

Falcons' Bona shines

By TOM BAER

A lot of people must have wondered what magic words of inspiration Farmington High coach Hal Beardsley had for his football team last Saturday.

Others were wondering what got into Farmington quarterback Marty Bona.

Trailing 19-7 in the final quarter, Farmington rallied for 13 points with Bona leading the way, and held off city-rival Farmington Harrison for a thrilling 20-19 victory at Farmington in the season opener for both teams.

Beardsley, however, denies any charges that he charged up his charges.

"My wife accuses me of hyping up these kids, but I didn't do it," said Beardsley with a laugh. "We just had a calm little halftime chat."

"We were just happy that we could come from behind like that and win," Beardsley continued. "The kids did a real nice job. They showed a lot of poise and they played together under a lot of pressure."

Of course, Bona gets the real credit for Farmington's comeback victory. The 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior carried the ball 20 times for 72 yards and two touchdowns — fourth-quarter runs of three and seven yards — to bring the Falcons back.

Bona also completed six of nine pass attempts for 127 yards, including a touchdown strike to senior end Kevin Delp. Bona also did a good job



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in the defensive secondary with an intercepted pass to his credit.

HARRISON COACH John Herrington had nothing but praise for the Farmington QB.

"Bona did a great job of scrambling against us," Herrington said. "We'd come in on him and he'd get loose somehow and scramble around end. He broke up our contain a number of times on big downs when we had him trapped."

Harrison, which reached the Class A playoff finals last season before losing to Midland Dow, got off to a fast start against Farmington. QB Brett Homocove threw to end Bert Barsch for an 18-yard touchdown on the Hawks' first drive from scrimmage.

Homocove missed the extra point kick, but made good on the next one after throwing a 35-yard scoring pass to end Brad Bache in the second quarter. Farmington got on the board with the 20-yard pass from Bona to Delp, a

6-0, 170-pound senior who caught three passes for 50 yards.

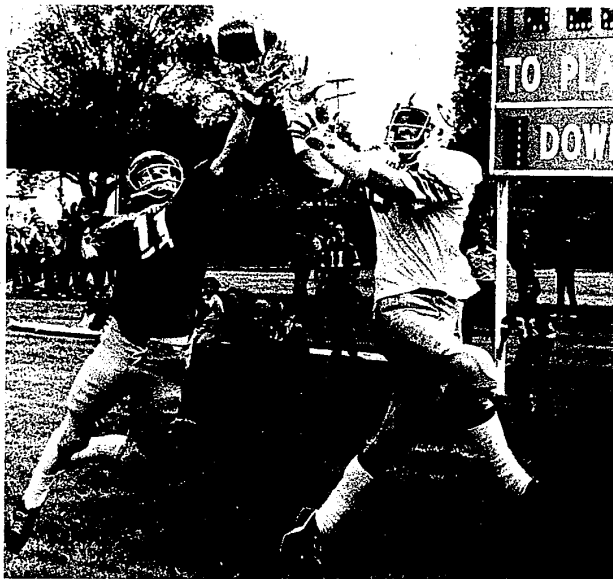
Harrison added another TD on a 23-yard run by Fred Blackmer in the third quarter. A run for the two-point conversion failed.

FARMINGTON-HARRISON

	FBS	HHS
First downs rushing	5	8
First downs passing	5	3
First downs penalty	1	1
Yards rushing	127	147
Yards passing	134	104
Passes	6-10	10-16
Points—average	3.27	5.0
Fumbles—No. recovered	0-1	0-1
Fumbles—yards lost	0-0	0-0
Fumbles—yards lost	0-0	0-0
FARMINGTON	20	19
HARRISON	19	20

SCORING

HARRISON — Bert Barsch 18 pass from Brett Homocove (kick failed).
HARRISON — Brad Bache 35 pass from Homocove (kick).
FARMINGTON — Kevin Delp 20 pass from Marty Bona (Jeff Lemanski kick).
HARRISON — Fred Blackmer 23 run (pass failed).
FARMINGTON — Bona 3 run (kick failed).
FARMINGTON — Bona 7 run (Lemanski kick).



Farmington's Marty Bona (11) knocks a pass away from Harrison's Brad Bache. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

North's defense does the job against Northern

By TOM BAER

North Farmington coach Ron Holland said that his football team would feature a tough defense this season, and last Saturday's home opener against non-league Pontiac Northern proved him correct.

North nipped highly-thought-of Northern, 13-12, and the Raiders' defensive unit played a key role, accounting for one touchdown and generally containing the speedy Northern running backs.

"I was encouraged with the win," said Holland, who has high hopes for his team this season. "Northern is a

good football team with a lot of returning lettermen."

Defensive tackle Dan Deacon got the Raiders on the board when he ran 15 yards with a fumbled punt with about six minutes left in the opening quarter. Junior Tim Quinn, who sees action on offense and defense as well as handling the place kicking chores, kicked the extra point.

Jeff Cohen, a speedy 180-pound junior, ripped off a long gainer to set up North's next touchdown, a two-yard run by junior Pat Collins in the third quarter. Quinn's kick was blocked by Northern's big (6-foot-3, 200-pound) Dickie Bray.

NORTHERN DIDN'T score, or even threaten, until about the six-minute mark of the final quarter — but then it scored twice and almost won the game.

