



## 2017 FOOTBALL

### League realignment and schedule pleases local football coaches

by Mike Lange  
After playing in Class C North for the past four seasons, Foxcroft Academy returned to its roots this year by moving back into the Little Ten Conference.

One of the advantages of the new schedule is facing teams like Dexter/Piscataquis that were longtime rivals of the Ponies. In addition, Foxcroft Academy can pick up some valuable experience by facing powerhouses like Bucksport.

"I think the schedule is great for us," said FA Coach Dan White. "With some traditional opponents and a couple of cross-over games, the league is more competitive and that's what the MPA (Maine Principals' Association) was shooting for."

White's opinion is echoed by Dexter/Piscataquis Coach Andrew Sherry and Nokomis first-year Coach Jake Rogers. "We're in a very competitive league now," Sherry said. "But we're

making it work." Rogers said that Nokomis will host two long-distance rivals - Houlton/Hodgdon and Medomak Valley - so the only lengthy road trip will be to Mount Desert Island on Oct. 20. "But every game on the schedule is a must-win for us," he said.

So far this season, White said that the Foxcroft Academy Ponies - who went 4-4 last year - are a lot more balanced. "In the first two games this year, we completed 22 passes," he said. "Last year, in the first two contests, we completed nine. We've also cut down on our penalties dramatically."

White, a former FA star quarterback, said that there are still some areas that need improvement. "We turned the ball over too many times in the early games," he said. "We have to pay more attention to ball security."

On the positive side, the Ponies' head coach said that tail-

back Michael Niles has been one of the keys to the team's success. "He has proven that he can carry the football at the varsity level," White said. "We depend on (quarterback) Nick Carlson as a passer and runner, so having someone to complement him is a big plus."

Sherry's Dexter/Piscataquis Tigers came out of the starting gate with a resounding 28-13 victory over Ellsworth/Summer on opening day and added a second victory by defeating Mount View 34-20 at home.

"With Dario and Herman as crossover games, we've got our work cut out for us," Sherry said. "But some teams that seem to be struggling are right on the cusp of being very competitive."

Dexter as a stand-alone team struggled with numbers in recent years, but the addition of players from Piscataquis Community Secondary School in Guilford has helped the situ-

ation. "I like our attitude and toughness this year," Sherry said. "We're going to be physical and a very hard-nosed football team. We're young, but we're getting there."

Sherry, who played football for Maine Central Institute, credited his offensive and defensive linemen for the team's success so far. "Guys like Tyler Handy and John Allen have been great," he said. "They're the unsung heroes of the team."

Rogers played his high school football at Lawrence including one season under the legendary coach Pete Cooper. "I learned a lot from Pete, and these kids (Nokomis) have never played in my type of system offensively," Rogers said. "It's like learning a new language for some of them."

After going winless for two consecutive seasons, Nokomis took two out of its first three contests including a stunning 15-14 victory over Oceanside on Sept.

16. The Warriors scored on a fourth-down completion from Andrew Haining to Colby Pinette with 10 seconds to go and added a two-point conversion to seal the win over Oceanside.

"The kids who are here want to win," Rogers said. "We have a core group of kids who played numerous other sports, but they've shown up ready to play football."

The Warriors coach said that Nokomis has been struggling with numbers this year "like a lot of other teams. But our practices have been very good and they're following instructions well."

Pinette and Alex Costello were unanimously chosen as co-captains by their teammates this year. "Leadership is very important and these two have really stepped up," Rogers said. "In addition, I'm really pleased with the support from the school, the boosters club and the Nokomis fans."

