

WW seniors helped to raise the bar in the program

Written by George Browning
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It took nearly two decades for West Washington's football team to win another sectional title and much of the credit for this year's success, according to Head Coach Phillip Bowsman, goes to the seniors on the team.

He said six of those seniors have played since Bowsman got hired six years ago.

"Six of these seniors started this program in the junior high when I got hired as coach six years ago," Bowsman said. "When we put in the new scheme and started doing what we wanted to do, they've been a part of it all the way through. I think these six seniors get a lot of credit for bringing us to this point. I think they raised the level of the program. Now it's our job as coaches and the underclassmen to try to continue to build upon what we started."

The senior class is made up of Jared Maudlin, Matt Brackney, Trevor McDaniel, Chad Thompson, Brad Zelivetz, Austin Green, Jake Howell and Robert Chandler.

To a man, each of the seniors, despite losing 28-0 to Linton in Friday's regional championship, feel like they helped elevate the program to another level.

Robert Chandler, who got a safety in the Senators' sectional championship win over Linton, said winning sectional was a big deal, but they wanted more.

"I am very proud of what we did this year," Chandler said. "I wish we would have went further, but winning the sectional is pretty special. We played a hard game. We only allowed 28 points to a team that has been averaging nearly 50 a game. We hit them as hard as we could, we just didn't convert when we needed to tonight.

"I feel like we helped take the program to another level."

Chad Thompson agreed. Like Chandler, he said the table is set for success in the future.

"It's been a roller coaster this year, but we were going up when it mattered and I am glad we ended the season with a sectional win," he said.

There are 41 players out of the 49 on West Washington's regional roster that are expected to return.

Add to that the usual students who want to be part of a winning program, combined with a very talented eighth-grade class that will join the high school team and it's easy to see why the optimism is high.

And when new heights are reached, this year's seniors will know they helped start it all!