 pounds.

Dallas opened the season Saturday night at Coughlin, with Pittston Area, Tunkhannock, Berwick and Valley West to follow.

"The first four games will tell us a lot about this season," Jackson said. "We want to be 4-0 going into the Valley West game. At a lot of places, a 7-3 or 6-4 record is a good season. But it's never a good season when you're sitting at home in Week 11.

Here's a brief look at this year's team:

**QUARTERBACK:** Junior Fred Mihal and senior Brian Kerpovich have been splitting time under center during the preseason. Mihal is also the returning starting inside linebacker.

"It's a real concern for us," said Jackson. "He's the best linebacker on our team. We know if he plays both positions, (opposing) teams are going to run their offenses right at him. He's a tough kid, but he can't play every down at quarterback and inside linebacker."

**RUNNING BACKS:** Jackson has been thrilled with the progress of senior tailback Robert Hayes, who missed five games last year with a knee injury. "He's been unbelievable in camp and in our scrimmages," said Jackson. "Right now, he's the strength of our team."

Sophomores Josh Backes and Steve Meskers will also see playing time at tailback, while senior Mike Gergel will start at fullback.

**OFFENSIVE LINE:** On a line boasting several huge players, diminutive Josh Perry is beginning to stand out, says Jackson. The

5-6, 170-pound senior will start at center. When Anderson returns, he'll start at tackle, along with senior Robert Monk (6-5, 270). Tamanini (6-1, 220) and Nilsson (6-1, 230) both return at guard. Seniors Chris Larson and Bruce Redmond will also see playing time on the line.

**RECEIVERS:** Opposing defenses will be geared to stop senior wideout Fagula.

"Fagula is second to none," said Jackson. "He's been phenomenal and we need to get him the ball. We feel we have some depth at receiver."

Backes, junior Anthony Rubbico, senior David Caruso, and juniors Pat Murray and Kyle Arnaud will also see playing time at receiver. Senior Greg Jerzak will start at tight end, while sophomore Scott Gallup is pushing for playing time.

**DEFENSIVE LINE:** Nilsson returns as a starter at defensive end and he'll be joined at the position by Gergel and Redmond. Anderson, Monk, Tamanini and Larson give the Mountaineers size – and depth at defensive tackle.

**LINEBACKERS:** Mihal is back at inside linebacker, where he was one of the leading tacklers on last year's team. Jerzak has been moved to inside linebacker to help give Mihal a rest. Hayes has

Dallas team captains, from left, first row are Brad Fagula and Robert Hayes. Second row: Adam Tamanini, Robert Monk and Greg Jerzak.



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/PETE G. WILCOX

also looked very impressive on this side of the ball. He'll be joined at outside linebacker by Rubbico and Backes.

**SECONDARY:** A relatively deep – but very inexperienced – unit with Fagula as the lone player in the defensive backfield with varsity experience. He'll be joined in the secondary by Kerpovich, Joe Hayes, Caruso and Murray.

Steven's

### Town & Country Cleaners

Country Club Shopping Ctr. • Dallas

"Always Your Full Service Dry Cleaner"

#### Same Day Service

Mon.-Sat. (in by 11 am-Out by 4 pm)  
Available Upon Request

#### Pick-Up & Delivery

In Kingston and Dallas Area

Shirts Laundered • Draperies and Household Items • Fine Dry Cleaning  
Alterations • Wedding Gown Specialist • Suede & Leather

**675-0468**

Hours: Mon. - Fri 6 A.M. - 7 P.M. • Sat. 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
Over 25 Years in Business

### PROTECT YOUR ATHLETE'S EYES!

Googles  
EYEWEAR BY

We're the Area's #1 Sports  
& Safety Specialist

PRESCRIPTION & NON-PRESCRIPTION

### SPORTS EYEWEAR

Collegiate, High School, Kids too!

Googles  
EYEWEAR BY

Rt. 309, W-B,  
Near Wychocks and the Big Cow

**826-1412**

