



Ryan Adams takes part in a ball-carrying drill during a Farmington football practice last week. He will play fullback and defensive end.

## Falcons accept gridiron challenge

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Senior Dave Munge (5-11, 185) returns at split end, and either Jay Jensen (6-4, 224) or senior Victor Palushaj (6-1, 195) will be the tight end. Jensen will be a key defensive player, too.

Call expects the offensive line will be much better, too. In addition to Siskosky and Cavagnoli, Farmington will have senior Brian Parrish (5-11, 189) at center, senior Jason Holliday (5-10, 192) at guard and a junior, either Simon Vula (6-3, 234) or Scott Holliday (5-8, 185), at the other tackle.

"WE'RE GOING to score some points," Call said. "There won't be

any of these one-touchdown deals this year. We should be able to put two, three TDs on the board and, if we play good defense, we're going to be in ballgames."

Call has hired a new defensive coordinator, John Bechtel, who previously coached at Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

The Falcons should be sound at the middle linebacks with the Siskosky brothers, Matt and Junior Jon (6-1, 170), playing there.

"They're strong, they're quick and they're smart," Call said.

The secondary is an area of strength—too, Greeley—and Matt April are the cornerbacks, Lavery and Link the safeties.

"We have good speed and good

size back there," Call said. "Teams will have trouble throwing against us."

The noseguard will be senior Brandon Cagnon (5-5, 176), and Adams, a returning starter, and Cavagnoli are the ends. The tackles are Jensen, Scott Holliday and Palushaj.

"Defensive line is the question mark," Call said. "If we can stop the run, we'll be in good shape, because I know we'll be tough in the secondary. If we can play good defense, we're going to have a good year."

Mike Giese, a member of the soccer team, will do the kicking, and either Link or Adams can do the punting.

## Cross country coaches optimistic

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one of the top teams," Barrett said. "Because the Western Lakes is one of the most competitive conferences around, which is good because it raises the level of performance."

### NORTH FARMINGTON

North coach Bill Pinnell Jr. hopes his team's new ingredients will be the right recipe for a top finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet.

Pinnell is mixing several experienced runners, a couple two-sport performers, several track runners and a transfer, hoping the end result will be the most improved team in the league.

The Raiders, 1-4 in the Lakes Division of the WLA and 4-3 overall, finished eighth in the league meet.

"We will be much improved this season, and I believe we could be one of the top three or four teams in the league," Pinnell said. "We are expecting big things from this year's team."

North's only loss was Tracy Mitchell, who qualified for the state meet. Still, Pinnell says this is the best group of runners he's had in his six years as coach.

Senior co-captains Jenny Weh and Carolyn Atto return. Weh, who is a state qualifier in the half-mile, saw her first cross country action last season, and Atto was the team's No. 3 runner last year.

Sophomore Alicia Crowland is improved over her freshman season, according to Pinnell, and may be the team's top runner. Juniors Leah Berrenholz and Lisa Biederman also return.

Junior Emily Shively may be the key reason for Pinnell's optimism. She finished fifth in the state in the two-mile run last spring but has spent the past two fall seasons on the swim team. She will play both sports this year.

Another two-sport performer is sophomore Keegan Keefover, a transfer from Nebraska. Keefover is starting on the varsity basketball team.

"There are some conflicting dates for both of them, but because cross country meets are held at 4 p.m., they will both be able to play their other sports that start later in the day," Pinnell said.

Senior Lisa Wantuck, who has spent the past three years playing basketball, will help the cross country program quite a bit, according to Pinnell, who added junior Erin Jensen will also help. Jensen was a band member but after running track decided to run cross country as well.

Senior Rachel White and sophomore Amy Roberts, two more newcomers from the track team, will help the Raiders' chances of capturing their first WLA title. Freshman Elaine Wolff may see some time as the season progresses.

"We have a strong pack and a good group that has put in a lot of miles over the summer and that will pay off," Pinnell said.

North opens its season Saturday at the West Bloomfield Invitational and will run in the city meet Wednesday, Sept. 11.

FARM. HARRISON

Harrison canceled its girls cross country program two years ago and the future looked dim.

Former North Farmington football assistant coach Mark Babcock took charge of the program last year, and the team, with only seven runners, finished 0-3 in the WLA and 3-8 overall. Furthermore, Harrison's top runner, state qualifier Alyssa Inamati, graduated.

But the skies cleared when Babcock came to practice this year to find 18 interested runners.

"We have more runners this year than in the past three years combined," he said.

Returning from last season are seniors Heather Conley and Julie Ritter, who began her fourth season on the team.

Also returning are juniors Jessica Johnson, Kim Burkhardt and Jana Piskalyn. Johnson and Burkhardt finished last season running strong, according to Babcock. Piskalyn missed most of last season due to an injury.

Four newcomers have Babcock believing the program is headed in the right direction. Junior Becky Sharpe joins sophomores Jessica Piel, Jennifer Rande and Melanie Rankola.

Harrison opens its season with a tri-meet against Birmingham Seaborn and Waterford Kettering on Thursday before running Saturday in the West Bloomfield Invitational.

# Redford CC still power in state football circles

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Whereas some coaches must walk the hallways of their high schools in desperate search of football talent, Redford Catholic Central coach Tom Mach almost had to do the unthinkable last month.

Cut some players.

"We were thinking of cutting some because we thought we didn't have enough uniforms, but we didn't have to," said Mach. "So we can still say we've never had to cut players."

Football always has been popular at CC, but perhaps never as much as this season, one year after the Shamrocks won the Class AA state championship. Mach said about 140-150 players usually come out for CC's freshmen, junior varsity and varsity teams, but the varsity roster is especially large this year with 58 players.

