

What's Next For Freeman Football?

Freeman, Area Schools Look Toward Future After Football Decision

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Is high school football in Freeman at a crossroads?
That was the issue at hand during a Freeman Public School Board special meeting on Monday night when a 4-0 vote came down to not play varsity football for the 2015 and 2016 seasons, because of low numbers and a subsequent risk of injury.
The issue then gained steam across the state on Tuesday as the eight schools on Freeman's 2015

schedule—which begins next Friday at home against Irene-Wakonda—began the process of adjusting.
In Freeman's case, it realized the topic needed attention when only 10 players showed up to the first practice last week.
“We realize it'll cause some issue for a lot of people, but the primary concern for us is the safety of the kids,” athletic director and superintendent Don Hotchkiss said Tuesday.
“They wouldn't be able to protect themselves and we couldn't protect them.”

It was much the same story as last year when the Flyers started the season with 13 players but injuries prompted one game to be forfeited, and by the end of the season, there were 10 players available.
Avoiding a similar situation this fall was paramount, Hotchkiss said.
“I couldn't imagine we could play eight games,” he said. “It's a contact sport, and someone will get hurt along the way. It's the nature of the game.”
The Freeman decision is the second such situation in the past week where a school was forced to cancel a football season for the next two years because of low numbers.
Highmore-Harrold was granted approval last week by the South

Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) to co-op with neighboring Miller without being forced to jump up to 11-man football—which is what the rules state, based on enrollment.
That's Freeman's hope as well, Hotchkiss said, that the state would make a similar decision with the Flyers, allowing them to join with an area town without having to join the 11-man ranks.
The activities association, however, will have to wait to see if Freeman can agree to some kind of co-op agreement before the board takes formal action, according to John Krogstrand, assistant executive director with the SDHSAA.
“Ultimately, we do know we have

that precedence from last week, but ultimately it comes down to what action the local school boards may take,” Krogstrand said Tuesday.
Time is, of course, a factor with the football season starting next Friday, and as Krogstrand pointed out, the SDHSAA already has its regularly scheduled meeting set for next Thursday.
“We're in a holding pattern at this point,” Krogstrand said.
As Freeman began the process of approaching neighboring schools, it was well aware that any classification waiver by the SDHSAA was critical, according to Hotchkiss.
Freeman's Average Daily Membership for football classification

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Bobcats Bounce Bucks 4-2

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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Brookings got past the Yankton Bucks 4-2 in a cold and rainy Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' soccer match on Tuesday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Park.
Head coach Warren Brenner said this year his team will have to have mental fortitude going further into the season.
“We need to figure out that for every action there is a reaction,” he said.
“If you don't play as a team and you don't work as a team, then you're not going to have success.”
The Bucks next game will be Friday in Mitchell.
Cole Lewno and Isaac Schultz each scored a goal for Yankton. Trevor Rafferty had 13 saves.
Steve Binkley, head coach for the Bobcats, said his team was ready to play.
“We were waiting three weeks to get on the field and so I think our guys had a lot



Yankton goaltender Trevor Rafferty guessed right but couldn't make the save on a penalty kick by Brookings' Francisco Garcia in Brookings' 4-2 victory over Yankton on Tuesday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Park.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Zach Zenner Making Strong Impression With Lions

