

# Juniors enhance Avondale

By MARTY BUDNER

Avondale and Romeo — last year's respective South and North division champions of the Oakland Athletic League (OAL) — are again the early favorites.

Last year Auburn Heights Avondale climaxed its season with an exciting league championship victory over Sterling Heights Henry Ford II. It was coach Rick Brewer's first OAL crown.

The Yellowjackets will defend that precious title this season. But, in the OAL's last regularly scheduled season (the league is disbanding), there promises to be more competition than ever.

Following is a brief look at each division.

## SOUTH DIVISION

Avondale has won three straight South Division championships, and Brewer believes his team can make it four.

"We have a very similar team to the first year that I was here," said Brewer, whose team utilizes a veer option offense. "We have a good nucleus of seniors, but there are a lot of question marks coming up from the junior varsity. We have a lot of good juniors who will have to fill in at the spots where they are needed."

Avondale's trio of captains include veterans Pete Auger, John Toth and Robbie Johns.

Auger was a center last year, but he will move over to tackle this fall. Toth is a fine two-way player who made the OAL all-star offensive team last year.

Jeff Roberts, who quarterbacked the junior varsity team last year, is expected to lead the 1979 Avondale varsity.

Johns, who was second on the team in touchdowns with four, will be starting his third varsity season. He rushed for 179 yards last year in 30 carries and will play another season at halfback.

Three top Yellowjacket defensemen include Tony "Doctor" Rogowski, Mike French and Chuck White. Senior Ed Travnikar will return to his outside linebacker spot.

Track star Bill Priest will probably be a starter in the Yellowjacket backfield. Brewer, who was named the league's top coach of 1978, also hopes that 6-foot-2, 205-pound transfer student Jeff Lombrowski will fit into the Avondale football program this fall.

Jeff Keller will be Troy High School's new coach.

Keller, a former assistant to John Walker at Troy Athens High School, will take over a team which finished with a 3-6 record in 1978. The Colts beat Berkley, Chippewa Valley and Clawson.

The Colts were primarily a junior team last year, and, with a year's experience, should provide some strong competition this fall.

Troy's entire backfield will return. The foursome will be Bill TenEycke, Tim Kelp, Ron Meyers and Dan Tanoury.

The Colts will have to rebuild on defense where they lost premier all-league tackles Chuck Steltenkamp and Tony Brown.

One of the division's best players this

year should be Madison linebacker Randy Conway, who made first-team defense last year. Dennis Myers, son of coach Jim Myers, will start at quarterback.

Clawson will be a sleeper team, along with perennially tough Madison Heights Lamphere. Linebacker Ed Barnes will be one of Lamphere's top players, and Marty Clary will most likely quarterback Clawson's Trojans.

## NORTH DIVISION

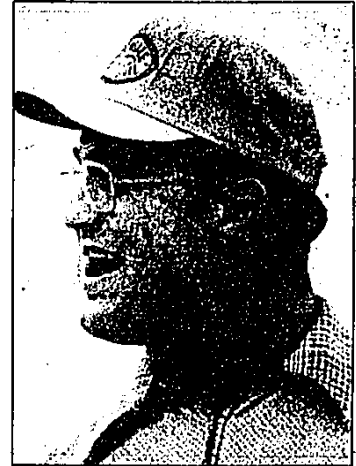
Brewer calls Romeo "The Avondale of the North."

The Bulldogs qualified for the state playoffs last year and finished with an overall 8-2 record. Coach Larry Dunn's squad lost in the first round to eventual state Class A champion Traverse City.

The Bulldogs never did get an opportunity to compete for the overall OAL title. Sterling Heights Henry Ford II beat them — their only regular-season loss — to qualify as the North Division representative against Avondale in the OAL championship game.

"They (Romeo) have a good nucleus of players returning," said Ford coach Gary Rojas. "Their biggest problem will be replacing Craig Stinson (last year's North Division Most Valuable Player) at quarterback."

"We lost Lake Orion this year because of a millage failure, so I think Ford, Romeo, Utica and Eisenhower will be the top teams in the North. But, if I would have to pick a winner right away, I give



the nod to Romeo, with the other three scratching and digging."

All-defensive safety Chris Lindquist will also start somewhere in the Falcon backfield. If junior Daryl Hamel starts at quarterback, Lindquist will be a runner. Otherwise, Lindquist will be the starting signal caller.

Ford has 11 returning lettermen, including all-league defensive end Craig Washinski.

One of Utica's top returning players will be flanker Frank Zagell. Mike Dailey and Kim Johnston will return as key players in the Eisenhower backfield.



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