

Tuttle Tigers return to Bill Hinkle Field

By Jayson Knight
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The Tuttle Tigers have faced setbacks due to the infamous coronavirus, COVID-19.

Returning to some semblance of normalcy, Tuttle Football hosted a three-team scrimmage at Bill Hinkle Field recently to get the team geared up for the 2020 season.

Tuttle Head Football Coach Brad Ballard weighed in on what it was like to get those reps in after losing Spring Training to the new disease.

"I thought it was good," the coach said. "It's what we needed. There was a lot of reps. I haven't made it through all of them on film yet. I thought we executed pretty well. Threw the ball decent. First few quarterbacks that I played with the first team did a good job. Even our freshman quarterbacks did pretty well. They did a good job. Offensively, I thought we functioned pretty well, ran the ball well, and we threw the ball around in some different areas.



-Photo by Rachelle Rogers

Jayden Seebold looks for a receiver down field while Canon West, Wyatt Riley and Korben Graham block.

Of course, we made enough mistakes to last us for a week or two. As far as fumbles, and turnovers, and things like that, I thought we were pretty clean.

Defensively, I thought we hustled well, I thought we lined up good, I thought we ran to the ball well, and I thought we tackled pretty well. We created a couple of

turnovers. Those are always things you're looking for, but overall, just lining up and our effort and execution I thought was pretty good for scrimmage one. It was a normal practice. COVID-19 hasn't really affected practice for the fall. We were able to get our time in. We went twice a day this year. Early in the mornings and late

Tuttle Tigers 2020 Schedule

Aug. 28	Sulphur
Sept. 4	at Plainview
Sept. 11	at Newcastle
Sept. 25	Cushing
Oct. 2	Tecumseh*
Oct. 9	at Harrah
Oct. 15	at Classen
Oct. 23	Ada
Oct. 30	John Marshall**
Nov. 6	at Blanchard
	Homecoming *, Senior Night **

in the evenings. It was a little different for us.

We normally go one big long practice but we never had the ability to go at night because our practice field didn't have lights on it. Now we have turf. We can go out on the game field and turn on the lights.

now we do it early mornings and evenings. It was a pretty good schedule for us. We got a lot of work in. For me, it's good just to see the kids out and competing again. It's nice to see them out there. They wanted that for so long and they need it. Our town needs it. Our society needs it. Everyone's cautious, and we are too, of our players health, but we also understand that life has to go on and we've got to figure out a way to get things done, and a way for these kids to have a life and move forward, also protect them, but there's a lot to learn about keeping your nose to the grindstone, doing your part, and working hard. I think our kids have done that."

Tuttle Tuttle trying to make up for lost time with new faces

By Jayson Knight
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"A lot of these guys have played before, but not a lot of them have started every game," Tuttle Head Football Coach Brad Ballard said last week of his players.

The Tuttle Tigers are grinding it out for starting spots and Ballard said there's a lot of competition between the young men.

"We've got so much competition this year," Ballard said. "We've got a lot of lineman-type bodies. Hopefully we can keep the rotation going and keep people fresh and healthy."

With four turning start-

ers, the crowds and coaches for the Tuttle Tigers will be looking a lot of new names.

"We're talking seven of them on each side of the ball," Ballard said, still excited for the opportunity to play football. "You're going to see a lot of new names. It's awesome. What a great time."

Coach Ballard remains optimistic because he says it's a healthy environment for competitors.

"All of those numbers breed competition in practice," Ballard said. "Practices have been snappy. It's been good. I've been really proud of them. I think the thing I'm most proud of is the way they've done what they've

been asked to do."

COVID-19 controversy has created so much disruption for the Tuttle Tigers, but Coach Ballard said it's still a fair playing field.

"All throughout the summer, we had great numbers for workouts," Ballard said. "We had to do some things we don't always do as far as splitting them up into more groups, and only having certain people inside at one time, just different things, because of some of the COVID-19 restrictions. They've done what we've asked them to do. They've done their part no and now it's time to go play. We didn't get any spring ball. We missed

ten practices in the spring and we missed five days of team camp. We didn't get to do any seven on seven this year either. We're about 15 practices behind, and seven on seven. It's the same for everyone though. It's frustrating for us because we feel like we should be a little bit further along. This time in the weeks leading up to the start of the season, we

are usually further down the road in preparation."

Tuttle Football often features some of the same talent as the stellar varsity wrestling program.

"We got a few wrestlers," Ballard said. "I haven't counted this year. We think it's awesome though. We want as many as we can get. Coach Finn is coaching football with us this year and he's a wres-

ting coach. These kids in Tuttle play everything. They like to compete."

Coach Ballard says he's really looking forward to getting back to football.

"I'm looking forward to flipping those lights on Friday night and Tuttle getting to play a football game, and people getting to watch a football game. I'm really looking forward to that again."



-Photo by Rachelle Rogers

Tuttle's defensive line battles during a recent scrimmage.



-Photo by Rachelle Rogers

Tuttle center Korben Graham gets ready for a play during a recent scrimmage. The Tigers opened their season last Friday against Sulphur. They return home Sept. 25 to take on Cushing.

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