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2018 Bloodhound Football Preview Bloodhounds keep stacking the bricks

Head Coach Tony Shiffman says second year of newlook Hounds hinges on how great the team wants to be





Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Junior Diego Lozano runs footwork drills with assistant coach Derek Doherty Wednesday morning in the third day of full practice for the Bloodhounds. At right, returning quarterback Lennon Barker looks downfield.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The intensity is palpable on the Fort Madison High School football practice field during this third day of official because the 2nd team lolligagged onto the field sending head coach Tony Shiffman and Defensive Coordinator Luke Rickelman over the top demanding the second team stand on the sidelines and think about why they're second team.

This second edition of Shiffman's Bloodhounds is better prepared he said at this point, than the Hounds were last year in the retooled system.

"Believe it or not we're light years ahead of where we were last year," Shiffman said after the practice. "Everybody's last year was so new, going from a double wing, single wing look to a spread. This year we're furthering the spread along." In the skill positions, the Hounds will replace firstteam all district back Alex Gully who rushed for a record 1,355 yards and 7.1 yards per carry. Junior Diego Lozano will be a workhorse out of the backfield. Lozano's season was cut short with a shoulder injury last year, and Shiffman said there's a handful of other



Crafts building something big here

W atching thousands of people crowd around the majestic riverfront that serves as the front yard to Fort Madison's downtown district was something to see last week.

I live about four blocks from RiverFest and decided I'd not fight the crowds and parking and just ride my bike down the hill, shoot across the tracks, and ride along the river walkway up to the metal grate that gatekeeps all but committee members.

I'm not on the committee. I did race Doug Krogmeier in a Paul Bunyon-esque task for driving fence poles into the field east of the Riverview Park drive for about two hours on Saturday morning. We put 'em all in and then roped off the parking. I had a bottle of water, grabbed my bike, and headed home.

I couldn't type for three days. My hands felt like someone else's.

I did it last year, too, but I don't remember it hurting like that next day. But it's a very, very miniscule morsel of what needs to be done to pull off the event that Charles and Jenny Craft and company have done the past three years.

I'd say it's pretty good odds that Charles was home at a desk looking over numbers and envisioning an even bigger event next year.

The city gave him \$10K to market the event. The largest amount I've ever seen the city's tourism board give to a local event. That money came back and then some. I think Pen City Current shot about 4,000 pictures of the event. We sponsored the Main Stage, and helped with some outside-the-box marketing and pre-event coverage, but this Craft guy and his band of volunteers have got something here.

I'd list them because I know most, but I would forget someone and we just don't want to do that disservice to those people that pick off parts of this project. I've gotten to know Charles very well and am very impressed with his promotional knowledge. He knows who to talk to when and what to ask. He understands that relationships are needed to build this type of event and works hard to protect them. I personally witnessed a customer come down to the festival grounds on Tuesday and pretty much demand a ticket. Charles was there and told the gentleman that he could still pick up tickets at Hy-Vee for presale prices. The man didn't want to hear that See **CRAFTS**, page 4

practice.

Shouting of missed assignments, dropped balls and wrong steps echo off the north side taupe brick of the high school building. Repetition....repetition. A three-drill session wraps up a helmet and shoulderpad day with heavy clapping, encouragement, a 20-minute cool down exercise and a directed ice bath.

Summer camps are over and this is the real deal. Toward the end of the day, the first team was forced into a second consecutive session of offensive hash drills,

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Celebrations/Scene Around Town



RiverFest Games winners

Courtesy photos

At left, Isaas Steffensmeier, John Nagel, Rachel Mehmert, and Kaeli Hutson aka "We're just lucky" won the RiverFest Games Sand volleyball tournament on Saturday. At right is the runner-up team "Four Play" featuring Jamie Shadt, Sara Fedler, Natalie Ford, and Mike Walters. At far right, are the male and female winners of the 5K Run/Walk held Saturday morning. Jennifer Lucie won the female race and Miles Sheppard won the overall male race.

Birth Announcements

GIDEON ANTHONY MILLIGAN MARTINDALE

KEOKUK - Alicia Robinson and Kordell Mason are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Gideon Anthony Milligan Martindale, on Saturday, August 4, 2018, at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Debra and Larry Cameron, of Keokuk, Angalia Jones and Stephen Martindale, of Keokuk. Great-grandparents are Beverly Jones, of Keokuk. Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

BRINKLEE SUE KENEL

FORT MADISON - Taylor and Kurt Kenel are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Brinklee Sue Kenel, on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Mike and Kim Culbertson, of Fort Madison, and Gary and Janet Kenel, of Fort Madison. Great-grandparents are Gene and Carolyn Zieger, of Fort Madison. Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

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Mega Ball: 2

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Scene Around Town/Area News



RiverFest Bags winners

At left Shane Lebath of the Quad Cities and Scott Goetz of Burlington took the title in the River-Fest Bags competition. At right were the second place finishers Jade Rigner and Ryan Markey.

