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Salem among Sub 8 favorites

By BRAD EMONS

Trenton, Plymouth Salem and Dearborn Edsel Ford appear to be the pre-season' favorites in the Suburban Eight League football title chase.

The league has two new coaches and one less team.

Steve Naumcheff moves over from Redford Union to take over for Pat. O'Donnell at Livonia Bentley. The new coach at Belleville is Mike Colletta, from the University of Illinois.

Allen Park, staggered by a recent millage defeat, will not field a team in the fall. Many schools have had trouble replacing the Jaguars on the schedule. Salem managed to replace Allen Park with Utica Eisenhower but as a result, must play its first five games on the road.

Belleville athletic director Ron Heillerhas not yet found a replacement for Allen Park and looks at the real possibility of an eight-game schedule.

"It's going to be tough playing our first five games on the road, but it's better than not having a game at all," said Salem coach Tom Moshimer.

Trenton edged Salem for the league title last-season. Coach Jack Castignola directed his team into the state Class A semifinals last season with a 10-1 mark.

Salem went 8-1 a year ago with Rich-ard Hewlett, now at Michigan, directing the offense. The Rocks lost their title showdown to Trenton in a-well-played game, 21-16.

"TRENTON LOST a lot of people from last year but had the top junior varsity team in our league and had six sophomores on the varsity," said the Salem coach.

Opposing quarterbacks will have fits against Trenton strongman defensive end Vince DeFelice, a consensus allstater last year as a junior. DeFelice carries his 6-4, 225-pound frame around the football field in a hurry.

Although Salem lost some key players, Moshimer still has experience to work with this season.

Jim Anderson, a 6-2, 200-pound senior is the heir apparent to Hewlett in directing the potent Salem wishbone attack. Anderson was an understudy to Hewlett and played a lot of defensive safety in 1978 for the Rocks.

Another Anderson, Phil, will join the Salem backfield as a fullback along with the speedy Craig Stack. Both players are seniors.

Moshimer lost his ends but returns four interior lineman from a year ago. "A lot of our lineman will go two ways

but we have some experience in a lot of positions," said Moshimer, who has led Salem to two unbeaten seasons in seven years. His career record, including an eight-year stint at Dundee, is 8-58-6.

"I FIGURE we're a contender along with Edsel Ford, who returns a lot of players, and Trenton," Moshimer sald.

Bentley is coming off an 0-9 season but played some tough teams last year. The Bulldogs' opponents had a 43-38 mark last season. Bentley lost by an average score of 28-4.

Naumcheff, who previously served at Bentley as an assistant, has not yet fully evaluated his talent. While at Redford Union, Naumcheff helped develop Panther all-staters Mike Petsch, Tom Piette and Bob Mouch. "Trenton and Salem are consistently

fine teams," said Naumcheff.

Dearborn coach Dick Rvan has a few returnees but the team is a virtual question mark. Beileville finished 1-8 overall last year while going through a coaching. change at mid-season. Dearborn is coming off a 6-3 season.



Tom Moshimer will again be directing Salem from the sidelines this season. (Staff photo)