

# Realignment: Steps for the better

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of moves took place during the past school term; but several more are pending and could be firm up during the upcoming year.

School officials throughout the Call-Chronicle area are hopeful that the realignment, while in some cases ending long-time relationships, will help the overall sports picture by making leagues more competitive and easing the travel burden.

For example, the East Penn Football League, which begins officially with

five straight Bethlehem Catholic wins.

"We beat Pennsylvania only one time, but one out of four against a team with that kind of record means more to me than three straight wins over Central Catholic."

Dieruff is the second-smallest school in the Big Eight — Freedom is smaller, and coach Bruce Trotter feels the new league might benefit his club.

"Speaking for myself, it's not that we feel the competition is too great, but the new league can be good for the kids. Playing those bigger schools game in and game out, we can run into a serious problem with injuries."

"At this time, I don't think we have to go to Pennsylvania and Neshaminy. There's enough good football in the valley for us. I hold those schools in high esteem. They have a lot of class. But the rivalry really isn't there any more, either, and I think the new league can be better for the fans, too."

Pennsylvania Coach Kane said he was "disappointed that the league is dissolving. We always like playing up in the valley. It's a lot easier to play a league game with something hanging on it than it is to play just to keep our record. There are no teams comparable in our area, but maybe we'll have the chance now to take some trips and play other big schools."

And Neshaminy's Pal Allison said: "I've always thought the Big Eight was

an excellent league, but I think a couple of schools got a little disgruntled because Neshaminy and Pennsylvania seemed to be dominating. I might have been annoyed, too, if I was holding the other end of the stick. I'd like to think there were other reasons, but I can't help but think a couple of teams simply had too much success."

When all the league-splitting takes place, three Lehigh Valley League schools — Whitehall, Emmaus and Northampton — and Parkland of the LNL will be left in a small bunch.

There has been some discussion of making the four Class A schools a part of the GPPL in 1976. The four would like, however, to get into a league in all sports rather than just for football. They have proposed a possible divisional system, and meetings this fall may make the picture clearer.

Meanwhile, Catsasqua of the LVL will join with eight LNL schools to form the Colonial League, which will begin play next Spring. Catsasqua will not become a member until the 1975-76 term, however, since it will finish out its obligation to the LVL.

Four LVL teams and two from the LNL got together and formed the Centennial League, which will start league play next fall. Those teams also took in Notre Dame, which had been competing independently in all sports.

Three other schools — Northwestern and Pleasant Valley from the LNL and independent Pius X — have

no where to go at the present time. All have made applications to the Centennial League. None has been accepted. Officials from all three are a bit puzzled.

"We're not close enough to the situation to find out why we weren't accepted," said Northwestern athletic

director Paul Civitts, who added his school had some verbal assurances about a future possibility of being admitted. "We have a 10-game football schedule for 1975, and we're playing five of the seven Centennial

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## The new look

### COLONIAL LEAGUE

Effective March, 1975

Ranger  
Catsasqua  
Nazareth  
Palmdale  
Pen Argyl  
Salisbury  
Saucon Valley  
Southern Lehigh  
Wilson

### EAST PENN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Effective 1976

Allen  
Dieruff  
Central Catholic  
Liberty  
Freedom  
Bethlehem Catholic  
Easton  
Phillipsburg  
LEHIGH VALLEY

Emmaus  
Northampton  
Parkland  
Whitehall

### ANTHRACITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Proposed)

Cardinal Brennan  
Freeland  
Jim Thorpe  
Marian Catholic  
St. Clair  
Weathersly  
West Hazleton

### CENTENNIAL LEAGUE

Effective July 1, 1975

East Stroudsburg  
Lehighton  
Notre Dame  
Palmerston  
Pocono Mountain  
Slatington  
Stroudsburg

dent schedules in football. Correct?

And there's no longer any doubt about the solidarity of the Lehigh Valley League, the eight-school clique that pulled away first and formed its own setups in the minor sports like tennis, golf and cross-country. True?

If you've nodded affirmatively to all of the above statements, you've done your homework well over a period of years.

Yes, you may now find yourself at a tremendous disadvantage in the next year or so, though.

As of March 1, 1975, the Lehigh - Northampton League will be out of business; just four months later, the Lehigh Valley League will lose more than half its current membership. And by September of 1976, there will be no more Big Eight or Big Six football circuits.

The process is called realignment. The majority

the 1976 campaign, will consist of eight schools. Central Catholic and Bethlehem Catholic will join the Big Six schools — Allen, Dieruff, Liberty, Freedom, Easton and Phillipsburg.

Neshaminy, Pennsylvania and Reading, currently members of the Big Eight, will be dropped.

Allen Coach Les Kish sees the change as being "for economic reasons. We can go to all the schools in the new league without eating a pie; but I enjoy playing that (Pennsylvania and Neshaminy) competition. We beat Neshaminy last year for the first time in 16 years, and I think we can get more out of that one win than out of

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