

Council Rock may be ready to roll again

By Don McKee
Inquirer Staff Writer

The Lower Bucks County League, declining in prestige recently, appears ready to take a step up.

The prospect of a resurgence by Council Rock, the amalgamation of Woodrow Wilson and Delhaas into Harry S Truman High School, and the return of key talent at defending champion Pennsbury and Bensalem should create a good race.

The LBCL has had a postseason playoff for the championship in three of the last five years, so closely balanced have been the six teams.

This year, only the two Neshaminites appear out of the race. Each lost several games off its 1980 schedule because of a teachers' strike and thus has less experience than its rivals to draw on. Still, Neshaminy Maple Point has enough of a nucleus to affect the race, in which Council Rock appears to be a narrow favorite.

A look at the teams
Council Rock: The Indians won this league three of four years before last season's 3-7 embarrassment, the worst of coach Walt Snyder's career.

Snyder, one of the area's best coaches, has a good staff and 12 returning starters. The only cloud on the horizon is a brutal schedule. The Rock plays Central Bucks East, William Tennent, Central Bucks West, West Catholic, Emmaus and Archbishop Wood.

"Because we feel that we play for one of the toughest schedules in the state before we reach our league commitment," Snyder said, "we are ready for league play."

If the Rock starts fast and wins, say, its first three games, it will be one of the state's high-end-ranked teams. Such a start is within the Indians' grasp, although they traditionally get off the mark slowly, even when experience is present. Two years ago, they lost their first every-body back from a title team but lost their first two games before rebounding to repeat.

Snyder has a cure for that, though. "We had a disastrous year last year — our worst ever," Snyder said, "so our intensity should make us a better football team."

Snyder will have a strong, experienced defense, with top linebacker Don D'Amico, back Tom Bedesem (a three-year starter) and a quality prospect at tackle in Brian Wood. Other returning defensive starters include back Rich Brunetti and nose guard Brian Nieman.

The offense is headed by the Hynoski brothers — quarterback Dave and running back Mike. With fullback John Kay, tight end Tom Morrison and flanker Rich Kinzler also back, the Indians should show spark. The key in the line is returning tackle Dave Habel.

Pennsbury: The Falcons were heavy favorites last year, fell on their press clips early, then came on to win the league title in a playoff. The major reason for that championship — the left foot of kicker Mike Augustin — returns. Along with nine other starters, that should give Pennsbury enough to challenge.

Augustin kicked a 45-yard field goal with 44 seconds left in the second overtime against Woodrow Wilson last year, ending a game that might have been the longest in PAIA history. He booted seven for the season, including a 54-yarder against Council Rock — the longest in area history.

Defenses return the bulk of their offense: fullback Blaine Applegate, tailback Don Brown, wingback Chuck Hammond, guard Rob Cameron, tackle Tim Murphy and tight end Dave Kellner. Coach Chuck Kane will fill the holes with center Darren Snyder, guards Keith Chesnis, tackles Gary Knop and Nick Majorczak (recovering from a broken bone in his hand) and end John Katsoc. The new quarterback is Michael Kelly, a starting defensive back a year ago.

The Falcons had an excellent defense last



IT'S ALL FOR ONE with coach Ed Neumann and his Truman High players as (left to right) former Delhaas athletes Charles Jones and Doug Mandell former Wilson players Kurt Holdsworth and Pat Hunt.

Lower Bucks League

year, and 6-foot-5, 255-pound junior tackle Paul Sierocinski returns to anchor the line. He is joined by returning tackle Eric Sibel, Kelly and Cameron, a defensive end. New starters include end Bob Dennis and cornerbacks Jim Reisenberger and Steve Skaleski.

Pennsbury, like Council Rock, has an interesting schedule, with Central Bucks West, Plymouth-Whitmanville, Abington, Wilson of West Lawn (which has two losses in three years) and Tottensville, the defending champion of Staten Island.

Truman: The Tigers have 15 players who

started at either Delhaas or Wilson. But, as coach Ed Neumann notes, molding together youngsters who used to be bitter rivals is easier said than done.

Still, there is talent — especially defensive talent — available. Split end Sam Boone gained more than 700 yards on pass receptions last year and intercepted five passes while playing defense. Terry Finley intercepted four passes. Defensive end Lou Bricon made 54 individual tackles, assisted on 21 more and recovered three fumbles. Linebacker Lloyd Font made 42 tackles.

