

Mustangs

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shouldn't be the quandary this year. This defensive unit will certainly be tested this year with the arduous schedule that Mira Costa plays in 2009. The Mustangs play Loyola to start things off, and the Cubs have one of the top running backs in the state if not the country in 6'4", 230-pound Anthony Barr.

On offense, the Mustangs will once again have a two quarterback approach with Adam Lawrence and Kyle Demarco under center after both traded off leading the offense in 2008. Morrow, who coordinates the offense, says he likes the idea of both Lawrence and Demarco at quarterback because they both have tremendous upside, both bring something different in their styles, and they're both leaders.

The receiving crop that the Mustang quarterbacks will look for will be headed by Kyle Nunn, who led the team with 24 receptions for 512 yards and eight touchdowns. Others will include tight end Mike Miller (21 receptions, 321 yards) Rico Wright and Jackson Morrow.

The Mustangs were a running team in the past and this year should be no different with a committee of running backs led by Kellen Lockwood. Lockwood became the workhorse last year when two-year starter Chris Loatman got hurt. Now that Loatman has graduated, Lockwood will get the bulk of the carries with Rico Wright and Morgan Reece sharing the load.

The line will once again be the key to the offense playing well, and line coach Steve Butler believes he has the makings of a solid

front five. Returning to anchor the line is Andrew Brenner, who is still developing and by the end of the season could be a Division I prospect. Others who should make considerable contributions to the offense could be a couple of players promoted from the junior varsity team, including Troy Saemann and Sam Stekel.

Coach Morrow annually attempts to put together a preseason schedule to get his teams ready for the Bay League. This year is no exception when it starts tonight (September 4) at 7 p.m. against Loyola at Valley College. The Mustangs will go into the game as the top-ranked team in the CIF Western Division, while the Loyola Cubs are considered one of the top teams in the Pac-5 Division.

In the weeks ahead leading up to the Bay League opener, the Mustangs are at South Torrance next Friday night and return home on September 18 to host Esperanza and City power Narbonne on September 25. The Mustangs have a bye week on October 2 before they travel to take on Pac-5 power Newport Harbor on October 16. It promises to be another great year for the Mustangs, and a trip back to the CIF finals is what this team is working hard to get back to once again.

Mustangs News and Notes

Former Mustang pitcher Dave Johnson is still coming out of the bullpen for the Triple-A Nashville Sound of the Pacific Coast League. Johnson's last three appearances have resulted in an ERA of 0.00 and have helped keep the Sound in contention for the playoffs. Johnson is 3-1 on the year and has a 2.00 ERA in 45 games.



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