

Oriskany thankful to continue playing football

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Oriskany football will look a little bit different this season. That's because Redskins have joined Section III's new 8-man football league after only 18 players showed up to the first practice of the season.

"This program started in 1943 with 6-man football," head coach Jerry Tine said. "It's come full circle and we're very appreciative of the fact that we get a chance to play 8-man football."

There were 11-man options for the team, like potentially merging with a neighboring school, but Oriskany decided to pass.

"I don't want to look on our field and see (a school like) Westmoreland playing with us," senior Connor Blovat said. "That's just not right because we're rivals. I like playing with the arrow on the head."

While this is the first year the Redskins will be playing 8-man football, the possibility exists they may never go back to the standard 11-man because of low levels of participation in Pop Warner.

"I think the older parents and alumni of Oriskany would take it more personally," senior Josh Strauss said. "The kids now wouldn't know what they were missing. They would have only seen the 8-man game and that's all they would have learned."

Oriskany will play their first game on Sep. 23 at home against Cooperstown.

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