

Lathrup Wins 5. Places On All-Area Grid Teams

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

Unbeaten Southfield Lathrup, No. 1 in Observerland but No. 2 in the state rankings, captured five positions on the 1971 Observer all-area football teams. The sections made up of defensive and offensive units, comprised prep standouts from the 21 high schools in the state.

Lathrup followers are still puzzled over the No. 2 state ranking they received... they contend their schedule is just as tough as any team in the state.

The all-area team was selected by 15 area football coaches in a session with the Observer sports editor.

The five Chargers making the squad are: Larry Weinberg, Dave Schultz, Greg



ALL AREA OFFENSIVE SQUAD—Front row (from left): Dave Morrison of Franklin, Ron Crowe of North Farmington and Dave Manos of Harrison. Middle row: Ron Egloff of Plymouth, Bob Graustein of Thurston and Dean Naudi of Redford Union. Back row: Mike Graham of Franklin, Dave Schultz of Southfield Lathrup, Larry Weinberg of Southfield Lathrup, Tom Burk of Redford Union, Bob Zych of Brother Rice and Ron Reardon of Bentley. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Lathrup's Harper Wins 'Coach Of Year' Honor

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

Southfield Lathrup's Darrel Harper, in his fifth year of directing the Chargers, has been selected Observerland coach of the year.

It was a rough beginning for Harper who took charge of the grid squad when Lathrup opened in 1967.

His sophomore squad boasted a 4-3 junior varsity record in the first season. In 1968 his junior team played varsity competition and managed one win over Dearborn Ann Arbor in a 1-7-1 season.

Lathrup competed in 1969 with its first senior class and the team rebounded from its 1-7-1 season to a 5-4 record.

IT ALL STARTED taking shape the following season after losing the opening game to cross-town rival Southfield, where Harper was assistant coach from 1962-67, the Chargers have gone 17 games undefeated and have won two Inter-Lake crowns.

Lathrup posted a 7-1-1 season in 1970 and followed with a perfect 9-0 record in 1971.

It hasn't been all sidelines and chalk boards for Harper.

HE PLAYED prep football at Royal Oak Dondoro and graduated in 1955 with All-State acclaim at offensive halfback.

Harper went on to Michigan where he lettered three years and won the title of Big Ten punting champion in 1959 with a 44 yard average.

He played offensive halfback and defensive safety for the Wolverines along with performing the kicking chores. Harper tallied nine touchdowns at U-M but a 49 yard field goal against Ohio State stands out in his mind as being his biggest "almighty" thrill - a penalty nullified the boot.

THE LONGEST run of his college career came against Minnesota in his senior year on an 84 yard punt return.

Harper will always remember the last game of his college career which was against, you guessed it... Ohio State.

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FIRST DEFENSIVE TEAM—Front row (from left): Charles Clark of Franklin, Craig Gow of North Farmington and Mark Newman of Franklin. Middle row: Ron Respondok of Redford Union, Jeff Smrtka of Thurston and Tom Tullock of Redford Union. Back row: Frank Kna-

Observerland's Finest

OFFENSE				
Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
E--Ron Egloff	6-4	185	Jr.	Plymouth
E--Dean Naudi	6-0	195	Sr.	Redford Union
RB--Dave Manos	5-10	175	Sr.	Farm. Harrison
RB--Tom Burk	6-0	190	Sr.	Redford Union
RB--Larry Weinberg	5-11	195	Sr.	Southfield Lathrup
QB--Bob Graustein	6-0	195	Sr.	Thurston
C--Mike Graham	6-3	207	Sr.	Franklin
C--Bob Zych	6-2	185	Sr.	Brother Rice
C--Dave Schultz	5-11	190	Sr.	Southfield Lathrup
T--Ron Crowe	6-0	245	Sr.	N. Farmington
T--Ron Reardon	6-3	235	Sr.	Bentley
K--Dave Morrison	6-0	195	Sr.	Franklin

SECOND TEAM				
E--Kirk Lewis				Garden City West
E--Dennis Finfrock				John Glenn
RB--Jim Simms				Garden City West
RB--John Cullen				Brother Rice
RB--Dennis Burton				Garden City East
QB--Steve Orr				Garden City East
C--Greg Guesky				John Glenn
C--Kurt Fritz				Redford Union
C--Mark Ditchfield				Southfield
T--Jim Wiebeck				Thurston
T--Paul Banion				Bishop Borgess

DEFENSE				
Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
DE--Tom Tullock	6-2	210	Sr.	Redford Union
DE--Greg Jackson	6-0	190	Sr.	Southfield Lathrup
T--Charles Clark	6-0	197	Sr.	Franklin
T--Jeff Smrtka	6-2	245	Sr.	Thurston
T--Jim Grundy	6-1	195	Sr.	Southfield Lathrup
LB--Craig Cow	5-8	185	Sr.	N. Farmington
LB--Ron Respondok	5-10	180	Sr.	Redford Union
LB--Frank Khasiak	5-11	180	Sr.	Bishop Borgess
DHB--Bruce Ruhl	6-2	185	Jr.	Southfield Lathrup
DHB--Mark Newman	6-1	184	Sr.	Franklin
DHB--Tim Zimcosky	5-11	175	Sr.	Brother Rice

SECOND TEAM				
DE--Kevin Clifford				Bishop Borgess
DE--Mark Smith				Southfield
T--Jim Prindiville				Brother Rice
T--Frank Higgins				John Glenn
T--Dave Persichini				Garden City East
LB--Tony Wenson				Farmington
LB--Kevin Ostlund				John Glenn
LB--Greg Smith				Churchill
DHB--Mick Crom				Churchill
DHB--Glenn Richmond				Redford Union
DHB--Brian Karol				Bishop Borgess



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