By Ryan Debo and Brian Holbrook
Hugo High School Sports Reporters

The smell of freshly cut grass, sweat and hard work is in the air, which can only mean one thing — Hugo Football.

This year many things have changed. Not only do we train differently, we also have a new look. I think that with our new coaching staff and the hard work and effort we are putting out, we can make a good run in the playoffs.

It all starts with training. This summer, for the first time, we had Summer Pride. Summer Pride is a strength and condition program that involves lifting weights and running. Our coaches also made it fun by creating competitions like obstacle courses and flipping tires.

Our coaching staff is focused on positive feedback for the players. We receive encouragement very often and are redirected if we make mistakes, and from a player's perspective, we love it. We can concentrate on positive team morale and improvement instead of what we are doing wrong.

This year's Buffalo herd is at least 50 strong. We will have depth on the bench and our starters are looking exceptionally well. Defensively, we are experienced. With most of our players returning, we are seasoned and strong. Offensively, we have some new Buffaloes to add to the roster like speed demon Brandarius Lane. Lane has shown he will be able to out run any defenders, and returning running back Willie McAllister will surely do the same.

As the quarterback, the guys on the line are, in my eyes, the most important. Even though they don't get much credit, it all starts with the line. Colby Raper is the only returning offensive lineman from last year. Raper may not be the biggest guy, but he plays harder than anybody. I would put him up against any defensive lineman in the state.

Buffalo fans, the herd is working hard to earn your support. There are definitely countless thrills in store for you this football season. The first football game is Sept. 4 against Valliant; we'll see you there.