

Expectations have changed for Brady football program

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Season begins with Maxwell.

A handful of wins last season and a year of experience have boosted expectations for Brady's 2010 football team.

In 2009, the goal of the Eagles was simply to break a nearly three-year losing streak.

Brady not only won four games last year but the Eagles qualified for the state playoffs for the first time in 12 years.

Now that the boys realize what winning is all about, new head coach Bob Frederickson says expectations have changed.

"It's no longer about winning one game here or there," Frederickson said. "It's more about making a statement, getting back to the playoffs."

Frederickson was a volunteer coach last season after moving to Brady from Utah over the summer.

He has 16 years of head coaching experience from schools in Utah and California.

"The kids see that what we started last year was working," Frederickson said of the push to build teamwork, lift weights and strengthen work ethic. "They've eaten that up and the more we

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give them, the more they want.”

Brady has 14 upperclassmen who are bigger and stronger players on average than the Eagles have seen for several years.

Six starters return on offense including first team all-district running back Brad Ward, a senior who led the Eagles last fall with 1,207 yards rushing on 183 carries averaging 134 yards per game. He also tied the school record for number of touchdowns in a season with 23.

Defensive end Dalton Riedel, quarterback Kyle Pohlman and safety Christian Arterburn are 2010 seniors who also received post-season honors last year.

“We bring back a ton of experience,” Frederickson said, “but we’re actually pretty thin as far as depth. We’re going to have to stay healthy.”

Defensively, the coach said Eagle fans will see plenty of blitz action.

On offense, Brady will be under center more this year and will spread the field with more passing.

Nothing will come easy for the Eagles, though. Frederickson said Brady landed in one of the most difficult Class D-2 districts with Eustis-Farnam, Medicine Valley, Wallace, Wauneta-Palisade and last season’s D2 state runner-up Hayes Center.

“Three of those teams dropped from D1 to D2,” Frederickson said. “And all of them are used to making the playoffs. Games will be tough but I think we’re up to the challenge.”

The Eagles open the season Thursday at home hosting long-time rival Maxwell, which finished

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7-3 last year with a loss in the second round of the Class D1 state playoffs.

“There’s a lot of hype associated with this game,” the coach said. “The kids are excited, the fans are excited and it should be a good show.”

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

Members of the 2010 Eagle football team are (*denotes returning letter winners):

SENIORS—Christian Arterburn*, Jacob Bourge, Kyle Pohlman*, Dalton Riedel*, Jeff Simants*, Brad Ward*.

JUNIORS—Sawyer Burke*, Tyler Egenberger*, Tyrel Grasz*, Tyler Kleinow*, Russell Miller, Micah Most, Ryan Porter*, Levi Widick*.

SOPHOMORES—Kaleb Arterburn, Michael Neiman*, Cole Viter, Zack Mann, Matt Litzenberger.

FRESHMEN—Chris Porter, Eric Roe, Dalton Simants, Donnie Trisdale, Austin Widick.