

Football | Bon Homme

Cavs Take On Transition To Nine-Man



Chase Kortan (4) • Bon Homme

Move To 9AA Doesn't Change Goals For Traditional Power

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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TYNDALL - The Bon Homme Cavaliers move down from Class 11B and into Class 9AA football this season and have to adjust to a new style of football.

"There is a lot more space on the field and a lot more responsibility defensively," senior fullback and line-backer Carter Mecham said. "I think our coaches are good and I'm confident they can get us into the right spots to get the job done."

Head coach Byron Pudwill and his staff will have their hands full making the transition from 11-man football to 9-man football. Nine-man teams will typically take out the two tackles on the offensive line for offense and take out either two players from the front seven or one player

from the front seven and one defensive back on defense.

"There are two big things for me," Pudwill said. "One, playing defense is a nightmare, it is hard to scheme for."

"Two, all our opponents are new and we have nothing to base off of."

Junior running back and defensive back Chase Kortan will be a key contributor to the Cavs' offense while Mecham will be a leader of the defense.

"They both have to lead and take care of the rest of their teammates," Pudwill said. "Chase is multifaceted and will get a lot of touches and has to be well rounded and not fumble."

"Carter is super smart, has a nose for the football, and as the old saying goes if you have to coach your mike linebacker you have the wrong guy in that position."

BON HOMME

8/28	at Miller-Highmore-Harrod	7 p.m.
9/11	vs. Gregory	7 p.m.
Defending 9AA champs (made 8 finals appearances in 11B from 1981-2003)		
9/18	at Kimball-White Lake (WL)	7 p.m.
In 9AA semifinals in 2014		
9/25	at Menno-Marion (MA)	7 p.m.
10/2	vs. Colman-Egan	7 p.m.
10/9	at Wolsey-Wessington (WO)	7 p.m.
Lost in 9A final in 2014		
10/16	vs. Platte-Geddes	7 p.m.
Platte won 11B titles in '86, '92		
10/22	vs. Canistota	7 p.m.
Lost in 9B semifinals in 2014		
Bon Homme played in 11B title game three times, winning in '94 and '95		

ADMIT ONE

The Cavs look to be one of the favorites in their class, even though they have to change the way they play football, and have their sights set on the state finals in the DakotaDome.

"We just tell the kids

there's a million examples out there that the number one team doesn't always win," Pudwill said. "We just have to take it one week at a time and stay focused on each game."

"We have a lot of good guys and everyone's confident we are going to be pretty good," Kortan said. "It is our goal to get to the dome every year, we need to take it week by week and hopefully end up on top."

"There's only one place anyone wants to be at the end of the year," Mecham said. "We have to work hard to get the job done."

Bon Homme opens up their season against Miller-Highmore-Harrod in Miller on Aug. 28. They will face one of their tougher tests two weeks later as they renew an old rivalry against 9AA defending state champs, Gregory, in Tyndall on Sept. 11.

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S.D. PREP FOOTBALL

Alcester-Hudson

COACH: Brian Haak (48-56)

ASSISTANTS: Steve Hale, Kevin Kunz, Skyler Ericksen, Michael Seivert, Randy Walthe

VITALS: Class 9B, Tri-Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: The Cubs went 10-1, losing to Howard in the Class 9A semifinals.

RETURNING: Grant Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 185; QB/S, 1,491 passing, 15 TD; 1,003 rushing, 18 TD; 34.5 tackles); Mitchell Johnson (Sr., 5-10, 190; Slot/LB 12 rushes, 30 yards; 3 catches, 77 yards; 36.5 Tackles); Zachary Ronning (Sr.; 5-11, 165; Slot, 26 catches, 357 yards, 4 TD); Gavin Doering (Jr.; 5-11, 205; G, LB, 47 Tackles, 1 INT); Nickolas Johannsen (Sr., 6-0, 220; C); Trent Rus (Jr., 5-9, 260; Nose); Alex Pulscher (Sr., 6-1, 175; DE, 21 Tackles)

NEWCOMERS: Samuel Jensen (Jr., 5-10, 160; WR/DB; 8 catches, 112 yards, 1 TD); Logan McConnell (Jr., 5-11, 160; RB/LB; 27 carries, 202 yards, 3 TDS)

Andes Central-Dakota Christian

COACH: Rich Stephens

ASSISTANTS: Will Walker, Cliff Johnson, Charlie Hopkins, Colton Florey

VITALS: Class 9A, Region 3, Great Plains Conference

LAST YEAR: Andes Central finished with a 2-6 record and failed to make the playoffs. Dakota Christian was co-oped with Platte-Geddes in 2014.

