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HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 1

Bishop David looks to return to top after last year's flop

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The coaches in the First District of Jefferson County's Class 4A leagues don't believe that lightning will strike twice. A year ago they picked Bishop David to win the district, and the Falcons' firepower figured out.

Bishop David went 4-5, suffering its first losing season in 12 years and failing to reach the playoffs for the first time since 1976.

On Aug. 27, a new season will start, but the coaches' opinion remains Bishop David despite what happened in 1981. They're picking the Falcons No. 1 again.

"I think BD will come back. They won't have a losing record two years in a row," Western coach Steve Reed said.

"If I had to vote all over again about last year, I'd still pick BD first," Valley coach Hugh Deising said. "Man for man, they had the best talent, but somehow they just collapsed."

As in the past, coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team and were asked to rate the other five district teams in order.

Awarding points on a 5-4-3-2-1 basis, Bishop David compiled four first-place votes and 23 points. Western finished second in the balloting with 20 points, followed by defending champion Butler (17), Valley (16), Pleasure Ridge Park (9) and Shawnee (5). Western and Valley got the other first-place votes.

And how does ED coach Deacy Nash accept the favorite's role again?

"It puts a lot of undue pressure on our kids," he said. "We'll just try to be competitive and see what happens."

Bishop David

Starting its 19th year under Nash, Bishop David hopes to benefit from last year's mistakes. "We tried to platoon last year and we were playing kids who weren't good enough to play in the league we were in," Nash said. "It's a matter of getting the guys in the right places. We'll try to do a better job of that this year."

With 65 players, "a low number for us," Nash said, Bishop David doesn't plan to platoon extensively.

"And Nash says he doesn't know how good BD will be. "We're not as talented as we were last year, but we have better team speed. This group has a good attitude and works hard. If the kids keep that up, the sky's the limit."

Todd McGrath, last year's backup quarterback, will start this season.

"I've a quick and we'll run the option with him," Nash said. McGrath also

should be the mainstay in the wishbone offense, although senior Brian White is pushing Smith.

Six regular return on offense, including junior tackle John Casney (61, 200), all-district safety James Denny and end Tom Pedigo. Deising calls Tom Murphy, from Ellis, Kevin Hazel and Mark McDonald "an experienced and tough corps of linemen."

"We must replace two defensive backs (Travis Hatchell and Lamont Roberts who graduated) and one linebacker," Deising said. "If we do that, we'll be tough."

Pleasure Ridge Park

After a 1-4 start in 1981, PRP went with its younger players the second half of the season and finished 3-7. Now under Danny White, who replaced Ted Lessor as head coach, PRP will continue to rebuild.

"Our biggest challenge will be to convince these young kids they can play," White said. "We've got talent, but we lack experience."

PRP only has nine seniors on its 75-man squad, and six sophomores could start on offense. Quarterback Vincent Hobbs, fullback Pat Martin and tight end Keith Walker are 19th-graders expected to play a major role offensively.

"If we have a strong point, it should be our defense," White said. "We'll be small and quick, but we played our last five games last season with young kids and we won two of them. We'll only have one senior on defense — tackle Timmy Walters."

Safety Ricky Williams, tackle Kenny Reichmuth and Walker head the defense.

White welcomes the chance to coach young players. "I have a chance to develop them so they'll grow up with me," he said. "We're a couple of years away, but I couldn't be happier with our kids. They are intelligent, and that's one advantage being at a school with an advanced program."

Shawnee

The outlook isn't bright. Not when coach William "Jelly" Green says, "We won't have as much as we've had in past years."

On the field, Shawnee has lost 41 straight games. Officially, the losing streak ended at 33 last fall when a 35-lead to Mansel was transformed into a tie. Mansel later forfeited the game because it used an ineligible player.

That reversal gave Shawnee a 1-9 record to add to the 9-9 mark in Green's first season.

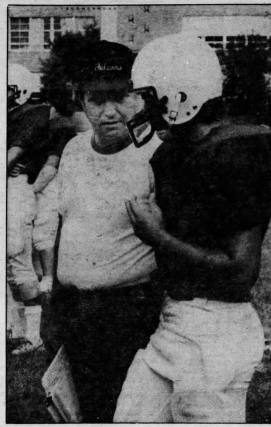
"It's still an uphill climb down here," Green said. "We're short on personnel. We have three or four athletes. The rest of the kids play on desire."

