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UB football hopes new uniforms spark better results

By Thomas Baldwin Niagara Gazette

CHEEKTOWAGA — The University at Buffalo football team will don new uniforms this fall.

The new uniforms look sharp but the reality is, the Bulls need different results as well.

The new attire, which featured a new color — black — was the highlight of the Bulls' annual Kickoff Luncheon on Thursday.

Grand Island's Alex Neutz was one of three Bulls who modeled the new digs. Neutz, a 208-pound sophomore wide receiver, wore the new black pants with the new blue jersey.

"I love them," he said. "Definitely a nice change. The old ones were outdated."

The selection of the new uniforms was a team effort including UB athletic director Ward Manuel, head coach Jeff Quinn and the Bulls players.

"I think there is nothing more important than to have our players have representation in our program," said Quinn, who enters his second season. "From a coaching staff and an athletic department, we wanted to hear what they had to say. They are going to be the ones wearing them, and they are the ones who will be playing."

Neutz, a sophomore this season, was impressed that the players were involved in the process.

"In order to make the players happy, you have to have a little bit of players' input," he said. "It definitely shows the respect they have for us when they come to us regarding decisions like this."

The Bulls officially open training camp on Monday in preparation for the upcoming season. Coming off a 2-10 year, clearly there is some work to be done.

Of all the elements regarding the preseason, perhaps the most intriguing is one Neutz will be right in the middle of — what could be a frenzied three-way quarterback battle between Jerry Davis, Alex Zordich and the newly arrived Chazz Anderson.

"Camp will tell us an awful lot about our team this year," said Neutz. "Between Chazz, Jerry, and Alex, it is going to be a great competition this summer. All three played great in workouts this summer. They all have great leadership qualities, and any one of them

could be the starter.”

Quinn thinks having three QBs to choose from is a nice dilemma to have.

“I have known Chazz, and it is an unusual and unique situation to have a young man who has just one year of competition left,” he said.

Anderson was part of two Big East championship clubs at Cincinnati and played in two BSC bowl games.

“He understands what that is about, and he felt the best opportunity was to come to Buffalo and give himself a chance to be a starting quarterback,” Quinn said. “I like where we are with Jerry and Alex. So it is a good problem to have.”

Quinn, who always takes an enthusiastic approach, is looking forward to getting started on Monday.

“It has been over 21 weeks of training that our coaches and kids have put in and invested,” he said. “We are excited. And I know our kids are ready to put the pads on and get going.”

The Bulls open the season Saturday, September 3 at Pitt, with the home opener is the following Saturday against Stony Brook.