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — The Detroit Lions likely will give their starters only a few snaps when they travel to Washington on Thursday for their second exhibition game.
It's bad news for fans hoping to catch a long look at the likes of quarterback Matthew Stafford or star wide receiver Calvin Johnson, but it could be just what rookie running back Zach Zenner needs.
Zenner, signed in May as a free agent, made a strong impression in his first preseason game and looks forward to doing more of the same when the Lions take on the Redskins.
He had 55 yards on 13 carries, including a 14-yard run, in last week's exhibition victory over the New York Jets. He should see plenty more snaps as Detroit remains without Joique Bell, who's missed all of camp while recovering from knee and Achilles tendon surgeries.
Bell, rookie Ameer Abdullah and Theo Riddick all are expected to make the roster, leaving Zenner in a competition with George Winn for the final running back spot.
Zenner's work against the Jets brought him more snaps with the second team since the preseason opener.
He's already got a list of things he'd like to improve on against Washington.
“I'd like to be more physical in the passing game and pass protection and keep my feet a little better after cuts,” he said after Tuesday's training camp practice.
The extra work with the second unit has made an impression, but Zenner said he's still worried about sticking around.
“I just go when they tell me to go,” he said. “Obviously I see who I'm with in the huddle, but at the same time I'm focusing on my job.”
The Minnesota native went undrafted this spring after a strong career at South Dakota State, where he became the first running back in NCAA Division I history to rush for at least 2,000 yards in three straight seasons.
He finished his career with 6,548 yards on 1,095 carries with 61 touchdowns and caught an additional eight scoring passes.
He rushed for 2,019 yards and 22 touchdowns in his final season.
Lions coach Jim Caldwell said he's noticed the rookie's work ethic.
“You tell him to run 40 yards down the field, he's going to run 40,” the coach said. “But he also has ability.”
“We've been pleased with him so far.”
Zenner will take every carry he can get, but likely will win a spot on the team with his special teams play.
“I think it plays a big role,” he said. “Obviously when Joique returns he's set up to be the starting running back. So for me to make an impact, for sure, right away, it's going to have to be special teams.”
Winn, who prepped at a Detroit high school, was signed from the practice squad last season and saw most of his action on special teams.
Zenner played six special teams snaps in the win over the Jets.
The Lions open the regular season Sept. 13 at San Diego.
Note: Former offensive tackle Lomas Brown spent the afternoon at camp and gave pointers to players. Brown played the first 11 seasons of his 18-year career in Detroit.



Zenner

Soccer: Brookings Holds Off Gazelles 4-3



Yankton's Britney Bradwisch, 20, tries to split the Brookings defense of Klara Beinhorn (13) and Amanda Kees (18) during their Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' soccer match on Tuesday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Park.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

BY BEN HEGGE
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Fans who attended Lewis & Clark Soccer Park on Tuesday afternoon were treated to a back-and-forth, hard fought Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' soccer match that resulted in a 4-3 victory for the Brookings Bobcats over the Gazelles.
Brookings was able to build off a 2-1 halftime lead, on their way to an Eastern South Dakota conference victory.
“I thought we made great improvements from last game, and we showed a lot of fight,” said Yankton head coach Tyler Schuring. “Sometimes you just have to tip your cap to the other team.”
Yankton's Madason Tessier opened the scoring early for Yankton, connecting on a shot to give the Gazelles an early 1-0 lead. However, the Bobcats would respond with consecutive goals from Addi Reed and Kaitlyn Bravek to close out the half.
“We were really confident with our defensive adjustments made from last game,”

said Schuring. “We did a nice job applying pressure at the right times, but we were up against a lot of speed.”
The Bobcats were the first to strike in the second half. Chloe Person scored Brookings third goal of the game, but was later answered by Yankton striker Briana Benjamin, who netted a goal of her own.
The two teams would trade goals again late in the second half leaving the final score favoring Brookings 4-3.
“This group will never stop fighting,” said Schuring. “If we get down a goal or two, we will always continue to fight our way back.”
Madason Tessier would find the back of the net twice for two of Yankton's three goals in the contest. Briana Benjamin also scored for the Gazelles.
The Bobcats featured four different goal scorers in Addi Reed, Kaitlyn Bravek, Chloe Person, and Maggia Helge-land.
Yankton falls to 0-2 and will travel to Mitchell on Friday.
said Schuring. “We did a nice job applying pressure at the right times, but we were up against a lot of speed.”

