

Kimball a power but Maples lurk

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Birmingham Seaholm football coach Chuck Skinner would just as soon forget about his squad's last game of the 1978 season when the Maples lost in the closing seconds to city rival Birmingham Groves, 20-17.

Despite the setback, which ended with a controversial Groves' touchdown, giving the Falcons the victory, Seaholm is still anxious to post another impressive season like last year's 7-2 record.

And the Maples' No. 1 goal this season is the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) title.

Seaholm finished in second place last year to league champion Royal Oak Kimball. And it seems this same Kimball squad will be the biggest obstacle in the Maples' quest for the crown.

And one can bet Skinner won't let his squad forget last year's 20-7 defeat to Kimball — the only blemish on the Maples' 4-1 league record.

SOUTHFIELD HIGH is also looking to improve on last year's 3-6 record, but things won't be easy for coach John

Finlayson's squad, as the Blue Jays open the season against undefeated Metro Suburban Association champion Birmingham Groves.

Berkley, Ferndale and Hazel Park look like the also-rans in the SMA race this season, as these three squads will battle in the second division.

SEAHOLM WILL be led by seniors Tom Robinson (fullback), Steve Ross (tackle), Steve Smith (tackle), Mike Weber (quarterback) and Junior Craig Thelike (halfback).

"We have some fine backs, but our line will be inexperienced," Skinner said.

Weber is a 6-foot, 170-pound signal caller. Robinson is 6-1 and 214, while Thelike is 5-9, 170.

The Blue Jays feature five seniors who will lead the way this season. Mitch McCann is one of the top Southfield athletes. He is a 5-11, 175 center. Bob Biggs will double at guard and linebacker.

Pat Charette is another 6-0, 170 quarterback. Vincent Bean and Tom Longroy will team up in the offensive backfield at halfback and fullback, respectively.



Tom Robinson returns as the starting fullback for Birmingham Seaholm. The 6-1, 214-pound seniors gained a lot of yardage last year for coach Chuck Skinner as Seaholm posted a 7-2 record. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

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