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We are really heavy on our technique and we are making sure we are always lined up correctly. We are really drilling that into their heads because part of the game is just using your eyes and setting in the correct position so you can go out there and perform well. If you are not in the right position, not using the proper technique, normally you are not successful," cautioned Coach Holman. "It all comes to confidence. Tackling comes through confidence. Once you do all those things, then you can put together a pretty solid defense."

Manville has acquired additional responsibilities.

"Jack Manville is definitely our guy on defense as a Mike [middle] linebacker. He's tough. He asks a lot of questions. We always laugh at Jack because he asks so many questions but he's learning, he's getting better. Jack knows how

everybody is supposed to line up. That's part of the job. Get everybody set in the correct spots," Coach Holman explained.

Offensively, Manville will be at center, Banic and Werkheiser, along with sophomore Tom Schmidt, are expected to fill the guard positions, while Yeager, Mahr and senior Nick John will be at the tackle positions. Hahn and junior Hayden Widder have been vying for the quarterback position.

"Everybody is in competition. Hahn and Widder are our most balanced for that position. Hahn is an interesting guy because if he's not playing quarterback, I will put him at a position for us to be successful as well," Coach Holman revealed.

Widder has proven ability since he was a valuable member of the baseball and basketball teams.

"My whole thing when I got here was I want ball players and

he's a ball player. He took a year off football and he's relearning the ins and outs of it once again. He's a point guard, a really good baseball player, he's got a strong arm. He's got to bring all those skills onto the football field. If he brings all his leadership skills, other kids will follow," Coach Holman said.

Nathaniel will line up at tight end, Piesch will be at wide receiver and senior Camden Ricci will be at flanker. Martin will be the tailback and senior Charlie Levine will be at fullback.

"We call ourselves a power spread. We spread the field but we also have the ability to run the ball effectively using multiple people touching the ball. I call it basketball on grass. Everybody gets a touch, everybody gets an opportunity. We want to be able to make sure defense can't just focus on one guy. They have to

focus on all of us," Coach Holman explained.

Special team play can make or break a successful outing. One big play can shift the momentum of a game in a flash. Piesch is expected to handle all the kicking responsibilities. Martin and Levine will receive the punts and kickoffs.

"I always pay very close attention to special teams. We want to be aggressive, although while being aggressive, being smart. I don't use it as a way where you can lose the game from it, more as if you can win the game from it. We want to return kicks for touchdowns. That's the mentality," Coach Holman expressed. "When they are kicking the ball, that's a chance for us to score a touchdown. We want to even possibly block kicks. If you do good things on special teams, your percentage of winning the game is increased."

In a recent quad scrimmage at AL Johnson in Clark featuring Pascack Hills and Verona, the Raiders did show some promise on both sides of the ball but there is still more refinement needed.

"It's a new offense, it's a new defense, so for the next few weeks, we got to do our assignments better," Coach Holman commented.

The Raiders will be tested right off the bat when they open their season at home against Holy Cross this Saturday, September 7, at 1 p.m.

"We only had eight regular season games. I wanted to have nine. I reached out to some people. Holy Cross wanted it also. I felt they are going to be a very tough opponent for us but it would be a good opportunity and it's a good way to start the season because we have a home game," Coach Holman concluded.