

## Diamond Drill

### Out of the Past

November 26, 1975

Forest Park Trojans are Michigan High School State Class "D" Football Champions. The Trojan football team returned to Crystal Falls for a gigantic celebration after defeating Flint Holy Rosary (50-0) in the Class "D" championship game played at Waldo Stadium on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Trojan team had a (8-1) regular season record with the only blemish coming in a controversial loss (14-13) to an undefeated Class "C" Norway squad. Note: Despite their undefeated season the Norway team did not qualify for the playoffs because eventual Class "C" State Champion Ishpeming (8-1) had more playoff points? The Trojans entered the playoffs by defeating No. 1 ranked Posen at Thirlby Stadium in Traverse City, Michigan (67-0). The Crystal Falls and Ishpeming teams proved to the doubtful public that Upper Peninsula football is worthy of recognition. Honors for the 1975 Trojans include: Copper Country Conference Champs; U.P. Class "D" Team of the year; Dick Mettlach – Coach of the Year; Bill Santilli – Back of the Year; Bryan LaChapelle – Lineman of the Year and U.P. Dream Team members Randy Absolon, Charlie Davis, Bob Gervenak and Dick Mettlach Jr.



**CLASS D CHAMPIONS**—The Forest Park Trojans, chosen last week by the U.P. Sportswriters and Sportscasters as the Team of the Year in Class D, will take the first step this weekend in an effort to gain the title of the top team in the state in that class. The Trojans are pictured above in their official

photograph and are identified as follows: first row---Gerard Valesano, Jim Maskus, Larry Anderson, Mark Tollefson, Larry Maenpaa, Tony Kudwa, Bob Nylund, Jim Mettlach and Mark Nylund; second row---Frank Stebbins, Paul Skibo, John Sundquist, Alan Beck, Marty Ball, Randy Absolon, Dale Hendrick-

son, Brian Willman, Bill Santilli and Dick Mettlach; third row---assistant coach Rudy Valesano, Robert Pagel, Michael Peterson, Mark Trepasso, Bob Gervenak, Bryan LaChapelle, Charles Corbett, Charlie Davis, Mark Oberlin, Mark Oliverius and head coach Dick Mettlach.