Other promising players are tough linebacker Glen Loyd, tailback Pat Hunt (who gained 350 yards in a backup role last year) and way-back tackle John Slosky.

Bensalem: Coach Joe Ramos has turned a

once-moribund program around in the last three years, culminating in last year's 9-3 record and appearance in the final of the league's triangular playoff, where the Owls lost to Pennsbury, 17-7.

Bensalem has a good offensive nucleus returning. Quarterback Harry Dunt, running back Clinton Winder and end Darius Fore are solid at skill positions. The line is anchored by tackle Ed Aldrich (6-4, 225), center Jon Ridge (6-2, 250) and guard Ray Jones. Ramos is looking for immediate help from tight end Dwayne Hamilton (6-3, 190) and guard Rich Fearle.

Most of the offensive starters also are on defense, and linebacker Jay Ebner is a promising addition.

Neshaminy Maple Point: First-year coach Bill Crozier has 10 starters returning from a team that was only 24 in a strike-shortened season. He also has a challenging schedule, opening with Father Judge, Quakertown, Bishop Eng and small-school power Lower Merion, but he is cautiously optimistic.

"We're a small school (1,000 students)," he pointed out. "We had only 48 guys out for football, as opposed to roughly 120 at Pennsbury and 100 at Council Rock. But if we do not sustain injuries, we will be in the thick of the battle."

The basis of Crozier's optimism is an offense that returns quarterback Bill Toner, wingback Brian Jones, tailback Kirk Worst, fullback C.J. O'Neil, guard Joe Stern and tackle Dodd Cummings. Nose man Don Rodgers leads a group of returning defensive starters that includes Larry Hiarakiwiecz, John Willis and Joe Erb.

Neshaminy Langhorne: The Redskins were off to a 4-2 start last year and had won three in a row when the teachers' strike, destined to become the longest in Pennsylvania history, ended the season. Coach Charles Schmidt stepped down and Jim Weber has taken over.

The key returning starters are linebacker-tackle Mark Cordell, two-way end Tom Magdelinske and junior running back Bob Thomas.

Predicted order of finish: 1, Council Rock, 2, Truman, 3, Pennsbury, 4, Bensalem, 5, Maple Point, 6, Langhorne.

Coaches are on the move

Where is everybody? The coaching turnover in Southeastern Pennsylvania since last season may be the most extensive ever.

Here is a guide to the new coaches:
Catholic League — Bishop Kenrick: Frank Gionovitti replaces Jack Hash, who resigned.
Archbishop Wood: Joe Franchella replaces Skip Duffy, who moved to Delaware Valley College.
Archbishop Ryan: John Quinn replaces Paul Turner, who moved to Haverford School.
St. John Neumann: Bill Brannan replaces Roger Kallinger, who resigned.
St. James: Marty Moke replaces Sam Dermigny, who moved to Widener University as a part-time aide.

Interacademic League — Penn Charter: Bill Gallagher replaces Ed Zubrow, who became an assistant at the University of Pennsylvania.
Haverford School: Paul Turner replaces Mike Cunningham, who resigned.
Bi-centennial League — Jenkintown: Rich Stetter replaces Dick Rosbough, who moved to Delaware Valley College.
Lower Moreland:

Russ Mitchell replaces Andy Tryens, who retired.
Morrisville: John Chaump replaces Mike Clarke, who resigned.

Bux-Mont League — Pennridge: Frank Kryszyniak replaces Wayne Hellman, who retired.
Wissahickon: Dave Richards replaces Ralph Lowe, who resigned.

Central League — Marple-Newtown: Bob Kenig replaces Jim Mastale, who resigned.
Springfield: Rick Taylor replaces Bill Mackrides, who retired.
Upper Darby: Joe Motta replaces Frank Potter, who resigned.

Lower Bucks League — Neshaminy Langhorne: Jim Weber replaces Charlie Schmidt, who resigned.
Neshaminy Maple Point: Bill Crozier replaces John Chaump, who moved to Morrisville.
Truman: Ed Neumann, coach at Woodrow Wilson, is head man at the school resulting from the Wilson-Delhaas merger.

Independents — Chestnut Hill Academy: Jack Plunkett replaces Bill Gallagher, who moved to Penn Charter.