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Nebraska's New Offense Won't Put Brakes On QB Runs

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Quarterback runs were supposed to be de-emphasized in Nebraska's new offense. At least that was Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s recollection of his first conversation with offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf.
That was last winter, though. After practices in the spring and through two weeks of the preseason, Armstrong appears to have the green light to take off if he sees an opening.
It's another sign coach Mike Riley isn't going to force a full-scale change to the pro-style system. Elements of the old Nebraska spread/zone-read option offense will remain.
Armstrong last year ran for 705 yards on 145 carries, second-most on the team in both categories and second

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Manning's New O-Line Includes Trio With Zero NFL Starts

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Peyton Manning has never had an offensive line like this young. In fact, three of the starters have never played in an NFL regular-season game.
“I always like being around young football players,” insisted Manning, who was already mastering X's and O's when these guys were just learning their ABCs.
Protecting the 39-year-old quarterback, from left to right, are rookies Ty Sambrailo and Max Garcia, practice squad graduate Matt Paradis and veterans Louis Vasquez and Ryan Harris.
Vasquez is back at his natural right guard position after playing right tackle over the second half of last season. Harris rejoined the Broncos when star tackle Ryan Clady blew out his left ACL three months ago and Sambrailo became Manning's blindside protector.
After giving up a sack on the second snap at Seattle last week, the fresh-faced O-line stiffened and Brock Osweiler drove Denver to scores on all five of the Broncos' first-half possessions.
“Those three young guys playing side by side by side, to start off their careers, their very first game action to be up there in Seattle, I don't care if it's preseason or not, those Seahawks fans showed up in the rain, they were loud as hell and I think those guys handled that very, very well,” O-line coach Clancy Barone said.

Manning, who sat out the preseason opener, gets his first game action Saturday night at Houston, and it will be more than a cameo.
“Expect him to play quite a bit,” coach Gary Kubiak said Tuesday.
And the young offensive linemen can expect to see J.J. Watt aplenty.
At least they've faced Von Miller every day in camp.
Miller, recently discharged from the league's drug program after testing clean for two years, has been on an absolute tear this summer, no longer weighed down by extra pounds or the specter of a third-strike suspension.
“To go against guys like him, guys like DeMarcus Ware, every single day, run and pass, day in and day out, it makes game day just seem so much slower,” Barone said. “The fact is it won't get any tougher than that on game day. And there are very few guys who are equal to that on game day. So, if you can go in there and compete against the world's best day in and day out, it does help.”
Miller weaved past Sambrailo a few times Tuesday to get in Manning's face.
“I want Ty to be a Pro Bowler and sixth-year player today. But I also understand the process that he's going through,” Kubiak said. “He, Max and Matt, watching them, I think as coaches we have to have patience when we see some of those things.”
The staff has some help in that regard.
A common sight at camp this sum-

mer is Miller or Ware talking up the young O-linemen after beating them, offering tips or unmasking tip-offs.
“The thing that I'm really impressed with is to watch DeMarcus and Von grab them after that series and say, ‘Come here, let me tell you why that happened,’” Kubiak said. “That's very encouraging.”
And valuable.
“That is worth five meetings from me right there,” Barone said. “And they get it in about 10 seconds from their teammate. That's awesome for all of us, it really is.”
Sambrailo, whom Barone calls “a football junkie,” was immediately named a starter after the Broncos selected him in the second round out of Colorado State.
Garcia, a fourth-rounder from Florida, and Paradis, a sixth-round draft pick out of Boise State last year, joined Sambrailo in the first-string offense soon after training camp began.
“Smart guys are going to play sooner and play longer,” Barone said. “And these guys are both very, very smart guys.”
Notes: Brandon McManus nailed a 70-yard field goal during the 2-minute drill Tuesday and Connor Barth was good from 65 yards moments later. ... Among the sideline spectators was former Rockies great Todd Helton, who went to college with Manning. ... DE Kenny Anunike (knee) skipped practice but is expected back Wednesday.