

Lions

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deliberately vanilla this summer, but he said Friday he's seen enough from Goff and the rest of the offense to be excited about the unit's possibilities.

"They've been focused, they've been professional. They've been able to take adjustments that we throw on them at the last minute and apply them and make it work," Johnson said. "So from that regard I think there's a lot of promise in terms of where we could potentially push the envelope here on offense. And conceptually, I think the sky's the limit there. We can do a lot of different things with the way these guys have embraced everything. So, not to divulge too much, but feel good about what we've put on tape so far from a fundamental standpoint up front being able to evaluate our guys that way, and then where it can go potentially once we get into the regular season."

Okwara could be ready for opener

The Lions could get one of their best pass rushers back in time for their regular-season opener Sept. 11 against the Philadelphia Eagles.



Detroit Lions receiver Quinterz Cephus catches balls after practice Thursday, July 28, 2022 at the Allen Park practice facility. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER, DETROIT FREE PRESS

Lions coach Dan Campbell said Friday injured linebacker Julian Okwara is trending towards returning for the start of the regular season.

Okwara has not practiced since Aug. 3 because of what Campbell described as a lower leg injury. A third-round pick out of Notre Dame in 2020, Okwara finished second on the Lions with five sacks last season after missing most of his rookie year with injuries.

"We're hoping for Philly, that he'll be

back," Campbell said. "He's probably got the best shot of all of (the injured players) to be ready for Philly."

The Lions have been without young pass rushers Okwara and Levi Onwuzurike most of training camp. Onwuzurike, who was ticketed for a rotational role at defensive tackle, has not practiced since aggravating a back injury Aug. 1 in the Lions' first padded practice of the summer.

Campbell said Thursday that Onwu-

zurike's recovery was coming "at a snail's pace." Onwuzurike is not expected to be ready for the Eagles game and could require a stint on injured reserve.

Second-year safety Ifeatu Melifonwu has been out since early August with a soft tissue injury that is not related to the strained quad that kept him out 10 weeks last season.

Cephus returns

Quinterz Cephus is on track to make his preseason debut Sunday after missing the past two games with a leg injury.

"He's healthy so he can go and play, that's the biggest thing," Lions receivers coach Antwaan Randle El said. "And when you're not available it's tough to evaluate, but he's healthy and when he came back, practiced a little bit against Indy, didn't feel his best but still looked pretty good and then these past couple days he's been looking real good, so it's going to be interesting to see how he responds in this game."

Cephus caught 15 passes for 204 yards in five games last season before breaking his collar bone and missing the rest of the year.

He is vying with Trinity Benson and Tom Kennedy for one or two spots as the Lions' fifth and/or sixth receivers.

Port Huron

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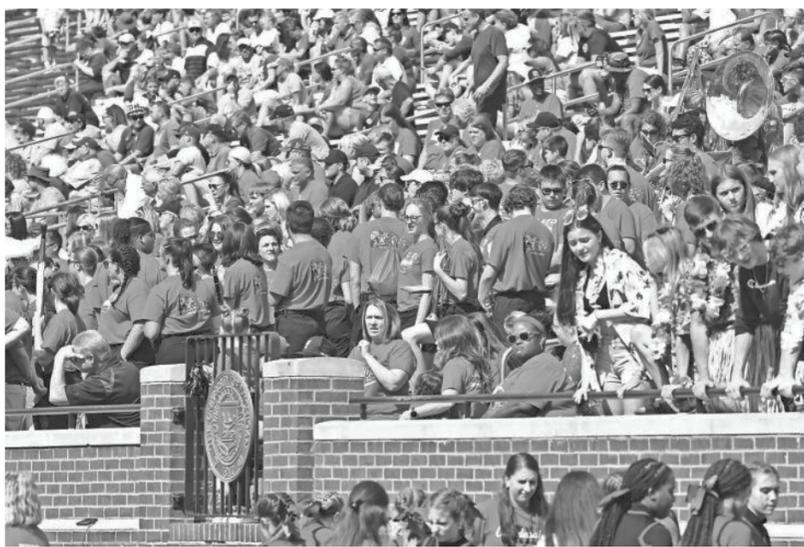
"It was pretty exhilarating," said Griffin Dano, the marching band's drum major. "It was a lot like being back home, just on a much bigger scale."

"One of my favorite parts from our show isn't even part of our show," said Brooklyn Megie, a section leader with the band. "It's the student section cheering for us. Because that means the world to us. It makes us so happy. We're nervous, but (when) they do that we're ready to get out there and get going."

Port Huron's student section was, as usual, vocal all afternoon. Even when the game wasn't going their way, they continued to make noise. And the cheerleaders helped synchronize that energy.

"This was a very good opportunity for us to showcase our team in front of so many people," said Breanna Goch, a captain on the team. "I really enjoyed it."

