

Indians ready to begin Buresh era

By Sean Douglas

For the first time in 10 years, the Mississinewa Indians will not be led by Curt Funk.

From 2010-2019, Funk was instrumental in the development of the Indians' top-notch football program, winning 77 games, including two sectional championships in two of the last three seasons. Funk has since moved to Fishers, where he will coach the Tigers this coming year.

Luckily, the Indians look to be in capable hands with his replacement.

Kyle Buresh, who spent the last nine years coaching at the collegiate level, was appointed Mississinewa's new coach in late June, and he brings with him a glut of football experience. He spent the previous nine years in the collegiate ranks, coaching at Denison University, Dakota Wesleyan University, Wheaton College, and Indiana Wesleyan University, working in various roles.

Over the last several seasons, Buresh was looking to take the next logical step—running a program of his own.



However, nothing solidified at the college level. He began looking at high school positions, and when Mississinewa's head football job opened up, he put his name in. Right away, he felt a connection with Mississinewa, and when he was offered the job, he took it without hesitation.

Now, Buresh looks to add to Mississinewa's storied football tradition in 2020.

"When I interviewed, I was extremely impressed with the administration, the school corporation, and then obviously with the tough, gritty football community at Mississinewa," Buresh said. "I didn't want to be at a place that doesn't care about football or athletics—I wanted to be somewhere where football means something to them and they take pride in it. Not just from a school standpoint, but from a

community standpoint. I really felt that here, and that left a big impression on me."

It is tough to come into a new place and establish a fresh scheme and culture, and even tougher to do so with a global pandemic, so naturally, there have been challenges. Buresh was not afforded the opportunity to connect with the team in person during the late spring and early summer due to the county-wide shutdown, but he and his coaching staff took advantage of the technology available to them to make an attempt, albeit remotely. They conducted many virtual meetings via Zoom, talking with the players about culture, leadership, guidelines, and expectations, while also disseminating skills and drills for the team to work on.

Once the team reconvened in July, Buresh worked to intertwine his culture with the implementation of his scheme.

It has taken some time, and it is still a work in progress, but with the season less than two weeks away, Buresh is pleased with how his team has progressed.

The Indians graduated



Several members of the 2019 Mississinewa football team proudly holding their plaque after their victory over Marion in the sectional championship game.

19 seniors from their 11-win team a season ago, including stud running back Cade Campbell (220 carries, 1690 yards, 16 touchdowns), quarterbacks Ethan Bennett and Andrew Cruz, leading receiver Drew Castanon, linebackers Jon Hall and Kyler Funk, and linemen Skylar Tackett, Darreyen Poulson, and Tim Scott, to name a few.

However, the Indians return a plethora of talent, including Carson Campbell, who was second on the team last season in

carries (121), yards (943), and touchdowns (15) as a sophomore. Campbell provides explosiveness and speed from the running back position, and he will be the focal point of the offense in 2020.

Lucas Asbury, Cam McCreary, Garrett Johnson, and Brody Crosby will lead a revamped offensive line, while Landry Rock and Jayden Crick are currently battling for the No. 1 spot at the quarterback position.

"Offensively, we want to be balanced based off of what a team is giving us," Buresh said. "We want to be extremely explosive in the run game and the pass game and be able to take advantage of what defenses are giving us."

Elijah Standridge, who will be a senior this year, has really impressed Buresh with his work ethic, and he will play a major factor on the Indians' defense this fall. All other

positions are currently under evaluation.

"We want to be getting 11 hats to the ball," Buresh said. "What we talk about on defense is 11, 34. We want to have 11 hats to the ball, we want to get three-and-outs, and we want to do that for four quarters. If we do that, we will be in really good shape."

The Indians will begin the Buresh era on Friday, August 21 when they host the Pendleton Heights, and Mississinewa's new head coach is looking to make his mark this fall.

"What I want fans and opponents to say about our team is that we are physical, that we are tough, and that we are disciplined," Buresh said. "Those are the things that I want people to see in our football program. We are going to outthit. We are going to outblock. We are going to fight until the very end and until that whistle blows."

Girls golf scores for local schools

Scores for Aug. 4-10

Girls Golf

8/3—Oak Hill @ Harrison Invitational

Oak Hill – 10th place (Hope Mygrant – 83)

8/4—Marion @ Huntington North Invitational – **13th of 13 (500)**

Bayley Grieve – 116

Savanah Grieve – 116

8/4—Oak Hill @ Huntington North Invitational – **3rd of 13 (401)**

Hope Mygrant – 85 (4th place overall)

Holly Gilliespie – 95

8/6—Marion @ Manchester – **NO TEAM**

SCORE

Bayley Grieve – 56

Savanah Grieve – 57

8/7—Marion/Mississinewa @ Madison-Grant

Madison-Grant – 211

Mississinewa – 229

Marion – 242

(Maggie LaBarr – 48)

8/7—Oak Hill 187- 217 Frankton

(Hope Mygrant – 37)

8/10—Madison-Grant

200-184 Pendleton

Heights

(Abbie Hostetler – 42)

8/10—Southern Wells

184-208 Mississinewa

(Maggie LaBarr – 46)

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