

# Fulk walks walk as a senior leader

**Kurt Snyder**

Newark Advocate  
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NEWARK — Welcome back to the lineup, Gavyn Fulk.

Now, the senior defensive back jumps right back into the fire for Newark (0-5) against some of the best players Ohio has to offer. Fulk returns after a brief absence to bolster the Wildcats' secondary for a trip to Pickerington Central (4-1) to match up with a plethora of top prospects

"It's definitely hard for who they are and how much talent they have, but it's an opportunity to play against them when you know who they are going to be playing for in the future," said Fulk, who had five tackles in a Week 3 loss to Marion Harding.

Fulk received his first taste of extended varsity action last season, and coach Bill Franks quickly identified him as one of Newark's senior leaders for this fall.

Franks said Fulk's communication skills stand out. Fulk is willing to step out of his position group or his senior class.

"He can go in and out of different groups with of people on the team and really build consensus and lead at a real high level without being over the top," Franks said.

Fulk said its an ability he always has had.

"I am very a social person in general. I am not scared to talk to someone. I can talk to anyone really. It's just how I grew up," Fulk said. "It's just having that bond as a team, being a family."

The word Franks used to describe Fulk was "authentic." Fulk's teammates know the enthusiasm is not fake.

Fulk does not typically play receiver, so he is quick to fill a role on scout team and compete against his teammates to help raise their play.

"Actions speak louder than words, and Gavyn prepares himself to be a high performer," Franks said. "He studies films and takes pride in each and every drill every day in practice."

One of Fulk's young protégés in the secondary was a bright spot in a Week 5 loss to New Albany. Sophomore Malaki Allen had a team-high 3 1/2 tackles.

Junior Trey Robinson continues to be



Newark senior Gavyn Fulk makes a tackle on a Mount Vernon ballcarrier during a Week 2 game. SARA C. TOBIAS/THE ADVOCATE

## Schedule, results

Aug. 20: Zanesville 41, **Newark 0**  
 Aug. 27: Mount Vernon 41, **Newark 20**  
 Sept. 3: Marion Harding 33, **Newark 6**  
 Sept. 10: Thom. Worth. 41, **Newark 14**  
 Sept. 17: New Albany 77, **Newark 0**

an impact player on both sides of the ball. In addition to making his second

Sept. 24: @Pickerington Central

Oct. 1: Reynoldsburg

Oct. 8: Central Crossing

Oct. 15: @Groveport

Oct. 22: Lancaster

start at quarterback, he had three tackles as did sophomore Elijah Fraizer, who

recorded his first varsity statistics.

As the Wildcats open Ohio Capital Conference-Buckeye Division play, they will need everyone working in the same direction to get the tide turned.

"We are not all meant for leadership," Franks said earlier this season. "We all either need to lead or follow. Nobody needs to be in the way. Leadership can come at all grade levels."

[ksnyder@newarkadvocate.com](mailto:ksnyder@newarkadvocate.com)

740-328-8556

Twitter: @newarkurt