

# CC's 'monsters' to face football challenge

When you're perched at the top of the mountain, everyone you meet wants to knock you off and take your place.

Detroit Catholic Central had an exceptional 1979 football season. The Shamrocks won all 12 of their games, finished first in the Catholic League Central Division, won the Catholic League A-B title and the state Class A championship.

The acid test will come this fall. CC may not experience quite the success it did last year, but, with its storied tradition, it's unlikely that the Shamrocks will be embarrassed on the athletic field.

This year's team will be big — huge, in fact. "We will be bigger than we've ever been," said Tom Mach, who is entering his fifth season as head football coach at CC. "I don't know what that means. We have big shoes to fill and big guys to fill with."

Three all-state players graduated — Mike Lewis, Pat Mong and Dave Yuzdas. However, seven starters from last year return.

Aaron Roberts, 6-1, 180 pounds, ran

for 1,200 yards from his tailback position last season. Also a trackman, Roberts runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds.

Tim Geran, 5-10, 195, earned all-Catholic recognition last year for his work at linebacker. He will also play fullback this fall.

Now, the monsters. Mike Shaw, 6-3, 210, is a guard on offense and a tackle on defense. John Widmer, 6-4, 210, a defensive end, is also angling for a starting nod at center.

Jim Harding, 6-5, 200, plays tight end and Bill Matthews, 6-2, 190 is a wide receiver — although with CC's run-oriented offense, neither caught many passes last season.

John Herzog, 5-8, 170, is the other regular who is back this season. He plays slotback on offense and in the secondary on defense.

The awesome size does not stop with the returning starters.

Two other players who were with the varsity last year, didn't start, but get the chance this year are Jack Vandenberg, 6-7½, 215, and Scott Niemic, 6-

2½, 205. Both are tackles.

The starting quarterback job is up for grabs between Glenn Sievert, who was back-up to Lewis last year, and Mike Gatt, who played with the JV last season.

An unrelenting running attack and a hard-nosed defense will be the Shamrocks' weapons again this season.

"We've always relied on the run first and I don't see us changing much this year," said Mach. However, Mach added that he believes the team will have the personnel to throw and catch the ball if necessary.

CC will use the slot-T and the pro-I formations on offense and an angle 5-2 approach on defense.

"Our goal, naturally, is to repeat — win the Central Division, the Catholic League and hopefully be in the playoffs," said Mach. "We work very hard to achieve what we've achieved. We want to maintain accomplishment and pride in what we do."

"Tradition has a great deal to do with it," Mach continued. "We remind the kids of all the great players who have come through."

"Now, it's a greater challenge. Last year's team came through. Looking back, you're humbled and happy at the same time. You, your family, the coaches and the kids paid a big price. It can be done. Now, the kids believe in the system and the philosophy," Mach said.



Jeff Gatt strains for extra yardage during an intra-squad scrimmage. (Staff photo by Bill Bresler)

## Daly team wins 3 games

Daly Restaurant, a women's fast-pitch softball team, last weekend won three games before it was eliminated in the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Class B Tournament.

The double-elimination tournament was contested in Charlevoix. Fourteen teams competed.

Daly had finished first in the Livonia Women's Fastpitch League this summer with a 9-1 record. Curiously, Oasis Golf Center, which had placed second to Daly in the Livonia League, won the Class B championship.

"We did just about where we figured," said Daly manager Bob Thompson. "This is the first year we've been in tougher competition."

"The kids played good ball," Thompson continued. "The two teams we couldn't beat, Oasis did. It could have

been an all-Livonia final."

Daly defeated Bay City 5-3 in its first game of the tourney, then was nipped by the Bay City Cubs 2-1.

Facing elimination with its next loss, Daly defeated Petoskey Northern Lights 4-1 and Benton Harbor Great Lakes Construction 4-1 before falling to Petoskey Bachelor Sales 3-1.

**METRO MERCHANTS SOFTBALL.** Metro Merchants, which finished fourth in the Livonia Women's Fastpitch League with an 8-3 ledger, won all the marbles at the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Class C Tournament in Allouez.

Seven teams participated. Metro Merchants advanced through the loser's bracket to claim the title in the double-elimination tournament.

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