



Welcome to The PIGSKIN PREVIEW

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Pigskin Preview*.

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Scooter Pursley Gordon Weixel

Welcome to the 2011 edition of *The Pigskin Preview*!

Every year like clockwork, August rolls around and high school and college kids (when you're pushing 50 even 22-year-old college players are kids) roll out of bed early and head to school to spend several hours being yelled

at, praised and running wind sprints. It's called football practice.

When that day arrives, it doesn't matter if you've moved from Class A Region 4 to Region 3; if you've gone from 9-man to Class A; if your conference affiliation is up in the air (North Dakota); if you're transitioning to a new level (Minot State); or if you've got one more go-around with traditional rivals before joining a new conference (Dickinson State).

All that matters is the football season.

Football season is as predictable as spring planting and fall harvest, sometimes more predictable because come rain, snow, hail or drought, football will begin on time.

Just as predictable is the arrival of the annual *Pigskin Preview*. The preseason look at all college and high schools in North Dakota hits the shelves just as players hit the field. And just like it is for those who play the game, those who write about it and plan for each issue of *Pigskin Preview* work year-round to be ready for that special day in August.

Each issue of *Pigskin Preview* actually gets its start in January. The Printers, Inc. in Bismarck prints the guide and sets up distribution and sales and sends the ad sales people out. Thank you to the advertisers who make this project possible. Without you, kids who may not end up featured anywhere else get recognition they deserve.

Designer Nancy Schneider oversees production of the book, which, I believe to be one of the cleanest and graphically appealing publications of its kind. Her job is unbelievably difficult but she handles vast amounts of copy and photos without missing a beat.

Co-editor Gordon Weixel and I divvy up regions and colleges and wait for the forms to come back.

By late February and early March, most coaches have been contacted and forms are being returned. That is early, and we know things change. But with so many teams, and with July printing necessary to get the project out on time, we have to have an early start.

Most coaches are great about returning forms, even if they aren't going to be coaches. Others need prodding, but eventually get their stuff in. Unfortunately, every year we also have a couple of teams we can't include in the book because we don't hear from anyone. Every opportunity is made to include everyone.

For those coaches who help out, our sincere thank you. For those who were unable to make contact for whatever reason, there is always next year. Please take the time to get your players the publicity they deserve.

We're proud of the *Pigskin Preview* from its writing and editing, to its design and look, to its acceptance by the high school and college football communities. We try to improve the product every year, and the feedback we get from coaches and readers indicates that we are doing so.

So, let me say one more time, "Thank You."

Scooter Pursley, Co-editor *Pigskin Preview*

Pursley is the Information Specialist for North Dakota Tourism. Weixel is the Public Information Officer for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.