Endicott football picked second in preseason poll

The Endicott College football team has a few holes to fill this fall, but the coaches in the New England Football Conference don't seem to think it'll be a problem for the Gulls.

Coming off back-to-back postseason appearances, coach J.B. Wells' Gulls were picked second in the Boyd Division's preseason coaches poll released yesterday. Western New England topped the division chart with 58 points, ahead of Endicott and Salve Regina's 54.

The Gulls, who are 19-4 the last two seasons, open the season on Sept. 1 at Framingham State, which was picked first in the NEFC Bogan Division preseason poll. Endicott begins training camp in six days looking to overcome the loss of All-American defensive end Kevin Eagan, as well as quarterback Phil Konopka and running back Mike Lane.

Defensive back Jason Silva and receiver Mike Murphy were recently named preseason All-Americans, so the Gulls should be able to rebound nicely. Beverly's Peter Kallas will be one of the defensive leaders after finishing second on the team in tackles last year, and Danvers' David St. Pierre will be in the mix to win the starting quarterback's job.

Salem's all-time leading rusher Melikke Van Alstyne, who plays at Framingham State and was Bogan Division Offensive Player of the Year as a sophomore last season, earned a preseason All-America nod, as well.