

# 'Glad' to be back

TC St. Francis eager to make up for past blowouts

By **LANCE-MICHAEL CORREIA**  
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — From dancin' in the Dome to down in the dumps, all in less than a calendar year.

For most of the seniors on the Traverse City St. Francis football team, their prep careers began with an exciting playoff run that culminated in a Division VII state championship in Pontiac. Few saw actual game action as freshmen, but the experience left a definite impression.

Considering the past Gladiators' gridiron exploits, one of those freshman — Pat Heintz, now a senior half-back/defensive back — figured that playoff success would be an annual rite.

"It was great," Heintz recalled. "We got to practice with the varsity and dress for the games. And we definitely learned a lot — just the intensity, and what it takes to make a (playoff) run."

But such gluttonous achievement proved difficult, and the

**WHO:** Mio (8-1) vs. Traverse City St. Francis (8-1)  
**WHERE:** Thirby Field  
**WHEN:** Saturday, 7:30 p.m.  
**RADIO:** WLDR FM-101.9  
**UP NEXT:** Winner of Johannesburg-Lewiston/Coleman

**St. Francis results**

TCSF 28, Benzie Central 6  
TCSF 32, Glen Lake 25  
TCSF 40, Kalkaska 0  
TCSF 68, Elk Rapids 0  
TCSF 48 Charlevoix 0  
Muskegon CC 46, TCSF 14  
TCSF 27, East Jordan 6  
TCSF 69, Harbor Springs 6  
TCSF 23, Boyne City 20

Gladiators struggled to 5-4 records in both 2000 and 2001, making the postseason field each year on playoff points rather than the compulsory six wins.

And after losing a grip on the Lake Michigan crown in 2000 after claiming or sharing it in each previous campaign since the league congealed in 1990, the team's first postseason contest that season proved far worse than disastrous. Northwest Conference

champion Kingsley saddled St. Francis with a 56-13 pasting that ranks as the Glads' worst playoff setback in history.

"That was certainly a bad way to end the season to say the least," TCSF coach Larry Sellers said. "But considering the fact that we had ... a lot of players back from that state championship team, it was especially disappointing. We had tremendous leadership in 1999, but that wasn't necessarily the case in 2000."

"At Kingsley, a lot of us were sophomores, so there really wasn't too much we could do to try and get back in the game," said Mike Schram, now a senior lineman and, along with Heintz, one of four co-captains. "Looking at that scoreboard — that was pretty hard. We had just come off of winning states."

The 2001 season wasn't much better. Another 5-4 record, no Lake Michigan title, and another back-door playoff bid resulted in a similar first-round postseason thrashing — this time a 37-0 shellacking at



Record-Eagle/file photos

Above, Glads coach Larry Sellers instructs senior QB Adam Clark. At right, TCSF senior back Mac Schilling breaks off yardage in the league title-clinching win over Boyne City.



the hands of Glen Lake. It was the first time in six years that a Gladiators team had been blanked, and the first time ever that St. Francis had been bounced in the first round of the playoffs in two consecutive seasons.

See **GLADS**, Page 6 ►

## ST. FRANCIS GLADIATORS are supported by these local businesses:

**Great Lakes Orthopaedic Center**  
Tel. 231-935-0900  
800-203-0044  
Internet Address <http://www.greatlakesorthopaediccenter.com>  
4045 West Royal Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49684-8965

Edward J. Brophy, D.O.  
W. John Bruder, M.D.  
Michael J. Forness, D.O.  
B. Scott Groseclose, II, M.D.  
Norman J. Licht, M.D.  
David S. Lint, M.D.  
Robert P. Lyons, M.D.  
Joseph M. McGraw, M.D.  
Vincent R. Prusick, M.D.  
G. Barry Wickstrom, M.D.  
James J. Berg, P.A.-C.  
Amy E. Portenga, P.A.-C.  
Paula K. Robey, P.A.-C.  
Carolynn A. Kellogg, MSN, FNP

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
**SCHMIDT REALTORS®**  
101 Ames Street.  
P.O. Box 863  
Elk Rapids, MI 49629

**DOUGLAS BRONKEMA, GRI**  
Associate Broker, Manager  
Business: (231) 264-1000  
Toll Free: (888) 264-5611  
Residence: (231) 264-6818  
Cellular: (231) 632-0640  
dbronkema@coldwellbanker.com

**GO GLADS!**



**Good Luck Team!!!**  
**Handyman CONNECTION™**  
RETIRED CRAFTSMEN AND OTHER EXPERTS®  
TOLL FREE 1-877-899-9369

**ETC** East Traverse Catholic Federal Credit Union  
1707 Veterans Dr. TC MI 49684 946-6655  
209 St. Mary's St. Elk. Leelanau, MI 49653 256-7738  
746 Mission Ave. LC MI 49686 929-9992

**GO GLADS!**  
[www.etcfcu.org](http://www.etcfcu.org) (800) 207-9780

**YOUR SHIRT SOURCE**  
**GO TEAMS!!** **GO TEAMS!!**  
**JenTees**  
custom screen printing  
515 Wellington St., Traverse City  
231-929-3610  
Toll Free 888-536-8337

- Team Uniforms
- Hooded Sweats
- Jackets • Hats
- T-shirts • & More
- Screen Printing
- Embroidery
- Awards

**T. Moeggenberg PROFESSIONAL MENSWEAR**  
**Good Luck Dane!**  
Business Hours  
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday  
— Closed Holidays —  
418 S. Union Street Traverse City, MI 49684 231-941-5525  
Fax 231-941-5527



**GO GLADS!**  
*Your Family Shoe Store*  
**Golden Shoes**  
122 E. Front St Downtown Traverse City  
(231) 947-6924 • 1-888-465-3367  
A Proud SPonsor Of The St. Francis Gladiators