

DeTour Raiders Were Crowned State Champions 40 Years Ago

By David Latva

DeTour High School hasn't fielded a football team in four years after dropping the program to co-op with Cedarville, but 40 years ago, in 1968, the Raiders team was named Class D state champions by the Associated Press, with a 7-0-1 overall record.

Head Coach Darrel Ledy, assistant coaches Blaine Tischer and Dave Miller, and 30 players went through the season with an undefeated record. The only blemish was the tie at 13 with Cheboygan Catholic Eagles during the third game of the season.

The football playoff system was not instituted and, being selected by the downstate sportswriters, as the number one team in the state was very special. The Raiders were ranked number four by the United Press International and number eight overall by the Upper Peninsula Poll.

Raiders football was something special to the community of DeTour and the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Still today, that championship season is always on the minds of true Raiders fans.

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference expanded to eight teams before the 1968 season as Brimley, Cedarville, DeTour, Engadine, Pickford, and Sault Loretto were joined by Cheboygan Catholic and Rudyard. All of the teams were Class D except Rudyard, which was Class C.

"I believe our conference is as tough as any in the state with Class D schools," said Coach Darrel Ledy at the time.

DeTour High School draws students from DeTour, Drummond Island, Raber, and Goetzville, with some having to drive 50 miles, round trip, to school.



Forty years ago, the Associated Press selected the DeTour Raiders football team as the 1968 state champions. Team members included (front, from left) Tim Tischer, Jerry Adams, Dennis Bennard, Paul Potwardski, Ed Bailey, Chuck Moser, Red Adams, Rich Bailey, Tom Seama; (middle row) Assistant Coach Dave Miller, Chris Bailey, Gerald VanAlstine, Dennis Bender, Richard Warner, Lewis Woods, Martin Ledy, Mike Schopp, Jack Behrens, manager Mike Fierek, Assistant Coach Blaine Tischer, manager Fred Plont; (back row) Head Coach Darrel Ledy, Wayne Bailey, Norm Postula, Gordon Fountain, Brian Adams, David Moser, Larry Ledy, Dale Smith, Tom Soczek, Ron Bailey, Wayne Woods, and Pat Roan.

Drummond Island students have to plan their schedule around the ferry service to the mainland.

DeTour opened the 1968 campaign with a 26-14 Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference (EUPC) win over the Cedarville Trojans. Tim Tischer scored the Raiders' first touchdown on a punt return before Martin Ledy (12 of 23 for 248 yards) tossed three scoring passes, two to Tischer and one to Rich Bailey. Defensive tackles: Red Adams and Rich Bailey 17; Ed Bailey 9; Chuck Moser 8; Tim Tischer 7.

The Raiders downed the Engadine Eagles 33-13 in week two, as four players scored touchdowns. Tim Tischer scored two, one on a pass from Martin Ledy and the second on a pass interception, and Dennis Bender, Chuck Moser, and Rich Bailey added touchdowns.

Defensive stats: Red Adams 15; Rich Bailey and Ed Bailey 10; Chuck Moser 8.

The battle of two ranked Class D state powerhouses took place in the third week, as DeTour and Cheboygan Catholic Central played to a tie of 13.

The Eagles scored first for a 6-0 lead before Martin Ledy and Tim Tischer combined on a scoring pass for a 6-6 halftime score.

Chuck Moser scored from 14 yards out early in the third quarter and Dennis Bender kicked the extra point to give the Raiders a 13-6 lead, but Cheboygan Catholic answered with the game-tying score late in the third period. The Eagles and Raiders defenses dominated the fourth quarter, and held the offenses scoreless. De-

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Coach Darrel Ledy guided the DeTour Raiders to a state championship during the 1968 football season.

Fall Sports Season Brings Enthusiasm, Excitement, New Coaches

The fall sports season began practice Monday, August 11. The Michigan High School Athletic Association-sanctioned season includes football, volleyball, and cross country teams, along with cheerleading squads.

This issue of the fall sports preview welcomes new football head coaches, Scott Barr at Cedarville and Lester Livermore Jr. at Engadine, and the Pellston/Mackinaw City co-op football program to *The St. Ignace News* family. Dave Brines, LaSalle High School teacher from Petoskey, is the head coach for the co-op program.

Area Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheerleading Coaches

St. Ignace: Marty Spencer - football, Gracia Marshall - volleyball, Emily Fullerton - cross country, and Janet Warren - cheerleading.

Cedarville: Scott Barr - football, Kathy Trevarrow - volleyball, Ryan Wilson - cross country, Shelly Koster and Robin Hakola - cheerleading.

