

## Big turnout excites coaches

By Malakai Cruse  
reporter

With a bigger roster than expected, the unified flag football season is off to an explosive start.

With more participants, coaches are excited to play more games and expand their season's length.

"We have over 30 athletes interested at the call-out meeting. We are excited to have such a big interest. We added a competition and are looking forward to expanding our schedule," Coach Annie Ginn said.

Unified football will have plenty of games playing at Woodmen Stadium.

"Our first four competitions are at home. We would love to have a huge student body presence in the crowd to cheer us on," Coach Ginn said.

Coach Ginn has no shortage of coaching experience.

"This is my second season coaching flag football. I previously coached girls and boys swimming at GHS," she said.

The team is composed of student athletes from the Special Education Department and any other student interested in the sport. Senior Khup Thang explained the purpose of the sport.

"To have fun and be a team together," he said.

Practices started Aug. 13 after school, and after the first practice, the season was off to a quick start with games planned for early September.

"Most of our practices are in the SAC or the AUX and last around an hour. If it's nice out we'll go to the field. We work on flag pulling, learning new plays, and throwing the ball around," sophomore Lillian Williams said.

Unified football is a season of fun and competition, and as any sport, it is a great learning experience.

"Before joining, I knew nothing about football. It has also taught me how to work with students who have disabilities," Williams said.



Junior linebacker Ethan Lobb fights past a Columbus North opposing offensive linemen during a scrimmage. The Woodmen host country rival Indian Creek tonight at 7 p.m. KJ Jones photo

## Football plans to build on last year's success

By Rachel Spivey  
reporter

The thrill of screaming, shouting, and winning will soon launch football season.

The Woodmen boast a young core this year. Their aspirations for the season are not affected by the loss of 18 senior impact players at graduation.

"I have a good feeling about this season. We did lose a lot of seniors, but I think we have more room for improvement without them and many people have been stepping up this year for leadership. I just think overall this season is going to go well," junior Ayden Houseman, quarterback, said.

Fans and athletes have their favorite parts.

"My favorite part about playing football is the games on Friday night. Every week it's what I look forward to the most. We show people how hard we have worked to be there, especially when we win. I also love the Thursday team pasta dinners with my fellow teammates and friends," senior Carter Swain, defensive end, said.

Coach Justin Boser talked about a standout player.

"Alex Kramer is a standout player; he is a three-year varsity starter and an excellent offensive lineman. We run the ball behind him a lot. He has worked hard

these past few years to get to the position where he is today," Coach Boser said.

Sophomore Mattux Miller, cornerback, agreed.

"Kramer is the best lineman that we have. I do not know how we would do without him. He just pulls the whole team together. He is easily going to go D1 as one of the most hardworking players on the team," Miller said.

Swain talked about the differences between last year and this year.

"This year's leadership is a lot different than last year. A large number of our team leaders and leading attitudes graduated so this year there was a major shift that had to happen and people had to step up to those roles left to us," Swain said.

Houseman talked about an important team to beat this year.

"The team to beat this year is definitely Martinsville. If we can beat them in a regular season game, then we would definitely be able to beat them in the playoffs. I think this because they are the only team in our Sectional that is as good as us," Houseman said.

They focus on specifics during practice.

"Our goals in practice are to win our conference and to get better working as a team. Then, we will move on to bigger things like Sectionals and Regionals then State," Miller said.

Tonight the Woodmen face Indian Creek at home at 7 p.m.

Home	Away
Seymour	
Indian Creek	
Martinsville	
Mooresville	
Plainfield	
Perry Meridian	
Decatur Central	
Franklin Comm.	
Whiteland	

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