

PREP BLITZ

High school football previews: Week 1

FRIDAY'S GAMES AT A GLANCE

Dayton Carroll (Ohio) at Class 5A No. 2 Center Grove, 7:30 p.m.

Dayton Carroll (0-0)
Head coach: Steve Bartlett, 14th season at school (95-52), 29th overall (153-82)

Conference: Greater Catholic League
Center Grove (0-0)

Head coach: Eric Moore, 10th season at school (75-33), 14th overall (123-38)

Conference: Metropolitan Interscholastic

Key players: Jordan Luallen, Sr., QB; Kyle Jones, Sr., RB; Tanner Riley, Sr., RB; Luke Swift, Sr., WB; Mike Wood, Sr., WR/P/K; Ethan Hedeem, Sr., DB; Anthony Elias, Sr., LB; Joel Cox, Jr., DL; Keith Dietel, Sr., DE

Outlook: The Trojans begin the season with championship aspirations. Returning 30 seniors and 18 starters, Center Grove will be looking to defend its MIC title, which it shared with Warren Central last season.

Dayton Carroll (Ohio) makes the 2½-hour trip to test the Trojans and their Class 5A No. 2 ranking, which they share with Merrillville. Last season, Dayton lost in the second round of the Division II playoffs and finished ranked ninth in Ohio's second-largest class.

Edinburgh at Indian Creek, 7 p.m.

Edinburgh (0-0)

Head coach: Kyle Wheeler, third season (0-20)

Conference: Mid-Indiana Football

Key players: Keith Burton, So., QB; Adam Chandler, Sr., RB; Devin Burton, So., RB; Chris Burton, Sr., WR; Sean Hanson, Sr., WR; Wade Teltoe, So., OL/LB; Aaron Knue, Jr., DL; Jake Smith, So., DL

Indian Creek (0-0)

Head coach: Mike Gillin, eighth season at school (61-17), 30th overall (227-89)

Conference: Mid-Indiana Football

Key players: Dustin Tucker, Jr., QB; Trey Reese, So., QB; Joel Ankney, So., RB; Zac Tharpe, Sr., WR/DB; Jared Neff, Sr., LB; Levi Waltz, Jr., LB; Josh Bales, Sr., DL

Outlook: The Braves and Lancers begin the season with a county matchup. Edinburgh is looking to end a 36-game losing streak. It also hopes to end a skid against Indian Creek that dates back at least to 1994.

Indian Creek will break in two quarterbacks against Edinburgh. Dustin Tucker and Trey Reese, who have battled for the starting job in the preseason, will share snaps.

Franklin at Northview, 7 p.m.

Franklin (0-0)

Head coach: Mike McClure, fourth season (12-21)

Conference: Mid-State

Key players: Dan Bechman, Sr., QB; Clayton Simmons, Sr., RB; Dylan Hodges, Sr., WR; Neal Lane, Sr., OL; Aaron Rodriguez, Sr., LB; Derek Million, Sr., DB; Craig Buck, Sr., DB; Ross Syphers, Jr., LB

Northview (0-0)

Head coach: George Gettle, seventh season (39-21)

Conference: Western Indiana

Outlook: The most recent time Franklin played Northview, the Grizzly Cubs won a 54-51 shootout in the opening round of the 2006 sectionals. This season, Franklin is looking to rebound from a 2-9 campaign in 2007. It also wants a more consistent offense. The Cubs' offense averaged 12.2 points in its nine losses. In their two wins, the Cubs averaged 35 points.

Directions: Take Interstate 70 to the State Road 59 exit and turn right; take to U.S. 40 and turn left; stay on U.S. 40 until the split at 40 and State Road 340; veer to the right and stay on 340. Take 340 about 1½ miles; the school is on the right.

Greenwood at Class 4A No. 2 Columbus East, 7 p.m.

