

Hilltoppers Could Be 'Kings of the Hill' Again

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on and off the field." Senior Steve Whitman will be at left halfback, while senior Sam Compton and junior Tyler Reinmund will fill the right halfback position. Senior Peter Badgley will play fullback.

Senior Sal Liberato, who was a starter at right halfback last year, has shifted to the wide receiver position. "We are doing what we feel is best for our program," coach Liberato said.

As the long snapper, Sal Liberato is ranked 11th nationally.

Senior 6'6", 225-lb. veteran Ryan O'Malley will set up at right wing. Returning starting seniors, Max Munoz (center), Nick Oristanio (right guard) and right tackle Austin Jennings will link up with juniors Andrew Perry (left guard) and Kyle Cody (left tackle), and senior Will Rupkey (left tackle) to protect Bringewatt and the running backs. "They have worked very hard. They

room. Even the younger guys know they have a chance on the JV level. We are working hard at all levels," Munoz said. "It should pay off for us. We should be solid in the front five, and hopefully we will get our running backs going again."

Defensively, the Hilltoppers will work a 4-4 scheme. O'Malley and returning starter Logan Jeffries will set up, respectively, at the left and right end positions. Jennings and junior Billy Hadley will be on the down line. Oristanio and junior Stefano Stadlinger will be the inside linebackers. Badgley and senior Justin Syrus will be at left and right outside linebacker, respectively. Sal Liberato and sophomore Kyre Negron will be at right and left corner, respectively. Junior Andrew Miller will be at safety.

"We have solid kids who have varsity experience up there. Last year, we had two, two-way starters. This

He came in first place in the kicking for accuracy and distance," coach Liberato pointed out.

Stadlinger will do the punting. Sal Liberato and Negron, who will also return punts, will return kickoffs.

Another factor that the Hilltoppers have in their favor is that they have a number of multi-sport athletes who competed on the championship lacrosse and track teams.

"The whole town knows what winning is all about," Peter Badgley said. "A lot of kids play football and lacrosse. The track team won the state championship. We have something good going on here," added coach Liberato.

The Hilltoppers were pleased with the results of their scrimmage game with Caldwell, Shore Regional and Bloomfield on August 24.

"The outcome was outstanding. We learned a lot. We got a chance to evaluate a lot of kids. They are all



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A FINE HITTER AND A FINE FIELDER...Brew Crew slugger Greg Hartnett has not only been a fine hitter, but he also has been a fine glove man from his shortstop position.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HILLTOPPERS ENJOYING MEDIA DAY...The Summit Hilltopper football team enjoyed dressing up for Media Day on August 27. The Hilltoppers, who were undefeated last year, are looking for similar success this season.

are extremely smart, and they are big, strong physical kids," coach Liberato noted.

"It was hard losing the great seniors that we had, but we have young guys, who are willing to step up, and in the off-season, work in the weight

year, we have five," coach Liberato noted.

On special teams, sophomore Mike Badgley, who will be kicking off, has been more than a pleasant surprise.

"He went down to the national kicking camp and did extremely well.

perennial powerhouses, perennial playoff teams," coach Liberato said.

"We had a scrimmage against Shore, Bloomfield and Caldwell. We were great. The offense pounded the ball. Defense swarmed to the ball. It really felt like we are the same as last year, if not better," Peter Badgley said. "We have great discipline. Our kids listen to coach, do what they are told [and] execute in practice."

"We always look to help each other. Work hard as a unit. We are working together as a team, building together and it's really going to pay off for the regular season, and we hope to have a championship year again," Munoz said. "We know we may have to make some changes along the way, but we have great coaches who know how to recognize things perfectly, so we will hope for the best."

Munoz and Badgley feel that Governor Livingston (GL) could be considered their biggest rivalry game.

"Last year it was remarkable having thousands of fans from both teams cheering us on, so it was a great game," Badgley said.

But before they have the showdown with the GL Highlanders, the Hilltoppers must seriously prepare for their home opener with Voorhees on Saturday, September 11, at 1 p.m.

"We take it one step at a time. We just want to be 1-0 after our first game and go from there. That first game is always important," coach Liberato said.

Renda Roads Flag Brew Crew for UC 50+ Title

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in the finals. We were third seeded. We had to play Awnings Galore. We lost to them 1-0, and the [two] victories were by one run also. It was an exciting series. I always say to the guys that we are fortunate that we can run around at this age. I'm 63 playing in the 50's [league]."

Tony Williams contributed a single and two runs to Renda Roads' 24-hit shelling. Powerhouse Dave Lavelle battered a pair of two-run doubles and an RBI single, while scoring three times. Frank Pepe (2 RBI) and Joe Massimino (double) each had three hits and scored twice. Keith Gibbons (2 RBI, triple), Ed Belford (RBI triple), Pat Nigro (RBI double) and Lou Balestriere each had a pair of hits and scored once. Larry Esolda rapped a two-run double, tripled and scored twice. Tom Straniero singled and scored twice, and Tom Baldowski tripled.

Kulik led the Brew Crew's 17-hit response, going 3-for-3, with a walk,

two RBI and two runs scored. Neil Iaccarino doubled, singled twice and scored three times. Geno Antonucci had three RBI and a single. Joe Viso singled twice and scored twice. Don Montefusco (RBI) and George Brokaw each singled twice and scored once. Greg Hartnett, Bob Lieberman, Bob D'Meo and Gary Capaldo each singled.

Straniero kindled a five-run first inning with a single to right field, but Esolda and Lavelle set it ablaze with their back-to-back two-run doubles. Kulik singled and scored on Antonucci's groundout in the bottom of the inning. In the second, Viso singled and later scored when Kulik drew a bases-loaded walk.

The Roadmen tarred the Brew Crew in the third inning with a six-run coating to grab an 11-2 lead. Lavelle yanked his second two-run double to left. Pepe peppered an RBI single. Gibbons cracked an RBI triple, Nigro sliced an RBI double, and Brian Wil-

liams plopped an RBI single over first.

Belford slashed an RBI triple and Massimino muscled and RBI single in the fourth to up the lead to 13-2. Iaccarino doubled and scored in the bottom of the inning, but Esolda tripled and Lavelle followed with an RBI single in the fifth.

Straniero scored in the sixth to give the Roadsters a 15-3 lead, but the Crew brewed up five runs on five hits to put the Roadmen on edge, as they came to bat in the seventh. Gibbons and Brian Williams tapped RBI singles for some more cushion.

Only fitting, Tony Williams, from his shortstop position, initiated a short-to-second-to-first double play to get the first two outs in the seventh, then on the next play, he grabbed a grounder and fired to first to allow Renda Road to complete its trip to an undefeated season.

Renda Roads	506	211	2	17
Brew Crew	110	105	0	8



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ONE OF THE MOST FEARED MEN AT THE PLATE...Renda Roads power hitter Joe Massimino has been an awesome threat every time he steps to the plate. Massimino went 3-for-3, with a double, scored twice and had an RBI against the Brew Crew in the championship game in Linden.

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