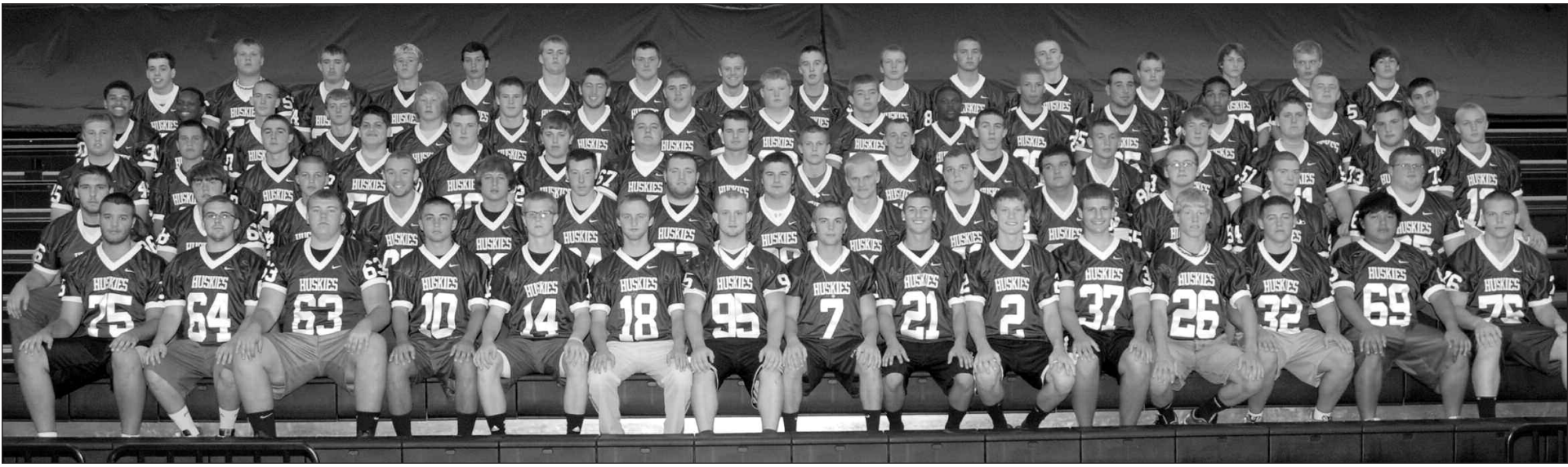
MIFFLIN COUNTY FOOTBALL



Sentinel photo by BUFFIE BOYER

Members of the Mifflin County football team are, from left, front, Dustin Hagans, Zack Zimmerman, Derek Yoder, Aaron Michaels, James Wilburne, Luke Bender, Brian Jones, Jack Wagner, Tim Beck, Shane Whalen, Jordan Treaster, Nick Lauver, Hunter Yocum, Carlos Arnold and Derek Specht; second row, Derek Moore, Dan Foster, Tucker Bachman, David Monsell, Dylan Will, Kyle Marker, Dakota Smeltz, Tory Mills, Jordan Treaster, Michael Zoppetti, Mason Sweitzer, Eric Bowersox, Anthony Elliot and Caleb Rhoades; third, Jared Pennepacker, Evan Dudick, John Michael Maclay, Kyle Bargo, Phillip Rearick, Logan Blyer, Chris Peterson, Alan Parker, Carter Saxton, Chase Pitts, Brandon Phillips, Zach Williams, Gage Reeseman, Hayden Snook, Kyler York and Darion Pierce; fourth row, Sam White, Jason Ciccolini, Derrick Kepner, Hunter Walker, Blake Yale, Jadon Boyer, Curtis Jerzerick, Colton Craig, Ryan Marshall, Jake Lilley, Jonah Ciccolini, Michael Presha, Kyle Kahley, Campbell Miller, Heath Hidlay and Joshua Velez; back, Jesse Rodgers, Garrett Folk, Keith Corson, Dylan Dietz, Matt Wagoner, Caleb Smith, Cameron Simonetti, Brice Christine, Joe Cox, Christian Hagans, Jared Michaels, Baron Vogt, Brenden Spickler, Garret Horning and Gage Capouillez.

Stacked schedule pits Huskies against the best

By **NICK WAGNER**
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LEWISTOWN – Mifflin County head coach George Miskinis has seen all kinds of change in his many years coaching in Central Pennsylvania.

But for his Huskies in 2012, Miskinis' first full season holding the reins in Mifflin County, an overwhelming task of moving into a big-time conference draws parallels to a former Big 12 school.

The Missouri Tigers switched from a powerful Big 12 to an absolutely loaded SEC for this upcoming season. For the Huskies, that transition goes from dealing with the pains of an independent school to the Mid-Penn Conference's Commonwealth Division this fall.

AT A GLANCE

MIFFLIN COUNTY HUSKIES
District 6, Class AAAA
Coach: George Miskinis
2011: 7-4

The Mid-Penn welcomes Miskinis' spread offense with open arms. However, back-to-back games against Central Dauphin and Cumberland Valley will certainly be a solid measuring stick for the second-year school.

"I want to compete in every game," Miskinis said. "I don't want to be like Missouri going into the SEC. They were successful where they were. Now they're going to a powerful conference. It's the same mentality."

Mifflin County returns nine starters, four on offense and five on defense. One of those is quarterback Shane Whalen, who won the starting job last season over Nathan Martin and has been nothing short of excellent for Mifflin County.

The senior quarterback will lead Miskinis' complex offense both on the ground and in the air. Last season, in a limited role that totaled about half the season, Whalen threw for 922 yards and scored seven touchdowns. The experience he brings to the table will help the Huskies with their transition to the Mid-Penn.

"Shane has a real good grasp of the offense and what we're trying to do," Miskinis said. "I think he understands the reads in the option game and his execution has been better. Most of his pitches are right on the mark."

And that's exactly where Mifflin County needs them to be. In a few instances last season, Mifflin County was on the cusp of having chances to win, but turnovers played a key role in taking the Huskies out of the contest.

"What we can't do right now is put the defense at the short end of the field," Miskinis said.

Kyle Kahley returns for the Huskies in the fullback position. With the option, Miskinis likes to work in a lot of misdirection plays, and that's where Kahley benefits. The 240-pound runner averaged almost six yards on 56 carries last season.

"The misdirection plays last year worked really well," Miskinis said. "We've gone to the point to which we attack and then counter attack."

The offensive line could be the wild card in Mifflin County's second season. The

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