

# Raiders from page 1C

given an administrative transfer to North after leaving Children's Village.

Whitt runs the 40-yard dash in 4.43 seconds and will play on the kick return team. He's also a good pass receiver, and O'Leary plans to use him in that capacity, too.

Senior Jeff Kong (5-9, 185) was going to be the tailback, especially after rushing for 143 yards and two TDs in the season finale against South Lyon, but will start at fullback with junior John Lessway (6-2, 210) in reserve. Kong had 352 yards and five TDs last year.

Senior Ben Sommers (5-9, 170) is the swingback and "an awful good running back, too," O'Leary said. "The backfield is the strength of our offense."

"We have a little power inside with the fullback and speed outside with the tailback. With Russell at quarterback, we have the added advantage of a back who can run."

Junior Richard Beal (6-1, 175) is a three-year starter in the defensive secondary and will play wide receiver again. He has a 4.4 dash time and had 10 catches for 182 yards and one TD. Sommers also is an excellent receiver, O'Leary said.

The tight end is senior Jason Pawlowski (6-3, 210), who caught only two passes last year while playing behind All-Observer player Scott Lord but is a "helluva blocker" and has "his speed down to 4.8." Junior Tim Dolan (6-2, 180) can play there, also.

"We're going to feature the run game, but we have the capability of doing either and last year we didn't," O'Leary said. "All we could do was throw it. I think we're going to be tougher to de-

feed this year."

Senior center Jeff Light (5-8, 165) is the only returning starter on the line. The guards will be junior Pat Muir (5-8, 190) and senior Jeff McCaffrey (6-11, 183). The tackle prospects include senior Mitch Trager (5-9, 190), junior Steve Acton (5-11, 210) and junior Steve Beaver (5-10, 205).

"We're very inexperienced and not very big, so we're going to have to do a lot of combination blocking," O'Leary said. "We're just not going to knock people off the line of scrimmage."

"We'll try and run outside so all the linemen have to do is get a piece of people. Linemen love a back like Nigel, because all they have to do is create a little crease and he's gone."

O'Leary said the offense is ahead of the defense at this time as the Raiders try to mold a unit and find the right combinations.

North is sound in the secondary any where Beal and sophomore inside halfback and Ben Sommers (four interceptions) at free safety.

Senior Mark Lee (5-11, 185) will play shortside halfback and is the backup quarterback, and junior Eric Jones (5-10, 155) is also in the monsterback. Sommers also will do the kicking and Lee the punting.

"We're definitely better than average in the secondary," O'Leary said.

Kong (inside) and Pawlowski (outside) are returning starters and outstanding linebacksers, O'Leary said. Kong had 50 tackles and Pawlowski 31 with two for losses, three sacks and five pass deflections.

Lessway goes from monster to inside line backer, and sophomore Harry Banks (6-2, 170) is the



Practice run: John Lessway takes a turn carrying the ball in practice. He will start on defense for North.

other outside backer. Light will double as the noseguard. Acton, McCaffrey and senior Matt Rainoldi (6-0, 180) will rotate at tackle.

"Size is our biggest problem,"

O'Leary said. "We have to do a lot of angling with the defense. That's why the secondary is so important. We have to do some stunting and blitzing, so we can play some man-to-man coverage."

# Clarenceville gridders seek effective offense

By BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

The cart is definitely ahead of the horse as far as Livonia Clarenceville football team is concerned these days.

First-year coach Chuck Donaldson likes what he's seen on defense so far during the preseason, but is uncertain where his offense stands.

The Trojans, who hope to improve on last year's 4-6 overall record, could be stingy on the defensive end.

But Donaldson is looking to improve on the other side of the ball heading into Friday's season opener at home against Redford St. Agatha.

"During our scrimmages we moved the football, but once we got down to the goal line, we didn't stuff it in," Donaldson said. "Playing against St. Agatha, we expect a real hard-fought ballgame."

"Our intensity and offensive execution has got to pick up between now and Friday."

Donaldson learned more about his team after a four-way scrimmage last Thursday against Grosse Ile, Woodhaven and Hamtramck.

