

GRANVILLE

Line sets foundation for prolific offense

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USA TODAY NETWORK

GRANVILLE — Granville's offensive front isn't the most imposing group around. They won't necessarily overpower you with their size or strength.

One thing they will do, however, is beat you. The cohesive unit is a huge reason the Blue Aces are 5-0, averaging 40 points and leading Division III, Region II.

"They're not very big, but they're a tight group, and a lot of them play on both sides of the ball," coach Wes Schroeder said after Granville exploded past Johnstown 47-16. "Devon Haley is a special back, but he would be the first to tell you, he wouldn't be able to do what he's doing, without those five guys in front of him."

At Johnstown, Haley picked up 170 yards on just 11 carries and scored three touchdowns, including an 80-yard sprint. On the season, he's piled up 729 yards on 98 attempts, a 7.4-yard average, and scored 14 touchdowns.

The group is anchored by senior Kameron Wright (6-foot-3, 284) at left tackle, and he is joined up there by classmates Bobby Vahalik (5-11, 220), Austin Roberts (5-10, 210) and Mason Liberti (5-11, 220), along with junior Quinn Tackett (6-1, 210).

"They've definitely gotten better," Schroeder said. "But there's still a lot of work to do. Things like finishing blocks and playing through contact."

Roberts has moved to center this season and has done a solid job.



Granville senior Devon Haley (8) is congratulated by linemen Quinn Tackett (58) and Mason Liberti (right) after scoring a touchdown. MATT BRANSON/THE ADVOCATE

"He's a really coachable kid, is tough, and works hard," Schroeder said. "He played defensive line as a junior."

"It's great when we bond like we have, and it's a whole lot of fun," Roberts said. "We work together, on and off the field. We still have a lot of work to do, working on our footsteps, and knowing who to block."

Liberti brings plenty of experience to the blocking corps.

"He played some as a sophomore, played a lot last year, and is starting to come into his own this season," Schroeder said.

Liberti admits they don't have to do much to spring the explosive Haley, who has combined toughness, speed and vision into what has been a stellar senior season.

"It's something unreal," he said. "It doesn't matter how well you block. Next thing you know, he's running down the field. We still have to work on the little things, like our footsteps and hand quickness. Get better at hearing plays from the sidelines, and being able to get to the linebackers."

The group has also provided adequate protection for senior quarterback Carsyn Crouch, and he has responded with a big season. He has completed 64 of 102 passes for 872 and nine touchdowns with only two interceptions. Six different receivers have caught touchdown passes, led by Conner Buerkel with three. Christian Hilton has hauled in 20 for 234 yards and a score, Buerkel has 12 grabs, Miles Eckenrode II and Caden McDermott has 10 receptions in the

Schedule, results

- Aug. 20: **Granville 51**, Whitehall 20
- Aug. 27: **Granville 28**, Clear Fork 7
- Sept. 3: **Granville 54**, Eastmoor 18
- Sept. 10: **Granville 21**, Heath 12
- Sept. 17: **Granville 47**, Johnstown 16
- Sept. 24: @Licking Heights
- Oct. 1: vs. Watterson (@ODU)
- Oct. 8: Zanesville
- Oct. 15: Licking Valley
- Oct. 22: @Watkins Memorial

well-balanced attack.

Granville's defense will be challenged Friday by a potent Licking Heights offense, spearheaded by dual threat quarterback Deuce Caldwell and receiver Jacob Climer, as it enters the challenging Licking County League-Buckeye Division portion of its schedule. The Hornets (2-3) rolled up 42 points against Johnstown and 35 against Canton Central Catholic, while scoring 28 last week in taking unbeaten Newark Catholic down to the wire.

Senior linebacker Colden Kadlic enjoyed a big game against Johnstown, with 9.5 tackles, six solos and a tackle for loss. Matt Chaykowski added 4.5 tackles and three solos, while Ben Lonzo tacked on a tackle for loss.

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