County Conservation to hold youth dove hunt

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Conservation invites youth along with a mentor to participate in a Youth Dove Hunt. The two-part event will take place on Friday, August 31st and Saturday, September 1st.

The first part will be held on Friday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Tri State Gun Club. During this portion of the event, youth will learn about hunting regulations, review gun handling, and practice trap shooting. Dinner will also be served. On Saturday morning, youth and their mentors will head to the field for the dove hunting portion of the event. The hunting portion will take place from 5:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Heron Bend Wildlife Area. The area will be closed to all other hunters during the youth hunt.

Youth will need to provide their own gun and ammo for the event. If a child cannot provide their own equipment or does not have a mentor who can join them, Lee County Conservation will work with the child to ensure those needs are meet. The event is open to ages 12 to 15.

To register for the Youth Hunt, please call the Lee County Conservation office at (319) 463-7673. The last day to register for the event is Friday, August 24th. There are a limited amount of spots available for this program. Participants are encourage to register early.

Lee County Conservation District would like to thank Lee County Pheasants Forever, Great River Quail Forever, and Dan's Pawn &Gun for sponsoring this event.

Loebsack staff to hold local office hours

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Dave Loebsack will have a member of his staff in Southeastern Iowa for open office hours. Jared Hershberger, Loebsack's District Representative, will be at the following locations. Hershberger will be on hand to work with individuals who are having difficulty with a government agency, have suggestions for Dave, or would just like to share their concerns. Members of the public are invited to attend. Hershberger

Courtesy photos

holds regular office hours throughout Iowa.

If residents are unable to attend but have a concern to share with the Congressman, please call our district office tollfree at 1-866-914-IOWA (4692).

Hershberger's schedule for August is as follows. Thursday, August 9 Fort Madison City Hall 811 Avenue E 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Keokuk City Hall 415 Blondeau Street 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

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Opinion/Classifieds

Everyone can get in on RiverFest act

CRAFTS - Continued from Page 1

and told Charles, "I guess you really don't want to sell a ticket to me then."

I was in retail for close to 20 years and I can unequivocally tell you the customer is not always right. But he does pay the bills. Charles told the man, "We're all about customer service here, so just hold on a second." The man stopped and mumbled something. Charles got on his phone, arranged for a computer to be brought down to the ticket booth that afternoon and sold the man a ticket.

If that's not the guy you want in charge of bringing more than 10,000 people into your town over four days, I'm not sure who would be.

Eight to 10 more county veterans will get to go on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. because RiverFest arranged for a Sunday charity breakfast to raise money for the events. Charles is a military man in his own right with the

U.S. Army. Those things are near and dear to his heart.

Dragon Boat races were back on the river for the first time in more than a decade and throngs were on hand to watch the races. That will be bigger next year as I heard people ribbing others about why they didn't have a team this year. Several people I talked to weren't even from the United States, but loved the event and want to return next year to be a part again.

RiverFest Games gave people a chance to compete for cash prizes and local bands were able to show off their skills to late night crowds looking for somewhere to keep the party going.

Nationally recognized bands including Pop Evil, who, hand to God, I'd never heard of when Charles whispered it to me at the reveal party just seconds before announcing it to the crowd. "Who?"

FMCH Welcomes

That group is blowing up music outlets across the country. People reminisced and danced to favorites of their prime including FireHouse, Saving Abel, and the thirty-somethings got Hinder. When Leigh Kakaty literally walked out onto the crowd to finish Pop Evil's final song of the night, we knew something crazy had just happened.

Word's gettin' out. RiverFest is quickly gaining notoriety for its national acts, its seamless security, fair pricing, and charitable functionality.

"If you build it, they will come."

Nice work Mr. and Mrs. Craft and Co.

I turned 50 on Wednesday. Rode my bike around town, got a free haircut because I was being grumpy about another year in the books, and then had family and friends over and realized it ain't so bad....but that's Beside the Point.



the classifieds



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Sports/Weather

Hounds build on last year's spread offense

FOOTBALL - Continued from Page 1

backs that will slide in and get playing time.

