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# Trenton heads Sub-8; others battle for 2d

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

The big question around the Suburban Eight League this fall isn't which team will win the title but rather which will take second place.

Most coaches in the Sub-8 feel that Trenton is the team to beat. The downriver powerhouse finished in the front-half of the league race last season with a junior team and is expected to outdistance all its foes.

The scramble for second place is between last year's champion Plymouth Salem, coming off a perfect 9-0 regular season, a rejuvenated Redford Union team, which posted its first winning record last season, and the two Dearborn schools, Edsel Ford and Dearborn High. (The Dearborn teams will only compete if their millage passes tomorrow).

Livonia Bentley, Belleville and Allen Park are once again expected to bring up the rear in the league chase this fall.

THE PRESENCE of Rich Hewlett alone has forced many league coaches to still consider Plymouth Salem one of their toughest opponents this year. Many think the Rocks can give Trenton a run for the title.

Hewlett, a 6-0, 195-pound senior quarterback, is one of the most feared runners in the state. The heart of coach Tom Moshimer's wishbone offense, Hewlett gained all-state awards as a junior in leading Salem to a Sub-8 championship and a berth in the state playoffs last year.

Along with Hewlett is running back-quarterback Paul Dillon, a senior who showed a lot of promise last year in replacing an

injured Hewlett for the final two games of the season.

These two players are the only returning starters for the Rocks, however, and all Plymouth fans have to wonder who can replace the massive interior lines, both offensively and defensively, which helped Salem to its undefeated season.

REDFORD UNION is another team which could challenge for the crown. After many poor seasons in the mid-1970s, the Panthers got back on track last season, posting a 6-3 record under first-year coach Harvey Heitman.

And word has it that Heitman's 1978 contingent is even stronger this season.

Junior Jim Sofa will call the signals for RU and will be anchored by junior running back Kirk Marsh and senior wingback Bill LeZotte. The Panthers' interior line will be one of the biggest to handle in the Sub-8 with the likes of seniors Bob Mouch (tackle), Dave Kashian (guard) and Tom Loeerli (guard). The defensive backfield will be led by senior Mario Bravo.

SECOND-YEAR BENTLEY coach Pat O'Donnell is coming off a 2-7 rookie season and hopes for better results this fall.

Despite the loss of quarterback Kevin Schneider and tailback Chuck Roy to graduation, the Bulldogs hope seniors Dan Crowder (quarterback) and Matt Munn (tailback) will lead the offense.

Bentley's defense will feature two fine linebackers in seniors Tim Schuele and Dave Cox. Schuele is the son of Plymouth Canton head football coach Dave Schuele, the Bulldogs' opening-season opponent.

## Dearborn needs millage

Friday, Sept. 8 is an important date for most prep schools because it marks the opening of another high school football season.

To the Dearborn School District, however, Sept. 8 is much more important for another reason. While other schools are knocking heads on the gridiron this day, Dearborn voters will decide whether their school district will have athletics at all.

Two millage renewal packages for extra-curricular activities were defeated by Dearborn voters last summer. As a result, Dearborn athletic director Jack Johnson announced that all athletic programs for two Suburban Eight League Schools, Dearborn High and Dearborn Edsel Ford, as well as Dearborn Fordson, members of the Great Lakes Eight League, were discontinued.

A third millage proposition will be brought before Dearborn voters tomorrow. If it passes, all athletic programs will be reinstated. All three Dearborn football teams are practicing with high hopes that they will compete this season.

The first week of non-league action still remains a mystery, however, and non-league opponents have already scrambled to find new foes.

Livonia Churchill, for example, was scheduled to play Fordson for its season opener. The Chargers have already signed a contract to battle East Lansing however. East Lansing was originally scheduled to open its season against Edsel Ford.

Therefore, if the millage passes, Dearborn High and Fordson have plan to open their season against each other the following afternoon, Sept. 9. Edsel Ford's only option for an opening-season game, if the millage passes, will be a Saturday after-

noon non-league game against Southgate High. Southgate was Dearborn High's original initial foe. The Thunderbirds may not play this game, however, since Southgate, a Class B team, would hurt its chances in the state playoff race.

IN THE SUBURBAN Eight League, Redford Union has already signed contracts with other schools in case Edsel Ford and Dearborn don't play football. Plymouth Salem and Livonia Bentley have taken a 'wait-and-see' attitude until the millage is decided.

Redford Union has signed contracts with Wayne Memorial and Taylor Center, two Great Lakes Eight teams which were scheduled to play Fordson. If the millage fails, these contracts will be honored as non-league games. If the millage passes, regular league play will continue as originally scheduled.

There has been talk within the Sub-8 of playing teams twice in a season, if the Dearborn schools do not participate.

For example, Salem battles Dearborn while Edsel Ford faces Allen Park on the second week of the season. If the Dearborn schools leave, then Salem and Allen Park could compete against each other on that week.

The problem with this kind of set-up finds the regularly-scheduled Allen Park-Salem league game occurring on the third week of the year, meaning the Rocks and the Jaguars would meet twice in a row.

The same situation occurs later in the Salem schedule when the Rocks would face Trenton twice in a row on the sixth and seventh weeks of the season.

Bentley and Salem also have the option of playing non-league games with Great Lakes Eight teams.