

Ellicott, CO HS Football Article

COVID-19 impacted many things, shut the world down. Restaurants and businesses threw in the towel and called it a day. But some things weren't given up on as easily, especially with the support of strong willed players.

3 games and a forfeit, that was what the 2020 football season entailed. It was a disappointment, but what else is there to do if you don't have a team? From players contracting COVID to others losing interest, there was nothing left to hold onto. The mere 30 man roster they began with couldn't hold its own, and slowly dwindled down to a handful.

The following year brought 14 prospects but again it wouldn't work out. Most boys saw it as a dead end and quickly gave up; but not Jedrick Howarth or JJ Sveen, together they took the chance to play at Peyton for their sophomore year. Two underclassmen, from a different school, claiming starting spots halfway through the season.

'Do or die', a term that encompasses last season. There were many ups and downs, including the weight of having the football program on the line. If last season flopped, the program would be shut down for years to come. Finding a mentor didn't come easy either, as the original coach abandoned the team after just two games. In turn, the boys had to learn new offenses and defenses implemented by the new coaches. But through this all Jedreck didn't give up either, a dedicated player with immense talent, kept his faith in the program and was driven by the motivation to turn the team around. So it began, they went to Grand Valley with 17 boys. It was a rough season but their growth on and off the field was consistent and steady, the community was thrilled to have their hometown back on the field.

Countless hours were put in over the summer: lifting, 7 on 7's, scrimmages, you name it. The hard work paid off, as could be witnessed with their confidence level growing each week. With the upcoming season comes a lot more depth. Jedreck stated, "It's nice to have a lot of trust in everyone...it's nice to know I have a sub I can trust." Talent in each position means less pressure on the team stars, allowing them room to breathe. They also know competing and winning aren't the same thing, but they do go hand in hand. He later stated, "I want to compete with everyone, especially the good teams, it's better to compete with good teams than just beating bad ones." The first place he hopes for this to be apparent is this Saturday when they play Grand Valley (in Evergreen), a team that demolished us Jed's freshman and junior year. But he doesn't want this to be a 3-peat, the team is ready for change.

2023 has brought far more ups than downs, and the team's cohesiveness leaves everyone hopeful for a successful season. The team is hoping to go at least 4 and 5 this fall, but winning isn't the only goal; continued progress and rebuilding the program is something we can all be proud of. These sights are even more significant for the few hitting the field for one more season as seniors.

Written By: Hayden Ferguson

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Jed Howarth doing double duty playing defense against Sand Creek's Tight End.



Jed Howarth dropping back for a pass against Liberty High School's Defense.