

Proud and potent Central survivor a playoff probable

By Brad Emons
staff writer

When it comes to high school football, the Catholic League's Central Division is known as one of the best, if not the best in the state. The Central is the Catholic League's version of the old NFL "Black and Blue" Division; it is hard-hitting and defense-oriented.

Catholic League Central

As the 1988 season approaches, the Central will again be a hotly contested race with the winner

more than likely advancing to the state playoffs.

Last year, two teams from the Central, Redford Catholic Central and Birmingham Brother Rice, made the Class A tournament.

Ironically, the two teams wound up facing each other in the semifinals with CC defeating the Warriors for the second time. Since the Michigan High School

Athletic Association began its football playoffs in 1975, the Central has produced four state champions, three by Rice and the other by CC. The six teams hope to claim the divisional crown this year.

Here is a preview of the league before the season kicks off.

REDFORD CATHOLIC CENTRAL

The Shamrocks were hit hard by graduation, losing three All-State linemen: Tony Heston (Michigan State), Erik Knuth (Michigan) and Pete Dankert (Holy Cross). Also gone is tailback Chris Kneath (Holy Cross), center Kurt Hoss (Eastern Michigan) and linebacker Scott McKee (Wayne State).

The most notable returnees include quarterback Scott Hauncher, who started all 13 games last season; fullback/nose guard Lee Krueger; halfback Chris Johnston; defensive back Steve Szterlag; tight end/defensive end Lou Yeager; and kicker/punter Pete Elezovic.

Several newcomers must come through in the Shamrocks (11-2, 5-9) are to repeat as Catholic League champions.

Hoping to help are tackles Jack Dankert (6 feet 3 inches, 215 pounds) and Ryan Bell (5-3, 225). Dankert is a senior. Bell is a junior.

BIRMINGHAM BROTHER RICE

The Warriors (10-2, 4-1) lost three outstanding players to graduation: tailback Jason Wolf (Southern Methodist), tackle Paul Manning (Michigan) and defensive back Charlie Brennan (Boston College).

Well rushed for 1,372 yards and 21 touchdowns, but junior Steve Morrison (6-2, 210) is waiting in the wings. Also returning are senior tackles Jordan Haller (6-4, 255) and Mark Melis (6-3, 240). The new quarterback is junior Bob Uiter (5-8, 165). Co-captains Dean Moscovici, a state wrestling champion who plays free safety, and linebacker Scott Merchant, lead the defense.

REDFORD BISHOP BORGESS

The Spartans (5-4, 2-3) have plenty of speed and size to compete in the rugged Central.

That depth is a problem for third-year coach Dan Henry — several players will be forced to play both offense and defense. Among the classes are two outstanding tackles, seniors Andre Cade (6-2, 275) and Dorian Marshall (6-1, 250).

Replacing Eric Emanuel (Illinois State) at quarterback is senior Eddie Herbert, who is being converted from wide receiver. Also gone is tailback Corey Ivey (Toledo), but hoping to pick



Scott Hauncher started all 13 games at quarterback for CC in '87, guiding the Shamrocks to the Class A state finals.

WARREN DeSALLE

Coach Ray Barr is optimistic about the Pilots' chances in 1988 as 12 starters return from a team that went 5-4 overall and 2-3 in the Central.

Quarterback Mike Krasicki returns, but he may be moved to tailback in favor of Jason Ahee, a standout defensive back.

One of the team's most versatile players is wide receiver/defensive back Larry Lavigne. The 6-4 senior is also the kicker and punter.

Defensively, DeSalle has an outstanding line in Rob Dameron (6-2, 205).

Meanwhile, Barr is hoping to shore up the interior line with a pair of juniors, 6-7, 270-pound Mark Green, who lettered as a sophomore, and 6-3, 235-pound Mark Thomas.

"We expect to be there," Barr said.

"If there's any sleeper, it's Borgessa."

HARPER WDS. NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame coach Bob LaPointe,

now in his fifth season, will use triple-option led by three-year starter quarterback Jeff Dixon.

"He's a fine athlete," LaPointe said. "He's a good runner and an adequate passer when we need him."

Two experienced backs also return in junior Deshaun Reynolds, who started as a sophomore, and senior Sean Lowers.

Defensively, the Fighting Irish will have two quick senior linebackers in Jim Bailey (5-11, 205) and Kevin Miodanski (5-11, 190).

"They can really twist and go," LaPointe said. "They'll create some problems."

ND is trying to improve on last year's 4-5 overall record and 1-4 mark in the Central.

"It's going to be an balanced league," LaPointe said. "Nobody will go undefeated. I think Rice is the team to beat, but everybody has a shot."

H.W. BISHOP GALLAGHER

Veteran coach George Sabadi is hoping the Lancers can improve in the Central after posting a record overall record of 4-5. Gallagher was one of five Central games.

The Lancers have several players returning with good speed at the skill positions.



