



2021 Indians open season Friday, Aug. 27.

— *Photo Courtesy Laurie Gould*

Indians football team faces tough foe, hosting Timpson on Aug. 27

The Frankston Indians football team will get a stern test on Friday night, Aug. 27 when they take on a tough District 10-2A foe, picked by some polls as high as No. 3 in the state in Class 2A, Division 1.

The Timpson Bears were state semifinalists in 2020, posting a perfect record in district play and ending up with a season record of 14-1. Two of those season wins came at the expense of the Indians, who opened on the road against the Bears and came away with a disappointing 68-24 loss.

The Indians went on to finish fourth in District 9-AA, but their playoff spot drew the 10-2A champion Timpson in bi-district. The Tribe suffered a 66-7 loss to the Bears. The Tribe offense had lost the services of senior quarterback Brink Bizzell to an injury. Bizzell had led his team in rushing and passing before being sidelined.

This year the Indians are described as young and talented with some team speed and an offensive line which has shown progress so far, according to Coach Paul Gould. The Indian coach expects senior Alex Oxford, all-district first team lineman last year, and junior Jared Cook, named to the all-district second team, to be leaders on offense and defense, along with returning defensive backs Clayton Merritt and Kaymon Davis.

The Indians return six starters on defense and five on offense with other players vying for the spots open by graduation and other reasons, Coach Gould said.

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Seeing action in the scrimmages so far have been two players who are candidates to fill the quarterback slot, vacated by Brink Bizzell, senior quarterback, who was a team leader in rushing and passing, and chosen a co-most valuable player at quarterback in District 9-2A. They are 175-pound senior Merritt and 190-pound freshman Reese Hicks.

Seeking to fill the running back slots are two sophomores, 175-pound Davis and 160-pound sophomore Ryan Harper.

Meanwhile, Timpson is reported to be returning nine starters on offense and seven on defense from their impressive 2020 season. They have a noteworthy running back and a slot back who is an excellent receiver and runs the ball well and a quarterback who hurts defenses with his running and passing, according to the Indian coach.

Coach Gould said the Bears are a solid defensive team as well.

Timpson is an early favorite to contest for a top spot in 10-2A along with the Indians' first scrimmage opponent, San Augustine.

Kickoff is 7:30 p.m. at Jeff and Opal Austin Stadium.