

Pollution Shows Marshall Gridders in Top Condition

By **GEORGE BRANTNER**
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FALLS CHURCH — Pollution is a dirty word but to Marshall High School's football team it might work out to an advantage.

"We practice right next to the Beltway and Rte. 7 and when they put those air pollution warnings out we get a double dose of the nasty stuff. I didn't think our kids would make it out there in that heavy air these past few days but we're in great shape," commented head coach Ed Henry.

Henry, who himself has no use for those 90 degree days, is working from 9:30 to 11 in the morning and 3:30 to 5 in the afternoon and those are two of the worst periods of the day for the dirty, humid air.

"I was thinking of changing to try and avoid the heat but the kids are in such great shape that I'll just go along like we have been," Henry said.

Marshall lost all but two of its offensive starters through graduation but returns most of the defensive team from last season.

Henry was pleased with the team's first scrimmage on Saturday, particularly with the defensive secondary that averages only 145 pounds per man.

The defensive secondary is not the only thing on the small side for the Statesmen this year. The biggest man on the team is Brent McDaniel, No. 2 quarterback, at 6-3, 196-pounds.

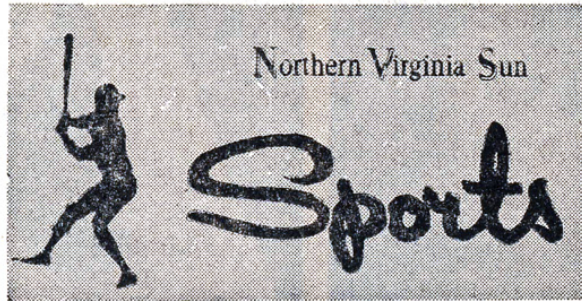
Unlike last season, however, the schedule is not as tough. Last year the Statesmen had to play T. C. Williams and Annandale, the Nos. 1 and 2 teams in Northern Virginia. Williams went on to win the state championship after beating Annandale for the regional title.

"It's just as well we're not playing that kind of a schedule this year. We have a real good bunch of kids here this season and a young ball club. We have a lot of juniors and in a year we could become a real contender," says Henry.

Of the starting 22 players on the offensive and defensive teams, 12 are seniors, and all of them had plenty of game experience last season.

Heading up the backfield is senior quarterback Mike Oliff. Oliff, one of the top passers in Northern Virginia, has been a starter since he first came out for football at Marshall and Henry rates him as one of the best quarterbacks he's coached.

Peyton Bailey, the only other member of the back-



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Ed Henry

field returning as a senior, will handle one of the running back positions. Bailey has been a starter since the middle of last season when he replaced the injured Jay McKeever at running back.

Henry greeted 110 players on the first day of practice and to this date has not made a cut list.

"I doubt if we'll cut anybody. A lot of them cut themselves. Of course there were those who reported out of shape and we had to let them go because we couldn't get them ready in the short period of time," Henry said.

When talking about the best football teams in Northern Virginia this season Henry has to go along with Annandale and Williams.

"With the talent and coaching those teams have there's no other way to see it. I'm not saying which is the best team. That will be decided on the opening night of the season when Williams and Annandale play.

"Williams and Annandale have a lot of horses that can play the game. They both have big guys who can really play. Williams has guys well over 200-pounds at defensive ends and Annandale has some mon-

sters in the line.

"We start out with Falls Church this season and they'll be tough enough for us for starters," Henry said.

If the season were to open today, Henry would go with the following lineups, subject to "one or two" adjustments:

OFFENSE

WR—Larry Caynor, Jr., 6-2, 180.

LT—Blair Flynn, Jr., 5-11, 190.

LG—Mike Burke, Sr., 5-10, 185.

C—Cliff Carroll, Jr., 5-7, 165.

RG—Mike Culhane, Sr., 5-11, 185.

RT—Jim Larson, Jr., 6-0, 190.

TE—Stewart Hieronimus, Sr., 5-11, 185.

QB—Mike Oliff, Sr., 5-10, 155.

RB—Peyton Bailey, Jr., 5-10, 163.

RB—Mike Bendorf, Jr., 5-10,

FL—Eric Mondres, Sr., 5-10, 165.

DEFENSE

LE—Dave Wallace, Jr., 6-2, 180.

LT—Mark Snow, Sr., 5-11, 185.

LLB—Steve Perlik, Sr., 5-11, 175.

MG—John Chryst, Sr., 6-2, 195.

RLB—Earl Wilkerson, Jr., 5-10, 185.

RT—Jim Day, Jr., 6-2, 190.

RE—Mark Olson, Jr., 5-10, 165.

LCB—Jeff Bush, Sr., 5-9, 160.

SS—Charlie Payne, Sr., 5-5, 135.

FS—Mike Atalla, Sr., 5-8, 155.

RCB—Gary Smerdsinski, 5-9, 165.

"So one can see that we have a fairly young ball club and it's a lot of fun to coach them. Our club isn't made up of super stars, although I wouldn't mind having one or two, and it becomes a challenge to your ability as a coach to turn them into good football players.

"Technically, or on paper, you might say our ball club isn't as good as the one we had last year. But mentally and physically there in top condition and, after all, you don't win football games on paper," Henry commented.

Most of the pre-season crystal ballers are looking for Oakton to emerge with the Great Falls District title, and Henry will but that, to some extent.

"Oakton should be the team to beat but I think a lot of people are forgetting that we have two teams this year from the old Potomac District. I think Washington-Lee will make its presence felt in the league this year. It's hard to get used to them being in the league and a lot of us tend to overlook them. But, we'll remember them soon enough once the season begins," Henry said.