

MISSION TRAIL ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Greenfield: It just might be wrong team to push

League play starts Oct. 6!

FIRST BLOOD

GREENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS
A BRUINS PRODUCTIONS FILM
STARRING CHRIS BREAUX WITH ART FLORES AND GORDON SILVERIA
DIRECTED BY BILL RIDDELL

The 2005 season was a breakthrough year for the Greenfield Bruins. Well, sort of. The Bruins, who went 3-7 overall last year, have struggled to field a successful team on the field almost from day one.

From 1999 – their first season – through 2004 Greenfield had never won more than one Mission Trail Athletic League game in any season. Last year Greenfield broke even. The Bruins went 3-3 in the MTAL, and, were it not for a second-half collapse, could have beaten King City for the first time in school history.

Greenfield led King City 23-7 at halftime but ended up losing 29-23. If there was anything to learn from last year, it might have been the importance of scoring first.

Greenfield drew first blood in two of its three league victories. After all the Bruins accomplished last year it might have been a sign that football has arrived at Greenfield High School.

And the Bruins may not require the help of Rambo to finish the job. "The kids are excited, they know they can play with most any team," Greenfield coach Bill Riddell said. Hopefully word will spread in the

A BRUINS PRODUCTION

WATKINS WRAP: This might be the year Greenfield football arrives. ☆☆☆ 1/2

Selected showtimes

- Sept. 8: At Coast Union, 7:30
- Sept. 15: North Salinas, 7:30
- Sept. 22: King's Academy, 7:30
- Sept. 30: At St. Francis of Watsonville, 2
- Oct. 6: At Pacific Grove, 7:30
- Oct. 13: Stevenson, 7:30
- Oct. 20: King City, 7:30
- Oct. 27: Gonzales, 7:30
- Nov. 3: Carmel, 7:30
- Nov. 10: At Soledad, 7:30

Greenfield community, which at times has been slow to respond to the local high school teams.

"Most of these kids come from working families so its been hard to get much of an off-season program going," Riddell said. "But we have a few parents on board who are helping out."

What Greenfield has been able to do better than most schools is crank out 1,000-yard running backs.

Last year, Andrew Breaux rushed for 1,049 yards, and in 2004, Fachon Clair raced for more than 1,200.

This year's heir apparent likely will be Breaux's younger brother, Chris Breaux. He rushed for 743 yards last year, fourth best in the MTAL.

"Chris is faster than his brother, and he has more talent and athletic ability," Riddell said.

If Chris Breaux puts in the effort required of a premier running back, Riddell said Greenfield will have another 1,000-yard rusher.

The Bruins probably will be more

inclined to run the ball more than ever this year to ease sophomore Juan Sanchez into the quarterback role.

If anyone can take the heat off Breaux, it may be Aaron Zamora, another potential quality running back.

"Two years ago, when I was coaching the JVs, he was our best running back," Riddell said.

Greenfield has never had a 1,000-yard passer.

The depth at running back has allowed Riddell to move Juan Montoya to receiver. Adding to the threat of a passing game is tight end Gordon Silveira, who doubles as a defensive tackle.

Center Art Flores, a 6-2, 230-pounder, is one of about five returning starters.

"This group of kids is pretty athletic," Riddell said.

If there's one thing Greenfield has plenty of its head coaches.

In addition to Riddell, the Bruins have two former head coaches on the staff in Matt Gildersleeve and Mark McClure.

King City: Silva raising Mustangs to be big winners

If you can carry the momentum of one year into the next, then this could be a banner season for the King City Mustangs.

King City is coming off its best season in six years and finished with a bang by winning its last five games.

The Mustangs went 7-3 overall, with all three losses coming against playoff teams (Pacific Grove, Carmel, Monterey).

In the process King City's Norm Silva was named the MTAL Coach of the Year, junior Gerardo Lopez was a first-team pick at tight end and junior Matt McCoy was a first-team defensive lineman.

This is a season those varsity blue jerseys could glow.

In addition, King City returns starting quarterback Aaron Gomez, who established himself last year as one of the best all-around athletes in the county.

Gomez was a second-team defensive back in football, first-team all-league selection in basketball and first-team all-MTAL in baseball.

"It's nice to have those three seniors back this year," Silva, starting his fourth year as coach, said.

If any team can bust up the Pacific Grove-Carmel playoff combination — two peninsula teams have finished first and second in the MTAL, respectively, two years in a row — it's King City.

The Mustangs have improved every year since Silva became coach. They won four games in 2003, five in 2004

A K.C. MUSTANGS PRODUCTION

WATKINS WRAP: Mustangs good enough to make a serious run at a playoff position. ☆☆☆ 1/2

Selected showtimes

- Sept. 8: At Atascadero, 7:30
- Sept. 15: At Salinas, 7:30
- Sept. 22: Santa Maria, 7:30
- Sept. 29: At Pacific Grove, 7:30
- Oct. 7: At Carmel, 2
- Oct. 14: At St. Francis (Watsonville), 2
- Oct. 20: At Greenfield, 7:30
- Oct. 27: Soledad, 7:30
- Nov. 3: Stevenson, 7:30
- Nov. 10: Gonzales, 7:30

and seven last year. Not only did the King City varsity finish strong in 2005, but so did the junior varsity.

