

By EARL WATT

• Leader & Times

With several starters standing on the sidelines out of pads, the Gatorade Scrimmage at Redskins Field Friday turned out to be a bit of a letdown for those wanting to see the starting quarterback, receiver and running back.

But that disappointment quickly faded when Jared Hasik stepped in and used his speed to dazzle with big runs down the sidelines that were called back in the controlled scrimmage to only 10-yard gains.

Many times, Hasik had a convoy of lead blockers.

While the varsity was limited in personnel, a number of back-ups and young players had their chance to shine, and coach Cliff Abbott took notice.

“We are so focused on varsity, but our young kids finally got to work as a unit,” he said. “There was some speed out there. I am excited about the future. The freshmen did some good things. They are learning what a Redskin is and showing their talents. It was good to see Jared a quarterback with his speed and elusiveness.”

The players on the defensive side were also younger, and Abbott said that the scrimmage helped provide a better picture for them.

“We had some linemen on the defensive side that will help us,” he said. “They have been in

camp but not sped up like this. The young kids I am excited about. By midseason they should be ready.”

But Abbott knew there was still work to be done.

“I like where we are right now,” he said. “Are we ready? No. But it is a great indicator of what we need to do. We had some sickness, but that could happen in a game. We will look at that even further in other spots. We don’t like to see it, but that is part of it. We adjusted. I like where we are, but we are not there yet. Our kids are focused, and I like their attitude.”