

Lacey football team's goals are championships in 2010

By **ROBERT ZIEGLER** • STAFF WRITER •
September 9, 2010

(Appeared in The Asbury Park Press – 09/10/2010)

Lacey's players are understandably confident heading into this season. After all, it's one they've been building toward for three years and one they've likely been looking forward to for much longer than that.

The Lions, favorites in the newly-created Class B South and a serious contender in NJSIAA South Group III, lost only four starters from last year's team, which went 8-3, and return a handful of three-year starters.

"The confidence level's pretty high," said Craig Cicardo, a three-year starter at quarterback. "All of us have been playing together since we were 7 years old, and we all have a lot of experience, and we have a lot of chemistry."

Cicardo has countless weapons at his disposal, from 1,000-yard rusher Jake Dabal and Jarrod Molzon, who rushed for 388 yards in an injury-shortened season, in the backfield to a deep group of experienced wide receivers.

Cameron Blackwell, Pat Jensen and Zach Torrell all return, and junior newcomer Jordan Powell will play tight end and also has the ability to split out wide. Deon Smith, who transferred from Lakewood prior to last season and is more comfortable with the schemes on both offense and defense, can also be a factor.

Lacey's skill players were on display when they defeated Matawan in the championship of the inaugural U.S. Army All-Shore Gridiron Classic 7-on-7 Tournament earlier this summer prior to the U.S. Army Army All-Shore Gridiron Classic.

"A lot of times our kids are under the radar because they don't have a lot of that track speed that a lot of people have, but they have very, very good football speed," said Lou Vircillo, the only head coach in program history.

The Lions return three starters on the offensive line in guards Brian Mykoliw and David Viera and tackle

Mike D'Addario. The 6-foot-5, 280-pound Tyrell Smith, who saw time last season and has generated some early interest from FBS universities, will man the other tackle spot, and Lex Knapp, a junior, is the center.

"This is the most confidence I've ever had in an offensive line," Cicardo said. "Other than Tyrell, these kids have been my line since I was 7 years old, and it's just crazy all the chemistry we have and all the trust I have in them."

Matt Uveges, Mykoliw and Tony Pierce are all returning starters at linebacker, and Jeff Jernak, who started for Lacey as a sophomore before moving to Texas, has returned.

The secondary should also be a strength with Dabal and Jensen returning at corner and Molzon, Torrell and Deon Smith rotating at the safety positions.



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Lacey quarterback Craig Cicardo returns to the Lions as a three-year starter and hopes to lead the team to an NJSIAA sectional title. (STAFF PHOTO: DOUG HOOD)

THE LIONS

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Lou Virillo, 30th season (35th overall)

CAREER RECORD: 232-106-3

ASSISTANT COACHES: Craig Cicardo (quarterbacks); Shane Allen (def. and off. lines, special teams); Jason England, Joe Tobin (wide receivers, secondary); Al Hagofsky (running backs, out. linebackers); Watsin Heilala (junior varsity, freshman); Danny Fornof, Mike Fumarola (freshman); Jack Bush (video); Lee Emery (athletic trainer)

FIVE-YEAR RECORD (2009-05): 8-3; 6-5; 9-3; 12-0; 9-3

BASIC OFFENSIVE SET: Spread

BASIC DEFENSIVE SET: 50

3 TO WATCH

CRAIG CICARDO

63-100, 568 yards, 6 TDs, 525 yards rushing, 9 TDs

JAKE DABAL

185 carries, 1,183 yards, 10 TDs

JARROD MOLZON

63 carries, 388 yards, 4 TDs