

# Blue Devils' cupboard isn't bare

Dauksch's team aims to make noise in 6A

## NO. 9 WEST MEMPHIS

By CRAIG WACK  
wack@commercialappeal.com

It's become a tough act to follow.

Over the last three years, the West Memphis football team has made three trips to the Arkansas Class AAAAA state title game, rolled up 33 wins and sent several players to Division 1 colleges.

Now Blue Devils coach Lanny

Dauksch is trying to do it all over again with many fresh faces, thanks to heavy graduation losses.

"We had a very good senior class (last year)," Dauksch said. "Last year's juniors are talented, but they just don't have a lot of experience playing on Friday nights."

Luckily Dauksch has some time to figure out who is going to start and who isn't — Arkansas doesn't start its football season until Sept. 1.

Another wrinkle heading into the season is that the state reclassified to seven classes from five.

West Memphis will play in the

newly formed Class 6A with neighboring Marion in its conference.

Among the top returnees, senior Teddy Stackhouse is a three-year starter and certainly figures into the Blue Devils plans.

He'll be expected to help fill the void at running back created by the departures of tailback Marquette Williams and fullback Xavier Murry.

Stackhouse also played in the defensive backfield last year, and will see significant time there as well.

Also back is junior defensive end Carson Knowlton, who had 17 sacks as a sophomore.

West Memphis has only been practicing for a couple of weeks, so the race to replace departed quarterback Tyler Allen is still wide open.

Seniors Holden Bell and Dominique Hamelin are battling with junior Barrett Oswalt for the starting job.

Dauksch said he's not afraid if the Blue Devils start a little slow. After all, the 2004 team started 1-3 and still made it to the state title game.

"We're a smaller team than we were last year," he said. "But we've got great team speed. We run to the football better than we ever did."



Carson Knowlton (right) drags down an opposing ball-carrier last year. Knowlton, who had 17 sacks as a sophomore in 2005, is one of several talented players returning for the Blue Devils this fall.

Mike Brown  
The Commercial Appeal

# Talented Trojans have depth

Watson as good at CB as he is at quarterback

## NO. 10 MILLINGTON

By DAVID HEALY  
healy@yourappeal.com

Millington 10th-year football coach Hank Hawkins isn't going to speculate on how successful the Trojans are going to be this season.

"I've been doing it long enough to know you don't trust your gut," Hawkins said of his team, ranked No. 10 in The Commercial Appeal's preseason Dandy Dozen.

"There are too many variables. You can have injuries, turnovers, things you can't control and things you can't coach through. I've been doing it long enough to know you never take anything for granted."

Still, it would be easy to see how Hawkins could let his mind start wandering.

The Trojans have plenty of firepower coming back from the team that finished last season 8-4 and advanced to the second round of the Class 5A state playoffs.

Topping that list is senior quarterback Kion Watson. Watson (6-foot, 150) threw for 900 yards last season in the Trojans' Wing-T offense.

Watson has been working on his throwing mechanics all off-season, he said, and looks to be an even more complete QB this year. Watson also may be a better cornerback than he is a quarterback, and Hawkins said he plans to play Watson both ways.



Mark Weber/The Commercial Appeal

Bolton running back Gerald Guffin is brought down by Millington's Nate Sorenson in a game last season.

### PRESEASON DANDY DOZEN

Team	Last Year
1. COMING FRIDAY	
2. COMING FRIDAY	
3. COMING THURSDAY	
4. COMING THURSDAY	
5. COMING WEDNESDAY	
6. COMING WEDNESDAY	
7. COMING TUESDAY	
8. COMING TUESDAY	
9. WEST MEMPHIS	13-1
10. MILLINGTON	8-4
11. WOODDALE	6-5
12. ECS	10-2

run on the Trojans' second play from scrimmage Friday in Millington's jamboree game against Houston.

Senior Ross Bradley (6-1, 265) will be leading the Millington offensive line this season.

Senior strong safety Unex Mayes (5-10, 180) and senior linebacker Clarence McAdory (6-1, 255) will be two players to watch in the Millington defense.

"It's going to be a hard-fought road," Mayes said. "This year a lot of teams are going to be gunning for us."

"We have a lot of talent."

While Millington will likely be solid this year, the question is whether it can be good enough to give Region 7-5A favorite Ridgeway a run for its money. The Roadrunners finished last season 12-1-1 and advanced to the Class 5A state semifinals.

— David Healy: 529-5880

## INSIDE REGION 8-3A

### Frayser

**With the ball:** The Rams are having to deal with heavy losses on both sides of the ball. On offense, Frayser has one starter back, but it is quarterback Jerry McKinney.

**Without the ball:** The story is a little better on defense with three starters back. Rico Butler is back at defensive end along with linebacker Robert Watson and defensive back Jair Frazier.

**Forecast:** Coach Terry Ryan said it's tough to take such a deep hit to his talent base, but he said the Rams should hold their own once region play begins.

