

Preview: David Douglas Scots

By Cory Mandina, OregonLive.com, August 25, 2008 9:29 p.m.

Head coach: Dan Wood, 19th year

Last year: 7-5 (6-1), lost to [Lincoln in the second round](#)

Key loss: Chad Almond **Key returnee:** Owa Odighizua

Key game: 10/3 vs. [Central Catholic](#); Complete [2008 schedule](#)

Season outlook

The last two years in the Mt. Hood Conference have been good to the David Douglas Scots. With back-to-back 6-1 records in conference in 2006 and 2007, the Scots have quietly positioned themselves as perennial contenders for the conference title.

Top players

- WR/DB Dimitrios Finney, 5-10, 175
- FB/MLB Jonathan Byers, 5-9, 190
- WR/S Andre Eddings
- C Levander Brown, 5-9, 300
- OL Petr Novozhennikov, 6-0, 218
- RB/OLB Kyle Almond, 5-8, 180
- PK Sean Meisner
- QB/DE Brian Teague, 6-4, 230
- TE/DE Jeremy Patrick, 6-0, 225
- OL/DE Owa Odighizua, 6-3, 225
- RB/DB Greg Anderson, 5-10, 160
- RB/DB Dominique McCallister, 5-9, 155
- OL/DL Takoda Bentley-Lane, 5-10, 275
- QB/S Tyler Maes, 5-9, 160

Backed by an enrollment of [nearly 3000 students](#), 2007 MHC Coach of the Year, Dan Wood, has carefully crafted an environment that never grows complacent — encouraging success at every level of grade and talent.

"We want our young guys to step up and really contribute," Wood said. "Our work ethic needs to be such that we play every game the way it's meant to be played."

For a unit that managed an even 24 points a game, it was ultimately the offensive line that was the oil in the Scots' offensive engine. While the Scots graduated two all-league linemen in David Miller and Marco Ilon, they inherited a new talented group of hogs.

Levander Brown (5-9, 300) will set the tone for the cohesive group by switching from the guard position to the center slot. Joining Brown along the line are Petr Novozhennikov (an honoray member of the all-name team) and 275-pound junior Takoda Bentley-Lane. Given the right execution, the team's running game is poised for another successful year. As Wood notes, "Our running backs are all very good .

. . we are lucky to have the depth that we do.”

The Scots go at least four-deep in the offensive backfield, and will feature a variety of sets stemming from both single and two back formations. Wood says all running backs in competition for the starting role will get plenty of opportunities to carry the ball.

Stepping into the quarterback role, Brian Teague (6-4, 230) will have plenty of options to consider at wideout. Names likely to surface in box scores are junior wide receiver Dimitrios Finney (all-league at defensive back last season) and either fullback Jonathan Byers or running back Kyle Almond.

The Scots are loaded on the defensive side with eight returning starters. Of those eight, the two that could be the biggest difference-makers are [a pair of all-leaguers](#) in linebacker Byers (second team) and junior defensive end Owa Odighizua (first team). Both players have already earned wide acclaim from coaches around the conference and will serve as lynchpins on a defensive front that held opposing teams to 19.6 points per game in 2007.

With great experience comes great expectations, and the Scots will have to adjust on the fly to the teams that will be spending an extensive amount of practice time studying their tendencies on film. In response, while Wood’s team may not go to the lengths the creators of the TV show ‘Lost’ do to keep their audience in the dark, the team will be using several different coverages to leave the guess-work intact. With their depth, experience and impressive recent track record, the Scots have to be considered the early favorite in the Mt. Hood Conference.