"We've got a situation right now where we have five people that can carry the load for us. Calem Maclearn, Brock Kalif, Kali Maestro, and Keaton Poe, Diego is about the same size as all of them combined, but they're doing a good job and running hard and we've got some guys that are putting in the effort."

Lennon Barker will be back under center for his senior year. Barker threw for over 1200 yards and fired 13 touchdowns last year after moving in from a running back slot as a sophomore in the wingstyle offense.

"We're trying to get him to be a better leader. He's got his ups and downs and its a lot more ups than downs." FMHS will rely on senior Sheymouhr Redd-Donald downfield as Shiffman is set to ramp up the spread even more than he did last year, where Shance Redd-Donald caught nine touchdowns.

"Shey has been doing a great job so far being a leader and he's going to be great receiver for us," Shiffman said.

Quentin Schneider, Dominic Frantz, Romeo Maestro, newcomer Brandon Keester and others will look to help field the void left by five seniors who had catches last year for the Hounds.

On the line Sam Hayes, Alex Lauber and Alec Craft will anchor the play inside. The Hounds lost first team all district tackle Elijah Barnes and second-team Dalton Mabeus to graduation.

"Sam Hayes is back on the offensive line and he's coming back as a starter for us. Unfortunately both our offensive and defensive lines are very similar. We've got someplaymakers and we've got good guys in good spots, we just don't have a lot of depth there," Shiffman said.

He said offensively the Hounds will push the spread and take advantage of some speed again this year.

"We're going to go a little more true spread this year than with a fullback and try to use every inch of the field as much as we can and take advantage of that," he said.

On defensive, Shaymouhr was a second-team all district as a defensive



Assistant coach Justin Menke challenges Redd-Donald in a fly drill for some fun at the end of Wednesday's practice.

back and Nick Carter is back in the corner. The Hounds lost Tyler O'Tool at linebacker, but Shiffman said he's happy with the depth there.

"Our defensive line is about the same as our offensive line so we've got a few guys that can fit in here and there. Sheymouhr was 2nd team all-district and he's back. Nicky started for us most of the year at corner and he's back. We've got good numbers and depth there, again, and we've finally got some linebackers. We were very thin at inside linebacker last year. We've got some young guys that can step in and play when needed this year."

AJ Nolting will be handling the place kicking again for the Hounds. Nolting was 18 of 22 in PATs last year with one field goal on one attempt for 21 yards.

Shiffman said although the team has some athletes, and teaching systems and assignments has been easier this second year, only the players can determine how successful the season will be.

"We're only as good as these kids wanna be," Shiffman said. "I can be the best coach in the world, Derek (Doherty) can be the best coach in the world, Luke (Rickelman) can be the best coach in the world but if the kids don't want to be great, we won't be great. That's the big thing

CERTIFIED COMFORT EXPERT



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sam Hayes (53) works out of a blocking gate Wednesday morning. Hayes will help anchor an offensive line that lost three seniors last year.

we're trying to convey to them is that it's on them. They've got to be the ones that want to do it."

Some new faces that will have an impact this year include junior Mike Mosena, senior Brandon Keester and junior Jayden Fedler. Junior Jace Burgher played as a freshman and is back after skipping his sophomore year. Brock Kalif, Kali Maestro and Keaton Poe will also contribute.

Shiffman said Fedler is a special kid who will work his way into the lineup.

"Fedler just has to get polished. He had a frustrating morning. He doesn't understand it's only day three for him. He does some things with his hands that you just can't teach. He does some good stuff. You watch him - he doesn't realize how good he can be."

Shiffman was making no predictions this year. Last year he said he was projecting a winning season in his first year and the Hounds just missed at 4-5.

"We're looking to go 1-0 against Central Lee in Week 1," he said. "I kind of put my foot in my mouth about that last year, so we're looking to go 1-0 week 1. That's all we're doing right now."

The Hounds start the regular season on Aug. 24 in Donnellson. Last year's affair was high scoring with the Hounds winning a 56-35 shootout at Richmond Stadium.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 09 Aug



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FRI 10 Aug



Moderate Rain High– 82.1° F | Low – 66.3° F

SAT 11 Aug



Clear Skies High– 79.5° F | Low – 66.3° F

SUN 12 Aug 🦳



Clear Skies High – 78.1° F | Low – 65° F



in 15 Aug



Clear Skies High– 80.7° F | Low – 67.6° F

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