

Coaches Play It Straight

By TERRY BOERS

Never let it be said you can teach old football coaches new tricks.

Those peerless preachers of positive mental attitude have apparently decided to stick closer to the old standards than Jack Brickhouse.

While there are still a few adventuresome fellows in the coaching ranks most of them didn't take any chances when it came to picking conference champions.

THE NEAREST thing to a surprise emanated from the denizens of SICA South where Crete-Monee, whose recent highlight films would have a hard time filling a single reel was the consensus selection.

Coach Bill Brechler's Warriors have been traditionally well-received in this preseason poll, only to suffer a series of indignities once the hitting begins.

This time it could be different. Crete has been the sophomore champion the last two years and could be ready to reward its backers with an elusive varsity title.

Rich South, the defending champ, was rated second best. The Stars have a new coach in Rich Pkosz and the opportunity to become the dominant school in SICA South football.

BRADLEY, WHICH appeared to have been resurrected after a series of dismal years in the early 70s, was picked to finish where several Boilermaker teams have been before, Last.

Here's how the South's top citizens see things:

1. CRETE-MONEE
2. RICH SOUTH
3. KANKAKEE WESTVIEW
4. RICH EAST
5. KANKAKEE EASTRIDGE
6. BRADLEY

The picture was crystal clear in SICA North.

Thornridge, ever the team to beat, will be again according to most reliable sources.

THE FALCONS pulled four first place ballots, while Homewood-Flossmoor and Thornwood received the other two. The Vikings would up second in the final count, despite getting a last place vote of non-confidence from somebody out there who doesn't think much of 'em.

Thornwood, another of the may team with a first year coach, was a close third. Eisenhower was a tight fourth and Bloom Trail a not to close fifth.

This will be the order of finish according to the bosses at the big schools.

1. THORNRIDGE
2. H-F
3. THORNWOOD
4. EISENHOWER
5. BLOOM TRAIL
6. (Tie) THORNTON, RICHARDS
7. BLOOM

The pickings always easy in the East thanks to Hillcrest.

ONCE AGAIN Carl Zambo's highly-trained militia is rated on top Tinley Park, which has suffered the most since the Hawks' rise, is a solid choice for second. The Titans did get one first place vote, as did Bremen, which will be spending its first year in the East after a spell in the West.

TF North, which used to be one of the most-reared schools in the south suburbs, was an underwhelming last in the balloting. Oh, how times change.

Anyway, this is how it all looks.

1. HILLCREST
2. TINLEY PARK
3. BREMEN
4. (tie) RICH CENTRAL, EVERGREEN PARK
5. OAK FOREST
6. TF NORTH

In the West, there are no buts about the Rams of Reavis.

THEY'RE A UNANIMOUS pick to win the championship for the second straight year and that's not really news.

However, it is news when Shepard, just in its second year of existence, is the selection for second. The Astros weren't all that bad last year and a lot of people figure they're gonna be a whole lot better.

In case Cliff Eade's Sandburg team needs any more incentive, this out to provide it.

1. REAVIS
2. SHEPARD
3. SANDBURG
4. LINCOLN-WAY
5. STAGG
6. OAK LAWN
7. TF SOUTH
8. ARGO

Coaches Play It Straight (Contd.)

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Things don't change much in the Illini-8.

JOLIET CATHOLIC, state 4-A champion the last two years, just happens to call the conference home and that usually means the battle is for second.

That's the way the coaches see it again this year, making the Hilltopper's a unanimous favorite.

Lockport barely edged Marian for the second spot, and then came a big point drop down to Joliet Central.

1. JOLIET CATHOLIC
2. LOCKPORT
3. MARIAN
4. JOLIET CENTRAL
5. ROMEOVILLE
6. JOLIET WEST
7. JOLIET EAST
8. BOLINGBROOK

Now all that's left is the real thing.

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