

# OLSM poses title threat

By C.J. RISAK

When Al Dicken took over the head coaching job at Orchard Lake St. Mary last year, he didn't have much to work with.

"We only had five or six starters back from the previous season," Dicken recalled. The year before Dicken's arrival, Orchard Lake St. Mary won both the Catholic C-D League crown and the Class D football championship.

"I figured it would be a rebuilding season," Dicken said.

He spent most of last year's preseason working with his quarterback Jim Kinville, who had no experience at the position. Things went well until the middle of the second game. Kinville injured his knee against Detroit Benedictine and was lost for the season.

Kinville's injury forced Dicken to go with freshman Carl Pellegata as quarterback, and the move paid off. The team went 5-2 in the remainder of the season and finished at 6-3. Pellegata passed for over 700 yards in the 7½ games he played in.

Now, as often happens in high school football, last year's problem is this year's blessing. OLSM has lost six players, who filled nine positions, to graduation. Those returning make for a solid nucleus for Dicken to build around.

Two things are making the season outlook bright for OLSM. One is the return of Kinville, who is now battling with Pellegata for the starting quarterback position.

THE SECOND THING is Matt Martin. Martin is not only the biggest (6-foot-4, 225 pounds) player on the team, he is also the most talented. An All-Conference player last year, Martin is in his third year as a two-way starter at offensive tackle and defensive end. Many of the league's coaches consider him a major college prospect.

Martin leads a returning bunch of experienced players in the offensive line. Center Jeff Parow (5-10, 170), a junior, guard Brian Stafford (5-11, 175), a sophomore, and

light end Martin Vucinaj (6-1, 200), a junior, are the others.

But besides the two quarterbacks, the only other returning offensive player is wide receiver Dean Thompson (5-7, 140). Dicken's entire backfield was lost to graduation.

Dicken is using several players to play in the backfield. In last week's intra-squad scrimmage, four sophomores, a freshman and a senior all got shots at the backfield spots.

Bob Selakowski (6-0, 195), the senior in the group, figures to be the starting fullback. But Dicken is undecided about who will fill the other position, and will probably shuffle players during the early parts of the season.

The running back spot may not be the only position open to shuffling. Dicken is undecided as to who will start at quarterback. Kinville is a big bigger (6-2½, 190) than Pellegata and is a stronger runner, but Pellegata (6-3, 175) is quicker. Both can throw the ball.

"IT'S REALLY TIGHT, these two are really battling for the quarterback position," Dicken said. "Regardless of who starts, both will play a lot."

Seeing much of the action on defense will be Selakowski at linebacker and Martin at defensive end, with seniors Mike Garland (5-11, 160) and Charlie Olaszewski (5-8, 160) joining Pellegata in the defensive secondary.

Mike Landry (6-3, 180), a transfer from Birmingham Brother Rice, has been impressive at both his defensive and offensive end positions and will receive plenty of playing time.

Despite his returning talent, Dicken points to St. Agatha as the preseason favorite, and he bases his choice on one player — Al Jones.

Jones broke his ankle early in the season last year, but he's back at full strength now and he figures to be a dominant force for St. Agatha in the Catholic C-D division. He is both big (6-3, 205) and fast (4.5 in the 40-yard dash).

"Running like that, it's almost against the law," Dicken said. "Agatha is the team to beat because of Jones."

## Last chance for O&E golf

The eleventh hour is near for those who have done nothing more than contemplate entering the Observer & Eccentric Golf Tournaments.

Registration deadline is 5 p.m. tonight for women who desire to enter their 18-hole tournament Tuesday at Whispering Willows in Livonia.

Men have until 6 p.m. Monday to sign up for their 36-hole tourney, which will be played at Whispering Willows Sept. 15-16.

Amateur golfers in the Observer & Eccentric circulation area — Westland, Garden City, Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Redford, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Troy, Rochester, Avon Township, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Township — may enter.

Registration fee is \$10 for women, \$25 for men. That includes greens fees, a tournament bag tag, trophies and gift certificates.

Due to the deadline, in-person registration is recommended at Whispering Willows. The course on Newburgh just south of Eight Mile.

The field for both tournaments will be divided into flights based on handicap when the registration deadline passes. In that way, golfers can compete against others of similar ability.

### Men's, Women's Open Golf Tournaments Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course

**MEN'S**  
36 holes medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16. Entry fee: \$25 (green fees, trophies and prizes).

**WOMEN'S**  
18 holes medal play: Tuesday, Sept. 11. Entry fee: \$10 (green fees, basket of practice balls and trophies). Make checks payable to Gary Whitener, tournament director, and enclose with entry blank.

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Men's entries close Monday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. Call for starting times on Friday, Sept. 14, after 9 a.m. (476-4403).

Women's entries close Thursday, Sept. 6, at 5 p.m. Call for starting times Friday, Sept. 7, after 5 p.m.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township.

Entries may be mailed to Tournament Director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows Golf Course, 28500 Newburgh, Livonia.

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