

Randolph Oiler's gear up for season

New look Oiler's look for strong start

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Photo/Randolph Football Club

James Merrick is expected to be one of the keys to the Oiler's offense in 2012. Merrick is one of the more talented and versatile triple threats in the Eastern Football League

Randolph —

The Randolph Oilers are preparing to open their 38th season in the Eastern Football League, which begins Friday, July 6, at 7:30 p.m. The Oilers, who are one of the EFL's charter members (1974), play host to the Clinton Irish Blizzard at Randolph High School.

What makes this season a little extra special for the Oiler's is that they will be playing their home games on the new \$3.0 million artificial surface behind Randolph High School. Last year, the team did not have a home field and was forced to play an inordinate number of games on the road or piece-meal so-called "home games" at nearby high school fields.

In addition, the Oiler's will feature a new-look uniform and expect to add a few marque roster additions before the home opener.

"I am very excited about the upcoming season," said Head Coach Ed Penn. "We have had a few challenges coordinating early season practice sessions. The new field is not quite ready yet as they are putting the finishing touches on the new track surface."

The Oilers will feature of a number of outstanding former high school and college standouts including local residents Ryan Myers, James Merrick and Vinny Ventosi.

Myers, who has been a fixture at quarterback for many years, is coming off a major injury to his shoulder, and his exact status is uncertain at this time.

"Ryan (Myers) is a quality individual and a terrific competitor," said Penn.

“He will be playing somewhere for us, you can be sure of that.”

The very versatile Merrick is likely to get the nod as the Oiler’s starting quarterback, although Penn has not made any final decisions at this time.

“I would like to introduce some Tebow-type formations this season,” said Penn.

Ventosi is a speedy wide-out, with sure hands, who gives the team a real edge in the passing game.

Penn will have a better sense for this season’s prospects after a controlled scrimmage against the Boston Bandits, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 16.

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