

# How Preps Size Up In Football Practice

Ten days of practice behind them, Oberverland high school football players now enter the final stretch of preparations for their season opener's week hence.

Until Wednesday, the preps have been engaging in two-day sessions on the field. But now with the opening of school classes, the griders must reduce their sessions to once daily.

season when Bill Fahey was hurt.

Defensively, there are Kenyon, Plantzick, Griffith and Hughes, plus Kirk Taylor, who can go both ways. On offense, Taylor works at fullback.

Frank Miller and Martin Droz also should see considerable duty for RT.

## Churchill

It's a new school (although the building isn't finished and the students are attending Franklin) and naturally the hopes are high for Ken Kestner, who is getting his first chance to work as a head coach.

Kestner will have only tenth grader this season as Churchill faces a schedule comprised of both varsity and junior varsity rivals.

At the moment, the big man at Churchill is Jerry Ojase, who is in line for starting quarterback. Evan Smith has impressed as a runner, Mickey Gooding at tackle and Tom Isaac at center.

Many of the candidates for the Churchill varsity never have played football before.

## Farmington

Ten lettermen--and only five of them boasted a lot of playing time a year ago under Coach Dick Tyler.

"We'll be new in many ways," says Tyler. "Besides many new faces, we'll also present a new offense. It's going to take time and a few games before we start to click."

The five top veterans are Rick Landacre, fullback; Dennis Davis and Louis Henry, halfbacks; Steve Fleming, tackle, and Tom Koops, center. Also high on the Falcons' list are guards Rick Thomas and Dave Cochran, ends Steve McGregor and Kevin Hildebrand and tackle Kim Cramer. Also, backs Randy Cleveland, Bill Mynatt and Paul White.

## N, Farmington

The Raiders figure to be on the thin side with the middle of the line the big problem, according to Coach Ron Holland.

Only six regulars have returned -- backs John Thomas, Paul Adamin and Tony Garcia, along with ends Chuck Butten and Dave Thomas (no relation to John) and Dan Emmitt, at guard.

Bob Hughes appears to have the inside track to replace all-star quarterback Norm DeCourcy, who has left along with Mike McCoy and Rick Knock, two other standouts.

Mike Cannon tops the centers while Dave Payne has impressed at tackle. Another tackle candidate is Greg Forte, 280-pound son of Aldo Forte, one-time assistant coach of the Lions.

## Plymouth

Quarterback Bruce Bauman and center Bruce Edwards will lead the Rocks as the team's co-captains.

Coach Tom Moshirar describes the team as "inexperienced without much depth in the line." But, he feels the team will be much better than it might appear on paper.

Other returnees include Bob Thorlath, a junior back; Walter Lee, a senior back; Craig Corrigan, at end, and Marty Rossow, a senior guard.

Jeri Latham, who starred in basketball last winter, shapes up as a fine prospect at end, while Bob Clayton and Mark LaPointe, both tackles, and guards Barry Fate and Dan Pierce are slated for a considerable amount of duty.

## Sorrows

You can't blame Coach Herb Coleman for crying a little. He lost 21 from last year's team. In addition, illness or injury has stripped the team of five more players.

"We'll be very young and inexperienced," says Coleman. "Of the 52 players on our squad, only eight are seniors. That means we'll have virtually everybody back next season. So, you might say, this will be a year of building for Sorrows."

Greg Main, Desmond Kirland and Bob Thiesen lead the veterans who include Don Impellizzeri and Frank Barber in the backfield, Larry Dale at tackle, Mike Valenti at guard and Gene Dumm at center.

Dan McGrath, up from the JV's, is first in line to play quarterback. Greg Hurst, a transfer student from St. Agatha, is being welcomed at fullback.

## Redford Union

After guiding Redford to Central Black and national baseball honors, Coach Bob Atkins finds himself shy of veterans in his first year as boss man of the Redford Union football team.

"It boils down to our first team at staying healthy," says Atkins. "We just won't have too many replacements."

On the offensive roster, RU has Larry Hughes and Chuck Griffith back at guard with Bob Plantzick at halfback and Bob Pokorny at tackle. Rick Kenyon played some at quarterback last

## Stevenson

"It's the case at several other schools, Stevenson is short on experience. "But we have the desire and the willingness to work," says Coach Jack Reardon.

The Stevenson attack will be led by Dale Danver, an all-league back, and Nick Exharhos, a standout at end.

Rusty Gregg has been moved in at quarterback to replace Jerry Dettler, who has been switched to wingback to take advantage of the latter's great speed.

Mark Hurlet has returned for his third year at tackle; Bob Good, who heretofore has played in the backfield, is being switched to guard, while Gene Walker also has impressed in the backfield.