RETURNING: Cliff Johnson (Fr., 6-1, OL); Jasiah Caple (So., 5-11, OL/LB); Ethan Black (So., 5-11, OL/LB); Donovan Joden (So., 6-1, RB/LB); Kendal Veenstan (So., 5-8, OL/LB)

NEWCOMERS: Alex Maas (Fr., 6-1, OL/DL); Zach Delange (Sr., 5-10, RB/DB); Hunter Vasek (So., 5-8, OL)

Avon

COACH: Tom Culver (155-42)



2014 Class 11B Championship Celebration • Parkston

ASSISTANTS: Mel Fathke, James Stubbjaer, Justin Lukes, Mark Mudder

VITALS: Class 9B, Great Plains Conference

LAST YEAR: The Pirates return three starters on each side of the ball from last season's team, who finished 7-3.

RETURNING: Alex Balvin (Sr., 6-1, 240; G/DT); John Kopp (Sr., 5-10, 215; FB/DE); Sam Eben (Jr., 6-2, 215; TE); Jacob Cihak (So., 5-8, 135; DB)

NEWCOMERS: Hayden Powers (Jr., 5-7, 150; LB); Brady Cameron (So., 6-3, 160; QB); Brendan Anderson (Sr., 5-8, 195; FB); Chase Frank (Sr., 5-10, 165; DB); Riley Namminga (Jr., 5-11, 160, RB); Jacob Wages (Sr., 6-1, 240, DT); Tate Wynia (So., 5-8, 130; DE); Wyatt Duncan (So., 5-8, 160; RB); Dominique Stout (Jr., 5-9, 215; C/DT); Dylan Raysby (Jr., 6-0, 150; TE)

Beresford

COACH: Mike Busch

ASSISTANTS: Alex

Devries, Jim Nelson, Taylor Olsen

VITALS: Class 11B, Dakota XII Conference

LAST YEAR: The Watchdogs went 3-5 last year.

RETURNING: Logan Busch (Sr., 6-5, 280; OL, Big East / Dakota 12 All Conference); Chris Kropuenske (Sr., 5-9, 175; RB, Big East All Conference (LB) 4 year starter); Thatcher Schlup (Sr., 6-1, 170; WR, Big East All Conference DB); Tristian Lutter (Sr., 6-0, 215; OL); Hunter Bergland (SR., 5-11, 165; WR); Michael Hanson (Sr., 6-0, 180; TE); Kaleb Peterson (Jr., 5-11, 180; LB); Lathan Norling (Jr., 6-4; DE); Caeden Gunvoldson (Jr., 5-10; OL); Austin Snedeker (Jr., 5-10; OL); Chris Housken (Jr., 6-3; DL); Riley Johnsen (Jr., 6-1; OL/LB); Hunter Borah (So., 5-9; RB); Caleb Carnes (So., 6-3; TE); Jack Fitzgerald (So., 5-10; DL); Carnson Poppenga (So., 5-9; DB); Parker Goblirsch (So., 6-3; TE)

NEWCOMERS: Blake Peterson (Fr., 6-3; DE); Beau Van Gelder (Fr., 6-0; WR); Tyler Kvopuenske (Fr., 6-0; WR); Jade Worth (Fr., 6-0; OL); Carter Kennedy (Fr., 6-0; RB); Wyatt Knudson (Fr., 5-10; OL); Zach Erickson (Fr., 5-10; TE); Jack Antonsen (Fr., 6-0; WR); Duncan Pease (Fr., 5-11; TE)

Bon Homme

COACH: Byron Pudwill

ASSISTANTS: Jason Hein, Dr. James Torsney, Austin

Koch, Gary Kortan

VITALS: Class 9AA, Little Missouri Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: The Cavaliers finished last season with a 6-4 record and will return eight letter winners from a season ago.