The Mustang JVs were beaten by Monte Vista Christian in the first game of the year and never lost again, finishing 9-1.

"We're getting a strong group from the JVs," Silva said.

One of those JV standouts is running back-linebacker Peter Giudici.

Lopez proved to be one of the top clutch receivers in the MTAL last year. He caught 17 passes and tied for the league lead in touchdown receptions with seven.

McCoy, a 6-foot, 250-pounder, was not only a standout on the defensive line, but was King City's second-leading rusher with nearly 400 yards.

Despite everything King City seems to have going for it, Silva isn't sold on the idea that strong finish one year can carry over to the next.

"You still have to go out there and

perform," he said. "You have to achieve consistency."

King City returns five starters on offense and eight on defense, though a few of those players went both ways.

King City will start the season with a roster of about 35.

The Mustangs should enter league play battle-tested and prepared to take on the two MTAL heavyweights.

They're going to begin the season Sept. 8 with one-time rival Atascadero, a school that was their traditional opener throughout the 1980s until 1994.

The following week King City clashes with Salinas High, the first meeting between the two schools in 20 years.

"We needed to schedule tough teams to get past P.G. and Carmel," Silva said.

"The heart of a contender!"

League play starts Sept. 29!

VARSITY BLUES

Make your own rules.

KING CITY HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS
A K.C. MUSTANGS PRODUCTIONS FILM
STARRING AARON GOMEZ WITH GERARDO LOPEZ
DIRECTED BY NORM SILVA

Pacific Grove: Breakers want their winning ways saved

League play starts Sept. 29!

THE INCREDIBLES

"Defense at its finest!"

PACIFIC GROVE HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS
A BREAKERS PRODUCTIONS FILM
STARRING JOHN TYNDALL WITH CHRIS HARDEE AND IAN HESSE
DIRECTED BY BUCK ROGGEMAN

For the first 507 minutes and 30 seconds of the 2005 football season the Pacific Grove Breakers were nearly unstoppable.

During the 10-game regular season Pacific Grove trailed just once, and for only two minutes (against Harbor in Week 7).

It looked to be more of the same in the Breaker's first-round playoff game against Monterey.

Pacific Grove was tied early in the second quarter before taking a 13-6 halftime lead.

Add another 24 minutes to the total time Pacific Grove was either tied or leading.

Just 24 more minutes to go and the Breakers would advance to the semifinals.

But as dominating as the Breakers were last season, it was probably the last three minutes of the season they'll remember the most.

Monterey scored the tie-breaking touchdown with 2:37 to play and went on to stun the previously unbeaten Breakers 27-20.

But don't fear, The Incredibles are here.

The Breakers have superheroes up and down their roster.

The three-time defending MTAL champion Breakers will take an 18-game league win streak into this season — they're 30-2 dating back to 2000 — with a team that could be better than last year's.

A BREAKERS PRODUCTION

WATKINS WRAP: This could be one of the all-time great Breaker squads. ☆☆☆☆☆

Selected showtimes

- Sept. 8: Santa Cruz, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 16: At Scotts Valley, 2 p.m.
- Sept. 22: Aptos, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 29: King City, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6: Greenfield, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13: At Soledad, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 20: Salinas, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 27: Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3: At Gonzales, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 11: At Carmel, 2 p.m.

None of the other six MTAL teams can come close to matching what Pacific Grove returns.

The Breakers, who have won 19 straight regular-season games, bring back three first-team and two second-team all-leaguers.

The most decorated is John Tyndall, a two-time Defensive Player of the Year in the MTAL and last year's Salinas Californian top defensive player.

Tyndall was a second-team All-CCS pick as a sophomore and a first-team All-CCS choice last year.

College football magazine Street and Smith named Tyndall as one of the top 50 high school linebackers in the country.

The 6-3, 220-pound Tyndall is also one of six returning offensive starters to a team that averaged 32 points and 330 yards per game in 2005.

He was also a first-team running back with 907 yards and 14 touchdowns.

He'll be teamed in the backfield with Ian Hesse, who emerged as one of the most versatile back in the league by

rushing for 800 yards and 11 touchdowns and catching 10 passes for 146 yards and two touchdowns.

Two first-team linemen return in 5-9, 265-pound Wes Rider and 6-5, 265-pound Chris Hardee.

Hardee doubles as a tight end and caught 10 passes for a pair of scores last year.

Ryan Beck, a 6-5, 185-pounder, is a returning second-team receiver (17 for 227 yards) with 6-2, 295-pound Logan Harrison a returning second-team lineman.

Daniel Connors, a 6-4, 205-pound junior, will open the year at quarterback.

On defense, the Breakers figure to field one of the top linebacking groups in the area.

In addition to Tyndall, there are 5-10, 230-pound Matt Laredo and 6-1, 185-pound Mike Mahaney.

"We have a nice blend of experience and newcomers," Pacific Grove coach Buck Roggeman said. Make that a blend of experience, newcomers and superheroes.