

School: Romeo

Coach: Dale Teller

2007-08 Record: 10-2 MAC

Red; 19-4 overall

Outlook: In the past three seasons, the Bulldogs have won three outright MAC Red titles, two Class A district championships, gone a combined 56-12 overall and 32-4 in the toughest division in the MAC and averaged 66 points scored per game while allowing just 52 points per game.

So are there any concerns for the program that has five division titles in the past eight seasons?

“Experience and scoring,” said Teller, who starts his 10th season as head coach at Romeo. “We lost a ton of starters.”

Gone is Blake Cushingberry, holder of the Romeo career scoring record with more than 1,500 points. Gone also is Brent Newsom, the Bulldogs’ top defender.

“Romeo has a tradition of winning,” said a MAC Red coach. “And they have something to prove ... that they can win without Cushingberry.”

Romeo does have some experience. Nate Saliga is back for a third year on the varsity. Junior Ryan Thomas returns as well after playing up on the varsity as a sophomore.

Rick Roth is a solid athlete, who was an all-MAC quarterback. Roth and Saliga are the Bulldogs’ captains.

“They’re good examples in class and on the floor,” said Teller.

Kyle Maxwell is back and started last season, but an injury is keeping him out of the lineup.

“Not sure when he’s returning if he does return,” said Teller.

This is the fifth consecutive season that the Bulldogs are in the MAC Red, having bounced between the Red, White and Blue in the 1990s. Romeo was a Blue Division program in Teller’s first campaign, 1999-2000.