

Lathrup '11' seek improvement

By TOM BAER

Southfield Lathrup football coach Darrell Harper has quite a few job-related worries these days.

First of all, Harper is concerned with rebuilding this season's varsity. Chargers last year, the team struggled, compiling a 3-4 overall record and a 2-3 mark in the rugged Metro Suburban Association. And Harper faces yet another big problem — very few freshmen have turned out for football, and the apparent lack of interest could affect the school's program in years to come.

Before last year, we'd have more than 100 kids out for the varsity, more and freshmen teams," Harper said. "Now, on a good day, we'll have maybe eight freshmen. One problem is that Barney Junior High School, whose students go to Lathrup, had no sports last year so those kids weren't oriented toward it."

"And overall, I think you'll find every suburban team is down a little in numbers. It's no longer a big deal to be a football player. We get the pretty good athlete, but the fringe kids — which you need to develop a good football program — just don't come out anymore. They're not willing to be a second stringer for a couple of years on the chance that they can be something in a senior."

The same problem, lack of freshmen interest, exists at Southfield High School, which hopes to field a freshmen team this fall after going for many years with no ninth graders.

NOW, ABOUT this season's team. There seems to be no lack of willing graders for the 1976 Lathrup varsity. Harper is working with more than 30 hopefuls, including some juniors who went undrafted as freshmen two years ago.

Lathrup graduated some good players — linemen Tim Fritz, Brian Black and Bill Gelford, quarterback Mike Monney and running back Mike Clancy — from last year's team. They were good kids and they worked hard, but we can replace them," said Harper, who has an experienced offense.

The bright spot in Lathrup's offense should be Joe Wasing, a big 6-3, 190-pound, senior quarterback. Wasing moved the entire 73 season because of a broken leg, but he's looking good in the early drills, according to Harper.

He's a very good passer, plus he's a big, strong kid. He's hard to tackle, and that goes in a double threat."

Senior Chris Schultz, 6-2, 190, will play fullback this fall after spending most of last year at linebacker. "Those two kids, Wasing and Schultz, should give us pretty good strength up the middle," Harper said.

Another key to Lathrup's backfield will be senior Brad Griffin (5-11, 160), who has shown great improvement. Last year, he was dropping the passes, the year he's catching them," Harper said.

Senior running backs Joe Sullivan (5-8, 150) and Mike Montemurri (5-6, 140) also should see lots of duty. Montemurri also will play safety and handle the team's punting.

NO EXPERIENCED centers came out this fall, but Harper is working with junior John Parker (6-0, 180). Senior tackle Dan Knapp (5-11, 170) is experienced. Senior guard Bob Pyle (5-8, 180) started two games last year and moved the rest of the season because of a broken wrist.

Another promising lineman is end Frank May (5-7, 160), who didn't play last year because of an injured knee. May, who is very fast, also will return kick duty for Lathrup. Other prospects are senior guard Cory Armbruster (6-0, 180) and junior He played football for the first time last year, Harper said. He's a little



A Lathrup player snags a pass during a recent drill.

tackle John Ralston (6-3, 210), the team's biggest man.

Coach as far as technique goes, but we haven't had a kid that sure at Lathrup since I've been there. We'll play him some and see how he develops."

Only three starters — Schultz, Armbruster and Montemurri — have extensive defensive experience.

Our secondary should be decent," Harper said. "We'll be quick but also very small. I'm worried about the defensive line right now. I'm afraid other teams will grind it out on us — four or five yards at a crack. We play a tough schedule, and our opponents like to play ball control."

the reserve team, and Lonnell Blagg will handle the freshmen. Don Shonta will have coaching duties on all levels.

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LATHRUP OPENS its nine game schedule at home against non-league Birmingham Seaborn at 8 p.m. on Sept. 17. The Chargers entertain non-league Ferndale High on the following Thursday, Sept. 23, before starting the MSA season at home on Oct. 1 against defending champion Royal Oak Dendora.

Coach Ivy Loftin's Dendora squad, which won MSA football titles in 1974 and '75, looks as strong as ever with 20 returning lettermen, an all-senior backfield and an undefeated reserve squad from last year.

I think Dendora will take it again," Harper said. "The only chance is if one of us can knock them (Dendora) off early. Dendora will do good. Toward the end of the season, that team should be tough as nails. If we can stay healthy and get our defense together by the third game, then we could give them a rough ball game."

If we win, we're going to have to outscore people right away. As the season progresses, I think we'll improve. But we're so thin defensively, I'm afraid that other teams will tire us out. There's not that much on the bench to come in and give the starters a rest."

The MSA will be a five-team league this year. Utica Eisenhower, a founding member, has left, and Troy Athens will not join the circuit for another year.

To fill the void, Lathrup has scheduled a game with non-league Westland John Glenn at home on Oct. 29. Lathrup will end its season with traditional games at Royal Oak Kimball (Nov. 5) and Southfield High (Nov. 12).

Harper will be assisted by Bob Marten (backfield coach) and Dave Butler (line). Don Bylander and Ken Pound will coach

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Albert P. Herzog, Attorney for Petitioner, P.14191, Albert P. Herzog, 23290 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan 48024, Phone (313) 474-0015.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.
ESTATE OF GERALD D. NYM SHACK, Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING
TAKE NOTICE, that on the 1st day of September, 1976, at 10:00 a.m., in the Probate Courtroom, Oakland County Courthouse, Pontiac, Michigan, before the Honorable NORMAN R. BARNES, Judge of Probate, a hearing will be held on the petition of GRACE D. NYM SHACK.

The Will of the deceased dated March 28, 1962 was admitted to Probate Administration of the estate was granted to GRACE D. NYM SHACK, the executor named in said Will.

Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate must be presented said GRACE D. NYM SHACK at 2450 Westwood, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334 and proof thereof, with proper receipts, filed with the court on or before September 2, 1976. Notices further given that a determination of the legal heirs of said deceased will be made on said date at 9 A.M.

Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned to the person appearing at said notice of hearing.

Dated September 1, 1976.
GRACE D. NYM SHACK,
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