

OBSERVER-DISPATCH

Oriskany one of three local teams in new league

By **OBSERVER-DISPATCH**

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A year after reaching the National Football Foundation semifinals and finishing 7-2 overall, Oriskany is one of three Class D schools in the area going to 8-man football this season.

Gone is all-state quarterback Ryan Enos, who threw for 1,341 yards and 20 touchdowns and ran for 1,165 yards and 17 touchdowns, but Oriskany does return a pair of first team all-league players in receiver Joshua Strauss and middle linebacker Colin Kraeger. Strauss had 25 catches for 808 yards and a school-record 11 touchdowns.

Coach Jerry Tine is also high on two-way lineman Noah Hartung, a 6-foot-3, 275-pound junior.

Anthony Ricco returns as New York Mills' head coach. The Marauders struggled to field a full team in the NFF and finished 0-5 last year, but Ricco has two "very athletic playmakers" in Justin Ellsworth and Mike Jones.

Cooperstown, Bishop Grimes, South Lewis, Pulaski and Binghamton Seton Catholic are the other members of Section III's new 8-man football league. Their season opens Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22-23.

COOPERSTOWN HAWKEYES

Head coach: Joe Pestar (5th year at Cooperstown, 6-26; 55-63 overall).

Last year: 2-5 National Football Foundation, 2-5 overall.

Last 5 years: 7-33. Last 10: 26-55.

Last league title: 2009.

Last section title: None.

2017 SCHEDULE

Sept. 23: at Oriskany, 2 p.m.

Sept. 29: at Seton Catholic, 7 p.m.

Oct. 7: SOUTH LEWIS, 6 p.m.

Oct. 21: BISHOP GRIMES, 2 p.m.

Oct. 28: at Pulaski, 1 p.m.

NEW YORK MILLS MARAUDERS

Head coach: Tony Ricco.

Assistants: Ross Ricco, Jim Futscher.

Last year: 0-4 National Football Foundation, 0-5 overall.

Last 5 years: 8-29. Last 10: 25-52.

Last league title: 2010.

Last section title: None.

Starters returning: Justin Ellsworth; Mike Jones; Marcus Mariotti; Dante DiOrio;
Chris Peckham; Vedar Rios; Nick Fellone; Paul Ward.

2017 SCHEDULE

Sept. 23: BISHOP GRIMES, noon.

Sept. 30: ORISKANY, noon.

Oct. 7: at Pulaski, 1 p.m.

Oct. 13: at South Lewis, 7 p.m.

Oct. 28: SETON CATHOLIC, noon.

ORISKANY

Head coach: Jerry Tine (7th year, 23-18).

Assistant: Eric Enos.

Last year: 6-1 National Football Foundation, 7-2 overall.

Last 5 years: 21-20. Last 10: 39-44.

Last league title: 1999.

Last section title: None.

Starters returning: WR-DB Joshua Strauss (5-11, 169, Sr.); WR-DB Connor Blovat (5-11, 172, Sr.); WR-DB Mykal Warcup (6-0, 170, Sr.); OL-LB Colin Kraeger (6-0, 205, Sr.); OL-DL Noah Hartung (6-3, 275, Jr.); OL-DL Dylan Dunning (6-2, 250, Sr.); OL-DL Kenny Burtch (6-0, 200, Sr.).

2017 SCHEDULE

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Oct. 14: at Seton Catholic, 5 p.m.

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