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# Adams looks for better season

"If you walked out onto the field right now, you would have no idea what our record was last year. The attitude is very, very positive."  
 And, with a roster that includes 37 players on the varsity and 22 more on the junior varsity, one would never suspect that the Adams Highlander football team struggled through nine winless games last year. That's why head coach Ron Niedzwiecki insists his team is nothing but optimistic about the 1977 season.  
 "This is really a determined team," said Niedzwiecki, whose Highlanders endured games last year with 1975 state champion Livonia Franklin and 1976 Oakland Athletic League champ Lake Orion.  
 "The kids are excited and have been keeping their enthusiasm up during all of our practices, and all through the scrimmage we had," he said. "That's the difference between a good team and a bad team—having that spirit working in the fourth quarter of a football game."  
 Although the Highlander schedule is lacking the state and league champions it held last year, it is nonetheless rough. Not only are perennial

quality teams like Royal Oak Dondoro and Bloomfield Hills Lahser in line, but also nonleague games with Washington Eisenhower (a former Metro-Suburban Association member along with Adams), Lake Orion and Rochester are scheduled.  
 "Dondoro is always in the running, Lahser is better. Groves is expected to have a strong team, and the MSA is just a challenging league," said Niedzwiecki. "But, we're starting off on a positive note, we have administrative support and the kids just can't wait to get going."  
**NIEDZWIECKI SAID** that the 1977 team should be stronger and quicker than any he's had at Adams in a while. According to the fourth-year coach, passing and receiving is one of the team's assets.  
 Jim Cupples, one of 10 returning lettermen, saw spot duty at the quarterback position last year and inherits the fulltime job this season. Niedzwiecki is also pleased with the play of reserve quarterback Tim Dillon thus far this fall.  
 "He's (Cupples) throwing and running the team very well right now,"

said Niedzwiecki. "He knows how to run the option, and it looks good when it's executed properly. It's a type of offense that you have to be patient with."  
 The corps of running backs consists of senior Bill Lutzch, and juniors Dan Burgess, Dan Kwit and Mark Jackson. Slated to see duty at the slot back spot are seniors Scott Howell and Dave Kleino, along with junior Steve O'Donnell.  
 Howell, a tri-captain with classmates Chris Whitfield and Dave Pearson, was a starter last year and possesses a lot of speed. Kleino and Burgess both started in a few games last year, while Kwit is another one of the speedy Highlander backs.  
 The receivers include 6-1, 165 senior Jack Moran, who has "excellent hands and good speed." A pair of juniors, Mitch Aiello and Tom Schmitt are competing for the tight end position.  
 Up front, the offensive line for opening night against Lake Orion will probably include Dan Klepp (6-0, 185) and Pearson (6-2, 230) at tackles, Whitfield (6-0, 180) and Ron Holcsch (6-11, 155) at guards, and Mike Larsen

(6-0, 205) at center. Other linemen include Paul Cracknell, Jack Lawless, Steve Valentine and Brian Murphy.  
 On defense the Highlanders will try and plug up a unit which allowed 196 points last season for an average of 20 points per game.  
 The linebackers will include Burgess, Lutzch and Holcsch, and the defensive ends will probably be Cracknell and Brad Schmitt. The defensive secondary will consist of wide halfbacks Dillon and Kleino, short halfbacks Kwit and Paul Kobb, and safety Howell.  
 "In our scrimmage, the defense performed real well," said Niedzwiecki. "We had good pursuit and the secondary went after the ball well."  
 "Our inexperience might do us in a little, but our hustle and quickness will compensate," he said. "Even though we're small, we're very aggressive, spirited and enthusiastic."  
 After Saturday evening's (8 p.m.) home contest at the Rochester High School Community Field with Lake Orion, the Highlanders will oppose Eisenhower one week later at the same site. The season-concluding game will be against Rochester on Nov. 5.

# DCDS gridders have new coach

By DAVID SAUNDERS  
 First-year coach Joe D'Angelo and his jackets are counting on players in the skill positions this football season.  
 "We don't have much depth, that's the one thing we're lacking," said D'Angelo. "If we lose a man, we're going to have to change a spot. But we'll be strongest in our skill positions."  
 Detroit Country Day was 5-3 overall last year. Although D'Angelo thinks that's a good record, he'd like to see Country Day go 8-0 this year, plus a couple more games.  
 "We'd like to improve on last year's record of course," he said. "I told the seniors this isn't a rebuilding year. We're out to win a championship. That's the approach we're taking."  
 D'Angelo has put two new systems in for the Jackets to learn.  
 "We're running what they refer to as the Wishbone Option offense," he said. "We'll be running a couple types of options, the Veer and Sprint."  
 He feels he has just the man to run the new offense in second-year starter, senior Rob Ambrose.  
 "They're all picking up the new sys-

tem pretty good," says D'Angelo.  
**DEFENSIVELY**, the Jackets will try to hold opponents with a 4-4 defense.  
 "This presents a lot of different looks," he said. "We can do a lot of stunting and shifting with it."  
 The jacket squad is comprised of 26 players, with 13 lettermen returning, two who were regular starters and one spot starter. The team scrimmaged with Gabriel Richard, Dearborn Crestview (Class A) and New Boston Huron recently.  
 "We moved the ball pretty good against Gabriel Richard during the first scrimmage," he said. "I thought we did real well, but because of the lack of depth, we seemed to regress. We made more mistakes because we were physically tired."  
 One serious injury resulted from the scrimmage. Letterman Bill Aliber, the 265-pound center and defensive end, suffered stretched ligaments in his knee which will sideline him from Friday's game with Orchard Lake St. Mary, the annual opener.  
 Last year they lost to St. Mary's 40-

6. This season's game is slated for 4:30 p.m. at Detroit Country Day School.  
 "I heard a lot about their quarterback, (Jim) Paciorek," D'Angelo said. "So we're anticipating a strong opener. Cranbrook is our next game, and there's a traditional rivalry going on there."  
**STARTING IN THE BACKFIELD** are senior co-captains Rob Ambrose and Courtney Vance. Ambrose a 6-1, 185-pound quarterback will be the key person with the type of offense Country Day runs.  
 "He can do it," said D'Angelo. "He's a real competitor and learning to run the option real well. He's got good speed and hands."  
 The 5-10 150-pound Vance is probably the fastest ball player on their team. At right halfback and slotback, Vance will be the one Ambrose will throw to the most.  
 "He's a real threat once he catches the ball," said D'Angelo. "He can go all the way with it."  
 Mark Zobl is a returning spot starter to the backfield. The 5-8 170-

pound fullback is a hard runner and a good receiver.  
 Leading a line that averages 180 pounds is second-year starter Brian Varnum, a 6-1, 200-pound senior. Another person who D'Angelo is expecting a good year from is tackle Mark Ferris.  
 "He'll be a key to our offensive line," said D'Angelo about the 6-1, 195-pound junior.  
 The guard spots still aren't settled. It looks like it could be a toss-up between Jim Lemie, Phil Stern and Edo-Land Frohman. Rodney Gilbert will be at tight end and could pose as a real threat. Another halfback is Dean Miyao.  
**ON DEFENSE** the Jackets are basically the same people because of their lack of depth.  
 Jay Redwood will be at an inside linebacking position along with Zobl. Two of their key positions are taken by Ambrose at the outside linebacking position and Vance at safety.  
 Aliber and Varnum will be defensive ends. Rick Villarosa will be a down tackle.

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