Engadine: Lester Livermore - football, Kathy Miller - volleyball.

Pickford: Josh Rader - football, Joe Rounds - volleyball.

DeTour: Sarah Galarowic - volleyball, Matt Peterson - cross country.

Mackinac Island: Terrie Armstrong - volleyball.

Rudyard: Pat Maloney - football, Ellen Perry - volleyball.

Mackinaw City: Scott Mills - cross country.

Pellston/Mackinaw City: Dave Brines - football.

Brimley: Brian Reattoir - football, Rhonda Amble - volleyball.

Maplewood Baptist: Amber Bailey - volleyball.

This is the final season for football in the Straits Area Conference (SAC). The question is what will happen with St. Ignace, Rudyard, and Newberry. The three athletic directors from the Class C schools are inquiring with other conferences in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula.

Cheboygan is out to defend the SAC title after posting a 4-0 league mark and 8-1 overall, while Sault High recorded a 3-1 record and 8-1, St. Ignace 2-2 and 6-2, Rudyard 1-3 and 4-5, and Newberry 0-4 and 1-8.

Cedarville won the Mid-Eastern Football League in the second season of the conference with a 8-0 record and 9-0 overall, while North Dickinson went 7-1 and 7-2, Pickford 6-2 and 7-2, North Central 5-3 and 5-4, Rapid River 4-4 and 5-4, Mid Peninsula in their final season at 3-5 and 3-6, Engadine 2-6 and

2-7, Bark River-Harris 1-7 and 1-8, and Brimley 0-8 and 0-8. Mid Peninsula dropped football, and will co-op with Rapid River for the 2008 season.

St. Ignace, Cheboygan, Sault High, Cedarville, Pickford, and North Dickinson qualified for the playoffs in 2007, and the six teams could repeat the effort.

Two leagues, Northern Lights League (NLL) and the

Saints, Chiefs Conference Rivalry Ends In 2008

By David Latva

The St. Ignace and Cheboygan conference rivalry will end after the Friday, October 3, contest at Western Avenue Field in Cheboygan this fall, as the Straits Area Conference (SAC), consisting of St. Ignace, Cheboygan, Rudyard, Sault Ste. Marie, and Newberry, will disband their football league. The remaining high school athletic teams that participate will continue to compete in the SAC.

Cheboygan holds a 26-24-1 advantage during the 51 years of contests, that date back to 1952.

"We continue to get smaller [enrollment], and this season we have no JV team and one squad with 34 players," said St. Ignace athletic director and head football coach Marty

Northern Lakes Conference (NLC), do not sponsor football, but the NLL with Mackinac Island, Beaver Island, Paradise, Grand Marais, and Hannahville, will battle in volleyball and co-ed soccer. In the NLC, Mackinaw City co-ops with Pellston. Harbor Light Christian, Alba, Boyne Falls, Wolverine, Vanderbilt, and Alanson compete in volleyball and cross

country.

The football playoffs will begin October 31 and the state championship games will be at Ford Field in Detroit Friday, November 28, and Saturday, November 29.

Volleyball districts are scheduled for Saturday, November 8, and the state finals are set for Saturday, 15, in Battle Creek.

Spencer. "We are trying to join other conferences, but if this fails, we will play an independent schedule with Cheboygan."

The teams have competed in three leagues, the Straits Huron League, Michigan Huron Shores Conference, and the SAC. From 1998 to 2002, the schools didn't compete on the gridiron, as Cheboygan was in the Big North Conference and St. Ignace in the SAC.

The Saints held a 5-3-1 margin in the 1950s, 6-3 in the 1960s, and 6-4 during the 1970s, while the Chiefs took a 6-4 advantage in the 1980s, 6-2 in the 1990s, and 4-1 in the 2000 era. Ted Kearley, former head coach for the Michigan Technological University Huskies and presently on the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame

committee, coached the Chiefs in the mid 1960s.

The teams have battled to one tie, 12-12 in 1959, and one overtime contest that the Saints won, 12-6, in 1984. The Chiefs won five consecutive games from 1978 to 1982, and the Saints had a four-game streak from 1964 to 1967.

St. Ignace has been to the state championship game on two occasions, winning the Class D crown in 1983 and losing the Class C title game in 1985. Cheboygan fell in the 1991 Class BB championship contest.

In one of the biggest rivalries in Northern Michigan, the fans have packed both Saints Field and Western Avenue Field over the years, and it didn't make a difference which team was stronger.