

Nearly everything that could go wrong for Greenville High School's football team in its season-opener did go wrong. The Indians, who lost two key players, fell to Division VI newcomer Hayfork High School Friday night, 66-6.

"It's difficult to lose the season-opener, and to lose it like that," Greenville Coach Todd Posch. "But we lost something more important than a game Friday night."

Entering the game, Greenville was without sick Colton Kingdon, the starter at center and at defensive end. Kingdon is expected to return for the Sept. 11 game contest against visiting Bieber Big Valley.

"It showed up on the field," Posch said. "You lose a lot of senior leadership and a lot of skill with Colton. It really threw us off. It affected both sides of the ball in a major way."

Another loss, with more serious long-term repercussions, is senior Curtis Bastian. Bastian, a starting running back and defensive end, sustained a broken fibula and tibia early in the game. There are seven total breaks. The injury, which required surgery, means the end of the student's football career and a lengthy rehabilitation.

"We are heartbroken over this," Posch said. "Forget the fact that Curtis has had 1,000 yards in total offense for us and has had more than 100 tackles the past two seasons and that we anticipated another outstanding season for Curtis. What's important is that Curtis is a class act with a big heart and a lot going for him and someone the players and coaches respect and care about. You cannot even start to describe how devastated we are. To say we are heartbroken is an understatement."

Hayfork expertly exploited the absence of Kingdon and Bastian—and the nearly 200 tackles they represented the previous two seasons. Timberjack quarterback Scott Harrison time and time again pushed his team into the end zone with timely and accurate passing and and adroit running. He completed 7 of 10 passes for 165 yards and 2 touchdowns and rushed for 187 yards. He also made 14 tackles and intercepted 2 passes.

"He may be the best offensive player we see this year. He can do it all," Posch said. "Hayfork is extremely good."

One of the bright spots for Greenville was the offensive play of quarterback Chris Brown, who completed 9 of 21 passes for 118 yards, despite being under constant pressure from the Hayfork defensive rush. Brown also rushed for 113 yards on 11 carries. Brown's best target was tight end Justin Posch, who caught the ball three times for 49 yards, including a 25-yard strike from Brown at midfield.

"Under the circumstances, Chris played very well," Posch said.

Fullback Chris Huckins ran for 55 yards on 5 carries and caught three passes for 35 yards. He also scooped up a fumble by Brown to score a touchdown. Milan Lind had 34 yards receiving and 3 receptions.

On defense, Huckins and Posch led the way with 15 tackles each, while Brown brought down 7 ball-carriers. Sam Tomaselli had 5 tackles.