

Sports

Rams take on the Titans tonight at away game

The Rams Football team opens up its season tonight and will defend the CVC championship starting the season with a league game.

They will travel to Antelope. After the Junior Varsity game at 5:30 p. m., the Rams Varsity will take on the Titans.

The Rams were 9-3 for the season and 5-0 in league play. They beat Bear River in the playoffs before losing to Placer.

They will have to defend by taking on the Titans who is a league opponent. The Rams unfortunately due to two news teams joining the league had to open the season with a league opponent. The other unfortunate fact is the Rams have no real film on the Titans who will be playing their first varsity game ever.

The Rams will, however, face a team made up of only juniors. There are no seniors on the team. They have a little tape that Head Coach Scott Winslow showed. They have two running backs that show some speed and the Rams will not want them to get in the open. The Titans have also showed that they have some big lineman on the team and have several players on the team.

The Rams may not have the numbers but they have the talent and plenty of it. Winslow started a philosophy last season that he continues to hope to use on this team. They used several players to run and catch the football ball and they are looking to continue that tradition.

The Rams are looking to having that same flexibility this season. They has several key players coming back to defend the CVC championship. One of the things that the Rams are hoping for in this season is to have a more balanced attack in passing the ball and running the football.

The Rams have Jeffrey Anderson, a senior quarterback who is the returning CVC and MVP from last season. He is looking to have a better season than he did in his junior year. They are using the same offense but are getting better at zone blocking. This should allow the passing and the running game to be strong this season.

The Rams are looking for Anderson, in his senior year, to have a big season. There will also have one receiver back from last season. Rhiley Norton led the team in receiving touchdowns and had several big plays for the Rams. He has the height and the speed and catching ability to be a big play maker. He's in his senior year and the Rams are looking forward to

having him have a big season.

The Rams other starting wide receiver this season is LaRoy Jones who is in his third season as a varsity player. Jones has a lot of speed and good hands and is looking forward to being a wide out this season. The tandem give Anderson options including the use of running backs who will be making plays as they catch passes in the spread formation.

The Rams again will have a strong presence in the backfield with another strong running attack. Once again it could easily be the player with the hot hand that night. Last year they had a strong running attack that featured a different runner each game.

The Rams have their leading rusher back from last year in Michael Hendrix another three year player on the varsity team. Hendrix did a lot of his running with a banged up foot and will be looking to come out and run hard throughout the game. He is not only a back with speed but has the ability to run through defenses. He is a slot back and can run up the middle but also can get to the outside to make a big play.

The Rams second leading rusher last year was Josh Byington. He's back to run up the middle and should have a big year. Byington can get to the outside and has some speed and the ability to take a hit. The Rams will look for both running backs to have big seasons this year.

The Rams other starting running back will be Sam Welch who had limited playing time as a running back and will take the place of Jason Harvey. Welch is a power back with speed to make a short gain into a long gain. Last season he had one of those running over a defender as he was going into the end zone. Another three year varsity player was playing on a bad leg and had surgery on it after the season. He is looking to have a big season.

Anderson uses these three running backs out of the backfield to make catches and move the ball in the air as well.

The Rams, who are small in numbers this season will need strong play from back ups as all three running backs are starters on defense as well. Ryan Baptiste is ready to back up Anderson in the game along with Hendrix.

The Rams have back ups at running backs in Paul McCarty who led the Junior Varsity team in rushing up this season. Luke Cunningham and Josh Chamblee will also see time as running backs. Andrew Smith, Michael Garcia and Baptiste could see some time as the



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running back this season.

Jacob Gorham will be a back up wide receiver for the Rams along with Danny Kitchen.

The Rams who use a zone blocking scheme look to have gotten better at it this season.

They will have strong offensive line but they do not have a lot of players and several players will be going both ways during the season.

The line will be anchored by Jacob MacKenzie who has the job of replacing Austin Alvarado. MacKenzie had a strong season for the Rams Junior Varsity team and is making the climb up to varsity.

The guards this season will start Mario Ramirez and Hunter Kett. Ramirez got time on the Rams offensive line and should be a factor for the Rams this season. Kett is coming up from the Junior Varsity team and will make an impact as well.

They have strong starting tackles this season. Both starters are again three year varsity players. Adam Watkins and Mark Mattingly will man the tackle positions this year and both were big factors in the

Rams success running and passing the ball last season.

Watkins is one of the strongest Rams players and move defensive lineman out of the way and Mattingly is just as talented.

The Rams in the Cal Camp, seven on seven and in scrimmages have shown the ability to move the football and to score. They are using the same offense with some changes due to new players and others who have gained some new skills this week.

The defense has a new coordinator in Wes Besseghini who was the Junior Varsity Head Coach last season that won the CVC title. Besseghini will run the same defense that the players on the team have run in their two years.

The Rams will again have a strong linebacking core and a solid defensive line.

The defensive line will be anchored by Austin Knapp who was one of the leading pass rusher for the Rams last season. Knapp was a leader in sacks last season and uses his strength and speed to make plays in the game. Knapp a

defensive end can stuff the run as well on the outside.

The other defensive end who will start is Mattingly who was very effective last year and looks to have a bigger year in his senior year. He wil put pressure on quarterbacks and stop the run.

The Rams Tyler Gilmore and Patrick Perry will be back ups.

At the defensive tackle positions the Rams will have Watkins and Ramirez to start. They are looking to help stop the run up the field and to also put pressure on quarterbacks. This was a strong part of the Rams last season and they are looking for it to be a big part of the team this season. The Rams could move Byington up at times as well but he is a starting linebacker. Tommy Thorton is another Rams player who should see significant time in the defensive line. Kett will also get playing time on the defensive line.

The linebackers have been a core to the success of the Rams in the past seasons and they will be that again. The Rams lose the inside backers but they will be filled by some strength this season.

Welch is moving from his outside linebacker position to the inside and has the strength to make several big plays and stuff the middle of the field. Welch is healthy this season and is looking forward to a big season.

Garcia the Rams other inside linebacker will be coming back to play this season and as been an effective linebacker in the past.

Baptiste also played at linebacker last season for the Junior Varsity team and they can also move Hendrix to the inside if necessary.

The outside linebackers are Hendrix and Byington. Hendrix was a top tackler for the Rams last season and will look to have a big year as a senior with hard hits.

Byington also got playing time last season and looks to fill the other side where Welch was last season.

The Rams could see Ray Tate get some playing time as a linebacker.

The defensive backfield could be a 'work in progress' with several athletes that could help fill in other positions on the field this season.

In the backfield they have Norton as a safety and Jones as a cornerback. They both can help elsewhere on the field and depending on the flexibility needed for the game.

Norton led the Rams in interceptions last season and should have another big season. Jones has the speed and knowledge of the game to help the team.

Chamblee will be back as the other corner back. Andrew Mena and Joey Rotchey are playing hard and looking for playing time this season.

The Rams special teams was solid and looks to be that strong again. The Rams kicking game should be strong as Julio Reyes returns. Reyes gave the Rams tremendous kicks on kickoffs and has a strong and accurate leg for extra points and field goals that should help pick up wins this season.

Byington will be the Rams punter and in his freshman and sophomore years punted for the Rams Freshman and Junior Varsity teams.

The Rams Chamblee will return kicks and punts but other Rams will get into the mix as well.

The Rams open up league tonight. They have been nursing injuries and the Flu bug but are ready to make a difference as they take the field knowing that the Titans will be excited they are playing their first varsity game. For the Rams it is a chance to make a statement to the other teams in the CVC that though they maybe the hunted they will be tough if not impossible to take down.