He has settled on 5-foot-10, 150-pound senior Jon Pauley as his starting quarterback. Freshman Craig Rose (6-0, 150) will likely be the backup.

"We look for Jon to step up and be a leader like any quarterback should do," Donaldson said. "We feel he can run and make plays on his own if he has to. But we also need great execution from all of our backs."

Seniors Steve Parks (5-10, 150), Martino Semen (5-11, 160) and Steve Spix (5-8, 170) will get plenty of time in the backfield along with junior Bryan DeCaire (5-5, 140).

Parks and Semen are breakaway threats, according to Donaldson. Spix, meanwhile, is entering his third varsity season.

The Trojans' biggest loss to graduation was split end Mark Kalaj, who recently played in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star game.

Kalaj's replacement is junior

## PREVIEW

John Rose (6-3, 170). The tight end is junior Scott Barnhard (6-0, 165).

"We want to be a ball control team with good fakes and great execution," Donaldson said. "And our passing attack could be good with a 6-foot-3 receiver (Rose). He will develop into good receiver. He may not have the athletic ability of Kalaj, but he has the great work ethic."

Three senior starters return on the offensive line including tackle Jesse Lynn (6-3, 180), guard Kyle McCoskey (6-11, 190) and center Ray Kasil (6-1, 190).

Senior Vince Villanueva (6-0, 200), who started on defense as a sophomore before moving to California during his junior year, is back in town and will start at guard. The other tackle spot belongs to junior Jim Valmont (6-1, 181).

Defensively, Donaldson will employ a 5-2 scheme.

The heart-and-soul of the defense is led by Kasil and Lynn, both holdovers at linebacker.

Spix will play nose guard, while McCoskey will play middle of the tackle. Junior Juan Puentes (6-7, 145) and Villanueva will play the ends.

The secondary consists of Parks and DeCaire at the corners; Pauley or Semen at strong safety; and John Rose at free safety.

"Our defense could be real tough because they're experienced and they're very aggressive," Donaldson said. "And we have a heck of a defensive coach in Mike Nettie (former All-Mid-American Conference tackle who played at Central Michigan University)."

The kicking game, meanwhile, falls on the legs of Semen (place-kicking/punts) or junior Tom Kalaj (6-0, 175).

"We want to play real good competitive football," Donaldson said. "We want more wins than losses. The coaches in our league (Metro Conference) would probably pick us somewhere in the middle. Canton (Bloomfield Hills) and Lutheran North (Macomb) will both be tough."

# Warriors don't have to worry about QB

By MIKE ROSENBAUM  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham Brother Rice coach Al Fracassa believes in keeping a positive outlook.

While he won't make overly optimistic predictions, he definitely tends to see the glass as half full instead of half empty.

Fracassa lost all but a handful of starters from a 7-3 team that earned a Class A playoff berth.

"We have an inexperienced team," he said, adding "I'm glad we have four or five kids who have experience. And I hope the other kids catch on."

Fracassa does have one very im-

## FOOTBALL

portant reason for optimism — senior quarterback Derek Canine (6-1, 205). He completed 74 of 123 passes for 759 yards and seven touchdowns last season.

Canine also has some talented receivers to throw to, including a pair of returning lettermen — senior Unwana Uhom (6-3, 193) and junior David Sofran (5-10, 160).

Rice is traditionally a run-oriented team, but personnel might dictate that Fracassa open up this season.

"I'd like to throw the ball a little bit more because of some good receivers that we have," he said.

"They're coming along real well. We always have to run the ball. That's something that makes your passing game go, too."

To that end, Fracassa's most difficult task in the preseason is replacing star running back Marcus Harvey, the top contender for the job as junior Mike Ely (5-10, 180), a returning letterman, and sophomore Brian Marshall (5-11, 185), who played on the freshman team.

Anchoring the offensive line is a returning starter, senior center Sean Regan (6-2, 270).

On the other side of the ball, Rice's lone returning starter is senior linebacker Walter Jenkins (6-3, 220). Two other players with experience are senior outside linebacker Ryan Lawler (5-11, 190) and senior cornerback Andre Caszno (6-2, 175).

