

It's anyone's guess in Metro Suburban

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news is one returning offensive starter.

"Defensively, at least we're experienced," Kelgen said. "We just don't have much size. Last year, we weren't very strong defensively. (Chuck) McSwigan was our big kid, but he was the only one. Our kids grew, but not much. But, our experience should help us."

The returning players on the defensive unit are seniors Mike Murphy (6-0, 175), Paul Bianco (5-11, 155) and Tom Smith (5-8, 145) in the secondary; Mike Voeftrey (5-9, 175) and Nick Morgan (5-10, 200) at linebackers; tackle Darren Dash (5-10, 190) and end Larry Baird (5-11, 165).

The lone returning offensive starter is tackle Darren Mertz, a 6-3, 225-pound three-year starter.

Ken Koolwick, a 6-2, 175-pound senior flanker, who saw extensive duty last year, and Rich Dennis, a 6-4½, 175-pound senior wide receiver, who started at the beginning of the year before suffering an injury, also return. Dennis handles the field goal, conversion and kickoff duties for the Knights.

"If we do anything this year, it's because of our attitude. The kids are working hard."

ROCHESTER: The two common ingredients which have characterized Falcon football in the past should be evident in Rochester's 1985 edition: speed and a strong aerial attack.

Second-year head coach Mike Van Dam returns just six starters from last year's 5-4 team, but overall team speed and a quarterback who fits in the mold of his predecessors, should keep Rochester competitive.

Senior Chris Kostitz, a 5-10, 175-pound quarterback, will try to live up to the Falcon tradition of success through the air.

"He's a good quarterback," Van Dam said. "He doesn't have the size some of the others had, but once he gets his confidence, I think he'll be a good one."

Offensively, Rochester returns seniors Jamie Rumble (6-0, 205) at tackle, Alex Nagy (5-8, 180) at guard and Mike Horrigan (6-0, 155) and Chris Jacobs (5-9, 160) as wide receivers.

Senior linebacker Steve Boswick (5-11, 195) and senior safety Nate Childers (6-1, 175) are the lone defensive returning starters.

"We've got good team speed," Van Dam said. "We've

been running well so far. I think we'll be better than most teams at throwing the ball. The kids look forward to that, and we're not bad at it. We will throw the ball."

WEST BLOOMFIELD: The Lakers, after two years in the bottom half of the Metro Suburban class, are looking to crack the top four this season. A young West Bloomfield team will be tested early as it opens the season against perennial power Farmington Harrison, then meets Athens in the league opener.

Return starters from a team which was 2-7 last year are senior tight ends Mark Kowalczyk (6-1, 175), Brian Starr (6-0, 175), tackles Evan Vlaeminck (6-2, 210) and Jeff Yankus (6-3, 230) and guard Todd McMullen (5-11, 170).

Defensively, senior back Joe Schenk (5-9, 155) and linebacker Pat Bogien (6-1, 180) are the only returning starters.

Schenk and Dan Shrewsbury, a 6-0, 165-pound junior, most likely will share the quarterback duties for the Lakers. Pat Lamb, a 5-10 160-pound senior, has been moved from defensive back to offensive guard, and John Hetlin, a 6-0, 175-pound senior, will return to center where he started four games last season.

"A lot of coaches talk about team strength in the physical sense," coach Dominic Livedoti said, "but I like to look at our strength in terms of enthusiasm level. Our enthusiasm has been higher than the past two or three years. I like our work habits."

"I think our kids will come after you this year. You'll see some aggressive football at West Bloomfield High School, I guarantee you that."

DONDERO: The Oaks were winless in league play last year, and only three players return from the starting lineup — none of which are on the offensive unit.

Seniors Brian Boswell (6-0, 170) and Jerry Wentzel (6-1, 180) return to the secondary, along with classmate Ted Rayman, a 5-10, 190-pound linebacker.

Offensively, the trio may make up the backfield with Boswell at halfback, Rayman at fullback and Wentzel at quarterback.

"We're going to play quite a few juniors," Dondero coach Fred Fuhr said.

"We're inexperienced, and we show it every day in practice. Some of our younger kids are going to have to come around. We have to play tough defense."



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

West Bloomfield's Brian Starr looks for a pass during a Laker preseason practice session. Starr is one of the Lakers' returning starters who hopes to push West Bloomfield into the top half of the league.

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