

THE MONROE Evening News

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— Evening News photo by KEITH KING

Megan Lingle, 12, a member of the Bedford Senior T-Bird Cheerleading Squad, puts her hand over her heart during the national anthem Friday night prior to the football game between Monroe and Bedford at the Bedford High School football stadium.

Prep football kicks off

Wait over for die-hard fans of gridiron action across Monroe County

By MICHELLE SWARTZ
Evening News staff writer

DUNDEE — Wearing a custom-made "Dundee Vikings" shirt and sitting in her favorite bleacher seat 30 minutes before kickoff, it was obvious that Karen O'Connor was eager for the start of high school football.

"I love watching football. We have been coming to all of Dundee's football games for years now," said Mrs. O'Connor of Dundee, who watched the game with her husband, Bob. "We don't have any family members on the team but we still like to come out and watch the games."

The couple was among thousands of football fans watching their favorite team on the gridiron Friday, which marked the return of high school football throughout Monroe County. A total of 11 local football games were played, including Dundee hosting Summerfield.

For many fans, college and professional football does not compare to high school ball.



— Evening News photo by VALERIE TOBIAS

One-year-old Lauren Smith of Dundee discovers a new way to eat a grilled brat at the sixth annual Dundee High School Booster Club tailgate party in Dundee Friday night. The event, sponsored by Stoneco Inc. and hosted by the Dundee Booster Club, preceded the season-opening football game between Dundee and Summerfield.

"It's different because you know these kids and their families and they work hard. We like to support them," Mrs. O'Connor said of the high school athletes. "You get to know these kids so it's fun to watch them improve. It's nice to be a part of a nice, small town and cheer for the local team."

Dundee Vikings fans kicked off the beginning of the football season by holding a tailgate party in the parking lot adjacent to the football field. The sixth annual party included hot dogs, bratwurst, kiel-

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BACK TO Parents officially disappointed on buses

■ Jefferson Schools runs in half time and now some parents are saying students are "squished."

BY RAY KISONAS
Evening News staff writer

Some parents at Jefferson Schools say the buses are too crowded. Officials say the buses are at capacity.

Since school started, several parents at Jefferson have complained that the buses are too crowded. Officials say the number of bus runs to Woodland Beach is a parent and grandchild "squished."

"They are so crowded," said Woodland Beach parent and grandchild "squished."

There is no evidence of overcrowding, said Supt. Tom who has discussed the issue with the transportation department.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said to do with parents Jefferson parents handfuls of students plenty of space was before the budget is no longer feasible. Parents are not being he said.

"None of our buses he said. "I don't know this overcrowding"

Some parents talk education about Thursday night. Mr. help ease concerns, the starting time at high school levels. He also is sending an explanation.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said Bross, director of

See