CC looks to do well despite losses

By RICHARD SHOOK

Has Rick Coratti been taking secret classes at the Sparky Anderson School of Speaking? "We're young," Coratti said of his Detroit Catholle Central bas-

"but we're not."

kethall team, "but we're not."
How's that?
"Wo've got a lot of new players," Coratti said, "but a lot of them are seniors. And some of them got time in games during different situations last season

on a pretty good team."

So the eighth-year coach of the Shamrocks is saying we should find something better to cry about than the plight of his bas-

ketball team.
CC lost four starters and five key players from a 17-4 team that had the misfortune of meeting Detroit Redford in the first

BASKETBALL

game of the state high school

game of the state high school basketball tournament.
Gone are first team, all-area selection Ryan Celeskey (School-craft College), second-team all-area choice Mark Willoughby and third-team pick Anthony Coratti.
Coratti had a deep bench and several of those players return to help forwards Tom Jakacki (6-3) and Ryan Clark (6-2).
"Clark was a stendy rebounder for us, and Jakacki is a third-year starter and was the quarterback on our football team," Coratti said. "I expect him to be our top scorer."

The Shamrocks have a couple of other returning seniors.

of other returning seniors.
"Jeff Niemiec (6-3) and Steve

Wasil (6-2) are coming off good summers," Coratti said. "Both of them can really shoot the bull."

In addition, the Shamrocks feature prominent size for the first time since Chris Young took his 6-foot-9 frome up the road to the University of Michigan.
Coratti says he'll go cany on 6-foot-9 sophomore Dan Waterstradt. But if the youngster can carry the mail, his coach will put more lotters in his pouch.

The coach says 6-foot-2 guard Jim Cash is another sophomore with a bankable outside shot.
Then there's Ryan Wrobleski (6-0), who caught the winning pass in CC's state football championship win.

"Wrobleski is coming off a good football season, and I'm looking for him to be our floor leader, Coratti said. "Waterstradt is tall but he's slender. We'll break him

in easy and see how it goes.

"Cash is a pretty good shooter,
and wo're looking to use him in
some different situations."

Junior guard Jared Henderson
(6-1) could also play a prominent
role.

role.

How well CC does in the Catholic League will depend on how well and how quickly every team comes together.

"The Catholic League should be interesting this season," Coratti sald. "Most of the teams

were senior teams last year. It's hard to tell who's going to

hard to tell who's going to emerge.

"We have as good a chance as anyone. Warren DeLaSalle and Harper Woods Notre Dame have seniors. And when you've got seniors, it's pretty nice."

The Shamrocks have seniors. They're just relatively inexperienced seniors, for the most part.

BASKETBALL PREVIEWS

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Falcons from page B1

New From ⁵819

Kosinski and Nagy are the only sure starters. Nelson is a 6-foot guard who will challenge others for playing time.

Two of the top players moving up from the JV are junior guards of Tucker (6-0).

Jeff McCullough (6-1) and Brandon Tucker (6-0).

Jeff has a lot of skills and a good understanding of the first time, he'll play the most natural position for him.

"As a freshman, we had no hoice but to play him at point guard. Having Ryan as more of a two guard. The position suits his ability more.

Tucker has shown improvement on and off the court,

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better idea who would be in the starting lineup after a scrimmage Saturday.

"Right now it doesn't matter who starts," he said. "From game to game, we'll find the best combination and go with them."

Lack of size and experience are challenges the Falcons have to address, as well as the transition to a new coach, Korpusk said.

"The way I run practices and manage offensive and defensive situations is different from the way Denny used to do it," he said. "I have to go with what I'm comfortable with, so the kids are adjusting to a different style of play.

"Another challenge is the schedule. Seven of our first nine

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games are on the road. We're not home until Jan. 8."
Korpusik, who teaches history at Farmington High, likes what he has seen from his players in preseason workouts.

"We haven't had a bad practice yet," he said. "I think our team is very spirited and has a lot of willingness to learn. I like the current attitude.

"For the team as a whole, I want us to improve our individual skills and understanding of how the game should be played successfully."

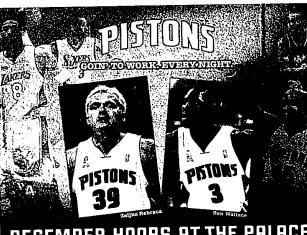
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