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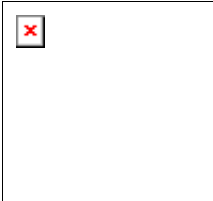
NEWARK

# Wildcats to be money on, off field

Sunday, August 19, 2007

**KURTIS ADAMS**

*ThisWeek Staff Writer*



At a glance

NEWARK WILDCATS

Colors: Crimson and white

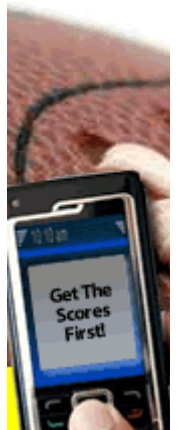
Coach: Scott Beery, sixth season

Key players: Nic Barber, Jeremy Hill, James Keck, Will McCoy, Ryan Nutter, Spencer Satterfield, Dannell Smith, Treg Smart, Trevor Spurgeon and Rahlin Watson

On the Web:  
newarkcityschools.org

2007 SCHEDULE

**BETH**



Aug. 24 Northland  
Home

Aug. 31 Zanesville  
Away

Sept. 7 Th.  
Worthington Home

Sept. 14 Shaker  
Heights Home

Sept. 21 Westerville  
South Away

Sept. 28 Hilliard  
Darby Home

Oct. 5 Westland  
Away

Oct. 12 Lancaster  
Home

Oct. 19 Groveport  
Home

Oct. 26 Gahanna  
Away

### 2006 RESULTS

(4-6 overall, 0-5 OCC-  
Ohio)

Northland W, 48-0

Zanesville W, 49-7

Thomas Worthington  
W, 31-2

Fairfield W, 24-7

Westerville South L,  
33-28

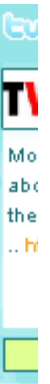
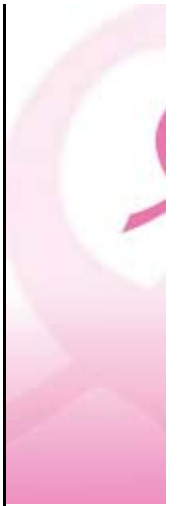
Hilliard Darby L, 35-  
20

Westland L, 40-20

Lancaster L, 34-33

Groveport L, 41-7

Gahanna L, 32-0



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#### EVENTS CA

The Newark High School football team already might have posted its first victory of 2007, ceremonial or not.

Pay-to-participate comes to the district for the first time this year, but a winter, spring and summer spent preparing for the inevitable likely will be rewarded with an immediate payback.

"We've spent every day since December raising money. We were looking at about \$14,000 in transportation costs and about \$18,000 in fees, but we pulled it off," said coach Scott Beery, whose Wildcats haven't won a game on the field since last September, dropping the final six afterward to finish 4-6 overall and last at 0-5 in the OCC-Ohio Division won by Lancaster (5-0).

"The fees are \$200 per kid with no cap, and about 80 percent of our kids play multiple sports.

"So it has affected us. In 2005 (when the team won a second consecutive league title and qualified for the playoffs for the first time in 30 years), we had 130 kids playing in grades 9-12. That number dropped to about 115, 120 last year and now we're at 90, maybe 95.

"But mission accomplished, thankfully. Now our kids can go out and just worry about playing football."

Four of the six setbacks, including 34-33 at Lancaster in the eighth week, came against playoff-bound teams. Still, a defense that allowed an average of 35.8 points in those games has to improve. Beery said a linebacking group in the 4-4 alignment featuring seniors Jeremy Hill (6-foot-1, 185 pounds), Spencer Satterfield (6-2, 225) and Treg Smart (6-0, 175) and junior Josh Abshire (5-10, 195) is a good place to start. Satterfield, who came on to fill in for injured graduate Matt Bankes, and Hill are the most experienced.

The secondary includes seniors Trevor Spurgeon (6-0, 175) and Ryan Nutter (6-0, 175). Juniors Dannell Smith (6-4, 285) and Nic Barber (6-5, 205) are key figures on a line also featuring junior Ross Matheny (5-10, 205) and seniors Martin Sears (6-0, 195) and Torey Jurden (6-4, 275), a Newark Catholic transfer.

"Our defense showed me a lot against Westerville North (in the first scrimmage)," said Spurgeon, who also is competing with junior Rahlin Watson (6-3, 195) to be the starting quarterback.

"Our line played great. Our linebackers filled the gaps. And our free safety, Ryan Sole, he's really impressed me. That's a big spot for a sophomore to play. I think we'll be much better defensively."

Offensively, replacing graduate Kendall Stinson in the backfield and Josh Mann at quarterback are big keys. Stinson rushed for 1,261 yards and 15 touchdowns, earning first-team all-district in addition to making second-team all-state as a defensive back. Mann was special-mention all-district.

An early platoon at quarterback is possible, said Beery, whose team opens Friday at White Field in the fourth and final meeting with Columbus Northland after prevailing 48-0 last season. A bevy of receivers has emerged and they include Nutter and senior Will McCoy (6-3, 190). Nutter, despite not practicing much because of the Babe Ruth World Series, scored two quick touchdowns against Westerville North before sitting down. Another promising receiver, junior Taylor Huffman, will miss time early with a broken collar bone. Senior Darius Smith (5-10, 160) is another wideout.

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Senior James Keck (5-10, 170) will be the new featured back after he rushed for 252 yards and one touchdown in limited duty last year for the Wildcats, who have replaced Fairfield with their fourth game with Shaker Heights, a Division I playoff team two years ago with a strong tradition. Hill and senior Dustyn Green (5-10, 210) are among the fullbacks, and senior Jeremy Neagos (5-8, 170) might get some carries at tailback.

The offensive line should include Barber, Jurden, Matheny, Smart and Dannell Smith in addition to juniors Elliot Anderson (6-2, 190), Jordan Snyder (6-2, 170), Tyler Wells (6-0, 200) and James Carr (6-1, 190).

"Our quarterbacks are getting better every day. They both add a lot to our team," Beery said. "We've got two great receivers in McCoy and Nutter and a lot of depth at that spot, too. And I think (Keck) is going to have a good season.

"We'll be a load to defend. Our opponents are going to have to cover the entire field."

Among others, also departing after last season were linemen Alex Nikolovski and Jesse Modesitt, who made special-mention all-district. Kicker Trevor Cochran graduated, too, but junior soccer player Jordan Spurlock brings a big leg.

"We're ready to play," Spurgeon said. "It's definitely going to be a better year."



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