

# Northwest Sub stays tough

By DOUG FUNKE

The Northwest Suburban League has earned the reputation in recent years of being one of the toughest football conferences in the metropolitan area.

This fall, things should be even more interesting when Redford Union joins the circuit for its first season of grid competition. The Panthers are moving from the formidable Suburban Eight League.

However, RU will have a battle royal against the likes of North Farmington, which last season advanced to the Class A state finals, and Westland John Glenn, which posted an overall record of 8-1.

Livonia Franklin, Redford Thurston and Garden City East won't be pushovers either.

Ron Holland, dean of NSL coaches, will be hard pressed to match the fantastic season his 1978 North Farmington squad put together.

The Raiders chalked up an 11-1 record, losing only to Traverse City in the championship game of the Class A state playoffs.

North shut out four opponents and rolled up 55 points against Farmington High, 53 against Garden City East, 42 against Thurston, 40 against Flint North-ern and 35 against Farmington Harrison.

Mike Miller and Jeff Cohen, North's one-two backfield punch, have graduated, but Greg Goldstein returns at quarterback.

The senior was the third-string signal-caller at the start of last season, but he performed magnificently when injuries thrust him into the lineup.

Other key people on whom Holland will be counting this year are Dan Cohen and Rich Nutter, running backs, George Houttekler, tackle, and Karl Hamina, center. All are seniors.

**WESTLAND JOHN GLENN** lost only once last season, a 9-7 verdict to North. The Rockets were stopped on downs less than a yard away from the Raiders' goal line in the fourth quarter of that contest.

Glenn returns only two offensive starters and none on defense, but coach Chuck Gordon isn't worried. He does not figure this to be a rebuilding year.

"It seems to happen almost every year. We're almost always a senior team," said Gordon. "The seniors have always responded to the challenge. I think this group will do the same."

Tri-captains Ken Liedel, quarterback, John Perryman, lineman, and Gary Black, lineman, will lead the Rockets into battle. Only Black was a regular last year.

Gordon singled out two other players he's counting on this fall. Russ Hall was the starting center and Bill Dye had some experience at tight end.

Glenn faces a difficult schedule, meeting not only all five conference opponents, but also such highly-regarded

teams as Livonia Stevenson and Dearborn Edsel Ford.

**LIVONIA FRANKLIN** suffered through its first ever losing season in 1978. The Patriots struggled to a 3-6 record.

Coach Armand Vigna says his team's big plus this year will be experience. Speed and size are the big question marks, however.

Jon McCarthy returns at quarterback. Herb McManaway should be back at fullback.

Other keys, according to Vigna, are Tim Przysiecki, tight end, Dave Rettig, guard, and Mark Bowen, tackle.

Bowen is 6 feet 3 inches and 225 pounds.

The Patriots will be looking at a murderous schedule. Their first three opponents are Plymouth Salem, 8-1 last year, Livonia Stevenson, 7-2, and Glenn, 8-1.

**THURSTON** experienced an unusual season in 1978. The Eagles lost to all four NSL opponents but defeated all five non-league foes.

Thurston will have a formidable backfield duo in Rich Rudd, a 6-foot-2, 196-pound tailback, and Mark Erickson, 5-10, 200, a fullback.

Both can also play defense — Rudd at safety and Erickson at linebacker.

Shawn Salisbury, an all-Observer choice last year at tight end, returns as does Bob Livingston, a two-way tackle.

Don Riehl, coach of the Eagles, said the biggest question marks this fall are at quarterback and the line.

**GARDEN CITY EAST** defeated Thurston for its only conference win of the 1978 campaign. The Panthers had a 2-7 record.

Coach Gary Humphrey says he hopes seven players will spark the Panthers to victory this season.

They are Brian Belcher, fullback, Dave Berger, split end, Tom Bonner, running back, John LeZotte, flanker, Bill Orr, quarterback, Jeff Sikora, halfback, and Joe Staneck, guard.

Despite losing seasons the last couple of years, Humphrey's career coaching record of 87-35-2 speaks for itself.

Like most of his peers, Humphrey rates North and Glenn as the pre-season co-favorites for the league championship.

**REDFORD UNION** coach Harvey Heitman says he expects 17 of 22 starters from last year's squad to return this fall.

The Panthers sported a 3-4 Suburban Eight ledger last season.

The key players, according to Heitman, are Jim Sopha, a quarterback and safety, Bob Freidman, an all-Sub Eight linebacker and fullback, and Bob Utych, a tailback and monster on defense.

Kirk Marsh, a tight end, and Glenn Roberts, an end and linebacker, are also expected to make big contributions.

## CATCH ALL THE SAVINGS AT

## LEO CALHOUN



## IT's 1979 MODEL CLOSE-OUT TIME

WE MUST MAKE ROOM FOR THE 1980's

**SPECIAL SAVINGS  
ON ALL  
REMAINING 1979's**

**GO WITH  
A WINNER!**

**SCORE HUGE SAVINGS ON  
LTD'S  
THUNDERBIRDS  
FORD TRUCKS**

**ORDER YOUR 1980 FORD OR FORD TRUCK TODAY!**

## LEO CALHOUN

"WHERE CUSTOMERS BRING THEIR FRIENDS"

41001 PLYMOUTH ROAD • PLYMOUTH

453-1100

