

THE PLAIN DEALER

Friday, June 13, 2014

Two premier QBs lead West All-Stars

Here's a closer look at some of the players on the West team for Friday's Cuyahoga County East-West All-Star Game.

The game kicks off at 7 p.m. at Baldwin Wallace's Finnie Stadium in Berea.

Quarterback: The West has two dynamic quarterbacks at its disposal in Cuyahoga Heights' Jordan Martin and North Olmsted's Brad Novak

Martin was one of the area's better playmaker last season, throwing for

3,111 yards and 36 touchdowns, and rushing for 693 yards. Novak is a threat to run and pass as well, and both should give the West plenty of options offensively.

Running back: Expect Independence's Bryce Wise and Brooklyn's Kenny Squires to be featured here. Wise ran for 1,419 yards and 19 touchdowns during his senior season, and Squires is a bruiser who led the Brooklyn offense with 1,341 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns.

Receiver: No shortage of options here for the West, but there are a few to keep an eye on. St. Ignatius' Jack Hyland is a reliable option after reeling in 40 catches and scoring five touchdowns last year. Jack Alpert, who average 19.6 yards per catch last season, was a big play threat for Cuyahoga Heights. Brooklyn's Andrew Grose can give the West a boost in the return game.

Linebacker: Central Catholic's Davon Robinson is an athlete who can make plays all over the

field. Olmsted Falls' Mike Hansinger and Valley Forge's Brad Brodek add some size to the West's linebacker corps.

Defensive back: Malik Duncan of Central Catholic is a Division I-bound corner who has a nose for the ball. Berea-Midpark's Austin Heil will provide some help at safety, and has a knack for making plays in the backfield.

- Bill Landis

East features versatile, talented backfield

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Quarterback: Shaw's Malik Penn is a speedster who is a threat to run every time he touches the ball. Brush's Stephen Shorts is another quarterback prone to making plays with his legs, so expect to see a lot

of the ground game when the East is on offense.

Running back: Shaker Heights' Rameses Owens is a 6-foot-2, upright runner who went for more than 1,000 yards last season. Richmond Heights' Jo'Vaughn Scott is a versatile playmaker who accounted for 2,800 yards of offense as a quarterback, running back and receiver.

Receiver: Orange's Rhonald Houston had nearly 1,000 yards during his se-

nior season, and provides a big target at 6-feet , 170 pounds. Beachwood's Julio Stevens has great speed and athleticism and should be a favorite target in the passing game. Cincinnati-bound Odell Spencer of Shaker Heights adds some Division I talent to the East roster.

Linebacker: Mount Union signee Parker Berzin of Gilmour Academy brings great size in the middle at 6-foot-3, 235 pounds. Teammate AJ Wright is

an outside linebacker with good speed off the edge. University's Ethan Barham is disruptive on the outside as well.

Defensive back: Solon's Antwain Hamilton is a fantastic athlete who could factor into the running game on offense, and be an impact cornerback on defense. Villa Angela-St. Joseph's Malik Gulley is a physical corner who isn't afraid to lay a big hit.

- Bill Landis