

Westerners, Matadors dealing with injury woes

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For a moment against Monterey — or one quarter, to be exact — Lubbock High (0-4) demonstrated the competent play it's capable of producing.

A spate of injuries, including a final blow to quarterback James Garcia's injury-slowed season, didn't help their cause and the Westerners devolved in a 54-17 loss.

This week brings another challenge in the Estacado Matadors (2-2), a squad that puts Lubbock against the odds with its potential to overwhelm the Westerners even with several starters of its own out in the first meeting between these teams since 1997.

"I don't have another quarterback in the varsity program, so Dae Dae (Morgan) is the guy," Lubbock High coach Jason Strunk said. "Next year, if our J.V. and freshman quarterbacks develop, then we can put Dae Dae back at running back. I think he feels comfortable at running back."

Garcia isn't the only Westerner to be sidelined against the Matadors: Offensive linemen Jesse Molinar and Jordan McKenzie, running back James Perez, defensive lineman Tommy Najera and wideouts Jordan High and Alex Loreda are all out with various injuries.

"Our offense is predicated on the pass and hopefully we get some dry weather," Strunk said. "We'll do what we did against Monterey, what we did against Dumas. We'll sprint out. Our kids know the system. After a full week of practice, Dae Dae will look much better at quarterback."

Running backs Alijah Garcia and Ty Doss will get increased reps, as well as wideout Blake Robbins. Strunk will work 6-foot-1, 225-pound freshman Tristan Snook into his defensive line rotation as well.

Estacado opened the year with wins against Hereford and Dumas but lost tight contests against Caprock and Shallowater. Against the Mustangs, three Estacado turnovers resulted in touchdowns.

Linebackers Emmanuel Ruvalcaba and Shon Hastings, running back Craig Busby and defensive back Angel Fernandez are sidelined for Estacado. Wide receiver and corner back Kenaris Jackson has been bothered by a dislocated kneecap, but will play against Lubbock.

"Kenaris played last week, but you could tell he wasn't even 50 percent," Estacado coach Danny Servance said. "He was pretty much more of a decoy out there. He looked better this week, he's still not 100 percent, but he's getting better."