

Schedule Release: Similar Look Has Lacey Hoping For Similar Result

No significant changes in the schedule for the fall 2011 Lacey football team. Last season the Lions went 12-0 winning the South Jersey Group III title.

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Credit Brian Deakyne

Holding regular season opponents to a game high of seven points last year and 27 total points throughout nine games, the Lions dominated the Shore Conference. The depth of the Lions proved incredible, with their closest games being 20 point victories over Wall and Middletown South.

Expectations should be remaining high in 2011, with the same schedule, alternating home and away games.

Lacey opens on a Saturday afternoon, Sept. 10, at home against Wall Township. The Lions will be trying to extend their winning streak to 14 games, a streak which dates back to 2009.

Week Two will see the Lions take on the Brick Township Dragons, a school the Lions have dominated the prior two years with a combined score of 69-0. With Brick having a new coaching staff, it might not be as easy this year.

In back-to-back Friday night road games, Lacey will travel to Pinelands and Manchester. After facing each other for the first time last year, Lacey defeated both opponents with a combined score of 83-6, shutting out Pinelands.

On Saturday, Oct. 8, local rival Barnegat rolls into town. Last year the Lions won by a score of 28-7, but the upstart Bengals should not be taken lightly, improving every year of their existence (2006).

In the Lions 6th week, an afternoon tilt with Toms River East is on hand, at East. Lacey is coming off a 27-0 win over the Raiders last year, who suffered a down year. Toms River East is one of three

teams to beat Lacey since the start of the 2009 season, and is the last team to defeat Lacey at home. East won a close 14-7 contest in week two of 2009.

Starting Oct. 22, Lacey will play back-to-back home games against Central Regional and Neptune, respectively. Neptune is coming off a six win season and while losing to Lacey 38-0 last year, they remain a vital 'trap' game to the Lions who might be caught off guard thinking about the looming battle with Middletown South the next week.

The ninth and final regular season game will take place on Friday Nov. 4, at 7:00 p.m. as the Lions will do battle with the Middletown South Eagles. Playing in different brackets, this game will have little implication for both teams playoffs, but it is clear neither team wants to lose. Both schools are known for their excellent football programs, and have traded wins and losses the last two years.

In the opening week of 2009, the last time the Lions traveled to Middletown South, the Lions walked away with a 14-0 loss. Last year, the Lions returned the favor with a 27-7 win.