

# If funding goal is met, KML may add football to lineup

By **JUDY HARLOW**  
Daily News-Staff

"Ready, shift. Hut 1, Hut 2."

Starting next fall, those words could be heard at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, if the committee working on raising funds reaches a goal established by the school's board of controls as a condition for starting a football program in 2001.

"Back in August, our board passed a resolution we could play football in the fall of 2001, providing we could raise funds needed for set-up costs," Len Collyard, the athletic director of the school, said last week.

After the decision was made, a group of parents, including Terry and Lori Koth of Germantown, Steve and Kathy Bintz of Jackson, Mark and Tish Rundel of Menomonee Falls, and Todd and Betty Mathies of Newburg, began the task of raising those funds. All have boys who will be attending KML in the future, according to Collyard, who said, "We've kind of set a \$35,000 figure" for the goal, basically to equip approximately 60 players.

And how is the effort going so far? "We have a little over \$10,000 that has come in to this point in time," Collyard said. "I'm hoping by the middle of December we'll have made enough headway they (board members) are satisfied, so we can see our way clear to start ordering (equipment) and things like that."

Collyard also said an anonymous donor has come forward and offered to match "a sizeable portion of what has been donated."

The plans are to start with a freshman team next fall, Collyard said, indicating perhaps there would also be a junior varsity schedule set up for the upperclassmen.

"We want them to have a positive experience," Collyard said, concerning the decision to start with freshmen playing against other freshmen, rather than starting with a varsity team and having the players struggle against more experienced teams.

In 2002, the team would have a freshman and JV team, and in 2003, there would be a varsity team but it would not play in the Parkland Conference. That would come in 2004 when, Collyard said, "We

school.

"That's all in the works with our building program, too," Collyard said, explaining another construction phase was just approved by the board, including \$770,000 for field work.

The Rettler Company out of Stevens Point, which drew up plans for Hartford Union High's new field, already has a concept plan of what the outdoor facilities could look like.

When asked about teachers on the staff who might be interested in coaching football, Collyard said, "We have some people who are interested in being assistant coaches," and school officials would like to hire or bring in a teacher with a good background in the sport to be the head coach.

Talk about having a football team at KML began 10-15 years ago, according to Collyard, who said the major concerns were the high cost involved with starting the sport and having enough students in the school to field football and soccer teams in the fall. He is now convinced there will be enough.

"We're expecting to go over 400 (students) next year," Collyard said, reporting he took a survey of incoming freshmen boys, and 15-20 indicated "pretty solidly they would go out for football," with another 13 saying they would participate in soccer.

"I'm comfortable with it at this point in time," Collyard, who has been the athletic director at the school since 1976, said.

Lori Koth and her husband, Terry, have been involved in the project since it was started.

Lori Koth said the effort started with just four families, but, "Now, we've opened it up. At the last meeting, we had about 30 parents. We're all looking to the future," Koth said, indicating the group is seeking individual donation and not using fund raisers to reach their goal.

The Koths have a son in fourth grade who is already playing organized football in Germantown.

"We want him to go there (KML)," Koth said, indicating there are options, like going to Wisconsin Lutheran High School or Winnebago Lutheran Academy, like her husband did, living with a family in Fond du Lac so he could play football when he was in high

made enough headway they (board members) are satisfied, so we can see our way clear to start ordering (equipment) and things like that."

Collyard also said an anonymous donor has come forward and offered to match "a sizeable portion of what has been donated."

The plans are to start with a freshman team next fall, Collyard said, indicating perhaps there would also be a junior varsity schedule set up for the upperclassmen.

"We want them to have a positive experience," Collyard said, concerning the decision to start with freshmen playing against other freshmen, rather than starting with a varsity team and having the players struggle against more experienced teams.

In 2002, the team would have a freshman and JV team, and in 2003, there would be a varsity team but it would not play in the Parkland Conference. That would come in 2004 when, Collyard said, "We would tie our schedule into the Parkland Conference."

"The first couple of years we'll have to do some independent scheduling," Collyard said.

Concerning the field the Chargers would play on, Collyard indicated the first-year games would probably be played on the school's soccer field, adjacent to the

participate in soccer.

"I'm comfortable with it at this point in time," Collyard, who has been the athletic director at the school since 1976, said.

Lori Koth and her husband, Terry, have been involved in the project since it was started.

Lori Koth said the effort started with just four families, but, "Now, we've opened it up. At the last meeting, we had about 30 parents. We're all looking to the future," Koth said, indicating the group is seeking individual donation and not using fund raisers to reach their goal.