RETURNING: Alan Haataja (Sr., 6-0, 200; OL/DL); Carter Mecham (Sr., 6-1, 185; FBLB); Chase Kortan (Jr., 6-0, 180; RB/DB); Nathan Schenkel (Jr., 6-1, 280; TE/DE); Alex Caba (Sr., 5-8, 160; LB);

NEWCOMERS: Ben Hajek (Sr., 5-8, 165; WR/DB); Sam Caba (Jr., 5-10, 150; RB/LB); Connor Frasch (Jr., 5-11, 175; OL/DL); Kade Hellman (Jr., 5-8, 170; OL/DL); Alec Johnson (Jr., 5-9, 240; OL/DL); Austin Kotalik (Jr., 5-10, 170; RB/DB); Collin Mann (Jr., 5-11, 165; OL/DL); Zach Sykora (Jr., 5-11, 145; WR/LB); Clay Wittmeier (Jr., 6-4, 240; OL/DL); Bryce Scieszinski (So., 6-0, 165; QB/DB)

Centerville

COACH: Patrick Sees (10-23)

ASSISTANT: Tucker Tornberg

VITALS: Class 9B, Tri-Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: The Tornados finished the regular season 1-7.

RETURNING: Rory O'Malley (Sr., 5-11, 250; QB, 40-74, 579 yards, 6 TD); Chris Wixon (Jr., 5-11, 220; C); Lane Bendert (Sr., 6-0, 180; G/NT);

Levi Gruschin (Sr., 6-0, 175; G/LB); Bailey Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 185; TE/DE, 5 catches, 62 yards); Tyrell Martz (Sr., 5-9, 150; WB/S, 45 carries, 176 yards, 1 TD; 6 tackles); Adam Austin (Sr., 6-1, 170; OLB, 41 Tackles, 1 Fumble Rec.); Tyler Knutson (Jr., 5-7, 140; OLB, 11 Tackles)

NEWCOMERS: Jordan Lokken (Sr., 6-1, 160; TE/OLB); Zach Eli (Jr., 6-2, 195; G/DL); Deon Monroe (Jr., 6-0, 170; WB/S); Ryan Clites (So., 5-10, 170; RB/LB); Trace Sikkink (So., 5-10, 170; QB/S); Dylan Olson (So., 5-10, 180; C/DL)

Dakota Valley

COACH: Jeff Van DenHul

ASSISTANTS: Josh Van DenHul, Austin Cole, Jeff Howenstein, Will Bisenius, Time Squier, Craig Hertz

VITALS: Class 11A, Dakota XII Conference

LAST YEAR: Dakota Valley is coming off a 2-7 season and lost 12 letterwinners from 2014.

RETURNING: Ryan Owens (Sr., 6-0; FB/CB); Ethan Klasi (Sr., 6-2; R/C); Ryan Parker (Jr., 6-4; OL/DL); Jacob Kenny (Jr., 6; OL/DL); Luke Schmitt (Jr., 6-1; QB/S); Bryce Schroeder (Jr., 5-10; WR/C); Cameron Fischer (Jr., 5-10; WR/C); Grant Meier (Sr., 6-1; OL/DL); Gage Butler (Jr., 6-0; OL/DL); Jeff Kurtz (Sr., 6-0; OL/DL); Josh Hoffman (Jr., 6-1; OL/DL); Bennett Chesterman (Jr., 6-1; LB/FB);

NEWCOMERS: Austin Carter (so., 5-9; RB/LB); Zach Masters (So., 6-1; WR/S); Tyler Johnson (Sr., 6-2; WR/C); Alec Rasmussen (Sr., 6-0; OL/DL); Steven Neff (Jr., 6-0; FB/LB); Robert Rosenquist (Jr., 5-10; RB/LB)

ASSISTANTS: Adam Timmins, Troy McCreary, Seth Fischer, Dave Jacobs

VITALS: Class 11B, Dakota XII Conference

LAST YEAR: The Huskies went 1-7 and did not make the playoffs.

RETURNING: Andrew Flannery (Sr., 5-11; OL/DL, honorable mention All-Conference, four year starter); Jared Hueser (Sr., 5-10; RB/LB, honorable mention All-Conference, leading rusher, three year starter); Andrew Tepley (Sr., 5-11; OL/DL, four year starter); Michael Murphy (Sr., 6-2; QB/DB, two year starter, leading passer); Lorin Gregg (Sr., 5-11; WR/DB, two year starter); Tristen Gill (Sr., 6-0; WR/OLB); Cody Kniep (Sr., 5-8; OL/LB); Alex Wu (Jr., 5-7; RB/LB, two year starter, great speed); Howard Smith (Jr., 6-0; OL/DL); Alex Hoffman (Sr., 5-7; OL/DL); Alex Norby (Jr., 5-4; RB/LB); Jackson Grassel (Jr., 6-0; RB/LB); Preston Fejfar (So., 5-8; WR/DB); Hunter Ewing (So.,

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