The group's halftime routine was specifically tailored to the venue. But



Port Huron fans look on as the Big Reds take on Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor on Friday. SERGIO MONTANEZ/TIMES HERALD

they didn't have a chance to practice it. So this was their one and only shot.

"That was all us just hoping the spac-

ing was right," Goch said. "I loved (performing) in between our band and our dancers in the biggest stadium in the

U.S. I'm very grateful to be here."

Siara Kidd had a baritone solo during the marching band's number. While nervous at first, she settled in as the day went on.

"Being able to cheer with your friends for the game, that's the best part," Kidd said. "And being able to play for the game and show our school pride."

After the game ended, members of all the Port Huron teams met with family and friends outside the stadium. Just about everyone was wearing red. Pizza was served and the gathering spilled into the parking lot.

The number of Port Huron faithful that made the trip stood out to Cheyenne Thrall, a captain on the cheer team. It was the highlight of the day in her opinion.

"(My favorite part) was how many people showed up," Thrall said. "It was very exciting to see all the people come and be part of this experience."

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Marysville's Braden Turner runs past Almont's Max Koskodan on Thursday during their football game at Marysville High School.

MARK R. RUMMEL/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES HERALD

Football

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foot with penalties. Once we cleaned that up, then we got rolling."

The Raiders worked quickly in the third quarter. Ferman (six carries, 54 yards) gave his team some breathing room with a 27-yard touchdown run 1:45 into the second half.

After Almont's defense recovered a fumble, running back Chase Battani (six carries, 69 yards, three touchdowns) scored from one yard out at 7:55.

Then with just under three minutes left in the third, defensive lineman Cody Koval returned a fumble two yards for another Raiders touchdown. Almont scored 21 points in less than 10 minutes to put the game away.

"We came out (in the second half) and just played Raider football," Ferman said.

Marysville refused to quit and totaled 18 points in the fourth quarter. While it was too little, too late, the Vikings have already made progress from 2021.

"We're having more sustainable drives on offense," LaValley said. "Instead of three-and-outs, we're getting

down field now as opposed to what we did last year."

"I think we can get a lot better from here on both sides of the ball," Marysville defensive back Braden Turner said.

"We've got a little bit more size and speed this year," Meier said. "We've just got to get it all clicking together."

Both teams are idle until Sept. 1. Marysville will host Hazel Park and Almont will welcome Hamtramck.

"We're old, but we're inexperienced because we've moved so many guys around," Leusby said. "They're playing in such different spots so it's going to take a few games to get their feet underneath them. But it's fixable."

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ODDS PROVIDED BY



Odds available as of print deadline

Favorite	Spread	NFL Sunday	ML	Underdog
JETS	4.5	O/U	38.5	-230
STEELERS	4.5		39.5	-240
				Giants
				Lions

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GAMEPLAN

Auto Racing

8:55 a.m. Formula 1: The Rolex Belgium Grand Prix ESPN2
2 p.m. IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship: The Michelin GT Challenge at VIR CNBC

Baseball

10 a.m. Little League World Series ESPN
1:30 p.m. MLB: L.A. Angels at Toronto MLB Network
2:30 p.m. MLB: Detroit at Texas Bally Sports Detroit
3 p.m. Little League World Series ABC
4:30 p.m. MLB: N.Y. Yankees at Oakland MLB Network
7 p.m. MLB: Atlanta at St. Louis ESPN
8 p.m. Prep: Perfect Game All-American Classic, East vs. West ESPNU

Basketball

4 p.m. WNBA: Playoffs, Seattle at Las Vegas ESPN

8 p.m. WNBA: Playoffs, Connecticut at Chicago ESPN2

Football

1 p.m. Prep: St. Xavier (OH) at Loyola Academy (IL) ESPN
1 p.m. NFL: Preseason, N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets NFL Network
4:30 p.m. NFL: Preseason, Detroit at Pittsburgh CBS

Golf

7 a.m. DP World Tour: The Omega European Masters Golf Channel
Noon PGA: The Tour Championship Golf Channel
1:30 p.m. LPGA: The CP Women's Open CBS
1:30 p.m. PGA: The Tour Championship NBC
1:30 p.m. Korn Ferry Tour: The Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship Golf Channel
4 p.m. Champions Tour: The Ally Challenge Golf Channel

7 p.m. USGA: The U.S. Senior Women's Open Golf Channel

Soccer

7 a.m. SPL: Celtic at Dundee United CBSN
9 a.m. Premier League: West Ham at Aston Villa USA
11:30 a.m. Premier League: Tottenham at Nottingham Forest USA
1:30 p.m. Women's NCAA: Minnesota at Mississippi State ESPNU
7:30 p.m. MLS: N.Y. City FC at Orlando City SC Fox Sports 1
9:55 p.m. FIFA: Women's Under-20 World Cup, Spain vs. Japan Fox Sports 1

Softball

4:30 p.m. Athletes Unlimited: Team Chidester vs. Team Mulipola ESPNU