

Millage failure stings Pontiac Northern

Stevenson eyes Inter Lakes crown

The only sure thing about the Inter Lakes League football race this season is that Pontiac Northern won't win the championship.

A recent millage failure in Pontiac means the end of all fall sports in the public schools there. So Northern, which has often been a contender for the ILL football title, can't get in the way of powerhouse Livonia Stevenson.

Coach Jack Reardon, who has guided Stevenson to league titles the past three seasons, should have another strong squad this fall. But the Inter Lakes coaches, including Reardon, are talking depth and balance this season.

"The Inter Lakes League will have the best balance it's had in years," said Reardon, who has a 73-44-1 record in his 14 years at Stevenson.

"Waterford Township will have its finest team since 1968," Reardon said. "Milford-Lakeland has its offensive and defensive lines back, and Walled Lake Central and Farmington also will be contenders."

Reardon isn't the only coach to mention Matt Parino's Waterford crew as the team to beat.

"I don't think Stevenson is going to walk away with it," said Farmington High coach Hal Beardsley, whose 1978 team lost eight games, including a 17-14 thriller to Stevenson.

"He (Reardon) is going to get some surprises. Waterford should be extremely tough. Waterford's junior high teams don't lose many football games, so

Waterford always has football-oriented kids coming up."

STEVENSON, which opens the 1979 season Sept. 8 at Redford Union, has an excellent returning quarterback in Dave Hall. The 6-foot-3, 195-pound senior ran for 10 touchdowns and passed for four more last season.

Some other important Stevenson returnees, all seniors, include end Cap Pethers (6-2, 196), halfbacks James Recker (5-9, 150) and Rick Arnold (5-8, 152), guard Greg Meng (5-11, 180), tackle Chris Trainor (6-1, 188) and linebacker Mike Shimskey (6-0, 180).

"Our offensive and defensive lines were hit hard by graduation," Reardon said. "Fortunately, we have some good prospects who gained some experience last fall as back-up people. Some of them are Chris Trainor, Chip Gauss, Tom Toonder, Wayne Hoppe, Greg Meng, Troy Kennedy, Ken Kusza, Ron Kurzawa and Bob Snyder."

Stevenson finished the 1978 campaign with a 7-2 overall record, losing its last two games to Westland John Glenn (28-0) and Livonia Churchill (32-0).

Stevenson will play Flint Northwestern at home on Sept. 28 to make up for the Pontiac Northern vacancy.

"We took our lumps last year, but a lot of kids played," he said. "We should be about .500 if things pop right for us."

FARMINGTON HIGH had a disappoint-



JACK REARDON

ing season in '78, losing four games in the last two minutes of play. But things are looking up, according to Beardsley.

"We took our lumps last year, but a lot of kids played," he said. "So we have some experience. We should be about

.500 if things pop right for us."

Some key players, all seniors, are quarterback David Schultz, center Greg Lemanski (6-1, 190), tackle Brian Bruce (6-1, 195), ends Greg Finlayson (6-1, 190), Doug Parker (6-2, 195) and halfbacks Bob Bengie and Dave Hall.

Farmington, which does not have lights on its home field, will open at home against non-league Farmington Harrison Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. Farmington will travel to Bay City Central on Oct. 5 to replace the Pontiac Northern game.

Walled Lake Central, which finished 4-5 overall and 3-3 in the league last season, will give "anybody a good game this season," according to head coach Dick Woodworth.

"We're optimistic," he said. "We have some good size and some good speed in the backfield. We think we can give anybody a good game this season."

Central has good size in the line with tackles Art Christensen (6-2, 190) and Glen Czarnik (6-1, 190) and Tim Green (6-0, 210). A pair of experienced ends are Todd Flannery (6-0, 185) and Bob Sievwright (6-0, 180).

The quarterback prospects are senior Curt Burstein and junior Charles Spicer. Junior halfback Charles Ginstar was the team's leading ground gainer last year. Senior B.J. Scott, a guard-linebacker, saw lots of action.

Central opens at non-league Milford High Sept. 8, and then returns home to play North Farmington on Sept. 15.

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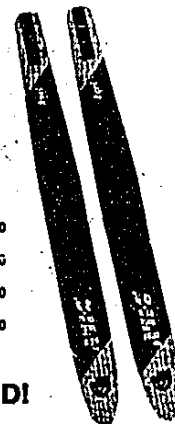
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