

Boyne, Gladiators lead LMC

New coaches, new team alter makeup of the conference

BY JEFF PEEK
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — Last fall, the Lake Michigan Conference football championship came down to one game: Boyne City vs. Traverse City St. Francis.

If LMC coaches' predictions are accurate, the same scenario will unfold again this season.

ST. FRANCIS won last year's showdown 23-20 at Thirlby Field by twice turning the Ramblers away inside the 10-yard line during the final minute of play.

The Gladiators finished 6-0, Boyne City 5-1.

St. Francis will be tested early with tough non-conference to start off its schedule — at home against Benzie Central tonight and at Muskegon Catholic on Sept. 6.

New coach Josh Sellers says you can include Boyne in the Gladiators' list of tough games.

"If I were to predict I record, I would say 8-1 is attainable," Sellers said. "But we'll have to

play well to get there.

"We have some tough games — Benzie, Muskegon Catholic, Boyne. And East Jordan scares me because they have a good senior class.

"I know it's a cliché, but if we stay healthy we'll be fine. If some guys get hurt, though ..."

BOYNE CITY is poised to take the LMC title away from St. Francis. The Ramblers return 10 starters from a team that went 7-3 and lost to Calumet in the Division V playoffs.

"We're fairly balanced," Boyne coach Dave Hills said. "I don't know that we have any superstars. We just have a solid football team that worked hard in the off-season to give us every opportunity to be successful."

The Ramblers will be anchored by senior co-captains Paul Simeri and Brenton

Rozycki, who both play offensive guard and inside linebacker.

Simeri (5-foot-10, 195) had an award-winning season last fall, amassing 128 solo and assisted tackles and being selected first team all-conference, all-region dream team and all-state.

Rozycki (6-2, 205) racked up 96 solo and assisted tackles while earning all-league honors.

"They're certainly at the center of our offense and defense, and they're there for a reason," Hills said. "They're the heart of our football team."

Senior Tyler Daniels (6-1, 185) will take the reigns at quarterback after seeing plenty of late-game playing time behind last year's starter, Beau Detcher.

Daniels will have another pair of all-conference selec-



Record-Eagle file photo

Kalkaska's Drew Gillespie flies over two East Jordan players.

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COACHES POLL

School (1st place votes)	Pts.
TC St. Francis (4)	53
Boyne City (3)	50
East Jordan	38
Charlevoix	35
Kalkaska	32
Grayling	22
Harbor Springs	14
Elk Rapids	8

7 of 8 coaches participated

PLAYERS TO WATCH

- Drew Gillespie, Kalkaska
- Travis Sivek, TCSF
- Jeff Urban, Charlevoix
- Reed Ameel, Boyne City
- Paul Simeri, Boyne City

2002 STANDINGS

	Conference			Overall	
	W	L	GB	W	L
St. Francis	6	0	-	10	2
Boyne City	5	1	1	7	3
Kalkaska	4	2	2	6	4
East Jordan	3	3	3	5	4
Charlevoix	2	4	4	2	7
Harbor Springs	1	5	5	1	8
Elk Rapids	0	6	6	0	9



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