



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PHOTO BY PETER ZUZGA

Whitefish Bay's Brandon Martin rushes upfield during a kickoff drill at practice on Aug. 9.

Home cooking suits bigger Bay

Dukes play first four games in familiar digs

Leading into the first game of the season, intrigue is brewing on the home front for Whitefish Bay football.

"There's a little bit of excitement in the community; we've got a couple kids that haven't been out before," Bay coach Jim Tietjen said. "Our numbers are into the mid-50s, sophomores through seniors, and we can probably have a separate junior varsity and separate varsity this year."

Residents of Whitefish Bay will have plenty of early chances to see it happen.

Following the team's scrimmage on its own field Aug. 19, each of the season's first four games will be at home, starting with Green Bay Preble on Friday, Aug. 26.

"Every week is a confidence boost for these kids," Tietjen said. "Kids don't know how good they can truly be. They handled adversity in the scrimmage — I was impressed with that — there were lots of good things that we saw. Our fundamentals weren't exactly where we liked them to be, but we have the ability to correct those. There's lots of things we can do to make ourselves a better football team."

Bay was missing running back Tray

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Stewart with illness from the four-team scrimmage, which also included West Allis Central, South Milwaukee and Milwaukee Custer. Tietjen said Michael Mackay filled in admirably in Stewart's shoes, but he was most impressed with the passing game.

"(Quarterback) Chris Hagerup is looking pretty good in terms of his patience and throwing the ball," Tietjen said. "He didn't really play quarterback at all last year (on any level of football). He played kicker, tight end, defensive back ... last year was his very first year of really playing football.

"The year before he played as a freshman, but he was injured. Last year he was trying to find himself, and this year he wanted to see if he could be the quarterback. He's gone to all the camps and had all the reps from the practices."

Tietjen noted sophomore receiver Lars Knudsen as a standout in the early going, along with linebacker Nick Bellore.

"(Bellore) had an interception (in the scrimmage) that he probably would have taken all the way back," Tietjen said. "He's 235 pounds, 6-1, a prototypical linebacker, and he's only been in the position two weeks, so he's just

Green Bay Preble at Whitefish Bay

WHAT: Non-conference football season opener

WHERE: Whitefish Bay High School, 1200 E. Fairmount Drive

WHEN: 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26

PREVIEW: Preble got the better of Bay in last year's season opener by a 21-0 margin, but Bay coach Jim Tietjen said his team's chances have improved this time around.

"From what I've seen in their scrimmage, they're not quite as big as they were last year, but they're still bigger than we are," Tietjen said. "They're predicated a little more on the quickness this year, throwing the ball more. The key for us is holding the line of scrimmage on offense. At best we get a stand-off and let our skill kids get in the secondary to get loose.

"Defensively, we have to hold the line of scrimmage and allow our speed to shut down their offense. If they can pound at us and we can't move them, then we're not going to have success."

learning it. He can get around the field and he's strong enough not to let you block him."

Both just juniors, Hagerup and Bellore have "risen to the top" in terms of leadership, according to Tietjen.