

# Metro-East, Madison coop to face Bunker Hill at home on Friday

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**EDWARDSVILLE** – For the second year, **Metro-East Lutheran** and **Madison** will go through the football season as a coop program.

The coop last year was a huge success even though the Knights finished 0-9. Optimism is running high at both schools for this coming football season, which begins in **Edwardsville at 7 p.m. Friday** as the Knights take on Prairie State Conference rival **Bunker Hill** in a non-conference game.

Participation from both MEL and Madison is up for the 2016 edition of the team; a total of 41 players will be on the roster when the Knights and Minutemen take the field this evening. “We're really excited,” said Knight coach Matt Tschudy. “The number of players from both schools are up from last season and I know both communities are really looking forward to the season.

“The coop has really brought people from both schools together and it's been a really good thing for both schools; we're very thankful for the coop and it's really been a good thing for everyone.”

The games against the Minutemen will be bookends for this season's MEL-Madison schedule, with the league game slated for Week 9 in Bunker Hill.

“We'll do the same things on offense and defense that we've done before,” Tschudy said. “We'll be prepared for anything.

“We do know that Bunker Hill will be a physical football team and they've got some experience from last year (where the Minutemen finished the year at 4-5) and they've got a lot of guys back.”

“We plan on running the ball more than we have,” said Minutemen coach Tom Haynes. “What we'll do will be dictated by the situation; we have 27 guys on our roster and we'll have a lot of our youngsters going both ways.

“We do think things are on the way up here; we had 24-26 players taking part in our summer conditioning program and we're demanding more of ourselves as far as football goes.”

Like programs throughout the state, the Minutemen are ready to strap on the pads and play a game after going through preseason practice. “We're ready to go out there and have some fun,” Haynes said.

“We're ready and excited,” Tschudy said of the impending start of the season.