



AP Photo

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Antonio Bryant (81) dives into the end zone past Detroit Lions safety Terrence Holt for a touchdown in the first quarter of their preseason game Aug. 20.

Lions  
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Perhaps even more significant is the team will get many players back who didn't play last year or missed significant time because of injury — starters like running back Kevin Jones, linebacker Boss Bailey, fullback Cory Schlesinger, kick returner Eddie Drummond and Rogers, as well as backups such as Artose Pinner.

The secondary was particularly hobbled last season, as corners Bryant, Bly, Andre

Goodman, Chris Cash and safety Brock Marion all battled nagging injuries.

Marion is gone, but the four corners are back, along with young cornerbacks Stanley Wilson and Keith Smith and the veteran McQuarters.

"Any time you can put six corners on the field who can play ball and have actually played in the NFL, that's going to help your team," Bryant said.

"He's been in the league for awhile, so he's been doing something right," Bryant said of McQuarters. "He's a big, physical corner and he understands the game."

Lions schedule

Sept. 11	GREEN BAY PACKERS Ford Field	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 18	@ Chicago Bears Soldier Field	1 p.m.
Sept. 25	Bye Week	
Oct. 2	@ Tampa Bay Buccaneers Raymond James Stadium	1 p.m.
Oct. 9	BALTIMORE RAVENS Ford Field	1 p.m.
Oct. 16	CAROLINA PANTHERS Ford Field	1 p.m.
Oct. 23	@ Cleveland Browns Browns Stadium	1 p.m.
Oct. 30	CHICAGO BEARS Ford Field	1 p.m.
Nov. 6	@ Minnesota Vikings The Metrodome	1 p.m.
Nov. 13	ARIZONA CARDINALS Ford Field	1 p.m.
Nov. 20	@ Dallas Cowboys Texas Stadium	1 p.m.
Nov. 24	ATLANTA FALCONS Ford Field	12:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	MINNESOTA VIKINGS Ford Field	1 p.m.
Dec. 11	@ Green Bay Packers Lambeau Field	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	CINCINNATI BENGALS Ford Field	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 24	@ New Orleans Saints Louisiana Superdome	1 p.m.
Jan. 1	@ Pittsburgh Steelers Heinz Field	1 p.m.



Record-Eagle/Dennis Chase

Coach John Neumann has been a part of the Mancelona program for more than 30 years.

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Mancelona finished 1-8 last season as Neumann elected to keep a good sophomore class together at the JV level.

"It's been fun," he said. "The kids are no different now than they've ever been. People get the idea that kids today have changed. But they're no different than when I started in 1966. They're good kids, they work hard, they have good attitudes. It's fun working with them, although I'm not going to be in it that much longer.

"Once we get this going ...,

he added, his voice trailing off. "Our Pop Warner program is really coming on. I think good things are going to happen here. We have a strong future in football here. We want to bring back the glory days."

Neumann has been a part of Mancelona football for more than 30 years. He spent 21 years as an assistant under Jerry Delling. When Delling retired, Neumann took over.

"We had some good runs," Neumann said.

One of Neumann's last teams — his 1994 squad — went undefeated in the Ski Valley.

But getting back to that level does not happen over night. It's a building process.

Developing a winning attitude was one of the primary reasons Neumann left his best sophomores at the JV level a year ago, even though some could have helped him on varsity. He's doing the same this year. Still, he expects his team to be much improved from a year ago.

"We're actually going to be a fair football team (this fall)," Neumann said.

The best years, though, are still ahead, he added.

"We'll be back," he said.

Recruits  
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Rigan agreed. "They're all people you would like to be friends with," he said. "They like to teach more than anything. They want to teach you skills you can use."

Gordon was also impressed with Michigan State's plans to expand its weight room. Rigan said he liked the camaraderie between players and coaches. Both said they had a comfort level at Michigan State.

"It seems like a home away from home," Rigan said.

Now that their college decision is behind them, the two can focus on their senior years in high school.

"It would have been a pain to go through your senior year still worrying about where you're going to go, and trying to impress all the coaches," Gordon said. "It would have put a lot more pressure on us." "Now we can just go out and enjoy ourselves," Rigan added.

Gordon's status, though, is unknown for this week's opener. He recently had arthroscopic surgery to repair

a tear of the meniscus. He's been cleared to play, but coach Matt Prisk wants to make sure he's 100 percent ready before he puts him on the field. Gordon has been participating in drills.

Gordon led the Titans in tackles last season and averaged more than 10 yards a carry on offense.

"He scored every fourth time he touched the ball," Prisk said.

Staying healthy is one thing Smith mentioned to his two recruits.

"He said have a good senior year," Rigan said. "And don't get hurt."