

Brady eyes return to state

Written by Vinny Benedetto

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After a 2-6 regular season a year ago, the Brady football team qualified for the state tournament thanks to the Nebraska School Activities Association's points system that rewards a team for a strong schedule.

This year, Andy Seamann hopes his team can return to the eight-man playoffs based on their results against another tough schedule.

His players have another goal.

"The kids made it a goal to try to win the school's, I believe, first district championship," said Seamann.

The Eagles return five starters on offense and six starters on defense. Most of the turnover will occur on the offensive and defensive lines.

What Brady may lack in size, will be countered with speed.

"We're a fast team, we're not very big," said Seamann. "Most of our size graduated last year, but we have a lot of speed."

Three of the four sprinters on Brady's 4x100 relay team that finished third at state last year will line up in the Eagle's offensive backfield.

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The Eagles plan to use that speed coupled with a fast-paced, no-huddle spread offense to run opponents ragged. While it's largely the same offensive scheme the Eagle's employed last year, they will alter their defense to fit their personnel.

"With some of the things we switched to defensively, I think we have a scheme that will take advantage of our strengths and not, hopefully not, shine such a big light on our deficiencies," said Seamann.

Defense is where the Eagles struggled a year ago. They allowed on average more than 43 points per game in the regular season.

Brady has a chance to start this season on a positive note when they host Sumner-Eddyville-Miller on Friday. The Eagles defeated S-E-M 54-22 last season. The 22 points was the fewest the Eagles allowed in a single game last year.

The good news for the Eagles is Seamann believes this year's squad is picking up things a little quicker than they did a year ago.

"At this point, especially offensively and being efficient and doing what we like to do offensively, yes. And special teams wise, we are ahead of what we were for sure," Seamann said Thursday afternoon. "Defensively, I think we're ahead, but we're nowhere near where we need to be."

Week two will present another challenge, as Brady gets a chance at payback against Wallace, who defeated Brady in the opening round of last year's playoffs.

In week four, the Eagles will travel to Maxwell to take on their biggest rival. Seamann, a former Wildcat and Maxwell High graduate, has a unique perspective on the game,

"Maxwell is always circled on the schedule" said the Brady coach. "Closest to us, they've been a rival of Brady since the beginning of time, probably."

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As a whole, Seamann classified this year's schedule as a similarly tough one to last year's. The amount of experience, however, has led the Eagles to heightened expectations.

"The kids have worked hard, so our expectation level is high," Seamann said. "We're hoping to make it back to state. Like I mentioned before, last year we kind of made it based on our strength of schedule. This year, we are expecting to make it based on what we did on that schedule instead of based on who we played."

Team members include:

Seniors—Jon Taullie, Cody Warren, Troy Lusk, Chase Viter, Levi DeStefano, Trevor Mann, Cody Most.

Juniors—Fabion Norton, Cole Lewis, Tustin Golter, Bowen Land, Michael Adams Dade Brock, Alex Trobaugh, Nate Sitorius, Dayne Porter, Brant May, Jared Most.

Sophomores—Turner Nansel, Jack Griffiths, Tyrell Rossman, Matthew Neiman, Radley Shaw,

Freshmen—Logan May, Dakin Brock, Triston Griffiths, Colton Lovitt, Jacob Christophersen, Miguel Reese, Kyle Mann.

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