### Hillcrest

**With the ball:** The Vikings will be strong running the ball with senior tailback Travis Martin coming back behind junior guard Gary Pryor, junior tackle Nat Walker and senior center Andre Walker.

**Without the ball:** This team doesn't feature a lot of size, so it will rely on the speed of linebacker Justin Thompson, cornerback Rakeem Muhammad and linebacker Darren O'Neal.

**Forecast:** Efreem Norwood's Vikings went 1-8 a season ago, but the team was very young. Hillcrest is hoping maturity translates to more victories.

### Mitchell

**With the ball:** Despite their

### 2005 IN REVIEW

Team	Region	Overall
Trezevant	3	1 8 2
Frayser	3	1 6 3
Mitchell	3	1 6 4
Sheffield	1	3 2 8
Hillcrest	0	4 1 8

### PLAYOFF RESULTS

#### First round

Sheffield 26, Dyersburg 23  
Crockett County 22, Mitchell 21  
Covington 21, Frayser 0  
Brownsville Haywood 12, Trezevant 7

#### Second round

Crockett Co. 24, Sheffield 14

Class 3A status, the Tigers, led by senior running back Jerome Field, should remain one of the deepest teams in the area offensively.

**Without the ball:** Head coach Nathan Cole hopes Mitchell can improve on a defense that allowed 17.9 points per game last year in the regular season.

**Forecast:** Replacing departed quarterback Manduearl Brewer is paramount. If Mitchell can, it could be headed for a deep run in the state playoffs.

### Sheffield

**With the ball:** The Knights are strong at the skill positions starting with junior quarterback Antione Perry. Senior Gerald Hall will handle the running duties while juniors Damarcus Carter

and Demitrius Jones will anchor the receiver corps.

**Without the ball:** The defense is experienced with seniors Earnesto Sithongsouk (line), Jonathan Wooldridge (linebacker) and Hall.

**Forecast:** Coach Jerome Griffin led his team to an upset victory over Dyersburg in the playoffs last year. He said his team is young and talented, but its success will hinge on how well it plays together.

### Trezevant

**With the ball:** The Bears' young offense had trouble scoring last year. Coach Larry Franklin said he expects his investment in the younger players last year pays dividends this season. He plans on using a three-man rushing attack with Ronald Bedford, Terrance Miles and Luzander Fuitts.

**Without the ball:** The Bears gave up just 91 points total during the regular season last year. While there are holes to fill, the defense should still be pretty strong with likes of linebacker Jeremy Edmonds and defensive back Tim Carraway returning.

**Forecast:** Franklin is high on his team's prospects this year. Points should be more abundant than last year, and the defense just as stout which could lead to another solid season.

## INSIDE REGION 8-2A

### Carver

**With the ball:** The Cobras have some big shoes to fill after the graduation of all-everything quarterback William Brack. Carver expects to be strong up the middle with senior center Ellis Turner anchoring the offensive line. Senior Kendrick Watley slides into the quarterback role, with NaPale Walters as his main target out of the backfield.

**Without the ball:** The Cobras have a defense with plenty of size, just not a ton of experience. The 6-4, 290-pound Turner and the 6-5, 200 Walters will play on the line. Senior Chris Murray (6-3, 222) will patrol the linebacker spot.

**Forecast:** Coach Dwayne Harris said he's got a more team-oriented squad this year with no overpowering superstar. He said he expects some early growing pains as his young team gains experience.

### Oakhaven

**With the ball:** A lot will ride on just how far senior quarterback Jerrall Henderson has matured. This will be Henderson's second year of football. His top target will be fellow senior Desmond Lewis.

**Without the ball:** Senior Montreze Beale will anchor the defensive line with junior Detrick Miles at linebacker and sophomore Kendrick Smith in the secondary.

**Forecast:** Coach Arnett Thomas is in his second year with the Hawks and he says the team is already better than it was all of last year. He said the team has developed the discipline to execute his multi-formation, multi-shift offense.

### South Side

**With the ball:** Senior quarterback Charles Patterson returns to a Scappers offense that also brings backs running back Xavier Jones and junior Kelvin 'Emmitt' Adams.

**Without the ball:** Jones is a

### 2005 IN REVIEW

Team	Region	Overall
Carver	6	0 7 3
Treadwell	5	1 5 5
Westwood	4	2 4 6
Washington	3	3 4 6
South Side	2	4 2 8
Oakhaven	1	5 1 9
Westside	0	6 0 10

### PLAYOFF RESULTS

#### First round

Westview 34, Washington 18  
Milan 51, Treadwell 0  
Huntingdon 49, Westwood 0  
Carver 36, Peabody 14

#### Second round

Huntingdon 41, Carver 22

hitter in the secondary, but the Scappers must find some consistency along the defensive line.