Greenwood (0-0)

Head coach: Mike Campbell, third season (6-15)

Conference: Mid-State

Key players: Matt Heller, Sr., QB; Sean Brown, Jr., DB/WR; Drew Slaughter, Jr., DB; Brad Carnes, Jr., RB; LaMarr Stevenson, Sr., DL; Ryan Gallagher, Sr., LB; Ryan Ogden, Sr., DB

Columbus East (0-0)

Head Coach: Bob Gaddis, eighth season at school (63-22), 29th overall (181-122)

Conference: Hoosier Hills

Outlook: The Woodmen begin their season with a stiff test. Since 2004, the Olympians have gone 45-6 and made two semistate appearances. They advanced to the regional last season and begin this year ranked No. 2 in Class 4A. Greenwood will look to upset the Olympians and end a four-game losing streak against Columbus East.

Directions: Take U.S. 31 south through Columbus to Marr Road. Turn right on Marr Road and follow it when it makes a sharp turn to the left. The school is on the right and the football field is on the left side of Marr Road.

New Palestine vs. Whiteland at Lucas Oil Stadium, 8:30 p.m.

New Palestine (0-0)

Head coach: Doug Armstrong, seventh season at school (45-25), ninth overall (47-43)

Conference: Hoosier Heritage

Whiteland (0-0)

Head coach: Darrin Fisher, fourth season at school (22-15), 18th overall (83-87)

Conference: Mid-State

Key players: Bryan Webb, Sr., QB; Luke Harris, Sr., RB; Michael Robison, Sr., WR; Mitch Meador, Sr. LB; Alex Perritt, Sr., DB; Jermaine Harris, Sr., DB; Nick Scheidler, Sr., TE

Outlook: Whiteland kicks off its season on the state's grandest football stage, Lucas Oil Stadium. The building's primary tenants, the Indianapolis Colts, won't play their first preseason game there until Sunday. Thirty-one seniors return for Whiteland, which begins the season ranked 14th in Class 4A. Last season, the Warriors went 7-5 and lost to Cathedral in the sectional title game. Sixteen starters, including 10 on offense, are back from that team.

Directions: Take Interstate 65 north to Interstate 70 west into downtown Indianapolis. Exit at West Street. The stadium is just ahead on the right.

Roncalli at Southport, 7 p.m.

Roncalli (0-0)

Head coach: Bruce Scifres, 19th season at school (176-50)

Conference: Independent

Key players: Kevin Banich, Sr. QB; Charlie Kolisek, Jr., WR; Ben Polizzi, Sr., RB; Drew Oechsle, Sr., LB; Matt Millott, Sr., DB; Cole Williamson, Jr., OL/DL

Southport (0-0)

Head coach: Bill Peebles, fourth season (2-28)

Conference: Conference Indiana

Outlook: After playing in four straight state title games from 2002 to 2005, the Rebels have exited the state tournament in the first round of the sectional the past two years. They're coming off a disappointing 3-7 campaign and look to get back to their winning ways this season. Southport is coming off a 1-9 season and hasn't had a winning record since going 5-4 in 1995.

Directions: Take U.S. 31 north to Banta Road in Indianapolis. Turn right onto Banta. The school is about 1 mile ahead on the left.

(SEE GAMES, PAGE B2)

BY THE NUMBERS

A look at Friday's season-opening games

5,700

Approximate number of tickets Whiteland has sold for the PeyBack Classic.

16

Starters Whiteland returns this season.

75-33

Eric Moore's record in 10 seasons as Center Grove's coach.

13

Points Indian Creek has allowed in the past four games against Edinburgh.

6-4

Franklin's record in its past 10 season-openers.

45-6

The record in the past four seasons for Columbus East, Greenwood's opponent Friday.

Carroll (Ohio)
at
Center Grove
7:30 p.m.

Edinburgh
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Franklin
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Northview
7 p.m.

Greenwood
at
Columbus East
7 p.m.

Whiteland
vs.
New Palestine
8:30 p.m.

Roncalli
at
Southport
7 p.m.