



North Farmington coach Ron Holland

Raider grid coach confident

By TOM BAER

North Farmington High School's football opponents had better beware. Coach Ron Holland is predicting a good season for his North Raiders.

"We're going to have a winning season," said the optimistic Holland, one of the state's most respected prep football coaches.

"We've been working hard all winter and spring, and our kids got lots of experience from last season. We don't have any glaring weaknesses, and we think it's about time we started winning."

North Farmington was a powerhouse in Class A football in the early 1970s, but the Raiders haven't had a winning team since 1974, when the team went 6-3 overall. Last season, North finished 4-6 overall and 2-2 in the Northwest Suburban League.

North opens its 1977 campaign at 2 p.m. Saturday at home against non-league Pontiac Northern.

This fall, North coaches are taking up their defense with eight returnees from last season's unit.

"I really feel that we'll have a tough defense," Holland said. "We have all of our secondary back and our linebackers and tackles are experienced. I'd be real surprised if anybody can move the ball on us consistently."

North's defensive backfield includes seniors Andy Salinas (6-foot-1, 175 pounds), Greg Hughes (5-8, 165), and Mark Thompson (6-0, 165), and junior Tim Quinn (5-8, 175). Hughes and Thompson should see plenty of action as offensive running backs.

Quinn will also handle the team's place kicking chores. Last season, he kicked a 33-yard field goal to lift North past Bloomfield Hills Lahser in overtime.

"Our KICKING game is very strong," Holland said. "We have Quinn back for kickoffs, field goals



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and extra points. We also have Mark Thompson back, and he's an excellent punter."

North has size and experience in its defensive line with senior tackles Chris Koltz (5-11, 200), Jim Sudkamp (5-9, 190), and senior linebackers Mark Schulte (5-11, 200) and Chris Rentz (5-9, 170).

Offensively, North Farmington lost heavily through graduation, but the Raiders "have some skilled people back," according to Holland. Still, some juniors are going to get tested this season.

One key to the offense is quarterback Ron Fredericks. The 6-2, 170-pound junior saw limited action last season, throwing a touchdown pass against Farmington High.

"We're counting on a lot from Ron," Holland said. "He does a good job of running the team. He throws the ball well and he runs the options well."

Two more "skilled people" on North's offensive unit are junior running backs Jeff Cohen (6-1, 190) and Mike Miller (5-8, 165).

"Offensively, we're a little inexperienced," Holland said. "But we feel we can make up for that with our speed. Miller and Cohen both run the 100 in 10.0 or 10.1, so we'll have some speed back there."

"We feel that we can move the ball if our offensive line can come along and do a good job."

HOLLAND is counting on good seasons from center Tim Emmitt (6-4, 170), guard John Petri (5-8, 175), guard Dana McCrum (5-10, 165), tackle Matt Abar (5-10, 185) and tight end Jim Collins (5-10, 185). All are seniors. Junior Dan Deacon (6-2, 200) looks like a good bet for a tackle spot.

North's second game is next Friday (Sept. 15) at non-league Walled Lake Central. The Raiders open their Northwest Suburban League season at home on Sept. 24 against Thurston High.

North meets non-league Ann Arbor Pioneer at home on Oct. 1 before resuming its NSL schedule at Livonia Franklin on Oct. 8. Defending NSL champion Westland John Glen, which has won its last 13 straight games for the state's longest winning streak, looks strong again, most coaches believe.

"Glenn has a good nucleus from last season with five back on offense and five on defense," said Holland, whose Raiders entertain Glenn on Oct. 15.

"Livonia Franklin has its defensive unit almost intact, plus some good speed on offense, so they should be tough too. The three of us (Glenn, Franklin and North Farmington) should be right in the thick of things."

NORTH WON'T be playing one of the NSL teams — Garden City East — this season. Garden City's high school sports programs had been eliminated because of a millage failure. Voters passed another millage, which reinstated the sports programs, but too late to make North Farmington's varsity football schedule.

Instead, North will travel to Monroe High for a non-league game on Oct. 21. North winds up its season with two traditional non-leaguers. The Raiders play at home against Farmington Harrison on Oct. 29, and at Farmington High School on Nov. 5.

North Farmington's varsity assistant coaches are Ralph Temby (defense) and Jim O'Leary (kicking). Jim Tasse, Dennis Mikel and Kris Schultz coach North's reserve team.

N. FARMINGTON FOOTBALL

Varsity Schedule — Sept. 15—Farmington Harrison, 2 p.m.; Sept. 16—West Bloomfield, 7:30 a.m.; Sept. 16—Pontiac Northern, 2 p.m.; Sept. 22—Livonia Franklin, 2 p.m.; Sept. 22—Thurston High, 2 p.m.; Oct. 1—Ann Arbor Pioneer, 2 p.m.; Oct. 8—Livonia Franklin, 2 p.m.; Oct. 15—Westland John Glen, 2 p.m.; Oct. 21—Monroe High, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 29—Farmington Harrison, 2 p.m.; Nov. 5—Farmington High, 2 p.m.

Reserve Schedule — Sept. 15—at Pontiac Northern, 4 p.m.; Sept. 21—Walled Lake Central, 2:45 p.m.; Sept. 29—at Thurston High, 4 p.m.; Oct. 6—Warren Tower, 4 p.m.; Oct. 12—Livonia Franklin, 3:40 p.m.; Oct. 20—at Westland John Glen, 7 p.m.; Oct. 27—Garden City East, 4 p.m.; Nov. 3—Farmington High, 3:45 p.m.