**Forecast:** This could be a turnaround year for South Side, which will be led this season by first-year coach Shon Hinds.

### Treadwell

**With the ball:** Sophomore Samuel Bobo takes over at quarterback for an Eagle offense that has several holes to fill after averaging around 24 points per game last season.

**Without the ball:** Led by junior defensive end Jeremy Roberts, the Eagles will be coached on the defensive side this season by former University of Memphis lineman Albert Means.

**Forecast:** Despite Treadwell's low numbers this season, expect the Eagles to be in the hunt come playoff time.

### Washington

**With the ball:** Sophomore quarterback DeAndre Buford was outstanding in last week's MIAA jamboree, passing for a 44-yard touchdown and running for another score. Look for a breakout season from senior running back Stephen Jones, one of five finalists last season for The Commercial Appeal's track and field athlete of the year.

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## MUS

a defense that allowed only 99 points, the Owls dispatched 11 of their 12 opponents.

How did MUS transform from potential bottom feeder to championship victor? In a word: Park.

His inexperience as a starter was a main reason why preseason prognosticators thought MUS was a non-contender. But it was also his rapid progression that helped keep the Owls in contention.

"(Park) doesn't really care whether we throw it 30 times, or whether we throw it 10 times," Alston said. "He wants to perform as the quarterback, and that's a lot more than just throwing. It's managing the game, and that's what he does well."

Still, even Park wasn't entirely confident that MUS would return to the championship game. The pressure of winning two in a row and erasing the memory of

14 titleless years was palpable.

This year, though, Park evokes an air of confidence that belies his team's situation.

"There's not as much pressure (this year) as last year," said Park, who threw for 1,908 yards and 16 touchdowns in 12 games.

"We've been there two years in a row. We know what it takes. We've kind of been there, done that. I think we know what we have to do."

It seems the only thing weighing down Park's shoulders these days are his pads. But there is room for concern. Only a handful of starters are returning, and offensively, the Owls lost three offensive linemen and two running backs.

As a result, this team will rely on Park more than last year, yet he still demonstrates little anxiety.

"We lost some guys," said Park, who has committed to play baseball at Ole Miss. "We're just going to have to have some guys step up, and I think that'll happen. I'm not too worried about it."

# Hornish wins, regains lead

## AUTOS

From Our Press Services

SPARTA, Ky. — Sam Hornish Jr. reclaimed the Indy Racing League points lead on Sunday, passing Scott Dixon with four laps to go to win the Meijer Indy 300 at Kentucky Speedway.

The win was Hornish's fourth of the year and the eighth by Team Penske this season. His second career victory at Kentucky helped him get back the points lead from teammate Helio Castroneves, who finished third behind Hornish

and Scott Dixon.

Hornish now leads Castroneves by seven points heading into the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma in two weeks. He gave up the lead to Castroneves at Michigan on July 30, when a broken water pump sent him to a season-worst 19th-place finish.

The potential duel between Danica Patrick and Sarah Fisher never developed, despite the two becoming the first women drivers to start alongside each other in an IRL race.

Though they began the day side-by-side on row six, Patrick — who collided with Vitor

Meira during practice before the race — ran in the top half of the field most of the day before finishing eighth. Fisher, making her first IRL start since the 2004 Indy 500, needed a late surge to finish 12th, a lap behind the leaders.

### IN ANOTHER RACE

**Grand Prix of Denver:** A.J. Allmendinger made his fourth Champ Car World Series victory of the season look easy.

Allmendinger took the lead on lap 47 and pulled away from the field. Allmendinger, who resides in Thornton, Colo., moved into second place in the points race behind Sebastien Bourdais.

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## NASCAR

intervals. Those 10 drivers will then race for the Nextel Cup title over the final 10 races of the season.

Busch, fresh from his stirring victory over Robby Gordon in Saturday's Busch Series race at The Glen, began from the pole. And he was the class of the field from the start, leading 36 of the first 53 laps.

Neither Jeff Gordon, Stewart, nor Robby Gordon, who had combined to win 16 of the previous 18 races on NASCAR's two road courses, had anything for Busch in the first half of the 220.5-mile race.

## MORE SPORTS, PAGE C18

Stewart ran second much of the time, and every time there was a caution, Busch had a rearview mirror full of Stewart's bright-orange Chevrolet. But Stewart, one of the best in Cup on restarts, was unable to snooker Busch on three tries.

"You feel for Kurt today," Stewart said. "He had a car that was capable of winning the race. That's absolutely rotten, terrible

luck right there."

Harvick, who pitted just before the crucial caution, gained the lead when Stewart and the rest of the leaders pitted the next time around and led the next 23 laps.

"You're gambling on the caution," said Todd Berrier, crew chief for Harvick's No. 29 Chevrolet. "That's all you're doing. We would have liked to have stopped sooner, but the way the race had been going, all the cautions, we stuck to the plan."

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