

# ...South, Utica goes North

(Continued from page 6)

pounded this season by a pair of no-shows. "I'm very pessimistic right now," said head coach Bob Hamilton two weeks ago. "We have a senior quarterback who didn't show, and a senior punter-receiver who didn't come out."

"But, right now we're a young team with a good attitude," he said. "Once we get the leadership of the seniors, we should do well."

Clawson scored 98 points last year, and allowed 123.

Junior quarterback Marty Clary will attempt to guide the Trojans to a more productive offense. He will be paired in the backfield with halfback Jamie Carnahan (5-11, 165).

Chris Porteous (6-0, 185) will be a wide receiver, Mark Penny (5-11, 190), a junior, will center, and Don Moore (6-3, 215) will play a tackle position as well as perform as Clawson's "outstanding" kicker.

All those players will also take positions on defense.

## TROY

The 'Fighting Colts' were anything but that last year, at least in South Division play.

In winning only one OAL game (in the playoffs), coach Tom Conley's Colts managed to score just 20 league points. For the season, Troy, which ended with a 2-7 mark, scored 71 points for an average of eight per game.

A pair of senior guards head a list of returning starters for Troy.

Chuck Steltenkamp (6-1, 215) and Tony Brown (5-10, 185) will both anchor the line

on offense and defense. Two other seniors, tight end Teri Schnurr (6-2, 185) and guard Mike Youngerman (6-0, 165) will be key two-way performers.

## NORTH DIVISION ROMEO

Romeo's monsters from the Macomb County fruit belt had a rather easy time winning the OAL's overall title last year.

Coach Larry Dunn warns, however, that staying a champion is harder than becoming one.

"It's pretty tough to repeat," said Dunn, whose team went undefeated (9-0) in 1977. "You have to have a couple breaks along the way. We had a couple close calls last year against Henry Ford (6-0) and Lamphre (20-13)."

"I think it will be a wide open race. Lake Orion will be better, and there will be a lot of tough competition this year," he said. "We have the talent. It's just a question of how fast they can get in shape, and how hard they work. But, I think we'll be alright."

Dunn claims this is going to be a "rebuilding" year for the Bulldogs.

Romeo lost 10 of 11 offensive starters, and eight of the 11 defensive starters. The squad is composed primarily of juniors—26 of them in fact.

## STERLING HEIGHTS HENRY FORD

The first four games could very well dictate the fortunes of Henry Ford this fall.

After a tough opener with Eastern Michigan League (EML) contender and cross-town rival Sterling Heights Stevenson, the

Falcons will play Waterford Mott, Avondale, and Romeo.

"We drew a tough crossover game (with Avondale), and Romeo is definitely the team to beat in our division," said Ford coach Gary Rojas, whose five-year record at the Sterling Heights school is 24-21. "Along with Eisenhower and Utica, we'll be chasing."

Henry Ford does not have any starters returning on offense.

## WASHINGTON EISENHOWER

Unless coach Bob Lantry recruits from the track team, the Eagles may not attack opponents with an overdose of speed for the first time in a couple years.

Fleet-footed running backs Mike Muster and Tom Fredal, who spent most of their high school football careers making defensemen read the backs of their jerseys, have now graduated. The Eagles may be forced to limit their option sweeps this year, and attack more up the middle or through the air.

The Eagles, who lost 13-12 to Ford last year and 9-6 to Romeo, do have starting quarterback Jeff Stevenson back. Also, three-year, two-way starter Walt Currie will be back for line duty as a tackle.

## LAKE ORION

Lake Orion finished with an overall 3-6 record last year, 2-4 in the OAL.

Some of top returning players are two-way tackles Doug Henderson (6-1, 240), and senior running backs Clark Bushman (5-8, 150) and Dave Hollens (5-10, 175). Kieth Monroe (6-1, 175) will be one of first-year quarterback Bill Hoag's primary receivers.

Jeff Petrusha and Jeff Griffith will both be key linemen.

The Dragons, after opening with Rochester Adams at home, must then face a firing line of Clarksonton, Oxford, Eisenhower, Henry Ford and Romeo in its next five games.

Doug Holcomb will be starting his 12th season as head football coach and is assisted this year by Marty Malatin and Rus Weller.

## UTICA

Utica finished with a 2-7 record last year (2-4 in the South Division), and will be hard-pressed to match that record again.

As a first-year participant in the North Division, the Cheiftains must now face teams like Romeo, Henry Ford and Eisenhower. It will be a tough task for coach Bill Waggoner and his football tribe.

One factor in Utica's favor is the return of seven offensive players, including quarterback Kerry Waggoner. A trio of veteran running backs include Kurt Morehead (6-1, 195), Ken Foster (5-11, 175) and Matt Shenkle (5-9, 160).

## CHIPPewa VALLEY

Chippewa Valley will be starting its second season as a member of the Oakland Athletic League.

Last year Chippewa finished with a 2-7 overall mark, 1-5 in the challenging North Division.

Eric Strauss and Rick Dries head the list of Chippewa Valley players. Strauss was an honorable mention OAL wide receiver, who led his team in receptions last year, and Dries hurt his knee playing baseball this summer, but should be back.

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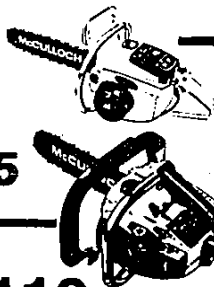
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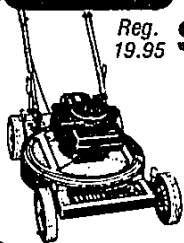
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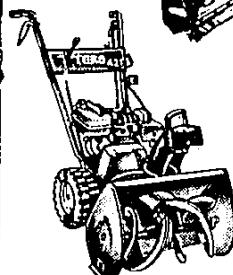
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