for the Seahawks (0-4) against No. 7 state-ranked De Anza (2-0) at 7 p.m. He replaces injured starter Lucas Romanoski, who suffered a shoulder separation on his non-throwing arm in last week’s season-opening loss against Los Medanos.

“I want to prove to everyone I can play,” said Layne, who was the 2011-12 Class 5A District 1 co-MVP as a high school senior in Texas.

Layne saw plenty of action against LMC — more than he was prepared for or anticipated.

“I played pretty bad,” Layne said. “Not what I expected myself to play like. But I’m hoping that it was first-game jitters.”

He finished 8-of-20 passing for 91 yards with no touchdowns and one interception. He was also sacked three times.

It was an auspicious debut for the usually efficient gunslinger.

Even after being dismembered by defenders last week, it’s clear his heart remains in the right place. He wants to lead the Seahawks to an upset this week.

“I know the playbook,” he said. “It’s just little things here and there. I haven’t played in a year and half, so I still have to find that comfort zone that I haven’t felt in so long. Getting back in the game, it’s a lot different than throwing one on one with receivers back home.”

Layne, who is 5-foot-10, 180 pounds, didn’t play after high school. He got looks and — because of his size — was looked over.

So he enrolled at El Place Community College and took a full-time job at Olive Garden to help his mom, Sylvia, with bills. His father, Guy, died four years ago from a stroke.

One of Layne’s two tattoos is a tribute to his dad. “Forever Remembered” is inscribed on his arm in Chinese. His second inning is Psalm 18:38, “You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great.”

Layne is poised to show his greatness.

It’s easy to cut Layne some slack for last week. Seahawks coaches say he’s a respectful, hard-working and talented kid who aims to please. Plus, he hasn’t played in 1 1/2 years.

He was pressed into duty,” Seahawk coach Bill Garrison said.

Garrison said Layne has a good arm and good feet.

“He’s similar to former Watsonville High and Cabrillo quarterback Jerry Alvarez, in that he makes things happen,” the coach said.

He last needs to polish the rust off his game. When he does, the Seahawks will have a solid backup for Romanoski when he returns.

“He’s special,” said Cabrillo quarterback coach Travis Robbert, who played at NCAA-D II Southwest Minnesota State in 1988 and 1989, “so is our starter. He’s the real deal, too.”

Needless to say, there are Texas-sized expectations for Layne.

“I’ve been on him since the first day I got film from him,” Robbert said.

A three-year varsity starter at Franklin, Layne played safety on defense as a sophomore before playing quarterback his final two years, helping lead his team to the state playoffs both seasons in Class A to Division I — Texas’ highest and most prestigious level.

Layne missed spring ball at Cabrillo, offseason conditioning and the summer football class, he fully immersed himself in the playbook when he arrived in Aptos in mid-August in an attempt to get up to speed. He quickly climbed to second on the depth chart on a team that boasts nine quarterbacks, four of whom are redshirting.

Layne has aspirations of playing at the four-year level.

“I know that wasn’t going to happen if he remained at Olive Garden,” he said. “The year away from the sport was torturous for Layne.

“I missed it,” he said. “I’ve always had football.”

Despite last week’s loss, it was good to be back — minus the bumps and bruises.

“I took a little beating Saturday,” he said. “I took a nice shot on the chin, too. It was like, ‘Welcome to college football.’”

Brandon Layne works out with the other quarterbacks during practice at Cabrillo this week.