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## Wildcats take close look

### Newark hopes to raise its intensity to next level for Reynoldsburg

BY JOSH HACHAT • SPORTS WRITER • SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

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NEWARK -- There were a number of disturbing trends that started to take shape in Newark's 45-7 loss to Gahanna last week.

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Coach Jeff Buchanan noticed less intensity, less enthusiasm and perhaps more hanging heads than he had expected.

Days later, the Wildcats now realize one demoralizing loss doesn't make a season.

"It's definitely not over," senior Spencer Satterfield said. "There's (6 1/2) games left, and we can still go (8-2). We've got the same record as a lot of teams. There's no point in giving up now."

Even Buchanan said he feels that will be the case after Newark seemed to have its energy zapped after Gahanna went ahead 21-7 in the Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio Division opener.

The decision by the Ohio High School Athletic Association to play the second half of the Dayton Dunbar game also officially makes Newark 1-2 overall and 0-1 in the OCC-Ohio heading into Friday's game against Reynoldsburg.

"We're legitimately 1-2 with 6 1/2 games left," Buchanan said. "We can do whatever we want to do with what we have left.

"I hope they realize the coaches believe in their ability. Hopefully they understand that. There's a lot of football left to be played, and we have to seize this opportunity."

There's certainly an opportunity, but Buchanan wants to see a different attitude than what he saw for most of the second half against the Lions.



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Newark senior Taylor Huffman tackled Wes Tandy during a Week 1 matinee game against Reynoldsburg on Friday at White Field (The Advocate)

#### REYNOLDSBURG AT NEWARK

- **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Friday
- **WHERE:** White Field, Newark
- **LAST WEEK:** Reynoldsburg vs. Newark lost 45-7 to Gahanna.
- **OF NOTE:** The two teams have met in more than a decade. The combined wins in the past two seasons are 1-1.

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Gahanna scored on a 91-yard touchdown pass -- on a ball that was tipped at the line of scrimmage by senior defensive end Nic Barber -- and Newark turned it over after the kickoff.

Gahanna scored a play later to go up 21-7 midway through the second quarter and obviously seized momentum with that series.

But Buchanan wants the team to show more resiliency in the coming weeks.

"You can't let adversity affect you on the next series," Buchanan said. "It was still within our hands."

Senior Taylor Huffman said he hoped the sluggish second half served as a wake-up call for everyone.

"I think we realized what it takes and how much harder we have to work," Huffman said. "I think it was an eye-opener as to how tough our league is going to be this year."

Friday's game against the Raiders (0-4, 0-1) certainly appears to be a golden opportunity.

Reynoldsburg has just one winning season since advancing to the playoffs in 2001, and went 3-7 and 2-8 the previous two years.

It's the first meeting between the two teams in more than a decade, and Newark hopes it can take advantage of playing a winless team.

The Wildcats also have lost their past four games at White Field.

"Our intensity really needs to go up at all times," Huffman said. "If (the opponent) scores one touchdown, it seems to go down. But we're working on that, and I think we'll have a turnaround."

Reynoldsburg runs an option-based offense and a 4-3 defense, but Buchanan wants the Newark offense to establish some consistency.

The running game struggled after the first drive, and three turnovers didn't help, either.

"We can't have those negative-yardage plays," Buchanan said. "We need to do a better job with our decision-making."

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**nerkahia75** wrote:

To the boys on the team.. best of luck to you. Play with all your heart, keep your heads up, and realize that you can only do so much. A lot goes with the coach in this regard... and there, you're stuck.

Keep trying your best!

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