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# Indiana Indians

## **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 25	Freeport
Sept. 1	at Knoch
Sept. 8	Shady Side Academy
Sept. 15	Mars
Sept. 22	at Highlands
Sept. 29	Kiski Area
Oct. 6	at Armstrong
Oct. 13	Hampton
Oct. 20	at North Catholic
Oct. 27	at Plum
	and the second s

\*All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM

Last year's junior high record: 5-3

Returning offensive starters: (9)

**Returning defensive starters: (9)** 

Ben Cochran, Trevor Smith, James Mill,

Ben Cochran, Trevor Smith, James Mill;

Anthony Kowchuck, Carson Beaty, Evan

Brocious, Isaac Nygren, Johnny Wyant, Levi

Anthony Kowchuck, Carson Beatty, Evan

Brocious, Colden Augustine Johnny Wyant,

Letterwinners returning:16

Levi Porter

Porter



### **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 3-7 Team Colors: Red/Black Classification: 4A Home Stadium: Andy Kuzneski Field Head Coach: Brad Wright High School: Indiana College: IUP Years as Head Coach: 2 Record at Indiana: 3-7

## FACTS AND FIGURES

#### FROM COACH WRIGHT:

#### **Team Strengths:**

"Indiana heads into this season with many returning skill players on both sides of the ball. In addition to this, our leadership should be strong this season."

#### **Team Concerns:**

"We need to fill some key positions on both sides of the line and find a new linebacker/fullback."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS:** With a full season under his belt, Wright returns for a second season hoping to move the program forward. QB Trevor Smith returns for his senior season after completing 109 of his 189 passes for 1060 yards last year. Smith also rushed for 488 yards. Smith will have his two favorite targets returning. Senior wide receivers Anthony Kowchuck (31) and James Mill (27) combined for 58 receptions. The Indians return 9 starters on both sides of the ball. The Indians averaged only 15.8 points per game while allowing an area worst 35.3 points against, playing in a very competitive WPIAL 4-A section 2.

Base Offense: Power Spread Base Defense: 4-3

PREDICTION: Undersized line will cause issues. Repeat 2022-3-7.



Follow the Indians on WDAD AM-1450, FM-100.3, wdadradio.com, and Renda Digital TV Find all of our audio and video streaming broadcast links at wdadradio.com



#### Conemaugh Valley & Conemaugh Township set to compete in Heritage

Indiana, PA—The Heritage Conference makeover officially takes shape in 2023 when the Conemaugh Valley Blue Jays and Conemaugh Township Indians play their inaugural games after jumping from the now defunct WestPAC conference. Last year was the final year for the WestPAC with football schools now scattered across the Heritage and Inter-County conferences.

With the addition of the Portage Mustangs in 2022-23, who basically replaced Ligonier Valley who was miscast in the small school Heritage; the Blue Jays and Indians will push the Heritage Conference to 12 schools, all with football programs.

"We are very excited to have an even number of teams," said Jody Rainey, President of the Heritage Conference. "It makes things easier in a lot of ways including schedules. But I've talked before about how we need to be very selective about who we're bringing in. Like Portage, Conemaugh Valley and Conemaugh Township both are great fits. The size of their schools and their competitiveness fits well with our model. It strengthens our conference in a variety of ways."

In addition to playing in a new conference, the Blue Jays will play their home games under the lights after playing Saturday afternoon day games for decades. The CVSD Board of Directors voted to install a Musco lighting system after a \$200,000 state grant and an anonymous donation made the project more affordable to the board.

The Blue Jays, who were 2-7 last year, will play their first night game at Yewcic Stadium and kick-off their season with a familiar foe, the Portage Mustangs, a former WestPAC rival.

Conemaugh Valley returns senior running back Elijah Darr who rushed for 1,233 yards and 8 touchdowns in 2022. Quarterback Adam Jasper also returns to lead an offense that hopes to improve from last years team that scored only 131 points. The Jays, which enjoys a football co-op agreement with Ferndale, graduated just 5 seniors last year. As for Conemaugh Township, they raced out to a 5-0 record, but dropped five of their last six games which included two blowout losses to powerful Windber, one in the playoffs. They will open play in their new conference home at River Valley. After a second straight road game at Portage, the Indians will host Penns Manor in their home opener on September 8th.

