

# Southfield Lathrup Gunning For No.1

By TOM DONOGHUE  
Sports Editor

Ferriday, it should be another undefeated season."

The No. 2 prep football team in the state last year is out to do better this season.

Southfield Lathrup is working on a string of 17 consecutive games without a loss, with the last defeat the opening game of the 1970 campaign against Southfield High, 18-16.

"We have the potential to be the top team in the state," said Lathrup head Coach Darryl Harper. "If we can get by our first two opponents, Birmingham Seaholm and

It should be a strange season for the Lathrup squad. The question of its No. 2 ranking last season, instead of No. 1 stemmed from its caliber of play of its opponents. Lathrup breezed to another Inter - Lakes Conference championship.

Harper knew the talent would be there this season for an even stronger bid for the state title with Inter - Lakes action due to improve and improve his team's rating.

But much to the surprise and dismay of Harper,



Lathrup has packed its bags and left the Inter - Lakes conference.

**THE NEW LEAGUE.** well, it took a combination of the six man coaching staff to think of the name of the new league, the Metro Suburban Student Activities Association.

The name is not overly impressive as well as the teams in it, except Lathrup. Lathrup joins Birmingham Groves, which escaped the Northwest Suburban League, Bloomfield Lahser, Royal Oak Donero, Rochester Adams and Utica Eisenhower.

Bloomfield Lahser was the only other school that finished above .500 last season besides Lathrup in football.

"I am not in favor of the new league," said Harper. "Just when we get strong, we move to a weak conference. It doesn't make sense but my job is to coach football, not decide what conference we play in."

"Everyone will be after us this year," added Harper. "Now hardly anyone will get a shot at us."

A TOTAL of 130 candidates ventured out for Observerland's No. 1 football team with 55 still on the varsity "maybe roster."

The new league hasn't been the only "bugaboo" in Harper's '72 football lineup.

"Our backup quarterback Andy Tracy decided not to come out this year," said Harper. "The big blow has to be in the loss of our kicker Berj Yepremian. We haven't heard from him since school let out and the word is that he has moved to Miami."

Yepremian is the brother of Miami Dolphin kicker Garo Yepremian and Harper knew he had a good thing in his kicker.

"He was booting them 15 yards between the uprights last year," said Harper. "He'll be a pro some day but it looks like Lathrup will not have the chance for his junior and senior high days."

"It looks like we'll be passing or running for extra points this year," added Harper.

**LATHRUP HAS 18** returning lettermen, all seniors, with seven returning from the ranks of regular performers.

Bruce Ruhl, All - State his junior year, has to be the key to the Lathrup attack. The 6-2, 185 pounder has been selected as one of the top 100 prep athletes in the country.

Ruhl does his thing at the halfback slot on offense and safety position on defense. This '72 season marks the fourth year for Ruhl in the varsity lineup with 31 touchdowns to his credit which

includes over 2,000 yards rushing and 3,000 receiving. "Bruce has to be the finest athlete I have ever coached, on and off the field," said Harper. "Schools like Yale, Stanford, Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State have all shown interest in him."

**BARRY BRODSKY** is returning at the quarterback berth. The 5-9, 140 pounder threw for 10 touchdowns and 800 yards last season with a 55 passing per cent.

Jeff Goldberg rounds out the returning backfield at the other halfback slot. The 5-10, 178 pound All - League scored three touchdowns in the season wrap up with Seaholm.

Another All - League Matt Hepler will be returning to the guard position with Brian County filling out the regular offensive squad at right end.

Returning starters on defense are Paul Knapp and Len Sokoloff. Knapp stands 6-0 and weighs 165 pounds with Sokoloff also at 6-0 but checking in at 205 pounds.

"Our offense should be as good if not better than last year," said Harper.

One of the weak spots in the Charger lineup will be at the tackle position with Craig Miller, Glenn Renton, Paul Knapp, Len Sokoloff and Buzz Hackett, all fighting for assignments.

**DEFENSE IS WIDE** open at Lathrup with only two regulars returning in safeties Ruhl and Goldberg.

"This has to be one of the big question marks," said Harper. "We only gave up six touchdowns in nine games last year and have allowed only 50 points the last two seasons. As much as I don't want to, we'll probably have about seven guys going both ways."

Harper might as well be lost in the jungle for his search of

linebackers to fill the shoes of Dave Schultz and the Weinberg twins who graduated.

