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## Cranes solid; DCD rebuilding

By BOB GROSS

If returning players mean anything at all, then Cranbrook should have a shot at the Metro Conference title.

Cranbrook head football coach John Shooshan finds himself in the enviable position of having a solid nucleus of starters returning off a squad that was 6-3 last year.

Shooshan, in his second year at Cranbrook, is counting on Metro Conference veterans Kurt Peterson, a 6-foot-11, 176-pound senior linebacker; Carl Norris, a 6-0, 170 senior running back; Brian Crossman, a 5-10, 160 senior quarterback; Al Scafuri, a 6-2, 235 senior tackle; Adam Perrin, a 6-0, 205 senior center; and Tim Hazen, a 6-2, 175 junior end as the Cranes look to improve on last year's second-place league finish.

"We hope to get by the early games as we mature as a team," said Shooshan. "We will have some skilled people back that will help."

One of the teams Cranbrook will have to get by if the Cranes expect a league championship is last year's Metro Conference titleholder Lutheran North. Last year, Lutheran North shut out Cranbrook 20-0. This year, the Cranes meet North on Oct. 6 in what could be the deciding

game in the Metro Conference.

JOE D'ANGELO, head football coach at Detroit Country Day, tabs both Cranbrook and Lutheran North as the teams to beat in the Metro Conference.

"I'd probably go a little heavier with Cranbrook," said D'Angelo. "They have more players returning than anybody else."

D'Angelo and the Yellow Jackets face a rebuilding year after 5-3 season.

"We lost 15 seniors," said D'Angelo. "For a school our size, that's quite a lot."

Three players returning for Country Day are seniors Dave Colvin, a quarterback; Allen Barr, an end; and Ed Lennon, also an end.

"After those three," said D'Angelo, "they're all fairly inexperienced ball players."

D'Angelo noted that while Country Day had lost most of its starting backfield, the team did retain a passing combination in Colvin, Barr and Lennon.

"We're hoping we can throw a little bit more to offset our running," said D'Angelo.

Country Day's football schedule gets under way Sept. 8 with a home game against non-league foe Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

## Trojans return 15; Tigers improved

Clarenceville and Garden City West will both be out to improve losing conference football records of last year.

Clarenceville, which competes in the Metro West Conference, lost all three of its league games by close scores last autumn. The Trojans, however, won five of six non-conference duels.

Ralph Weddle, entering his 13th coaching season at Clarenceville, will depend on primarily a junior team. Approximately 15 letterwinners from the 1978 squad return.

The juniors include Jim Thompson, who plays fullback and linebacker; Tony Soave, offensive guard and nose guard; Chris Jeffrey, tailback; Mitch Borst, wingback and a good pass receiver; and Bruce Melton, tackle and linebacker at 6 feet 1 inch and 230 pounds.

Tom Bass, who played center last fall, will quarterback the Trojans this season.

Weddle also said he is counting on Pat Toledo, a senior, who plays offensive guard and defensive tackle.

"I thought we did real well (last year) with the sophomores," said Weddle. "Now they're juniors, I'm really optimistic."

GARDEN CITY WEST took quite a few poundings last season, losing five games by 26 or more points.

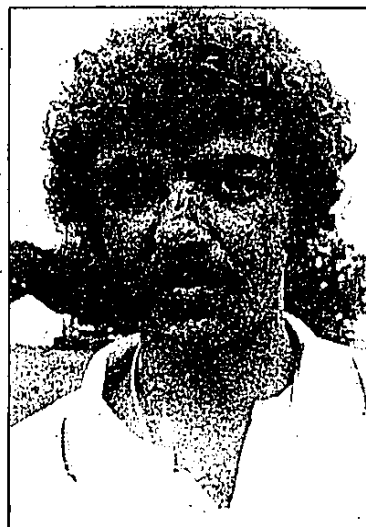
However, coach Mike Copeland's charges did manage to win two of seven Tri-River League games.

The Tigers will have a better chance getting off on the right foot this season by opening against Howell instead of Westland John Glenn, an area power in recent years.

Copeland said he is pinning high hopes on the efforts of eight seniors and a junior. Most are on the small size, averaging 5-10, 175.

The seniors are Mark Clough, Darryl Gregory, Mike White, Tom Miner, Dave Seger, Gary Perrydore, Mark McKenna and George Stamos. Todd Moss is the junior.

Copeland believes Dearborn Heights Crestwood, whom the Tigers defeated last fall, and Melvindale, who routed the Tigers, will be the teams to beat this year in the league race.



MIKE COPELAND