

# W. Bloomfield coach thinking positively about season

By JOHN BOZZO

Very little has changed with West Bloomfield football except head coach Dominic Livedoti promises to be a little more patient.

"We're optimistic. I'm an optimistic coach, our team is optimistic," Livedoti said. "But getting back to realism, I only have two returning full-time starters back."

"I'm going to have to be more patient this year," Livedoti said. "My coaches are laughing at me because they know I'm going to get uptight if we make mistakes. We might take our lumps, but we're going to give maximum effort."

"If we can hold our own during the first two games," Livedoti said, "the kids can gain experience and we'll enter the league season with a good thing going."

These constant factors at West Bloomfield are the same traits that Livedoti has instilled in all his Laker teams during his previous four seasons as head coach.

Last year West Bloomfield was 6-3 overall and finished in third place in the Greater Oakland Activities

League. "Our enthusiasm, dedication, attitude and the demands we make upon our kids are the same," Livedoti said.

AS PROOF of his philosophy, Livedoti points to Bob Fascetti, a 5-9, 140-pound junior, Fascetti had major surgery during the off season.

"He's been a great source of inspiration," Livedoti said. "He hasn't missed a day of practice. He depicts the kind of attitude we're looking for in a young man. He thinks football is worth the effort. We must be doing things he considers worthwhile."

For more proof Livedoti points to one of his two returning full-time starters, Jeff Cox. A 5-11, 180-pound senior, Cox will be running from the halfback spot for his third consecutive season as a starter.

During the final game of the season last year Cox quick-punted the ball for West Bloomfield, deep in Laker territory. West Bloomfield had never practiced the play. Livedoti had drawn it up on the sidelines.

"He was a little confused at first," Livedoti said. "But he kicked that ball and it traveled 60 yards, touched one of the other team's players and Cox

recovered the ball. The next play was a draw to Cox who ran 30 yards for a touchdown."

Cox was a starter during his sophomore and junior seasons. Livedoti believes that sophomores should play, so they are only brought up to the varsity as starters. Bob VanConder and Pete Fletcher were three-year starters in past seasons for Livedoti. They both made all-state their senior years. Livedoti is touting Cox for state honors this year.

CHRIS MAYONE, a 6-1, 155-pound junior, is beginning his second year as the first-string Laker quarterback. Livedoti reports that Jay Sullivan, a 6-1, 170-pound senior transfer from Brother Rice has been pushing Mayone for that job.

"Our strengths are at the skill positions," Livedoti said. "If you want a problem, it's having to choose between two good quarterbacks. We probably have better people at skilled positions than we've ever had before."

Jim Kaufman, a 5-11, 165-pound senior, was a letterman at halfback last year. He opened West Bloomfield's first game with a 92-yard kickoff

return for a touchdown. He started the first four games, but was then lost for the season with an injury.

DePotter, a 5-11, 165-pound senior, was an on-and-off starter last season. He will handle the tight end and defensive end positions. Gary Schneider, a 5-8, 155-pound junior up from the junior varsity, has been a "pleasant surprise" at halfback. Rick Micklely, 5-10, 160-pounds, another junior from the jayvee team, is a potential starter at offensive and defensive end.

Two other former jayvee players are good tackle prospects. Steve Kenwell, 5-11, 165-pounds, and Matt Alexander, 6-1, 207-pounds, are both juniors.

"SEVERAL LINEMEN lettered last year," Livedoti said. "It's a draw between the seniors and juniors over who will start on the offensive line."

Livedoti said many of the position battles will depend on a four-way scrimmage (which was held Wednesday) between the Lakers and Brother Rice. Flint Powers and Warren Fitzgerald.

Andy Griffin, 5-7, 160-pound senior, is in the running for a line position. Bob Fascetti, a 5-9, 140-pound junior,

is trying for an end spot.

Andre Kingston, a 6-0, 185-pound sophomore transfer student from Lutheran East, is a potential starting end.

Jeff Hutton, a 6-0, 195-pound senior, started four games at linebacker for West Bloomfield last fall. He will see duty at both linebacker and offensive guard.

Alex Ajlouni, a 5-10, 185-pound senior, was an off-and-on starter last season. He will be starting both offensively and defensively this season.

Livedoti said that Paul Stanbrom is another example of the commitment he requires of his players.

"We've asked all the linemen to lose 10 pounds this year," Livedoti said. "Since we're inexperienced we want quickness."

Stanbrom was 245-pounds last year. This year the 6-2, senior tackle tips the scales at 216 pounds.

TIM MINK, a 5-11, 165-pound senior, is slated for duty at center. He was the back-up offensive center last year.

Joe Griffin, a 5-10, 160-pound senior end, will handle the Laker place kicking and kickoff duties. Cox and Sullivan will both punt for West Bloomfield.

Livedoti views the kicking game as a Laker strong suit this fall.

Kevin Chudler, although only a 5-6, 190-pound senior, is battling for defensive safety position.

"He's one of those kids with quick feet," Livedoti said. "He's been working hard enough to take over a defensive halfback position."

Andy Cratz and Mike Sturtz are prospects at guard and tackle respectively. Andy is a 5-11, 160-pound senior. A surprise at nose guard has been Rick Wilson. He played as a sophomore and freshman but missed his junior season. Wilson is a 5-9, 160-pound senior.

Another contender for nose guard and offensive guard is 5-7, 150-pound junior Greg Thomas. Jim Bitner, a 5-8, 150-pound senior, is trying for an offensive and defensive backfield spot.

Denis McCure, a 5-9, 155-pound senior transfer student from Taylor, missed his junior season because of a millage failure there Taylor. McCure plays end.

West Bloomfield opens the season 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 8 with a home game against non-league foe Waterford Township.

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