Farmington has size, experience

By TOM BAER

Late last fall, Farmington High School finished a so-so football season on a happy note, defeating arch rival North Farmington, 26-5. It was the kind of a game where everything went right for coach Hal Beardsley and his Farmington griders.

Now, Beardsley is hoping that the late-season success will carry over into the 1977 campaign, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at home with another neighborhood rival, Farmington Harrison, providing the opposition.

Farmington finished last season with a 4-5 overall record and a 3-2 mark in the Inter Lakes League. Graduated are last season's standouts, like quarterback Randy Meier and running back Rick Mihizer.

Still, Beardsley has a good nucleus around which to build the 1977 Farmington Falcons.

"We have some decent experience," said Beardsley, naming the team's strong points. "And we'll be as big as anybody we play. Nobody'll be bigger than us, that's for sure."

Farmington's offensive fortunes begin with Marty Bona, a 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior who saw extensive action last season as a quarterback and tailback. Bona injured his hand in a recent practice, but he'll be ready for the opener, according to Beardsley.

"We're counting on a lot from Marty this season," Beardsley said. "He's a natural leader with the kids. We used him a lot last year and he did well in pressure situations. He's that type of athlete."

IN ADDITION to Bona, Beardsley has five other offensive starters back from last season. The seniors are

guard Jim Harrison (5-11, 180), tackle Terry Hall (6-2, 225), end Kevin Lippa (6-2, 225) and end Kevin Delp (6-1, 170). Junior end Chuck Cislo (6-1, 185) also had a lot of playing time last season.

Hall and Cislo also play defensive linebacker. Other experienced Farmington defensive players are nose guard Kim Watkins (5-12, 195), end Doug Beck (6-4, 215) and linebacker Dan Hickey (5-8, 165).

Beardsley has two hopefuls — senior Kevin Bersche and sophomore Dave Schultz — for the quarterback spot. Bersche has been the backup QB for the past two seasons. Beardsley is especially enthusiastic about Schultz.

"He's just a sophomore, but he's making gains by leaps and bounds," Beardsley said. "He's an excellent passer."

Speed and offensive depth could be a problem for Farmington this season.

"We don't have any depth in the backfield," Beardsley said. "We have some kids who are going to do a good job, but we'll be in real trouble if anyone gets hurt."

"And very truthfully, we're not overwhelmingly fast. We hope to control the ball and control the game that way."

FARMINGTON WON'T be plagued by a lack of spirit this season, according to Beardsley. "This group is solidly together right down the line," he said. "Everybody's getting along and playing together."

Farmington's second game is scheduled for next Friday night (Sept. 16) at non-league West Bloomfield High.

FARMINGTON FOOTBALL

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Farmington coach Hal Beardsley

O&E tourney coming up

Upwards of 225 golfers will be shooting for scoring honors this weekend during the ninth annual Observer & Eccentric Open Golf Tournament at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

The tourney, cosponsored by the O&E Newspapers and Whispering Willows, will be contested over the 6,265-yard, par 71 municipal course Saturday and Sunday.

John Van Vleck, a young Farmington Hills resident who fired a course-record 66 last year en route to the Championship Flight title, will be back to try to best the field for the second year in a row.

However, former champions Bud Stevens, from Livonia, Dave Wall, from Plymouth, Bill Curtis, from Farmington, plus many other contenders will be on hand and attempt

to wrestle the crown away from Van Vleck.

Doug Cumming, a Livonian who topped the field in Flight 1 last year, will compete in the Championship Flight this weekend and also merits recognition as a blue-chip-challenger.

Players will tee off, Championship Flight competitors first, beginning at approximately 7:30 a.m., both Saturday and Sunday.

Following the Championship Flight players off the tee, in order, will be linksmen chasing glory in Flights 1, 2 and 3.

Whispering Willows, located at Eight Mile and Newburgh, will be closed to all but tournament players until approximately 2:30 p.m. during the weekend. Spectators are welcome without charge.

The competitors, all amateurs and residing in the O&E circulation area, are angling for trophies and merchandise prizes. The field is divided into four flights based on handicap. The tourney consists of 36 holes, medal play.

Participants were asked to stop by or call Whispering Willows, 476-4493, after 9 a.m., tomorrow to receive their starting times.

Tom Sheldon, assistant pro at Whispering Willows, said that while entries for the women's portion of the tournament have been trickling in, he expects the pace to increase as the Monday deadline draws near.

The women will play 18 holes Sept. 15 for their championships.

Men's, Women's Open Golf Tournaments Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course

MEN'S 36 holes medal play; Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11. Entry fee: \$22 (greens fees, trophies and prizes).

WOMEN'S 18 holes medal play; Thursday, Sept. 15. Entry fee: \$10 (greens fees, basket of practice balls and trophies). Make checks payable to Gary Whitener, tournament director and enclose with entry blank.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ HANDICAP _____

Men's entries close Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. Call for starting times on Friday, Sept. 9 after 9 a.m.

Women's entries close Monday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. Call for starting times Wednesday, Sept. 14 after 9 a.m.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township.

Entries may be mailed to Tournament Director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20690 Newburgh, Livonia.

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