WESTERN HILLS WOLVERINES



GAME SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER PARIS 11 PARIS | 7:30PM SEPTEMBER FRANKFORT | 7:30PM 18 SEPTEMBER PINEVILLE 25 WESTERN HILLS | 7:30PM MERCER COUNTY WESTERN HILLS | 7:30PM OCTOBER HENRY COUNTY 9 HENRY COUNTY | 7:30PM OCTOBER DESALES 16 WESTERN HILLS | 7:30PM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY-LOUISVILLE 23 CHRISTIAN ACADEMY LOUISVILLE | 7:30PM EAST JESSAMINE 30 WESTERN HILLS | 7:30PM FRANKLIN COUNTY WESTERN HILLS | 7:30PM 6 We're in decent shape, we don't have a lot of depth but at the

same time we have a lot of kids returning so hopefully that will be good for us, Don Miller is entering his 15th season at the helm of the Western Hills High School football program. And while the Wolverines finished last season at 3-8, Miller believes he has an abundance of returning talent that could make this season much more successful.

Junior quarterback Dylan Engler returns after scoring eight touchdowns in 2019. While he has spent most of the offseason recovering from a wrist operation this past spring, he will line up behind center on Friday, Sept. 11, when the Wolverines travel to face the Paris Greyhounds.

The Wolverines hope to use seniors Jason Rogers and Perrin Whitt and junior Demetrius Britt's athleticism to replace standout running back Kaden Moorman, who left to join the Flyers of Franklin County and coach Eddie James.

Junior fullback and linebacker Jacob Fields returns as well, adding another piece to the puzzle for Miller.

"We're in decent shape, we don't have a lot of depth but at the same time we have a lot of kids returning so hopefully that will be good for us," he said.

One returning player is senior play-maker and defensive back Jason Rogers. His impact on this team is maybe the most critical in the Wolverines' lineup. Roger's eight touchdowns last season makes him the leading scorer. Being an offensive threat comes with a certain mind set, but Rogers believes it is his job to motivate his teammates to have that same mentality.

"I've got to put everything I've got on the line," he said. "As a leader I need to push everyone else more, because no matter how hard I go, I have got to have my team behind me as well, I can't do it by myself. As a scorer, I've got in my mind set already of what my goal is for the game I'm playing every week, but all in all, not only myself, but everyone wants to make a big impact on the game."

The defense was rather young and inexperienced in 2019. However, with the exception of a side of a few defensive lineman, most notably Cameron Purvis, most of the Wolverines' defensive play-makers are back this season, and Miller is expecting more from this bunch now that they have some experience.

"We're hoping for big things this year," Miller said.

Still it will be hard to replace Purvis. His 58 tackles and seven tackles for a loss last season made him stand out from the rest of the defensive line. Miller looks for junior Taylor Childers, sophomore Austin Keith and junior Colin O'brien to do the heavy lifting when it comes to replacing Purvis' impact on both sides of the ball.

The coach said he admires this year's senior class because of their adversity and perseverance during the extended dead period, and then through the extended workouts and conditioning.

"It's kind of been a roller coaster ride so I am proud of them and what they've been able to do so far," said Miller.

Jeffery Parker is a senior inside linebacker who tallied 103 tackles, eight tackles for a loss, an interception and three fumble recoveries in 2019. As a senior, his main initiative is to push his teammates as a leader.

"I'm just going to try my best to do everything to push and lead this team as best as I can," said Parker.

There are a few players Miller has singled out ahead of the coming season, including Parker, who will use his talents on both sides of the ball this year. Miller is hoping Parker will perform as slot receiver this season while still fulfilling his role on defense.

Taylor Childers is another player Miller has high expectations for this season. Childer's role at defensive end is mainly where Miller will rely on him this season, and Miller

-Miller