Conemaugh Township will have to replace a lot of production lost to graduation. QB Tanner Shirley passed for 1,574 yards. WR Ethan Black hauled in 56 passes for 884 yards and 12 touchdowns. To enjoy success in the Heritage, the Indians will have to improve defensively after allowing an average of 34 points a game last year.

Is the door open for further expansion? "We're always open to listening. I think we're very happy with the 12 members," said Rainey. "At some point you have to ask, 'how big is too big?' By that I mean in terms of number of schools but also geographically," Rainey concluded.



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## **Homer Center Wildcats**

## **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 19	Northern Cambria (Scrim)
Aug. 25	at Marion Center
Sept. 1	Penns Manor
Sept. 8	at River Valley
Sept. 15	at United
Sept. 22	Conemaugh TWP.
Sept. 29	Cambria Heights
Oct. 6	at Portage
Oct. 13	at West Shamokin
Oct. 20	Purchase Line
Oct. 27	Conemaugh Valley

\*All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



## **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 5-6 Team Colors: Black/White Classification: 1A Home Stadium: Memorial Field Head Coach: Greg Page High School: Homer-Center College: IUP Years as Head Coach: 17 Record at Homer-Center: 110-68

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

Last year's junior high record: 5-3

Letterwinners returning: 12

Returning offensive starters: (4) Landon Hill, Caleb Palmer, Braden Dunn, Angelo Alexander

Returning defensive starters: (4) Landon Hill, Caleb Palmer, Braden Dunn, Jaxson Arone

Base Offense: Spread Base Defense: 4-3

#### **COACH PAGE SAYS..**

Team Strengths: "Coachable kids and our team chemistry" Team Concerns: "Lack of overall experience along with depth of overall players" **RENDA MEDIA SAYS:** For the first time in his 17 years, Page will not return a starting linemen on either side of the ball. If the Wildcats can cobble together decent line play they could be explosive on offense. The 'Cats are loaded with skill players if they can stay healthy, which was the major reason they finished a disappointing 5-6 in 2022, the first sub-.500 season in 11 years. Playing injured for a good chunk of season, Sr. RB Landon Hill still rushed for 1120 yards scoring 15 TD's. Jr. QB Angelo Alexander returns after missing several games last year due to a concussion and can be explosive, but he must stay healthy for HC to rebound. Jr. RB/WR Braden Dunn, Sr. TE Caleb Palmer, wideouts Jaxson Arone (Sr.), Will and Dan Jones, and Oshen Maratita (Jr.s) should all be contributors. HC has to replace 7 starters on defense including star LB Mason Bell from a unit that finished 4th in the conference.

**PREDICTION:** Too many question marks along the line send the Wildcats to a second straight sub-.500 season at 4-6 with no playoffs for the first time in 9 seasons.

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# a Marfon Genter Stingers

## **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 19	Conemaugh Valley (Scrim)
Aug. 25	Homer-Center
Sept. 1	at Cambria Heights
Sept. 8	at Northern Cambria
Sept. 15	Portage
Sept. 22	at United
Sept. 29	River Valley
Oct. 6	at Penns Manor
Oct. 13	Purchase Line
Oct. 20 💡	at Conemaugh TWP.
Oct. 27	West Shamokin
A 11 Th	an Seesan Campas at 7.00 DM

All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



## **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 3-7 Team Colors: Green/Gold Classification: 1A Home Stadium: John Mallino Stadium Head Coach: Adam Rising High School: Marion Center College: IUP Years as Head Coach: 6 Record at Marion Center 26-23

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### COACH RISING SAYS...

