

In 2009, Greenville High School's football team is seeking its second straight playoff berth after posting an 8-4 record last season and advancing to the Northern Section Division VI semifinals. The Indians start the new season Friday, Sept. 4, with a road trip to Hayfork.

"I believe we have a solid team this year," Greenville Coach Todd Posch said. "We certainly will get a good idea of where we stand when we play Hayfork."

After a successful run the past 16 years that saw coach Randy Harrison guide the Timberjacks to two Division V titles and three other championship game appearances, Hayfork has moved over to Division VI this season, joining Greenville and 10 other teams.

Greenville lost more than a dozen seniors to graduation, including linebacker Brad Underwood and running backs Donny Huckins and Tyler Twaddle. Underwood was one of the best defensive players in the nation last season, with 221 tackles, including 5 quarterback sacks. Huckins had more than 1,800 yards rushing and Twaddle contributed more than 1,700—both among the best in the state and primary contributors to one of the 10 best running games in the nation last season. Greenville rushed for nearly 5,100 yards in 2008.

This season, Greenville will feature returning players such as Chris Brown, Milan Lind, Justin Posch, Sam Tomaselli, Curtis Bastian, Sam Brown and Colton Kingdon. Newcomers include seniors Johnny Anderson, Denon Blasey and Chris Huckins. Freshmen include Sam Johnson, Brandon Meza, Troy Neer, Alex Sieck, Ray Talavera and Kyle Warren.

Chris Brown was the top freshman quarterback in the county last season, completing 74 percent of his passes and rushing for nearly 600 yards.

"Chris will be a key to our success this season. You need a strong quarterback to succeed in football," Posch said. "But we have a host of players who will play important roles this season. We expect everyone to have excellent seasons. We have a terrific group of juniors and seniors, and I'm also pleasantly surprised by the quality of our freshmen."

The Indians also will need a solid performance from the defense against this week's opponent, Posch said. Even though Hayfork struggled last season, Posch expects the Timberjacks to be revitalized by moving to Division VI, much like Greenville itself last season.

"Randy Harrison is a terrific coach. He has more than 100 wins in 16 years. He's averaged seven wins a year. That shows a high level of consistency," Posch said. "He also has talented players, including quarterback Scott Harrison, who had more than 1,100 yards in total offense last season. We will need to be at our best to successfully compete against Hayfork."