

# Another wide-open scramble

By MARTY BUDNER

Football coaches in the Greater Oakland Activities League (GOAL) last year predicted a balanced competition.

That's exactly what they got. Rochester and Bloomfield Hills Andover shared the GOAL title with 4-1 records, and West Bloomfield finished one game back.

The struggle for the 1979 title will be just as competitive. League coaches again believe that no one school will dominate.

"The team that jells first — that's the team which will win the championship," said Rochester's veteran coach Dick Ulrich. "The key will be which team can come together the fastest."

West Bloomfield is expected to field one of the top teams. Last year's co-champions, along with Milford, will also be quality contenders.

The Lakers, coached by Dominic Livedoti, have 14 returning players. Seven of them were regular starters.

One of the team's key players is Chris Mayone, an all-Observer & Eccentric second-team pick last year as a receiver. The 6-foot-2, 175-pound senior will be West Bloomfield's starting quarterback this year. Mayone was starting quarterback as a sophomore.

Two of Mayone's receivers will be seniors Rick Mickley and Bill Rosin. Gary Schroeder, a 5-8, 160 will start in the offensive backfield.

Some of the top defensive players include 210-pound senior tackle Matt Alexander, nose guard Vince Kenwell and secondary man Bob Fascetti.

West Bloomfield beat Andover, Clarkston and Waterford Kettering last year, and lost to Rochester and Milford. West Bloomfield's overall mark was 5-4.

The Lakers must play two important rivals on the road this season on consecutive Friday's — Oct. 12 at Rochester and Oct. 19 at Andover. West Bloomfield's title aspirations could very well hinge on those two games.

**ROCHESTER EARNED** its first league title in six years last fall. The Falcons were a high-scoring, balanced outfit.

However, the Falcons lost superb offensive players like Jim Jagels (quarterback), Tom Dieters (wide receiver) and Terry Weathers (an all-Observer & Eccentric tight end). Ulrich is hoping the experienced seniors and youthful juniors can quickly plug the holes.

"We don't have the super people like we had last year, but we have some very good athletes — probably the best group of athletes that we've ever had here at Rochester," said Ulrich, who career coaching mark last year topped .500 (36-35-1).

"I was very proud of the way our players came back and played their hearts out last year. This year that same spirit and enthusiasm has continued. We've worked very hard to get where we are."

The senior Falcon tri-captains are 216-pound Steve Brown, 6-foot-2 Todd Bandermer and Steve Garlia. The center is Craig Hemingway.

Junior Ron Jenkins will take over at quarterback, and classmate Phil Bolduc, 6-1, 173, will be a primary receiver. The returning defensive linebackers are Jeff

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— Frank Buford, Bloomfield Hills Andover

Ambrose and Dave Orlando, and the returning secondary players include Gene Simmons and Toby Pope.

Rochester finished with an overall 6-3 record last year, losing overtime non-league games to neighboring rivals Auburn Heights Avondale and Troy Athens.

The Falcons will open their league season at home Sept. 21 against Waterford Kettering. They will play Andover at home Oct. 5, and will celebrate their homecoming Oct. 12 against West Bloomfield.

**ANDOVER, LIKE** Rochester, also finished 1978 with a 6-3 mark. The victories pushed Frank Buford's career coaching record to a fine 90-57-4.

The Barons will provide some strong competition again this year in attempting to defend their share of the GOAL crown. Andover's only league loss last year was to West Bloomfield (23-6).

"We won by some big scores, and a lot of kids played a lot of ball last year," said Buford, the dean of GOAL coaches. "We

should be very good — but so will our opponents. If we can get by Catholic Central in our opener, we should have a fine season."

Ed Schneider is the only full-time returning Baron starter. A 6-foot-4 inch, 210-pound senior, Schneider will play tackle on both offense and defense.

The starting Baron quarterback will be Mark Vestevich, a 5-11, 170, senior. Tom Kalahar is expected to double as an offensive fullback and defensive cornerman.

Other key Baron players will be seniors George Henney and Greg Jarzynski.

Andover will open the season at home against Catholic Central in a tough non-league game. The league season begins Sept. 21 at Clarkston, and ends Oct. 19 at home against West Bloomfield.

There is one coaching change in the league this fall.

Walt Wniemko, who previously coached for Bishop Foley of the Catholic League, will be the new man at Clarkston. He succeeds Bill Valasco, who took over last year for Rob White.

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