# 2017 Dexter Football Team



Calob Weeks, Nick Leighton, Dillion Allen, Blake Thompson, Logan Perkins, Jacob Bickford, Parker Ponte, Jeff Whitney, Tyler Chapman, Garrett Colbath, Tyler Beem, Gage Stone, Cameron Paige, Augustus Irwin, Matt Simpson, Colton Tibbetts, David Kirshkain, Haedyn Guenther, Justin Curtis, Hunter Dean, Parker Richardson, Eric Bennett, Zach Thompson, Isaac Webber, Nathan Michaud, Maleek Washington, Tyler Handy, Jonathan Allen, Robert Dorman, Ryan Davis, Kyle Watson, Dongjoon Kim, Justin Wing, Steven Moszgae. Head Football Coach: Andrew Shorey. Assistant Football Coaches: Brian Salisbury Bob Saccareccia Andrew Levensalor Kyle Lockhart. Manager: Aurora Martin. (Photo by Lifetouch)

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09/02/17	HOME	Ellsworth	(W) 28 - 13
09/08/17	AWAY	Foxcroft Academy	(L) 24 - 14
09/16/17	HOME	Mt. View	(W) 34 - 20
09/23/17	HOME	Dirigo	(W) 34 - 13
09/29/17	AWAY	Bucksport	7:00pm
10/07/17	HOME	Mattanawcook(Homecoming)	1:00pm
10/13/17	AWAY	Hermon	7:00pm
10/20/17	AWAY	Houlton	7:00pm

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# 2017 Nokomis Football Team



Row 1 - Andrew Haining, Seth Woodard, Brock Graves, Colby Pinetto, Alex Costodio, Quinton Richards, Phenyx Hatch, James Boyd, Carter Shaw, David Wilson, Chance Graves. Row 2 - Tyler Littlefield, Nicholas Lincoln, Josh Rader, Jarek Munson, Hayden Black, Logan Lilly, Logan Rowell, Dalton Marshall, Garrett Burke, Dana Tasker, Jacob Hennessey, Nick Lovley. Row 3 Lucas Otis, Samuel Donaldson, Cody Hawthorne, Jayden Brooks, Xavier Rowe, Darius Currie, Beau Briggs, Andy Hopkins, Zach Dudley, Dylan Gray, Keith Lilly. Row 4 Asst. Coach Ryan Robinson, Head Coach Jake Rogers, Michel Fletcher, Asst. Coach Eric Moulton, Asst. Coach Russell Wilson. (Photo by Jess Adams)

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## 2017 Nokomis Football Schedule:

09/01/17	Hampden	Away	(W) 34 - 8
09/08/17	MCI	Away	(L) 0 - 12
09/16/17	Oceanside	Home	(W) 15 - 14
09/23/17	Medomak	Home	(W) 35 - 7
09/29/17	John Bapst	Away	7:00pm
10/07/17	Houlton	Home	1:00pm
10/14/17	Belfast	Home	1:00pm
10/20/17	MDI	Away	7:00pm

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Nick Clawson, Brayden Kloicamp, Jeremy Richard, Sam Robinson, Hyatt Smith, Krystofer Downing, Logan Martin, Youssef Eldieb, Levi Stedman, Luke Stedman, Matthew Spooner, Noah Contreras, Caleb Crocker, Aiden Manning, Izaak Krause, Cameron Marsh, Michaleb Niles, Daniel Rihtnsberg, Sean Leland, Sekton Wandikbo, Peter Wilcox, Gabe Williams, R.J. Nelson, Gabe Riitano, Ryan Laffin, Cody Labbo, Johnny Labree, Garrett Conley, Michael Oebe, Josh Tibbets, Paul Lizotte, Reggie Johnston, Caleb Ladd, Luke Warner, Albert Suddsbery, Eli Bickford, Mason Mcleish, Lucas Ewert, Isaac Weymouth, Drew Dankert. Head Coach: Danny White. Asst. Coaches: Gary Worthing, Nick Miller, Ryan Dankert, Matt Spooner, Trey Merrill, Ryan Taylor, Josh Sands. (Photo by Lifetouch)

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## 2017 Foxcroft Academy Football Schedule:

09/01/17	vs Madison	(L) 49 - 28
09/08/17	vs Dexter	(W) 24 - 14
09/15/17	@ Wash. Acad.	(W) 61 - 14
09/22/17	vs Bucksport	(W) 45 - 18
09/29/17	@ Orono	7:00 pm
10/06/17	vs Mt. View	7:00 pm
10/13/17	@ MCI	7:00 pm
10/20/17	@ Mattanawcook	7:00 pm

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