Borgessa coach Dan Henry enters his third season at the helm with a team possessing both

size and speed enough to challenge for the division title.

photos by STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Football schedules

| HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES | | Oct. 22 | at N. Branch Wesleyan | 1 | Sept. 30 | Liv. Stevenson | 7:30 | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | | Oct. 29 | Del. Lutheran West | 1 | Oct. 7 | at Pky. Salem | 7:30 | |
| | | | | | Oct. 14 | N. Farmington | 7:30 | |
| | | | | | Oct. 22 | at WLLAA crossover | TBA | |
| | | | | | Oct. 28 | Wayne Memorial | 7:30 | |
| REDFORD BISHOP BORGESS Spartans | | | | | | | | |
| Coach: Dan Henry | | | | Coach: Ralph Waddie | | | | |
| Home Field: Garden City Jr. High | | | | | | | | |
| Sept. 2 | *O.L. St. Mary's | 3 | Sept. 2 | Red. St. Mary | 7:30 | GARDEN CITY Cougars | | |
| Sept. 9 | at Redford Union | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Lutheran East | 7:30 | Coach: Bob Elmsinger | | |
| Sept. 17 | **at Dbn. Divine Child | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | at Harper Woods | 4 | | | |
| Sept. 24 | Redford CC | 7:30 | Sept. 24 | at Lutheran North | 7:30 | Sept. 2 | at Wayne Memorial | |
| Sept. 31 | at H.W. Park Pioneer | 1 | Sept. 30 | Lutheran East | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Ypsilanti | |
| Oct. 8 | **at Bish. Gallagher | 7:30 | Oct. 7 | B.H. Cranbrook | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | Inkster | |
| Oct. 15 | Warren DeLaSalle | 7:30 | Oct. 14 | at Hamtramck | 4 | Sept. 23 | at Woodhaven | |
| Oct. 22 | **at Brother Rice | 7:30 | Oct. 21 | at Avondale | 7:30 | Sept. 30 | Edsel Ford | |
| Oct. 29 | Catholic League final | TBA | Oct. 28 | Redford Thurston | 7:30 | Oct. 7 | at Redford Union | |
| | | | | Oct. 15 | | | | at Dearborn |
| | | | | Oct. 21 | | | | Bay City Glen |
| | | | | Oct. 28 | | | | Liv. Franklin |
| *at Pontiac Silverdome | | | | | | | | 7:30 |
| *at Dearborn Hs. Criswood | | | | | | | | |
| ***at East Detroit | | | | | | | | |
| ***at Birmingham Seaholm | | | | | | | | |
| REDFORD CATHOLIC LEO'S Shamrocks | | | | | | | | |
| Coach: Tom Mach | | | | Coach: Jim Gibbons | | | | |
| Home Field: Liv. Clarencville | | | | Home Field: Hilbert Jr. High | | | | |
| Sept. 3 | *Torando CC | 5:30 | Sept. 3 | at Sterling Heights | 7:30 | | | |
| Sept. 10 | **Lafayette Eastern | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | at W.L. Central | 7:30 | | | |
| Sept. 17 | Ann Arbor Pioneer | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | Pky. Canton | 7:30 | Sept. 2 | at Liv. Stevenson | |
| Sept. 24 | at Bish. Gallagher | 7:30 | Sept. 23 | at Northville | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Bishop Borgess | |
| Sept. 31 | Bish. Gallagher | 7:30 | Oct. 7 | at W.L. Western | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | Dearborn | |
| Oct. 8 | **at Bish. Gallagher | 7:30 | Oct. 14 | Farm. Harrison | 7:30 | Sept. 23 | at Edsel Ford | |
| Oct. 15 | Notre Dame | 1:30 | Oct. 21 | WLLAA crossover | 7:30 | Oct. 7 | at Jackson Park West | |
| Oct. 22 | Warren DeLaSalle | 7:30 | Oct. 28 | at Liv. Stevenson | 7:30 | Oct. 14 | Garden City | |
| Oct. 29 | Catholic League final | TBA | | | | Oct. 21 | at Woodhaven | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 28 | Waterford Mott | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30 | |
| LIVONIA FRANKLIN Panthers | | | | | | | | |
| Coach: Armand Vigna | | | | Coach: Bob Snell | | | | |
| Sept. 3 | Lansing Sexton | 1 | Sept. 3 | Lansing Sexton | 1 | REDFORD THURSTON Eagles | | |
| Sept. 9 | at Liv. Stevenson | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | at Liv. Stevenson | 7:30 | Coach: Bob Snell | | |
| Sept. 16 | at W.L. Western | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | at W.L. Western | 7:30 | Sept. 3 | Dearborn | |
| Sept. 24 | Farm. Harrison | 7:30 | Sept. 24 | Farm. Harrison | 7:30 | Sept. 10 | Ann Arbor | |
| Sept. 30 | at Liv. Churchill | 7:30 | Sept. 30 | at Liv. Churchill | 7:30 | Sept. 17 | at Taylor Truman | |
| Oct. 8 | Northville | 7:30 | Oct. 8 | Northville | 7:30 | Sept. 23 | at Dearborn | |
| Oct. 14 | at Pky. Canton | 7:30 | Oct. 14 | at Pky. Canton | 7:30 | Oct. 1 | Allen Park | |