The Koths have a son in fourth grade who is already playing organized football in Germantown.

"We want him to go there (KML)," Koth said, indicating there are options, like going to Wisconsin Lutheran High School or Winnebago Lutheran Academy, like her husband did, living with a family in Fond du Lac so he could play football when he was in high school.

Koth said some boys can't make the basketball or baseball teams, but since football is "a non-cut sport," everyone who goes out will be on the team. "Plus, we think there might be a significant number of kids not going to KML because they don't have football."

---

**"Plus, we think there might be a significant number of kids not going to KML because they don't have football."**

**- Lori Koth**

Parent and member of group seeking to bring football to Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School

---

# Kettle Moraine Lutheran kicks off tradition

**FOOTBALL**, From 12

The three captains — seniors 3.J. Miller, Jason Weinrich and Eric Henne — could barely contain their joy at taking to the field.

"We've all been wanting to do this since we were little kids," Miller said. "It was great hearing how many people said they were coming to the game."

Henne said he and his teammates were truly blessed.

"Because we are able to do this before we graduate," he said. "It's unbelievable what it's done for our school."

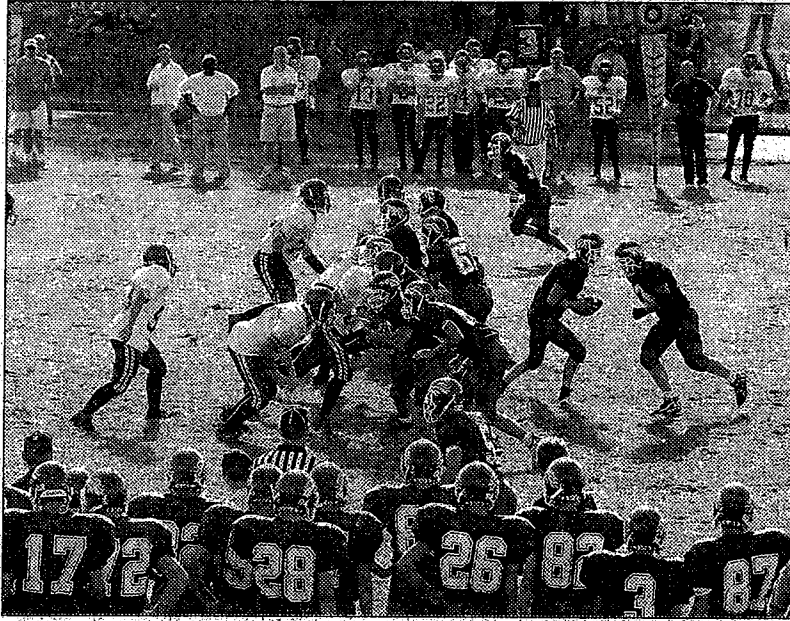
Weinrich said it's been rather embarrassing to meet other high school students and not be able to talk football.

"It's big for the school because now we can say we have a football team," he said.

Kettle Moraine athletic director Len Collyard said forming a football team has been discussed off and on for nearly 15 years.

"We reached the point where we felt the school had grown enough to offer more opportunities" for boys to play sports, he said.

Collyard said that last year, for example, 56 boys went out for soccer. This year that number dropped to 46 but 60 boys went



DAVID JONES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Kettle Moraine** Lutheran High School (dark jerseys) squares off with Sheboygan Lutheran High School during Kettle Moraine's first high school football game Tuesday in West Bend. Kettle Moraine won, 22-6.

out for the football team.

The decision was made, however, to field a junior varsity team.

"We didn't feel, with our program just starting, that we would be competitive with schools that have well established programs,"

he said. "We decided it would be best to break ourselves in slowly."

For Mark Otte, head football coach, it's still football and a chance for the storybook high school experience.

"I think it can add a lot to school and that is what we are trying to do," he said, adding that he and his team had made a spiritual commitment as well as an athletic one.

"As a team, we decided to do something that made our school better place, as a another way to serve the Lord," he said. "We got done with practice one night and went over to the soccer game as a team. Maybe we'll go to the school musical or a girls volleyball game as a way to show our faith in our school."

Parents were pitched between excitement and worries about injuries or defeat.

Judy White said she knew her son was nervous. It was the junior's silence at the breakfast table that told her.

"No, he didn't say much and that's when I know he's nervous, she said.

Sue Neuberger worked the collection gate at the game, all the while keeping an eye peeled on her son and others during warm ups.

"We are so thoroughly excited for this to happen," she said as her husband, Steve, stood nearby.

"It's got to be very exciting for the boys to be the first ever," he said.