Last year's junior high record: 7-1

Letterwinners returning: 10

Returning offensive starters: (7) Mason Mantini, Isaac Bassa, Cullen Anderson, Alex Stewart, Drew Runk, Landon Cook, Mason Ploskunak

Returning defensive starters: (8) Mason Mantini, Issac Bassa, Alex Stewart, Jason McClelland, Camden Rising, Landon Cook, Drew Runk, Mason Ploskunak

Base Offense: Pistol Wing T

Base Defense: 3-5-3

#### Team Strengths: "There is great experience on both sides of the ball. Some strengths will be running the ball and relying on our ground attack" Team Concerns: "We lost some crucial players on both sides of the ball such as our quarterback, running back and linebacker."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS...** Marion Center struggled with low numbers and lack of depth last year struggling to a 3-7 season. Reinforcements should be on the way from a junior high team that finished 7-1, although many of them may be a year away from making major contributions. For now the Stingers will build the offense around seniors Drew Runk and Alex Stewart, and three returnees on the line including Sr. Mason Mantini, and juniors Cullen Anderson and Issac Bassa. Stewart rushed for 626 yards scoring 8 touchdowns in 2022. The defense, which showed improvement last year was in the middle of the conference pack allowing 26 points and 281 yards per game. With 8 starters returning, Rising is hopeful the defense can take another step. Stewart, Runk, Sophomore Camden Rising, and Senior Jason McClelland and Landon Cook all return at DE/LB positions.

Prediction: The Stingers may be a year or two away. Repeat 3-7.



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# Northern Gambria Golts

## **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 19	at Homer-Center (Scrim)
Aug. 25	United
Sept. 1	Conemaugh Valley
Sept. 8	Marion Center
Sept. 15	at Purchase Line
Sept. 22	Portage
Sept. 29	at Conemaugh TWP.
Oct. 6	at River Valley
Oct. 13	Penns Manor
Oct. 20	at West Shamokin
Oct. 27	at Cambria Heights
+ A 11 D	Law Season Comes at 7.00 DM

\*All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



## **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 10-4 Team Colors: Black/Gold Classification: 1A Home Stadium: Duffy Daugherty Memorial Stadium Head Coach: Sam Shutty High School: Northern Cambria College: IUP Years as Head Coach: 9 Record at Northern Cambria: 36-30

### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Last year's junior high record: 3-4

Letterwinners returning: 16

Returning offensive starters: (6) Ty Dumm, Jack Sheredy, Austin Amsdell, Brayden Peles, Dawson Shutty, Ben Messina

Returning defensive starters: (5) Ty Dumm, Ethan Donatelli, Dawson Shutty, Jack Sheredy, Caleb Dolney

Base Offense: Pro-Style Spread

Base Defense: Odd Stack

### COACH SHUTTY SAYS ...

**Team Strengths:** "We have really good starters returning, and we return 4 of our 5 linemen. We have a lot of leadership and kids with great leadership qualities."

Team Concerns: "Depth is a big concern. We won't have the depth we had last year."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS...** The Colts had a historic season last year winning their first District 6 championship in school history finishing 10-4. Key losses to graduation included QB Owen Bougher who passed for 2300 yards and 22 TD's, RB Colton Paronish who rushed for 828 yards, and receiver Peyton Meyers who hauled in 66 receptions for 1132 yards and 10TD's, the cupboard is far from empty. Two-way starting linemen Dawson Shutty should be a force on both sides of the ball. Senior Ethan Donatelli and Junior Ty Dumm will battle for the QB position. Sr. Jack Sheredy rushed for 672 yards last year and should get the bulk of the carries this year. Dumm and Sheredy, who combined for 27 interceptions, along with Shutty, will anchor the defense, one that finished second in the conference a year ago.

**Prediction:** The Colts were 7-3 in the regular season last year. They will ride the wave of momentum in 2023 and win one more and finish 8-2.



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# **Penns Manor Comets**

## **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 1	9	at River Valley (Scrim)
Aug. 2	25	West Shamokin
Sept.		at Homer-Center
Sept.		at Conemaugh TWP.
Sept. 1		Conemaugh Valley
Sept. 2		at Cambria Heights
Sept. 2		United
Oct.	6	Marion Center
Oct. 1	3	at Northern Cambria
Oct. 2		Portage
Oct. 2		at Purchase Line

\*All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



### **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 11-2 Team Colors: Navy Blue/White Classification: 1A Home Stadium: Pat Corrigan Field Head Coach: Bill Packer High School: Penns Manor College: Salem Years as Head Coach: 19 Record at Penns Manor: 124-74

### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Last year's junior high record: 0-6

Letterwinners returning: 13

Returning offensive starters: (7) Carter Smith, Jacob Tate, Alex Polenik, Kayden Detwiler, Bryton Guillen, Peyton Koscho, Amin Lieb

Returning defensive starters: (4) Carter Smith, Amin Lieb, Alex Polenik, Peyton Koscho

Base Offense: Wing T

Base Defense: 4-2-5

#### COACH PACKER SAYS... Team Strengths: "Offensive Line Depth, Defensive linebackers returning

and our defensive line"

Team Concerns: "Skill positions with a new quarterback and backfield. Our leadership must come from new players."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS....**The good news for Penns Manor is they graduated only 7 seniors. The bad news is they accounted for the bulk of last years offensive production for an 11-2 team. All-Renda Team MVP Max Hill rushed for a conference leading 1,633 yards scoring 28 TD's. PM also lost FB Mark Bagley, as well as wingbacks Ashton Courvina and Justin Marshall who combined for nearly 1,600 yards rushing. They do return four of their five starting offensive linemen, three defensive linemen, plus standout senior LB Carter Smith. Junior Amin Lieb is expected to win the QB battle, while Smith, Dallas Leasure, Troy Williams, Justin Vojtek, and Brayden Pytash will share time at fullback and wingback. The Comets defense may have to carry the team until the offense finds traction.

**Prediction:** If there is a coaching staff that can find a way to success with losing that much firepower it's Packer and his assistants, but we think it's too much to ask. Comets fall back to 4-6.



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## **Purchase Line Red Dragons**

### **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 19	Conemaugh TWP. (Scrim)
Aug. 25	Cambria Heights
Sept. 1	River Valley
Sept. 8	at West Shamokin
Sept. 15	Northern Cambria
Sept. 22	at Conemaugh Valley
Sept. 29	at Portage
Oct. 6	United
Oct. 13	at Marion Center
Oct. 20	at Homer-Center
Oct. 27	Penns Manor
*All Regul	lar Season Games at 7:00 PM



### **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 4-6 Team Colors: Red/Gray Classification: 1A Home Stadium: Barry T. Madill Head Coach: Matt Falisec High School: Purchase Line College: IUP Years as Head Coach: 7 Record at Purchase Line: 31-35

### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Last year's junior high record: 1-7

Letterwinners returning: 22

Returning offensive starters: (9) John Elick, Brock Small, Austin Chambers, Jaylin Robertson, Charles Edwards, Devlan Kordish, Zander Stiffler, Dylan Bouch, Owen Misko

Returning defensive starters: (9) John Elick, Brock Small, Austin Chambers, Jaylin Robertson, Charles Edwards, Devlan Kordish, Zander Stiffler, Dylan Bouch, John Frazier

Base Offense: Spread Base Defense: 4-3

## FROM COACH FALISEC

Team Strengths: "We have an experienced group of seniors who have played together for a long time." Team Concerns: "Lack of overall depth."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS:** The Red Dragons missed out on the playoffs last year with a 4-6 record but they return enough experience at key positions that they should make a run this year. To do so, they must get more production from fourth year starting QB John Elick who passed for 582 yards as a junior. A.J. Chambers and Brock Small both return with hopes of bolstering a rushing attack that only averaged 112 yards per game, last in the conference. The Red Dragons defense allowed 270 yards a game, fifth best mark in the Heritage but a struggling offense made things difficult on them. To make a run for a playoff spot, the key is improved line play and offensive growth after scoring a league worst 13.6 points per game last. Defensively, the biggest challenge is upgrading defensive front. If they do that, they have many other returnees at LB and in the secondary that could make for a formidable defensive unit.