"There are about 20 candidates for the linebacker spots," Harper said.

**ASSISTING HARPER** in the coaching department are: Dave Butler, (line coach); Don Shonta, (line coach); and Bill Dougall, (backfield coach).

Harper is turning to his ace Ruhl for another assignment

this season. The All - State halfback will be handling the punting chores and according to Harper, when he is right, he has the best foot in the area.

"Mr. Freeze Pop" has made the scene at Lathrup High to make the unbearable summer drills a little cooler.

"We go through about a case a day," said Harper. "That's about 196 popsicles during morning and afternoon workouts. The kids really enjoy them, but about that new league we are in ..."



**LATHRUP'S "MR. EVERYTHING"** -- Senior Bruce Ruhl is being looked upon as the main reason for Southfield Lathrup's assault on the state's No. 1 ranking. The offensive halfback and defensive safety will also handle the kicking chores this season. (Observer Photo)



**A POPSICLE BREAK** -- Southfield Lathrup's 240-pound tackle Glenn Renton takes a break from an afternoon workout to enjoy a "Mr. Freeze Pop." The Lathrup squad devours a case a day, 196 in number. (Observer photo)

## NFWB All-Stars Suffer 2 Defeats In World Series

The goal was the Pony League baseball world championship.

The aim was on target but the shot was blocked by a team from Newport News, Va.

The North Farmington - West Bloomfield Pony squad lost its second game in the Washington, Pa. eight team world series to be eliminated.

NFWB opened the two - game knockout tourney with an 8-4 loss to Newport News, but rebounded over Lakewood, Calif., 1-0.

**NEWPORT CAME BACK** to haunt the Michigan team in the third round with a 10 - inning 4-2 victory and NFWB packed its bags and headed north with an overall tourney mark of 15-4.

Mark Salisbury started for NFWB in the second Newport contest. The hard throwing right-handed worker the first seven innings, giving up one run on hits, walking four and striking out 11.

John Slack hurled the eighth, ninth and part of the 10th innings, allowing two

runs on one hit, walking two and striking out two and suffered the loss. Mike Cullen finished the 10th giving up two hits.

The Michigan squad struck first in the bottom of the fifth when Salisbury singled, stole second and scampered in on Cullen's two-bagger.

NFWB held on to the lead to the top of the seventh, when with one out ... two away from victory, Harold Burke walked off Salisbury. Tom Dixon bunted back to Salisbury who threw wild to first with Burke scampering around to make a 7-4 game.

With Slack pitching in the top of the 10th, Bee Burroughs was safe on an error and Bill Wren singled to move the runner to third. Coach Bill Doerr brought in Cullen from the bullpen with Tim Crockett lining to second baseman Steve Morrison for out No. 1.

Cal Gilliam grounded into a fielder's choice with Morrison throwing Burroughs out at the plate and it appeared that NFWB was out of the jam.

Bob Colligan grounded between short and third and it

went through for a hit with Wren scoring to break the tie. Burke doubled to right to score two more and it was 4-1.

It had too long a road to just sit down and die in the last of the 10th and NFWB jumped right on Newport News.

**MIKE DOERR** was safe on an error but Salisbury grounded into a fielder's choice for one out. Cullen singled to put runners on first and third and Morrison singled to score Salisbury to put the tying run on first with only one out.

But spirit and talent ran out for the NFWB squad with two strikeouts ending the '72 season.

Cullen and Morrison paced the Michigan All-Stars in tourney action in hitting Cullen connected for 21 hits in 61 at bats for .375 with Morrison hitting at a .370 clip with 26 hits in 51 at bats.

Paul Chatlin was the NFWB pitching story with an 8-0 tourney record. Cullen scored 2-4-4 record, with Salisbury, 2-2, Bill Lowman at 1-0 and Slack with an 0-1 mark.

## U-M Coaches Plan Opener

The football think tank in Jenison Gymnasium is producing more moves these days than Fischer and Spassky.

Some of the latest advanced by Grand Master Duffy Daugherty and his seconds include these:

Veteran Ernie Hamilton from middle guard to defensive left end to fill in for academic casualty Bill Chada.

Senior running back Jim Bond to fullback, where he'll be man to beat for sophomore whizzes Clarence Bullock and Arnold Morgado.

Junior Mark Nissen to retain his first string cornerback position but work part time at quarterback behind George Mihalu and Dan Werner.

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