| Oct. 22 | WLLAA crossover | 1 | Oct. 22 | WLLAA crossover | 1 | Oct. 7 | at D.H. Kresnowy | |
| Oct. 28 | at Garden City | 7:30 | Oct. 28 | at Garden City | 7:30 | Oct. 14 | at Jackson Park West | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 22 | Taylor Center | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 28 | at Clarencville | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30 | |
| LIVONIA STEVENSON Spartans | | | | | | | | |
| Coach: Jack Reardon | | | | Coach: Chuck Howton | | | | |
| Sept. 2 | Redford Union | 7:30 | Sept. 2 | Redford Union | 7:30 | Sept. 2 | Garden City | |
| Sept. 9 | Liv. Franklin | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Liv. Franklin | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Monroe | |
| Sept. 16 | at Pky. Salem | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | at Pky. Salem | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | at Southgate | |
| Sept. 23 | N. Farmington | 7:30 | Sept. 23 | N. Farmington | 7:30 | Sept. 23 | at Lincoln Park | |
| Sept. 30 | at Wald. John Glenn | 7:30 | Sept. 30 | at Wald. John Glenn | 7:30 | Sept. 30 | Dear. Fordson | |
| Oct. 7 | Farmington | 7:30 | Oct. 7 | Farmington | 7:30 | Oct. 7 | at Belleville | |
| Oct. 14 | at W.L. Central | 7:30 | Oct. 14 | at W.L. Central | 7:30 | Oct. 14 | at Trenton | |
| Oct. 21 | at WLLAA crossover | TBA | Oct. 21 | at WLLAA crossover | TBA | Oct. 21 | at Wyandotte | |
| Oct. 28 | Liv. Churchill | 7:30 | Oct. 28 | Liv. Churchill | 7:30 | Oct. 28 | at John Glenn | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30 | |
| WESTLAND JOHN GLENN Rockets | | | | | | | | |
| Coach: Chuck Gordon | | | | Coach: Bob Khosline | | | | |
| Sept. 2 | at Highland Park | 3 | Sept. 2 | at Highland Park | 3 | Sept. 2 | Garden City | |
| Sept. 9 | Pky. Canton | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Pky. Canton | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Monroe | |
| Sept. 16 | at W.L. Central | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | at W.L. Central | 7:30 | Sept. 16 | at Southgate | |
| Sept. 24 | at Farmington | 7:30 | Sept. 24 | at Farmington | 7:30 | Sept. 23 | at Lincoln Park | |
| | | | | | | Sept. 30 | Dear. Fordson | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 7 | at Belleville | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 14 | at Trenton | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 21 | at Wyandotte | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 28 | at John Glenn | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30 | |
| PLYMOUTH CANTON Chiefs | | | | | | | | |
| Coach: Bob Khosline | | | | Coach: Bob Khosline | | | | |
| Sept. 2 | Monroe | 7:30 | Sept. 2 | Monroe | 7:30 | Sept. 2 | Garden City | |
| Sept. 9 | at John Glenn | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | at John Glenn | 7:30 | Sept. 9 | Monroe | |
| | | | | | | Sept. 16 | at Southgate | |
| | | | | | | Sept. 23 | at Lincoln Park | |
| | | | | | | Sept. 30 | Dear. Fordson | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 7 | at Belleville | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 14 | at Trenton | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 21 | at Wyandotte | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 28 | at John Glenn | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30 | |
| LUTHERAN WESTLAND Warriors | | | | | | | | |
| Coach: Dennis Tuomi | | | | Coach: Dennis Tuomi | | | | |
| Sept. 3 | M.C. Holy Cross | 1 | Sept. 3 | M.C. Holy Cross | 1 | Sept. 3 | Garden City | |
| Sept. 10 | Pack | 7:30 | Sept. 10 | Pack | 7:30 | Sept. 10 | Monroe | |
| Sept. 17 | at Luth. N. West | 1 | Sept. 17 | at Luth. N. West | 1 | Sept. 17 | at Southgate | |
| Sept. 23 | at G.P. Univ.-Liggett | 4:15 | Sept. 23 | at G.P. Univ.-Liggett | 4:15 | Sept. 23 | at Lincoln Park | |
| Sept. 31 | Vestaburg | 1 | Sept. 31 | Vestaburg | 1 | Sept. 31 | Dear. Fordson | |
| Oct. 8 | at Del. St. Hedwig | 7:30 | Oct. 8 | at Del. St. Hedwig | 7:30 | Oct. 8 | at Belleville | |
| Oct. 15 | PEN | TBA | Oct. 15 | PEN | TBA | Oct. 15 | at Trenton | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 22 | at Wyandotte | |
| | | | | | | Oct. 29 | at John Glenn | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30 | |