

Churchill Looking For Repeat

This could be the year for Churchill High School. The Chargers swept the Western Six in football and finished with a perfect 9-0 record and the spotlight has now switched to the basketball club which will cage crown.

"Churchill has to be the team to beat," said Harrison Coach Bob Sutter whose squad finished 3-5 in the league last year and 7-9 overall. "Waterford Mott will be a contender, as well as ourselves and Northville, but Churchill has the momentum."

Churchill scored a 7-1 mark last year in the Western Six and finished 12-6 overall.

But according to Churchill Coach Pat Montagano, it will be a wide open race.

"I don't see any one team dominating the action," said Montagano. "I really don't know how to figure this season. Anyone can be beaten."

"Our key will be hard work on defense and determination. The kids have been winning in every sport ever since they were sophomores and hopefully we can get them out of the clouds from their football season."

CHURCHILL'S varsity sports seven gridiron standouts.

"A 6-2 record could win it all," added Montagano. "This could be the best club we have had at Churchill."

MARK REED is the lone starter from the '71-72 club.

The 6-5 senior center averaged nine points a game as a junior.

Starting at guards will be a pair of seniors in Phil Damaska and Phil Skender.

Don Braun is the lone starting junior, checking in at 6-6½ and is called by Montagano as "the real horse of

the bunch." Don Phillips rounds out the starting five, standing 6-2½ and forward, with senior for Jim Foster the No. 6 junior stint.

Front-line subs will be senior guard 5-9 Bobby Blaine and junior 6-2 guard Rich VanWagoner, along with 6-0 junior guard Brian Kelly and 6-3 junior forward Al Leirstein.

KEN LANDINI, Rich Kahn and Ken Wood round out the roster, with 6-5 junior Don Forest.

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SENIOR NICK Nicolay at 6-1 and senior Bill Herpich at 5-11 fill the starting rotation with top contenders in 5-11 Dave Bagdon, 5-10 Brian Collins and 6-2 sophomore Dave Cleary.

"Sieloff has to be by far the top big man in the Western Six," said Montagano.

"Sieloff has put on about 15 pounds and could carry this team," added Sutter. "If we can get him the ball and if he scores, we will win."

The other two returning starters are senior 6-2 forward Mike McGrath, who averaged nine points a game, and 5-6 senior guard Dan Hickey.

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"We have to cut down on turnovers," said Sutter. "And Sieloff has to be more aggressive on the boards and go to the basket. We are hoping for outside shooting to take the pressure off Jeff."

Montagano and Sutter both agree that a team with one loss will win the league.

Churchill won it with one defeat last season and there's no reason why the Chargers can't do it again, except maybe for a darkhorse in up and coming Northville.



PAT MONTAGANO
Churchill Coach



Stevenson May Give WL Central A Battle

The '72-'73 Inter-Lakes Conference basketball race has taken on the likes of the past football season with pre-season talk centering around one word—balance.

"You can't by-pass anyone in the league this year," said Stevenson Coach George Van Wagoner, whose Spartans placed second last season with a 7-3 mark.

Stevenson and Pontiac Northern stand to offer the biggest threat in spending the applecart, with Waterford and Farmington hoping to improve and surprise someone.

FARMINGTON finished 3-7 last year in the Inter-Lakes and 5-13 overall but this year could be different. The Falcons have a new coach in 28-year-old Bruce Brown and Farmington could enjoy a

winning basketball season, something it isn't accustomed to.

"We should have a winning team," said Brown. "It's just taking some time to get together with the kids, and once we do, we will be all right."

"From what everyone tells me, Walled Lake Central is the team to beat," added Brown. "They will have to prove that to me."

Brown is installing a new system into Farmington basketball. This will be a man-to-man setup instead of the zone which the Falcons have been using. They also will play a control offense.

Farmington expects four starters of the '71-72 club in 6-0 guard Joe Montgomery, 6-6 senior forward Jim Eathorne, 6-5 senior center Dennis Hagen and 6-3 senior forward Bill Mara.

THE FIFTH SLOT is currently a battle between 6-0 junior Bob Drake, 5-11 Ron Maniewski and senior center Bill Clancy at 6-6.

"We have the size and we are going to have to use it," added Brown. "If we can't dominate the boards, I'll have to turn to the smaller guys who can run."

"If we keep working we will be right in the thick of it," concluded Brown.

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Dale Haberman is the key to the Stevenson attack. He heads a list of four returning lettermen who have been on the varsity roster since their sophomore years.

Haberman averaged 15 points per game last year.

The other three returning seniors are 6-3 forward Mike Patrick, 6-1 forward Jim May and 5-9 guard Dave Kelly.

A total of 10 seniors and two juniors round out the Spartan card.

Following the front four are seniors: Larry Fisher (5-10), Mike Taylor (5-11), Greg Eardley (6-5), Jeff Matac (6-0), a transfer from Milwaukee, Mark Cappeller (6-1) a freshman from Indiana, and Tom Centers at 6-4.

TWO JUNIORS who could help Stevenson are 5-11 Ray Davis and 6-1 Dave Link.

Stevenson will be out to match its football team in winning the Inter-Lakes and it appears that the Spartans can do it.



HARRISON'S KEY to a winning basketball season will rest in the shooting and rebounding of 6-8, 205 pound senior center Jeff Sieloff who averaged 14 points and 17 rebounds a game last year.

Prep Schedule

BASKETBALL

FRIDAY

WRESTLING

THURSDAY

SATURDAY

TUESDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

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