Ernest Allen ran 15 yards around right end for one score, and Reggie Lewis went five yards with a fumbled North punt for the other TD. A major Northern problem came to light. Apparently the Huskies don't have a dependable kicker, so coach Dave Schmidt tried runs after both touchdowns.

Both conversion attempts failed. The attempt after the final TD was a pichout, which went nowhere. Had it

been good, Northern would have held a one-point lead (14-13) with about four minutes left.

The statistics showed North out-rushing Northern, 213 yards to 70. Cohen was the game's leading ground gainer with 171 yards in 22 carries. North's passing game was a total bust with QB Ron Fredericks trying six passes and completing none. Northern gained 71 yards through the air.

North's offensive efforts didn't please Holland. "We just didn't move the ball well," he said. "I thought we'd be able to get outside and throw the ball a little. I'm really disappointed in our passing game. Our

quarterback didn't throw well, but then we didn't block much for him."

But North's defense did the job. Some of the leaders were nose guard Tim Deighton (seven unassisted tackles), tackle Chris Koltz (one solo, six assists), linebacker Mark Schulte (eight assists). The defensive secondary also came through. Mark Thompson intercepted a pass and returned it for 20 yards, and teammate Andy Salinas broke up a couple of pass attempts.

North Farmington plays next on Friday (Sept. 16) at non-league Wallend Lake Central. Game time is 8 p.m.

N. FARMINGTON-P. NORTHERN

	NF	PNH
First downs rushing	8	4
First downs passing	0	3
First downs penalty	1	1
Yards rushing	213	70
Yards passing	0	71
Passes	6-0	5-17
Points—average	5.55	5.25
Fumbles—No. recovered	2-1	2-1
Fumbles—yards lost	2-0	2-0
NORTH FARMINGTON	13	12
PONTIAC NORTHERN	12	13

SCORING

N. FARMINGTON — Dan Deacon 15 run with fumbled punt (Tim Quinn kick).
N. FARMINGTON — Pat Collins 2 run (kick failed).
P. NORTHERN — Ernest Allen 15 run (run failed).
P. NORTHERN — Reggie Lewis 5 run with fumbled punt (run failed).

Golfer captures 2nd O & E crown

John Van Vleck last weekend became the first player ever to win the Championship Flight title of the Observer & Eccentric open golf tournament two years in succession.

The Farmington Hills resident, who is leaving this week to attend Austin Peay University on a golf scholarship, put together rounds of 72 and 71 for 145 at Whispering Willows in Livonia to edge Dave Wall, from Plymouth, by two strokes.

Wall is a former champion, as are third- and fourth-place finishers Bill Curtis, from Farmington, 146, and Bud Stevens, from Livonia, 147.

Terry McNamara, a senior at Livonia Stevenson, recorded a two-day total of 154 on rounds of 79 and 75 to nip Milburn Lent, from Redford, by a single shot to claim the title in Flight 1.

Ken Reynolds, a Novi resident who works in Redford, carded identical scores of 81 for 162 and a nine-stroke margin over Rudy Sedlacek, from Livonia, in Flight 2.

Jim Hatcher, from Plymouth, with a 184, set the pace in Flight 3, edging Walt Kantzler, the defending champ from Livonia, by four strokes.

Van Vleck, who earlier this summer advanced all the way to the semifinals of the Michigan Amateur Tournament, said that consistency was the key to his victory in the O&E Open.

"I hit the ball very well," said Van Vleck. "I played the first round and used the same ball all the way around and there wasn't a mark on it."

"I worked a lot on consistency," he continued. "I didn't hit the ball out of play except on a couple of holes. I've hit a lot of balls at Top of the Tee in Farmington and at Glen Oaks."

"Too much practice almost proved to be Van Vleck's undoing. He said he wrenched his shoulder hitting balls the night before the tournament and was unable to swing the club."

Pain-killing medication and treatment by his mother enabled Van Vleck to begin play Saturday and start him off toward another title.

"You can't come out and try to win a tournament," Van Vleck stated. "You can come out and try to do well and that's what I did."

During the 36 holes of competition, Van Vleck carded six birdies and an eagle. His 143 was one shot better than his winning score of last year: McNamara, who had played only 36 holes at Whispering Willows all season prior to the tourney, said that putting was the key to his winning the Flight 1 championship.

The 15-year-old who has been a member of Stevenson's golf team for three years, said that he cussed nine putts in the five-to-six foot range and that made the difference.

Reynolds, Flight 2 champion who had the largest winning margin, nine strokes, said that experience gained in previous O&E tournaments helped him over the top last weekend.

"I got used to the pressure," he stated. Reynolds said that he had 10 one-putt greens during his second round and that both of his rounds of 81 were the best two consecutive outings of his golfing career.

Hatcher said that hitting the ball on a straight line enabled him to claim the title in Flight 3. "Normally, I spray the ball all over the place," he said. "I guess keeping the ball in play was the main thing."

Hatcher said that he had never played the back nine at Whispering Willows prior to the tourney. Ironically, Kantzler, who finished second and was defending champ, persuaded Hatcher to enter the competition.

Kantzler, playing in the final group, recorded a 44 on the final nine holes Sunday to edge Jim Dunleavy, from Southfield, for second place in Flight 3.

A record field of 210 started the tourney. Gary Whitener, club pro and tournament director, credited his staff and greenskeeper Dave Montgomery and his crew for making the ninth annual O&E golf festival a success.



JOHN VAN VLECK

Golf scores—see page 3

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