**PREDICTION:** Red Dragons flip last year's 4-6 to 6-4 and return to playoffs.



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# Biver Valley Panthers

## **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 19	Penns Manor (Scrim)
Aug. 25	Conemaugh TWP.
Sept. 1	at Purchase Line
Sept. 8	Homer-Center
Sept. 15	at Cambria Heights
Sept. 22	West Shamokin
Sept. 29	at Marion Center
Oct. 6	Northen Cambria
Oct. 13	Conemaugh Valley
Oct. 20	at United
Oct. 27	at Portage

\*All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



## **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 1-9 Team Colors: Blue/Black Classification: 2A Home Stadium: Emie Widmar Stadium Head Coach: Jess Houser High School: River Valley Years as Head Coach: 3 Record at River Valley: 9-12

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Last year's junior high record: 7-1

Letterwinners returning:15

Returning offensive starters: (10) Luke Woodring, Sam Yanits, Gavin Burkhart, Quinton Witmer, Dom Speal, Merreck Smith, Tasaun Hawkins, Joey Bedick, Domenic Bartolini, Kaden Barnhart

Returning defensive starters: (10) Luke Woodring, Sam Yanits, Quinton Witmer, Michael Wano, Dom Speal, Elijah Morchied, Kaden Barnhart, Joey Bedick, Gavin Burkhart, Tasaun Hawkins

Base Offense: Spread Base Defense: 4-4 FROM COACH HOUSER: Team Strengths: "Strong senior leadership, game time experience, and many returning starters."

Team Concerns: "Filling two vacant holes on our offensive line."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS:** The Panthers return 2-year starter Dom Bartolini who has been a standout on the line on both sides of the ball. The problem is replacing four seniors lost to graduation. The good news is plenty of skill returns including QB Luke Woodring who passed for 917 yards last year. Sr. Dom Speal and Jr. Gavin Burkhart lead a solid receiving corps with both hauling in 19 passes in 2022. River Valley rushed for only 113 yards per game last year, a number that will have to be greatly improved this year. Rush defense was also a major problem allowing 225 yards per game. For the Panthers to return to Heritage Conference contender status, their defense will need to improve greatly after allowing 300 yards per game a year ago. Expect the offense to be improved, and the defense to get better as the season progresses. **Prediction:** As solid sophomore group and incoming freshmen class from a strong junior high team gain experience, expect improvement to the tune of 4-6.



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# **United Valley Lions**

## **2023 SCHEDULE**

ug. 19	at Cambria Heights (Scrim)
ug. 25	at Northern Cambria
lept. 1	West Shamokin
ept. 8	at Conemaugh Valley
ept. 15	Homer-Center
ept. 22	Marion Center
ept. 29	at Penns Manor
Oct. 6	at Purchase Line
Oct. 13	Portage
Oct. 20	River Valley
Oct. 27	at Conemaugh TWP.
All Reg	ular Season Games at 7:00 PM

All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



## **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 4-6 Team Colors: Royal Blue, White, Gray Classification: 2A Home Stadium: Thomas J Madill Field / Lloyd McMullen Memorial Field Head Coach: Kevin Marabito High School: United College: IUP Years as Head Coach: 9 Record at United: 28-54

### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Last year's junior high record: 8-0

Letterwinners returning:23

Returning offensive starters: (8) Isaac Worthington, Zach Travis, Alex Reba, Caden McCully, Clint Safko, AJ Villa, Gino DiPaolo, Tavin Shirk

Returning defensive starters: (9) Collin Nedrich, Caden McCully, Evan Thomas, Clint Safko, Zach Travis, Dylan Stephens, Braydon Brown, Braxton Jelley, Alex Reba

Base Offense: Spread Base Defense: 4-3 COACH MARABITO SAYS... Team Strengths: "Good core group of players, return all skill position players, Return 9 of 11 defensive starters, very athletic freshman class." Team Concerns: "Staying healthy, lack of experience on the offensive line and to develop a punter and a kicker."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS...**In 2021 Blacklick Valley finished 1-9, United 0-9. In 2022 the two schools joined football squads forming United Valley breathing new life back into the struggling programs and it's one that is on the rise. 2023 may just be the beginning. After a 4-6 opening act, the Lions may be ready to roar once again. Seventeen starters retum. Offensively Caden McCully returns for his senior season after rushing for 730 yards last year. To take the next step the Lions will have to find more consistency on offense after averaging only 15 points and a conference low 163 yards per game. Several freshmen move up from a strong junior high team that steamrolled opponents on the way to an 8-0 record will help. With a strong senior group; coupled with large sophomore and freshmen classes, look for United Valley to take another step with the best yet to come.

