



### **By Tim Linscott**

*Managing Editor*

The Plainsmen will have a young football team this season with a new coach, new offense and defense and the desire to improve each week.

There are five seniors out of 31 athletes this season for football and first year head coach Carlie Wells wants to concentrate on gaining ground each game on mastering the offense and defense.

“We want to improve each week. Learning a new offense and defense, we want to make strides each week,” Wells said.

The skill positions are the strength of the team after graduation depleted some of the depth of the squad.

“We have returners with three years experience in skills positions, so that will be a strength,” Wells said.

The re-building phase is starting for Wells with the offensive and defensive lines.

“We have to re-build the offensive line and it is a work-in-progress, but we’ve already made strides and will continue to develop these kids,” Wells said. “We will learn from our mistakes, take responsibility for our team and go from there.”

The offense will be running an ‘I’ formation and will simplify things to get a feel for the system.

“We won’t make it complicated but will try to progress,” Wells said, wanting to keep things as straightforward as possible.

On defense the team will run a ‘4-4-hybrid’ (eight men on the line of scrimmage, focusing on versatility in blitz packages) or ‘whatever works for the kids,’ according to Wells.

The first game of the year is against Holyoke on Aug. 30 in Holyoke.

“The first game will tell us where we are at. It is tough to tell when you are scrimmaging, so when we get out on the field our first game will tell us where we are at and where we need to go,” Wells said.

