

Eagle football players work toward new team identity

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Team dominated by upper classmen.

It's a new year with a new look and a new attitude.

Hopefully, says coach Darren Tobey, a new era of Brady football will follow along.

"We have been trying to erase everything these boys have ever known about Brady football," Tobey said.

The playbook got an overhaul, as did the equipment and the uniforms.

The roster looks a little bit different as well, with almost half of the 25 players being upperclassmen.

"For the first time in a long time, we have a whole class of senior players," Tobey said of the six 12th graders.

The last time the Eagles won a football game, it was Sept. 22, 2006, and the seniors were wide-eyed freshmen.

"I think they have some things to prove," Tobey said.

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The boys have grown up, the coach said, with physically stronger players of all ages who finally look like a football team.

“The test now will be whether we’ve grown up mentally,” he said. “Changing the culture of a team and creating a new identity isn’t easy.”

A new offense, run mainly out of a shotgun formation, makes multiple players an offensive threat.

“We may pass or we may run but we’re going to try and keep our opponents guessing what’s coming next,” Tobey said. “We’ve got enough kids to keep subbing all the time and that will make it a little tougher for other teams to prepare.”

Defensively, Tobey said assignments have been simplified and unified.

“It all comes down to attitude,” he said. “We want people thinking every time we take the field that they’re going to get a hard-fought game and not the easy win they’ve earned over us in the past.”

The Eagles look to get off to a solid start this week at Hyannis.

“We need to see some success right away,” Tobey said. “We’re going to play a lot of good teams and we need to know right off the bat that we can match up.”



Five of the eight teams in Brady’s D2-8 district made the playoffs in 2008 and many of those

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teams have multiple letter winners returning.

“There aren’t going to be any easy games,” Tobey said. “We’re also not going to be an easy opponent.”

The Eagles open with a 7:30 p.m. MT kickoff at Hyannis Friday and then travel to Tryon to face the new Stapleton/McPherson County combination at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Members of the 2009 Eagle football team are (*denotes returning letter winners):

SENIORS—Ethann Barnes*, Corbin Blede*, Nathan Montoya*, Alvin Lunkwitz*, Devan Polt*, Chevas Shaw*.

JUNIORS— Christian Arterburn*, Dominic D’Aquila*, Kyle Pohlman*, Dalton Riedel*, Jeff Simants*, Brad Ward*.

SOPHOMORES—Lincoln Blede*, Tyler Egenberger*, Tyrel Grasz*, Micah Most*, Ryan Porter*, Aaron Samora, Levi Widick*.

FRESHMEN— Kaleb Arterburn, Preston Franzen, Mike Neiman, Cole Viter, Zack Mann, Matt Litzenberger.