

Countdown to Kickoff 2021

Numbers game

Cowboys focusing on players on the field entering 2021 season

BY TONY VENEGAS
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GRANDFALLS Depth is a valuable asset every football team hopes to have to begin a new season.

When a team doesn't have as much, that can present a difficult challenge.

That's what the Grandfalls-Royalty football team faces as it prepares for the 2021 season.

The Cowboys entered the first week of pre-season practice with just nine players and a 10th expected to join prior to the team's first game.

Even with the low numbers, the Cowboys are making the best of the situation by embracing that challenge.

"With this group, I look at as quality over quantity," senior slot back Chris Miller said. "These nine guys that we have on the field right now, I believe in every one of them and I believe that they're going to give 100 percent every day."

The hope for the Cowboys is that the effort shown will be enough to get them back into the postseason. Grandfalls-Royalty finished 4-6 in 2020 and tied for the second and final playoff spot out of District 5-1A Division II.

The Cowboys were on the outside looking in, however, due to a tie-breaker.

The team is also under a new head coach for the second straight season as former Fort Davis coach Brad Repass takes over.

Repass has prior experience as an assistant coach at Grandfalls-Royalty and says that he wants to be a part of building the program back up.

"This place has a lot of tradition and from afar, I didn't really like what I saw happen last year," Repass said. "We're going to see if we can get back to where we need to be."

Repass added that his biggest strength coming into the season is his three seniors that will lead the team.

Miller is one of those seniors along with lineman and kicker Gavriel Rodriguez and utility Abel Rodriguez.

Gavriel Rodriguez said that the low numbers help bring the team together and understand that everyone needs to do their part to be able to keep playing.

"We all realize that if one of us gets injured, somebody else is going to have to step up to the plate," he said. "That's something that we have our mind on and as a team, we're focused on doing whatever we need



PHOTOS BY TONY VENEGAS|ODESSA AMERICAN

The Grandfalls-Royalty football team runs a drill during practice Wednesday at John S. White Stadium in Grandfalls. Below, Grandfalls-Royalty head coach Brad Repass (center) gives instruction to his team during a drill at practice Wednesday at John S. White Stadium in Grandfalls. Repass returns to lead the Cowboys after a season as the head coach in Fort Davis.

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ABEL RODRIGUEZ
Grandfalls-Royalty quarterback

to do."

Abel Rodriguez is also looking to make up for lost time after missing most of last season due to nagging hamstring injuries.

He will line up at quarterback and spread back on offense while also playing a key role as a line-backer on defense.

"I am fired up," he said. "Being out last year was just horrible and seeing all these tough situations and not being able to help out with the team really tore my heart. Being held back and coming back to help these guys has me riled up in a new way."

The return of Rodriguez and the leadership of the three seniors is



something that Repass is encouraged by.

In order to get back to the postseason, Repass has three points of emphasis that he's shared with his team:

- » staying healthy
- » great conditioning
- » cutting down on mistakes.

Add everything up and Repass believes that this team has a chance to put together a good season. The Cowboys open the

season August 28 against Marfa at the Sul Ross Six-Man Shootout at Jackson Field in Alpine.

"They're a hard working group and I think we might surprise a few folks," Repass said. "When adversity comes and it will come, we don't give an inch. If we can stay healthy and get that mindset going, I like our chances."

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GRANDFALLS-ROYALTY COWBOYS

Date	Opponent	Time	Site
Aug. 13	Marfa/Sierra Blanca*	5 p.m.	Grandfalls
Aug. 20	Klondike/Buena Vista	6:30 p.m.	Grandfalls
Aug. 28	Marfa	2 p.m.	Sul Ross
Sept. 3	Permian Basin Co-Op	7:30 p.m.	Grandfalls
Sept. 10	Buena Vista	7:30 p.m.	Imperial
Sept. 17	Irion County	7:30 p.m.	Grandfalls
Sept. 24	Wellman-Union	TBD	Wellman
Oct. 1	Van Horn	7:30 p.m.	Grandfalls
Oct. 8	Dell City	7:30 p.m.	Grandfalls
Oct. 15	Balmorhea	7:30 p.m.	Balmorhea
Oct. 22	Sanderson	7:30 p.m.	Grandfalls
Oct. 29	Sierra Blanca	7:30 p.m.	Sierra Blanca
Nov. 5	Open		

*-scrimmage

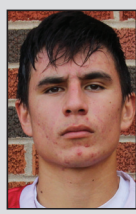


GRANDFALLS-ROYALTY COWBOYS

- COACHES -

» Head coach: Brad Repass.
» Coach's overall record: 33-14.
» Coach's record at school: 0-0.
» Assistant coaches, duties: Noah Jackson, defensive coordinator.

- TEAM INFORMATION -



» 2020 overall record: 3-7.
» 2020 district record: 1-2 (Second, District 5-1A Division II)
» Last district title: 2017.
» Last playoff appearance: 2019.
» Stadium name: Cowboy Field.
» Base offense: Gun/

Diamond Spread.
» Base defense: 3-3.

- PLAYERS -

» Returning lettermen: 8
» Returning starters: 8 (4 offense, 4 defense).
» Key returners: Chris Miller, Sr., SB/DE; Abel Rodriguez, Sr., QB/LB.
» Key newcomers: N/A.

