

Odessa JV football team builds confidence

By Lilah Bane



(Jacob Evinger, sophomore, frees himself from the defender.)

OHS JV football team defeated Harrisonville 35-12 for the last game of the season. Their record was 8-1 after defeating their larger opponent, the Wildcats.

Tim Cogan, JV coach, said he is excited and optimistic for next year. He said the team had several older players who helped motivate the novice players and help them reach their goals.

"We definitely learned our strengths and weaknesses," Jake Evinger, sophomore tight end, said. "We know what we need to do to get better for next year."

Coach Cogan, who is new to OHS, teaches American History and Government. Cogan brings years of coaching experience to OHS, seventeen years to be exact.

"He has seen and coached a lot of football," Mark Thomas, OHS head football coach, said. "He is able to relay that experience in helping to prepare our JV team."

The team's only loss was against Warrensburg 6-8 when the offense underperformed, only scoring one touchdown. Cogan said it was the first game the team played on grass instead of turf, and the muddy conditions contributed to the overall low-scoring game.

The team, he noted, also had some players playing different positions that night because of others who were out with injuries. Cogan said the team worked harder after the loss to improve their skills.

Throughout the season, the team learned 'preparation is the key,' and Cogan said he likes to emphasize that concept with his team. He also tries to build confidence in the players. Cogan said one of the team's weaknesses was a lack of confidence in their own ability, and his job includes trying to re-enforce their confidence in themselves.

"They are playing against really good players, which makes them better," Jonas Bennett, senior varsity running back/receiver, said. "I think that is what led to them having a good season."

Most of the JV players play scout team for the varsity which helped the team improve every week. Cogan said the returning team will be fairly large, and he is excited about what next year's freshmen will bring to the team as well.

"They really set a standard to what they are going to bring to the varsity," Will Fox, senior wide receiver and cornerback, said.

The team's motto this year was 'Row the Boat,' a never-give-up message encouraging all of the players to try their best to help make the team successful.

“It doesn’t matter really what team we are on--varsity, JV, or C Team--we are all a big family,” Gabe Airrington, sophomore JV player, said.