

## GC East Poses Problem To Raiders In NW Suburban

New personnel always makes for interesting discussion.

The Northwest Suburban football conference is no exception.

Garden City East is the "rookie" team this fall, filling the shoes of Birmingham Groves.

The Mid-Wayne league of which East was a member, collapsed and with Groves moving to the Metro Suburban Conference with Southfield Lathrup, East has stepped in.

The questions now being asked stem from the main point of how one of the top teams in the Mid-Wayne will stack up against the always tough Northwest Suburban squads.

There doesn't seem to be much doubt about East holding its own in the Northwest, in fact the Panther squad could be the team to beat but don't say that too close to Ron Holland's crew over at North Farmington.

North Farmington is out to defend the conference title, new team or no new team. The Raiders should be tough along with John Glenn while Oak Park, Thurston and Franklin will be experiencing rebuilding mediocre years.

Gary Humphrey's team from East, that's the school where the stands have all but fallen down and which it appears will have no home games at all, will be an experienced squad.

That means East will probably have to have its homecoming at Garden City West.

**EXPERIENCE**, yes, that is one thing Humphrey has going for him. Size is something else.

"We are a small club," said Humphrey. "We average about 175 on the line and hope to make up in speed and quickness, what we lack in size."

There are 30 returning seniors on the 42 man squad, with 16 from the ranks of the regular lineup.



RON HOLLAND

**THE BACKBONE** of the team lies in Dennis Burton, Steve Orr and Jim Wisniewski. East is coming off a 7-2 record in the Mid-Wayne and Humphrey sees North Farmington as his toughest opponent.

North Farmington could care less about a new team in the league. The Raiders are out to win the championship again and are by no means thinking of giving up a title to an intruder.

The Raiders finished 8-1 last year with the Oak Park loss sticking out like a sore thumb. North sports seven returning regulars with an additional eight seniors returning with playing time.

"We will be a strong team with tremendous speed," said Holland. "Our defensive secondary will be tops along with our offensive backfield. The big question mark is the offensive line."

One unusual feature at North Farmington this year will be in personnel. The Raider squad has always had a handful of outstanding athletes but this season shows the promise of being one of overall balance with no headline-grabbers around.

The term rookie seems to be a prevalent word in the Northwest league this year.

THURSTON and Oak Park sport new head coaches.

Baseball coach now turned

football coach, Emil Majeski has taken over the reins at Thurston with Dick Walden the new head whistle blower at Oak Park.

Oak Park has its entire backfield back with a quick and explosive attack. The big thing lacking in its attack as in the past has been discipline and a real togetherness. There could be a real change this season.

Majeski is going through a rebuilding season at Thurston. It is going to be a tough beginning but the Eagle mentor has accepted the challenge with a few surprises up his sleeve.

Franklin lost all 22 starters and Coach George Lovich is developing football players on an assembly line at the Patriot gridiron.

Experience has to be the key factor in the Franklin squad with Joe Jinnett, Guy Burke, Steve Corte and Dave Hollandsworth the veteran lineup.

**FRANKLIN FINISHED 6-1-1** overall last year and if the experience doesn't come quick, the season could drag.

Last but not least is John Glenn, a team that could wake up and surprise everyone, or a squad that could be just another team in the Northwest Suburban.

Glenn has never won the league outright and finished at 3-2 last year in the conference and 5-3 overall.

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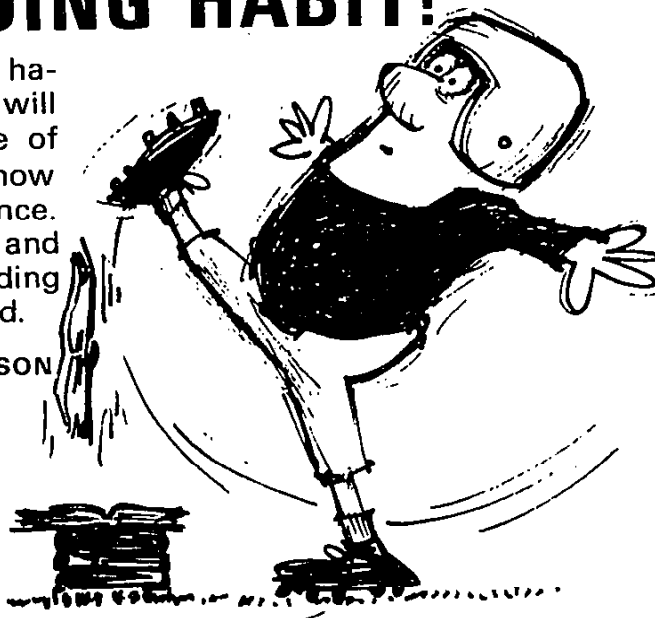
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