

EFL set to kick off another season

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Programs will be a must when the Eastern Football League kicks off its 1983 season this weekend.

For better or for worse, both the Brockton Oilers and the Mitchell Memorial Club Cobras will be sporting new looks when they tee it up for 1983.

The Oilers, 4-6 in 1982, will kick off their season Saturday night at 7:30 at Brockton's West Junior High School, hosting an Albany team which played .500 ball last year.

The Cobras, likewise .500 in '82, will officially kick off the league season on Friday night at 8:30 at Middleboro's Battis Field, hosting a Hyde Park team which played 1.000 ball last year.

"It may be better to get them now," Cobra general manager Wayne Lee philosophizes, "rather than when they're on a roll."

Which the Cowboys-upon Mike Fallon's arm-were in '82, capping a 12-0 campaign off with a 20-12 triumph over the Cobras in the league playoff championship last fall.

Add to Fallon and a backfield which already featured the fleet feet of Tom Floyd and Larry Lewis 1982 All-England running back Garry Pearson (312 carries for 1631 yards his senior year at U Mass) and co-coaches Jack Green and Joe Collins have the makings of a league-leading offense which, if anything, could be even better in '83.

"It's a big test for us, no question," Lee admitted, "but we're definitely out for a win."

For coach Norm Tardiff, who succeeds Bob Greeson as head of the Cobra braintrust.

In a Sunday afternoon scrimmage with Marlboro, Tardiff's Cobras looked spotty — like world-beaters at times, like cellar-dwellers at others.

"We've got a lot of new people," Lee explained, "so there is some inexperience here."

Where there isn't any is at quarterback where 15-year veteran Greg Sabine is back along with perennial back-up Rick Wheaton of Whitman, this year joined by former Plymouth Rock Fred Kelliher.

League-leading rusher Jeff "The Jet" Rodman is back, too, this year to be complemented by former Brockton Oiler Huck Tyler at fullback.

Norm Kennedy and Art Lapham head a wide receiving corps which has lost a Jeff Mendall and a Mike Carver the past two years alone.

Joe O'Connell-here since 1976-is the lone starting offensive line returnee, this year making the move from center-to-tackle to create a spot for Dan Magazu.

Tauntonians Paul Ferrier and Greg Galligan man the guards.

Six-three, 200-pound Dave Federici is the team's top tight end, though a hamstring might necessitate the services of Rockland's Jerry Shanahan and/or the six-three,



GREG SABINE
Cobra veteran returns . . .



TOM PILESKI
. . . He's at Oilers' helm

215-pound Steve Chandler Friday.

On the flip side, six-three, 225-pound 1982 EFL Defensive MVP Mark Reale fills one end, Willie Powell the other, with nose man Henry Kalwicz (ex-Brockton) moving into the middle.

Five-ten, 195-pound "Spike" Byrne, Plymouth's "Jake" Jacobson, Cardinal Spellman product Bob Crowley, and Teddy Bradley will also draw defensive line service.

At six-two and 210, Tony Andrade returns to operate out of the middle of Middleboro's linebacking corps alongside six-one, 190-pound Alan Banks.

Vet Dave Wylie-this his 11th successive season-is on the outside as are sack man Chuck Rossetti of Plymouth and Kingston's Paul Killinger.

At 5-10 and 170, Eddie Almeida is the lone starting back to return; Taunton Bengal Kenny Fisher, Rehoboth's Eddie Copes, Rockland's Paul Mainini and Terry Callahan, and Somerville's Earl Green must fill the remaining DB posts.

"With so many new faces, we've got a lot of question marks," Lee admitted, "but Friday night should tell us just what kind of team we've got, early."

Brockton GM Peter O'Kane believes he knows just what kind of team he's got already.

"I feel we're a better team than we were a year ago," he says. "The only question, now, is, how good are the other five teams in the league this year?"

He'll find out how good one of them is Saturday night.

Jim Baker's Metro-Mallards went 5-5 in '82, but the man who led them to their 30-3 rout of the Oilers in Week Six — quarterback Dave Boisture — now toils down the pike for Chuck Fairbanks' Jersey Generals.

Over at West, however, the Oilers took a close-to-the-

vest 9-6 decision last year and Tom Pileski anticipates a reply of that on Saturday night.

"Like any other season-opener," the Brockton head coach explained, "we're both going in blind. We don't know what to expect from them. They don't know what to expect from us."

"With our new faces, it's going to take some time for us to get things together," Pileski continued, "so we'll look for the breaks and when the opportunity does avail itself, we'll look to take advantage."

Looking to do just that will be a defense led by veteran main men Steve Venckus (six-six, 225 middle linebacker), Bubba Pina (six-one, 220, linebacker), and Jim Cotter (5-10, 175, back).

The DeSisto Brothers of Plymouth-Joe and John-operate out of the line and linebacking corps, respectively.

Ex-Hyde Park Cowboy Bill Turner, Plymouth's Tom Pinto and Blue Hills Regional product Mike Connors work that line, also.

Six-foot Jim Brodie and Mike Pasquantonio from Randolph join the linebacking corps; Walter Tourinho and Rhode Islander Rick Masciantonio the backfield.

"Our defense is quite sound," said Pileski, "so if our offense can put some points on the board this year we'll definitely be a contender."

Fred Beisner, who took over the club's quarterbacking chores late last year and proceeded to lead the Oilers to three wins in their last four outings, showed the magic is still there in a 19-0 exhibition game victory at the Sommers Correctional Institute last Saturday.

He highlighted his stats with a 30-yard first-period TD toss to newly-found tight end Kim Langway from Randolph.

Richard Stone and 5-11, 180-pound scooter Mike Delancey are his wideouts.

Fullback Rich Hagens impressed last week in Connecticut and will operate a ground game with the likes of former Hyde Park Cowboy Steve Roan, Central Connecticut's Tim Walsh and the McGee Brothers-Skip and Jay.

Holy Cross tackle Rich Baker works a line which'll include snapper Pat Merrick (5-11, 205), and guards Stan Brown (six-one, 220) and Bob Capacchino (six feet, 205).

EFL EPITHETS: The league's third game this weekend will find Marlboro traveling to Warren High School Saturday night to take on Mike Steinof's Whalers, last year's winless Taunton franchise . . . Pat Abbruzzi heads the Whalers' coaching staff . . . The local rivalry is set for Week Two, with Brockton making the trip to Battis Field to take on the Cobras July 22 at 8:30 . . . The six-team league will again play a 10-game regular season with the first round of playoffs (first-place finisher versus fourth-place finisher, second versus third) slated for the weekend of Sept. 30-Oct. 2 and the championship game set for the Oct. 8-10 weekend.