

# Seniors needed to lead Plymouth in 1991

## Group must take sophs under wing

PLYMOUTH — Any success Plymouth has on the gridiron in 1991 will come from the contribution of the senior class.

The seven seniors have combined to win eight varsity letters and includes team captains Dennis Cunningham, Steve Powers, Andy Steinmetz and Chris Roberts.

But their biggest job is taking a talented group of sophomores under their wings.

"We're happy so far," said Big Red head coach Dick Roll. "The seniors are doing a tremendous job with leadership and helping the sophomore class develop rapidly, which is something we have to have."

The job the seniors do will become evident on Aug. 30 when Plymouth opens the season at Crestline.

"The thing that impresses me the most is that I've never had a group work as hard as this one," said Roll, who guided the Big Red to a 4-6 mark last year and owns a 45-46 record in 10 seasons at the school.

"We had a lot of games last year that we could have won and the seniors have decided that they are tired with mediocrity."

Roll's offensive plans calls for a return to a power set to take full advantage of the skills of Cunningham, a 5-6, 152-pound veteran fullback, and sophomore letterman Curt Handshoe (170).

Junior letterman Charlie Burton (152) is also working in the backfield, despite his primary responsibilities at wide receiver, while sophomores John Thompson (130),



Plymouth will try to improve on last year's 4-6 mark with 10 letterman returning. They include, front row (left to right); Gordy Strom (3), Curt Handshoe, Dennis Cunningham, Steve Powers and Quinn Sexton. Back row; Charlie Burton (92), Chad Deskins, Dale Fletcher, Chris Roberts and Andy Steinmetz.

Thad Stumbo (142) and Craig Powers (155) and freshman Rodney Hursh (130) serve as backups.

Ricky Reeder, a 6-0, 160-pound sophomore, has emerged as the top candidate to take over the controls of the Big Red offense at quarterback, but the backup role is still a concern as Steve Powers (137), a 2-year letterman at wide receiver, is taking snaps along with freshmen Greg Davis (140) and Jason Waddles (163).

Burton and Steve Powers, along with junior letterman Gordy Strom (120) return as the top candidates at flanker, with sophomore letterman Quinn Sexton moving from tight end to split end and George Sexton, a 153-pound junior who is not related to Quinn, taking over at tight end.

Other wide receivers on the roster are senior Bobby Tuttle (150), juniors Devon Bailey (165) and Ryan Keene (140), sophomore Brian Loehn (155) and freshmen Jeremy Gasparac (119) and David Krietemeyer (134), while freshmen Bryan Bailey (180) and Kit Wiley are backups at tight end.

Roberts, a 200-pound 2-year letterman, is back at one of the guard slots, with Steinmetz (225), who owns one letter, at tackle. Senior Brad Hamman, a transfer student from Van Wert, has been a pleasant surprise at the other guard, with sophomore Duane Davis (170) in

### 1990 RESULTS

PLYMOUTH (Won 4, lost 6)	
0	Mt. Gilead .....
28	St. Paul * .....
0	Eaton .....
6	Western Reserve * .....
12	South Central * .....
41	Danbury * .....
28	Monroeville * .....
6	Black River * .....
21	New London * .....
0	Mapleton * .....
Points - 142 — Allowed - 169	

reserve. Sophomore Eric Felver (210) will pair with Steinmetz at tackle with senior Danny Conley (190) serving as the backup.

Also, senior letterman Chad Deskins (190), junior Shane White (360) and freshmen Ron Tash (162), Merle Richman (160), Greg Mongold (162), Jim Arms (199), Todd Patrick (150), Keith Boyer (240) and Brian Handshoe (210) are fighting for playing time at tackle and junior Chris Blankenship (150), sophomore Jim Dubois (160) and freshman David Sheely (150) are at guard.

The fight at center is between sophomore Donnie Roberts (190) and senior Dale Fletcher (200), who lettered at tackle a year ago.

The Big Red will have a new look on defense this fall.

"We went to the 4-4 defense and the object is to get to the quarterback before he gets a chance to do anything with it," said Roll. "The philosophy is to get to the ball and get 11 helmets on it."

"Our kids really like this defense and are having a lot of fun with it."

The new defense should work well for Plymouth because of its strength at linebacker with Cunningham, a starter at middle guard a year ago, and Hamman, who earned two varsity letters on defense at Van Wert, on the inside with Fletcher in reserve. Chris Roberts and Quinn Sexton patrol the outside, while Davis works as the main backup.

Other candidates include Tuttle, Blankenship, Waddles, Bailey, Tash, Richman, Patrick and Wiley.

Steinmetz anchors the defensive line as a returning starter at tackle, with Deskins, Conley and White in the battle for the other spot.

At end, George Sexton has the inside track for one starting job with Craig Powers, Donnie Roberts and Stumbo in competition on the other side. Also, Bailey and Dubois are working at defensive end and White, Arms, Sheely and Boyer are in reserve at tackle.

Steve Powers is a returning starter in the secondary, but moves from safety to a corner, while Burton is the top candidate on the other side with Reeder and Davis fighting for playing time. Curt Handshoe will move into Powers' old spot at safety.

Other candidates for the secondary include Strom, Keene, Thompson, Loehn,

Gasparac, Hursh and Krietemeyer.

"Right now, everything is going good," said Roll. "We know we'll have some problems with (the defense) because it's new to everybody, but we'll just have to make the adjustments."

### ROSTER

Ends			
No.	Name	Wt.	Yr.
2	Jeremy Gasparac	119	9
3	Gordy Strom	120	11
11	John Thompson	130	10
12	Greg Davis	140	9
28	George Sexton	153	11
29	Bryan Bailey	180	9
41	Devon Bailey	165	11
80	Brian Loehn	155	10
81	Ryan Keene	140	11
86	Quinn Sexton	162	10
89	Kit Wiley	160	9
90	David Krietemeyer	134	9
92	Charlie Burton	152	11
Tackles			
53	Ron Tash	162	9
62	Merle Richman	160	9
63	Greg Mongold	162	9
64	Dale Fletcher	200	12
65	Andy Steinmetz	225	12
66	Jim Arms	199	9
70	Todd Patrick	150	9
71	Eric Felver	210	10
74	Shane White	360	11
Guards			
55	Chris Blankenship	150	11
56	Jim Dubois	160	10
60	Duane Davis	170	10
69	Brad Hamman	175	12
73	David Sheely	150	9
75	Chris Roberts	200	12
76	Keith Boyer	240	9
77	Brian Handshoe	210	10
78	Chad Deskins	190	12
Centers			
52	Danny Conley	190	12
57	Jack Mosley	164	9
58	Donnie Roberts	190	10
Backs			
13	Thad Stumbo	142	10
17	Jason Waddles	163	9
18	Ricky Reeder	160	10
22	Curt Handshoe	170	10
25	Bobby Tuttle	150	12
3-	Dennis Cunningham	152	12
34	Rodney Hursh	130	9
44	Craig Powers	155	10
45	Steve Powers	137	12



Dick Roll  
...in 10th year