Two more returning lettermen who will see action are senior cornerback Mark Bouchard (5-11, 175) and senior defensive lineman Anthony Vitiglio (5-8, 160).

As usual, Fracassa will employ multiple offensive and defensive formations. The type will depend on how the younger Warriors develop in the final week of preseason practice.

Rice might be a bit small defensively, which means the Warriors will feature an active and aggressive defense.

"If the kid is small, like Vitiglio," Fracassa said, "we have to encourage him to penetrate into the offense so he can disrupt the play. He can't just sit back and wait; he has to be able to pressure the offense by penetration."

Rice opens its schedule Saturday against defending Class A champ Farmington Harrison at the Silverdome.

Harrison defeated the Warriors 32-0 in the '91 season opener in the Dome, but Rice defeated the Hawks 35-0 a year ago in the last regular season game.

Fracassa is approaching the encounter philosophically.

"In our tradition at Brother Rice, we play the best teams we can find and see if we can hang in there with them. Hopefully, we will," he said.

Fracassa is particularly optimistic about the character of his team.

"We have wonderful kids. They're hard working; they're dedicated."

Although Fracassa rated the Warriors' talent level as "average," he added: "By the time the season is in full swing, hopefully they'll become better because of their dedication and commitment."

"Great teams are made of ordinary kids who have the greatest amounts of determination. I hope that is the character this team has. I believe it does."

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**PREP FOOTBALL**  
Friday, Sept. 2  
Liv. Churchill at Dearborn, 4 p.m.  
Farmington at Waterford West, 7 p.m.  
Liv. Franklin at St. Edwards, 7:30 p.m.  
Redford Lions at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.  
Westland Green at Howell, 7:30 p.m.  
Adrian at Wayne Memorial, 7:30 p.m.  
Liv. Stevenson at St. Edwards, 7 p.m.  
Py. Salem at Belleville, 7:30 p.m.  
Canton City at D.H. Chestnut, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Agatha at Clarenceville, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 3  
W. Bloomfield at Liv. Farmington, 1 p.m.  
Country Day at Red. Thurston, 1 p.m.  
St. Alphonsus at Liv. Westland, 1 p.m.  
Bishop Borgosa at Tiffin Charter, 1 p.m.  
Clio at Dearborn, 1 p.m.  
Redford CC vs. Liv. Farmington, 4 p.m.  
F.H. Harrison vs. Liv. Dearborn, 7 p.m.

Orin. Seaborn at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.  
W.L. Central at F.H. Meyer, 7 p.m.  
Farmington vs. Warren Livestock at Troy Adams, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 1  
R.O. Shrine at Dearborn, 6:30 & 7 p.m.  
Don. Fordson at Liv. Ladywood, 7 p.m.  
Southfield at Liv. Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Liv. Stevenson at St. Edwards, 7 p.m.  
Westland Green at Troy High, 7 p.m.  
Brent. Marston at Py. Canton, 7 p.m.  
F.H. Harrison at West. Kearsarge, 7 p.m.  
Huron Valley at A.P. Inter City, 7 p.m.  
Farmington at Troy Adams, 7:30 p.m.  
Py. Christian at Whitnore Lake, TBA.

**BOYS SOCCER**  
Redford CC vs. Dearborn High at Redford's Bell Creek Park, 4 p.m.  
Redford at Redford Lions, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 30  
Liv. Westland at Fair. Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
Py. Christian vs. St. Ed. Christian at Hines Park (Haggerty Field), 4:30 p.m.  
Liv. Churchill at Nov. 6 p.m.  
Liv. High noon at St. Edwards, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 31  
Garden City at Don. Fordson, 4 p.m.  
Taylor Charter at Redford Union, 4 p.m.  
Red. Thurston at Taylor Charter, 4 p.m.  
Redford CC at Northville, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 1  
Warren Prep. at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
Py. Christian vs. Oakland Christian at Hines Park (Haggerty Field), 4:30 p.m.  
R.O. Shrine at Liv. Westland, 5 p.m.  
A.A. Marston at Liv. Stevenson, 7 p.m.

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