



2018 Team Preview: Richland Bombers

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Key Players

QB Josh Fonner - Previously a starter for cross town rival Hanford, Fonner transferred to Richland last off-season. Now entering his senior year at Richland, Fonner will take the reigns of the offense. The lanky 6-foot-3, 175-pound, lefty has a unique skill set; he primarily makes his living as a drop back passer, but also shows ability to create throws outside the pocket. Fonner will have a wealth of talent around him in Richland that should maximize his potential.

WR/DB Drew Daves - Daves is rare hybrid athlete that could legitimately play six or seven positions. He's an every down type of player, and will be featured mostly in the secondary, as well as a go to option at receiver. Daves will also act as back up QB.

OL/DL Aric Davison - It's not often that a school like Richland produces four year starters, given the talent that runs through the program. So that speaks volumes for Davison, who's been protecting Richland QB's since 2015. At 6-foot-2, 285-pound, Davison is an undeniable presence on the field. This past June, he verbally committed to Utah State.

WR Cody Sanderson - Freak of nature might be the best way to describe Sanderson. Going into his senior year, Sanderson already looks like an FBS receiver at 6-foot-3 and 200-pounds. Coach Neidhold boldly stated that Sanderson might be the fastest player in the Mid-Columbia Conference. He should be a production machine for Richland this year.

DB Ryan Kriskovich - A returning second team all league DB, the 5-7 160 lb Kriskovich packs a bunch from his corner position. Going into his third year as a starter, Kriskovich is a true leader for this defense.

Overview

Consistently featuring one of the deepest rosters in the state, Richland Football never rebuilds, they just reload. This season should be no different, as they attempt to defend their 4A state championship.

Coach Mike Neidhold is going into his eleventh year as the man in charge. His philosophy is maximizing the time that his team get to spend together. By doing that, everything else will take care of itself. So far so good.

Regardless of the talent coming up in the system, it's never a positive to lose Mid-Columbia Conference Offensive MVP in QB Cade Jensen (Eastern Oregon University).

Josh Fonner is penciled in as the starting QB at the moment. But having not started a game since his sophomore year, Fonner is largely unknown at the moment.

Neidhold has high praise for his work in practice, and sees no reason why he can't lead the offense. If things do go south, Drew Daves is a more than competent back up option.

Carries out of the backfield will once again be widely distributed, as Richland usually has multiple starting caliber running backs on his roster.

Nate Mitchell should headline the rotation after having a solid spring ball. The 5-foot-10, 170-pound, senior has been patiently waiting for his chance, and should be a game changer.

Richland lost their number one receiver in "once in a generation" player Adam Weissenfels, but there's plenty of targets ready to step up.

Cody Sanderson will be a big time play maker outside as a deep ball threat. Complementing him will be fleet footed seniors Drew Daves and Ryan Kristovich.

On the O-line, Aric Davison will be a true anchor at left tackle. 6-foot-3, 280-pound, sophomore Mason Williamson will step in at guard as a first year starter. Also expected to step in at the other tackle spot will be 6-foot-3, 250-pound, senior Geoffrey Robinson.

Outside of those three, the coaching staff says they will enter the season on a committee approach before they decide on the final two.

Defensively, Richland will return just two all Mid-Columbia Conference players. One on the defensive line and the other in the secondary.

Aric Davison's responsibilities will extend beyond offense as he returns on the D-line. Having embrace the iron man role for 14 straight games last year, Davison has proven durability.

Two big guys lining up at the inside linebacker spots are seniors Trent Brown and Brice Weaver. They primarily playing special teams last year, but there is belief that they can be the alphas in the middle now.

Returning at his corner spot will be Ryan Kriskovich, the coaching staff thinks that he can be the guy that replaces the production left by Weissenfels in the secondary. Kriskovich will consistently guard number one receivers.

Opposite of him will be Drew Daves. He's getting his first shot starting on defense, and his athleticism should be on full display.

Along with his running back duties, Nate Mitchell will patrol center field as Richland's safety. Mitchell got reps at safety last year, and should hold up well as a two way starter.

Projection: Having won 84 games and compiled a .750 winning percentage since Mike Neidhold took over in 2008, there's a state wide expectation that Richland will compete for a 4A title. It's a reputation that they've earned. The talent on this roster might not match last year's state winning team, but it is undoubtedly one of the deepest rosters in the state. Anything short of a deep playoff run would be seen as a letdown.

Key Games

Chiawana Riverhawks at Edgar Brown Memorial Stadium on August 31, 2018

Kamiakin Braves at Fran Rish Stadium on October 12, 2018

Hanford Falcons at Fran Rish Stadium on October 26, 2018