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East-West features four from Fremont

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FOSTORIA -- A total of 18 players from The News-Messenger's coverage area helped the East end a nine-year drought in last seasons Time Warner East-West All-Star Football Classic.

This year, a total of eight local gridiron seniors will be looking to keep the East in the winner's column in an event that will be the end of the football line for many.

The game, in its 26th year, will be played at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Fostoria Memorial Stadium. The cost for tickets is \$7 with programs, featuring the history of the East-West contest, going for \$5.

Of the eight players from the East team, four hail from Fremont schools. Brad Woleslagel (TE/LB), Tyler Hull (DT) and Nate Halbeisen (OT) are all Ross graduates representing the East, who will be joined by Zach Gabel (C/DT) from St. Joseph Central Catholic.

Other area players on the East roster include Lakota graduates Austin Podach (G/OLB), Austin McGown (RB/CB) and Mike Kleman (OG/DT). Cody Sours (FB/LB) of Woodmore will also be on the squad.

Last season a late 11-play 38-yard drive in the fourth quarter gave the East a 16-12 win. It is a feat Fostoria St. Wendelin coach Bill Hrabak and former Fostoria coach Tom Grime will look to repeat.

"Our offense has clicked really well," said Hrabak. "Tom (Grime) has been very pleased with the development on that side. On defense, we aren't extremely big, but we've been very impressed with our quickness and the way our kids get off the ball and get after it."

Hrabak will coach the defense for the East with Grime and the Redmen staff in charge of the offense.

One of Hrabak's big defenders will be Woleslagel, who was originally slated to be on the offensive side in the game, but was moved to defense after he told the coaching staff "he was here to hit someone."

"He's just a crazy kid," said Hrabak of Woleslagel. "He's the kind of kid you would want on defense. He's intense, he has a high motor, he gets to the football and just very impressive."

Another Little Giant on the defensive side will be Hull, who was big part of the Ross defensive line during his career.

"Tyler (Hull) will be a situational player for us," said Hrabak. "He has excellent quickness and he'll be used in special defensive packages for us."

Helping Grime on offense will be Ross' Halbeisen, who will be a tackle in charge of protecting East quarterback Tyler Brown from Hopewell-Loudon. Halbeisen will be joined on the line by Gabel, who is the lone SJCC representative on the East roster.

"(Gabel) is a little on the small side compared to the other lineman we have," said Hrabak. "But when it comes to snapping the ball in the shotgun ... it's back there like a rocket.

"I know the Fostoria coaches were impressed from the start with the way he snaps the football."

A total of 86 players from Wood, Hancock, Sandusky and Seneca counties will make up the two rosters.

The game will be broadcasted locally by Time Warner and will be tape-delayed.

Pre-game festivities will start at 7 p.m. with a tribute to the late Ian Kuhn, a senior lineman from Hopewell-Loudon. The first team Division VI all-Ohio selection's No. 56 All-Star jersey will be retired and presented to his parents, Dan and Lisa.

Kuhn died on March 19, 2009 in a car accident.