Twenty seniors who played on last year's state champion return, joined by 35 juniors.

"We usually have 45 to 50 players on the varsity, but we had a big sophomore class last year and that's the element right there," Mach said. "I think the interest in the program has been pretty steady all these years, but the last four seasons we've been very productive and the interest is higher. Winning the state championship left us on a good note."

CC WAS CLASS "A" runnerup in 1987 and '88 before finally taking the Class AA crown a year ago with a 21-0 win over Detroit Martin Luther King at the Silverdome. The Shamrocks finished 11-1 overall, winning their last eight games, including four in the playoffs by a combined score of 94-23.

Several big-play skilled players graduated off a team that outscored its opponents, 256-77, last season, but defending the AA championship isn't out of the question. Replacing speed and size at a quarterback among three candidates are the biggest worries Mach has had in the preseason.

"We had probably the fastest team we've had in quite awhile last year — Brian Chaney, Aaron Stewart, Mike Thomas and Jack Davidson — all four were speedsters," Mach said. "You always miss certain aspects of

every team, but this year's team has picked up on last year's temperament and the way we worked at the end of the season. These kids haven't lost a beat and haven't got big heads. They've been a pleasure to coach so far."

CC will employ a whole new offensive backfield, but much of the Shamrocks' optimism begins in the trenches, where the offensive line averages 233 pounds per player. Returning starters include senior guard Dan Crete (6-foot-1, 240), senior tackle Brian Brewer (6-3, 245) and senior center Steve Leiger (6-0, 225). First-time starters are junior tackle Aaron Babler (6-0, 240) and senior tight end David Brubowski (5-8, 220). Brubowski was a reserve tackle last year as a junior.

"There's overall size and strength there and they are all mobile," CC line coach Dan Fortune said. "We'll be able to do a lot of things this year that we couldn't do last year, like trapping. Plus we have Brubowski at tight end, which is like having a third tackle because of his blocking ability."

THE SHAMROCKS aren't so fortunate at quarterback with the graduation of Jason Carr, who completed 47.7 percent of his passes (59-132) for 764 yards and six touchdowns. As of Thursday Mach was undecided who might start, with juniors Chris Barbara and John Priestap and seniors Matt Pinard still vying for the position.

Barbara (5-11, 215) quarterbacked the JV last year and is a "good man in charge of the huddle," Mach said. Priestap, a transfer from Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard is a "good athlete, has good football sense but this is his first year in the program and is still picking up things we did," Mach said. "What he needs is more reps (repetition)."

Pinard is the only one with varsity experience, having spent last year as Carr's backup. "Matt took a lot of snaps last year, has good knowledge of the game and has a good arm," Mach said. "He showed real good signs in the four-way scrimmage."

Stewart and Thomas combined for 1,140 yards rushing a year ago at the tailback position and this year the job belongs to senior Jeff Tibaldi (5-9, 180). Tibaldi, who gained most of his 90 yards a year ago in a win over Lansing Sexton, will be backed up by

senior Brett Walter and junior John Raasch (5-8, 180).

Jon Barbara, who gained 732 yards and was the heart and soul of last year's team, will be missed at fullback. Senior Dan Gusoff (6-4, 230) gets the call this year and has been called a "Bronco Nagurski type" back by Mach.

"HE'S GOT good speed for a fullback, reads holes well and gets that extra yard," Mach said.

CC doesn't throw much but Mach believes the Shamrocks can't go wrong throwing in Frank Voskam's direction. Last year, Voskam caught six passes for 103 yards and Mach calls him one of the top high school threats in the area, as a receiver and kick returner.

Senior Mario Vassallo (5-9, 170) also returns for his senior year after catching 14 passes for 144 yards.

The Shamrocks appear strong on defense (what's new?), especially in the secondary where three of four starters return for defensive coordinator Rick Coratti. Back for their senior years in the secondary are cornerbacks Matt Roney (5-11, 180) and Walter (5-10, 180), and safety Voskam (5-10, 175). Another senior, John Ivesic (6-0, 160), will play the monster back.

Roney bench presses 275 pounds and tied for the lead last year in interceptions with three.

All our better defensive teams have had good secondaries," Coratti said. "If you don't have a good secondary, you're hurting."

The leader on defense will be senior nose guard Dan Kelly (6-0, 180), who is expected to improve on his 36 tackle total of a year ago. "He can be as good as any nose guard we've had," Coratti said.

The defensive tackle positions will be manned by junior Joe Suhajda (6-2, 215), Brewer and Gusoff, while the ends are juniors Joe Lopez (6-0, 190) and Jason Krueger (5-11, 180).

CC lost linebacker Karl Kowalyk, the team's leading tackler, to graduation, but starter Gary Siegal (6-1, 205) returns after recording 61 tackles last season. The other inside linebacker is Joe Herman (5-11, 190), a junior.

Senior placekicker/punter Kerry Zavagnin is one of the best in the state. Zavagnin, who averaged 35.3 yards a punt, kicked four field goals and had 17 extra point conversions.

## If you can read, you won't want to read this.

We know of no one who would want to know the startling truth about illiteracy and our young people.

That's right, *young* people between the ages of 20 and 25 who are what the experts call "functionally illiterate." "Literacy: Profiles of America's Young Adults," a study done by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) revealed that of the people in this age group:

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If you've given it much thought, you undoubtedly believed, as most people do, that older folks are the ones with the illiteracy problem and that—take heart—society is becoming more literate as time and education marches on. Not so. The literacy problems among young adults are especially serious.

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