

By Ben Destefan

Print Page

August 31, 2016 11:00PM

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: Greencastle-Antrim meets Chambersburg in opener

It's finally time to answer some questions.

On Friday night, Greencastle-Antrim makes the short trip to Chambersburg for a marquee Franklin County showdown, kicking off the 2016 varsity football season under the lights at Trojan Stadium.

The thing is, no one truly knows what to expect when the ball goes in the air at 7 p.m.

For the Blue Devils, new faces will occupy nearly every position as only one starter returns from last fall's 6-4 campaign. For the Trojans, first-year head coach Mark Luther will unveil his philosophy for turning around a program that's finished 1-9 in back-to-back seasons.

Needless to say, we're about to learn an awful lot.

"I feel like both teams are pretty evenly matched," G-A head coach Chuck Tinninis said. "Our guys have been practicing well and are very receptive to what we've been coaching. At this point it's about just going out there and playing."

Now solidified as the starting signal caller, Cade McDowell gets his first real crack at running the show for the Blue Devils. Still only a junior, McDowell did see time under center late last year, at least being introduced to the varsity stage. How he's progressed since will certainly be a storyline to watch.

Still yet to name a starter, Chambersburg may utilize two quarterbacks, as Tyler Collier and Kaden Hoover could each see snaps.

"Both of them are very athletic," Tinninis said. "That's going to be one of our primary focuses on defense, to contain the quarterback regardless of which one is in there."

Presumably, G-A will lean heavily on its running game while not asking McDowell to do too much. Serving as the Blue Devils lone returning starter, feature back Demetrius Burton is projected to be called on early and often. Kyrin Zimmerman and Tanner Bain should also see touches off the wing with Caleb Schaeffer in the mix at fullback.

On the outside, Cade Marshall, Antwoine Carter and Marcus Strauser are expected to be McDowell's primary targets, trying to keep Chambersburg's defense honest.

"We have speed and we'd like to use it," Tinninis said. "They do have a definite size advantage up front, so we're going to have to work well together. We just need to be smart and handle assignments."

Two-way tackle Jacob Hockman is one to watch in the trenches for G-A, as the senior captain returns after missing all of last season.

Defensively, Hockman anchors the middle of the Blue Devils' revamped 4-3 scheme, which will be tested by the Trojan skill players.

Entering Friday, Kammeron Green and Clay Myers are in line to be Chambersburg's primary ball carriers with the likes of Austin Kopp and Spencer Seaman acting as capable receiving weapons.

"They're solid at the skill positions," Tinninis said of the Trojans. "They run a spread offense and like to get different guys involved. It's going to be a challenge for us, but we're looking forward to it."

G-A has won the last two meetings in the rivalry, including last year's 32-29 overtime thriller. Once again, there isn't a clear-cut favorite.

"This is what it's all about," Tinninis said. "We're expecting a great crowd at a great facility. We just need to go out there and play our game. If we do that, we like our chances."

—Contact Ben Destefan at 762-2151, bdestefan@therecordherald.com or on Twitter @bdestefan_RH

<http://www.therecordherald.com/article/20160831/SPORTS/160839957>

Print Page