

High school football preview: Players to watch and team-by-team capsules

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DEXTER DREADNAUGHTS

Coach: Tom Barbieri (9th year).

Last season: 1-8, tied for third in SEC White.

Key returners: Mason Mabry (sr., LB), Dillion Kipke (sr., SS), John Chiado (sr., CB), Alex Frost (sr., DL), Alex McMurray (sr., QB), Mike Ferguson (sr., OL), Josh Cash (jr., OL), Ryan Wesley (sr., OL), Alex Dobbs (sr., CB/WB), Sequoyah Burkes-Combs (jr., RB/LB), Mike Kedroske (sr., SE), Henry Haley (sr., DB).

Strength: Game experience. Six starters are back on each side of the ball.

Weakness: Depth. "Injuries could be devastating to us," Barbieri says.

Outlook: As one of only two county teams to never qualify for the state playoffs (Lincoln is the other), the Dreadnaughts will need wins over non-conference opponents Garden City (Week 1) and Saginaw Swan Valley (Week 9) to have a chance at ending that streak.

Coach Barbieri says: "We don't have as much depth as we'd like, but we do have a lot of kids that played a lot coming back, which is hard to replicate."