

Underclassmen key to Plymouth success

PLYMOUTH — There's a youth movement going on at Plymouth High School.

The reason?

Head Coach David Coulter returns just eight lettermen from last year's 1-7 team and 19 of the 30 players on the roster are sophomores and freshmen.

"In the early part of the season, we'll depend on our seasoned veterans and many of them will be called on for two-way duty. As the season progresses, we expect to have some of the younger players emerge from the pack to spell some of the veterans," said the personable mentor.

The current freshmen have been very successful to this point.

"They were undefeated in both the seventh and eighth grades and there is a lot of potential in that class."

Coulter, however, expects to get considerable mileage from the eight returning lettermen.

Senior veterans include Steve Tackett (6-2, 170), Bill Hudson (145),

Big Red eye improvement in blocking

PLYMOUTH — Second-year head Coach Dave Coulter has made two significant moves for the '80 season, hoping to improve on the 1-7 record compiled by the Big Red last year.

First, the Big Red will operate from the 50 defensively instead of the 44.

Second, two-year starting quarterback Steve Tackett has been switched to tight end to bolster the up-front blocking.

"We feel both changes will help us turn it around," said Coulter, who came to Plymouth after a six-year stint as defensive coordinator at Lima Central Catholic.

Last year, in an abbreviated eight-game slate, Plymouth scored just 56 points while giving up 191.

"The 50 should be more comfortable for the players. It will allow us to use our quickness as an advantage and we'll have better gap control with it."

Senior Ralph Butler and sophomore Greg Polachek will man the end spots while a pair of juniors, Reggie Ganzhorn and Mike Metcalfe, will be the tackles and Jim Jamerson, also a junior, will be the nose guard.

Aaron Allenbaugh and Scott Harris will handle the linebacking duties and the secondary corps will include seniors Tackett, Dale Moorman, Bill Hudson and freshman Brian Vrendenburg.

"Our opener is very important, especially since we so many young players on the team. They need a lift and could get it with a victory."

Plymouth opens at Buckeye Central, Saturday, Aug. 30.

Last season was the first for the Big Red in the new Black Fork Valley Conference.

Coulter will be assisted this season by Dick Roll (defensive coordinator), Dave Dunn (offensive and defensive ends and specialty teams) and John Hart (quarterbacks, receivers and defensive secondary).

Phillip Gowitzka (150) and Dale Moorman (145) while juniors are Reggie Ganzhorn (160), Scott Harris (165), Jim Jamerson (190) and sophomore Jeff Jacobs (140).

Tackett, Hudson and Harris all earned their second varsity award last fall while the others lettered for the first time.

With the exception of Jacobs, all letter winners will see two-way duty for at least the early part of the campaign.

There is considerable experience in the Big Red offensive backfield.

In Jamerson, Plymouth has one of the hardest-running backs around.

"He had a couple of games where he rushed for more than 100 yards and finished with a little over 500 for the season. He's the biggest, strongest and fastest player on the team and could be a good one if he plays to his potential."

"However, a lot depends on the help he receives up front. Last year, he was pretty much on his own and had to break several tackles just to get the yardage he had."

Also, Jamerson scored five of the team's eight touchdowns.

Harris will get the nod at fullback.

"He compliments Jamerson real well. Last year, he split his playing time between wingback and fullback, but will be at fullback this season because of his excellent blocking ability."

Hudson will get the call at slot-back while Jacobs is tabbed for the starting nod at quarterback.

"Hudson is a versatile athlete and can play just about anywhere for us. He's got super hands and plays with a lot of enthusiasm."

Jacobs is somewhat of a surprise starter at quarterback. Backing him up will be freshman Rodney Hampton (140).

Tackett, who had been a two-year starter as the Big Red signalcaller, has been moved to tight end and will anchor the offensive line.

"Jacobs is the better passer of the two and throws a nice ball, especially on the shorter route. However, Tackett was a good option quarterback and gave us strong leadership, but his blocking on the line is more important to our success offensively. Hampton is a fine freshman and throws a real cannon."

When the Big Red switches from the slot-T to the power-I, Hudson will move to split end with freshman Mike McKenzie (140) to assume the up back position.

Moorman is slated for duty at split end in the slot-T with freshman Darrel Hale (130) also to see action.

"He (Hale) has a sweet pair of hands and runs like a deer. He'll lend a lot of depth at the position to Moorman, who has good technique and is a steady performer."

Junior Aaron Allenbaugh (155), who was an occasional starter at guard last season, will be the left

tackle with Gowitzka alongside him at guard.

At center will be sophomore Greg Polachek (170).

"He's going to be a good one before it's over. He'll add a lot of quickness to the line and is a three-sport athlete."

On the right side, Ganzhorn will be at tackle with a three-way battle developing for the start at guard among senior Ralph Butler (150), junior Mike Metcalfe (150) and sophomore James Will (155).

"Butler is a first-year player and hits like a champ while Metcalfe is making the move from tight end and Will was a running back last season."

Roster

Ends			
No.	Name	Wgt.	Yr.
11	Steve Tackett	170	12
24	Bill Hudson	145	12
28	Dale Moorman	145	12
53	Todd Adkins	135	09
86	Tom Baker	130	09
88	Matt McClain	130	09
38	Dan Mumea	120	09
Tackles			
62	Reggie Ganzhorn	160	11
61	Aaron Allenbaugh	155	11
70	Steve Garret	130	11
77	Don Adams	165	09
54	Ron Baldridge	140	09
72	John Cole	165	09
Guards			
51	Phillip Gowitzka	150	12
63	Todd Weber	155	10
67	James Will	155	10
64	Joe Messer	145	11
55	Mike Metcalfe	150	11
Centers			
52	Greg Polachek	170	10
71	Craig Thornsberry	150	10
51	Chad McGinnis	135	09
Backs			
42	Scott Harris	165	11
44	James Jamerson	190	11
21	Rich Hawkins	135	10
12	Jeff Jacobs	140	10
30	Richard Cunningham	145	09
18	Darrel Hale	130	09
17	Rodney Hampton	140	09
10	Mike McKenzie	140	09
16	Brian Vrendenburg	130	09



David Coulter



Plymouth has eight returning lettermen for the 1980 campaign. Front row, left to right, Scott Harris (42), Dale Moorman (28), Bill Hudson (24), Jeff Jacobs (12). Back row, Reggie Ganzhorn (62), Phillip Gowitzka (51), James Jamerson (44), Steve Tackett (11).