

# FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

## Tigers

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the past year — they worked a lot harder. I had trouble last year getting 12 kids here at practice, but this year the least amount of kids we had at practice was about 14 or 16. The amount of time the kids put in the weight room, we shouldn't get pushed around as bad. We're not quite as big as the rest of the teams yet, but we're a lot bigger than we were last year."

East Juniata did lose some of its sleek speedsters from last year, including Caleb Gehman and quarterback Austin Bennett, but Cameron has made some adjustments on the offense not only to fit the competition, but also to match what his team brings with its particular physique, and the lack of speed does not seem to be an issue.

"We might not necessarily break the big plays as much, but we should be

able to get more 5-, 10-, 15-yard pops," Cameron said.

Bennett's graduation leaves a hole at the quarterback spot, and Cameron has Dylan Feltman, Reed Bruner and Josh Zimmerman all working to win the position, but as of yet none has stood out as a definite starter.

"No one's really stepped forward. The three candidates — each one has their own strength," he said.

However, regardless of who ends up taking the snaps, one thing is certain — Cameron is really focusing on strengthening his line, and that should provide better support for the QB.

On the offense, Adam Zerby, Dalton Rowe, Brody Hetrick, Ryan Furgison and Colton Keister are likely starters to protect the QB, while Zack Schrader and Tyrell Lease are likely to provide strong backup support.

Defensively, Cameron has Colton Snook, Zerby,

Furgison, Bo Kerlin, Tyler Herbster, Andrew Karchner, Cody Folk, Rowe, Matt Aurand, David Brantley, Zimmerman and Kevin Allen working to be potential starters.

"The line's looking much improved. We don't quite have the depth at the skill positions that we had the previous year, but I think with the improved line that's going to make up for it," Cameron said.

Another spot to fill is fullback, which was vacated by Logan Hambright

— a competitor Cameron described as the last year's "best overall athlete." During the preseason, it appeared as if Herbster and Folk would likely work a rotation replacement at Hambright's spot.

Outside of filling positions and working out the revamped defense, Cameron and team have been remembering a lesson learned last year in the TVL — there are no freebies.

"The biggest thing the players learned is there's

no gimmes. Every day is going to be a battle. Every team is going to be a battle. It's not going to be easy. Even the worst team in the TVL is going to come and smack you in the mouth," Cameron said, explaining that the team's goals include high-integrity play, 100 percent effort and increased mental toughness as a way to deal with the challenges of the league.

"This year it's nice because we're more familiar with the teams, you know what to expect, you know

what you're going to be doing, and now the players know that too," he said.

Cameron also mentioned the co-op, and the assistance East Juniata gets from its partner school.

"Really it's a good program, and a lot of people don't necessarily see the time and effort the kids put into it," he said. "It would be a shame if it did disappear and I know there are a lot of people who support us. I want to thank them for that for keeping everything going."



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