



By LaDonna Swedberg

Sports Writer

The Wallace Wildcat football team has the first two weeks of practice behind them and they are prepared to open their season Friday, Aug. 24 at home. The Wildcats will take on the South Platte Blue Knights.

Wallace will have 19 players suited up to take the field for the 7:30 kick-off; six seniors, five juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen. Senior Lane Scott and freshman Collin Swedberg are unable to play but they are actively involved. The team is coached by Gary Hager and his assistants Joe Hesse and Ralph Swedberg.

The Wildcats are looking to improve on their 3-6 record from last year in spite of graduating a lot of size. Hager is looking to utilize five returning offensive starters and the six defensive starters along with the experience he has to fill in where last year's seniors left off.

In addition to experience, Coach Hager feels that the team's strengths are the size on the line and the speed in the backfield. His one concern is the depth in the backfield.

The ever important experience comes from the returning letter winners which are Mark Jameson, Josh Harms, Taylor Doell, Taylor Nielson, Josh Grayerholz, Jose Arvizo, Landon Swedberg, John Marquardt, Shane Anders and Jeff Harms. Coach Hager is looking for Josh Harms, Jameson, Swedberg and Marquardt to step into the leadership roles for the Wildcats.

Wallace will face some unfamiliar teams with a new schedule this fall. South Platte and Hitchcock County have been playing six-man football but moved up to eight-man once again and are back on the Wildcats schedule. The other two teams that are new this season are Creek Valley and Loomis. The teams that have remained on Wallace's schedule are Paxton, Hayes Center, Medicine Valley and Brady.

New or old, familiar or unfamiliar, the Wildcats are excited for the 2012 season.