Prediction: A return to the playoffs will be in the cards after a 7-3 finish.



Heritage Conference Game of the Week on WQMU - U92.5 FM and u92radio.com





## **2023 SCHEDULE**

Aug. 19	at Portage (Scrim)
Aug. 25	at Penns Manor
Sept. 1	at United
Sept. 8	Purchase Line
Sept. 15	Conemaugh TWP.
Sept. 22	at River Valley
Sept. 29	at Conemaugh Valley
Oct. 6	Cambria Heights
Oct. 13	Homer-Center
Oct. 20	Northern Cambria
Oct. 27	at Marion Center

\*All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



## **TEAM PROFILE**

2022 Record: 5-6 Team Colors: Black and Silver Classification: 2A Home Stadium: Jack E. Boyer Field Head Coach: Jon McCullough High School: West Shamokin College: Thiel Years as Head Coach: 11 Record at West Shamokin: 50-54

### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Last year's junior high record: 1-6

Letterwinners returning: 17

Returning offensive starters: (6) Lou Swartz, Blake Pegg, Connor Gervasoni, Ezra Oesterling, Jaden Klonowski, Isaac Schrecengost

Returning defensive starters: (7) Lou Swartz, Conner Gervasoni, Blake Pegg, Isic Sleigh, Ezra Oesterling, Henry Clark, Derek Lybarger

Base Offense: Spread Base Defense: 4-4

man on both sides."

#### COACH McCULLOUGH SAYS.... Team Strengths: "Starting QB returns along with several line-

Team Concerns: "Developing depth"

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS**...Senior Lou Swartz has gotten even bigger and stronger during the off-season which isn't good news for the rest of the conference. Swartz, QB and ILB rushed for 1,162 yards scoring 14 TD's last year while completing 43 of 92 passes for 765 yards and 11 TD's. He made the All-Renda all-star team as second team QB. The Wolves averaged 350 yards of offense per game in 2022, second to only Penns Manor. Unfortunately, they again had trouble stopping their opponents allowing 35 points per game and 349 yards of offense, both ranked dead last in the conference. The Wolves graduated just six players from last years roster, but lost a couple of good linemen, plus they will need to replace the production of Micah Linhart (766 yards rushing) and Dylan Wolfe (595 yards rushing). Coach McCullough is hoping the experience his young defensive group gained last year with 8 or 9 underclassmen on the field at times pays off this year.

**Prediction:** There are many surprises in a season, as well as the question if teams can stay healthy, especially with small schools. If West Shamokin can, they may be one of the top stories in 2023 on their way to an 8-2 season.



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#### **2023 SCHEDULE**

United (Scrim) at Purchase Line Marion Center at Portage River Valley mer-Cent h TWP ern Cambria \*All Regular Season Games at 7:00 PM



**Jarrod** Lewis

### FACTS AND FIGURES

2022 Varsity Record: 8-4 Jr. High Record: 7-2 Team Colors: Scarlet Red/Columbia Blue Stadium: Cambria Heights High School Stadium **Returning Lettermen: 12** 

Returning offensive starters: (5) Alex Farrell, Braylon Rydbom, Garrett Jasper, Marshall Eckenrode, Stephen Nelen

Returning defensive starters: (6) Braylon Rydbom, Garrett Jasper, Marshall Eckenrode, Luke Mulraney, Trey Trybus, Jaxxon Kine **Base Offense:** Multiple

**Base Defense: 4-4** 

#### **COACH LEWIS SAYS...**

Team Strengths: "Return of a lot of players who start and played a lot of snaps on defense. The team has demonstrated a strong work ethic." Team Concerns: "Replacing a lot of offensive production

with only 4 returning seniors." RENDA MEDIA SAYS ... The Highlanders have gone 18-6 since joining the conference in 2021. However they lose a lot of production from last year including QB/LB Ty Stockley (938 yds. rushing / 583 passing) and TB Tanner Trybus (1,341 yds. rushing / 17 TDs). With only four returning seniors, Coach Lewis will count on a strong junior class to carry the load. Junior QB Issac Weiland gained valuable experience and is expected to lead an

offense that averaged 30 points a game in 2022. Prediction: The Highlanders will take a step back this year but not a big one at 6-4.