## G.C. East

In numbers, Garden City East has a flock of returnees--18 in all. But Coach Gary Humphrey is concerned by the fact his total squad lists only 28 men.

"We'll need the breaks early because we play four very tough foes at the start," says Humphrey. "If we can come out of those games with a 3-1 record, just watch out."

There are five starters back at East--195-pound Ron Mulka at guard, center Rick Lipinski, quarterback John Chute and backs Gary Spencer and Jim Burton.

Tim Whitson, end; Bob Danaworth, split end; and Kevin Wilkinson, also a split end, also will play prominent parts in the East story this fall.

## Bentley

A corps of strong defensive players, plus some fine runners all add up to another good season for Coach Larry Jobner and Co., who posted a 6-2 record last season.

## The Bentley secondary and line

The Bentley secondary and linebacker group will return in total, and to go with them on offense, Bentley will have a pair of speedsters in Leroy Watson and Bob Cascaden. Watson won all-star honors last season.

Bill Rice and Bruce Nedewald lead the linebackers and they'll work at guard on offense where Rice was acclaimed all league in 1967.

Center John Reardon, ends Fred Howell and Dan Koch are other veterans along with Tim Malone, a fullback and line-backer.

Quarterback poses a problem where Larry Gates, Bob Walden and Steve Preston all are contesting for the starting assignment.

## Franklin

New coach, George Lovitch, admits that things "look good." He has seven starters back on offense and six on defense.

End Chris Lang, tackle Paul Cervone, guards Rick Wight and Ken Vitale at center are back to spearhead the offensive line. They'll work in front of Gary Sica and Pete MacLean, two fine halfbacks.

Defensively, Franklin has Pat Neal, Bruce Martloff, Mike Slavin, Mark Belchinko, Bob Santilli and Bob Rogaleki, who performed on last year's powerful Franklin team.

## G.C. West

The eighth season, as Coach Harold Burkholder sees it, "centers around how fast some of our new faces develop. We have several fine boys coming up. But it will take time to develop them into a unit."

The West team began drills with nine lettermen available and already Jerry Hopkins, a split end and fine defensive back, has been lost for several weeks with a fractured collarbone.

Burkholder is working around quarterback-Captain Craig Sylvester, ends Dave Leemgraven and Craig Wilson, tackle McLean and defensive end Carl Lork in forming his 1968 team. McLean won all-league honors last season with Dork receiving honorable mention consideration.

## St. Agatha

Coach Jerry Slevert visions a better season than the 3-4 mark of 1967. He'll field a line averaging 200 pounds and a backfield at 185 pounds.

The usual problem for Class A school confronts St. Agatha. There is very little depth.

Quarterback Ron Blackmore has returned and will operate with halfbacks Mike Murphy and Dennis Blazok and halfback Paul Riecha.

Up front, St. Agatha has a standout in end Dave Urban, to go along with 216-pounder Dave Churches, 212-pounder Fred

## Oyer, Bill Gardner and Tim

Lockes at the tackles, guards Jerry Schrock, John Gillies and John O'Mara and center Chuck Costello.

## Bishop Borgess

Coach Pat Uetz and his charges really will have their work cut out. The new Catholic League team has been assigned to the tough First Division-West and will have to send only 10th and 11th graders against the established other teams.

"We'll be taking a few beatings," says Uetz, whose players

## reside both in Redford Town-

ship and Detroit. He's building his attack around Jim Pomeranski, a 5-8 quarterback, who has good speed and is an excellent passer.

## John Glenn

After sharing the Northwest Suburban League title last season, Glenn is headed for some problems this fall.

Although there were 23 lettermen due to report, a few seniors have elected not to play and the number of returning starters is a small one.

Roger Pollack, halfback, and Bob Russ, a three-year middle guard, are back to lead the defense. Tim Otsewell, who has been switched from middle guard to linebacker, and Andy Roam, a tackle, played a fair amount last season.

Offensively, Bill Bolitto and Mac Domke, who split the fullback duties, are the only regulars back. The big job facing Coach Bob Lusk is to replace Tim Wazy at quarterback. He's trying two juniors and one sophomore.

## Bill Basham, who was a star,

quarterback-halfback for three years at Delvine Child in the Catholic League.

Thurston has some bulky players in Rob Mason, a 215-pound linebacker; Tom Hanson, a 200-pound guard, and Jon Lindh, a 200-pound tackle. Backs Bill Simescu, Dave Mims and Jerry Fiala. Fullback along with Tim Carr and Tim Bradley, veteran quarterbacks.

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