

PREP REPORT

Lions sketch plays for QB Boulosa

BOULOSA, from D-1

It's Nick's team because he made it that way despite missing the entire spring practice. Boulosa, who plays baseball, was in the playoffs and missed spring football. He could have missed more this summer when he joined the Louisiana Angels, a travel baseball squad out of Shreveport, but he drove back for every seven-on-seven drill.

"I was expected to be the starter," Boulosa said. "Everyone knew I was coming, and I was going to be the quarterback."

Boulosa worked extra hours converting his arm from baseball to football shape, letting nothing get in the way of establishing himself.

At 5 feet 10, 155 pounds, Boulosa isn't physically imposing — until you play against him.

Just ask Michael Boulosa, his twin brother who came back from two knee surgeries to play linebacker this season. Michael has the task of trying to chase his brother during practice.

"Sometimes we get into it a little bit," Michael said. "He's tough. He's quick, he has a lot of speed."

During an intrasquad scrimmage at camp, the two exchanged a few brotherly shoves after Michael hit him hard. Nick doesn't back down, even against his brother.

"We're extremely competitive," Michael said. "But we're really good friends. We do everything together."

They share a car, friends and jokes most of the time. And both get a laugh out of the preseason rankings that put Covington in the bottom portion of District 4-5A.

"Everyone had us low as can be when we started," Nick said. "In the first two games (one being a jamboree), we surprised a lot of people. People wouldn't think we would pull it together."

But the Lions did. They manhandled Bogalusa in their jamboree and pounded Tara in the regular-season opener 51-0. Nick Boulosa didn't play much.

After three rushes for 19 yards and a touchdown, going 3-of-5 for 66 yards passing and building a 37-0 halftime lead, the Lions sat him and used reserves to mop up.

Tonight should be different, Nick said. After seeing Franklinton beat district favorite St. Paul's in the jamboree and watching tape of the Demons' 28-0 victory over Yarnado, Boulosa said he knows the Lions will need him every minute.

"It's going to be a tough game," he said. "It's going to go down to the wire. They are playing for the first time in their new stadium, and they're going to want to beat us."

Franklinton has size on defense and quickness — a scary blitz combination. But Boulosa is ready, with a playbook tailored for him as a left-handed quarterback.

"We have some things now for me," Boulosa said. "You'll see me sprint out, and when I sprint out, I can either throw or run. If they are pressuring me, I'll run. If not, I can throw. Last year, I would roll out right (because the plays were designed for Steele, a right-hander); now I roll out left."

"He can do either," Boudreaux said. "Sometimes I think he's better going right, because he had to work on that harder."

He'll be sometimes throwing the ball to fleet-footed receivers Wesley Boudreaux and Tommy Lee, and sometimes he'll be running the ball himself.

In other words, it's still going to seem like there are two Boulosas on offense.

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