#### **2023 SCHEDULE**

	West Shamokin (Scrim)
	at Conemaugh Valley
	Conemaugh TWP.
	Cambria Heights
. 15	at Marion Center
. 22	at Northern Cambria
	Purchase Line
	Homer-Center
	at United
	at Penns Manor
27	River Valley
The second	

tegular Season Games at 7:00 P!

**Marty Slanoc** 

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

Portage

2022 Varsity Record: 7-5 Junior High Record: 3-5 Team Colors: Kelly Green & White Stadium: Portage Stadium **Returning Lettermen:** 10 Returning offensive starters: (4) Owen Gouse, Skyler Scarton, Isaac Willinsky, Bode Layo Returning defensive starters: (5) Owen Gouse, Isaac Willinsky, Bode Layo, Easton Slanoc, Brendan Smithtro Base Offense: Multiple **Base Defense: 4-4** 

#### COACH SLANOC SAYS...

Team Strengths: "Ability to understand concepts, and unselfishness."

Team Concerns: "Every year concerns are finding new leadership, dedication, and the ability to do what's best for the team.

RENDA MEDIA SAYS ... The Mustangs never won more than two games in a row last year, but with the exception of their non-conference game against Windber were in most games. Portage will have to replace QB Andrew Miko (967 yds. passing/ 626 yds. Rushing), FB Isaac Jubina (1,041 yards rushing, 16 TD's), RB/WR Mason Kargo (326 yds. rushing/24 receptions for 387 yards). They also lost several linemen on both sides of the ball to graduation. Sophomore Easton Slanoc will be in the mix to take over at QB. The Mustangs return senior linebackers Trent Nesbella, Jacob Nolan, and junior Isaac Willinsky. Expect

Willinsky to be the feature back. Prediction: The Mustangs haven't been under .500 since

2011. It might happen this year, but we say 5-5.





#### **2023 SCHEDULE**

 Aug. 19
 at Purchase Line (Scrim)

 Aug. 25
 at River Valley

 Sept. 1
 at Portage

 Sept. 8
 Penns Manor

 Sept. 15
 at West Shamokin

 Sept. 22
 at Horner-Center

 Sept. 23
 Northern Cambria

 Oct. 6
 Conemaugh Valley

 Oct. 13
 at Cambria Heights

 Oct. 20
 Marion Center

 Oct. 27
 United



Brandon Studer

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

2022 Varsity Record: 6-5 Jr. High Record: 2-5-1 Team Colors: Red & Black Stadium: Conemaugh Township High School Stadium Returning Lettermen: 20 Returning offensive starters: (7) Jon Updyke, Kyler Mauzy, Tim Collins, David Leipchack, Colten Huffman, Jake Greig, Josh Baker

Returning defensive starters: (6) John Updyke, Tim Collins, Grady Haines, Luke Weber, Josh Baker Base Offense: Shotgun Base Defense: 4-3

#### **COACH STUDER SAYS...**

**Team Strengths:** "We have strong leadership from a core group of returning underclassmen and a robust sophomore group who are eager to fill major roles. The focus and dedication to off-season training has been impressive and promising."

Team Concerns: "We are entering the 2023 season into a new conference with a rookie head coach."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS...**See separate Conemaugh Township and Conemaugh Valley article on Page 5 of this year's preview magazine.

**Prediction:** The Indians may be a year away from being ready to make noise in new conference. 2023 may not be a smooth welcome as CT finishes 3-7.