Green's best athletes are guard-linebacker Morris White, fullback Tony Hill, tight end Anthony Richardson and wide receiver Brian Elliott. Richardson is one of several kids who quit last year but came back this year," Green said.

Jimmy Harper, a junior who hasn't had much playing time, will replace the graduated David Conley at quarterback.

When Glenn Butler became accidentally ineligible, Shawnee turned to 55, 135-pound junior James Fugate as its main running back.

"Fugate has guts and I'm not afraid to go to work with him," Green said. "We don't have the great athletes, but discipline ought to win some games for us. This is the best disciplined team I've had. It takes three years to accomplish that."



Denny Nash, starting his 19th season as coach at Bishop David, hopes to avoid a repeat of last year's collapse.



Jeff Leonard opens holes for Bishop David runners.



Chris Thiesenman lights up the line at Bishop David.

First District poll

Team	1	2	3	4	5	Pts
Bishop David	4	1	—	—	—	23
Western	1	3	1	—	—	20
Butler	—	3	1	1	—	17
Valley	—	—	3	1	—	16
Pleasure Ridge Park	—	—	—	4	1	9
Shawnee	—	—	—	—	5	5

is a fine place-kicker with good range.

Ken Schoenberg, a hard-nosed runner, will have the help of some good-size linemen such as guard Jeff Leonard, tackle Jim Nasser and 6-foot-5, 210-pound tight end Chris Thiesenman.

split among four backs — Brad Adams, David Shrode, Conrad Webster and Eric Fields. Adams and Shrode are phish-type runners. Webster and Fields rely on speed and are threats on receivers. Tight end Joe Greer also can catch the ball.

Western's strong suit may be defense.

"We've improved our defense and I thought we were pretty good last year," Reed said. Brian Shumair, a two-year starter on defense, returns at tackle, and Keith Webster should perform well at safety. Adams (an end) and Shrode (linebacker) also excel on defense.

Knauser has little variety experience," Reed said. "If he has an average year, we'll be OK. We've got a chance to make the playoffs again if things fall into place with our offense."

Butler

The Beans have been to the 4A playoffs the past four years, winning the state title in 1979, and coach Bob Morehead knows exactly what he must do if Butler wants to make it to the Fayetteville again.

Replace third-team All-State quarterback Doug Lucas, fullback Terry Caffey, wide receiver Gary Johnston and first-team All-State guard-tackle David French, all of whom graduated from last year's 7-4 team.

"Our chances depend on finding some skilled people," Morehead said. "We're looking for a quarterback, and a fullback and some receivers to go with him. If we play well at the skilled positions, we'll have a good chance."

Sophomore Troy Triage may get

the nod at quarterback over senior Kenny Chiles, who's a good enough athlete to play in the secondary. "I might throw the ball as well as Lucas did late last season," Morehead said.

Either senior Jon Belcher or junior Steve Urvick will replace Coffey. Converting Belcher, a 6-0, 215-pounder and one of the county's best college prospects, from a line-man into a running back is a bold move on Morehead's part.

"We have to find a good running back and Belcher played fullback against Deales (a 21-20 loss in the playoffs) last year," Morehead said. "He's a big, strong kid with good speed and good hands."

Mike Porter returns at fullback, and tight end Phil Epperson, first-year player Kelly Ward and Ralph Wince should give Butler an adequate group of receivers. The line will be bolstered by guard David Zirnsfeld, a starter for the third straight year, and center Ricky French — lured in from PRP.

Valley

"We have some good-looking young kids who have size and speed, and if they develop and get hungry, we could be a dark horse," Valley's Deising said.

The Vikings, 6-4 a year ago, have only nine seniors among 85 players. "We have more sophomores than juniors and seniors put together," Deising said.

Last year's junior varsity team went 7-1, so listen to Deising when he says, "The future looks good."

Two juniors, quarterback James Smith and fullback Terry Thornton,

Chris lights up the field HS 1982