

TC West

2004 Results

TC West 10, Grand Haven 7
 TC West 42, Jackson 37
 TC West 41, Marquette 14
 TC West 48, Cadillac 0
 TC West 35, Gaylord 0
 TC West 54, Ann Arbor Huron 14
 TC West 47, Petoskey 28
 TC West 28, Alpena 0
 TC West 28, TC Central 10
 TC West 27, East Kentwood 23*
 Rockford 35, TC West 7*
 * = playoffs

2005 Schedule

8/26 A Grand Haven
 9/1 H Grandville
 9/9 A Marquette
 9/16 A Cadillac
 9/23 A Gaylord
 9/30 A Saginaw Arthur Hill
 10/8 H Petoskey
 10/14 H Alpena
 10/21 H TC Central

TC West Trivia

Traverse City West senior quarterback **Tony Thompson** is undefeated in the regular season as the starting quarterback.

Overall, the Titans are 17-2 with Thompson at the helm.

Thompson started the third game of the season as a sophomore for the injured Tyler Perkette. He won the final seven regular-season games of the 2003 campaign and all nine last year.



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 Gary Howe

Ready to welcome in a new season — sitting on the helm of the *Welcome* — are Traverse City West returning seniors (front row, from left), Nick Stull, Eric Gordon and Ben Sleder, (middle row, from left) Eric Smith, Adam Root, Jake Stinson, Kyle Centilli, Josh Haselton and (top) Tony Thompson.

Sailing into a new season

After a season of firsts, TC West goes for another Big North championship

BY MARK URBAN
 Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — A lot of the faces have changed, the goals have not.

Coming off its first-ever undefeated regular season and first-ever playoff victory, Traverse City West is ready to sail into a new football season with the same — if not greater — expectations as before.

“Absolutely,” said TC West head coach Matt Prisk. “That always has to be the goal, to one-up last season and make a better run in the playoffs.”

Just four starters return on each side of the ball for the Titans, who finished 2004 with a 10-1 mark.

“We still have the same goals as last year,” said Eric Gordon, senior linebacker and halfback. “We want to see a championship. We want to go 9-0 and take the Big North.”

“I feel we can do it with the people we have here.”

Senior quarterback **Tony Thompson**, entering his third season as the top-signal caller, agrees with his teammate.

“Everybody always compares us to last year,” he said. “Even though we lost people, a lot of people have

stepped up and done a good job.”

How quick the Titans can learn on the job will be tested early. TC West opens the season at Grand Haven on Friday before playing its first game at Thirlby Field on Sept. 1 against Grandville.

“Our schedule is working against us being a young team,” Prisk said. “We play two tough non-league games right out of the gate with Grand Haven and Grandville.”

“We can’t afford to suffer growing pains the first two weeks of the season or we’ll be in trouble.”

The strength of the Titans’ defense last season was the play of its four linebackers.

Gordon, who was second on the team with 135 stops and three forced fumbles, is the only one returning.

Expected to join the 5-foot-11, 225-pound Gordon in the linebacking corps are 5-10, 185-pound senior Eric Smith and a pair of juniors, Eric Wehr (5-11, 220) and Gordy Rozga (6-2, 220).

Smith saw some action last season on special teams and as a situational defender.

“There’s some questions with some of the young kids,” Prisk said of the linebackers. “So far Eric

Wehr has looked pretty darn good, but he’s a junior. He definitely has the size to play inside.”

Gordon said he expects the linebacking group to come along quickly.

“With our linebackers, you have a bunch of tough kids,” he said. “We don’t have the speed like we did last year, but they’re tough, real good players.”

“We can’t afford to suffer growing pains the first two weeks of the season or we’ll be in trouble.”

— Matt Prisk,
 head coach

Perhaps more important than the linebackers are the linemen. Seniors Nick Stull and Adam Root return as defensive ends, but both tackles have departed.

Junior Chad Braun (6-1, 205) should fill one of the defensive tackle spots. Juniors Bobby Zywicki and Corey Keyton are expected to see time at the other spot.

“Stull and Root have done a good

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