## Conemaugh Valley

#### **2023 SCHEDULE**

19	at Marion Center (Scrim)
25	Portage
	at Northern Cambria
	United
15	at Penns Manor
22	Purchase Line
	West Shamokin
	at Conemaugh TWP.
13	at River Valley
20	Cambria Heights
27	at Homer-Center
Regul	ar Season Games at 7:00 PM

Matthew Kent

#### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

2022 Varsity Record: 2-7 Jr. High Record: n/a Team Colors: Blue & White Stadium: Thomas Yewcic Stadium Returning Lettermen: 10 Returning offensive starters: (7) Adam Jasper, Ashtin Wilson, Elijah Darr, Devon Chontas, Carsen Lauer, Tommy Stiffler, Tanner George Returning defensive starters: (9) Adam Jasper, Ashtin Wilson, Elijah Darr, Devon Chontas, Carsen Lauer, Landon Percinsky, Tanner George, Mike Morales, Anthony Morales Base Offense: Double Wing Base Defense: 4-4

#### **COACH KENT SAYS...**

Team Strengths: "Speed of our team and fast athletic linemen."

Team Concerns: "Adapting to the new conference and also having a smaller line."

**RENDA MEDIA SAYS...**See separate Conemaugh Valley Blue Jays and Conemaugh Township article on Page 5 of this year's preview magazine.

**Prediction:** After back-to-back playoff appearances in 2020 and 2021, the Jays struggled last year. If defense improves, the record may too, but we say 2-8.





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# ERIMSON HAWKS

## IUP CRIMSON HAWKS

## 2023 SCHEDULE

AUG 317PMASHLANDSEPT 94PME. STROUDSBURGSEPT 162PMSHIPPENSBURGSEPT 231PM@MERCYHURSTSEPT 306PM@SLIPPERY ROCKOCT 72PMCAL UOCT 142PMEDINBOROOCT 213PM@SETON HILLOCT 282PMGANNONNOV 4NOON@CLARIONNOV 11NOON@BLOOMSBURG



## **TEAM PROFILE**

Team Colors: Crimson & Grav PSAC Conference: Classification: NCAA DII Stadium: Frank Cignetti Field at Miller Stadium 2022 Record: 10-2 2022 Highlights: PSAC Champions, NCAA Quarterfinalist, ranked 10th in nation in final NCAA D2 poll Head Coach: Paul Tortorella College: Slippery Rock (1985) Years as Head Coach: 6 at IUP Record: 48-11 Pre-Season National Rankings: Ranked 11th in both the D2football.com poll and in Lindy's College Football magazine

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

From Head Coach Tortorella...

#### HAWK TALK

KEY RETURNEES: Running backs Dayjure Stewart and Adam Houser; WR Hilton Ridley, OL Gerald Comedy, DB Darius Bruce, LB Drew Dinunzio-Biss, DE Tyrone Fowler Jr., KEY LOSSES: QB Mak Sexton, WR Duane Brown, TE Grant Smith, OT Darren Davis, LB Connor Kelly

KEY NEWCOMERS: OB Karst Hunter, OL Daric Cotman and Kelecho Okoro, TE Marcus Day, and WR Quinn Zinoble Base Offense: Spread Base Defense: 4-2-5 Team Strengths: "I think especially defensively a lot of experience. On paper you may look and see 8 or 9 guys have started a lot of football games so I think defensively the strength is we've got a lot of experience. Overall we have about 30 to 32 guys back that helped us to win games last year so that's a good starting point." Concerns: "A potential weakness would be as an offensive line with three new starters. They have a lot of talent but it takes a while for a line to gel. Starting RB Dayjure Stewart probably won't play the first couple weeks of the season recovering from an ACL although he's doing very well. We have 7 seniors which is not a lot but we have 20 4th and 5th-year juniors and then the other end, 65% of our team are freshmen or sophomores so either real young or real old or inexperienced with not a whole lot in between." Renda Media Says....If highly touted OB Karst Hunter, a transfer from Colorado Mesa, performs as expected, the offense could put up big numbers. Hunter will have a stable of talented receivers led by Jr. Hilton Ridley (Lancaster), R-Sr. Derek Lockhart (S. Allegheny HS) who missed last year due to a leg injury, and Grad Student Quinn Zinoble, a transfer from Albany who also spent two years at Clarion. Zinoble played in high school at Juniata Valley. The strong point of the defense will be the secondary where all five starters return. Finally, all of the specialists will return in 2023.

Prediction: If Hunter and offense delivers, the Hawks will soar to 10-1.



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